

The Chapel Chimes



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From the Rector's Desk...

A Desert Experience

Have you ever wondered why the first thing Jesus did after he was baptized was to go into the desert for 40 days? Most people say it was so the devil could tempt him. They look at it as a kind of test to see if Jesus was really up to the task of saving humanity. They reason that the desert was an extreme setting for an extreme test; a place that would break all but the Messiah, the chosen one of God.

I disagree.

I think that Jesus was in the desert for the purpose of reflection. A VERY quiet place to think and pray for his Father's Will to become the focus for his impending ministry. If there were any temptation he faced in the desert, it was not temptation to commit sin, rather it was the temptation to be distracted from God's will by other important issues. For Jesus, those issues were hunger, the need to be recognized as the Messiah, and the desire to get the whole job done—Now!

Each of us comes face to face with that kind of temptation every day. Things like dance class, sports, politics, vacations, Rotary, Masons, Eastern Star, bridge

club...any number of important groups, or events, cloud or take the place of God's immediate Will for us in our lives.

If we allow it, this Lent can be for us, as it was for Jesus; a time for quiet reflection on God's Will for each of us. It can be a time to gain insight into the growth (spirituality, psychologically, and in numbers) that God has planned for us as a parish. It can be a time to listen to God as He speaks in



the quiet of our own desert experience and prepares us to deal with the inevitable distractions that the devil will offer.

(Continue on page 4)

MUSIC NOTES



Choir

As we enter the season of Lent we are entering one of the most solemn periods of the Church year. The hymns in the service as well as the anthems chosen for each Sunday have been chosen based on their relevance to one or more of the lessons used the service. This is true throughout the year. Anthems have been chosen for every service through mid-June. The choir will sing an anthem when there is an adequate number of singers and an appropriate distribution of voice parts to use the anthem prepared for that Sunday. As you may have noticed, we are understaffed. On Sundays when the Choir is unable to sing their anthem a hymn will be chosen to replace the anthem.

I will be missing from the organ bench for a number of weeks during the next few months.

As of this writing I am undergoing various tests needed to determine my fitness for surgery on my foot. The date for my surgery could not be determined until these tests were completed, which should have been by mid to late February.

I will have a cast on my foot and lower leg for at least six weeks, and I will not be allowed to put weight on my foot. During this time I'll be hopping, using a walker. The cast that will be on my foot and leg will prevent me from playing the organ or the piano I might get onto the organ bench, but won't be able to get off! Playing the piano requires using the sustain pedal – the cast on my right foot will prevent me from doing that. As soon as I know the date, I will begin the search for a supply organist to provide music during my absence. As a member of the local chapter of The American Guild of Organists, I have access to recommendations of available musicians. I will seek one who is familiar with the Episcopal Service and is experienced in conducting a choir.

Your support during this time will be appreciated.



Pam Unger
Organist/Choir Director



The Chapel Chimes

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St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
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Articles are welcomed from all parish members.
Please submit signed and dated items in writing to
the Church Office or email us at
ssecchurch@gmail.com.

*The deadline for April's
articles is March 4, 2019.
(first Monday of the month)*

