

ST STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

367 Route 9

WARETOWN, NJ 08758

609-698-8561

www.ststephenswaretown.org

Facebook: SaintStephensWaretown



PARISH PROFILE 2021

THE MISSION OF ST STEPHEN'S
WELCOMING EVERYONE, COMMUNICATING WITH GOD,
BUILDING COMMUNITY, TRANSFORMING LIVES.

WORSHIP

8 am Sunday Holy Eucharistic Service
10 am Sunday Holy Eucharistic Service with organ and choir
5 pm Saturday Holy Eucharist in the Outdoor Garden Chapel

WORSHIP DURING COVID

9.30 am Sunday Holy Eucharist Service
5 pm Saturday Holy Eucharist in the Outdoor Garden Chapel
Please pre-register for limited social distancing seating

Online: Watch live stream or recorded services on our YouTube Channel: SSEC Waretown

ST STEPHEN'S STAFF

Mr Carlos Staszkeski	Organist and Choir Director
Mrs Pat Terentz	Parish Administrator
Peggy Beck	Sunday School Superintendent
Mr Robert Terentz	Sexton

VESTRY

Senior Warden	Jim Joeriman
Junior Warden	Pattie Meyer
Vestry Members	Glenys Baulderstone Peggy Beck Bob Gray Jo Ann Joeriman Debbie Kirk John Marcy Nick Morgan Rett Rich Jan Winne

Discernment Committee	Glenys Baulderstone, Peggy Beck, Ray Davis and John Will
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WELCOME

Welcome to St Stephen's, and thank you for taking time to view our Profile. We hope that you will come away with a clear view of who we are and what we seek in a pastor.

If you wish to submit an application for the position of Priest-in-Charge please direct your inquiries to the Reverend Brian Jemmott, Diocese of New Jersey (Cannon to the Ordinary and Transition Officer) 609-394-5281 Ext 21 bjemmott@dioceseofnj.org

Most Sincerely,

St. Stephen's Discernment Committee

OUR STRENGTHS

Our church members are involved in many outreach projects in many different communities. Our Sunday School continues to be active. Many people and groups in the church give of their time, talent and treasure to ensure that the doors of the church are open, with activities going on daily. St Stephen's Food Pantry feeds hundreds every month. Our Parish Hall continues to be used by the local Boys Scouts and Cub Scouts, Youth Groups, Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, Southern Ocean Hospital Exercise Program, Easter Seals and other self-help organizations . We also maintain a memorial garden for use as a columbarium for the cremated remains of members of the church. Today St Stephen's ministries include our Thrift Outlet, The Food Pantry, The Good Sam House, Nursing Home Outreach, Bible Study, Adult Christian Education and the Order of St Luke.

OUTREACH

THE GOOD SAMARITAN HOUSE.

Located on church property, the Good Samaritan House is a shelter for men in temporary need of a place to live during transitions in their lives. It houses four men for up to ninety days.

THE ST STEPHEN'S FOOD PANTRY

The St Stephen's Food Pantry helps to feed up to 300 people in one month. The giving of our church family and the local community helps to keep this ministry going strong. No one is ever turned away or denied a food request. The Pantry is open from 9 a.m. until 11.30 a.m. Monday through Wednesday.

THE THRIFT OUTLET

Our Thrift Outlet accepts donations of clothing and small household items. The Outlet is open from Monday through 10a.m. to 2p.m., manned by tireless volunteers who price and display the merchandise. Those in need bring vouchers to obtain clothing and goods free of charge. The funds raised by the Outlet go directly to St Stephen's operating budget and help to support yet other Outreach Programs.

PARISH HALL

The Parish Hall is used by many local groups including the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, U.T.O., Alcoholics Anonymous, Southern Ocean County Hospital Exercise Group and Easter Seals.

PRIEST'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

This is a Discretionary Fund that the Priest can dip into to assist people who come to him for help. The decision of whether to give out money from the fund rests with the priest alone.

HOLIDAY OUTREACH PROGRAM

During the Holidays St Stephen's delivers turkey dinners to families at Thanksgiving and Christmas and a Giving Tree is decorated with tags bearing the names and ages of needy children. Parishioners take the tags and purchase and wrap gifts for the children to make their holidays joyous.

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH GROUPS

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH CHOIR

The St Stephen's Church Choir, under the direction of organist and composer Carlos Staszkeski, provide beautiful music each Sunday, Holidays and during special events.

