

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
Sandra Gaskill, Treasurer
Gerianne Murphy, Assistant Treasurer
Pam Unger, Organist & Choir Director
Colleen Clover, Parish Administrator
Tom O'Brien, Sexton
Janet Spieth, Office Volunteer

Wardens and Vestry 2017
Janet Spieth, Rector's Warden
Jim Jados, Property Warden
Laura Gural, Richard Smithson
Shelagh Bluni, Lillian Fink, Pat Russo
Carol Cavanaugh, William Bodine, Randy Walton
JoAnn 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 Janet Spieth, Rector's Warden at 732/716-1656 or Father Paul at his home 609/268-2864.



*“Glory
to God
in the highest,
and on earth
peace among
those with whom,
he is pleased!”
Luke 2:14, ESV*

**CHRISTMAS EVE
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II**

**DECEMBER 24, 2017
4 & 7 pm**

Hymnal

The Word of God

BCP

109	Processional Hymn: <i>“The first Nowell the angel did say”</i>	
	Opening Acclamation	355
S280	Gloria	356
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: <i>Isaiah 9:2-7</i>	Insert
	<i>Psalm 96</i>	Insert
	Second Lesson: <i>Titus 2:11-14</i>	Insert
	Gradual: “Word of God, Speak”	Insert
	Gospel: <i>Luke 2:1-20</i>	Insert
	Sermon — The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant	
	The Nicene Creed	358
	Prayers of the People Form III	357
	Confession and Absolution	360
	The Peace	
	Announcements	
	Offertory Anthem	
	Doxology: “All things come of thee O Lord”	
	HOLY COMMUNION	
	The Great Thanksgiving “B”	367
S120	Sursum Corda	
S125	Sanctus	
S136	Memorial Acclamation	368
	The Lord’s Prayer	364
	Breaking of the Bread	337
S152	Fraction Anthem	
	Communion Hymns:	
96	<i>“Angels we have heard on high”</i>	
81	<i>‘Lo, how a Rose e’re blooming”</i>	
111	Post Communion Hymn <i>“Silent night, holy night”</i>	
	Post Communion Prayer	365
	Blessing	
99	Recessional: <i>“Go tell it on the mountain”</i>	
	Dismissal	

Christmas Eve

DECEMBER 24, 2017

Serving in the Liturgy today:

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Lector 4:00 pm	Sandy Gaskill
LEM 4:00 pm	Stefanie , Bill Bodine
Altar Guild 4:00 pm	Valerie Thompson, Betty Corino
Ushers 4:00 pm	Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson
Lector 7:00 pm	Patricia Russo
LEMs 7:00 pm	Joanne Smithson, Richard Smithson
Altar Guild 7:00 pm	Volunteers of various ministries
Ushers 7:00 pm	Volunteers of various ministries

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF

December 24, 2017 - December 30, 2017

Today	Holy Eucharist	8 & 10 am
Monday	Office Closed from Dec 26-Jan 2	
Tuesday	Closed AA Meeting	2:00 pm
Wednesday	Closed AA Meeting	3:00 pm
Thursday	Healing Service	10:00 am
Friday	Pineland Symphonic Band	9:30 am
Saturday	AA Meeting	3:00 pm
	AA Meeting	8:00 pm

Everyone is welcome to come to the coffee hour after worship.
The Church Office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m.
to 2:00p.m., with appointments scheduled beginning at 10:00 a.m.
All baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion at our Lord’s
Table, regardless of your church affiliation. We encourage you to share with
us in this sacrament.





Come to Bible Study!



Mondays @6PM

Tuesdays @ 1PM

***We are studying
the book of Mark***

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017

Collect of the Day

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, on God, in glory everlasting, *Amen.*

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, thou hast broken as on the day of Mid'ian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.



Psalm 96

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Office Closed December 25– January 3, 2018

CHIME CHOIR: Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 pm
HEALING SERVICE Thursday 10:00 am
CHOIR PRACTICE: Thursdays 2:00 pm
ECW Meetings 2018: Dates to follow
ORDER OF ST. LUKE: 2nd Thursday of each month after
Healing Service
PINELAND SYMPHONIC BAND: Fridays 9:30 am



CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE sells well to groups and meeting at our church. Now accepting **LADIES 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. We are very appreciative of your kind donations to, and purchases from, this fundraising project.



LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED There is an **URGENT** call out for Lay Eucharistic Ministers for our 10:00 a.m. service. Two LEMs are needed at this service.



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 JoAnn Smithson is the Congregational Coordinator for Care Givers Volunteers here at St. Stephen's. Please continue to use the mailbox in the Office to put in your hours. JoAnn's phone number is 609/268-0821.

HEALING PRAYERS The Order of St. Luke provides prayers of healing to anyone after Holy Communion on the last Sunday of the month at each service. Members are also available every Sunday after the services. Look for a member near the baptismal font if you would like a prayer of healing after any service.

YOUR PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING Prayerfully consider making an endowment gift to St. Stephen's as part of your estate plan.

RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND Thank you to all who have donated. There are parishioners as well as other members in our community who benefit greatly from this valued fund. If you wish to contribute, please use the basket on the back table.



Just a Little Donkey

*Just a little Donkey
but on my back I bore
the one and only Savior
the world was waiting for
Just a little donkey
but I was strong and proud
I gladly carried Mary
through the chaos of the crowd
I brought her to the stable
Where she made a tiny bed
A place for Baby Jesus
to lay his little head
I pray the world remembers
that special Christmas Night
when just a little donkey
carried Heaven's precious Light*

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for

them in the inn. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Christians throughout the world celebrate on this day the birth of our Savior. We welcome people of every race and tongue and faith to this celebration. We invite you to participate fully and to join us in rejoicing at the birth of him who is the fulfillment of the deepest and best hopes of all people and all faiths.

In the birth of Christ, we celebrate more than an idea, more than a philosophical truth. We celebrate that at a specific time and place He through whom all was created came to be part of His own creation and began His life among us as one of us. "In the days of Caesar Augustus...when Quirinius was governor of Syria...in the city of David, which is called Bethlehem."

That which Isaiah in the seventh century B.C. hoped for, came, bringing light to the nations. "Unto us a child is born...his name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Paul, in writing to Titus, reminds him that the coming of Christ into the world calls us to a new life, a life of uprightness and godliness as we prepare for Christ's return.

In story, song, word, and sacrament, we celebrate this coming and answer to God's call to be his People — to return to him who is the source of our life and salvation.

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

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Announcements

December 24, 2017

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.

The Sanctuary Candle is given to the Glory of God

In memory of Pat Laursen by her husband Carl

And in honor of my sister Claire Wolpert by Stefanie Rotsaert

And in memory of my husband Robert by Greta Pearl



The Altar Flowers are give to the glory of God

In loving memory of my wonderful wife Pat by Carl Laursen

And

In memory of my husband Robert

By Greta Pearl

In honor of my birthday, by Dolores Ropes

ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNION SERVICES

The Pines	1st Sunday of each month at	9:30 am
AristaCare	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
Crestwood Manor	4th Monday of each month at	2:00 pm