# The Chapel Chimes



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From the Rector's Desk...

# Thanksgiving

Every Thanksgiving our community churches gather together to offer thanks to God in prayer and song. This year the service was held at Christ Lutheran Church on Wednesday, November 27 at 2 P.M. At this service we acknowledged all that God has bestowed on us; our lives, our sustenance, our protection and much more. We call it Thanksgiving, but what are we most thankful for? The following story might give us some insight into that question.

One time, in a psychology class at a major university, the professor handed out a survey to see how familiar her students were with the various traditions and meanings of a list of holidays. The list included the obvious, Christmas, Easter, Hanukah, Fourth of July, Cinco de Mayo, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and others. She was looking to see if there was a difference in how holidays were perceived by different cultural or racial groups.

As she expected, religious holidays were understood differently, especially by individuals from other religions. National holidays had widely differing results based on an individual's nation of origin, and even where they lived within the United States. And these kinds of variations where expected.

What was not expected was that with very few exceptions the answer to the query, "what is the



real meaning of this holiday?" was recorded as "time with family" in one form or another, for each holiday.

We are; regardless of ethnicity, race, country of origin, age, gender or religion; most thankful for our connection with a family.

Continue on page 4

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

Whiting, NJ 08759-1238

180 Route 539

Our Church Office is located at: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

# The Chapel Chimes

Editor.... Contributors...

is a publication of

**NOTES** 



**MUSIC** 

To my new church family, I am so thrilled to be called to worship the Lord with you. I'd like to tell you a little about myself.

I am a pastor's daughter. I met my husband in college as we sang together in the several choirs. My husband and I pastored together for 25 years. I have been playing the piano and singing since I was a young child. I began to play the piano in church at 8 years old. I have experience as the director of a praise and worship band for 25 years, as church organist for 12 years, and as a choir director for more than 30 years. My education is in theology. I was ordained as an Assembly of God minister.

My husband and I raised two wonderful children. Our daughter, her husband and our two precious grandsons are missionaries in Nome, Alaska. Our son is living in the area and works in a college library.

Music is an integral part of our daily and spiritual lives. Music lifts us, encourages us, motivates us, and touches our hearts in ways nothing else can.

When we use our voices to sing in worship to our Lord Jesus, we are drawn further into His Presence, and lifted beyond our daily cares of life. When we sing in corporate worship we are not only drawn to Christ but we are brought closer to each other as brothers and sisters.

Come and sing with the Choir at our 10:00 am Wednesday rehearsal. Lift your voice in the congregation and "make a joyful noise unto the Lord." Above all, make sure you sing hymns and beautiful songs everyday. You will find that the Joy of the Lord will be your daily strength.

Psalm 150:6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. PRAISE THE LORD!

#### Esther Graham

Minister of Music





..Father Paul Colleen Clover Stefanie Rotsaert Bill Bodine Gerianne Murphy Esther Graham Jo Ann Smithson Carol Zarorski

Please submit signed and dated items in writing to Articles are welcomed from all parish members. the Church Office or email us at (first Monday of the month) The deadline for JANUARY ssechurch@gmail.com. December 2, 2019.

#### **Parish Staff**

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#### Rector

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

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Esther Graham

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Laura Gural Marge Pomykala
Tom Larson Peter Quigley

#### Class of 2022

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Sexton Tom O'Brien

Office Volunteer Carl Laursen

#### HELP HOTLINE NUMBERS

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 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

#### **Other Important Numbers**

Social Security 800-772-1213

www.socialsecurity.gov

NJ Unemployment Insurance 732-761-2020

www.state.nj.us

What is most frustrating about that fact is that so many of us are limited to the number of generations of family members that we actually get to interact with. Using myself as a typical example: I knew my parents and siblings, One Grandfather and two Grandmothers. My other Grandfather died four years before I was born. For all other family members, I have to depend on what my parents told me or what I found on ancestry.com.