CHURCH SCHOOL

St Stephen's Church School is held in our Parish Hall during the 10 am Sunday service. Special days like the Palm Sunday Parade, with a live donkey, the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday and the Christmas Pageant, when the children perform during the 4 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve servicemake religious learning fun. Our confirmation class is taught with care and love.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

The Episcopal Church Women contribute to many outreach programs. They meet monthly, share fellowship and support the church in numerous ways.

ORDER OF ST LUKE

The Order of St Luke is a eucharistical order healing through prayer, praise and laying on of hands. The order meets in the Parish Hall on Fridays at 10 a.m,

OVER THE HILL GANG

The Over the Hill Gang is a senior singles group who meet each month for dinner and fun.

GARDEN ANGELS

The Garden Angels take care of the gardens and grounds of St Stephens, including the Memorial Garden where many of our parishioners who have passed on are laid to rest.

ACOLYTES AND CHALICE BEARERS

Acolytes and Chalice Bearers assist the clergy during the service by carrying the cross in procession, lighting candles and assisting the priest with the Eucharist.

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild prepares the church for services and takes care of the Altar and all that entails

COUNTERS

The counters stay behind after church to tally the day's Receipts.

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Lay Eucharistic Ministers are lay persons authorized to take the consecrated elements to share Holy Communion with the sick and shut ins.

LAY READERS

Lay Readers read the Lessons and Prayers of the People during the service.

ST STEPHEN'S PRAYER CHAIN

A group of parishioners who keep up a prayer chain for parishioners and their families who are ill and in need of prayer.

USHERS AND GREETERS

Ushers and greeters greet parishioners and newcomers as they arrive, hand out bulletins and take the offering.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

A Bible Study group is held each week on a weekday evening and a Sunday Seminar is held after the 10 am service each Sunday, both in the Parish Hall.

COFFEE HOUR

Parishioners gather in the Parish Hall for coffee, pastries and a chat after services on Sundays.

FUNDRAISERS

Shoprite Gift Cards

Thrift Outlet

Chinese Auction

ECW Bakeless Cake Sale

ECW Craft Sale

Art Show and Sale

SPECIAL SERVICES AND SOCIAL GATHERINGS

SERVICES

St Francis Day Blessing of the Animals

Palm Sunday service with parade with live donkey

Maundy Thursday service with foot washing

Maundy Thursday Night Long Prayer Vigil

Good Friday Stations of the Cross

Christmas Eve Children's Service and Pageant

Christmas Eve Carol and Candle service

SOCIAL GATHERINGS

St Stephen's Parish Annual Meeting and lunch
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Lenten Program with Soup and Salad
Welcome Home Barbeque with the Boy Scouts Troop at the grill.
Trip to Blue Claws Baseball Match and dinner
Sunday School Fashion Show
All American Breakfast
Spaghetti Dinner
Harvest Supper



A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Church that would be St Stephen's was started in the late winter of 1933 in Waretown, NJ at the Corliss family home. Church records credit the founding of St Stephen's in the mid-30s, to Father Colin Campbell Walker, a retired priest from the Diocese of New York. A second tradition suggests that Aline Chironsey, a Native American and Lay Missionary from Holy Innocents on Long Beach Island, was instrumental in the establishment of the church. A building on Wells Mills Road was rented, converted into a Chapel and later purchased.

In 1945, the Rev J Mevin Pettit was appointed Vicar. In 1953 he was succeeded by the Rev. Samuel Purday, Vicar -in-Charge, the first person so designated, making St Stephen's an independent mission under Diocesan care.

From May 1954 until December, 1955, the Rev Percy Ashten-Martin was Vicar. Services were still being held at the Chapel on Wells Mills Road. In 1956, the Rev Clarence Scholl became Vicar. The congregation had grown and it was necessary to move to a larger building. The church acquired property on Rte 9 in Waretown, and erected a Church. The Wells Mills Road property was sold and the owners relocated the structure to Bryant Road, where it still stands today. Father Scholl served as Vicar until 1959 when he was replaced by Mr Clinton McCauley as the Bishop's Man-in-Charge. During this time the Eucharist was celebrated once a month by the now retired Father Ashten-Martin.

