



Life and Times

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

367 Route 9, Waretown, NJ

Phone 609-698-8561 | www.SaintStephensWaretown.org

Quarterly Newsletter of April 2023



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

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.



Friends,

As we bask in the joy of the Easter season, often called [Eastertide](#), we have time to reflect on all that we experienced in [Lent](#). I hope that you found worship to be meaningful and that you found a deeper faith at the end of this journey. We enjoyed seeing our church family more often than usual with Sundays, Lenten Mondays and our night church on Wednesdays. One of the symptoms of deep faith is feeling joy at being with other believers. Now that Lent is over, we resume our Wednesday evening bible study at 7 p.m., after our Celtic candle worship.

An amazing thing happened over Lent. We received a package in the mail addressed to the Rev. Chip and Lisa Graves with no return address. Inside was a lace frontal and a note that told a story of its origins. It read that a N.J. lady was visited by her British mother during the early stages of World War II. She begged her mother to stay with them in N.J., but her mother felt her country needed her. She secured tickets on the last sailing of the Queen Elizabeth II. Her daughter prayed that her mother would make it. She finally received a letter confirming she was indeed safe in England but they were not safe at all. Bombs rained down and they were constantly on alert. At once this devout Episcopalian began making a lace frontal in thanksgiving to God for her mother's safe arrival in England and when it was complete she gave it to her Church in N.J.. The frontal was used for Christmas, Easter and special occasions until the church closed in February of 2023. The beautiful Frontal is the perfect size for the portable altar we use at night church.

What a wonderful legacy we carry on in using it for our lovely night worship. We give thanks to God for the witness of faith and for our anonymous donor who allows us to continue it's use! A few weeks ago someone asked us why we use the paper bulletins instead of the [Book of Common Prayer](#). We use these booklets for a season, and save them for use in the coming year. The primary reason is that it makes it so much easier for newcomers and visitors to follow along in the service. When people can't find their place in a new church, they sometimes feel frustrated or even foolish, and may not come back.

We want to make it as easy as possible for all of us to worship God. For those who love to use the Book of Common Prayer, you still can. We always start on page 355 unless it's Lent, and then you can flip to the right [Eucharistic prayer](#) when it's time. We are using Prayer B currently. The beautiful part about our church is that we insist that there are many right ways to worship!

I pray that Easter remains in your heart, as it does mine! What a joyous season!



The Other Side of Easter

I am so happy that we are on the other side of Easter. Though I love our Season of [Lent](#), it can become a bit heavy-laden after several weeks of piety. As we enter the Season of Easter my step seems a bit lighter, my heart a bit more joy-filled and I know the cave is empty. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The opposite of gloom and lament is to be joy-filled enveloping an aspiration of things to come. That's how I feel as we enter the Season of Easter. Don't forget that Easter is a Season, and not just a one day event for celebration. During this Season we can seek the joy and grace of God Almighty through the Son and therefore ponder the wonderful gifts at St. Stephens; that we have so many blessings to be thankful.

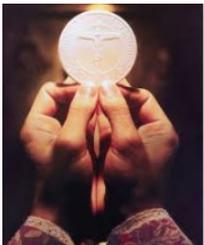
Not dissimilar to Springtime flowers, our ministries are blooming. Our attendance is up. Our Bible Studies and Night Church are well attended. We're creating fantastic Community Events such as the upcoming Hoe Down Party in May. Our Mens' Group has begun. Thanks to Al and Dan, our buildings are well maintained and rejuvenated. We've installed a new church sound system thanks to a generous member donation. ECW and our Thrift Store are growing beyond expectation with record sales and growing memberships. And there is so much more...

Lisa and I cannot thank you enough for all you do and your support for us as your priests. We are excited to enter our warmer months with summer leading to fall. It will be our intent to continue to support those endeavors that we love and continue to focus on growing our personal and community discipleship, becoming the hands and feet of Jesus Christ right here at St. Stephens.

If your heart is aching to get involved or support any of our ministries, please let us know.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve.

God Bless. [Chip+](#)



Eucharistic visitation is a special ministry of lay persons called by God and licensed by the Bishop. It is the ministry of taking the Sacrament, consecrated at a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, are unable to be present at the Celebration. Many have been enriched by this sacramental ministry, both those who take the sacrament and those who receive it.

If you, or you know of someone who cannot attend the services at the church and would like to have the Eucharist brought to them, or if you would like to be a part of this extraordinary ministry, please contact the parish office.

