

Life and Times

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

March, 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...

Planning for the Future. At the February meeting, the Vestry adopted an overview of a three year Strategic Plan on Return to Viability. The tactics of the plan include Prayer, Affiliation Parameters, Clergy Selection, Communications, Ministries and Outreach and Sunday School. The entire plan is available for you to [read on our website](#). The objective, vision and strategy statements are:

Our Objective. To become financially viable in order to maintain all ministries and employ a full time dedicated Rector.

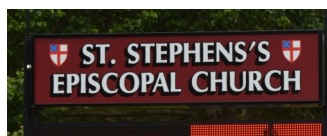
Our Vision. Over the course of the next three years, the size of the Saint Stephen's congregation will have grown in both numbers and involvement to a point which provides self-efficiency and the opportunity to employ a dedicated Rector.

Our Strategy. Saint Stephen's will pursue a three year plan which involves prayer, reduces operating costs, and embraces what God has placed around us. We will strive to improve fellowship, stewardship, communications, ministries and community outreach to grow the size of the congregation. Growth of the congregation will increase pledge income and our volunteer base. With commitment and God's help, we will return to viability.

Affiliation Discussions. Discussions continue and should such an affiliation occur, it will not alter our three year plan on return to viability, indeed it shall be a means to help us succeed in achieving our objective. The Vestry is working with Holy Spirit and the Bishop to schedule one or more joint congregation town hall style conversational meetings with the Bishop. We expect this to occur after Easter.

Southern Ocean County Episcopal Fellowship. The fellowship consists of Saint Stephen's in Waretown, [Holy Spirit](#) in Tuckerton, [Holy Innocents](#) in Beach Haven and [St Peter's](#) at the Light.

Have you ever noticed the error on our sign?
You will see this corrected in a few weeks.



Join Us

Maundy Thursday Agape Meal 6PM, April 9th

Bring a food item or just bring yourself. If you would like to donate a food item, please let us know—there is a sheet in the Narthex.

Soup-Bread-Cheese-Fruit-Fruit Juice-Wine

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT? *Lovingly submitted by Jan Winnie*



(In the words of Pope Francis)

Fast from hurting words and say kind words. **Fast** from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience. **Fast** from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God. **Fast** from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful. **Fast** from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others. **Fast** From grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Lenten Study & Simple Meal

We will be partnering with Holy Spirit in Tuckerton to offer an enriching 2020 Lenten Program. Using themes from the 2000 Academy Award nominated film “Chocolat”, this unique approach to the season creates the space for deeper insights into self-discipline, self-giving, conversion, acceptance, and maturing in Christ. Delving into the delicious depths of humanity, *Chocolate for Lent* offers a Lenten program like no other. The program starts at 5:30 PM with a simple meal of soup and salad followed by the Lent study from 6:30 until 8:00. We suggest *prior readings*. **Gather at St. Stephen’s for Car Pooling/Ride Sharing leaving for Holy Spirit at 5:00PM .**

The Schedule

Wed, March 4th at Holy Spirit—Prelude to Change: *Read Matthew [4:1-11, 18-22](#) & [Mark 10:17-27](#)*

Wed, March 11th at St. Stephen’s—Giving Out, The Power of Gift: *Read [Luke 14:1-12](#)*

Wed, March 18th at Holy Spirit—Getting Wise, The Possibility of Change: *Read [Matthew 12:1-21](#)*

March 25th at St. Stephen’s—Getting Real, The Power of Acceptance: *Read [John 4:4-26](#)*

April 1st at Holy Spirit—Growing Up, The Process of Change: *Read [John 3:1-8](#) and [Matthew 18:1-3](#)*



Holy Week Schedule

[See or Download Our Guide to Lent & Holy Week](#)

Palm Sunday	April 5th	8:00 & 10:00	Saint Stephen’s
Agape Meal	April 9th	6:00PM	Saint Stephen’s
Maundy Thursday	April 9th	7:00PM	Saint Stephen’s
Vigil Watch	April 9th	8:00PM– 7:00AM	Saint Stephen’s Narthex
Good Friday			
Stations of the Cross	April 10th	Noon	Holy Spirit
Good Friday Liturgy	April 10th	7:00PM	Holy Spirit
Great Vigil of Easter	April 11th	7:00PM	Saint Stephen’s
Easter Day	April 12th	8:00AM & 10:00 AM	Saint Stephen’s



There are always so many people to thank and this month we want to focus on...

