



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

May 2021

Recovery meetings have a multi-decade, multi-generational history here, making the faith-oriented Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous gatherings a part of our Saint Stephen's parish community. One of the more senior members of these communities met with me this past week to discuss an upcoming conference, and for him to reflect, since he was having a milestone birthday, on his decades of being a part of the community that meets here at Saint Stephen's. He and I spoke of his sense of gratitude to God and to the generosity of spirit among the people of Saint Stephen's for this home for their meetings. We had some time to reflect together on the shared mission between the recovery communities and of our parish-a mission to meet people where they are, especially if they are struggling or suffering, so as to be a source of kindness, selfless generosity and welcome to lift them up and sustain them as a specific response to our duty to give clear witness to the dignity of every human person. We reflected on the calling of our faith and how, through our prayer and reflection we are filled with a profound gratitude to God for the love God shows us as our Sacred Scripture reveals. Saint Stephen's includes these long-standing bonds of connection with the two recovery communities that call our parish their home; together we stand in mutual dedication to continuing this important component of Saint Stephen's intention to reach out to the community as a continuation of its history, but especially as a way to live out the joy of our faith. In our discussion I was reassured that these communities feel both welcome here and responsible for keeping this legacy strong into the future. We know that as disciples of Christ we are called to make a plan to reach out in practical, specific ways, especially for those who might be in a vulnerable place in their lives and feel marginalized because of it. Our longstanding bonds of connection with Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous are a blessed opportunity for us to remind people who might be struggling and suffering of God's love for them by how we encourage them on their journey so as to show Christ's love through our mission as disciples and to contribute to the building up of the Kingdom of God. We know that Jesus teaches us to honor the person who needs help by sharing our blessings, showing the respect and child-like openness to their stories and in the faith-filled expectation that they have something to offer us also to help us on our journey of faith. Let us give thanks to God for the blessed partnerships that have been integral to the unfolding story of the special community we know as Saint Stephen's.

Blessings, Father Chuck+

Mission of the Month: The Sanctuary Project

“The mission of the Wilkinsburg Sanctuary Project for Peace is to end youth and young adult violence in the community of Wilkinsburg and beyond. We seek to be a presence of peace and hope in our community as we lift up Wilkinsburg as a wonderful place to live, work, worship and attend school. Though many of us represent the Christian congregations of Wilkinsburg, we welcome and work alongside people of all faith traditions for the saving of our young people and beloved community.”

You can donate by writing a check to “The Wilkinsburg Sanctuary Project” and putting it in the communion plate or by getting on their website at [Home \(wilkinsburgsanctuaryproject.org\)](http://Home.wilkinsburgsanctuaryproject.org)

ARE YOU 55 OR OLDER? WOULD YOU LIKE TO FIND WORK, DEVELOP NEW SKILLS, AND BUILD YOUR FINANCIAL SECURITY?

Through SCSEP you can receive up to 20 hours/week of paid training and work experience, gain valuable skills and talents to improve the community by training in a wide variety of locations, including offices, hospitals, daycare centers, senior centers and other community organizations.

You may qualify if: you are 55 or older, unemployed, earning a low income or no income, wish to work in your community, want to be paid to learn new skills through on-the-job training.

CALL AARP Foundation at

412-271-1580

Or apply now at

[- SCSEP Online Application](#)

THE SEARCH FOR A NEW BISHOP

Some dates you should be aware of during this process:

- The Nominating Committee has been working for many months screening the candidates and should be announcing the “nominees” the week of May 3, 2021.
- Shortly after that, their profiles will be made available online.
- In early June you will be able to watch interviews of the nominees online.
- During the week of June 14-June 19 there will be several “meet and greet” sessions where you can meet the nominees in person. (These will also be streamed live.)

The election of our next Bishop will take place as a virtual convention on Saturday June 16. (Those voting from St. Stephens will be Father Chuck, Don Block and Gerry Dalton.)

Bishop McConnell will retire on September 11 and a farewell celebration will take place around this time, to which all will be invited.

The consecration of the new Bishop will take place at Calvary church on November 13. Our Presiding Bishop, The Rt. Rev Michael Curry will be the “officiate.”

More details will be provided as each event draws near.

- Gerry Dalton

Keep praying!!!

How do we as Episcopalians live out our faith as Christians? Join us in the church library for bible study! We are a small group who is vaccinated, and we will social distance and keep the windows open!

Thursday Discipleship 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Contact Father Chuck or Melanie Sprenkel with questions - 412-243-6100.

**FOOD OF THE
MONTH
PASTA AND SAUCE**



Hello Neighbor is an organization that supports refugee families in Pittsburgh. You can check them out at

[Hello Neighbor - Hello Neighbor](#)



May Birthdays

May 1 - Louise Broujos

May 18 - Tonya Magwood

May 21 - Tim Brucker

May 30 - Ernest Scott

Please remember to bring your pledge up to date if possible.

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

Cinco de Mayo - May 5. National Day of Prayer - May 6. Mother's Day - May 9. Pentecost - May 23. Memorial Day - May 31

MENTAL HEALTH AWARE- NESS MONTH

If you feel you need some guidance, look at the 'Psychology Today' website to learn about some issues around mental health and to see profiles of therapists you might consider reaching out to.

-Father Chuck

ST. STEPHEN'S IN A NUTSHELL

Thanks to Sig Tragard for creating a lovely short film of our life together at St. Stephen's. Makes you want to get back to church, doesn't it? Well, church is open, and you will be welcomed by someone six feet away from you! Many of us are vaccinated so join us if you can. Click the link below to see the film.

<https://youtu.be/azPb6yqYo1s>

You can also find it on St. Stephen's website.

Thank you for all of the blessing box donations! Keep them coming!!!

Many Wilkinsburg residents are being blessed, and we need more donations. The supplies listed below have been the most popular.

Pancake mix and syrup

Brownie mix

Mac-n-cheese

Coffee and tea

Boxed pasta and pasta sauce

Toiletries

Dish and hand soap

Soups and crackers

Herbs and spices

Jello and pudding mix

Oatmeal

Paper products

Peanut butter and jam

Rice and stove top stuffing

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

Elise Morris, Archivist & Historian

Please join us in praying for the members and committees of St. Stephen's. Green prayer cycle booklets are in the back and front of the sanctuary.