



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

MARCH 2021

We welcome Gerald Warrick to the Parish House for his ministry of outreach to students in the community and beyond who seek to become athletes in basketball. Gerald grew up in this area then used his skill at basketball to play professionally in Europe – in Montenegro and Serbia – with the Gusinje Strsljen team for two years, then later became a member of the world-famous “Harlem Wizards” team and played with them for six years. He recalls leading the 4th of July parades in Monroeville and Penn Hills for several years, “spinning a basketball” to spread joy and love with his talent in the sport of basketball. After the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us, Gerald plans to promote the Harlem Wizards as a team member by presenting assemblies at local schools and events. Recently Gerald established his own company to teach basketball as an outreach ministry to the youth in the Pittsburgh area.



Now Gerald has connected with Saint Stephen's. He wants to use his talent and professional skill to help young people to succeed in the academic work as well as in the sports that are a part of their school curriculum. Gerald wants to share the blessings he received from mentors when he was growing up here and pass them on to the next generation. Furthermore, Gerald has moved into Wilkinsburg with his family recently, so he's right nearby. His ministry is focused on at-risk young people in particular, and we're honored that Gerald has decided to make Saint Stephen's Parish House the site to make this ministry a reality. We welcome Gerald and the young people he'll be training and working with individually and in small groups. We look forward to a long relationship with Gerald here at St. Stephen's and this important outreach ministry to at-risk youth as an extension of our parish.

Mission of the Month:

Doctors without Borders

Doctors without Borders is an independent global movement providing medical aid where it's needed most. This agency responds to global emergencies, often going into war-torn countries to help those who are suffering because of violence, most recently Brazil, Haiti, Guinea, India and Cameroon. You can read about its work and donate at doctorswithoutborders.org or write a check to "Doctors without Borders" and mail it to the church.

BECOMING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

Bishop McConnell formed this initiative "to address matters of race in and beyond our diocese...to promote the liberating and reconciling love of Jesus Christ, particularly as it relates to racial justice and reconciliation." Bishop McConnell writes, "Our Beloved Community Initiative (BCI) will develop strategies, rooted in the Gospel, to help fulfill our diocesan mission to Love, Teach and Heal in the name and power of Jesus Christ. The organizers of the initiative are The Reverend Eric McIntosh and Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger. St. Stephen's liaison is Melanie Sprenkel who will share with you information regarding the activities of the initiative and will convey information from and about St. Stephen's to those managing the initiative. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Melanie Sprenkel at msprenkel@verizon.net or call 412-725-1174. More information will be forthcoming.



NEEDED SUPPLIES FOR OUR BLESSING BOX

The blessing box has been a great success. If you'd like to donate supplies, the ones listed below have been the most popular.

Pancake mix and syrup

Brownie mix

Mac-n-cheese

Coffee and tea

Boxed pasta

Shampoo

Dish and hand soap

Stove top stuffing

Salt and pepper

Jello and pudding mix

Interested in a book group?

The Thursday bible study group will be reading Howard Thurman's, "Jesus and the Disinherited." It was first published in 1949, but it speaks to us today as we consider our response to the the crises that face us and ask ourselves how we should respond as followers of Jesus. Please contact Melanie Sprenkel (412) 725-1174 if you'd like to join us Thursdays from 12-1:30 p.m. on zoom. We will begin the Thursday after Easter, April 8, 2021.

FOOD OF THE MONTH

SOUP AND CRACKERS



MARCH

Birthdays

Mar. 1 Steven Akers and Laura Block, Mar. 12 Malia Nelson, Mar. 17 Soon Choi, Mar. 19 Gloria Condron, Mar. 27 Carole Reed, Mar. 31 Walter Scott

Blessing Box donations were made in memory of Don Albitz

Please remember to bring your pledge up to date if possible



How do we as Episcopalians live out our faith as Christians? Join our Zoom meeting!

Thursday Discipleship 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Contact Father Chuck or Melanie Sprekel with questions

Prayer for the search and discernment process for a new bishop

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese and those who offer themselves as candidates, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Mar. 14 Daylight Savings. Mar. 17 St. Patrick's Day. Mar. 28

Palm Sunday (Bishop's visit)

Lent

begins with the imposition of ashes
reminding us of the Holy One
and of the stark reminder
that we will all die one day

we wait and sit in the wilderness
for the next forty days

a time for personal reflection and inspection
to remind ourselves of the one
who made the ultimate sacrifice
for us
for you

so that one day
you might live
and find a home in the one
whom makes the sacred, ordinary

we mark ourselves
with the sign of the cross
last years palms
become this year's ashes
we are dust
created from your stardust

from dust we came
from dust we are
and shall we return

By Aaron Taylor Pazan

Easter Service is on April 4.

Contact Us

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM
Office Hours: Mon - Thurs 10:00-1:00
(and by appointment.)
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Parish Staff

Rev. Chuck Esposito Priest in charge
Soon Choi, Dir of Music Ministry
Melanie Sprengel, Parish Ministry
Coordinator
Gerry Dalton, Financial Admin
Dave Stefanik, Caretaker
Gary Glasser, Archivist & Historian

Thanks to Cathy Wilkie for creating the 2020-21 prayer cycle books. Please join us in praying for the members and committees of St. Stephens. You can pick up a copy of the 2020-2021 book at the main door and chapel door.