We send a warm thank you to **Edna Reynolds** for all the hand made pockets she makes for the nursing home walkers. We send a tremendous thank you to **Gloria Davis** who continues to bring much needed donations to nursing homes, animal shelters, bringing clothing, books, shoes, handmade items, hats & scarves, lap covers and all kinds of special treats to those in need. We also thank Gloria for the Shop Rite Gift Card Promotion! God bless all of our generous volunteers!!

MOTHERING SUNDAY *Bon Appétit! Pattie Meyer & Maureen O'Keefe*

The term “Mothering Sunday” comes from a 16th Century custom for people to return to their “mother church” which could be either the church they were baptized in or the local parish church or cathedral. This custom was popular throughout England, Ireland and Europe. Anyone who did this was called “amothering”. Mothering Sunday thus became a day when domestic servants were given the day off to visit their mother church and family members. Legend has it that at some point in time servants were given a portion of flour to take home in order to make a special cake for their mother. Children who were “in service” were also given the day off and usually picked wildflowers as a gift for their mother. It was also a time for families to gather together and celebrate.



The tradition lapsed throughout continental Europe and Ireland by the 1920s. But a revival began when Mother’s Day became popular in the United States. The tradition of Mothering Sunday is still practiced in the Church of England and the Church of Ireland, and was merged with the new imported commercial traditions.

Mothering Sunday is now traditionally held on the fourth Sunday of [Lent](#). In keeping with the tradition of taking flour and making a cake for your mother, there will be a traditional [Simmel Cake](#) served during Coffee Hour after both 8am & 10am services on Sunday, March 29th.

Best Practices. As the flu season continues, and amid growing concerns about the possible spread of the Coronavirus, now is a good time to remind everyone about best practices concerning hygiene during Eucharist and other worship services.

The Peace. Parishioners who are coughing or sneezing should refrain from handshaking during the Peace. Fist bumps, elbow bumps, friendly waves, and peace signs are all acceptable substitutes. Should you have a cough, sneeze, or if not feeling well, we suggest that when approaching or being approached you extend a fist for bump or display a peace sign.

Eucharist. The Diocese tells us to avoid [intinction](#) because it does little to avoid the spread of disease and may actually increase the spread, as the wafer spends more time in the (possibly unclean) hand before being dipped in the wine. There has never been much evidence of risk of disease associated with the shared communion cup, but of course each parishioner must make up their own minds about its use. Refusing to receive wine is acceptable. Hand sanitizer stations are being installed inside the Church.



THRIFT SHOP NEWS—SPRING SCHEDULE

1/2 Price Sale starting week of March 9th.

\$5 Bag Sale starting week of March 16th.

Closed on Monday March 23rd through Wednesday March 25th for Spring changeover. Re-Open with Spring items on Thursday, March 26th.



We are always in need of volunteers, whether for an hour or a day.

WE LOVE OUR THRIFT SHOP!! *Faithfully from Jo Ann Joeriman*

I am happy to report that 2019 has been another good year for our Thrift Shop. Knowing how important the funds we receive are to our ministries, this helps keep us working as best we can to be successful. We are fortunate to receive merchandise donations that help us earn the much-needed money for our church and the many ministries and fellowship we offer. We have a group of volunteers that work tirelessly to help our congregation and meet the budget goals that serve our church community so we can stay strong. Without these loyal volunteers we could not accomplish all that we do. Some of the work can be labor intensive, so we are grateful for the volunteers that are able to handle the heavy lifting. We appreciate all our volunteers even if they are physically limited in their capabilities as there is always tasks that will fit their qualifications. Since we are grateful for any volunteers we get, we try to accommodate all the abilities of our workers. We currently have volunteers that are not members of our congregation and because of the workload, this is now acceptable to our rules and regulations. We welcome volunteers of all ages and are now working to reach out to schools and programs where students need to perform community service. The Thrift Shop is a good place for these students to understand the needs of a community just by who comes into the shop and what they purchase.