In April of 1961, The Rev. Canon William H. Paul came to serve St Stephen's as Vicar. Total yearly income was less than \$4,000. However under Canon Paul's leadership. St Stephen's flourished. At the Diocesan Convention in 1965, the small mission became an incorporated body, St Stephen's Church, Waretown.

In 1969 a new church building was erected and the old church building was converted into a Parish Hall. To enable expansion, new parcels of land were added to compose the present day church property. The Parish experienced tremendous growth and continued to grow strong roots in outreach to those in need. A Thrift Store was established to provide clothing and goods for those in need and to raise funds to support our church. The sale of donated goods currently averages over \$63,000 of income per year. St Stephen's also shared in the ministry of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Tuckerton and in the establishment of StStephen's Church in Whiting. After 27 years of service, in December, 1987, Canon Paul retired.

A house on the property was converted to a shelter and made available to men in temporary need of a place to live during transitions in their lives. It was named the Good Samaritan House, In 2017 The home was closed for extensive renovation. The renovations were completed in 2019 and the house was rededicated as the Andy Werkhoven Good Samaritan House.

The Rev Austin Murray was called as Rector in December, 1988. In 1990, major expansion of church facilities occurred. The walls of the church were moved out, doubling seating capacity, and

the windows of St Stephens were installed. A new Parish Hall was constructed which is attached to the church building. The complete structure was dedicated on April 8th, 1992, by the Rt. Rev. G Mellick Belshaw DD, Bishop of New Jersey. The original church building, which had served as the Parish Hall was relocated to the southwest side of the property and continues to be used as the present day Thrift Outlet.

In October 2008, after 20 years of service, the Rev Austin B. Murray left as rector of St Stephen's upon receiving a call to Trinity Spiscopal Church by the Sea in Maui, Hawaii. St Stephen's Sunday services were then celebrated by supply clergy until February 2009, when Interim Rector Jill McNish came to St Stephen's

In September, 2010, the Rev Terry Martin was called as the Rector and he served until his retirement in January, 2020. We give thanks to the Lord for the guidance and leadership of those who have come before us and laid a strong foundation for St Stephen's. We pray that we will have the strength and faith to continue that tradition and leave it for those who follow us.





THE THRIFT OUTLET and THE GOOD SAMARITAN HOUSE

ST STEPHEN'S DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

During Lent of 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic necessitated the suspension of all in-person worship and church activities. At the Pandemic onset, St Stephen's offered online interactive Sunday Worship Services, celebrated by the Rev. Mantelle Bradley. Prior to the Pandemic we celebrated 8.00 am and 10.00 am Sunday Services. During the Pandemic we combined the services into one 9.30 am service and await the time we can return to two. We established safety protocols which allowed us to return to in-person worship using supply clergy. We also hold a Saturday Evening Prayer Service outdoors at our Garden Chapel at 5 pm. We continue to offer live streaming of our Sunday Services via our YouTube channel. Our Saturday Evening Services, are held at 5 pm in the Garden Chapel in Spring and Summer.





OUR COMMUNITY

Waretown is a waterfront community centrally located in Ocean County at the interchange of Exit 69 on the Garden State Parkway on beautiful Barnegat Bay, directly across from the Barnegat Lighthouse and the ocean beaches of Long Bay Island.

Historic Albert Music Hall, a famed bluegrass concert hall that performs every Saturday night, Wells Mills County Park and the Waretown Lake and Recreational Activities, now named Corliss Park, after the family who housed the first Episcopal services in Waretown in 1933 in the their house that was to become St Stephen's, are all located on Wells Mills Road in Waretown.

St Stephen's is located on Rte 9 close to the 69 exit and our parishioners come to St Stephen's from all over Ocean County. We have parishioners from Barnegat, Manahawkin, Forked River, Lanoka Harbor, Toms River, Manchester, Whiting, West Creek, Galloway and Little Egg Harbor.

Ocean County has a minor league baseball team, the Lakewood Blue Claws and St Stephen's parishioners regularly enjoy group trips to their games.

There is a professional summer theater, SurfFlight Theater on Long Beach Island as well as sandy beaches, great restaurants, a water park and an amusement park, Fantasy Island. For those who like the big cities, New York and Philadelphia are both only a 90 minute drive away.

There are many reasons to love living on Barnegat Bay. This is a relatively affordable area and the local towns have excellent school systems. The Bay and the Ocean are an integral part of life on the Eastern side of Ocean County.

