# The Chapel Chimes



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From the Rector's Desk...

## For All The Saints

The title for this month's newsletter comes from the first line of hymn 287 of the 1982 Hymnal. This is a traditional Anglican hymn which was first published in Earl Nelson's *Hymns for Saints' Days and Other Hymns*, in 1864. It is traditionally used around All Saints' Day, for feasts of the Apostles and occasionally at a burial or memorial service of a Christian Soul.

The reason this was chosen to begin this article is because the end of October and the beginning of November is a time set aside in our liturgical calendar to remember all those souls that have come before us in the service of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

For St. Stephen's that would mean all the people who put their time, talent, and treasure into the founding and building of all we have today. It also includes over two centuries of faithful people who built the Diocese of New Jersey after the American Revolution and centuries of faithful people who formed the Church of England, as well as

over a millennium of Orthodox and Western Christians following Jesus' ministry from the first century. Whew!

But we are also to remember those souls who are working in our own time. Everyone who is continuing to support the work of St. Stephen's day by day and week by week, offering a place for worship, fellowship, forgiveness, and spiritual growth. This includes



all the groups and guilds associated with St. Stephen's as well as each individual member.

Continue on pg. 4

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# The Chapel Chimes

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







Editor..... ..Father Paul Colleen Clover Stefanie Rotsaert Jo Ann Smithson Bill Bodine Gerianne Murphy Pam Unger

Please submit signed and dated items in writing to Articles are welcomed from all parish members. the Church Office or email us at The deadline for NOVEMBER (first Monday of the month) ssechurch@gmail.com October 7, 2019.

# **MUSIC NOTES**



#### **Choir**

The Choir has resumed rehearsals. At this time we have just four members participating. We are expecting at least one of our customary members to rejoin us in mid-October. In a congregation where a large percentage of members are no longer employed during the day, it is hard to imagine that nobody seems to have an interest in joining the Choir. We will continue to try to present meaningful choir anthems during the offertory time. I try to select music with lyrics that relate to the lessons of the day whenever possible, although sometimes there is nothing in our files that "fits" for a particular Sunday. Our repertoire of unison anthems (no harmony, just melody) is very limited. We will adapt some of our anthems that are written for two or three harmonic parts, but will, when necessary, sing a hymn, or I will play something of my choosing on the organ.

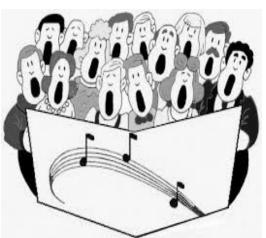


If there are 6 or more people interested in reviving the Chime Choir, please see me or Karen Crawford.

In order to present anthems with the chimes, we need at lease 6 or 7 people who would be committed to rehearse weekly. Missing chimers is like missing keys on a piano – some of the notes simply aren't there, and the music makes no sense.



Pam Unger Organist/Choir Director



#### **Parish Staff**

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

The Rt. Rev. William H. (Chip) Stokes

#### Rector

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

#### **Organist & Choir Director**

Pam Unger

#### **Treasurer**

Gerianne Murphy

#### **Assistant Treasurer**

Sandra Gaskill

#### Rector's Warden

Carl Laursen ('21)

#### **Property Warden**

Richard Smithson ('20)

#### Clerk of the Vestry

JoAnn Smithson

#### **Vestry Members:**

#### Class of 2020 Class of 2021

Jack Brown Lillian Fink
Laura Gural Marge Pomykala
Tom Larson Peter Quigley

#### Class of 2022

Pat Russo Randy Walton Dottie Kaster

#### Office Staff:

Parish Administrator Colleen Clover

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

Then there are those unborn souls who are yet to offer themselves to the service of a loving and caring Savior in this place and throughout the world.

