

ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

FEBRUARY 2021

In grateful appreciation for Pam Sovich's ministry as Saint Stephen's senior warden.

During the past couple of years I've had the privilege and joy of working with Pam as the senior warden here at Saint Stephen's. Not many months in the administrative operations here are free from ordinary challenges, dilemmas, and circumstances requiring faithful perseverance, patience and a humble disposition toward doing our best. Not many weeks go by here without planning carefully to be wise, careful, faithful stewards of our beautiful but aging campus buildings and of our members' and friends' donations to sustain our mission and goals. But over the past couple of years I have relied upon Pam's ministry as our senior warden in quite a few issues that were, in my estimation, quite a feat that we accomplished. I look back with a deep sense of reassurance of God's grace and with a profound gratitude to several leaders in the diocese who helped me and Pam face these issues and to bring them to completion.

As I look back on the past couple of years in the sacred ministry of serving Saint Stephen's as your priest, I am grateful for the witness to your faith so many of you have shown for all of us so consistently and well. I am uplifted by the ways many of you have been encouraging and supportive of how we have risen to the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic response protocol. Pam ends her term as senior warden with a commitment to continue in a ministry of parish communication. She'll supervise our Facebook page and lead in the livestreaming of our liturgy. Please join me in prayer for Pam and her family as she concludes her term as senior warden and begins this new chapter, as dedicated to Saint Stephen's as ever. Thanks, Pam!



Mission of the Month: JEREMIAH'S PLACE

Their vision is to provide families with support in caring for their young children when they need it most, creating a community that is a safe and nurturing place for all children to thrive. They offer emergency childcare for children ages 0 to 6 who can stay with them for a few hours or a few days based on the needs of each individual family. Families have used Jeremiah's Place for emergencies, such as escape from abuse and respite. It is an invaluable gift for single mothers. If you wish to donate, you may write a check, and send it to Jeremiah's Place, 6435 Frankstown Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206, or you can donate online at <https://jeremiahsplace.org/donate/>

The Episcopal Church has launched "From Many, One: Conversations Across Difference," a campaign urging Episcopalians and our neighbors to engage in the spiritual practice of listening and honest conversation across the many differences that separate us, starting with four simple questions:

1. What do you love?
2. What have you lost?
3. Where does it hurt?
4. What do you dream?

Inspired by the Latin phrase on the U.S. seal – E Pluribus ("from many") Unum ("one") – the campaign is designed to offer a faithful perspective and time-tested practice for knitting deeply divided communities into a diverse, more perfect union. In a cultural moment shadowed by pandemic, fractious politics, and deep division within families, communities, and nations, Episcopalians can partner in simple ways to celebrate difference, listen with deep curiosity, and promote healing. If you are interested in finding out more, go to <https://www.episcopalchurch.org>



ABSALOM JONES DAY

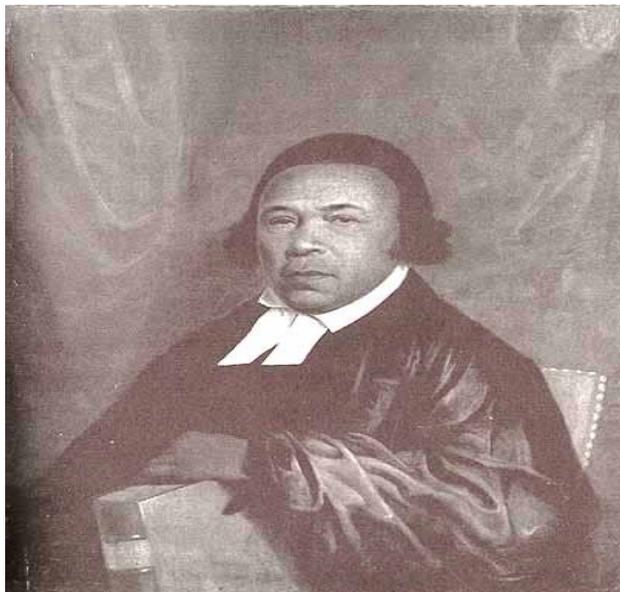
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Trinity Cathedral

**This event will be lived streamed.
See the diocese website.**

<https://episcopalpgh.org>



POLICE REFORM AND PUBLIC SAFETY FORUM

Sunday, February 21 at 7 p.m.

Email us at

ststephenswilk@verizon.net

**if you are interested in obtaining
the zoom link for this forum.**

**Speakers are City Council Woman Erica
Strassburger and Representative Summer Lee**

FOOD OF THE MONTH

HOT CEREAL OR BOXED DINNERS



Get the latest news from the Episcopal news service at; episcopalnewsservice.org

Please remember to bring your pledge up to date if possible



FEBRUARY

Birthdays

Feb. 10 Tony Jackson, Feb. 12 Gregory Sprengel, Feb. 16 Antwann Nelson, Feb. 22 Ellie Huppert, Feb. 28 Father Chuck

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 Sprengel 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

Feb. 14 Valentine's Day, Feb. 15 President's Day, Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday

Pittsburgh Snow Angels

Do you need help shoveling snow in the winter or can you help an elderly or disabled person by shoveling their walk this winter? Call Snow Angels at 412-255-0846 or visit pittsburghpa.gov/snowangels



Lent begins February 17 with Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m.

Palm Sunday (bishop's visitation) is March 28. Easter is April 4.

Heavenly Father, Thank you for the gift of this season. Thank you for knowing our hearts and our need for rhythms in our lives, and for drawing us into a deeper communion with you throughout the coming 40 days.

Lord, it can be disheartening to read on Ash Wednesday that all come from dust, and to dust all return, yet we know that there is more to our stories. We know that you created man and woman from the dust at the very beginning of time and that you breathed life into them to transform them into living creatures. We know that you are in the business of resurrection-- your very Son went to the cross to show us that no death is final and that ultimate transformation comes through your gift of salvation. Though we were made from dust, and our bodies will return to dust again, we can live in eternal glory with you through the blood of your Son.

May we remember the gift of salvation in this season. May these weeks leading up to the tragedy of Good Friday and the glory of Resurrection Sunday remind us of who you are, how you love us, and who you have created us to be as your followers. May we walk through this season intentionally, removing distractions that take our gaze away from your glory. May we quiet the noise that pulls us from adoration of you and puts our attention on lesser things. May we simplify where we have been stressed, may we surrender what has been burdensome, may we repent of what has been sinful, Lord Jesus. May we see your goodness and your glory in new ways throughout this season of Lent. May we know the depths of your love for us more fully. May we feel the pain you endured for our sake, Jesus, and may we rejoice that you conquered every bit of evil when you rose to life again.

Draw us closer to your heart, that we might know you better and understand you more completely. May our actions reflect our hearts, and may we worship you through all that we say and do throughout the weeks to come.

-Rachel Dawson

Contact Us

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Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM
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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, Sexton
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.

