# St. Stephen's Episcopal

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January/ ${\cal F}$ ebruary, 2021

# The Chapel Chimes



#### Inside This Issue:

From the Rector's Desk	1-2
Music Notes	3
ECW News / OSL	4
Prayers and Blackjack	5
Alter Guild	6
Treasurer's Desk/Arts &Crafts	7
Annual Meeting	8
Message Board / Birthdays	9
Laughter is good for the Soul	10
Calendar January	11
Calendar February	12
Parish Staff & Help Hotlines	13
Local Advertisements	14-15
Mark your Calendar	16



From the Rector's Desk...

## It's like déjà vu all over again.

As we begin the new year together, do you feel the way I do? Do you feel like you've done this before? Do you feel that despite all the effort we have made, all the barriers we have overcome, all the little things that we have regained, that somehow, we are right back where we started? Yogi Berra once said, "It's like déjà vu all over again." And in his own way he was right. But for a more authoritative evaluation of the situation, we might want to see what scripture has to say. In the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes, frequently attributed to King Solomon; we find the writer struggling to find the purpose of human life. Is there anything we can do to change the situation we find ourselves in; the illnesses, the monotony, and eventually the death. Can we improve our own situations through our own efforts? Can we make something new to change our lives? Ecclesiastes 1:9 states his disappointing conclusion:

"What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; and there is nothing new under the sun."

So, there we are. Our current situation is just a repeat of last year's seasonal outbreak of Covid-19, only this time with a vengeance. If we compare figures from a year ago with today's figures, we will see that in Ocean County the 7 day average of new Covid cases has increased from

87 to 231. That is a 265% increase. Did we do something wrong? Is it our fault? This is terrible. Why we even prayed for God to help us, and it doesn't appear that he was paying attention. Just look at all these people contracting this new Omicron variant.



But this is where we, like Solomon assume that nothing new can happen, that we are doomed to repeat our misfortune over and over again. Look deeper into where we are. Are there 265% more people infected? Yes. How many are in the hospital? Last year, 267 people in Ocean County were in the hospital due to Covid. This year only 179 were hospitalized; 33% fewer. How many patients needed the ICU? Last year 50 people needed an ICU bed. This year 29 needed an ICU bed: 42% fewer. How many Ocean County resident died from Covid? Last year using a 7 day rolling average 11.4 Ocean County residents died each day. This year 2.1 residents died each day; an unbelievable decline of over 81%. If we only look at the new case count things are terrible. But, if we look at all the other numbers we can begin to see God not only answering our prayers, but working to make something new in our lives. (Continued on page 2)

# **Phone:** (732) 350-2121 Fax: (732) 350-6000

# Is a publication of: The Chapel Chimes

St. Stephens Episcopal Church

Our Church Office is Located at: Whiting, NJ 08759-1238 180 Route 539

.....Greg Mathews Fr. Paul Van Sant Stefanie Bodine Susan Clarke Gerrie Vergona Patricia Russo Esther Graham Valerie Thompson

Please submit signed and dated items in writing to

Articles are welcome form all parish members

Any Questions, please feel free to contacts us The Church Office or email us at (First Monday of the Month) The deadline for items, ssechurch@gmail.com

(732) 350-2121 ext 10

Does this mean that we should throw all caution to the wind and stop all the safety precautions? GOD FORBID! What it does mean is that God has not forgotten the promise he made to John in Revelation 21:5 "And he who sat upon the throne said,

"Behold, I make all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

God can even make the Covid-19 virus new. He has heard our prayers and has responded to us in new and wonderous ways. I close with selected verses from Psalm 91:

#### 91 Qui habitat

- He shall say to the LORD,
  - "You are my refuge and my stronghold, \* my God in whom I put my trust."
- He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter \* and from the deadly pestilence.
- [ You shall not be afraid] Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, \* nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.
- Because you have made the LORD your refuge, \* and the Most High your habitation,
- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, \* neither shall any plague come near your dwelling
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, \* to keep you in all your ways.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy him, \* and show him my salvation.

May god bless and keep us

The Rev. Paul Van Sant Sr. M. Div., Th. M.



#### Lamentation 3:22-23

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
His mercies never come to an end;
They are new every morning;
Great is Thy faithfulness.

This verse in the Bible speaks of the newness that comes from knowing the Lord. This is the new year. The new year marks a new beginning. A time for us to reground ourselves in our love for Christ. This is a time to look forward to the glorious works of the Lord as winter will become spring and the dead ground will burst forth with life. This is the time for us to look toward the new things that God has planned for our lives. His mercies are new Every morning and His faithfulness is Great toward his people who love Him.

