



Life and Times

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

July, 2020



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

From the Book of Common Prayer. Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

From The Vestry...

Update on Resumption of In-Person Worship. Our Bishop called The COVID-19 Reentering, Reopening, Reimagining (RRR) Task Force which developed recommendations and protocols ([read the Guidance Summary](#)) for reopening. The task force is co-chaired by the Rev. Canon Valerie Balling and Dr. Phil Lewis (an Epidemiologist). Your Wardens have been trained on the reopening protocols, safety measures, and they receive regular updates.

The Vestry must now formulate a comprehensive plan on policy and procedures for opening the church. This plan must be submitted to the Bishop, via the RRR Task Force, for approval prior to re-opening. To accomplish this, the Vestry created our own task force of six groups to each address a specific area of the plan. Our Task Force Group Leaders are John & Pat Will, Rett Rich, Bob Terentz, Jim Joeriman, Pattie Meyer, Maureen O'Keefe, Jo Ann Joeriman and Pat Terentz and volunteers Deb Kirk, Al Frizziola and Suzanne Burkhart.

One of the components of the plan is to survey the congregation in regard to COVID-19 related issues. In order to expedite the process, reduce cost and save much labor, an electronic questionnaire was sent by email. Within 72 hours we received a tabulated survey which included over 70 responses. The survey resulted in a good sampling and provides the Vestry with an overall understanding of the concerns, and desires of the Parish. It is hoped that the work of the Task Force will be complete within the next 7-10 days and our plan can thereafter be submitted. Once approved we can announce the re-opening date. We will update you via email as major developments occur. You can [view the survey results](#) on our website at the bottom of the Strategic Planning Page.

Affiliation Update. The Vestry has appointed a Steering Committee to further explore a *possible* affiliation with Church of the Holy Spirit in Tuckerton. The Steering Committee is chaired by Tom Don and the members are Glenys Baulderstone, Ray Davis and John Will. The Church of the Holy Spirit has also appointed a committee and the two committees will seek to gain a full understanding of the makeup of an affiliation between our churches by means of drafting a proposed Memorandum of Understanding. We cannot move forward on the search for a new priest until the question of affiliation is settled. The Committee has a target date of two months to complete the Memorandum. Please keep them and their work in your prayers.

Affiliation is an aspect in our Three-Year Plan on Return to Viability. It too, is on the [Strategic Planning Page](#) on our website.

The Light at the End of the Tunnel????!! Faithfully submitted by Jo Ann Joeriman



That is what we are seeing with getting ready for our St. Stephen's Episcopal Church to finally re-open. It will still take much planning and compliance, but we are moving in the direction of being able to be in our Church home, which is something we all could use right now.

I cannot remember a time when the world was in this much turmoil and the one place that we could normally find the tranquility that we so much need has been closed to us.

There are members of our St. Stephens Church that are working behind the scenes to bring us closer to that wonderful day when we can, either privately or with others, express our gratitude for surviving these trying times and to be once more in our place of worship. It has been almost four months since we had our last service which was during Lent. That seems so long ago based on all that has transpired. The loss of loved ones and the sadness of not being with them at that crucial time was unbearable. How do you handle knowing that someone you love is dying and no one can be there to hold their hand. That is something that is almost impossible to accept. To be limited in our daily lives was almost too much to bear.

Because we realize how far we have come and the effort it will take to get the church back on its feet, there is a request to please lend a hand. Only a few do so much and if more could step up and offer some help it would make the transition of opening so much easier and so much more welcoming. There are rules and guidelines that are set forth by our Bishop and to open our facilities, we must report exactly the steps we will take to accomplish this. The Vestry is working hard to meet all these requirements but we sure could use some help. Of all the aspects that need attention, each one has its complexities that, with a team, would be so much smoother. Not only do we have the opening of our Church for worship, we also have the affiliation with Holy Spirit and the opening of our valuable Thrift Outlet. These areas are, in themselves, complex and will need procedures and guidelines written for us to comply. The volunteers that work in each of these areas are very much appreciated for without them we would not have come as far as we already have. If you are able and willing to lend a hand, please reach out to our Vestry members and let them know how you would like to be of service. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated.



July Birthday's

Chris Matthies 4th	Beth MacKenzie 7th	Dan Cody 7th	Kylie DelSontro 9th
Stephen Smet 10th	June Merrifield 12th	Tung Nguyen 15th	Chris Donnamaria 16th
JoAnn Don 27th	Luke Silletti 27th	Pat Spielman 29th	Pat Shultis 29th
	Joel Stolte 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.

July Anniversaries

Joanne & Jim Emery 9th	Jean & Rich Brown 14th	Maryann & Bob Payne 15th
Mike & Pat Spielman 21st	David & Judy Wineman 21st	Patti & Ryan Dalon 21st



There are always so many people to thank and this month we want to say Thank You to *Dan* from GSH.

Have you noticed how well-groomed the Church grounds have been lately. The grass is cut, the gardens are weeded, the Thrift Shop area has been cleaned and there is a vegetable garden that is supplying veggies to the Food Bank as well as the Good Sam

House. We have Dan to thank for all that and no matter what the weather or temperature, Dan is hard at work keeping our Church grounds looking beautiful. Thank you Dan...we are blessed to have you!!

We also need to say "Thank You" to **Dolores DeWitt, Edna Reynolds, Audrey Vernon** (along with her friend) and **Gloria Davis** who gave their time and talent toward making items of value in support our outreach ministries. They all worked in different ways by crocheting, knitting and sewing 31 Baby Blankets, 18 Men's Scarves, 26 Children's Scarves, 30 Lap Covers, 22 Walker Bags and 3 pairs of Knitted Slippers. Special Blessings to these women who gave their time and talent for this worthy endeavor.

