



Life and Times

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

367 Route 9, Waretown, NJ
Phone 609-698-8561 | www.SaintStephensWaretown.org



February, 2021

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

Almighty God giver of every good gift: You have called Saint Stephen's Church, Waretown and Church of the Holy Spirit, Tuckerton to walk together for a time in calling, supporting, sharing a priest in charge for our congregations. Look graciously on your Church and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a priest for us, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Affiliation News - Discerning Our Common Call



The Discernment Process to Call a Priest-in-Charge has officially begun. The Wardens of both churches had a Zoom meeting with Bishop Stokes on January 23rd. During that meeting the Memorandum of Understanding was reviewed and thereafter Bishop Stokes officially started the Discernment Process. St. Stephen's and the Church of the Holy Spirit have established a Joint Discernment Steering Committee. The St. Stephen's members are Glenys Baulderstone, Ray Davis, Peggy Beck and John Will. There are three phases to the discernment process, which are: (1) The Church Profile Phase, (2) The Search Phase and (3) The Transition Phase.

We have retained an experienced consultant in Rhonda Jackson who will be providing guidance to the committee and the Vestries. We hope to have completed the first phase in the early Spring and immediately enter the Search Phase. The joint committees have begun discussions and have weekly meeting planned. We will keep you aware of our progress.

[Read more](#) regarding the Discernment Process from the Diocese of New Jersey.



About Ash Wednesday. The first of the forty days of Lent, named for the custom of placing blessed ashes on the foreheads of worshipers at Ash Wednesday services. The ashes are a sign of penitence and a reminder of mortality, and may be imposed with the sign of the cross. In the Episcopal Church Year, Ash Wednesday is observed as a fasting day. The Ash Wednesday service is one of the Proper Liturgies for Special Days in the [BCP \(page 264\)](#). Imposition of ashes at the Ash Wednesday service is optional.

COVID-19 precautions will change the Ash Wednesday Service. At the time of publishing this newsletter, the Bishop has not yet told us what the Ash Wednesday procedures will be. We expect to know that within the next few days and we will advise you by email or phone call.

NEWS FROM THE BACK OF THE CHURCH...Faithfully submitted by Pattie Meyer



We ended the year 2020 celebrating in ways that were new and very strange. We opened gifts with limited contact with our loved ones and prayed that there would soon be an end to the COVID virus. Unfortunately 2021 dawned with the realization that our new way of living would continue.

Still here at Saint Stephen's we gather weekly to worship as a congregation and find joy and fellowship. Those of us who volunteer at the Thrift Store can spend a few hours together continuing something that is "normal". Yet all around us life is still not "normal".

I am personally hopeful that with the release of the vaccine normalcy will be in our future. The birth of the Christ child is the standard by which we see that hope and fulfillment in a joyous new birth of Jesus Christ. He is our savior and the foundation of our daily lives. We can all go forth knowing that he is always there for us and all we have to do is look up to him for our strength and salvation.



February Birthday's

Jasmine Holack 11th	Marie Carr 15th	Jim MacKenzie 18th	Glenys Baulderstone 19th
George Merrifield 21st	Barbara Julian 21st	Floyd Skinner 24th	Barbara Heilich 24th
	Pat Terentz 27th		

March Birthday's

Patti Dalon 1st	Lorraine Issacs 3rd	Diane Cleary 4th	Peggy Beck 23rd
Mavis O-Rouke 24th	Lori Fennell 27th	Norma Turner 27th	

Anniversaries

Lori & Greg Savoth Feb 4th	Ben & Linda Waldron Feb 10th	Ken & Glenys Baulderstone Feb 27th
Karen & Bruce Egan Feb 28th	Floyd & Sheree Skinner Mar 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.

Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer:



O Lord our Governor, whose glory is in all the world; We commend this nation to thy merciful care, that, being guided by thy Providence, we may dwell secure in thy peace. Grant to the President of the United States, the Governor of New Jersey and to all in authority, wisdom, love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve the people in thy fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God world without end. *Amen.*

Sunday In-Person Worship Update. The Sunday Service is live streamed only to YouTube. Visit our [YouTube channel](#) (SSEC Waretown) to watch live or past services. The Order of Service Bulletin can be viewed or downloaded from the home page of our website. Consult our [Church Calendar](#) on our website to see the type of service and who the Celebrant will be.



2021 Elected/Reelected to Leadership

Our church cannot function without those who volunteer their time and talents in the operation of our church. We want to recognize the volunteers who you recently elected to church leadership positions.

