



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

June 2019

One of the best things about summer in Pittsburgh is that we don't need to bundle up and close ourselves in quite so much. Usually if we can find some shade we can be outside, especially in the mornings and evenings. The frequent heavy rains aside, we can rely on summer to give us the opportunity to be outside with family and friends. I'd like to suggest that we could dream about some things that involve very little planning or preparations that could draw us together in non-traditional times on our beautiful parish campus.

What do you like to do in your free time? Naps and snacks, movies and housework are among the things that come to mind when I'm at home. Ongoing endless possible activities and emails might keep us a little overwhelmed at work, or even beyond our regular intended working hours too. When the weather is bad, all those things seem to get more than enough attention, right? So now that summer is here, how about being together at Saint Stephen's to do exactly nothing in particular? Hopefully we can be present for some special events on the campus. There are a few between things that have usually happened here and some other things that the N.Y.O.P. has arranged. Additionally, I'd like to ask you to consider thinking of the parish grounds, around the front or the side, where we could bring a lawn chair, a pet, a beverage and a device and just sit together and spend an hour or two. It's a strange idea to me too, but it came to me as I was pondering what is missing in ways we could be present and speak quietly and clearly about what belonging together as a parish community might mean to our neighbors.

I welcome your ideas and your critique of this idea. I hope that you pray without worrying that the results of your prayer might not be well-received. The activities that are carefully planned out fill the church schedule. They also require many volunteers to do preparative work – or one person or a few people to do a lot of it, huh? Maybe if we try to see each other when we have nothing to be worried about, no event to prepare for and just some time to waste together we could build a little on the bonds we have as a parish and also be a visible sign of welcome, invitation and availability to connect with people who might feel too intimidated to come in among us when we're gathered for liturgy or a formal event inside. I don't want to pressure anyone, but I'd like you to recall any times when the weather was nice and you've thought something like: "I'd enjoy visiting with someone and hanging out like I did on my grandmother's porch when I was younger." If you want to try to be more connected, maybe a simple, carefree, no obligation, causal time to sit together before or after dinner time, and enjoy the shade of the summer evening together on our campus a few times during this Pittsburgh summer.

Father Chuck+

Food of the Month:

RICE & BEANS

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 consider signing up, since this is such an important part of our fellowship time here at St. Stephen's!

Sunday School Schedule

5.05 Sunday School

5.12 NO Sunday School

Sunday School will resume in September after Labor Day!

Thank you to Melanie Sprenkel and everyone else who works so hard to provide this program for our young people!

“In some fairy tales there is a magic word which has the power to undo spell that has imprisoned someone and free them.

When I was small, I would wait anxiously until the prince or the princess stumbled on the formula and said healing words that would release them into life.

Usually the words were some sort of nonsense like “Shazam.” My magic words have turned out to be “I don't know.”

Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D.

Mission of the Month:

HOMELESS YOUTH

The wonderful children and youth in our Sunday School program have spent time thinking about people their age who don't have a home. Therefore for the months of May and June we will be collecting items to create:

PACKAGES FOR KIDS ON THE GO

These packages will be distributed through agencies in the city who provide help for homeless children and youth.

ITEMS NEEDED:

Feminine Products

Backpacks

Chapstick

Lotion

Vaseline

Comb/brush

Toothbrush

Tooth paste

Deodorant

Notebooks

Pens

Pencils

Gum

Mints

Water bottles

Granola bars

Kleenex



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.

IF
YOU
WANT
PEACE,
WORK
FOR
JUSTICE

The Family Room

News and happenings of our Church Family

Let us focus with all those around the world, as the United Nations has declared: June 4th a time to emphasize international day of innocent children victims of aggression, June 5th is world environment day, and June 15th is the United Nations world elder abuse awareness day . These critically important issues have an impact in Wilkinsburg and in the St. Stephens community. Let us pray for wisdom and courage to be good stewards and caregivers, especially for those who cannot defend themselves.

Wilkinsburg Thursday Farmer's 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 LIFECARE HOSPITALS PARKING LOT
AT THE CORNER OF PENN AVE
& SOUTH TRENTON.

Save The Dates!

Spring Organ Recital Series at Trinity Cathedral

Come to Trinity Cathedral on **Wednesdays in May at noon** for an organ concert.

Each week will feature a different organist and a wide range of music.

Trinity Cathedral 328 Sixth Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15222

**Our friend and former Deacon,
Julie Smith will be ordained
to the priesthood on June 15!
Here are the details:**

**God Willing
and the People Consenting**

**The Rt. Reverend Dorsey W. M. McConnell
Bishop of Pittsburgh**

will ordain

**Kimberly Macy Karashin
Julie Lynn Smith**

**to the Sacred Order of Priests
in Christ's one holy catholic and apostolic Church
Saturday, June 15, 2019
at ten o'clock in the morning**

**Trinity Cathedral
328 Sixth Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222**

Your prayers and presence are requested
Clergy: Red Stoles Reception to follow

Contact Us

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM
Wednesday Morning Prayer 10:30AM
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Parish Staff

The Rev. Charles Esposito, Priest in charge
The Rev. Natalie Hall, Missionary Assoc.
Soon Choi, Director of Music Ministry
Beth Ruzanic, Parish Administrator
Gerry Dalton, Financial Administrator
Tim Brucker, Sexton
Gary Glasser, Archivist & Historian
Tonge Ebai, Parish Ministry Coordinator

Neighborhood Youth

Outreach Program

600 Pitt Street
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221
412.243.6101
Anthony Jackson, Director