



St. Stephen's Weekly

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Wilkinsburg, PA

The Rev. Nancy (Nano) Chalfant-Walker, Rector

Christmas

December 29, 2013
First Sunday of Christmas

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Parish Services

**Parish Administrator
General Office Hours
8:30 AM to 12:30 PM
Tues. - Fri.**

Dear Friends,

The end of the calendar year is here. We prepare to say good-bye to 2013 with fond and not so fond memories. We look forward in great anticipation of what 2014 will bring. I came across this prayer recently and wanted to share it with you. I think it will help with the transition from this year to next year.

A Mid-Winter Prayer

From the rising of the midwinter sun to its setting
Scatter the darkness with the light of your love, O Shining One.
Make us short on mean thoughts, long on offering words of comfort
Make us short on being driven, long on paying attention
Make us short on focusing only on our own, long on looking beyond
Make us short on obsessive lists, long on spontaneous acts of kindness
Make us short on mindless activity, long on time to reflect
Make us short on tradition as a habit, long on re-discovery and re-owning
Make us short on rushing and tiring, long on walking and wondering
Make us short on false festive jollity, long on stilling and rooted joy
Make us short on guilt, long on being merciful to ourselves
Make us short on being overwhelmed, long on peaceableness as we set forth this day [year].
Amen.

In Peace,
Lori

"A Mid-Winter Prayer," by Tess Ward, from *The Celtic Wheel of the Year*
(Hantley, England: O Books, 2007, p.268)

NURSERY SERVICES

10:30 a.m. Service
Each Sunday, Downstairs
In The Parish House.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

No Sunday school.

BIBLE STUDIES

**Sundays in the Parish
House Library**

led by Don Block
9:15 AM - 10:00 AM

**Monthly Study
@ The Sprenkels
"First Fridays"**
6 - 8 PM

Selected Biblical Passages
Next: January 10th

Call Mel or Dave Sprenkel if
you are interested, at
412-362-8025.

1122 Portland Street,
Highland Park.

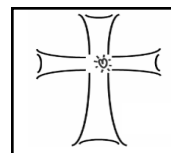
Please let us know if you
need a ride.

You are invited!

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Shepherd's Heart

FOOD OF THE MONTH



In Our Prayers

Pray for the Church —

In the Anglican Communion:

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby; The Diocese of Lake Rukwa (Tanzania); Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori; The Diocese of Haiti (TEC), Bishop Duracin.

Our sister churches:

Our brothers and sisters in the ACNA Diocese of Pittsburgh; The Christians of Southern Sudan.

In the Diocese: The Rt. Rev. Dorsey McConnell; Diocesan staff including Andrew Roman, Kathi Werkman, Joan Gundersen, Rich Creehan, Andy Muhl, Judi Rogers, and Marlene Rihn; and St. James, Penn Hills, and The Rev. Eric McIntosh.

In St. Stephen's:

Anne Bump and Diana Bump; the Buildings and Grounds Ministry; NYOP; and The Sanctuary Project.

Pray for the nation and the world —

President Barack Obama, Congress, The Men and Women serving in the Armed Forces, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan; the people of the Philippines; for the stewardship of the earth's resources and a wise response to climate change.

Pray for the local community -

Wilksburg Community Ministries; Mayor and The Borough Council of Wilksburg; the end to violent crime; Wilksburg School District and the Pittsburgh School District; and those who are homeless.

Pray for those who suffer or are in any kind of trouble -

Sally Novak	Ben	Anne Etienne	Janet Haston
Bill Garver	Sherry	Shirley	Arlene
Liz Mikszan	Joel Brown	Fran	Nancy Shook
Judy	Pat Woodley	Nick	Dick Morris
Alexander Murph	Anita Hoyer	Jill	Harry Blair
Lou	Nancy Bielicki	Janet	Mason
Michael Romey	Walter Scott	Alice and David Bragdon	
Allene Newland	Johnny Cowan	John Booker	

Prayers for the sick can be found in the Prayer Book on p.458. You are welcome to call Allene Newland (412-371-7417) to have the Prayer Chain pray with you.

Pray for the departed - Rita Feustel, family and friends.