Parish Staff	HELP HOTLINE NUMBERS														
<p>Bishop & Chief Pastor The Rt. Rev. William H. (Chip) Stokes</p> <p>Rector The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., M. Div., Th. M.</p> <p>Organist & Choir Director Pam Unger</p> <p>Treasurer Gerianne Murphy</p> <p>Assistant Treasurer Sandra Gaskill</p> <p>Rector's Warden Dottie Kaster ('21)</p> <p>Property Warden Richard Smithson ('20)</p> <p>Clerk of the Vestry JoAnn Smithson</p> <p>Vestry Members:</p> <table data-bbox="191 1144 641 1291"> <tr> <td>Class of 2020</td><td>Class of 2021</td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Jack Brown</i></td><td><i>Lillian Fink</i></td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Laura Gural</i></td><td><i>Marge Pomykala</i></td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Tom Larson</i></td><td><i>Peter Quigley</i></td></tr> </table> <p>Class of 2022 <i>Bruce Lukaszewicz</i> <i>Pat Russo</i> <i>Randy Walton</i></p> <p>Office Staff:</p> <table data-bbox="203 1617 641 1764"> <tr> <td>Parish Administrator</td><td><i>Colleen Clover</i></td></tr> <tr> <td>Sexton</td><td><i>Tom O'Brien</i></td></tr> <tr> <td>Office Volunteer</td><td><i>Dottie Kaster</i></td></tr> </table>	Class of 2020	Class of 2021	<i>Jack Brown</i>	<i>Lillian Fink</i>	<i>Laura Gural</i>	<i>Marge Pomykala</i>	<i>Tom Larson</i>	<i>Peter Quigley</i>	Parish Administrator	<i>Colleen Clover</i>	Sexton	<i>Tom O'Brien</i>	Office Volunteer	<i>Dottie Kaster</i>	<p>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.</p> <p><u>Heating & Weatherization</u></p> <p>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</p> <p><u>Mortgage Assistance</u></p> <p>Hope Hotline 888-995-HOPE www.hopenow.com</p> <p><u>Health Insurance, Food Stamps, Utilities</u></p> <p>NJ Family Care 800-701-0710 www.njfamilycare.org OC Board of Social Services 732-349-1500 Verizon NJ Communication Lifeline 888-337-3339 Ocean County Government Resource Center 732-370-8854 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</p> <p><u>Other Important Numbers</u></p> <p>Social Security 800-772-1213 www.socialsecurity.gov NJ Unemployment Insurance 732-761-2020 www.state.nj.us</p>
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As we begin this season of Lent, continuing in our mutual ministry, we should be looking for the direction of God the Father, and our role as his disciples, through the love of Jesus his son, in the power of His Holy Spirit. We are not being tested by God; we are being guided by Him to do His Will. The only test we have to be concerned about is that of Satan.

That test is to see if we can be distracted from God's will long enough to keep it from being accomplished in our lives.

Someone once said, "The only thing necessary for evil to succeed is for Good People to do nothing." In other words, if we can be distracted long enough to do nothing, Satan wins by default. Jesus did not let that happen. We cannot afford to do anything different.

May this Lent be one of hearing God's Will for us; and may we continue to do even greater things than we have done thus far, for His Glory, and the Glory of His Kingdom.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Paul".

M. Div.;Th.M.

Rector



News from the Treasurer's Desk



Hi from the Treasurer's Desk!

This is my first Chapel Chimes submission as the official Treasurer. I've learned quite a lot over the last year, and I expect to continue to learn more as 2019 progresses. Many thanks to Sandy for her patience in teaching me the ins and outs of the accounting system.

As I am sure you've heard before, we face continual financial challenges. One of the ways you can help with that actually costs you nothing! Investors Bank has a program called "Care2Share". Individuals with accounts at Investors Bank can ask the bank to include their account in the "Care2Share" program with St. Stephen's. No one at St. Stephen's will know who participates or what kinds of accounts they may have, but we will receive a check from the bank each quarter. We would appreciate your consideration of this cost-free opportunity to help the church. The most recent check we received was \$205.16. Every little bit helps!

Did you know that most banks offer free services that allow you to schedule routine payments? Even when you're out of town, or unable to get out, your bills still get paid on time. I have found this kind of service to be extremely convenient for quite a few years. Please consider a service like this for your weekly or monthly pledge. If you have any questions about how it works, please let me know. I'd be happy to discuss it with you.

Gerianne Murphy

Treasurer





ECW News

By Stefanie Rotsaert

World Day of Prayer will be held here at Saint Stephen's on Friday, March 1, 2019 at 2 PM. For that 24-hour period, people will be praying and participating in World Day of Prayer all over the world! Come join us in learning about Slovenia, the newest and smallest country in Europe. The theme is: "Come, everything is ready." It is based on Jesus' parable in Luke 14:15-24. Members of the women's groups from Christ Lutheran Church and the Community Reformed Church will join us as readers. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

Thank you to the wonderful ladies, Ricki Minix, Laura Gural, Gerianne Murphy, Dottie Kaster, Pat Russo, and Stefanie Rotsaert, that helped make all those delicious desserts for our *Annual meeting*; we enjoyed them immensely!

Than you to everyone that donated for the *Bake-less Bake Sale*. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

This year, our two *English Tea events* will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2019 and Thursday, May 16, 2019. Stefanie will be asking for help with the kitchen, tickets, runners, clean-up, and folks to make sandwiches, scones, or desserts. As usual, tickets are moving fast! If you and your friends would like to attend, call Stefanie as soon as possible at (732) 350-2904 to get your seats. Tickets are \$15.00 per individual.

