

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

Dottie Kaster, Rector's Warden

Wardens and Vestry 2018

Dottie Kaster, Rector's Warden

Richard Smithson, Property Warden

William Bodine, Carol Cavanaugh, Randy Walton

Jack Brown, Laura Gural, Tom Larson

Lillian Fink, Marge Pomykala, 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.

Greta Pearl for prayer requests: 732-350-7584

Please notify the church office 732/350-2121 of any illnesses or hospitalizations.

If it is an emergency you may also reach Dottie Kaster, Rector's Warden at 732-647-5065 or

Father Paul at his home 609-268-2864.



Are any among you ...
cheerful?
They should
sing songs of praise.

JAMES 5:13, NRSV

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II Proper 21**

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2018
8 & 10 am**

Hymnal The Word of God

552	Processional Hymn: <i>"Fight the good fight with all thy might"</i>	
	Patriotic Hymn: 717v4	
	Opening Acclamation	355
S102	Trisagion	
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: Book of Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22	Insert
	Psalm 124	Insert
	Second Lesson: Letter of James 5:13-20	Insert
	Gradual: <i>"Word of God, speak"</i>	
	Gospel: Mark 9:38-50	Insert
	Sermon — The Rev Paul Van Sant	
	The Nicene Creed	358
	Prayers of the People Form VI	392
	Confession and Absolution	393
	The Peace	
	Announcements	
408	Offertory Anthem:	
	Doxology: "All things come of thee O Lord"	
	HOLY COMMUNION	
	Eucharistic Prayer A	361
S120	Sursum Corda	
S125	Sanctus	
S136	Memorial Acclamation	363
	The Lord's Prayer	364
	Breaking of the Bread	
S152	Fraction Anthem	
	Communion Hymns:	
	Post Communion Hymns:	
359	<i>"God of the prophets, bless the prophets' heirs!"</i>	
545	<i>"Lo! What a cloud of witnesses"</i>	
509	Post Communion Hymn: <i>"Sprit divine, attend our prayers"</i>	
	Post Communion Prayer	365
	Blessing	
609	Recessional: <i>"Where across the crowded ways of life"</i>	
	Dismissal	

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost proper 21

September 30, 2018

Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector	8:00 AM	Peter Quigley
LEM	8:00 AM	Jo Ann Smithson
Altar Guild	8:00 AM	Mary Storey, Betty Carino
Ushers	8:00 AM	Mary Storey, Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine, Peter Quigley
Lector	10:00 AM	Amanda Rutkowski
LEMs	10:00 AM	Stefanie Rotsaert, Susan Clarke
Altar Guild	10:00 AM	Peg Smith, Valerie Thompson
Ushers	10:00 AM	Al Thompson, Joe Orsita

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF:

September 30, 2018-October 6, 2018

Today	Holy Eucharist AA Meeting	8 am & 10 am 8:00 pm
Monday	Office Open Altar Guild Meeting	9 am– 2 pm 1:00 pm
Tuesday	Closed AA Meeting	9:15 am 2:00 pm
Wednesday	Closed AA Meeting Chime Practice	3:00 pm 7:00 pm
Thursday	Healing Service Choir Practice	10:00 am 2:00 pm
Friday	Pineland Symphonic Band	9:30 am
Saturday	AA Meeting AA Meeting	3:00 pm 8:00 pm

Everyone is welcome to come to the coffee hour after worship
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.





**Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Proper 21**

**September 30, 2018
8 & 10 AM**

Collect of the Day

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Will be held on Tuesday October 16, 2018 at the Ocean County Mall in Tom's River

A ticket is \$5.00 available in the Church office or from Stefanie Rotsaert

Shop and receive 25% off items in the store and more.

See Stefanie for details and tickets.

First Reading

Book of Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. And on the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; for our affliction is not to be compared with the loss to the king." Then King Ahasu-e'rus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, that would presume to do this?" And Esther said, "A foe and enemy! This wicked Haman!" Then Haman was in terror before the king and the queen. Then said Harbo'na, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, "Moreover, the gallows which Haman has prepared for Mor'decai, whose word saved the king, is standing in Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows which he had prepared for Mor'decai. Then the anger of the king abated. And Mor'decai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasu-e'rus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same, year by year, as the days on which the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending choice portions to one another and gifts to the poor.