Prayer 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, Linda Staszkeski, Dick Heward, Barbara Julian, Carol Ricci, Jim Emery, Ron Turner, Ron Turner Jr., Liz Luciano, James Bennet, Thomas Southard, Rick Hurst, Laurie Robinson, Marty Simmons, Corine Cromwell, Bud Boyd, Dr. John Infantolino, Jim Daskalakis, Michaela, Josephine Baker, Ben, Logan, Mackenzie Stephens, Pete Patina, Alan Hovarth, Holland Graves, , Kevin Seabert, Jean Brown, Lucinda DeWitt, Terry Bearce, Tony Abello, Greg Fennell, Bridget Townsend, James Schafer, Mike Marcy, Dominique, Susan Kane and Robert Hoffman.





Sally French

Elected Bishop of New Jersey

The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey has elected the Rev. Sally French to serve as the 13th bishop of the diocese. Pending the required consents, she will be consecrated and installed as the bishop of New Jersey on June 24, succeeding Bishop William H. “Chip” Stokes, who is retiring.

French currently serves as [canon](#) for regional ministry and collaborative innovation in the Diocese of North Carolina. Prior to joining the diocesan staff, she spent 20 years in parish ministry, serving congregations of many sizes and types. Raised in Toronto, Canada, French earned a bachelor’s degree from Trinity College, University of Toronto, a Master of Divinity through the Toronto School of Theology, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Virginia Theological Seminary. She was ordained a priest in 2001. She and her husband Clarke have two children living at home.

In brief remarks delivered via Zoom after the election results were announced, French thanked the voters, the Search and Transition Committees, and her fellow candidates. Concerning her forthcoming position as bishop of New Jersey she said, “I look forward to serving with love.”

The bishop-elect was chosen from a slate of five nominees by clergy and lay leaders representing each congregation of the diocese during a special hybrid convention held on Jan. 28 at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton and online via Zoom. She was elected in the third round of balloting with 68% of the clergy votes and 56% of lay votes. A majority of both clergy and lay votes in the same round was needed for election.

“I believe the Holy Spirit has led us to a remarkable leader who is deeply grounded in the faith and love of Jesus Christ,” Stokes said. “Canon French brings gifts and skills in ministry that are well aligned to address the needs and challenges facing the church and the Diocese of New Jersey at this moment in its life and history. I look forward to welcoming her and her family to the Diocese of New Jersey and serving with her in this exciting time of transition.”

The other nominees were the Rev. Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew, canon to the ordinary, Diocese of Rhode Island; the Very Rev. Troy Mendez, dean, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Phoenix, Arizona; the Rev. Janine Schenone, rector, Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, San Diego, California; and the Rev. Mauricio Jose Wilson, rector, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Oakland, California.

The 10:00 Sunday Service is normally live streamed to YouTube. Visit our [YouTube channel](#) (SSEC Waretown) to watch live or past services. Offerings can be made online from our website at [SaintStephensWaretown.org/Donate](#).

We need a few alternate live stream operators to ensure we are able to stream every week. You will be trained. It is really only following the picture guide and a few clicks. If you might be able to serve in this ministry, please contact [Jim Joeriman](#) for further information.



ARE YOU READY FOR SOME...WAIT FOR IT... BASEBALL?

Enjoy the “boys of summer” as they play baseball in picturesque First Energy Park in Lakewood. Walk around the concourse and you can play miniature golf, by a 50-50 raffle ticket, enjoy the Boardwalk area with their games or sip a drink in the Sand Bar.. Meanwhile, you can cheer the BlueClaws to victor in the picnic area along with everyone from Saint Stephen’s as the Blueclaws play the Aberdeen Iron Birds (Baltimore Orioles Affiliate). Children welcome!



The big date is Friday, July 28th for our Southern BBQ. Gates open at 6 PM and the BBQ is available until 8 PM. Game time is 7 PM. [Click here](#) to learn about the stadium and the entertaining events that await you.

The cost is \$30 per person. Reserve your seats today by contacting Pattie Meyer, PattieMeyer@yahoo.com or you can call or text her at 609-891-6814.

