



# Life and Times

## Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

367 Route 9, Waretown, NJ

Phone 609-698-8561 | [www.SaintStephensWaretown.org](http://www.SaintStephensWaretown.org)

**October, 2020**



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

### AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GOD

*(Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has called the entire Episcopal Church to prayer with these words this Pentecost Season)*

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Whenever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### St. Francis Day

#### Blessing of the Animals

Our beloved pets received their blessings at the [Feast of St. Francis](#) and the blessing of the Animals. Mother Rosemary Lillis was our presiding priest and was gracious to bless all the pets pictured on this wonderful board created by our own Carol Headley.

The Episcopal Church annually commemorates St. Francis of Assisi and its congregations often bless animals on the Sunday closest to the 13th century saint's feast day.



Marcel Tabone is a former Roman Catholic Priest who is seeking to become an Episcopal Priest. Marcel finished his Proficiency Exams and is now being mentored by Fr. Stephen Connor at [Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Ocean City](#). A message from Marcel: *"Thank you for all the support and kindness. I am grateful for all the parishioners who truly became family to me. I truly miss you all and hope to visit soon on a Sunday. Wishing You All God's Blessings and Peace."*

**Nominations Please...** The Nominating Committee for the 2021 term has been selected. The members are [Glenys Baulderstone](#) (Chairperson), [Ray Davis](#) and [John Marcy](#). The committee will put forth a nomination slate for one Warden, three Vestry Members, three Deputies and three Alternate Deputies to the Diocesan Convention and six Deputies to the Convocation annual meeting. Should you wish to be considered for nomination, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee.



## NEWS FROM THE "BACK OF THE CHURCH"



*Faithfully submitted by Pattie Meyer*

Coming to church these days has taken on a whole new perspective and behavior. In the past our Ushers hung out in the "back of the church" to welcome everyone. They handed out the Sunday Bulletin and always had the opportunity to "chit-chat" with fellow parishioners. They would collect the offering and along with the host present it to the priest, then close the altar rail and maintaining an even flow of parishioners to the altar rail. When the service was concluded, they did a little bit of housekeeping before the lights were turned off and the doors locked.

That all changed when COVID-19 came to town. The Bulletin is now the service protocol itself and is placed on those seats for each parishioner. Except for household members, everyone is 6 feet apart. We're all encouraged to leave the church when the service is done. There's no Coffee Hour or "just hanging out" in general.

While several people have declined to return, I do have a group who are still willing and dedicated. Our Ushers are still answering the call to serve the church under a whole new set of guidelines that have been established to keep us all safe and healthy.

When the day comes that we can go back to worshiping as we have done in the past, I know that the Ushers will be in the "back of the church" ready to assist their fellow parishioners.

If anyone is interested in learning what this responsibility entails, I would be very happy to talk to you. You can email me at [pattiemeyer@yahoo.com](mailto:pattiemeyer@yahoo.com) or CALL ME ON MY NEW CELLPHONE NUMBER 609-891-6814.

## ORDER OF ST. LUKE—Corinne Cromwell

The Order of Saint Luke meets every Friday morning with the leadership of [Corinne Cromwell](#). For the past few months, the meetings have been held at the home of Corinne, outside to keep safe distances during this pandemic. Now that the weather is starting to change, the meetings will hopefully take place at St. Stephen's Church while still maintaining the safety of wearing masks and keeping a safe distance.



### October Birthday's

Delores DeWitt 2nd	Kristin DelSontro 10th	Gary Petrizzo, Jr 12th	Carlos Staszkeski 13th
Marcel Tabone 14th	Pattie Meyer 18th	Brenden Harrington 20th	Emilee Harrington 23rd
Stacey Cranmer 23rd	Gloria Davis 23rd	Sophia DelSontro 24th	Myles Savoth 28th
Logan Savoth 28th	Chris Presti 29th	AJ DelSontro 30th	

### October Anniversaries

Mavis & Rory O'Rourke 19th      Joe & Diane Cleary 25th

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



**There are always so many people to thank and this month we want to say Thank You to Pattie Meyer!**

Pattie has been instrumental in getting our church services coordinated with the seating charts and the assistance of the ushers. When you enter through the front doors, Pattie is the first person you encounter to give you a seat number to keep us separated for our safety. She is one of our devoted members of St. Stephen's and also our Junior Warden. Thank you Pattie!!!

## **WORKING TOGETHER WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

*Faithfully submitted by Jo Ann Joeriman*



During this time of uncertainty, with the limitations of getting out and about, it seems like a good time to look at our relationships with others. Depression seems to be taking hold of a lot of folks that would normally be upbeat, but due to the restrictions we are experiencing, we lately feel the lack of joy and independence. I for one have always felt good when I can get out and go, whenever I needed, for work or just errands. Now I hesitate to go out in order to avoid unnecessary exposure.

One way I feel that helps me is our church family at St. Stephen's and working at the Thrift Shop. Those of us that work the shop, try to be as careful as we can wearing masks and using the hand sanitizer to keep us safe. The shoppers who come in are grateful that we are there to take the edge off their situations and to give them a place to spend some time just wandering around in the shop. We welcome them and offer any assistance we can. For example, one couple came in after their house burned down a few weeks ago. We helped them with some necessities and have seen them come back several times to pick up replacement items that were destroyed in the fire. We were there for them and they were grateful. Another shopper has four kids and she needed school clothes and we were there to help her family. A teacher came in to pick up little supplies for her students and we helped find what she needed.