ECW continues to collect box tops for kids, card fronts, pop tops, toiletries, and cancelled postage stamps. Because you care, these items have benefitted several groups: Whiting school, the veterans, the Ronald McDonald House, and the Battered Women's shelter. Thank you all for your consideration for these items.

The Diocesan ECW will hold their Annual Meeting and the UTO Ingathering on Saturday, May 25, 2019 at Christ Church in Toms River. This year will be a family event. A barbeque will be held with members bringing salads, and there will be games. Many years ago, the pavilion where we meet was created years ago by *UTO* funds and honors three generations of Pettit family members. More details will follow.

Finally, the Diocesan ECW will host a retreat on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at Saint Mary's by the Sea in Point Pleasant. Stefanie will provide more details soon and will be driving if you need a ride.

Stefanie Rotsaert

ECW President

732-350-2904



LENTEN SCHEDULE—2019

SHROVE TUESDAY—March 5th

4:00-6:00 P.M. Pancake Supper

ASH WEDNESDAY—March 6th

10:00 a.m.— Ashes and Communion in the Church

Noon— Ashes only at Arista-Care

2:00 p.m.— Ashes only at The Pines

4:00 p.m.— Ashes with Communion with Choir in the Church

7:00 p.m.—Ashes and Communion in the Church



THURSDAYS

10:00 a.m. Healing and Communion in the Church

FRIDAYS

6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross followed occasionally by Benediction in the Church

MONDAYS

1:00p.m.—Study on “Discipleship”

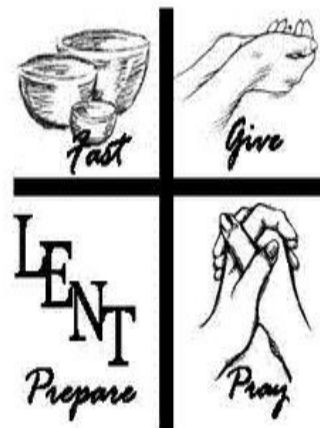
5:00 p.m.—Soup Supper served until Compline is over

5:30 p.m.—Study on “Discipleship”

6:30 p.m.—Compline

WEDNESDAYS

4:00 p.m.—Praying the Rosary (both Traditional and Anglican) in the Church



FELLOWSHIP & FUNDRAISING

We trust you had a wonderful time at our Valentine Pot Luck on February 17th. We had a fun afternoon full of laughter and happy moments. Door prizes were given to the lucky ticket holder of the afternoon; lavishing fun gifts throughout the event such as toilet tissue, beans, and for-ever flowers. As is the normal, we had a wonderful spread of *delicious* foods prepared by our Church Family. Everyone made and shared their favorite dishes with all.

The Safe Driving Class that was arranged and given by **AARP** filled up *fast* for the month of February! The next scheduled class is on March 23, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. right here at Saint Stephens.

March 4th will bring us a bus trip to Philadelphia Flower Show featuring “Flower Power”

March 5th is our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner from 4 p.m.—6 p.m.

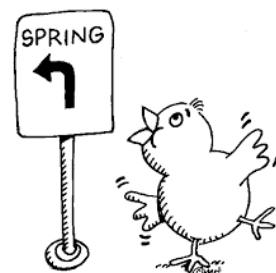
And our Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner to celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day will be held on *March 9th* at 3:00 p.m.

If you are going to be alone and no family or friends coming to be with you, I am asking our Church family if you would like to come out to Easter Dinner here in our Parish Hall, *April 21, 2019*. I will make dinner for you; all you have to do is sign up (so I know how many to cook for) and come out to enjoy an Easter Dinner and fellowship with our Church Family. Details to follow after seeing how many will participate. This event is for the Saint Stephen’s Church Family. Please look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Our next committee meeting will be Sunday, March 10, 2019 at Noon (after the 10 a.m. service). Come on out and join the group!