**When the game is over with the BlueClaws victorious, we finish the night with
FIREWORKS! KABOOM!**



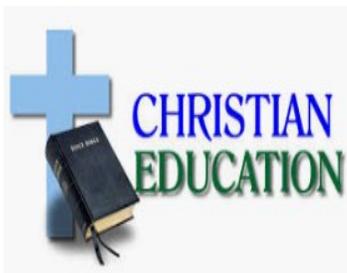
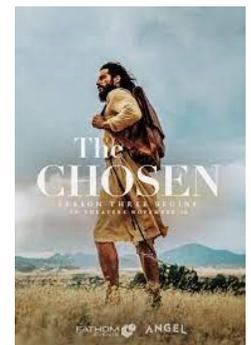
Supporting Saint Stephen’s is only a click away. We are now able to offer you the opportunity to give online. It is quick, easy and of course secure. Visit SaintStephensWaretown.org/Donate to make a donation. You can make a one time gift or arrange for secure automatic reoccurring contributions from 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. You are able to place an in memory of when donating.

Join Us For The Chosen Series

Our 2023 Lenten Program featured watching the first four episodes of the television series, The Chosen. It was well enjoyed by all.

We are happy to announce that Gary and Nancy Eadie will be showing the remainder of Season One on Monday’s starting May 1st, at 2pm in the Parish Hall .

Enlightening discussions followed the Lenten Program and that discussion will be continued with the Monday presentation. Coffee will be served.



The Sunday Seminar Group meets in the Parish Hall immediately following the 10am Worship Service. 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 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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthday's

May: Michael Presti, May 3rd | Joyce Echochard, May 11th | Teddi Palmer, May 12th | Madeline King, May 18th
Greg Fennell, 26th | Karen Egan, May 29th | David Julian, May 29th | Linda Waldron, May 31st.

June: Greg Savoth, Jun 4th | Jeff Palmer, Jun 7th | Jean Brown, Jun 8th | Becky Smith, Jun 11th | Gary Petrizzo, May 11th
Aaron Presti, June 12th | Deb Kirk, Jun 22nd | Gloria Boone, Jun 23rd | Judy Phillips, Jun 29th

July: Chris Matthies, Jul 4th | Beth MacKenzie, Jul 7th | Jo Ann Don, Jul 27th | Pat Shultis, Jul 29th | Pat Spielman Jul 29th

Anniversaries

Ron & Norma Turner, May 11th | Dennis & Donna Micai, May 19th | Tom & Jo Ann Don, May 15th | Jim & Jo Ann Joeriman, May 22nd
Maureen & Willie O'Keefe, Jun 7th | Bob & Barbara Gray, Jun 26th | Kevin & Kristen Waldron, Jun 28th
Jim & Joanne Emery, Jul 9th | Mike & Pat Spielman, Jul 21st

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



Join Us At Wednesday Night Church

We gather at 6:15pm for a Celtic Candle-lit Communion Service. This is a relaxed service of approximately 35 minutes. Prior to the service we maintain silence which is our invitation into the heart of God. People may choose to close their eyes and offer quiet prayers before the service begins.



Choir Anyone? If you like to sing, why not join our choir? The church needs new choir members. If you, or should you know of someone who is not a member of the Church, but likes to sing, Please speak with Carlos.

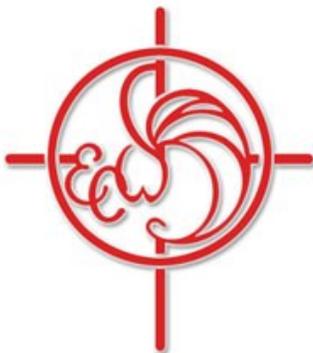


Hoedown in the Hall. Dance, watch or laugh! You are sure to enjoy yourself at our Hoedown on May 6th. Tickets are available after either the 8 or 10 am service. For more information contact [Karen Egan](#), or call the Parish Office.



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 .



Episcopal Church Women ECW

If you're a woman and you're a member of the Episcopal Church. . .

Then, you're automatically a member of Episcopal Church Women!

The ECW empowers women to do Christ's ministry here at St. Stephen's and throughout the world. The ECW meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 2:15pm in the Parish Hall. Contact [Karen Egan](#) with questions.

[ECW in the News 4-15-23](#)



Join our newly formed St. Stephen's Men's Group

Lead by Father Chip, the Men's group meets in the Parish Hall on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Please join us.



Our Sister Has Left the Room.....!

By Jo Ann Joeriman

Safe journey Pat Will.....we will miss you and believe you are enjoying your final rewards.

Our sister, Pat Will, has left us for now but we will see her some day in the future.

