

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
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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 2022

Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden
Peter Quigley, Property Warden
Debbie Fisher, Marge Pomykala, Joanne Soriano
Dottie Kaster, Maryann Payne, Robert Virtue
Kay Karlick, Tom Larson, Ken Seda
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

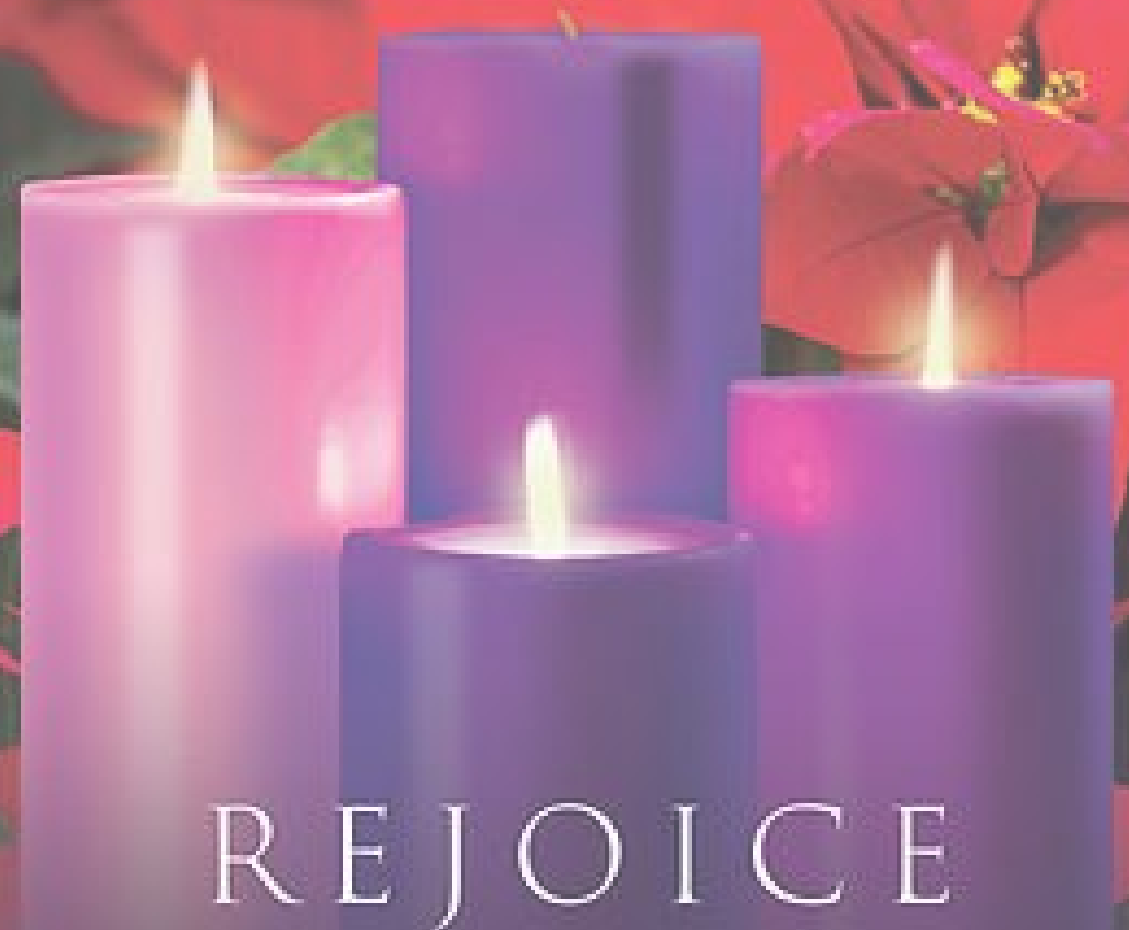
Welcome to St. Stephen's Church!

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 of Advent



REJOICE

IN THE LORD AND BE GLAD

Psalm 32:11



Third Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist Rite I

December 11, 2022
8:00 & 10:15 AM

<i>Hymnal</i>	THE WORD OF GOD	<i>BCP</i>
65	Processional Hymn: <i>“Prepare the way O Zion”</i>	
	Opening Acclamation	319
	Opening Sentence	320
	Confession and Absolution	320
S-91	Kyrie	324
	The Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10	Insert
	Psalm 146	Insert
	Second Lesson: James 5:7-10	Insert
	Gradual – <i>“Alleluia, He is coming”</i> (lyrics below)	
	The Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11	Insert
	Sermon: Fr. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.	
	The Nicene Creed	327
	Prayers of the People	328
	The Peace	332
	Offertory Anthem:	
	Doxology: <i>“All things come of thee O Lord”</i>	
	HOLY COMMUNION	
	Eucharist Prayer I	333
S112	Sursum Corda	
S113	Sanctus	
	The Lord’s Prayer	336
	Breaking of the Bread	337
S157	Agnus Dei	
	Communion Hymns:	
325	<i>“Let Us Break Bread Together”</i>	
72	<i>“Hark! The glad sound”</i>	
679	<i>“Surely it is God who saves me”</i>	
	Blessing	339
	Announcements	
68	Recessional: <i>“Rejoice! Rejoice, believer”</i>	
	Dismissal	

Gradual:
“Alleluia, He is Coming”;
“Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here”
“Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here”
“I looked up and I saw my Lord a coming”
“I looked up and saw my Lord a coming down the road”
“Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here”
“Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here”

Save the Date on Upcoming Events

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

“The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart”, Mondays at 11am, 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

ORDER OF ST. LUKE

2nd Thursday of each month, January 12th - after Healing Service

VESTRY MEETING

Monday, December 19th @ 10am

THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Monday, December 12th @10AM

COME ATTEND ONE OF OUR EVENTS
 Visit our website at;
<https://www.ststephenswhitingnj.org/new-events>
 for more information on upcoming event in and around our community.



