



## Life and Times

### Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

367 Route 9, Waretown, NJ  
Phone 609-698-8561 | [www.SaintStephansWaretown.org](http://www.SaintStephansWaretown.org)

**April, 2020**



**Welcoming Everyone, Connecting with God, Building Community, Transforming Lives**

**From the Book of Common Prayer.** Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

#### **From The Vestry...**

- **Stewardship.** The Vestry wishes to express our thanks for your support of our Church for sending us your pledge offering and free-will donations. As we mentioned in a previous email, we still need to pay our loyal staff and most of the costs for maintaining and operating the church are still present.
- **Affiliation Update.** Due to COVID all discussions in regard to any possible affiliation with Church of the Holy Spirit are on hold. We will resume discussions with Holy Spirit and the Diocese at some point after the pandemic threat has past us.
- **In-Person Worship Resumption Preparation.** The Vestry continues to schedule supply priests for future Sunday services though the summer months. We want to have priests in place to celebrate Eucharist at St. Stephen's for every Sunday through summer. By doing so we will be able to immediately resume in-person worship when safe to do so.



#### **The Most Rev. [Michael Bruce Curry](#)**

Presiding Bishop and [Primate of the Episcopal Church](#)

#### **Easter Sunday Sermon**

View the Easter Sermon given during the Easter Sunday Service from the National Cathedral. [Click Here](#)

#### **A Pastoral Statement from the Bishop of New Jersey**

On April 15th the Bishop issued a Pastoral Statement regarding in-person and online worship services in the Diocese. The Statement tells us "The current directives governing the use of our church buildings will remain in effect at least through the month of May. [Read the entire Statement](#) on our Website Blog.

## ...I'M STUCK AT HOME *Faithfully By Pattie Meyer*

Just like everybody else in New Jersey and a few other states, I'm stuck at home. Of course, our "home" is supposed to be a castle. Nice soft couch to sit on, a TV to watch or listen to the radio, being surrounded by a loving family, and there is always something to do around the house. We've all had our share of being stuck at home with anything from being sick ourselves, having our children or spouse home sick (I'll take vomiting children over the spouse any day), snow storms that leave us waiting for the snow plows to come down the street, Super Storm Sandy with no electricity (thankfully we had a generator) and just plain old rainy days.

Well...these are not those "comfy" times. We are being told to stay home because there is a new virus that we were totally unprepared to deal with. So what do we do now that we are home?

I've got a short list of things to do and writing this for the Life and Times is one of them. I've gone through a couple of closets and found more things to get rid of most of which were recycled or going in the trash. I have gone to ShopRite when it was really busy and just the other day when there was literally no one in the store. I followed the precautions by carrying sanitary wipes, plastic gloves and a surgical mask. I have lost count of how many times I have sung "Happy Birthday to You" and "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" every time I washed my hands.

Throughout history there have been troubling times involving plagues, wars, natural disasters, etc. I'm praying that we all survive this troubling time and that our lives will return to normal. We'll walk into church and feel the comfort of being around friends and in a place that has always been comforting. While we may not hug one another, there will be relief and joy just knowing that we are all together and thanking God for being our shelter in the storm.



### Bible Study with Bishop Stokes

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

[Register Now](#)



Every week, Bishop Stokes is holding an online Bible study to look at the upcoming week's gospel lesson. Following the study time, the bishop will lead the end-of-day Compline prayer service. The Diocese has also set up a [web page](#) with study materials and readings to look at before the discussion, as well as recordings of previous sessions.

**Please Note:** Due to enhanced security precautions for online meetings, you will need to [register for this event](#) even if you have previously registered for it.

### May Anniversaries

Ron & Norma Turner 11th

Gary & Linda Rietmann 18th

Dennis & Donna Micai 19th

Tom & Jo Ann Don 15th

Richard & Gloria Boone 19th

Jim & Jo Ann Joeriman 22nd



**There are always so many people to thank and this month we want to focus on our Food Pantry Volunteers.**

This is a difficult time for all of us and especially for those who find themselves without income and without food. Our food pantry is open from 9am until noon on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to help meet the needs of people in our communities. Bill Wight, Debbie Wight and Paula Provaznik are our food pantry volunteers who are operating this important ministry during this pandemic. Given this difficult time, we recognize the vital contribution they make to help those in need. They are making a difference. Please include them in your prayers.