But how can we say there are so many saints? I thought saints were special, perfect, even sinless individuals with some kind of supernatural bond with God. There couldn't possibly be that many saintly people, even over 2000 years. And in a way you would be right. There are not that many perfect people in all of history... but there are that many saints; because a saint is not a perfect person. A saint is someone who makes their very best effort to follow their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and live according to his teachings and example. The bible tells us that "All have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God." But it also tells us to "believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."

Saints make mistakes. Saints have doubts. Just think about Peter and Thomas. It is not the job of a saint to be perfect. It is the job of a saint to confess your sins, repent, and move forward in the love and forgiveness of Jesus, and in the guidance and strengthening of the Holy Spirit.

One last thought. When saints make mistakes they tend to distance themselves from God; maybe because of embarrassment, maybe out of fear. When this happens they handicap their ability to confess, repent, and grow. This is when they need the encouragement of what is known as "The Communion of Saints." The Communion of the Saints is the sum total of all the Saints, past, present and future. When we find ourselves stuck in doubt, sin, or even laziness, the Communion of the Saints are there to encourage us and remind us that we aren't the first to experience a fall from grace. They are there to testify to the redeeming power of the blood of Jesus and his limitless love and forgiveness that he offered all of us from the cross. They remind us that God is faithful and keeps his promises.

So, let us pray to God together, in the words of hymn 287: "O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold, fight as the saints that nobly fought of old, and win, with them, the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!

God bless us all as we work together as Saints of God,

M. Div.;Th.M.

Rector





#### News from the Treasurer's Desk

#### **Breaking news!**

It's time to get out your fancy clothes, get your hair done, and freshen your look! We have made arrangements with Lifetouch Church Directories to come to St. Stephen's on Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM until 6 PM and on Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 1

PM until 8 PM to take professional photos for our new directory. Besides getting all gussied up for the photo, you may want to want to give you pets a special bath as well because they are invited to have their photos taken with you! For each member-family's photo-session, you will receive one free 8x10 print and a copy of the directory. You may purchase additional photographs for yourself and your family and friends. Non-members may also make appointments to have individual and/or family photographs taken.

Besides individual member photos, Lifetouch will take photos of your multi-generation family. These photos are important to us now and will be for the younger generations because shows us a glimpse of our family heritage.



You must schedule an appointment for your photo session. If you are able to come to the church for your appointment but lack transportation, let us know. We have a volunteer who will pick you up and take you home. If you are home-bound, we have church volunteers who will come to you to take a photograph for the directory. We want as many members as possible to get their photos taken. It's the only way to get a copy of the directory free of charge. If you won't be around on November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, please see Sandy Gaskill as soon as possible. She will take your photo and give it to Lifetouch for inclusion.

Lifetouch has provided us with promotional material as well. You will soon see flyers and bulletin inserts reminding us of this event. Remember, we do not pay for the directories that members receive.

#### **2019 MICAH AWARD**

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 will be on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. We hope that many of you will attend this festive occasion to celebrate Joel's accomplishments. Details will be available shortly. This is one of the only events during which we serve wine. We do not use church money for the wine and depend on your donations of bottles of white, red, or rosé wine. If you have any questions, please see Sandy Gaskill and please congratulate Joel when you see him next.

