

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.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



Hymnal	The Word of God	BCP
376	Processional Hymn: <i>“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”</i>	
	Open Acclamation	355
S102	Trisagion	
	Collect of the Day	<i>Insert</i>
	First Lesson: Proverbs 25:6-7	<i>Insert</i>
	Psalm 112	<i>Insert</i>
	Second Lesson: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	<i>Insert</i>
	Gradual: <i>“Word of God, Speak” (Lyrics Below)</i>	<i>Insert</i>
	Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14	<i>Insert</i>
	Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i>	
	The Nicene Creed	358
	Prayers of the People Form VI	392
	Confession and Absolution	393
	The Peace	360
	Offertory Anthem	
	Doxology: <i>“All things come of thee O Lord”</i>	

HOLY COMMUNION

	The Great Thanksgiving	
	Eucharistic Prayer A	361
S120	Sursum Corda	
S125	Sanctus	
S133	Memorial Acclamation	363
	The Lord’s Prayer	364
	Breaking of the Bread	
S152	Fraction Anthem	
	Communion Hymns:	
325	<i>“Let Us Break Bread Together”</i>	
437	<i>“Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!”</i>	
321	<i>“My God thy table now is spread”</i>	
	Post Communion Prayer	365
	Blessing	
	Announcements	
344	Recessional: <i>“Lord dismiss us with your blessing”</i>	
	Dismissal	

*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*

Save the Date on Upcoming Events

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

“The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart”, Mondays at 11am, for info contact
This weeks title: “Fear not, Do we trust God?”
Roberta Mackey at (917) 696-6863



CHOIR PRACTICE

Looking for volunteers to sing or play instruments during
the summer months. Please see *Esther Graham*

HEALING SERVICES

Thursdays at 10:00 am

ORDER OF ST. LUKE

2nd Thursday of each month, September 8th - after Healing Service

VESTRY MEETING

Monday, September 26th @ 10am

STEWARDSHIP TEAM ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Next Stewardship meeting will be on August, 28th after the later service in
the parish hall. See Bill Bodine for more info.

THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING SEPTEMBER 12TH

@10AM

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 **You Tube** and **Zoom**. All are welcome!

UTO ~ The United Thank Offering or UTO, is a worldwide program that has existed for over 100 years. The blue boxes remind us of each day, of what God has given us, and we are thankful, as we say a prayer and collect some coins to put in the box. The blue boxes and envelopes will be in the Narthex for your contribution from now, until **September 18**.

The **UTO** Ingathering and Diocesan ECW **Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 24 at 10AM at St. David's, Cranbury**. The Meeting will also be on zoom and you tube. Our Bishop will join us at that time as well. See *Stefanie Bodine*, or call her at (732) 350-2904 with your questions.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD ~ Each year we fill the shoeboxes to share with children in need. This is the perfect time to pick up back to school supplies in our local stores to fill these shoeboxes. More details will follow. Any ?, contact *Stefanie Bodine* at (732) 350-2904

DIOCESAN NEWS

The Bishop will be visiting us soon but there may be a change in the scheduled service with us. More details to come.

Sunday September 11th, 2022.

BBQ after 10:15 service.

Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for those attending!!!!

And, a sign up sheet is in the Narthex for all who wish to contribute a side dish. And for all who are not able to make it to the church, Please call Greg in the office to have your name and what you would like to bring for foods added to the list. Hamburgers and Hot Dogs will be provided.! Not necessary to bring a dish to attend..

Collect of the Day

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever... *Amen*

First Reading

Proverbs 25:6-7

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great;

for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.



Psalm 112

Beatus vir

1 Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.

4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.

6 For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right;
they put their trust in the Lord.

8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

9 They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

10 The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; *
the desires of the wicked will perish.



Second Reading

Letter to the Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money,



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 Summer clothes are now on clearance sale. We are very appreciative of your kind donations to, and purchases from, this fund-raising 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

A SCRIPTURE ON STEWARDSHIP **Matthew 25:14-30**

“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. .

help wanted



COFFEE HOUR

A new sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for 2022 - 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





Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month--August 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
Aristo Care	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

Stewardship Meeting

Greetings all!

Our stewardship slate of speakers is now complete, and thanks to all who are willing to participate this year!

Our next meeting is Sunday August 28th after the late service in the parish Hall. We'll have a brief meeting after the 8 am service as well.

After going online with project resource the last couple of weeks we came up with an idea to share. Wanted to have a fireside fall chat about stewardship on Sunday October 30th during the coffee hours and we can have a pow wow and talk stewardship! Why not bring your thoughts and ideas about stewardship to coffee hour! It's a great and informative way to exchange ideas about stewardship and to gather other people's ideas as well what they're thinking of.

If you have any other ideas and suggestions please let me know. I'm always looking for ways to improve the program. The season opens on Sunday September 18th where I'll open the season with a speech to the congregation. We have a very talented slate this year and our consecration Sunday speaker is Canon Phyllis Jones from the diocese of NJ. Consecration Sunday is Sunday November 20th.

Our program is nearly set and we always look for more to do as it's a year round effort! Bring your thoughts and ideas to the next meeting on August 28th and I'll see you on the stewardship train!

Regards, Bill Bodine

and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Holy Gospel

Luke 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."



As we celebrate the holy meal of God’s people today, the gospel reading describes the basic attitude and behavior of Christ’s followers using the image of a meal or dinner party. The image of the feast is one of Jesus’ most common ways of talking about life in his Kingdom. Here it becomes the context for his teaching that those with faith in God will live in self-effacing love toward others rather than seeking to claim privilege or superiority. Our sharing is to be directed in particular to those least able to pay us back.

The first reading teaches that self-promoting pride, whether in individuals or in nations, will fail and be overthrown. “Pride was not created for human beings,” the writer tells us.

In the last of a series of readings from the letter to the Hebrews, the writer shifts from a doctrinal discourse on God’s plan to the response we are to make to that plan in our own living. Simple and down-to-earth kindness and hospitality are the marks of those whose faith is in Jesus Christ. This generosity of spirit is the true sacrifice that we offer to God through Christ as baptized members of his body.

As we celebrate in the Eucharist a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, we are reminded that it is a banquet in which all humanity is called to share. We are reminded that we are sent to bring the world into our gatherings and into the heavenly banquet.

Serving in the Liturgy today:

Officiant:	<i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i>
Music presented by:	<i>Esther Graham</i>
Lector 8:00 am	<i>JoAnn Smithson</i>
LEM 8:00 am	<i>Richard Smithson</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>Valerie Thompson</i>
LEM 10:15 am	<i>Bill Bodine, Kay Karlick</i>
Altar Guild 10:15 am	<i>Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 10:15 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>

Sanctuary Candle

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

*In Memory of
 My Husband Arthur,
 by Marjorie Redfern*

Altar Flowers

*Altar Flowers are given to
 the Glory of God*

*In Memory of
 Sans Memorial*