But what if you could talk to your Grandparents or Great-Grandparents or Great-Grandparents? How meaningful would that be to you? Well, our newest member of St. Stephen's is going to have that opportunity, because he has been born into a family with FIVE living generations.

Looking at the two photos on our front page, and below on this page, you will see Jeremy Jurgen Busch, III (he's the cute little one). In both pictures Jeremy is being held by his father, Jeremy Busch, Jr. The next three moving left in the men's picture are Herbert Busch (Great-Great Grandfather), Jay Busch (Great Grandfather) and Jeremy Busch, Sr. (Grandfather). In the ladies picture are Evelyn Eichenberger (Great-Great Grandmother), Ellen Corry (Great Grandmother), and Shrene DeLucia (Grandmother). Imagine what it might be like, when Jeremy III is able to tell his child what his/her Great-Great-Great Grandfather and Grand mother told him when he was very young!

Family is important and worth being thankful for. This Thanksgiving I hope we all made sure to share our love and memories with children and grandchildren. And if that was not possible, I hope you were able to share meaningful time with your family here at St. Stephen's. Our Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings was served in the parish hall on Thanksgiving Day, served by our Scout Troop 350. We had a full house!

It's just like the old Gospel Hymn says:

"I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God, I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood! Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod, For I'm part of the family, The Family of God."

May we all have a blessed and safe Thanksgiving,

M. Div.;Th.M.

Rector





# Happenings Around the Church...

*Christmas Poinsettias:* It's the time of year when Christmas poinsettias are so prominent everywhere. These hardy flowering plants will grow year round and turn red each winter when care is given, so these little plants will beautify any home all year.



This year, we will place the Christmas Flower envelope in this issue of Chapel Chimes for your convenience. Simply fill out the appropriate

information on the front of the envelope. Please write clearly and indicate if the flowers are "*In Memory of*" or "*In Thanksgiving for*" someone you might designate for your flowers.

Make your check payable to "Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church" and write "Altar Guild" in the memo line. You may also place cash in the envelope with completed information written on the front. Place your envelope in the offertory plate as soon as you can manage. The deadline to submit your offering is: **December 16, 2019.** This will allow enough time to complete the list of names for our Christmas service leaflet.

If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call! 732-657-4510

Valerie Thompson,

Altar Guild Treasurer



### A Holiday Tea Party HERE YE! HEAR YE!

Calling all Princes and Princesses! Join us for our first annual Holiday Royalty Tea

On Saturday, December 14 from

12:30 pm-3:30 pm

Seating is limited:

\$12.00 per Prince or Princess-\$3.00 per adult.

We will have crafts, snacks, raffles and lots of games sure to please your prince and princess!

For details and reservations, please call Anna at (609)-230-2114



# **ECW News**

By Stefanie Rotsaert



Thank you to everyone that supported our Fall Fashion Show; it was one of our BEST ever! Macy's eye-catching fashions came to life with the superb models showing off the latest fall wear of the year. We are blessed to have happy hands help with everything from set-up to clean up. We would like to humbly thank those who donated their time to this event, making the event even more special with your careful touch. We had wonderful door prizes that went out to several lucky attendees, along with the treasure auction and the 50/50 draw. Thanks to everyone, we've had such fun and successfully brought in \$1000.00!

Thank-you to all the people that put the amazing Barbeque together for the Homecoming! The food was outstanding and there was plenty for everyone. We certainly appreciate the care taken to be sure we could feed everyone, which turned out over 70 people! The teamwork and joyful energy from the day proved to be one of the best Homecoming events we've had.

Thank you all for supporting our many endeavors, such as the 50th Annual Crop Walk, hosted by our Parish this year. We had the Pasta and More event, sponsored by the Men's Club, Boscov's Friends Helping Friends, and of course, Operation Christmas Child. There is still some time left to get supplies and gifts to fill shoeboxes for children all over the world. And of course, Thank-you to Jo Ann Smithson for another successful Craft and Vendor Fair.