PARISH STAFF

CLERGY

Rector

The Rev. Nancy Chalfant-Walker
412-243-6100

NYOP OFFICE

412-243-6101
Program Dir. Tony Jackson

PARISH STAFF

Music Ministry,
Soon Choi
Financial Admin.,
Pat Woodley
Administrator,
Minister Paula V. Cooper
Sexton, Greg Gent

ARCHIVIST

Archivist & Historian,
Edgar Taylor

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY

8:00 am & 10:30 am

St. Stephen's Episcopal

600 Pitt Street
Wilksburg, PA

Church E-mail:
ststephenswilk@verizon.net

Tel: 412-243-6100

Fax: 412-243-6105

Website:
www.ststephenswilksburg.org

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Alena Jackson - 12/1 · John Booker, Sr. - 12/7 · Joanne Rau - 12/9 · RayOnna Thompson-Graham 12/16 ·
Rege Hickman 12/17 · Jazmin Booker 12/17 · Kristen McIntosh 12/17 · Chris Sovich 12/25 · Tom Feustel 12/29

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Maria Sprenkel - 1/3

Our Rector's contact Information:

Rev. Nancy (Nano) Chalfant-Walker, 33 Thorn St. Sewickley, PA 15143
 Home: 412-741-1281 Cell: 412-716-7364 E-mail: nanojon@gmail.com

DO YOU WANT TO SPONSOR FLOWERS FOR THE ALTARS?

It's easy, we are providing several methods to be a sponsor for your convenience. There is a calendar hanging in sanctuary-near Franklin Street door-for you to place the date on the month that you want to sponsor the flowers. You can also make your order by calling or e-mailing the office. After you have made your notification, you would indicate your reason or dedication of the flowers. The high altar flowers are \$30.00 and the chapel altar flowers are \$20.00.



Flowers This Week

Envelopes are available beneath the calendar to place your payment and your reason or dedication for the flowers. The envelopes can be placed in the offering plate and are due in the office 2 weeks in advance of the service you want the flowers presented. You may take the flowers with you following that particular service.

Our Shut Ins

Dick Morris
 Willows of Presbyterian Senior Care
 1215 Hulton Rd
 Oakmont, PA 15139

Sally Novak
 822 Wood Street Apt. 45
 Wilkinsburg, PA 15221

Betsy Frey
 Schenley Gardens Rehab Center
 3890 Bigelow Boulevard
 Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Anne Etienne
 Country Meadows
 3570 Washington Pike
 Bridgeville, PA 15017

Althea Miller
 4931 Nettleton Apt. 2316
 Medina, OH 44256

WEEKLY GROUPS MEETING AT ST. STEPHEN'S

MONDAY—FRIDAY 2:30 TO 6:00 PM NYOP (During the school year)
 EVERY THIRD TUESDAY—5:30 TO 7:00 PM Pittsburgh Housing Development Associates
 EVERY OTHER TUESDAY 6:00 TO 7:30 PM Girl Scouts
 EVERY WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM Choir Practice in Choir Room
 EVERY WEDNESDAY: 7:30 P.M. Alcoholic Anonymous (AA)
 EVERY THURSDAY 7:30 to 8:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous (NA)
 EVERY SATURDAY: 10:00 A.M Narcotics Anonymous (NA)

HELP US SPREAD THE NEWS

Reading God's word



We grow best when we are nourished by a steady diet of God's word. Reading the Bible daily is an important habit to develop. Scripture is best when it is well chewed over and digested, so one good way to get into the habit of reading the Bible is to take time to read the Sunday readings several times during the week.

Readings for next Sunday:

[Jeremiah 31:7-14](#)
[Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a](#)
[Matthew 2:1-13](#)
[Psalm 84](#)

DO YOU HAVE PICTURES OF CHURCH EVENTS/ACTIVITIES THAT YOU WOULD LOVE TO SHARE?

If so, can you send them electronically to the church (ststephenswilk@verizon.net)? We want to gather pictures that can be placed on one of our future communication medium.

We are working on activating a FB page and re-activating our website.

HELPING DARLENE!!

There are some items that Darlene still needs:
 Curtains, Pots and Pans, Utensils, Rolling Pin, Potato Masher

Sunday School Schedule

Dec. 29th - No Sunday school

Jan. 6th - Children's Sunday

Jan. 20th - Lesson and communion

Feb. 2nd - Children's Sunday and coffee hour fundraiser for Baby Musa

Feb. 9th - Lesson and fun activities in gym

Feb. 23 - Lesson and fun activities in gym

Jan. 13th - Lesson and fun activities in gym

Jan. 27th - Lesson and fun activities in gym

Feb. 16 - Lesson and communion

March 2 - Children's Sunday

SERVING YOU TODAY

LAYREADERS: Lessons/Chalice 1: Beth Hardie Psalm/Prayers/Chalice 2: Gerry Dalton

ALTAR GUILD: Melissa McDonough, Rita Feustel, Gerry Dalton, Beth Hardie,
 Joann & Bill Rau, Karen Teulle, Jon Walker, Cathy Ritts

COUNTERS: Gerry Dalton, Sig Tragard

COFFEE HOUR:

ALTAR FLOWERS:

**OUR ANNUAL TRIP TO SHEPHERD'S HEART WILL BE
ON SUNDAY JANUARY 12, 2014**

We will be preparing and serving dinner to the needy after the evening service. Please donate 3 dozen cookies for the dessert (bring them to the social hall on Sunday, January 12). Anyone wishing to help with the food preparation and the serving will be meeting at our newly renovated kitchen on Sunday, January 12 at 1:30 to prepare the food. We will then travel to Shepherd's Heart for the service and the dinner. Please get in touch with Kathy Mulligan at 412-760-4673 or dmckinley2@verizon.net with any questions.