Lillian Fink and Dottie Kaster

Co-chairs





March 2019



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1:00 Study Discipleship 5:00 Soup Supper 5:30 Study Discipleship 6:30 Compline		<i>Praying the Rosary</i> (Traditional and Angelical) In Church		1 Pineland Symphonic Band Practice 9 AM WORLD DAY OF PRAYER	2 AA Meetings 3 PM & 8 PM
3 HOLY EUCHARIST 8 & 10 AM	4 <i>Philadelphia Flower Show</i> <i>Altar Guild Meeting @ 1 PM</i>	5 Closed AA meeting @ 2 PM <i>Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner</i>	6 AA Meeting 3 PM ASH WEDNESDAY Please see Lenten Schedule on Page 7	7 Healing Service 10 AM AA Meeting 3 PM	8 Pineland Symphonic Band Practice 9 AM <i>Stations of the Cross</i>	9 AA Meetings 3 PM & 8 PM Men's Club Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner
10 HOLY EUCHARIST 8 AM & 10 AM Alison's Church 10 AM	11	12 Closed AA meeting @ 2 PM	13 AA Meeting 3 PM	14 Healing Service 10 AM AA Meeting 3 PM OSL Meeting	15 Pineland Symphonic Band Practice 9 AM <i>Stations of the Cross</i>	16 Women's Singles Spectacular tournament 10 AM AA Meetings 3 PM & 8 PM
17 HOLY EUCHARIST 8 & 10 AM	18 Thyroid Support Grp 10 AM Vestry Meeting 10 AM	19 Closed AA meeting @ 2 PM	20 AA Meeting 3 PM	21 Healing Service 10 AM AA Meeting 3 PM	22 Pineland Symphonic Band Practice 9 AM <i>Stations of the Cross</i>	23 AA Meetings 3 PM & 8 PM AARP Safe Driving Class 9 AM
24/31 HOLY EUCHARIST 8 AM & 10 AM 31st King of the Hill @ Playdrome 6 PM	25	26 Closed AA meeting @ 2 PM	27 AA Meeting 3 PM	28 Healing Service 10 AM AA Meeting 3 PM	29 Pineland Symphonic Band Practice 9 AM <i>Stations of the Cross</i>	30 AA Meetings 3 PM & 8 PM

Order of St. Luke

Submitted by Stefanie Rotsaert.

Do you need Prayers for Healing

The Order of Saint Luke is a Healing Ministry. On the last Sunday of each month, prayers of healing are provided following Holy Eucharist at the 8 AM and 10 AM services at Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church. Members are also available after Sunday services near the Baptismal Font. In addition, prayers are offered at our 10 AM Healing Service on Thursdays.



PRAYER OF THE ORDER OF ST. LUKE THE PHYSICIAN

Almighty God, who inspired Your servant 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.

OSL Healing Mission

A healing mission will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2019, at Christ Church at 415 Washington Street in Toms River NJ from 8:00 am-3:00 pm. This event is sponsored by "God's Healing Grace", Christ Church, and "The Healing Hand of Christ", Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church, Whiting NJ. Both are New Jersey Chapters of the International Order of Saint Luke the Physician.

The main guest speaker will be the Rev. Jo Ellen Werthman. Her message will be "The Power of Resurrection." We are also looking forward to the group "Celebrate" providing beautiful praise music!

The registration fee is \$10.00 per person. You can pre-register or register the day of the event. Breakfast and lunch will be provided by both chapters.

For more information, please contact Christ Episcopal Church at (732) 349-5506 or email:

christchurchtomsriver@verizon.net or contact Stefanie Rotsaert @ (732) 350-2904

We look forward to seeing everyone there!

LET US PRAY....

God is the healer. But we can pray so God can heal us or others. Each day we are surrounded by hurting, wounded, broken children of God, but by God's grace, we can ask for prayers. As we pray, we communicate with God and by His grace, we can each pray for one another. God is waiting to hear from us; He wants to hear from us. Sometimes a surprise occurs with a yes or a no, or soon as we are healed, in part or in whole. Each of us can pray and discover and develop our prayers and healing as well as praying with and for others.

There is no greater gift than that of prayer—ask the hopeful, the healed, the cured, and the dying. Just a simple prayer will do and God will listen. Do it now.

Submitted by:

Stefanie Rotsaert

1 Ridgmont Lane

Whiting NJ 08759



Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

Sponsored by

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

Men's Club

Saturday, March 9, 2019 @ 3:00 PM

Come fellowship with us and enjoy good Irish cooking!