We look forward this new year to seeing God fulfill His promises to us as we sing:

Great is Thy Faithfulness, Great is Thy Faithfulness,

Morning by morning, new mercies I see. All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.

Great is Thy Faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Don't forget to lift your voice in praise and worship to the God of all Faithfulness. If you are able, come and sing with our beautiful choir at Wednesday morning rehearsals at 10:00 am.

We will begin planning on our Lent/Easter season soon and would love to have you join us.

Chime Choir: If you can commit yourselves to chime choir rehearsals on Sundays after morning service, I would love to minister the beautiful Easter chime music with you that we had planned last year. Please let me know if you are interested.

Esther Graham, Minister of Music



#### STEWARDSHIP-

Thank you to everyone that submitted their pledge cards. Letters have been mailed to each of you to verify the amount. Boxes of envelopes have been ordered for those that pledged.

Letters have been sent to people that have pledged in the past, but from whom we have not received any details on their plans for pledging. We are working on our budget for the new church year, and we need to know what we have to work with financially.

If your life changes, please ask the Treasurer for a new pledge card. If you have any ?, please see Gerrie Vergona, our Treasurer. Thank you to the Committee--Stefanie Bodine, Debbie Fisher, Karen-Tessa Mayer, Gerianne Murphy, Ken Seda, Gerrie Vergona.

William H. Bodine III, Chair

**ECW NEWS-**We are looking forward to planning for the return of our teas in 2022. It all de-

pends on the COVID since we sit rather close together to enjoy our delicious sandwiches, desserts, scones, and trifle. And of course, the door prizes, treasure auction, and the 50/50! More news to come on these events.

Thank you to everyone that signed our giant Church Christmas Card. It was a joy to see so many messages of joy and hope, greetings, and comments.

Thanks to everyone that provided delicious food all year for our Coffee Hours. The 2022 list is in the Narthex so you can sign up for a turn in '22. Thanks also to everyone that baked or helped with food or served food for the Pinelands Symphonic Band Concert, the Crestwood Chorus reception, or the Tree Lighting reception. We helped to make many hungry people happy, and they had a chance to so-cialize too!

During the month of February, our Bakeless Bake Sale will return. We all are busy, love to bake, and really love to eat. In these busy times, envelopes will be in your pews. Please feel free to make a donation in the envelopes so we can continue our ECW projects and support the church. And you do not need to bake! Thanks for your support.



Stefanie Bodine, President

## ORDER OF ST. LUKE



The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month following the healing service. Our next meetings will be on January 13, and February 10. We hope to return to our book study. Recently, we have discussed holding a Healing Mission - possibly on zoom.. Our North American OSL President may be in our area. We hope he will be able to join us. It is our hope to have our two nearby OSL Chapters join us.



Before anything else, may we find You, Jesus, look into Your face, and be filled with Your love. May we follow You to the person in our path who needs the warm sunlight of Your healing love and ask You to fill them with Your presence, Your power, and Your peace.

May we pause at the door of each place we go today (either in person or in spirit) and pray: Lord Jesus, come and stand at the entrance to this place. Fill this place with Your Holy Spirit and saturate it with Your presence.

May each person who walks through this door be warmed by the light of Your face beaming upon them with grace and hope!

Remove their worries and cares, surround them with Your great love for them. Bless each person who enters here with a powerful infilling of Your Spirit.

Cleansed, lightened, refreshed and renewed, may they walk forward with new joy in their heart and a fresh spring in their step!

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

NUMBERS 6:24-26

#### PRAYER OF THE ORDER OF ST. LUKE THE PHYSICIAN

Almighty God, who inspired Luke the Physician to set forth in the Gospel the love and healing power of Your son: Graciously continue in Your Church the love and power to heal, to the praise and glory of Your Name, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. *Amen* 

#### THOUGHTFULNESS

Celebrate and thank one person today, who has contributed to your journey of healing! Nurture friendship and fellowship with one person (or group) who shares your passion for healing. Healing connections, Ask the Lord to strengthen and multiply your connections with people who pray for healing/need healing. In Community - together - widening the circle of Jesus' healing love! Envision your healing connections. Listen. Reflect. Jot down any ideas/actions the Lord brings to your attention. Help us to heal the hurts that have kept us on the sidelines, due to fear, apathy, inertia, or busyness, and those that have led to over-doing, due to pride, perfectionism, guilt, or lack of trust.