Gerianne Murphy

Treasurer





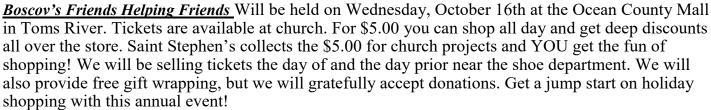


### **ECW News**

By Stefanie Rotsaert



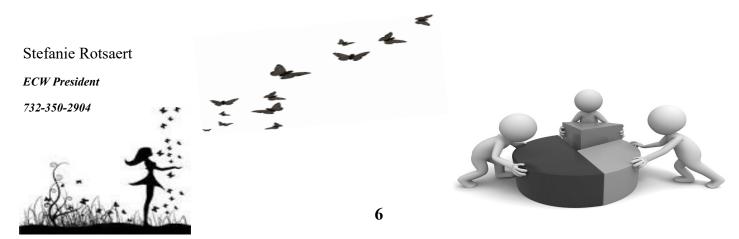




<u>Annual Crop Walk</u>- Saint Stephen's will host the event on Sunday, October 20, 2019. Walkers are sponsored by folks and the proceeds will benefit programs dedicated to feeding the hungry. Some proceeds will help our own Daily Bread Food Pantry and others that reach out to help others eat. Beginning at 1:30 PM, there will be speakers, refreshments, and Pastor Watson and Red Nolan from Christ Lutheran Church will provide bagpipe music while we walk.

<u>ECW Annual Craft & Vendor Fair</u>- This year's craft and vendor fair will be held on Saturday, October 26th from 9 am—2 pm. This is the perfect opportunity to do some early shopping for the holidays. The ECW will have their bake sale table for scrumptious edibles to sample, a 50/50 draw, and a treasure auction. For table information, see Jo Ann Smithson and see Stefanie Rotsaert for ECW information. The kitchen will be open with bagels, danish, coffee, tea, and hotdogs. Hope to see everyone there!

<u>Pasta and More!</u> Once again, the Men's club and our ECW chapter will create a homemade PASTA AND MORE dinner on Saturday, October 19, 2019 from 3—5 p.m. Each ticket is 15.00—You can enjoy appetizers, a salad bar, bread and butter, and of course, various pasta dishes and homemade desserts! Bring a friend and enjoy listening to Italian music, participate in our 50/50 draw, and maybe win a door prize or something from the treasure auction! Last year's event was enjoyed by all who attended with requests to do it again! Tickets are available at the church office during business hours or at the door if available. Get your tickets today!



# STEWARDSHIP SEASON ENDS THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!! OCTOBER 2019

By William Bodine III

My fellow parishioners:

We had a terrific and outstanding Stewardship Season! Our Team would like to thank all speakers who volunteered to share their stories to the congregation. And a special thanks to Canon Phyllis Jones for visiting St. Stephen's and being with us to share her views on Stewardship and her story.

Wanted to inform you all that this is my final year as your Stewardship Chair. Shortly after the season, I will be stepping down and remain an active member of the Team. It has been both an honor and privilege to serve with pride for you! I enjoyed my time as Chair, and we got many things accomplished. Thank you to our Team who worked tirelessly to prepare for the season. It has certainly showed by the many new ideas and suggestions provided.

Many thanks to you all who support this Ministry, and thank you for your interest in the Stewardship Program. Our Team is forever grateful for your support and generosity with your pledges you can make for the Parish. Our program each year largely depends on you, and without your participation it could never happen for St. Stephen's.

Because of you, we have been able to generate new and fresh ideas going forward. And I wish our new Chair that volunteers and steps up the very best. Like I said, it is my intention to remain on the Team and be supportive of any actions or decisions made to improve the program. So we continue to ask for your patience and your interest. I hope that you have made a sound decision on your pledge this year. With your pledge and participation in the Stewardship campaign, St. Stephen's can prosper and forever continue to grow with our support.

May God Bless Us All, And May God Continue To Bless Our Beloved Parish we call home.



#### The Ministry for Older Adults

#### Submitted by Stefanie Rotsaert

Seven years ago, Bishop George Councell and a Committee began a new ministry in our Diocese. Every church has parishioners over the age of 65 that share their wisdom, knowledge, talents, experience, and zest for Christ, people, and their parish.

Every parish has been given an opportunity to nominate two people each year to be honored. The special service is Evensong held at our Cathedral in Trenton, usually at the end of September. This year, it landed on the eve of the Feast of Saint Michael and all angels.

Since its inception, our parish has nominated: Margaret Van Alstyne. Barbara Lyons, Edna Blische, Bob Struck, Stefanie Rotsaert, Greta Pearl, Pat Russo, Lillian Fink, and Irving Neuman. We are a better parish because of all they have shared with us. Many programs began with these people that still continue today!

