



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

April 2019

"Easter is a time when God turned the inevitability of death into the invincibility of life."

When I was growing up Penn Hills was a great place. My street and the other streets in the maze of the development were full of kids my age. There was a strong sense of connection and the neighbors would see and talk with each other almost every day and it wasn't a special occasion, it was just the community. I liked how the development all seemed to lead to our elementary school. We all walked there together and back and when we were there it was a great place to learn and grow. I want to support whatever state oversight commissions and local grassroots non-profit community organizations intend to seek justice and work to restore what was taken recently from the Penn Hills School District.

On our travels back home from downtown or the airport we'd always get off the parkway east at the Churchill exit. Just as the car slowed in approaching the exit, from the car window I saw the sprawling campus of the George Westinghouse Applied Research and Technology Center. From my earliest memories until just recently it seemed like the Westinghouse Company was a strong, thriving, locally-born company. The W logo and the name seemed to be everywhere, from appliances in kitchens to elevators. Not long ago I went to a funeral home in Wilmerding and saw a distinctive historical building that was among the first locations of the George Westinghouse Company. It still stands there as a testimony to the greatness of Pittsburgh.

Both the George Westinghouse Company and the Penn Hills School District have declined somewhat in their influence and power since when I was a kid. What outrages me is that both institutions have recently been the victims of what seems like depraved indifference and corrupt selfishness at the hands of people who were somehow legally entitled to kick them when they were down. I have heard disappointing reports in the news about both places, but I have not heard any encouraging news about an investigation into how some of the leaders entrusted with overseeing their employees and the very important respective products and services these two institutions have produced and continue to provide for the good our city and the world are going to be held accountable for their actions.

Our faith beckons us to look closely and reflect deeply on the blessings we've received. To recognize that Jesus Christ shows us the depth God's love for us all and the depth of the dignity of every human person and ourselves is to accept a challenge to be actively engaged in the type of advocacy for those who are downtrodden and struggling as Our Savior did. I'm especially frustrated by how there seems to be some legal protections for those who have given themselves financial compensations that are not rightly theirs. What outrages me is that both the Penn Hills School District and the Westinghouse Company were attacked at a time when they were down and in need of better stewardship and care by those to whom it was entrusted than they did.

I hope that as we walk together toward the conclusion of this holy season of Lent we each take some stock of what in our life stories is good and right and worth preserving so that other beloved children of God might enjoy them as well. I also hope we take some time from our less important distractions to listen carefully to each other's stories and be moved by what moves them and be a collective force to call out those whose unjust actions or indifference might go unchallenged. When we work for justice we are servants of the dignity of the human person and we plant seeds of peace. In the light of the recent acts of violence in our city I hope that we can all recognize the urgency of looking intently for positive and systemic ways of curbing this trend that does harm to our bonds as a community and degrades us as a human family.

May the Holy Spirit awaken us to hunger and thirst enough for justice to be ambitious to achieve greater peace in the world God has entrusted to us.

Father Chuck+

Food of the Month:

CANNED MEATS & TUNA

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 weeks through May! Please sign up ASAP, this is such an important part of our fellowship time here at St. Stephen's!

Sunday School Schedule

4.07 Sunday School
4.14 Palm Sunday Processional/Sunday School
4.21 Easter/Family Church
4.28 Sunday School
5.04 NO Sunday School

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song."

Pope John Paul II

Mission of the Month:



For 16 years, Love146 has been helping grow the movement to end child trafficking while providing effective and thoughtful solutions.

- Survivor Care
- Prevention Education
- Professional Training
- Empowering Movement

In 2012 it was estimated that 20.2 million people were held in modern day slavery and/or being trafficked around the world. **LOVE146** is on the front lines of working to end this epidemic.

Continuing this month we will be raising money to support **LOVE146**. Please feel free to write a check with LOVE146 in the memo BUT also don't hesitate to get creative! As spring approaches, let the kids have a lemonade stand or commit to buying one less coffee or meal out a week and giving that to this cause.

Let's put our love into **ACTION** and make a difference all over the world!

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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



BIRTHDAYS

- 4.01 Wyatt Ruzanic
- 4.07 Carolyn Booker
- 4.09 Bill Gesin
- 3.17 Soon Choi
- 4.19 LaNita Butler
- 4.25 Aliya Sunderman
- 4.27 Alison Futrell
- 4.29 Gerry Dalton
- 4,29 Charlie Sprengel
- 4.30 Gary Glasser

2019 Easter Flower Order Form

PLEASE order by APRIL 10!

To be guaranteed the flower/size of your Choice!

Name:

Contact Number:

Special Dedication:

PLEASE WRITE EASTER FLOWERS ON YOUR ENVELOPE

Size	Cost/Lily	#Lily	#Tulip	Total
Small	\$8.95/ea			
Med	\$18.95/ea			
			Sub-total	
			Total Due	

UPCOMING EVENTS



The next anti-racism training, **Seeing the Face of God in Each Other**, will be held at **St. Thomas Church** in Oakmont on **Friday & Saturday, April 5 and 6, 2019**.

The training is required of all elected leadership, lay and ordained, in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, including all candidates for Holy Orders.

Visit www.episcopalpgh.org to register. There is no fee for the training but a free-will offering will help offset the cost of the food and refreshments.



Come join fellow Episcopalians from across the diocese at our volunteer workday at the **Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank**.

We'll be working in the Repack Center at GPCFB's main Duquesne warehouse facility 1 North Linden St, Duquesne, PA 15110 from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 13**.

PALM PREPARATION AND POTLUCK SUPPER

The Women of St. Stephen's invite you to attend the Palm Preparation Potluck Supper on **Friday, April 12th** in the Parish House dining room. We will be serving macaroni and cheese and veggie lasagna as the main entrees. You are asked to bring a vegetable dish, salad or dessert for the potluck supper.

At 5:30pm we will be preparing the palms for the Palm Sunday service. This will be followed by a potluck supper and social time. Please **RSVP Cathy Wilkie at 412-856-0563**, to let her know that you will be joining us for the supper and what you'll be bringing.



Spring Clean Up Day!

**March 10th
9:30AM-12:30PM**



2019 Lent and Easter at St. Stephen's

- ◇ Tuesday evenings - Lenten Preaching Series
- ◇ 4.06 Spring Clean up Day 9:30AM-12:30PM
- ◇ 4.12 Palm Preparation & Potluck 5:30PM
- ◇ 4.14 - Palm Sunday 8AM & 10:30AM
- ◇ 4.18 - Maundy Thursday Service 7PM
- ◇ 4.19 - Good Friday Service 12NOON
- ◇ 4.21 - Easter Sunday 8AM & 10:30AM

Please join us as we participate in this season of reflection and celebration.



Contact Us

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM
Office Hours: Mon - Thurs 9:00-1:00
600 Pitt Street
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221
412.243.6100 (phone)
412.243.6105 (fax)
ststephenswilk@verizon.net (email)
www.ststephenswilkinsburg.org

Parish Staff

The Rev. Charles Esposito, Priest in Charge
The Rev. Julie Smith, Missionary Assoc.
The Rev. Natalie Hall, Missionary Assoc.
Soon Choi, Director 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

*Quote on first page by Craig D. Lounsborough.