

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
180 Route 539, Whiting, NJ 08759  
Phone: 732-350-2121, Fax: 732-350-6000  
ssechurch@gmail.com  
www.saintstephenswhiting.org

**A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey**

The Rt. Rev. William H. (Chip) Stokes, Bishop  
The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector  
Gerrie Vergona, Treasurer  
Esther Graham, Music Director  
Greg Mathews, Parish Administrator  
Tom O'Brien, Sexton

**Wardens and Vestry 2023**

Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden  
Peter Quigley, Property Warden  
Shelagh Bluni, Marge Pomykala, Joanne Soriano  
Dottie Kaster, Maryann Payne, Robert Virtue  
Bill Bodine, Barbara Marshal, Kay Karlick  
Joanne Smithson, Clerk

**Mission Statement**

To proclaim the faith that our years have engendered: to use the diversity of our Episcopal experience while working toward a common goal; to teach the young about Jesus and to reach out and affect the lives of those in the community.

*"Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them." Matthew 7:20*

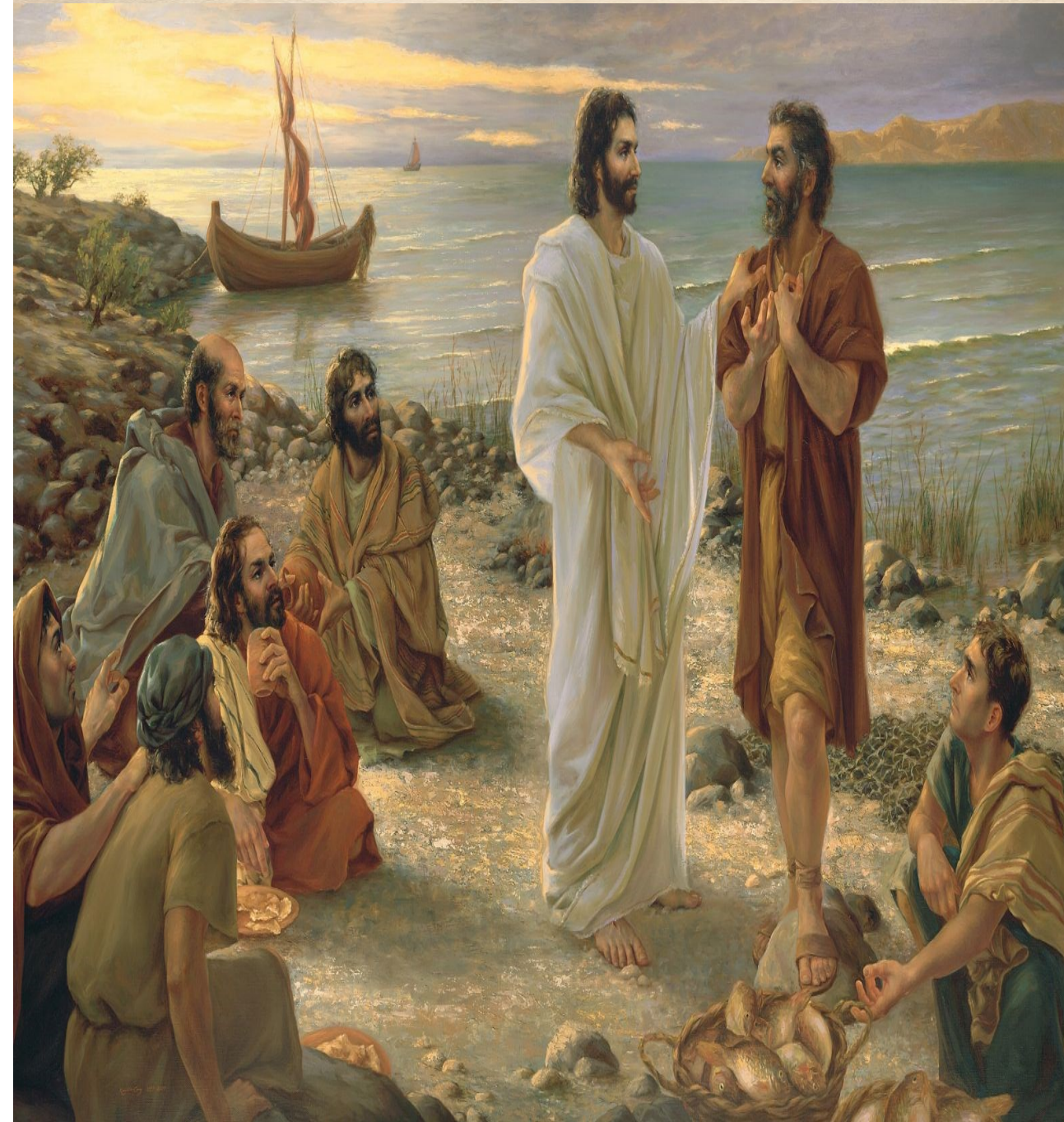
**Welcome to St. Stephen's Church!**

We thank you for joining us for worship today. Please stay for coffee hour, and sign our guest book at the podium in the Narthex. If you are looking for a church home, you have just found it. We would love to have you at St. Stephen's. Arrangements for weddings and baptisms can be made by speaking directly with the Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector.

