

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, Rector's Warden

Wardens and Vestry 2018

Janet Spieth, Rector's Warden

Richard Smithson, Property Warden

William Bodine, Carol Cavanaugh, Randy Walton

Jack Brown, Laura Gural, Tom Larson

Lillian Fink, Dottie Kaster, Peter Quigley

Jo Ann 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!

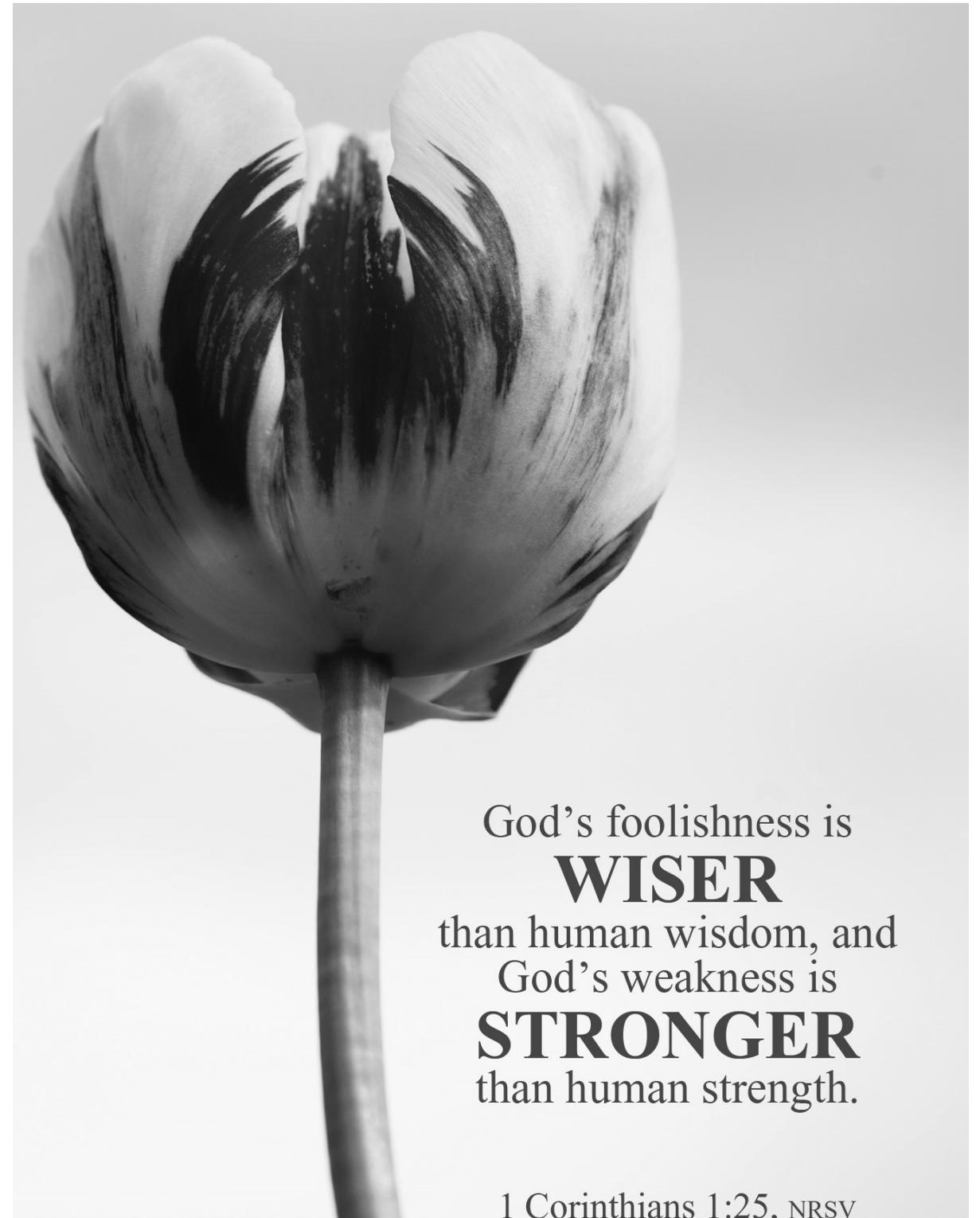
We thank you for joining us for worship today. Please stay for coffee hour, and sign our guest book at the podium in the Narthex. If you are looking for a church home, you have just found it. We would love to have you at St. Stephen's. Arrangements for weddings and baptisms can be made by speaking directly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



God's foolishness is
WISER
than human wisdom, and
God's weakness is
STRONGER
than human strength.