Free us from all that keeps us from healthy engagement and joyful participation with You and each other in the ministry to which you have called us. Awaken the deep desire you have planted in each of us to embrace our calling. Release us to step out of ill-fitting roles into new roles that draw out the very best in us. Plant us where You can best use our unique, God-given gifts, longings, experience, and skills to nourish the wider community with the healing love of Jesus.

Amen.

"The time is coming when I will plant people, just as a farmer plants seed."

(From Jeremiah 31:27)

#### DO YOU NEED PRAYER'S FOR HEALING

Your prayers have been included in our Compline prayer list. Contact Fr. Paul. Susan Clarke, or Stefanie at (732) 350-2904 or <a href="mailto:houseofpink7@gmail.com">houseofpink7@gmail.com</a> if you have any questions or need prayers.

#### ST. STEPHEN'S PRAYER CHAIN

St. Stephen's is in need of additional members for our Prayer Chain. 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.

#### ONLINE CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Eucharist are held every Sunday at 8AM and 10:15AM – Compline is now on **Monday**, **Wednesday**, and **Friday** at 7PM on **YouTube** and **Zoom**. All are welcome!

**COME AND SEE!!!** 







Anyone wishing to request a memorial or honor a birthday or anniversary with a donation is welcomed to contact Valerie Thompson. Also, please continue to add you name and memorial to the chart in the Narthex as you are able. The Guild sincerely appreciates all donations and we thank you for your generosity.

In addition, the Altar Guild will be accepting memorial donations for Flowers and Decorations to beautify the Sanctuary for the 2022 Easter Holiday. Envelopes for this purpose will be found in the Narthex, or you can contact Valerie for information on how to submit your memorial.

We encourage all interested parties to consider volunteering for the Altar Guild. Our membership has seriously diminished, so your service is definitely needed and would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Valerie if you are interested in learning about this very rewarding service.

If you have any questions, please call Altar Guild Flower Chair, *Valerie Thompson*, at 732-657-4510.

Thank you and God Bless.

# A very blessed happy and healthy new year from the:

Rector - Fr. Paul

Wardens - Stefanie Bodine, Richard Smithson
and Vestry - Debbie Fisher, Kay Karlick, Dottie Kaster,
Tom Larson, Maryann Payne, Marge Pomykala
Peter Quigley, Pat Russo, Ken Seda
Treasurers - Gerrie Vergona, Suzan Webb, Gerianne Murphy
Greg Mathews, Parish Administrator
Tom O'Brien, Sexton
Esther Graham - Organist and Choir Director

### FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

2022 -- A New Year!! And lots of changes at the Treasurer's Desk. I'll get to experience the transition to new envelope numbers for most. It's quite a process, as I'm learning from Gerianne, to close out one year and switch to the next. Gerianne (my hero) and I will be doing that at the end of this week.

At the same time, we'll be processing stewardship cards and letters for 2022. I will give you more information on the status of stewardship in the next issue of the "Chimes".

In the meantime, Happy New Year from your new Treasurer!

Blessings, Gerrie Vergona Treasurer







Lay Eucharistic Ministers are needed to serve the chalice at both services--8 AM and 10:15AM. Training will be provided. See Fr. Paul if you can help.

#### THE POWER OF A WRITTEN NOTE

A handwritten note helps someone know that you care, you took the time to think, write, and send a personal note. Be thankful and share a thank you card or note after receiving a gift, or an act of kindness. Write it while the memory is still fresh in your mind and be specific. If it is a little longer than recently, it is better late than never, so send that note. Just imagine what you would say if you could see that person in front of you. Words from the heart are better because they are personal, and much more meaningful to the recipient. The person you write to will hear your voice, so be honest and sincere. You can make writing a habit, by doing 3 notes a week--send a note to say hello, or a note of appreciation. Thoughts of " remember when". or "I miss you", or " I miss when we did."...You can even send a note to yourself-sometimes we need a note of support and when your letter arrives you will feel that. Sometimes your note can be equivalent to a warm hug, a much needed thought in a someone's day, or a much needed pick-me-up or spark of joy in a sad day.



# ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 30, 2022. There will be one service at 9AM followed by the Annual Meeting.

The following people have been nominated for various positions. Voting will take place at the meeting, and nominations may be made from the floor.