CHRISTMAS AT THE QUIGLEY'S

Mark your calendars!!

The annual St Stephens Christmas Party at the Quigley's will be on Friday December 16, 2022 beginning at 4 o'clock. Please sign up to attend at the church narthex or call the church at (732) 350-2121.

Address; 2001 Elizabeth Ave, whiting NJ 08759

Please bring a Dozen cookies for a COOKIE EXCHANGE.

And webring a gift for our GIFT EXCHANGE (\$20 value)

ONLINE CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Eucharist are held every Sunday at 8AM and 10:15AM – join us in person or on zoom or you tube. Compline is now on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** at 7PM on **YouTube** and **Zoom**. All are welcome! COME AND SEE!!!

STEWARDSHIP APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

The stewardship Team is planning a big thank you luncheon on Sunday December 18th, so our parish family can be thanked for their support, pledges and contributions during the season.
More info to come!

VOTING FOR THE BISHOP SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

After today's 10:15AM service, we will be voting for our 6 representatives to be on the Bishops selection committee.

THANK YOU!

David and Diane Jacobs, for your generous donation of two Christmas trees with lights to St. Stephen's.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERINGS

The Altar Guild is again planning to order Christmas flowers and wreaths to decorate the Sanctuary as we prepare for the Celebration of Our Savior's Birth. This is a time when we especially may want to remember our loved ones and friends who have died or to express thanksgiving for our blessings.

Christmas Flower Offering envelopes will be available in the Narthex for those who would like to participate. Please fill out the appropriate information, and return the envelope to the church at your earliest convenience. [If you are unable to get to church at this time, you may mail your donation and memorial information to the Church to the attention of Valerie Thompson, Altar Guild Flower Chair. The deadline for submission of Christmas Flower Offerings is Sunday, December 18th.](#)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Altar Guild Flower Chair Valerie Thompson, at 732-657-4510. Thank you and God Bless.

Collect of the Day



Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever... *Amen.*

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.





Psalm 146:4-9

Lauda, anima mea

- 4 **H**appy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The LORD shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah



CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE ~ Sells well to groups meeting at our church. Now accepting **WINTER** 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 Summer 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

help wanted

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

Legacy, Estate and Will planning

With a successful stewardship season behind us now, our focus turns to Legacy, Estate and Will planning which will make stewardship a year round effort! We're having a big planning meeting on Sunday, December 11th after the later service in the Parish Hall. We encourage and invite anyone who is interested in participating and helping out on the Legacy Team! The objective is to prepare and plan for the St. Stephen's Legacy Summit in the Spring 2023. We are confident for a very strong turnout and a huge plus for the church! Everyone needs this kind of service and opportunity to plan their legacies for themselves and their families.

For further information please contact





Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month--November 10th, 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



ST. STEPHENS'S CHRISTMAS CARD

Sign our church Christmas Card in the Narthex--save your postage and buying cards to share with your church friends and family.



The 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

Second Reading

James 5:7-10



Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”





Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 am	<i>Linda Chiapetta</i>
LEM 8:00 am	<i>Susan Clarke, Bill Bodine</i>
Altar Guild 8:00 am	<i>Debbie Fisher, Dave Fisher</i>
Ushers 8:00 am	<i>Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine</i>
Lector 10:15 am	<i>Kay Karlick</i>
LEM 10:15 am	<i>Bob Virtue, Susan Clarke, Stefanie Bodine</i>
Altar Guild 10:15 am	<i>Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 10:15 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>



✦

The Third Sunday of Advent again has as its central theme the ministry of John the Baptist. Jesus said of him, “Among those born of women has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. . . .” In today’s Gospel, John, who has been imprisoned by Herod Antipas, is facing death and wishes to know before he dies that he was correct in identifying Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus’ reply is to quote from the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah, demonstrating that he is indeed fulfilling the Messiah’s ministry as Isaiah foretold.

The Old Testament reading is the passage Jesus quotes in the Gospel reading. The sign of the Messiah is a new order of existence—God’s kingdom—in which health and salvation spring forth. The second reading is a call to patient waiting for the Lord to appear to inaugurate the kingdom of God.

The distinction between John and even the least in the kingdom—ourselves—who are even greater, is that our birth is more than natural—it is the new birth by water and the spirit in Holy Baptism, which has made us members of the Body of Christ. We are commissioned for ministry in Baptism; a ministry like that of Jesus. In the Holy Eucharist we affirm our commitment to that ministry to all people which is the ongoing sign of Christ in the world.



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Sanctuary Candle

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

*In honor of
Claire Wolpert's birthday
from Stefanie and Bill Bodine*

*In Honor of
Baby Jesus's Birthday
from Bill & Stefanie Bodine*

Altar Flowers

*Altar Flowers are given to
the Glory of God*

*In Memory of
My father, William H. Bodine
from Bill & Stefanie Bodine*

*In Memory of
William & Phyllis Jacobs
by David & Diane Jacobs*