The last meeting of the year for ECW will be on Thursday, December 5, 2019. Don't miss the Christmas Tree Festival in Village VII. Free admission to all the lovely trees decorated in unique fashion. Bring your letters to Santa, meet the Elves, and much more holiday fun for everyone!

Remember, the ECW continues to collect cancelled stamps for the Veterans, box-tops for kid, and toiletries for the Battered Women's Shelter, along with card fronts and pop tabs.

The Church Christmas Card in on the easel in the Narthex. With the ever increasing cost of sending many cards around to everyone, we invite everyone to write their heart-felt Christmas message to whomever they chose. If you want to make a donation (optional, of course) to the ECW, you can do so by finding the box under the card. Funds collected are used to benefit others through our various projects.

We are wrapping at Boscov's for the Church on Friday, December 20th from 11am-7pm, Saturday, December

21st from 11am-7pm and on Monday, December 23rd from 11am-7pm. Contact Stefanie if you would like to join us. This is a wonderful time to meet new people and

share information our church and

Stefanie Rotsaert its activities as well.

ECW President

732-350-2904



# STEWARDSHIP SEASON ENDS THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

#### By William Bodine III

#### My fellow parishioners:

Now that Stewardship Season is behind us, the second part of the program gets underway. The focus shifts to the financial aspects of the program with Gerianne Murphy leading this portion of the program. What we hope to do is send out conformation letters confirming the pledges received. If there are errors we will fix them.

We will be sending out pledge request letters to those active members who have not yet sent in a pledge card. There will be a lot of envelopes to be stuffed, so any volunteers to help with this effort will be appreciated. Our objective is to complete the process in the allotted time frame of 1-2 months. This will help the Finance Committee and the Vestry include pledge amounts for budgeting purposes.

Your new pledge envelopes will be ready for distribution before the end of December, which puts us in a good place for continued efficiency.

Your help can make a big difference in expediting the process. Feel free to reach out to any Stewardship Team member; Bill Bodine, Susan Clarke, Gerianne Murphy, Ken Seda, and Peter Quigley. We are always looking for fresh perspectives and new ideas.

We would also like to thank Father Paul for his continued support and guidance.

#### God Bless!

William Bodine III



#### Upcoming Bus Trips

Tuesday, December 3rd—Holiday Train Show at

The New York Botanical Gardens—\$64.00

Friday, December 6th Longwood Gardens Christmas Display—\$70.00

All Prices are per person. For further information, see the flyers in the Narthex.

Contact Stefanie Rotsaert at (732) 350-2904

All trips leave from Saint Stephen's Church at 180 Route 539 Whiting, New Jersey

#### Thoughts about Advent

As was mentioned in a recent sermon, Advent is the season of History, Mystery and Majesty.

History is what we know has already occurred. Jesus, the Son of God became incarnate. He came down from heaven and was born of the Virgin Mary. He lived as one of us, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, died, rose, and ascended into heaven. We relive the coming of that baby in the manger every Advent season.



But history is what has happened. What about now? How are we experiencing The Son of God in the present? This part of Advent is called Mystery. Though Jesus' physical body left this earth over 2000 years ago He is still with us. How? In the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, in the Word of the Holy Scriptures, in our quiet prayer time, and in the body of the faithful. Though we do not see Him, we know that He is here and continues to bless, heal, forgive, guide and love us.

We know the past. We live in the present. So the third part of Advent is looking for the coming of the Majesty of God's Son in Glory. As members of the church we know that Christ will come again. So, we look for that coming with expectant hearts. We try to prepare for Jesus to return and find us doing his will in our life. We don't want to suddenly try to change what we are doing when Jesus arrives, rather we want to look up and welcome his coming with open arms, filled with love and joy.

When Advent comes to a close and we all gather at the altar for Christmas Mass, let us welcome the baby Jesus; Let us commune with the living Christ in His Word and the Eucharist; and let us live our life in anticipation of His return to claim His people for all eternity.