**To Report Illness, Hospitalization, etc.**

Please notify the church office 732-350-2121 of any illnesses or hospitalizations. If it is an emergency you may also reach Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden at 732-350-2904 or Father Paul at his home 609-268-2864.

# Third Sunday in Easter





<i>Hymnal</i>	<i>The Word of God</i>	<i>BCP</i>
305	Processional Hymn: “Come risen Lord” Easter Acclamation	299
S280	Gloria Collect of the Day First Lesson: <i>Acts 2:14a,36-41</i> <i>Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17</i> Second Lesson: <i>1 Peter 1:17-23</i> Gradual: “Word of God, speak” (Lyrics below) Gospel: <i>Luke 24:13-35</i>	Insert Insert Insert Insert
	Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i> The Nicene Creed Prayers of the People Form VI Confession and Absolution The Peace	358 392 393
	Offertory Anthem Doxology: “All things come of thee O Lord”	

***HOLY COMMUNION***

	Eucharistic Prayer D	372
S120	Sursum Corda	
S125	Sanctus	
S140	Memorial Acclamation The Lord’s Prayer Breaking of the Bread	368 364
S151	Fraction Anthem Communion Hymns: 325 “Let us break bread together” 343 “Shepherd of souls” “Baptized in water” (levas 121)	
	Post Communion Prayer Blessing	
182	Recessional: “Christ is alive” Announcements Dismissal	

365

***Word of God speak***  
*Won't you pour down like rain  
 Washing my eyes to see  
 Your majesty  
 To be still and know  
 That You're in this place  
 Please let me stay and rest  
 In Your holiness  
 word of God speak*

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP \***

“The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart”, Mondays at 11am-12:30pm  
for info contact : *Roberta Mackey at 917-696-6863*

**CHOIR PRACTICE \***

10am every Wednesday. Please see *Esther Graham* if you are interested in being a part of our joyous hymns and songs.

**HEALING SERVICES \***

Thursdays at 10:00 am

**OSL WILL BE MEETING**

On Thursday May 11th after the Healing Service

**THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING**

Monday, May 8th @10 AM

**VESTRY MEETING**

Monday, April 24th @ 10am

**THE NEXT STEWARDSHIP LEGACY SUMMIT MEETING**

Saturday, April 29.

**PLEDGE CARDS**

If you filled in a pledge card, your envelopes are in the Narthex on the shelf, right side before you enter the church. If you need envelopes, see our treasurer, Gerrie Vergona.

**FAMILY FUN DAY DANCE SPECTACULAR, COMING JUNE 4th!**

We are having an organizational meeting of the family fun day dance spectacular team on **Sunday April 23rd** after Easter after the later service in the Parish Hall. If anyone wants to attend to find out what we're planning to do to please come to the meeting. Hope to see you there!



## ONLINE CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Eucharist are held every Sunday at 8AM and 10:15AM – join us in person or on zoom or you tube. See our schedule of services for Lent and Holy Week located in the Narthex or online at [www.ststephenswhitingnj.org](http://www.ststephenswhitingnj.org)

## Memorial Garden For Pets

(Cremains Only)

For all who are looking for a special place to lay your beloved pets to rest.

Please contact our office Monday–Thursday 9am–2pm for and more

(732) 350-2121

## A Legacy Summit For Estate & Will Planning

Please join us for a day of will & estate planning for your final expenses on Saturday April 29th from 10am-2pm!

## Our Daily Bread Pantry and Hungry Paws

Days and Hours of Operation are:

Tuesday 10 AM until 12:00 PM

Wednesday 10 AM until 12:00 PM

**Our Daily Bread Pantry and Hungry Paws** is made up of members of the **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church** community and other volunteers who assist in maintaining our pantry, provide food for the sick, the hungry and the needy. The food pantry is here to help those who have minimal funds to work with and come to us when they have a specific need for food.

The **Our Daily Bread Pantry and Hungry Paws** through very generous donations is also able to provide pet food for dogs and cats. For further information please call: **Jim Jados, Director, Food Pantry at (732) 408-5948.**

## *Collect of the Day*

Ⓞ God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## *First Reading*

*Acts 2:14a,36-41*

Ⲁ Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.



## Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

*Dilexi, quoniam*

- 1 **I** love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me; \*  
I came to grief and sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: \*  
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."
- 10 How shall I repay the LORD \*  
for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation \*  
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*  
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the LORD \*  
is the death of his servants.
- 14 O LORD, I am your servant; \*  
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*  
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the LORD'S house, \*  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.  
Hallelujah!