Senior Warden: Jim Joeriman **Vestrymembers:** Jan Winne, Nick Morgan, and Jo Ann Joeriman

Diocesan Convention Delegates: Ray Davis, Pattie Meyer, and Ron Turner

Diocesan Convention Alternate Delegates: Debbie Kirk, Beth MacKenzie and Chris Presti

Convocation Delegates: Barbara Heilich, Beth MacKenzie, Bob & Pat Terentz, Pattie & Rudy Meyer.

We also express our gratitude to our outgoing Vestrymembers, Tom Don & Bob Rawley



WORKING TOGETHER WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Faithfully submitted by Jo Ann Joeriman

With the holiday season behind us, and now facing some other challenging tasks ahead of us, how blessed are we that there are members of our Church family that are working to keep St. Stephen's viable. We are faced with the prospect of occasionally not having a priest for our Sunday service, since most of the available supply priests either have previous commitments or are just not available. Fortunately, a way to help our church community with a worship service is by having a Morning Prayer service. Rett Rich and Glenys Balderstone, with the help of a few others, have put together a prayer service that is both inspiring and helpful with a service that can bring us closer to God and feel like we are in unity with our Church family.

This Morning Prayer service has been well thought out so that in the absence of having a priest, we can still participate in a worship service. We also now have music which is recorded and able to be played through the church organ with the help of Carlos who can prerecord the hymns and have them played during our services even with he not being present.

Our Senior Warden, Jim Joeriman, has been working diligently to reach out to any supply priests that may be available to come to St. Stephens and offer a Eucharistic service while we are working on getting a permanent priest. This is a difficult task since there are not many supply priests to choose from and most of them already have previous commitments.

Please know that behind the scenes, we are working to support the needs of our St. Stephen's family. Despite the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, winter weather, and the lack of a Rector to provide regular pastoral care, we can be thankful that our church is enduring and positioned to grow. As a Church family, we want to do whatever we can to keep the unity and inspiration that any type of service can bring. Positive feedback is so important to encourage those that are working hard to help all of us be together in our beautiful church. Just walk through the doors and you feel it right away. That is what keeps us going to try and make sure we enjoy the feeling of worship.



Update From The Saint Stephen's Food Pantry

In December 2020, we feed 78 families comprised of 171 adults and 94 children. During the entire year of 2020 we feed 764 separate families which was comprised of 1749 adults and 791 children—2540 individual people in need of the assistance our food pantry provides.

The Food Pantry now has a direct phone number which is 609-312-7041. The Pantry is open from 9am until 11:30 on Monday through Wednesday. Spread the word to those who are in need of this ministry. We are in need of volunteers (need not be church members) in order to expand the hours to Thursday & Friday.

The Memorial Garden is located at the rear of the Parish Hall and it is [consecrated](#) as a [columbarium](#) for the cremated remains of members of the church and their family members. There is no fee for [inurnment](#) other than the optional cost of name engraving. Funds donated to the Memorial Garden are segregated from the general grounds of the Parish and used for the development and maintenance of the Memorial Garden.



Like any outdoor area, it needs constant care. We are thankful to Gloria Davis who volunteers her time to maintain the Memorial Garden. This Christmas, she made sure it took on a Christmas look. **Thank you** Gloria.



Supporting Saint Stephen's is only a click away. We are now able to offer you the opportunity to give online. It is quick, easy and of course secure. Visit SaintStephensWaretown.org/Donate to make a donation. You can make a one time gift or arrange for secure automatic reoccurring contributions from a bank account, or from a credit/debit card. You are also able to designate your gift toward your Pledge, Building & Maintenance, Organ & Music, the Good Sam House, Sunday School, Memorial Candles, Memorial Altar Flowers, or make a free-will offering. No matter how you choose to give, your donations will help sustain our church and it's ministries. **Thank you for your generosity!**



Prayer List. We are refreshing our payer list. Should someone need to be included, please [email](#) us or contact the church office. Unless renewed, people will stay on the prayer list for a month.

Please Keep in Your Prayers, Alex Jimenez, Beth MacKenzie, Becky Smith, Beverly Seabert Nancy Sullivan, John Beck, Ellen Rich, Michelle Sieling, Michael Swanson, Jo Ann Joeriman, Ron Turner, Dick & Flossie Heward, Tom Don, Jackie Goedesky and George Merrifield.

Gloria Davis would like to thank all the women who donated fabric for making the walker bags. Also, a big thank you to the women that took the time to sew them for distribution. These bags were given to three nursing homes and the nursing homes were very grateful.

Also a huge thank you to all the women who were instrumental in knitting & crocheting the many lap covers and scarves. These were delivered to nursing homes as well. Some scarves were also sent to St. Joseph's Indian School in South Dakota and the Seamen's Church Institute in Newark. They gratefully sent thank you notes to show their appreciation.



Many Thanks to One and All from Gloria and her Outreach Volunteers.