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas season,

Fr. Call

Fr. Paul



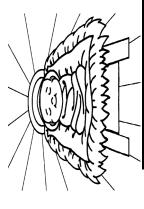
#### MICAH AWARD 2019



The Vestry and Wardens are pleased to announce that the 2019 recipient of the Micah Award for outstanding service to the greater Whiting Community is Joel Wolf, the owner of Village Opticians. The award dinner was held on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Many of you attended this festive occasion to celebrate Joel's accomplishments. This is one of the only events during which we serve wine. We do not use church money for the wine and we depended on donations of bottles of white, red, or rosé wine. Please congratulate Joel when you see him next.

Gerianne Murphy

Treasurer



# December 2019



u n S	M o n	Tues	W e d	Thur	F r i	Sat
I Holy Eucharist 8 AM & 10 AM AA Meeting @ 8PM	2 CHAPELCHIMES ARTICLES ARE DUE TODAY! Boy scouts 6:30- 8:30 pm	3 Closed AA meeting @ 2PM Cub scouts 7pm	4 AA Meeting 3 PM	5 Healing Service 10AM ECW Meeting 1 PM AAMeeting 3 PM	8 Festival of Trees 10-3 AA Meeting 8PM	Festival of Trees 10-3 AA Meeting 8PM
15 HOLY EUCHARIST 8 AM & 10 AM AA Meeting @ Festival of Trees	9 Boy Scouts 6:30-8:30	Closed AA meeting @ 2PM Cub scouts 7pm	11 AA Meeting 3 PM	Healing Service 10AM 44Meeting 3PM	1 3  P i n e l a n d  Symphonic Band  Practice 9 AM	14 Prince and Princess Tea Party! 12:30-3:30
15 HOLY EUCHARIST 8 AM & 10 AM AA Meeting @	16 Boy scouts 6:30-8:30 pm Altar Guild Flowers due today!	17 Closed AA meeting @ 2PM	18 AAMeding 3PM	19 Healing Service 10 AM AAMeeing 3PM	2 0 P i n e l a n d Symphonic Band Practice 9 AM	21 AA Meeting 8PM
22 HOLY EUCHARIST 8 AM & 10 AM AA Meeting @	23 Thyroid Support Grp 10 am Vestry Meeting 10am Boy scouts 6:30-8:30	24 Christmas Eve		<b>26</b> Healing Service 10AM <i>AA Meetin</i> g 3 <i>PM</i>	27 P i n e l a n d Symphonic Band Practice 9 AM	28 AA Meeting 8PM
28 HOLY EUCHARIST 8 AM & 10 AM AA Meeting@8pm	29 Boy scouts 6:30- 8:30 pm	30 Closed AA meeting @ 2PM Cub scouts 7pm	31			

#### Order of Saint Luke

#### 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- The Order of Saint Luke "Exists to empower God's people with Jesus's Healing Ministry; it is ecumenical"

On quieter days, Connie, Margaret and I, under Stefanie's leadership, we have been studying the OSL text, "The Healing Miracles of Jesus" and "God's Healing River" by Jack Sheffield. We hope to be inducted as members of OSL at the OSL Healing Mission to be held at Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church in Whiting next spring.

From studying Jesus' healing miracles, I am impressed by how crucial faith is, either in the person who requested healing or in those who brought the person to Jesus.

I've had personal experience with the power of faith. I have early stage Parkinson's. I had been participating regularly in the Thursday healing mass and our OSL study group for months when one day, I was at home; out of nowhere, I had a definite, deep down feeling of surety that I had been healed of all of it! My next thought was, "Oh no, it can't be that easy!" As soon as I thought that, I felt unhealed. Truly, it was startling! There is no medical proof of this healing, However, this is a deeply moving experience I will not forget.

There may be complete or partial healing. A person may request a physical healing and receive a spiritual healing. There are many possibilities.

I encourage you to attend Thursday's Healing mass that begins at 10 AM. Father Paul does a short reading on the accomplishments of an influential religious leader. We then read aloud from the list of names on the Saint Stephen's prayer list and offer our prayers for all those listed. Next we break into small groups and state our special prayer requests for ourselves and others. From there, each one of us receives in Jesus name, the anointing oil of healing, after which, members will lay hands on the anointed for continued prayers of healing. The mass ends with Father Paul sharing the Eucharist.