Our Thrift Shop is a unique place which has a diverse quality of merchandise we sell and if you have an adventurous mind, this is the place for you. Just to spend a few hours wandering around to explore the many items available and at prices that are desirable for the most discriminating purse is a great way to pass the time. So please stop in when you have a chance.....we just may recruit you to join us.



TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME! 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. You can also catch me after services on Sundays. Looking forward to a fun night! Pattie Meyer



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. You can purchase cards, cash or check, in the Parish hallway between the 8 and 10 services.

Maundy Thursday Agape Meal. Prior to the Maundy Thursday Service, Saint Stephen's and The Church of the Holy Spirit will gather for a [agape](#) simple meal of soup, bread, cheese, wine, fruit and fruit juice will we at 6:00 in the Parish Hall at Saint Stephen's. Saint Stephen's needs volunteers to bring an item for the meal: [Volunteer](#).

Maundy Thursday is the Thursday in Holy Week (the week leading up to Easter). The day is a time for remembering the Last Supper. The name comes from the Latin word *Maundatum*, for "commandment", for Jesus said: "I give you a new commandment; that you love one another." This loving of one another is acted out by the Celebrant washing the feet (one foot) of parishioners. If there is to be "Communion" at the Good Friday Liturgy, it is consecrated at this Service for Reservation at the [Altar of Repose](#). At the conclusion of this service, altars are stripped of any ornamentation and crosses are removed or veiled to mark the solemnity of the occasion. ***The Maundy Thursday service will be at St. Stephen's at 7:00PM. It will be a joint service which includes Holy Spirit. The Celebrant will be The Reverend Don Muller.*** Add your name to the foot washing list located in the [Narthex](#).

Vigil at the Altar of Repose begins at the end of the Maundy Thursday Service and continues until the beginning of the Good Friday evening liturgy. It gives us a time to "keep watch with our Lord in increments of one hour". Saint Stephen's parishioners take turns standing watch for one-hour as an individual or group of two. This is an enriching experience. **Please** sign up for a one-hour watch time. The watch list posted in the [Narthex](#).



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. We all had a wonderful time and full stomachs.

Over forty people came to the supper. The pancakes were the best... as evidenced by so many people asking for and receiving more. Shrove Tuesday Fellowship and Fund Raising Supper could not have happened if not for our generous volunteers who put it together and made it all work. We thank our kitchen and serving crew who were Matt Sullivan, Patti Meyer, Al & Linda Frizziola and Jo Ann Joeriman. Thank you also to Pat Terentz who handled greeting and tickets.



Prayer List. Prayer unites us—to God and with one another. As we previously mentioned, we are in the process of refreshing the Prayer List. We expect to complete at about the time this newsletter is published. If you, or a loved one, needs the support that prayer can give, please fill out a Prayer Request Card found in the pews, [email us](#), or call the Parish Office.

Meet Marie Carr



As we recognize some of our silent heroes, one that quietly stands out is Marie Carr. Marie retired from Kresge/Kmart in 1997 after 50 years of service ending her employment as a Manager of cashiers, merchandizing and accounting. Marie has been a faithful member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church since 1988 and has served in many capacities including the Altar Guild, Thrift Shop, ECW, Bible Study, Lay Reader and also taught Sunday School. Marie is always ready to lend a helping hand and has amazing energy! On February 18th we celebrated Marie's 90th birthday with members of the ECW and Thrift Shop and a festive celebration was had by all. Thank you Marie Carr for all you do and for being one of our most faithful and devoted members. We send out a heartfelt Happy Birthday to you and wish you many more.



March Parish Calendar & Events

WORSHIP

Holy Eucharist

Sunday, 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th at 10AM

HEALING SERVICE

Friday's at 10AM (Except Good Friday)

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 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](#)

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

367 Route 9

Waretown, NJ 08758

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