We extend our prayers and best wishes to George and June Merrifield who have moved to North Carolina. George and June have been outstanding stewards to St. Stephen's for many years and those who know them will certainly miss them.



2015 Harvest Dinner
Talent Show

Spotlighted This Month... *Lori Fennell*



When Christmas rolls around at St. Stephen's, a tabletop Christmas tree appears in the back right hand corner of our Church. That tree, called the "Giving Tree", gets a lot of attention as it is used for the donation of toys and gifts for many kids to bring additional joy to their Christmas. Tags are placed on the tree with the age and sex of the child and you remove a tag and purchase a gift. The individual that has been instrumental in maintaining this enormous job is Lori Fennell. Lori has been volunteering/working on the giving tree for the past 20 years and Lori's parents, Richard & Barbara Zipf started the tree for kids back in 1985. Lori's parents were regularly involved with our Church and Barbara was a major force in getting our Thrift Shop up and running. This is a family that made St. Stephen's a major priority in their daily lives and we are blessed to still have Lori involved. Lori has also been instrumental in organizing some of our

previous Gift Auctions along with Bev Siebert and Gloria Davis. We hope that sometime in the near future, St. Stephens' can return to doing all the great Events that were done to raise money and further our Christian fellowship.

Lori has been a member of our church for the past 30 years. Raised in New Jersey and especially on Long Beach Island along with living in Barnegat, Waretown & Manahawkin, she has been a large part of our Church community. Although her dad has passed, her mom, Barbara now lives in Hawaii with her brother Scott and sister Carrie. Her brother Ed still lives locally. Lori has a son, Stephen who is a big help to her with the Giving Tree and a daughter Stephanie who lives in Texas with her family.

Lori currently has a house cleaning business, which she has done for the past 30 years. She was also our Sextant for 25 years retiring in 2015. St. Stephen would sparkle under her watchful eye. Lori's husband Greg has a Heating & Air Conditioning business, and he is very instrumental in keeping our Church mechanicals working. Lori has carried on the traditions of her family with energy and purpose and has devoted herself to making sure that others that are less fortunate can benefit especially around the Christmas Holiday. The many children that have received gifts from this Giving Tree are too numerous to mention over the years and we hope Lori keeps up this tradition. This year even Mo. Rosemary Lillis was helping with her sleeves rolled up. The parish hall was packed with all the great gifts for the kids. When it comes to the distribution of these gifts, Lori welcomes help that any are able to give. Around December, when you see the Giving Tree appear, remember Lori and all she has done for St. Stephens!



Since we closed our books for the Church Calendar year 2020, the amount that was pledged and recorded for the year 2020, was 92% of the amount expected, against the budget total. That is quite an accomplishment during the pandemic. Thanks to all of you who have given so generously for the year.

The biggest portion of the money needed to cover our expenses is raised from the weekly offering. That is why it is so important to keep up on your estimate of giving. Thank you again for your generosity.

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. Gloria is willing to deliver the cards if necessary so feel free to call if that is what you need. She will leave them on your step if you prefer no contact.. Gloria is always willing to accommodate your situation.



ORDER OF ST. LUKE—*Corinne Cromwell*

The Order of Saint Luke meets every Friday morning with the leadership of [Corinne Cromwell](#). The Order meets in the Parish Hall on Friday's at 10:00 AM . Masks and social distancing requirements must be met.

September Parish Calendar & Events

WORSHIP

Holy Eucharist

Sunday at 9:30 (please pre-register)

Evening Prayer in the Outdoor Garden Chapel

Will resume in the Spring

Online: Watch live stream or recorded services on our YouTube Channel: [SSEC Waretown](#).

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

Vestry Members: [Glenys Baulderstone](#), [Peggy Beck](#), [Jan Winne](#), [Debbie Kirk](#), [Jo Ann Joeriman](#), [Bob Gray](#), [John Marcy](#), [Rett Rich](#) and Nick Morgan

Treasurer: [Ron Turner](#)

Parish Administrator: [Pat Terentz](#)

Website: www.SaintStephensWaretown.org

Facebook: [SaintStephensWaretown](#)

MINISTRIES & FELLOWSHIP

Thrift Shop Open

Monday through Saturday 10am to 2pm.

To Volunteer Contact [Beth MacKenzie](#), Barbara Heilich or [Jan Winne](#).

ECW

For Information Contact [Pat Spielman](#)

Bible Study

For Information Contact [Maureen O'Keefe](#)

Sunday Seminar—Bible Discussion

Every Sunday in the Parish Hall immediately following the worship service.

Facilitated by [Debbie Kirk](#)

Choir Director & Organist

[Carlos Staszkeski](#)

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