My encouragement for you comes from my desire to share the peace and joy I experience and the uplifting power of prayer you will receive at our Healing service; maybe 'informal' but there is a heart-felt comfort here; a blessed feeling of healing and being healed.

May God continue to bless all!

Carol Zagorski

#### **Operation Christmas Child**



<u>THANK YOU</u> to EVERYONE that filled Christmas boxes for Operation Christmas Child; a global project of The Good Samaritan's Purse. Each year, children all over the world receive shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. The table in the Narthex was full of the special boxes. We took the filled boxes to a collection center in November so now they are flying all over the world, into the hands of a child in need. Remember, you can actually keep track of your box and learn of it's destination. We look forward to NEXT year with this successful program.

If you have any questions, please contact

Pat Russo at (732) 941-4644.



#### CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United recently held their WORLD COMMUNITY DAY at the United Church of Christ in Toms River. The theme was "The Time is Now! Resolve to Love." The title is based on **John 4:23a:** "But the time is coming and is here!" This day focuses on global peace and justice. As women of faith, we have a responsibility to reach beyond our Christian denomination to Muslims, Buddhists, and those of Jewish faith, and more. It is a move from ecumenical to interfaith orientation. Through mutual respect we can create an inclusive community that is just, caring, and supportive. Let us resolve courageously to resolve to love for peace.

Various songs and prayers were shared. Sadly, only one religious leader from the Lutheran Church was able to join us to share her thoughts, but the event was still quite moving and significant. A quote from Eleanor Roosevelt says a lot: "One's philosophy is not best expressed in words; it is expressed in the choices one makes; and the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility."

The Benediction was inspirational too! The Peace of God be in your heart; The Grace of God be in your words, The Love of God be in your hands, the joy of God be in your soul, and in the song that your life sings.



WHITING GARDEN CLUB will not meet in January. However, in February, we will unleash our creativity by making flower arrangements for Hospice. We will be using 'tuna cans' for planting so please save clean ones for our project. We will need reservations for participation so we can be certain to have enough flowers and cans for everyone to enjoy the project.

For any questions and to sign up, Contact Stefanie Rotsaert @ 732-350-2904





# 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.







## November

Emily Tominovich

**Bob Mc Daniels** 

**Dorothy Kaster** 

Matthew Johnson

Mary Ellen Mills

Shrene De Lucia

1st

18th

19th

20th

27th

# 2nd David Bellemore Karen Crawford 3rd Roger Barlowe 6th Lena Wyatt 8th Nancy Mullin 13th Helyn Weinberg

## **December**

6th Ricki Minix

9th Thomas Larson

11th Riley Woods

15th Warren Bruen

16th William Conover

19th Andrew Van Sant

21st Den. Carolsue Cummings

23rd **Dolores Ropes** 

30th Kenneth Portz.

Ryan Woods



#### "Peace on Earth

Come to Village VII-Friday-Sunday, December 6th-8th from 10 AM-3 PM
See many beautifully decorated trees! There will be refreshments, face painting, and photos.

Children are invited to bring their letters to Santa's mailbox or write one with help from the elves who will be visiting as well!

Sponsored by women's club and village VII-FREE ADMISSION



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REJOICE! People are God's hands.

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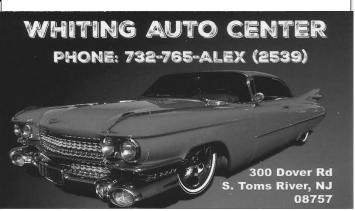
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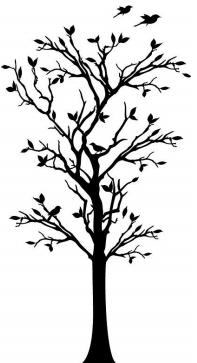
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#### **Upcoming Calendar Events**

A Happy New YEAR!