OUR NATIONAL PASTIME... Faithfull Submitted by Pattie Meyer

As some of you already know, I am not a big fan of Major League Baseball. Yes, I had to endure the 1969 World Series that was won by the beloved New York Mets that year. The underlying story is that I was 19 and stuck at home after having my appendix removed with a father who LOVED baseball, particularly the New York Yankees. I knew the voices of Red Allen and Mel Barber very well. I do wonder, however, what happened to the grass that fans ripped out of the infield in their jubilant postgame celebration?



The real reason for this story is to convey some sad news that many of you have already heard. The 2020 season for the Lakewood BlueClaws has been cancelled. The Minor League Baseball organization announced the other day that the season was over for the entire league before it started. For those of us who are interested in the BlueClaws, this came as no surprise.

I am waiting for a telephone call from our representative regarding what are the arrangements for our planned Southern BBQ. I plan on telling them that we will be back next year and that you can count on us in rescheduling the BBQ for 2021. In the meantime, all we can do is accept the fact that something else has to be changed and/or rearranged because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I would rather have three feet of snow to shovel or a weekend spent inside due to a Nor'easter than go through this again.



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, Beth MacKenzie, Becky Smith, Ron Turner, and Dick & Flossie Heward

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.



THRIFT SHOP NEWS

The good news is that we are getting ready to open our beloved Thrift Shop. The not so good news is that we will need procedures put into place that may not be comfortable for some of our shoppers. Due to this pandemic, masks will need to be worn and we may need to limit how many shoppers will be admitted at one time in order to maintain a safe atmosphere. We are currently working on getting our volunteers on board and we will probably need more able workers to help us out as some of our long time regulars won't be returning. If you would like to help out, you can contact Beth MacKenzie through the office 609-698-8561 or contact one of our Vestry members. Thank you in advance for helping out!



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!



The former Sunday Seminar, now the Saturday Seminar. The group meets at 11:00 AM on Saturday Mornings using Zoom.

Each week someone in the group says an opening prayer and a different participant selects a Scripture verse or chapter in advance and there is a discussion on the scripture. You are invited to join in.

To receive more information or to obtain the Zoom login information, email Deb Kirk at Debrus56@gmail.com or text her at 609-312-3802. During the week the group also shares prayer requests through group text or email.



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.

Spotlighted This Month... Maureen O'Keefe



When you think of things spiritual, Maureen O'Keefe comes to mind. When you look upon the altar at church service, all the items specifically placed there had something to do with Maureen and the Altar Guild. There is no one better suited for this special job as Maureen describes this time as truly spiritual and meditative. This involves setting up the Lord's table for each service including Sunday Church service, funerals, weddings, baptisms, and special holidays.

Maureen has been a member of St. Stephen's Church for the past 40 years and has been on the Altar Guild for the past 15 years. She, like so many others in our congregation, has worn many hats. She has been a Sunday School teacher, a member of the ECW, a member of Order of Saint Luke, conducted Bible Study, been involved in the Sunday Seminar, and volunteers at our Thrift Shop.

Born in Newark, NJ, Maureen moved to the Barnegat/Waretown area when she was 6 years old so she may be considered somewhat native to the area. Her family members are son Shaun and wife Stephanie and four grandchildren of which there is a set of triplets. The grandkids usually accompany her on Sunday when we were able to meet for coffee hour.

Maureen has a gift of kindness and acceptance of anyone that she encounters and is a good listener regardless of personal beliefs or opinions. That is where the spiritual side of Maureen really shines. **Thank you**, Maureen, for all you do.... St. Stephen's is blessed to have you and your family as members in our congregation!

From The Treasurer. *Faithfully Submitted by Ron Turner*

Since our church facilities were ordered to close back in March 2020, by our Bishop, we have lost the weekly income we were receiving from our pledge offerings, Thrift Store, Shop-Rite Fund Raiser, etc. Our church expenses continue to go on each month for employee salaries, utilities, insurance, and our mission giving to the Diocese.



At our annual meeting, back in January 2020, when the budget for 2020 was presented and approved, based upon projected income and fixed expenses, we had no idea that when March came, our church would be closed for the Covid19 Virus, that brought our projected income to a halt. When this happened, our vestry immediately started taking steps to look for ways to keep things moving while our church facilities were still being maintained by staff and volunteers, keeping our Food Bank open to serve the public and our communication lines open through our monthly Life and Times Newsletter, to keep our parishioners appraised as to what was happening.

During this time period, while our church was closed for services on Sundays, several of our parishioners have continued to mail or drop off their weekly offerings to the church or to me, the treasurer. This has helped us to meet our monthly fixed expenses without having to use other investment funds. I would encourage those parishioners who made a pledge commitment at the beginning of the year, and from whom we have not received any offerings, since we closed the church, to consider making an effort to meet their pledge commitments.

I wish to thank those parishioners who have faithfully continued to send their offerings into the church, so we can cover our expenses in maintaining our church during this trying time that we have all been going through.

July Parish Calendar & Events

WORSHIP

Holy Eucharist

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

HEALING SERVICE

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

Check our [website](#) for online opportunities

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

Facebook: [SaintStephensWaretown](#)

MINISTRIES & FELLOWSHIP

Thrift Shop Open

Monday through Saturday Closed during pandemic
To Volunteer Contact [Beth MacKenzie](#), [Barbara Heilich](#) or [Gloria Davis](#).

ECW

For Information Contact [Pat Spielman](#)

Bible Study

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

Sunday Seminar—Bible Discussion

Every Saturday starting at 11:00AM on Zoom.
Facilitated by [Debbie Kirk](#) & Marcel Tabone

Choir Director & Organist

[Carlos Staszkeski](#)

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