Warden - Property - 2 year term to 2024

Peter Quigley

Vestry - 3 people each for 3 year terms to 2025

**Dottie Kaster** 

Maryann Payne

Robert Virtue

Vestry - 1 person to fill an unexpired term for 2 years to 2024

Johanne Soriano

Convocation - 1 year term - 3 delegates, 3 alternates

Shelagh Bluni

William Bodine

Linda Chiappetta

**Dennis Lacey** 

Peter Quigley

Susan Quigley

Convention - 1 year term - 3delegates, 3 alternates

Susan Clarke

**Betsy Clindinst** 

Peter Quigley

Susan Quigley

Ken Seda

Robert Virtue

Finance Committee - 1 year term - 3 people

Stefanie Bodine

**Dottie Kaster** 

Glenn Mortimer

ANNUAL REPORTS will give information on what each group accomplished during the year 2021.

Stefanie Bodine, Nomination Chair

## MESSAGE BOARD

#### THYROID SUPPORT GROUP

will meet on Monday, January 10 at 10AM. This group meets monthly to learn about thyroid issues, share our experiences about thyroids, and support each other. If you are looking for information, help, willing to share, and learn about thyroids, this is the place to be. Speakers are welcomed when they are available. All are welcome. Call Stefanie, Facilitator at (732) 350-2904 with your queries.



#### WHITING GARDEN CLUB

will meet on Wednesday, February 2 at 10AM. Flower arrangements will be made for VanDyke Hospice. Bring a pair of scissors, a knife, or clippers. Containers filled with foam, decorated with ribbon, and fresh flowers will be supplied. Instructions will be given as to how to create the arrangements. Please make sure you contact Stefanie Bodine in a timely manner at (732) 350-2904 so she can include you in these plans and have enough materials for you to help create these arrangements.. Colleen Del Vacchio from the Hospice program will speak and take our arrangements to share with Hospice people in the program.

#### help wanted

Host one after the 8AM or 10:15AM Service Everyone enjoys chat-

ting and visiting and a delicious item with their coffee or tea. See Stefanie Bodine with your questions



#### **HEALING SERVICE**

Join us every Thursday at 10AM for an uplifting experience--prayers, communion, and healing



<u> Happy Birthday!</u>

<u>Januar</u>	v Fag	<u>Febr</u>	<u>uary</u>
June Bruen Rose Emo	1/05 1/06	Catherine Karlick Robert Virtue	02/01
Dottie Intrieri	1/08	Betsy Woods Deborah DeLouise	02/07
Emily Stahl Maryann Payne	1/08 1/10	Amanda Rutkowski	02/11
Peter Quigley	1/11	Carl Larson Martha D'Abundo	02/14
Greta Pearl Abelardo Gonzolas	1/13 1/19	Donald Nadeau Melvyn Bray	02/15
Terry Rutkowski	1/20	Patricia Stahl	02/16
Shelagh Bluni Irv Neuman	1/24 1/25	Jim Jados Nicholas Stahl	02/19
Thomas Larson	1/29	Gloria Pizzuti	02/23
Ruthann Brooks	1/31	Arline Grande	02/29

#### Laughter is Good for the Soul

Right, we've picked up the gold and the myrrh...what on earth is THAT?!



#### Ribs

At Sunday School they were learning how God created everything, including human beings. Johnny was especially intent when the teacher told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, "Johnny, what is the matter?"

Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

#### God's Love and Glory

Can you find the examples of God's love and glory hidden in the letters below?

s	А	С	R	Α	м	E	N	т	Р	А	s	D	F
x	c	v	В	Y	м	E	Q	A	E	w	s	×	E
G	В	A	P	т	1	s	м	1	N	0	L	P	P
E	0	L	K	1	н	н	F	F	В	1	U	Q	V
0	K	D	1	N	В	U	0	v	N	G	c	т	F
w	Α	Q	z		U	1	0	P	c	s	×	z	C
Q	w	E	R	R	Y	U	М	0	E	A	s	D	F
s	Α	N	C	т	1	F	Y	1	N	G	N	м	0
R	N	P	V	C	×	z	s	1	ĸ	R	н	A	F
E	s	w	0	E	E	N	т	×	F	A	1	т	н
D	s	G	U	s	F	D	E	м	U	c	L	R	т
R	A	ĸ	L	G	т	D	R	т	R	E	R	1	L
0	v	U	0	U	ĸ	L	Y	т	Y	w	z	м	1
Y	В	Y	V	N	U	J	E	1	ĸ	0	L	0	P
L	A	Q	E	Y	U	1	0	s	w	s	×	N	C
0	ĸ	N	1	J	В	U	н	V	Y	G	0	Y	F
н	J	C	0	M	M	U	N	1	0	N	N	М	0

Look carefully for these hidden words and circle the ones you find in the puzzle.