As we uplift our absent Bishop with prayer this year, we continued with the service honoring Lillian Fink and Irving Neuman; a beautiful, uplifting service fitting to those we honor.

Lillian Fink has been a member of Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church here in Whiting for over 10 years. Lillian's uplifting presence is evident as she serves on committees such as ECW, Fellowship & Fundraising, our healing ministry, the choir, along with serving as a Lay Eucharistic Minister and Lector among some of her work. Lillian is always ready to pray with anyone in need, bringing God's work and hope to others as God directs her.

Irving Neuman has been a member with Saint Stephen's for more than 13 years. He has served on our vestry, been president of the Men's Club, and more. Irving, along with his wife, Bernice have been instrumental in starting our chapter of The Order of Saint Luke, a healing ministry effectively reaching so many in need. Irving's quiet devotion and special prayers have provided a unique response in healing for each of us at any given time. We are indeed, fortunate to benefit from his dedication to our parish with his quiet enthusiasm.

Lillian and Irving are current examples of the exceptional people our parish is continuously blessed with as the years go by. Thank you for your love and dedication. May God continue to bless all who seek to do God's work.







# October 2019



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AA Meeting@8pm	Boy scouts 6:30- 8:30 pm	Cub scouts 7pm		AAMeeting 3PM		

#### Order of St. Luke

O Christ our Lord, who art the Physician of Salvation, grant unto the sick heavenly healing. Look upon all faithful people who are sick and take their souls unto Thy keeping, and vouchsafe to deliver them from all infirmity. Who livest and reignest, world without end. *Amen*.

#### St. Augustine



#### What is a Labyrinth?

The Labyrinth is an archetype; a divine imprint found in religious traditions in various forms around the world. By walking the labyrinth, we are discovering a long-forgotten tradition. The mysterious winding path that takes us to the center becomes a metaphor for our own spiritual journey. Going in, we release the cares and concerns which distracts us from our source. The center is a place of prayer and meditation where we receive clarity about our lives. As we walk back out on the same path that brought us in, we are granted the power to act. The walk is a shared journey—an activity which communities can do together to coalesce and unify vision.

The labyrinth is a Mandela that meets our longing—for a change of heart; for a change of ways in how we live together on this fragile island home; and for the energy, vision, and the courage to become agents of transformation in an age when no less will suffice to meet the challenges of survival.

Author: Unknown

#### Forgiveness

Each of us has the daily blessing of living in forgiveness. As we forgive others willingly, our love for God and others increases greatly. We learn to walk in humility. We can better understand our imperfections and limitations. We realize we have hurt others and are even more so capable of doing so again.

In addition, we need forgiveness for God and from others every day. It is possible that we are unaware of who we need to forgive and who we need to ask for forgiveness. When we ask God for help, we walk in the light of Jesus' teachings and we try to live in the spirit of unconditional love.

The Holy Spirit reveals to us and the other person still needs to deal with their relationship with God; it is now in God's hands. Pray for God's grace and in saying the Lord's Prayer, we are off to a good start.

We CAN be healed.



Submitted by: Stefanie Rotsaert

#### **Operation Christmas Child**



Now is the perfect time to shop back-to-school sales for items perfect to fill Christmas boxes for Operation Christmas Child; 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. There will be a table in the Narthex with special boxes and instructions. We will take the filled boxes to a collection center in November, so please return your filled boxes to Saint Stephen's Episcopal church in Whiting by November 17, 2019.

#### Come Join us on at Trip!

Wednesday, October 23rd Barnes Foundation

Thursday, November 12th "Miracle of Christmas" at Sight and Sound
Four more trips are planned for October/November/December

See the flyers in the Narthex and sign up soon.