### May Birthday's

Mike Presti 3rd	Gary Petrizzo 11th	Greg Fennell 26th	Karen Egan 29th
Bruce Egan 7th	Conner Wenger 13th	Jenn Hall 27th	Linda Waldron 31st
Joyce Ecochard 11th	Madeline King 18th	Aubree Waldron 28th	Karen Stolte 31st
Gene Winne 11th	Alex Riteman 21st	David Julian 29th	

*If we have missed your name, please [email us](#) your name and birth date so we can up date our files and include you.*

### On-Line Virtual Worship Opportunities

**The Diocese of New Jersey.** Using safe practices, clergy and lay people are streaming diocesan-wide worship events from their homes. All services are broadcast live on the diocese [YouTube channel](#). You can also join via telephone by dialing +1 646 558 8656 and then entering meeting code 855 472 344. Many churches in the diocese are offering Morning, Noonday, and Evening Prayer, as well as Compline services every day. Take a look at the [Diocese of NJ Facebook Page events](#) (no Facebook account required) to see a list and information on these services.



**The Rev. Canon Donald Muller** Live Streams Sunday on Facebook at 9:30. While we cohost this service, it is easier to find in on the [Holy Spirit Facebook Page](#).

**The National Cathedral.** Explore your [online cathedral](#) offering daily worship services and special events. "When the world seems upside down, we can help you find your footing with daily prayer, Sunday Eucharist and more."



### Watch and Listen to the Easter Sunday Organ Recital

*Cathedral organists Thomas Sheehan and George Fergus play in a celebration of the risen Christ! Click on the picture or [here](#).*

## THRIFT SHOP NEWS—SPRING SCHEDULE

To all the wonderful volunteers of our Thrift Shop.....please stay safe and take care of yourselves for hopefully, the time will come when we can finally open and get back to the business of working at our great Shop. This has been a trying time for all of us and we want to encourage our loyal volunteers to be well and rest up and when our door finally opens for business we will be ready to go once again!.



### **Missing Our Church Family Faithfully from Jo Ann Joeriman**

I can't remember a situation when I had so much time to myself. The good side is that I can get up in the morning and do whatever I want or need to do. It's all up to me. Although that feels quite good, there is a downside. *I miss our Church Family! A Lot!!!* Sunday now blends into the other days of the week since they all feel the same. We looked forward to Sunday mornings anticipating that after coffee we would be getting to one of the morning services. The spiritual and warm energy sitting in our beautiful church and waiting for service to begin was calming and very spiritual. I know that I will more appreciate being there when we are able and taking in the beautiful Altar, the windows and the calming silence of the atmosphere.

All the members of our church make up our Church family and although we may be of different ages or have different levels of spirituality or have other beliefs about life, we are still a family. It's felt especially now since we are required to stay put at home and depend, quite heavily, on our online connections. What would we do if the internet went down???

I have found some solace from this unique and unusual situation by getting outside in the fresh air. Weather permitting, working outside is both meditative and helps with a sense of feeling productive. Being outside has brought me closer to nature and wondering what life has in store. For myself, I have realized how much my immediate family means to me and that also includes special friends that are a big part of my life. I know now that I won't be taking for granted all that came so easily to me. I have a new appreciation for all things and prayer has become a big part of my day and night. I feel closer to God and I like it. Without all the distractions and stimulation of activities, I find myself looking more within and again realizing what my priorities will now become.

I believe in my heart that we are in a *Universal Reset* and what we previously viewed as normal will no longer work for us both spiritually and/or emotionally. It seems that we were on a nosedive and before we hit the ground, the universe stopped us and allowed us to reset. Just think about how your life will change in the coming days, weeks and months based on this forced quiet time at home. But it still comes down to the fact that I truly miss our Church Family! Be Safe everyone and I look forward, with God's help, to seeing you all soon.