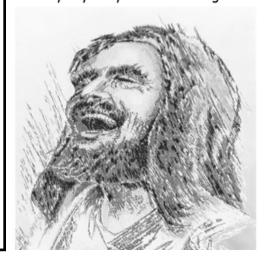
TRINITY GOD GRACE MYSTERY SACRAMENT

BAPTISM PENANCE COMMUNION HOLY ORDERS MATRIMONY SANCTIFYING APOSTLES FAITH LOVE HOPE

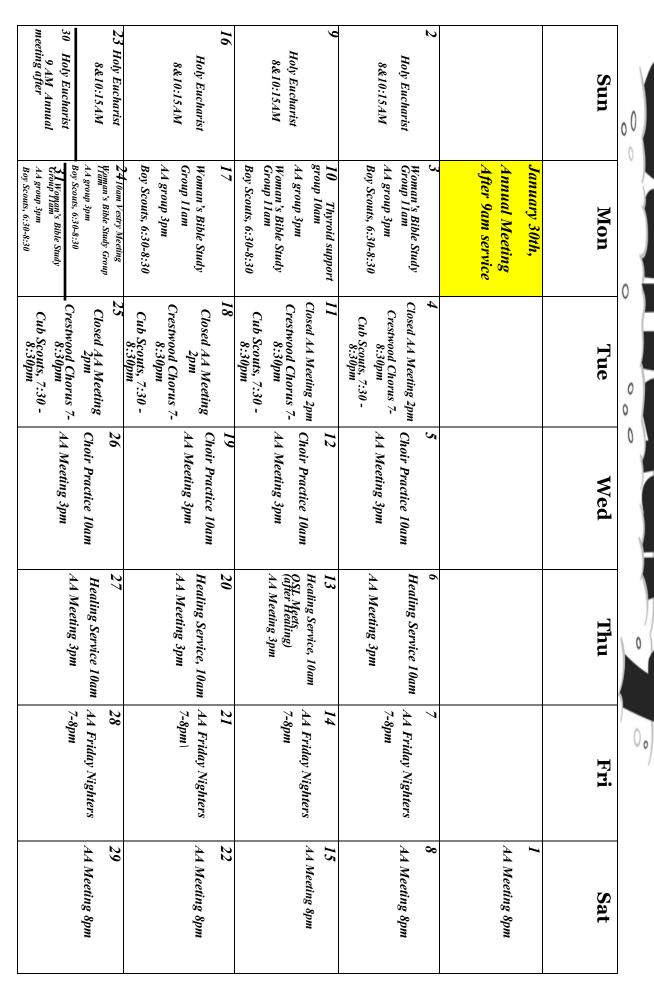
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"They say they are three kings."



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# 

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			2		4	\$
		Closed AA Meeting 2pm Crestwood Chorus 7- 8:30pm Cub Scouts 7:20	2 Choir Practice 10am Garden Club 10am	ealing Service, 10am A Meeting 3pm	AA Friday Nighters 7-8pm	AA Meeting 8pm
	1	Cub Scouts, 7:30 - 8:30pm	AA Meeting 3pm			
6	7 Woman's Bible Study		9	10 Healing Service 10am		12
Holy Eucharist	Group Ham  AA group 3pm	Closed AA Meeting 2pm Crestwood Chorus 7-	Choir Practice 10am	Healing Service 10am OSL Meets after	AA Friday Nighters 7-8pm	AA Meeting 8pm
8&10:15AM	AA group 3pm	Crestwood Cnorus /- 8:30pm	AA Meeting 3pm		7 <b>-8pm</b>	
Crestwood Chorus -2pm	60y Scouts, 6:30-8:30	Cub Scouts, 7:30 - 8:30pm		AA Meeting 3pm		
13	14 Thyroid support group I0am	15	16	17	18	19
Holy Eucharist	AA group 3pm	Closed AA Meeting 2pm	Choir Practice 10am		AA Friday Nighters	AA Meeting 8pm
8&10:15AM	Woman's Bible Study Group Ham	Cresiwood Cnorus /- 8:30pm	AA Meeting 3pm	2,1-3pm	7 <b>-8pm</b>	
	Boy Scouts, 6:30-8:30	Cub Scouts, 7:30 - 8:30pm		AA Meeung Spm		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Holy Eucharist	Woman's Bible Study Group 11am	Closed AA Meeting 2pm	Choir Practice 10am	Healing Service, 10am	AA Friday Nighters	AA Meeting 8pm
8&10:15AM	10am Vestry Meeting	Crestwood Chorus 7-	An Meening Spin	AA Meeting 3pm	7-8pm	
	AA group 3pm	8:30pm				
	Boy Scouts, 6:30-8:30	Cub Scouts, 7:30 - 8:30pm				
27	28					
Holy Eucharist	Woman's Bible Study					
8&10:15AM	Group 11am					
	AA group 3pm Roy Scouts 6:30-8:30					