When we can work together and offer help to anyone in need, we are doing what our church family is all about. Like most families we sometimes have our differences and get annoyed at each other. There is not any situation that cannot be worked out and with communication and caring, and we accept our brothers and sisters with kindness and understanding. It is why we are all here together...for each other and anyone that comes into our circle of giving.

Being a part of a wonderful congregation can keep us focused on the things that are most important in our lives. It has helped the realization that stuff we thought was a priority is now at the bottom of the list. Our families and our health have taken over the number one spot and it feels really good to open our understanding of something that was there all along. Now we can see it more clearly. So when you hear that even the darkest cloud has a silver lining, we are experiencing it first hand. Blessings to all!

## **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

With Christmas just around the corner, the Thrift Shop is getting ready to transform our store to prepare for a new Holiday Season.

Our Xmas schedule is as follows:

Week of 10/26 to 10/31	Half Price Sale
Week of 11/2 to 11/7	Bag Sale (Yeah!!)
Week of 11/9 to 11/14	Closed for Cleaning & Set-Up
Week of 11/16	Re-Open with all new Christmas Merchandise.



We will once again schedule Sunday, November 15th for all our congregation to have the first chance to do some holiday shopping.

The Thrift Shop benefits our Church financially and to be a volunteer, which is no easy task, is so vitally important to keep us going. WE NEED YOUR HELP as we are in short supply of volunteers. Any time you can give would be greatly appreciated. Thank you to our current volunteers and in advance for any new ones.



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](https://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,*** Beth MacKenzie, Becky Smith, Ron Turner, and Dick & Flossie Heward and George Merrifield.

**Sunday In-Person Worship Update.** The Sunday Service will be live streamed only to YouTube. Visit our [YouTube channel](#) to watch live or past services. The Order of Service Bulletin can be viewed or downloaded from the home page of our website. The Rev Rosemary Lillis will be our celebrant through Nov 15th.



The Sunday Seminar is Back.—Live The group meets in the Parish Hall immediately following the 9:30 Worship Service. No food or beverage is provided. You must bring your own. A face mask covering the mouth and nose is required. Social distancing must be observed by all.

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](mailto:Debrus56@gmail.com) or text her at 609-312-3802. During the week the group also shares prayer requests through group text or email.

## Spotlighted This Month... *John Will*



There are some members of our congregation that have much to offer and unfortunately, we only see a small part of who they are. John Will has been a member of our church for the past 36 years and has been a huge part of lending a hand when needed. Being a truthful individual, John lets you know what is on his mind and that is a gift that we wish more folks possessed. Talking to John, who by the way has a caring heart, one observes that he will communicate so that there is no question of where he stands.

John grew up in Mid-Town Manhattan and has been married to his lovely wife Pat for the past 50 years. They were blessed with 2 children, Michael & Christine, who both attended St. Stephens Sunday School and are now in their 40's with kids of their own. Although John is a cradle Episcopalian, starting as an acolyte, altar boy and a member of the choir, Pat was raised Catholic and as some of us can attest, changing to Episcopalian has many benefits.

John worked for the postal service for 30 years and during that time was a Union Representative, which carried a lot of responsibility and before retirement he was a substitute teacher for night school. He also did home schooling during the 1990's up to 2004. He worked nights so that he could attend college and practice student teaching during the day in order to obtain his degree.

When John & family relocated to this area due to a job transfer, St. Stephens welcomed them and since then, John has served in many capacities. He started with Fr. Paul as a Lay Reader and also trained other lay readers for that position. He participated in the Vestry on and off for many years helping to make the decisions that were needed going forward. John is also a Eucharistic Minister of which one must be certified to carry out this important task. Added to those duties, John worked on the committee for Grounds & Maintenance, Boy Scouts' affiliation and organized many trips for youth groups that were once here at St. Stephens'.

John also had a position with the Diocese on the Review Committee that would oversee disciplinary review for pastors. Another important task was creating the format for Prayers of the People so that Lay Readers would have guidelines for each service. Up until COVID-19 became so much a part of our society, John studied and worked as a Court System Mediator. Getting both parties to reach an agreement would alleviate the heavy load of the court system and the result of that Mediation would become final for the parties involved. This last job is what gives John the ability to have a vital role on the committee that oversees the Good Sam House and all that job encompasses. The GSH is a home for a maximum of 4 men giving them a chance to get back on their feet by offering a safe home with food and shelter. This is a full-time position and John is on call 24/7 for situations or emergencies that need attention. The men help with maintaining the grounds and also with the needs of the Thrift Shop. Thank you John for the many years of helping St. Stephen's in so many different capacities. Your diverse background is a great compliment to all the tasks that you participate in.

**The Saint Stephen's Food Pantry** is open from 9am until 11:30 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to help meet the needs of people in our communities. Spread the word to those who are in need of this ministry. We are in need of volunteers in order to expand the hours to Thursday & Friday.



## LINKS

[Saint Stephen's Website](#)

[Saint Stephen's Calendar of Events](#)

[Parish Facebook Page](#)

[Thrift Shop Facebook Page](#)

[YouTube Channel](#)

[Twitter](#)

## 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](#), [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 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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