Pat will be greatly missed simply because she was one of the most thoughtful and caring people that we were blessed to have at St. Stephens Church. I still have a message on my cell phone dating back to October 18, 2022, when I was at the beginning of some serious health issues. I believe she already knew how serious her own condition was, but she did not let on her fear. Her message to me: "We hope you were able to see the doctor yesterday and that a treatment plan to alleviate your pain was made. You are in our prayers daily". That was so typical of Pat as she was always concerned for everyone that crossed her path. Her silver lining was that she was truly blessed with a loving home family, a loving church family and a special light that shone on her each day. Pat, we know that you are looking down on us and have our backs up there.

May God keep you in his loving embrace.



Bible Study at St. Stephen's

Everyone is welcome
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Parish Hall, Classroom #1



Financial Corner

Jim Joeriman, Treasurer

Our budgeted pledge income goal for the 1st quarter was met and slightly exceeded. **Thank you** to all the parishioners who met their first quarter pledge commitment.

The H.V.A.C. systems in the Parish Hall have been replaced. The cost of replacement was paid from the Building Maintenance Account with almost one half of the entire cost being covered by H.V.A.C. designated donations from our Parishioners. Thank you so much for your generosity. Thank you also to those who contribute to B&M directly and through ShopRite Gift Card purchases. So many will benefit from having a working and efficient system.

I am happy to report that, at the conclusion of the first quarter, our 2023 budget has no extraordinary variations.





Spotlighted This Month.....Susan Burkhardt

One of the many reasons we are blessed at St. Stephens is that our congregation has people that have surprising backgrounds. Susan Burkhardt is one of those talented people that has so much to bring to our table of worship. Susan was born in Philadelphia and spent most of her formative years in Pennsylvania. As the oldest of 5 siblings, she matured at a young age. While in the sixth grade she remembers feeling a call to be a nurse and spent 28 years in a career as a registered nurse. She worked in Critical Care and the Intensive Care Unit. She also remembers that when she reached the age of 40, she felt that she was an old soul with a gift to be shared in healing and giving. After her nursing career, Susan continued with her gift of healing by working in Home Care for a quadriplegic woman as her assistant. She worked with her taking care of students with disabilities and was her assistant for a total of 18 years. During that time, she was a single parent raising two daughters.

Susan's parents lived in Forked River. Her mom had died in 2012 so in 2013 she moved in with her father to care for him.

As a cradle Episcopalian, Susan joined St. Stephen's in 2017. With her, she brought some special talents in the field a Reiki Master acquired in 2006 and Integrative Energy Master, acquired in 2004. These energy modalities can work for believers and non-believers. Also, as a member of Order of St. Luke since 2005, she continued this healing at St. Stephens. These types of healing were used on her family, friends and even her dog. She found that she has the ability to heal with her good intuition and a sense for what was coming. Energy is the source of all that is here on earth and Susan has the ability to utilize that energy to sense what is going on in your body. Her nursing has been an intellectual guide as the Reiki and IET is a spiritual and intuitive guide. Susan is also a breast cancer survivor which was caught early enough to keep her well.

As to St. Stephen's volunteering, Susan works at the Thrift Shop, does healing with the Order of St. Luke and is always the first one to help wherever needed. We are blessed to have someone like Susan with us in our great congregation and after personally working with her, she is tough to keep up with. She has boundless energy and uses it mainly to help anyone in need. Thank you, Susan, for choosing St. Stephens and thank you for adding your many talents to our great congregation.



Update From The Saint Stephen's Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry is in need of shampoo, deodorant, disposable razors, soap, personal hygiene items, condiments, pasta sauce and soups. There is a donation box in the [Narthex](#). 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.

ShopRite Gift Card Fundraiser Supports Our Building and Maintenance.

You can buy a gift card for the same amount you spend. Spend \$50 on a gift card and buy \$50 of products. Please consider donating to the church through purchase of ShopRite Gift Cards (cash or check). Five percent of your purchase is returned to the church and designated for Church Building and Maintenance. ***On sale every Sunday, in the hallway leading to the parish hall.*** See Gloria Davis.





Chapter 3 #10

By John Marcy

In 1972, when I first became a police officer, I knew there would be holidays and special occasions when I would be separated from my family. Knowing this fact, did not make the task any easier. The celebrations I missed those first years depressed me and often made me question my career choice. Working on Christmas Eve was always the worst.

