



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

AUGUST 2019

Summer Meditation from Christian Aid, UK: "You are the light"

For those of us with constant electricity, it's easy to forget what a privilege it is to have light at the touch of a button. It means Jesus command to be light might feel like it demands little effort, undermining the transformational power of Jesus' words.

But in Costa Brava, light has become a key part of overcoming the trauma of the most powerful typhoon ever to make landfall.

Costa Brava sits outside Tacloban city in the Philippines, on a small patch of land between the road and the sea. Bearing the brunt of Typhoon Haiyan, many people were killed here and all of the houses destroyed in November 2013. The community, marginalised by most official help because of its location, is still fighting for the right to be recognised as the residents of the land.

After seeing children go out to sit under a streetlamp on a busy road in order to study, community member Randy volunteered to be a 'Solar Scholar' so that Costa Brava would have its own light. Along with Hazel, another member of the community, they trained to use a basic solar kit that can provide light and power, particularly in emergencies. They also help individual households to install solar packs so that everyone has their own light.

Hazel explained why she was so keen to become a solar scholar. 'For three years, it was dark here.'

Now, instead of retreating as darkness falls, people can gather together. 'One of the requirements [of the solar home packs] is that one light is outside, so now children carry on playing, people carry on talking to each other. It used to be like a ghost town but now we talk.'

For Randy, it's not just the practical benefits that having power has brought to the neighborhood that are important, but the fact that 'The community itself has become visible.'

You are the light of the world, Jesus said. You are the light of this world.

This world where increasing inequality threatens to leave many in the darkness of powerlessness and fear.

This world where the changing climate is a violence enacted on those who have benefitted little from use of the earth's resources.

This world where those with power decide who is seen and who remains invisible.

What does it mean to be light in such a world as this?

May we be light that brings safety and security to those who need it.

May we be light whose presence demands all people deserve to be seen.

May we be light that does not further scorch this earth, but shines with a cleansing and healing power for all.

May we be light and bring light, until all are seen in equal splendour.

Amen.



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In This Issue

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Read All About It!

Every member of St. Stephen's is also a member of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. It's helpful to keep up with news from the diocese, and the way to do that is to sign up for Grace Happens, the diocese's electronic newsletter. It comes out a few times each month and is full of short articles about our fellow Episcopalians. Some years ago the diocese mailed a printed publication to every member of St. Stephen's, but that is no longer the case. Now the newsletter is only delivered by e-mail, and you have to sign up to receive it. If you do not have access to e-mail, perhaps another member of the parish could print a copy for you.

In order to sign up for Grace Happens, please follow these steps:

1. Go to the diocesan website at www.episcopalpgh.org.
2. Find the tab for Resources and click on Grace Happens in the dropdown menu.
3. Follow the instructions to subscribe.

The diocese is making a special effort this year to improve its communication with all of its parishes and their members. Let's do our part by staying informed of the latest

UNIFORM DRIVE FOR KELLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

As part of his Eagle Scout service project, local boy scout, Vincent Scaglione, is running a uniform clothing drive to benefit children attending Kelly Elementary School in Wilkinsburg. Gently used children's polo shirts (white, navy or blue), and pants (khaki or blue) in sizes 5-8 may be placed in boxes located in the back of each church. Monetary donations in lieu of clothing are also welcome. Cash, or checks made out to Vincent Scaglione, may be placed in an envelope marked "Uniform Drive" and deposited in the offertory basket or in the clothing donation box. Please be sure to memo checks "Eagle Scout Project Fund." Vincent extends his deep appreciation for the support you are able to offer to his cause.

Food of the Month: Friuts

All items will be donated will be food pantry run by the Wilksburg Community Ministry.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

Wilksburg Thursday Farmers Market

JOIN US AT THE MARKET! THE 2019 SEASON BEGINS ON THURSDAY, JUNE 13th AND RUNS THROUGH NOVEMBER 14th EVERY THURSDAY FROM 3-6:30 P.M. IN THE LIFCARE HOSPITALS PARKING LOT AT THE CORNER OF PENN AVE AND SOUTH TRENTON.

COFFEE HOUR

There is a new sign up sheet for coffee hour on the office door. It covers the weeks through July. Please sign up ASAP. This is such an important part of the fellowship time here at St Stephen's

The Family Room

News and happenings of our Church Family

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

Mission Of Month Children's Recreation

Costume Jewelry Needed!!!

This year at the annual St Stephen's cookie walk, we would like to man a table that has costume jewelry for sale. My boss does this at her church's summer fair with great success. What I need is a jewelry! Please check out those old jewelry boxes for those pieces that you haven't worn or were bought by mistake. They just might be a pieces that someone else would love. I will take care of the setup of the table. If you find some pieces you are willing to donate please do give me a call at 412 242 7419 or pass them on to me a church.

COOKIE & JEWELRY, HAPPY INDULGENCES!

Beth Hardie

St. Stephen's Spotlight

2019 BACK TO SCHOOL J.A.M. BASH

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16TH FEAT. SPECIAL GUEST

REV. COURTNEY D. MEADOWS and ARTIST TRAVIS MALLOY
Many more...

TWO EVENTS

1. PURITY WORKSHOP AT 4PM
2. J.A.M. BASH AT 7PM

LOCATION: CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH (HILL)
2200 WYLIE AVE, PGH PA

RECOVERY FRIENDS PITTSBURGH

REGISTER AT THE
pghrecoverywalk.org

More information on the website!!!

ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT IS PUBLISHED ON THE LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH. SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 20TH OF THE MONTH IN ORDER TO BE INCLUDED.

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