The need is great this year. Now is the perfect time to gather much needed items to fill the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

School supplies, toiletries, and toys fill the shoe boxes provided by Good Samaritan's Purse organization that are in the Narthex.

Share your good fortune by sharing with children in need of every day kid things; sure to bring much joy! See Pat Russo for details and fill a box today!

Psalm 124

- 1 If the LORD had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;
- 2 If the LORD had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the LORD! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.



ORDER OF SAINT LUKE: 2nd Thurs. after healing service.
PINELAND SYMPHONIC BAND Practice Fridays @ 9:30 am
EWC's NEXT MEETINGS 2018: *Dec 6th*
Altar Guild Meeting Monday, October 1, 2018 @ 1:00 pm

King of the Hill

Tournament

TODAY

At 6:30 PM

Playdrome Lanes

821 Conifer Street

Toms River

Entry fee: \$50.00/per bowler

Open to Men & Women AND Junior
Bowlers-

Cash prizes (adults only) and trophies
will be awarded

St. Stephen's and AAA will be raffling
off a \$1000.00 voucher towards AAA
services and products!

Each chance is \$10.00

Purchase tickets through October 27th
when the winner will be announced at
our Annual Vendor Fair!

See one of our Vestry Members or
come see us in the Church office Mon-
day through

Thursday Between 9am-2pm

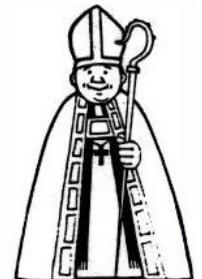


MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*In honor of Bishop's visitation on
Sunday, November 4, 2018 we will have a*

9 AM service only

followed by a Brunch potluck.



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.



Dear Friends,

Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the suffering of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4:12-13



Stewardship

“Otherwise, you may say in your heart, ‘My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth,’ “But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.”

Deuteronomy 6:18-20



Love. Grow. Serve.

This Sunday our featured speaker is:
Canon Phyllis Jones Project Rescue Team-8 AM
Canon Phyllis Jones Project Rescue -10 AM

Second Reading

Letter of James 5:13-20

Is any one among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects. Eli'jah was a man of like nature with ourselves and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth its fruit. My brethren, if any one among you wanders from the truth and some one brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Holy Gospel

Mark 9:38-50

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw a man casting out demons in your name, and we forbade him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him; for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon after to speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is for us. For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ, will by no means lose his reward. "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung round his neck and he were thrown into the sea. And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. * [No text] And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched. For every one will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its salt-ness, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

In today's Gospel reading, the disciples complain about someone (who was not part of their group) casting out demons in Jesus' name. Jesus' response is that the man should not be stopped, for "whoever is not against us is for us." The importance of the ministry of every person, rather than just the ministry of disciples or clergy or church members, is so great, that to despise other ministries is to risk personal disaster. If pride in our own ministry is getting in the way, cut off that pride.

The first reading today is from the section of the Hebrews known as "The Writings." In Jewish practice, the little book of Esther is read on the feast of Purim. While there is little of religious value in this book (God is never mentioned), it gives us a story of a heroic Jewish woman who uses her wiles to save the Jews living in Persia from genocide. When read in synagogue, everyone rattles noise makers and makes rude sounds each time wicked Haman is mentioned.

We continue to read from the Letter of James for our second lesson. Here James give some pastoral advice to the elders (the Greek word is "presbyters," the origin of the term "priest" in the Christian church). The leaders are to minister to the sick, anointing them with laying on of hands and prayer. James reminds us that the prayers of faithful people are the source of God's power.

Our ordained leaders are not the sole ministers of Christ; rather, they model the ministry we are all to perform. In our baptism, we are set apart as ministers of Christ who share in his royal priesthood. It is in that ministry, especially to the poor, oppressed, and dying, that we find God present to us in the lives of those for whom we care. Our ministry is expressed in our liturgical actions, and the Eucharist is the model for our daily living and for the nature of God's Kingdom.

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

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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 in memory of
Dorothy Wolcott from her friend Sandy Gaskill*

And

In Memory of Ace (Emil) Unger

By Pam Unger

ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNION SERVICES

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