



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

May 2019

Some Christian spiritual writers have used metaphors to describe what it means for us to be members of the faith community gathered in God's name as the Church. Among my favorites is from Saint Augustine, one of the early believers who was called to study and write theological texts. Among his greatest works is the City of God and among his most famous quotes is that we who believe might think of the Church as a "hospital for sinners." One thing that can draw others to be a part of our worship is how we talk about its importance in our lives. If we give out the message that we need the special blessings and strength from our fellow believers we can receive when we worship together, and if we share an understanding that we are aware of how important it is that we are committed to being there to add to the blessing and strength others receive from our presence, we might invite others to learn about what we gain from being a part of our faith community and they might come to see it as well. We gain much from being available for the blessings of worshiping together. We also bless others when we are present for worship. Making our participation in the liturgy a priority of our week is sometimes difficult, but there is much that Jesus teaches and much evidence in the Christian Scriptures and in the early writings of the Church that can give us strength, encouragement and a sense of calling to help us to persevere in finding space in our week to worship for the Sunday Eucharist.

Going to church for the liturgy is an act of acknowledgement that we need help that God alone can give. Going to Church is a faithful disciple's response to Jesus' words in the Gospel of Matthew: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst." Jesus consistently refers to the importance of the disciples' remaining together, especially after the Resurrection. We study the passages in the Gospels and in the Acts of the Apostles where the disciples are uncertain, fearful, or otherwise hesitant to remain close together with special focus in the liturgical season of Easter. Among them is when Jesus instructs Mary Magdalene to go from the empty tomb on Easter morning. She becomes the first disciple to see the Resurrected Jesus and in going forth to the Church—the community of believers together in Jesus' name—Mary Magdalene is commissioned by Jesus to an apostle to the apostles. Then later, when Cleopas and his fellow disciple were leaving on their own toward Emmaus, Jesus appears to them, first walking with them, then, breaking bread at table with them. They suddenly understand what their hearts were leading them to recognize—that it was Jesus. Part of the lesson is that our personal vision of Jesus is not God's will for us to seek or enjoy for its own sake. We are not as we are called to be as believers in Jesus' message when we are isolated, either physically or ideologically, away from the community of our fellow believers. The beauty of the Holy Week and Easter liturgies are part of how we are strengthened as Jesus' disciples today. I pray that we can walk together as much as possible as a community of faith. I pray that we each recognize Jesus' call that we commit over and over to being present to each other here at Saint Stephen's and that we allow the grace of God to illumine us when we are led astray by our own will, disappointments, sorrows, sullen with wishes that the world could be different, or even when good things happen in our life, and return to worship with our hearts ready to be healed, our belief in God's all-sufficient grace, and in the power of the Holy Spirit to sanctify us and, through us, to make the Church more visible, more known and a greater blessing to the world.

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 sign up ASAP, 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

5.19 Last Sunday School before Summer Break

Sunday School will resume in September after Labor Day!

Thank you to everyone who works so hard to provide this program for our kids!

“Let us swing wide all the doors and windows of our hearts on the rusty hinges, so we may learn how to open in love.

Let us see the light in the other and honor it so we may lift one another on our shoulders and carry each other along.

Let holiness move in us so we may pay attention to its small voice and give ourselves fully with both hands.”

Dawna Markova

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:

Maxi pads
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.

The Family Room

News and happenings of our Church Family

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

05.18 Tonya Magwood

05.21 Tim Brucker

05.30 Ernie Scott



**JUST DO
THE NEXT
RIGHT THING
ONE THING
AT A TIME.
THAT'LL TAKE
YOU ALL THE
WAY HOME.**

GLENNON DOYLE
MELTON
Your tango

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



Journey to The Holy Land



**United Thank Offering
Spring Ingathering**

Saturday, May 4, 2019

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Mt. Lebanon

1066 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Schedule of events:

- 9:30 Registration – Coffee and Snacks
- 10:00-10:45 ECW Business Meeting
- 11:00-11:30 Program (See Below)
- 11:30-12:15 Morning Prayer
- 12:30 pm Lunch

Program:



What It Means to be a Pilgrim

Join with Geoff Hurd as he shares, through dialogue and pictures, the amazing adventure he and others from St. Paul's recently experienced on their pilgrimage to The Holy Land.

Mr. Hurd's presentation will give you an insight into the history of the places we, as Christians, revere and hold sacred to our faith. Learn and see pictures of many locations where Christ walked and taught: Mount of Olives, Jacob's Well, the Dead Sea, and many more.

Come, be enlightened and amazed, as Mr. Hurd leads us on a *Journey to The Holy Land*.

Three Ways to Register:

- Complete and mail the registration form
- Email your information to hetzlerb@verizon.net
- Call St. Paul's Church 412-531-7153

Registration Deadline: April 25, 2019

St. Francis in the Fields is collecting new or slightly used ladies purses to fill with personal hygiene products for needy women.



Please bring a purse to the ingathering and help with this new ministry.
Thank You

**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
600 Pitt Street
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221
Phone; 412.243.6100
Fax; 412.243.6105
Email; ststephenswilk@verizon.net

www.ststephenswilkinsburg.org

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