1 Corinthians 1:25, NRSV



In partnership with over 60 congregations in Ocean County, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church volunteer for, and receive services from, Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey (CVCJ). St. Stephen's volunteers perform Corporal Works of Mercy to neighbors living among us who are homebound, socially isolated, or living with chronic illness, Alzheimer's disease or dementia. They perform these Works of Mercy a few minutes a week or a few hours a month; but they need help. Representative Carol Gibbons is with us this morning to answer questions about how YOU can help to meet the needs of our growing and aging population right here in Whiting, and to prayerfully ask for your support.



Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

Matthew 19:21



Third Sunday in Lent

March 4, 2018

8 AM & 10 AM

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Book of Exodus 20:1-17

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. "You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your manservant, or your maidservant, or your cattle, or the sojourner who is within your gates; for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it. "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the LORD your God gives you. "You shall not kill. "You shall not commit adultery. "You shall not steal. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his ass, or anything that is your neighbor's.

Psalm 19

1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

2 One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

3 Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,

4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.

5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

7 The law of the LORD is perfect
and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the LORD is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.

8 The statutes of the LORD are just
and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the LORD is clear
and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD is clean
and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.



CHIME CHOIR PRACTICE-Wednesdays 7:00PM-8:30PM
CHOIRE PRACTICE Thursdays @ 2:00 PM
EWC MEETINGS 2018:June 7th-Sept 6th-Dec 6th
ORDER OF SAINT LUKE: 2nd Thurs. after healing service.
PINELAND SYMPHONIC BAND Practice Fridays 9:30 am
April 15th @noon Pot Luck Brunch

CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE sells well to groups

meeting at our church. Now accepting LADIES *Fall/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 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.

The Way of Paul is truly and adventure! Since our start in September, the Way of Paul has changed my way of thinking, drawing me out of my comfort zone. It is thrilling to meet with others who generously share their experiences as they too join Jesus on his mission of being an everyday missionary and planting the seeds of God's love. Come join us in this wonderful study "The Way of Saint Paul" and reap the bountiful harvest of the Lord, yourself and others.

*Your Friend in Christ,
Lillian Fink*



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

Stewardship-It is a rewarding experience allowing us to give back to God for the abundance He has graced us with. As active church stewards we find fun, unique methods with which to raise funds and continue to foster our working relationship with the community. We welcome all to join us in a combined effort to fund-raise and facilitate onward, upward growth of our thriving parish. To participate in our next brain-storming session, please call the parish office at 732-350-2121



Bible Study sessions will continue on

Mondays @ 6PM Tuesdays @ 1PM at St. Stephens

Wednesdays 1PM at The Pines

We are studying "24 Hours that Changed the World" part 4



13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; * then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

Second Reading

First Letter to the Corinthians 1:18-25

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart." Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Holy Gospel

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers at their business. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all, with the sheep and oxen, out of the temple; and he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; you shall not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for thy house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign have you to show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he spoke of the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The ultimate saving action of God, in the dying and rising of Jesus, was preceded by a series of salvation events in the history of Israel. Today, in that series of events, we reach the most important of the Old Testament actions of God, the time of the Exodus when Israel is definitively established as the chosen people and God makes the Covenant with the people at Mount Sinai. God's salvation of Israel requires a response by the people which is described in the Decalogue (Ten Commandments). Note that the grounds for these commandments is stated at the beginning, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

In the second reading, Paul speaks of the true wisdom which brings salvation. Rather than human wisdom, God places before us what seems to be foolish, the crucifixion of Jesus. In the dying and rising of Jesus, God showed that the divine power is greater than any human power or wisdom.

The Gospel reading is John's account of Jesus cleansing the Temple. That event may be taken as an image of Christ cleansing us from sin in Baptism. We are the continuation of the ancient people of God who were saved in the Exodus and given the Commandments. In the dying and rising of Jesus, salvation has been extended to all people. Through Baptism, we have become part of Jesus' Body and have died and are being raised with him. We use this time of Lent to recall all that God is doing for us in Jesus, and to prepare for the renewal of our redemption at Easter.

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

March 4, 2018

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

Sans Memorial



The Altar Flowers are given

To the glory of God

By a parishioner

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