## Second Reading

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.

*1 Peter 1:17-23*



**CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE** ~ Sells well to groups meeting at our church. Now accepting **Summer** clothes **ONLY** in **TOP** condition, (clean, with no missing buttons, tears or stains). Also, continue to use the **FOUR BINS** in our parking lot for *out of season clothing, all men's wear,* and other items. Our winter clothes are now on clearance sale. We are very appreciative of your kind donations to, and purchases from, this fundraising project.

**ST. STEPHEN'S PRAYER CHAIN** ~ is in need of additional members. The Prayer Chain is a dedicated group of parishioners who will pray for any who are in need. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact Greta Pearl at 732-350-7584 for details. Greta is the contact when placing, on the Prayer Chain, your name or the names of family, neighbors, or friends who would like prayers for healing, comfort, or any other purpose.

**CARE GIVERS VOLUNTEERS** ~ Caregivers volunteers, is a faith base organization that offer assistance to the elderly. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Caregivers at 732-505-2273 Ext 213

## **COFFEE HOUR**



A new sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for 2023 - sign up! Everyone is so grateful for the delicious food that you share, your help, and they love chatting after the services. Any questions, contact *Stefanie* at (732) 350-2904

## **Dollar Auction**

The dollar auction has been changed to June 24th 2023, doors open at eleven. We are accepting items that need to be new, not used. We are also looking for volunteers to help give out refreshments, runners to collect dollars and a banker to make change.

Any questions please see me at church.

*Tom Larson*



## Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month--May 11th, after the Healing Service.

### Prayer to send out LEMs with the Sacrament:

**Celebrant:** N. we send you out to share Communion this week with those who have been entrusted to your care.

**People:** May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this Sacrament of Christ's presence.

**Celebrant:** Continues with a closing prayer.

### ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNION SERVICES

The Pines	1st Sunday of each month	at 9:30 am
Aristicare	1st Monday of each month	at 2:00 pm
The Arbors	2nd Monday of each month	at 2:00 pm
The Pines	3rd Monday of each month	at 2:00 pm



## TECH THURSDAY

Tech Thursday meets monthly. Our next meeting is May 25th, Watch or call the church office for new dates and times to come. Bring your tablet, computer, phone, ipad, etc. to the meeting. Estelle Pizzuti and Bill Bodine will assist you.



## Daughters of the British Empire



The (DBE) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit American society of women of British or Commonwealth of Nations birth, heritage or ancestry. We share and promote our heritage while supporting local charities and our senior living facilities across the United States.

To learn more about our local chapter, here in Ocean County, please email *Joan Saunders* – [njstateorganizer@gmail.com](mailto:njstateorganizer@gmail.com)

He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

## *Holy Gospel*

*Luke 24:13-35*

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.



*Welcome to St. Stephen's*

On this Third Sunday of Easter, the Gospel reading directs our attention to the Eucharist as our ongoing experience of the resurrection. On the first Easter afternoon Jesus met two of his followers, and as they walked to the village of Emmaus he explained the scriptures concerning his death and resurrection to them. At table with them he said the blessing and broke the bread and they recognized him.

Today's Gospel reading carries that story to its conclusion. Those two disciples are in the midst of telling the others that Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread when he appears in their midst. He again explains the scriptures and shares food with them. Thus from the very beginning of the Church's life in the risen Lord, the meal has been the most common way Jesus' resurrection is revealed to his people.

Our reading from Acts today is an account of the manifestation of Christ's presence in and through his followers. Peter and John heal a cripple in the name of Jesus and then Peter proclaims the Gospel of the dying and rising of Jesus. The second reading this Sunday speaks of the forgiveness of sins we have as a result of our life in Christ.

We are a people who through Baptism and Eucharist live in Christ's dying and rising. We meet him again and again in the Breaking of the Bread and acclaim him. "Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*.

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*Serving in the Liturgy today:*

*April 23, 2023*

Lector 8:00 am	<i>JoAnn Smithson</i>
LEM 8:00 am	<i>Richard Smithson, JoAnn Smithson</i>
Altar Guild 8:00 am	<i>Linda Chiappetta</i>
Ushers 8:00 am	<i>Glenn Mortimer, Mary Storey, Bill Bodine</i>
Lector 10:00 am	<i>Mike Munson</i>
LEM 10:00 am	<i>Carol Torres, Susan Clarke</i>
Altar Guild 10:00am	<i>Beverly Larson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 10:00 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>

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### *Sanctuary Candle*

*The Sanctuary Candle is given to  
The Glory of God*

*In Memory of  
Charles Rotsaert by  
Stefanie and Bill Bodine*

### *Altar Flowers*

*Altar Flowers are given to  
the Glory of God*

*In Memory of  
Warren (Buddy) Bruen  
by June Bruen & Family*

*In Memory of  
My Husband Robert Pearl On our 75th  
Anniversary by Greta Pearl*

