



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

The Newsletter of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Wilkinsburg PA

February 2019

Dear People of Saint Stephen's,

I am grateful to God and to you for your prayerful discernment and call. I have prayed for God's will to be known. I believe we can worship, work, pray, and dream together with confidence in God's presence with us.

The story of a faith community is often a dramatic one. I believe that we can embrace the past with gratitude, celebrate the current blessings that surround us, look more closely at some of the blessings we might be resisting or overlooking, and embrace the future with hope based in the faith we share.

Let's not try to control the work of the Holy Spirit-that will exhaust us. Let's not try to control one another-that will hurt us. Let's not let expectations cloud our openness-that will disappoint us. Let's look ever more humbly and joyfully at the people that make this parish what it now is and plan to continue that good truth into the future.

Yours In Christ,

Fr. Chuck


welcome


**We don't have
the capacity to
exaggerate
God's
goodness.**

-Bill Johnson

In This Issue

- Mission of the month
- Food of the month
- Upcoming Events

Food of the Month:

PASTA & SAUCE

All items donated will be given to the food pantry run by Wilkinsburg Community Ministry. Please give generously,

COFFEE HOUR

There is a new sign up sheet for Coffee Hour on the office door. It covers the months of February and March. Please sign up ASAP, this is such an important part of our fellowship time here at St. Stephen's!



Sunday School Schedule

2.03 Family Church
2.10 Sunday School
2/17 Lesson & Communion
2/24 Sunday School



Mission of the Month: EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

(continued from January)

The Equal Justice Initiative is committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, to challenging racial and economic injustice, and to protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society.

The Equal Justice Initiative is a private, nonprofit law organization that has provided legal services to the poor, incarcerated, and condemned for nearly 30 years. They have made eliminating racial bias and discrimination against the poor a central feature of their work and have won major legal reforms and secured relief, release, or reduced sentences for over 140 condemned people on death row. Their advocacy and litigation to ban mandatory life-imprisonment-without-parole sentences for children resulted in landmark rulings by the United States Supreme Court that have impacted thousands of cases.

This year they opened two new national institutions that have drawn international praise: The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

EJI's staff and work have grown dramatically in the last year. Their work is the product of thousands of people who support them financially, encourage them and stand with them as they try to create a just nation more committed to fairness and equality.

Please consider donating to the Equal Justice Initiative! Checks can be made out to St. Stephen's with EJI in the memo.

**You can also donate online at:
<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/eji>**



Rector's Discretionary Fund

Help support the
Rector's Discretionary Fund!

Every **first Sunday of the month** the loose offering is directed to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

This fund enables us to offer assistance to address community and individual needs. It is a real blessing to others.

The Family Room

News and happenings of our Church Family

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

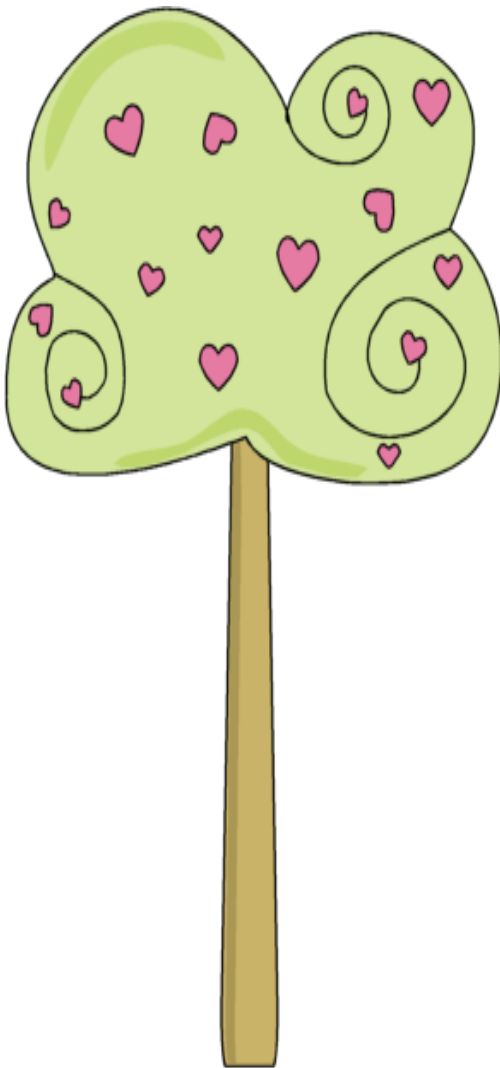
2.10 Tony Jackson

2.12 Greg Sprenkel

2.16 Antwann Nelson

2.22 Elli Huppert

2.23 Don Albitz



Dear Church Family,

I wanted to take a moment to write you and say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who has pitched in to make these last few months of transition easier for me. There are countless examples of people who have taken on responsibilities and gone the extra mile to keep St. Stephen's running smoothly. I couldn't possibly name everyone but I need to single out a few people who really kept me sane! **Pam Sovich** for responding to all of my crazy text messages, **Beth Hardie** for Proofreading (and listening!), **Julie Smith** for too many things to list here, **Tim Brucker** for being so dependable and, last but not least, **Gerry Dalton** for being the best colleague and friend I could ask for. I'm so grateful for this place and all of you who make it so special. I look forward to this new chapter in our story together...God is good...all the time.

Beth Ruzanic
Parish Administrator

ART & TALENT SHOW FOR PEACE

Saturday, March 9, 2019

1:00-4:00 pm

LOCATION: COMMUNITY FORGE, 1256 Franklin Ave., Wilkinsburg 15221

Grades 6 - 12

For youth who live, study, work or worship in Wilkinsburg or Homewood

\$50 AWARD FOR EACH ACT OR ART PROJECT

Limited slots. Registration is Required.

Registration: March 2, 2019, 1-4 pm Location: Community Forge

Sponsored by: The Wilkinsburg Sanctuary Project

For information, contact Pastor Nancy Chalfant—Walker nanojon@gmail.com/412-242-3269



Save the Date:

Lenten Learning Day 2019

Mark your calendar for **Lenten Learning Day 2019, Saturday, March 23**, at **St. Brendan's Episcopal Church in Franklin Park**. This will be a special day of learning, worshipping, and building relationships with others across our diocese and communities. Plus, hear from our special guest speaker, the Reverend Paul Abernathy, pastor of St. Moses Orthodox Christian Mission in Pittsburgh's Hill District and director of FOCUS Pittsburgh. More info to come!

The beautiful thing
about God is that
even though we
cannot fully
comprehend his love,
his love fully
comprehends us.
Morgan Harper Nichols

Contact Us

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM

Office Hours: Mon - Thurs 8:30-12:30
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Parish Staff

The Rev. Charles Esposito, Priest in Charge
The Rev. Julie Smith, Missionary Associate
The Rev. Natalie Hall, Missionary Associate
Soon Choi, Dir of Music Ministry
Beth Ruzanic, Parish Administrator
Gerry Dalton, Financial Admin
Tim Brucker, Sexton
Gary Glasser, Archivist & Historian

Neighborhood Youth Outreach Program

600 Pitt Street
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221
412.243.6101

Anthony Jackson, Director