All trips leave from Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church in Whiting NJ

For Questions—contact Stefanie Rotsaert @ 732-350-2904

Please see updates about these trips in our Sunday leaflets as we will update the status of each trip as they draw closer to departure time.



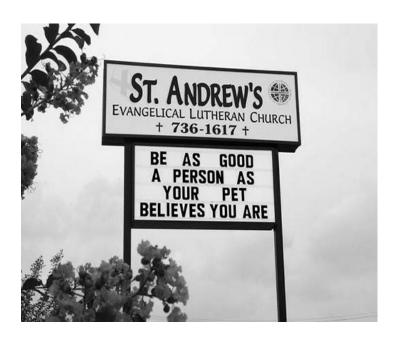


# Laughing is Good for the Soul





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.





NOW I'M GOING BACK UP TO GET THESE COMMANDMENTS AGAIN AND WHEN I GET BACK I EXPECT THERE TO BE NO GOLDEN ANYTHINGS ... AND WHAT'S MORE, I WANT THIS MESS CLEANED UP

#### October

3rd Eileen Ebell Robert Payne

6th Sharon Lee

11th Fred Gerdes

12th Don Cummings
Diane Jacobs

13th Beverly Larson

14th Alan Conlin, Jr.

15th Marge Littlewood

18th Bridget Tichenor

19th Doris Mc Donald

Bernice Neuman

21st Landon Hinton

23rd Anna Van Sant

27th PJ Van Sant, Jr.

Betsy Welch

31st Jennifer Brennan

Edward Brennan





#### Craft & Vendor Fair

Get a head start on the holidays at the annual Craft & Vendor Fair at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 180 Rt. 539 in Whiting, on Saturday October 26 from 9 AM till 2 PM. In addition to popular vendors and crafters displaying items there will be a Treasure Auction, 50/50 raffle, and the always popular Baked Goods table. The Kitchen Café will be open with lunch and snack items available for purchase. For information please call JoAnn Smithson at 609-575-1879 or the church office at

732-530-2121.

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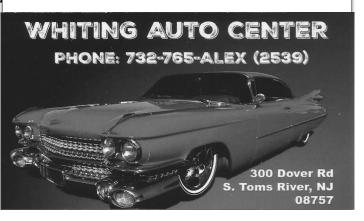
Nancy Thompson

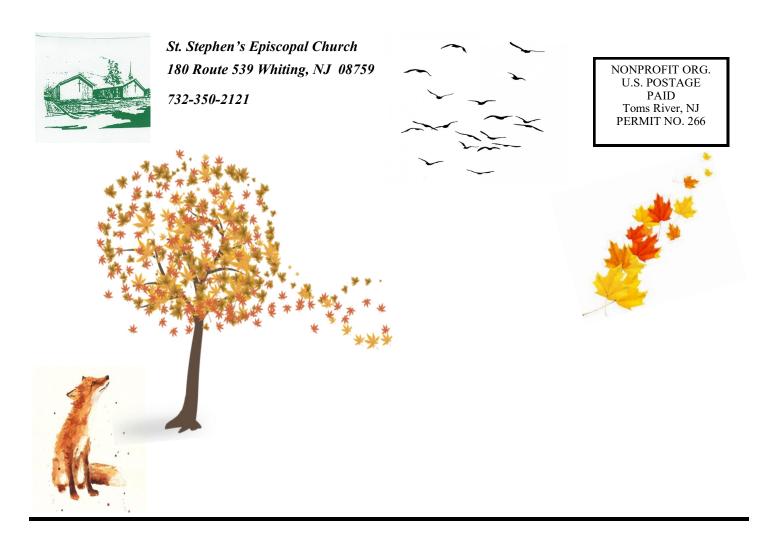
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#### **Upcoming Calendar Events**

Community Micah Award Dinner-November 4th

"Miracle of Christmas" Sight and Sound bus trip-November 12th

Pineland Symphonic Band Concert-November 24th