### **HURRAY... OUR DATE IS STILL GOOD & WE GET TOGETHER OUTSIDE**

**FOR FELLOWSHIP, CONVERATION AND SOME FUN.** On Friday, July 10th we will be having our annual Southern BBQ at the [BlueClaws](#). We will be back on the Third Base Line (just opposite the new Biergarten) for a fun evening. The menu

includes hamburgers and hot dogs which will be grilled to order while you wait along the salad, coleslaw, macaroni and cheese, chicken, pulled pork, soft drinks and dessert. The cost is the same as last year, \$30.95 for adults and \$21.95 for juniors. Oh, and did I mention that there will be FIREWORKS! Of course, there are fireworks since it wouldn't be the summer at the Jersey Shore and a Friday night baseball game without them. You can contact me on my home phone 609-693-1876, my cell phone 609-709-5724 or via email to [pattiemeyer@yahoo.com](mailto:pattiemeyer@yahoo.com). You can also catch me after services on Sundays. Looking forward to a fun night! **The season will begin in June, if further delayed we will get a new date.**

## Vestry Conducts First Online Video Conference Meeting



The Vestry continues to meet and manage the affairs of the Church. Our first online video conference meeting was held on March 31st using [Zoom](#) technology. We will continue to meet via Video technology. We are exploring the idea of holding online video events for parish groups and ministries.

## Available During The Pandemic

### ShopRite Gift Card Fundraiser Supports Our Building and Maintenance.

Please consider donating to the church through purchase of ShopRite Gift Cards. Five percent of your purchase is returned to the church and designated for Church Building and Maintenance. Call Gloria Davis at 609-693-4205 or Ron Turner at 609-660-2635 and place an order and we will be outside the church between 10 AM & 11 AM on a designated day.



## Unsung Hero... Ernie Siebert

Bless our wonderful St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and the people that make up this great congregation. There are some that have within them a lot of history about St. Stephen's and when we know our history, we understand the terrific efforts and activities that have mentored our growth to where we are today.

One of those individuals, who had a big part in how far we've come, is Ernie Siebert. Ernie and his wife Beverly and their family started here at St. Stephens back in 1975. Since that time, Ernie has worn many hats some of which he still wears today. Ernie has served as a Warden, no less than two times, and 15 years serving on the Vestry under Father Paul and Father Murray.

Another one of his many talents was as a Chef preparing the Maundy Thursday Lamb Supper served before the Maundy Thursday Vigil. There was also the Summer Fair of which Ernie helped set up tents where crafts were made, games were played, pony rides were enjoyed and also entertainment by the Ocean County String Band. (p.s. The O.C String Band also enjoyed the ½ keg of beer that was supplied).

Ernie also helped set up a big auction every June of which the barn on the property was used for storage for items that were sold to help the church. The one activity that Ernie is still involved in would be Sr. Usher which he has worked at for many years. **Thank you** Ernie for all you have done for us in the past and for what you continue to do for us today.

# March Parish Calendar & Events

## WORSHIP

**Holy Eucharist**

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**HEALING SERVICE**

**All worship is suspended until such time as the Bishop feels it appropriate to reopen.**

**Wardens :** [Jim Joeriman](#), [Pattie Meyer](#)

**Vestry Members:** [Glenys Baulderstone](#), [Peggy Beck](#), [Tom Don](#), [Debbie Kirk](#), [Jo Ann Joeriman](#), [Bob Gray](#), [John Marcy](#), [Bob Rawley](#), [Rett Rich](#)

**Treasurer:** [Ron Turner](#)

**Parish Administrator:** [Pat Terentz](#)

**Website:** [www.SaintStephensWaretown.org](http://www.SaintStephensWaretown.org)

**Facebook:** [SaintStephensWaretown](#)

## MINISTRIES & FELLOWSHIP

**Thrift Shop Open**

Monday through Saturday 10 to 2

*To Volunteer Contact [Beth MacKenzie](#), Barbara Heilich or Gloria Davis.*

**ECW**

*For Information Contact [Pat Spielman](#)*

**Bible Study**

See the Lenten Study Schedule

*For Information Contact [Marueen O'Keefe](#)*

**Sunday Seminar—Bible Discussion**

Every Sunday starting at 11:30 in the Parish Hall

Facilitated by [Debbie Kirk](#) & Marcel Tabone

**Choir Director & Organist**

[Carlos Staszkeski](#)

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