#### **Parish Staff**

#### **Bishop & Chief Pastor**

The Rt. Rev. William H. Stokes

#### Rector

The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., M. Div., Th. M.

**Music Minister** 

Esther Graham

Treasurer

Gerrie Vergona

**Assistant Treasurer** 

Suzan Webb

Rector's Warden

Stefanie Bodine ('23)

**Property Warden** 

Richard Smithson ('22)

Clerk of the Vestry

JoAnn Smithson

**Vestry Members:** 

Pat Russo Kay Karlick

Dottie Kaster Tom Larson

MaryAnn Payne Ken Seda

Class of 2024

Debbie Fisher

Marge Pomykala

Peter Quigley

**Office Staff:** 

**Parrish Administrator** Greg Mathews

**Sexton** Tom O'Brien



#### **Help Hotline Contact Information**

As many of us face challenges with today's unstable economy, here are some helpful telephone numbers for assistance. Pass them along if you know someone who needs a little extra help getting through these tough times.

#### **Heating & Weatherization**

O.C.E.A.N. Inc. 732-244-5333 (heating)

732-244-5396 (weatherization)

www.oceaninc.org

NJ Shares 866-657-4273

www.njshares.org

#### **Mortgage Assistance**

Hope Hotline 888-995-HOPE

www.hopenow.com

#### **Health Insurance, Food Stamps, Utilities**

NJ Family Care 800-701-0710

www.njfamilycare.org

OC board of Social Services 732-349-1500

Verizon NJ Communications Lifeline

888-337-3339

Ocean County Government Resource Center

732-3708854

www.ocean.nj.us/socialservices

Ocean County Food Bank 732-918-2600

www.foodbankmoc.org

Angel Food Ministries 732-240-7543

Pick-up Location Christ Episcopal Church

1415 Washington St. Toms River

www.angelfoodministries.com

#### **Other Important Numbers**

Social Security 800-772-1213

www.socialsecurity.gov

NJ Unemployment Insurance 732-761-2020

www.state.nj.us



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## Advertisements



Dr. Kesha Walton, DNP, APN, FNP-BC Provider icaremedical.llc@gmail.com

P.O. Box 694 Lakehurst, NJ 08733 icare-medical.org

732-290-5480

Anderson AND Campbell FUNERAL HOMES

Richard C. Campana, Jr., C.F.S.P. Manager

115 Lacey Rd.
Whiting, NJ 08759
732-350-5700
Fax 732-350-2415
Cell 908-227-1194
Richard.Campana@DignityMemorial.com
NJ Lic. No. 4135

(Dignity)

Charles Edwards "A" Salon
HAIR & BOUTIQUE

Whiting Town Center
108 Lacey Road, Suite 4
Whiting, NJ 08759
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Ad in the Fair Book \$105.



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#### UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday, January 2, 9, 16, 23 at 8 and 10:15 AM, and January 30 at 9AM - in-person services, or services on zoom or you tube

Monday, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - 11AM - Bible Study for Women Monday, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31;

Wednesday, January 5,12,19,26; and

Friday January 7, 14, 21, 28 - 7PM - Compline on zoom or you tube

Thursday, January 6, 13, 20, 27 - 10AM Healing service

Monday, January 10 - 10 AM - Thyroid Support Group

Thursday, January 13 - after the Healing Service - OSL meets

Monday, January 24 - 10 AM - Vestry Meeting

Sunday, January 30 - Annual Meeting after the service

Our Daily Bread, clothes ministry, and more serve our community. Join us on Zoom and YOU TUBE each evening at 7PM for services. All are welcome!