IT'S THAT TIME, AGAIN.

**WE ARE UPDATING and CONFIRMING YOUR INFORMATION IN THE
CHURCH DIRECTORY AND RECORDS!**

Enclosed you will find a sheet
to provide the church with your contact information. - Thank you!!



New Year Wishes

*I wish U to have a
Sweetest Sunday,
Marvelous Monday,
Tasty Tuesday,
Wonderful Wednesday,
Thankful Thursday,
Friendly Friday,
Successful Saturday.
Have a great Year.
HAPPY NEW YEAR*



SEASONS OF THE CHURCH - CHRISTMAS TIDE

Each of the stained glass windows in the west wall - Pitt St. side of the church building - provide a picture which gives the message and symbols of a particular season of the church. As one enters the main doors of the church on the right among those for the seasons of the church there are the three stained - glass windows depicting the scenes of Advent Tide, Christmas Tide, and Epiphany Tide.

In the middle of these three windows, is the Christmas Tide window, which tells the Christmas story. The baby Jesus lies in his swaddling clothes on top of the hay, his mother and father prayerfully standing on each side. A small lamb lies under the manger. Joseph has a shepherd crook on his shoulder, perhaps symbolizing that he will bear the burden for the welfare of his family and will lead them in safety. A choir of angels with red wings in the heavens above sings, "Hosanna - glory to God in the highest. and they shall call his name Emanuel." (Red wings symbolize messengers, as marked the angel Gabriel.) Two superimposed bright stars of six points above them beams down on the scene. In the distance shepherds rush in from the fields to see the baby, hands uplifted, dropping their crook and leaving their donkey. (Luke 2: 1-20) The shield for this window is a six pointed bright star. (The six points symbolizing a new creation, similar to the six days of God's time in creating the world and its inhabitants.).

The Christmas window was given by Samuel Guy and Virginia Little in memory of their youngest son Samuel - "Sammie" - Guy Little, Jr. He lost his life on the beaches of Anzio on 2 March 1944, and is buried in the Sicily - Rome American Cemetery in Nettuno, Italy, with many others of his fallen comrades.

[In memoriam Samuel Guy Little, Jr. (1923-1944)]

Respectfully submitted, Ed Taylor, St. Stephen's Historian and Archivist

FOOD FOR BODY AND SOUL**Scripture and Soup**

Our Wednesday evening Bible Study begins again!

January 15 – February 26

6:00 – 7:00 pm

Come one! Come all!

Martin Luther King Day

Monday, January 20, 2014

St. Stephen's will be hosting the annual Martin Luther King Day March and Worship Service.

The March for Peace begins at **9:30** at St. Stephen's.

The Worship Service is at 11:00.

MISSION OF THE MONTH**SHEPHERD'S HEART FELLOWSHIP**

As followers of Jesus Christ we are committed to [worship](#) in Spirit and in Truth, raising up true worshipers in the church.

We feed the hungry, the homeless, the poor, and the addicted, with God's Word and food every weekday morning in our [Drop-In Center](#). The homeless have a place to take showers and wash their clothes.

We are a congregation of the [Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh](#) - One Church of Miraculous Expectation and Missionary Grace. We provide transitional housing for homeless veterans in our [Shepherd's Heart Veteran's Home](#). The second floor of the church provides 15 beds, a kitchen, a living room, showers, and a computer room for those who have served our country.

Stewardship Reminder

If you have not yet filled out and returned your estimate of giving card for the 2014 budget and intend to do so, there are stewardship packets available by the doors of the church. It is helpful to the vestry to have a sense of what income there will be in order to build the budget for next year.

DECEMBER AND JANUARY EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Sunday, December 29	Holy Communion	8:00 AM
	Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion	10:30 AM
Sunday, January 12	Annual Trip to Shepherd's Heart Fellowship (start cooking at 1:30 PM)	
Sunday, January 26	Holy Communion	8:00 & 10:30 AM
	Annual Meeting with lunch	12 NOON