



Life and Times

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

June, 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.*

Changes to the Church COVID Protocol

The Vestry has approved the following Immediate changes to our COVID-19 Protocols. These protocols apply to all worship services and gatherings at Saint Stephen's and are published so that individuals may make an informed choice about whether it is safe and appropriate for them to attend or participate at an in-person event at SSEC.

Masks/Face Coverings. This policy applies to all grounds and ministries at St. Stephen's.

Any individual who is not fully vaccinated (two weeks or more after the final recommended doses in their vaccine series) must wear a mask at any gathering of the congregation or on church property, whether indoors or outside.

Those who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear masks, indoors or out.

Any individual may choose to wear a mask at any time, and should not be questioned about their reasons for doing so. Individuals may choose to continue to mask at church gatherings out of care for others who are not vaccinated.

All entry doors will contain a notice on indoor mask wearing policy.

Verification of Vaccination Status. The vaccination status of anyone entering the church, church property, or worshipping with the congregation shall not be verified except with the following exception. The vaccination status of individuals participating in the following ministries must be verified and recorded:

- Choir Members, because their ministry requires them to project their breath further and more forcefully than most worshipers.
- Lectors, Readers and Liturgical Leaders, Sunday School Teachers, Christian Education Leaders, Food Pantry Volunteers.

Preregistration & Seating. Pre-registration is suspended. Those attending worship are free to choose their own seating. Likewise, contact tracing is no longer required.

Communion. Communion shall continue to be offered in one kind only. The common cup is not yet authorized for use in the Diocese of New Jersey. Progression to the altar rail to receive Communion will commence in the same order as has been the custom during the pandemic. However, the Usher will no longer announce names.

Other Restrictions which currently remain in place.

The congregation is still not permitted to sing. The Peace shall continue to be non-touch. Please do not leave your seating positions to extend peace.

We Are Going Back to the Blueclaws ...Faithfully submitted by Pattie Meyer



AT LAST AND FINALLY! We're going to see the [Jersey Shore BlueClaws](#) play on Friday, July 2nd with game time 7:05pm. We're back on the Third Base line (right near the Biergarten). The cost per person is \$30.95 for the Southern BBQ. You can catch me in church on Sunday to let me know if you're coming, or call or text my cellphone at 609-891-6814 with your reservation.

Looking forward to seeing everyone enjoying the food, game and guess what else? Fireworks.



Oh, and I almost forgot, the BlueClaws are playing against the [Hudson Valley Renegades](#) who are part of the New York Yankees. You might have heard about the Yankees since they've won a World Series Pennant or two, or goodness knows how many. I'm sure that a Yankees fan will tell me exactly how many.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

June Birthday's

Greg Savoth 4th	Jeff Palmer 7th	Jean Brown 8th	Becky Smith 11th
Aaron Presti 12th	Randy Holak 14th	Deb Kirk 22nd	William Bodine 22nd
	Gloria Boone 23rd	Judy Phillips 29th	

July Birthday's

Chris Matthies 4th	Dan Cody 7th	Beth MacKenzie 7th	June Merrifield 12th
Jo Ann Don 27th	Pat Shultis 29th	Pat Spielman 29th	Joel Stolte 29th

Anniversaries

John & Pat Will Jun 7th	Maureen & Willie O'Keefe Jun 24th	Bob & Barbara Gray Jun 26th
Kevin & Kristen Waldron Jun 28th	Carlos & Linda Staszkeski Jun 29th	Jim & Joanne Emery Jul 9th
Jean & Rich Brown Jul 14th	Maryann & Bob Payne Jul 15th	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.



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, Alex Jimenez, Jim MacKenzie, Becky Smith, Beverly Seabert Nancy Sullivan, John Beck, Ellen Rich, Michael Swanson, Ron Turner Jr., Dick & Flossie Heward, Tom Don, Jackie Goedesky, June & George



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.

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.



Bible Study with Bishop Stokes

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

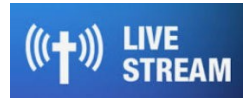
[Register Now](#)



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.

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



ShopRite Gift Card Fundraiser Supports Our Building and Maintenance.

Back on Sale at the Church after the Sunday Worship Service. See Gloria Davis. 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. **Back on Sale at the Church after the Sunday Worship Service.** See Gloria Davis.



Update From The Saint Stephen's Food Pantry



In need of more space, the **Food Pantry has been relocated** into rooms 3 & 4 in the Parish Hall.

In May 2021, we feed 37 families comprised 84 adults and 35 children. 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 return to the pre-pandemic operations on Thursday & Friday.**

Discernment Update. The parish profile has been submitted for final review. We expect to start the search process for our new Priest-in-Charge in a few weeks. Thank you to our Discernment Committee for contributing your time and talent to completing the work of this most important ministry.



Thoughts for the Summer....Pattie Meyer



As I sit writing this for the June edition of the Life and Times, this Saturday, May 29th is the unofficial start of the summer. Growing up all those years ago Memorial Day was always May 31st which often resulted in very few three-day weekends. Memorial Day (along with several other “days”) were changed to being on a Monday thus creating three-day weekends.