For information and tickets, stop by the Parish office

Or call us! (732)350-2121

Suggested donation:

Adults.....\$ 15.00

Children.....\$ 7.00



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

BOWLING MINISTRY

Playdrome Lanes-Toms River NJ

March

Saturday, March 16, 2019

***Women's Singles Spectacular
Tournament***

10:00 am

Sunday, March 30, 2019

Parish Open Bowling 5:30-7:30

Sunday, March 31, 2019

King of the Hill 6:30

April

Sunday, April 7, 2019

***Sports Shot Singles Spectacular
Tournament 10 am***

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Parish Open Bowling 5:30-7:30

Sunday April 28, 2019

***3rd Annual Over/Under Handicap
Tournament 10 am***



Laughing is Good for the Soul



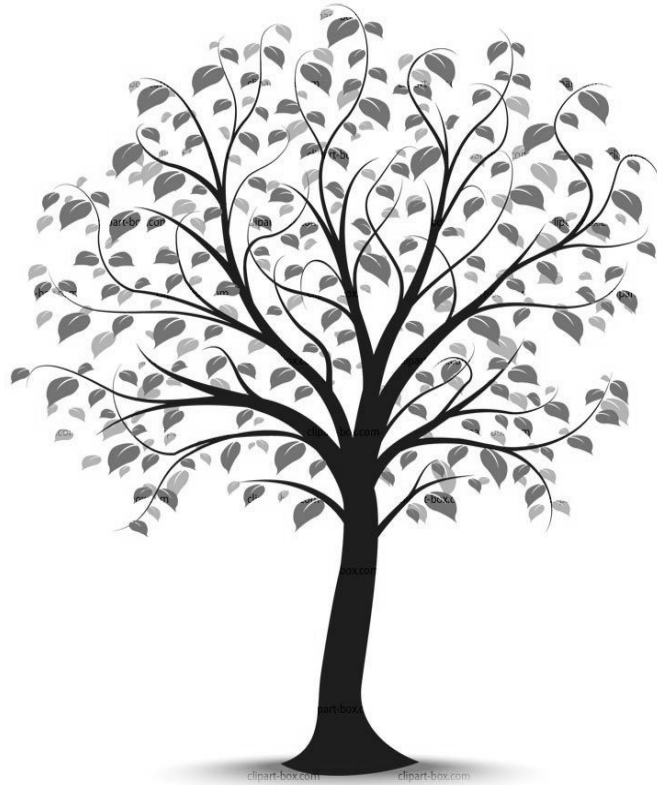
If you like the picture of Jesus laughing on the top right of this page, you can obtain a color print in a variety of standard sizes from any of your local Christian book stores.



March

Happy Birthday

3rd Ray Smith
6th Jordan Quigley
8th Richard Batesko
9th Thomas Cornelius
11th Kimberly Ferrara
14th Debra Kutylowski-Bradley
17th Pat Elliott
19th Ruth Berlen
Joan Burkhard
Sydney Stahl
20th Gavin Brennan
21st Michael Grande
Emily Brennan
23rd Lillian Nutry
Tara Butler
25th Audrey Green
Madison Cornelius
27th Daniel Batesko
30th Father Paul Van Sant Sr.
31st Joseph Nutry
Sally Ingrassia



.....
Flea Market is coming soon!

Have you been busy with Spring cleaning? We know just what to do with those items you no longer want. There will be an Indoor Flea Market here at Saint Stephen's on Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 9 AM—1 PM. This is a perfect opportunity to sell some of those odds and ends and "white elephants" we all have cluttering our homes. Tables are \$10.00

We will also have a 50/50 drawing, a Basket Auction, and the Kitchen Café will be open with lunch and snack items available.

For any questions, please call Jo Ann Smithson @ (732) 408-5351 or (609) 575-1879



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Margie Carney
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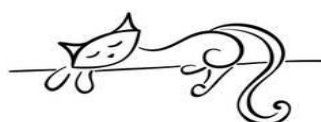


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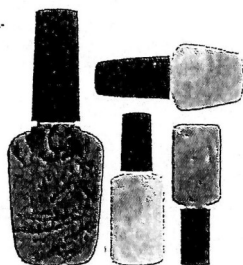
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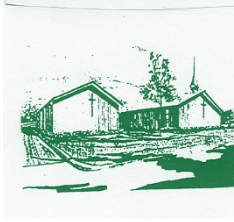
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Upcoming Calendar Events

Easter Vigil at the Trenton Cathedral—April 20th

Easter Dinner—April 21st

English Tea #1—April 25th

Annual Flea Market—April 27th