Then, on Christmas Eve in 1977, that all changed; I learned that blessings come disguised as misfortune and sadness, and honor and reward come in ways that can only be held in one's heart. I was riding a one-man radio car on the midnight shift in our most northerly zone which is mostly residential and I was missing Christmas with my 2 infant sons. The night was cold and everywhere I looked I saw reminders of the holiday; families in cars going to and from church; their cars packed with presents, beautifully decorated trees in living rooms and yards adorned with wonderful decorations. It all added to my holiday funk. The evening had been relatively quiet even for a city cop; calls for barking dogs and false burglar alarms, nothing of any great importance to make my shift pass any more quickly. I thought of my own family and sunk further into my own selfish depression.

Shortly after midnight I was dispatched to the home of what turned out to be an elderly terminally ill man. I parked my radio car in front of the simple Cape Cod style home on Meadow Lane. First aid kit and oxygen in hand, I walked up the short path to the front door. As I approached, a small, slightly stooped, elderly woman in a bathrobe who appeared to be in her 80s opened the door. "He's in here," she said, leading me to a back bedroom. We passed through a living room that was furnished in a style I had come to associate with older people. The sofa had an afghan draped over its back and a dark, solid but worn Queen Ann chair sat next to an unused fireplace. The mantle was cluttered with a mixed assortment of photos, some ceramic figurines and an old antique clock. A floor lamp provided soft but insufficient lighting and a small Christmas tree sat on an end table. We entered a small bedroom where a frail looking man lay in bed with a blanket pulled up to his chin. He had a sad stare on his ashen and skeletal face. His breathing was shallow and labored. He was barely alive. The trappings of illness were all around his bed. The nightstand was littered with a large assortment of pill bottles. An oxygen bottle stood nearby. Its plastic hose, with facemask attached, rested on the blanket.

I asked the woman why she had called the police. She simply shrugged and nodded sadly toward her husband, indicating to me that it was his request. I looked at him and he stared intently into my eyes and said nothing but he now seemed relaxed. Considering the circumstances, I did not understand the suddenly calm and relaxed expression on his face.

Slightly perplexed, I looked around the room again. A dresser stood along the wall to the left of the bed. On it was the usual memorabilia: small ornate perfume bottles, a white porcelain pin case, a wooden jewelry box, a small crucifix and several photos in simple frames. It was one of these photos that caught my eye and I walked closer to the dresser for a better look.

The picture showed a handsome young man dressed in a police uniform. It was unmistakably a photo of the man in the bed. It suddenly came to me; I knew instantly why I was there. I looked back at the old man and he gave me a weak but warm smile and he motioned with his hand for me to approach the side of his bed. I walked over and stood beside him. He took my hand with his thin fingers and held it with surprising strength. We just stood there for several moments in silence looking at each other. He motioned for me to lean towards him and whispered to me with obvious emotion, "stay with me." I felt his grip start to weaken as he continued looking at me. There was no fear in his eyes; he knew he was dying and that his time was very near. As with all of us, there was some apprehension of what was happening and he wanted to have a fellow cop with him when he started his journey. A caring God had seen to it that this child of his would be delivered safely to him. The honor of being his escort had fallen to me.

When my tour ended that night, the temperature seemed to have risen considerably, and all the Christmas displays I saw on the way home made me smile. I no longer felt sorry for myself. I would still rather be with my family, but now I know of an even greater mission. I have chosen an honorable profession. I pray that when it is my turn to take that final journey to God that there will be a cop there to hold my hand and remind me that I have nothing to fear. MERRY CHRISTMAS. John Marcy 1977



Parish Calendar & Events

WORSHIP

Holy Eucharist Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

Celtic Candlelight Service Wednesday 6:15PM

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

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday's at 10:00 AM

Priests: The [Rev. Dr. Chip Graves](#) and The Rev. [Lisa Graves](#)

Wardens : [Ray Davis](#) [Pattie Meyer](#)

Vestry Members: [Glenys Baulderstone](#), [Peggy Beck](#), [Debbie Kirk](#), [Jo Ann Joeriman](#), [Gary Eadie](#), [Nancy Eadie](#), [John Marcy](#), [Nick Morgan](#), [Rett Rich](#)

Treasurer: [Jim Joeriman](#)

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, Gloria Davis or JoAnn Joeriman

ECW

For Information Contact Karen Egan

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](#)

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

367 Route 9

Waretown, NJ 08758

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