My thoughts, however, go back many years when Memorial Day was still on May 31st which was also my father’s birthday. As a child, I always thought it was really great that my father had a birthday “holiday”. Like this Memorial Day weekend there was plenty of rain in years past. My mother would always plan a picnic inviting family and friends to the celebration. We ended up eating inside making the best of the not-so-sunny day. Still somebody had to be outside cooking the hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill. I still remember one occasion where I was selected to go outside with Daddy and hold the umbrella over the grill while he cooked under one of our backyard cherry trees. The smoke from the grill hung under the umbrella but the two of us persisted until everything was done when we could then go back inside.

The weatherman has a hopeful prediction of no rain on Monday, May 31st so perhaps we can still enjoy one day outside without carrying an umbrella. We are also hopeful as many of the restrictions enacted during the past year from COVID-19 are being lifted. But don’t forget what Memorial Day is really all about. Like this past year, there have been many sacrifices to allow us to have the freedoms we enjoy in the U.S.A. So I thank all those who stood and fought for our country and continue to keep us safe.



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.

Submitted by Jo Ann Joeriman... I am glad to say that our St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church is working on getting back to what we remember as normal. It has been a long journey of being separated from each other and especially from our beautiful Church atmosphere. With the Governor’s new mandates and Bishop Stokes working on what would be allowed, it feels like we are getting closer to old times once again.



Has the pandemic that we have been experiencing over the past 18 months had the same effect on others as it has on me. Has the Universe gone through a reset which was profound?

No matter what area you focus on, many changes have left their mark on us. Were we so caught up in daily living that we somehow forgot what life is truly about? Have we forgotten what it is like to slow down and appreciate the small things in life that, as we found out, we cannot do without but took for granted? Now the test will be if we change the way we live compared to 18 months ago.

In spite of all that has happened, I am glad to say that our Thrift Outlet has been doing well. Since we were able to open last August 2020 with restrictions, we have gotten through working with different guidelines than what we were previously used to. With that said, we are now able to welcome more folks into the shop. We have many regulars which is always a pleasure when they visit. They love our shop just because of the size and content, and of course how the volunteers welcome them. We could still use a few more volunteers as some of us work multiple days. Whatever you can offer of your time and talent, we are appreciative. The lessons we encounter in our daily lives have a positive impact if we just pay attention. Being open to them is the key to a happy life.

Spotlighted This Month... *Peggy Beck*



Have you ever been in the company of someone who instantly brings out your own positive vibration? Someone who you want to be close to and want to know better just due to their positive energy? In our congregation there is such a person, and she is Peggy Beck. Being in the company of children you may have had the experience of their unfiltered honesty and sincerity. When you see children gravitate toward someone, that is living proof that that person has “it”!! That would describe Peggy Beck. Just ask any Sunday School kid in our Church what they think about “Miss Peggy”. They will all start smiling and express their gratitude for having such a caring teacher.

Although Peggy now lives with her family in Manahawkin, Peggy was born and raised in Edison, NJ and has also lived on LBI for several years. At that time, she would commute 2 hours each way to a job in Somerset as a purchasing coordinator for a food service company. When the girls were born, she stayed home for about a year and then a friend introduced Peggy to the court system. After starting out as a filing clerk 24 years ago, she is still with the court system and is now the Certified Municipal Court Administrator in Bass River/Washington Twp. This is a 365-day 24/7 job of which Peggy is on call for the State Police. Her duties include issuing arrest warrants for a variety of reasons such as domestic disputes, escapees, authorizing bail amounts and sometimes warrants for murder. You would never know that Peggy is involved in these tasks just knowing her at church. She loves her job and does it well. In fact, Peggy’s court room is considered one of the nicest courts around as her staff has been trained to be kind, especially to those in dire straits. Several folks have come back after rehabilitation and personally thanked Peggy for her caring and gracious help during their turmoil.

Caring runs in Peggy’s family as her mother, Jackie has been running the food pantry at St. James Episcopal Church in Edison for a number of years. Now 86 and with health issues slowing her down, she still has a need to help out as much as she can. Peggy has three siblings...2 brothers and 1 sister. Peggy’s sister is a supervisor with the Red Cross in Philadelphia and her younger brother is a manager at a “Special Needs for Adults” house in Pennsylvania. Peggy’s older brother is a microbiologist and VP with a company that is working on new ways for blood analyzing.

Peggy met her husband John at an Air Force picnic and after being married for five years, they had 2 beautiful daughters, Lara now 25 and Traude now 19. Peggy came to St. Stephen’s back in 1997 and on her first day there, she met Marie Carr and was asked to watch the nursery. Surprise!!! She has been there ever since and also started teaching Sunday School. She worked with Fr. Murray on a committee to network on how to make the church better. She was also on the Vestry when Fr. Terry was pastor and also ran the Acolyte Program. She taught communion classes, has worked on St. Stephen’s Gift Auctions, volunteers at the Thrift Outlet and is on our current Vestry and now working on our Discernment Committee.

Peggy has a true gift of faith, which was deeply instilled in her by her mother. That faith has helped Peggy accept that we are all deserving of respect and caring, and she exudes these qualities in everything she does whether at home, at work or at church. We are blessed to have Peggy and her family as part of our St. Stephen’s congregation and once again, just being around her reminds us of what love and compassion is all about. **Thank you, Peggy!**



The Sunday Seminar Group meets in the Parish Hall immediately following the 9:30 Worship Service. No food or beverage is provided. However you are invited to bring your own.

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.

September Parish Calendar & Events

WORSHIP

Holy Eucharist

Sunday at 9:30

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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