



# ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

May 2021

What are your ideas for helping to make a [memorable summer](#) here at Saint Stephen's? We have a unique space with a lawn that has shade beginning in the late afternoon into the evening. We don't have to make any plans that are too much work or cost for any one person. We can bring lawn chairs and "hang out." We could bring our own little coolers for beverages and have some light snacks. It can even be just a couple of times, with or without any entertainment. I invite you to pray about this and share ideas with anyone. I suggest that this might be a carefree, relaxing way to remember our shared vision for Saint Stephen's to thrive. Our worship is the foundation of our "spiritual home," but the other occasions are important ways for us to be present to and enjoy each other too.

A highlight I'd like to inform you about is a new outreach endeavor for the youth of our community. Our new resident leader in our Parish House space, Gerald Warrick, known also to his students as "Coach Scoot," has a program of six summer basketball camps here with his Call Timeout Academy. They will run from [Monday, June 21 until Friday, July 30](#). His program will host students in [grades 3rd-5th from 9:00 am-11:30 am](#), students in [grades 6th-8th from 11:30 am-2:00 pm](#), and students in [high school from 2:00 pm-4:30 pm](#). With any questions or to enquire about perhaps signing up a student to participate – some limited openings still remain, as of today, 05/26, at least – you can contact him at: [412-345-1754](#). We look forward to this as an occasion for many young people to learn about teamwork, pray together, exercise, and for us to further our mission that we care for the young people that God has placed in this area during the important formative years of their life.

My prayer is that we can make some faith-filled, open-minded ideas come to life here on our campus at Saint Stephen's. God has blessed us throughout the recent pandemic with a strong sense of community. We have risen to the challenges presented to us, and we've shone with the light of Christ. I rejoice and I ask you to offer some time in prayers of thanksgiving to God for how many generous members of our wonderful congregation have come together to enhance God's blessings and help to make them known. [This ordinary time of summer on our horizon is filled with possibilities](#). Please talk about what comes to you in prayer and reflection. Pray also for the flexibility to enable your hope of making to spend with each other as parish family a reality.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Chuck+

## Mission of the Month: Wilkinsburg Community Ministry

This crucial Wilkinsburg ministry helps to keep Wilkinsburg citizens in a healthier place. It works to reduce hunger, to ensure the health of its residents, especially senior citizens, to help economically challenged families with the basic necessities and to keep the streets safer. St. Stephen's has partnered with WCM for many years, and they need our help more than ever because they have been undated due to the pandemic. If you are interested in donating, you can write a check to WCM and drop it in the donation plate or mail it to WCM, 702/704 Wood Street, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221.

## 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:

- 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 26. (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

## PRAYER VIGIL FOR WORLD REFUGEE DAY,

Sunday, June 20, 7-8 p.m.

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/publicaffairs/episcopal-migration-ministries-offers-virtual-prayer-vigil-for-world-refugee-day/>

Are you interested in registering for the **Union of Black Episcopalians'** 53rd Annual Conference scheduled for July 27-30? It is a virtual event that will take the form of revival with panel discussion, break outs, lively worship and parties. Contact us at [ststephenswilk@verizon.net](mailto:ststephenswilk@verizon.net) if interested.

**FOOD OF THE  
MONTH  
BOXED CEREAL**



**Birthdays**

**June 6 - Bellamy Sprengel, June 12-Bill Rau, June 15-Beth Albitz, June 26-Melissa McDonough**

**Anniversaries**

**June 16-Kathleen Mulligan and Dan McKinley**

**Hello Neighbor** is an organization that supports refugee families in Pittsburgh. You can check them out at [www.helloneighbor.io](http://www.helloneighbor.io)

**This summer we'd like to sing your favorite hymns and praise songs. Let Soon or Melanie know. [ststephenswik@verizon.net](mailto:ststephenswik@verizon.net)**

*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**

**June 19 - Juneteenth, June 20 - Father's Day and the first day of summer**

## **Bible Study**

**Our Thursday bible study has concluded and will resume again in the fall. Please let Melanie Sprenkel or Father Chuck know if you are interested in attending in the fall.**

## **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.**

**You can find the short film on our website at**

**[ststephenspittsburgh.org](http://ststephenspittsburgh.org)**

## **Wilkinsburg is LOVING the blessing box!**

**We always need more donations for this beautiful ministry. The supplies listed below have been the most popular.**

**Pancake mix and syrup**

**Small boxes of cereal**

**Mac-n-cheese**

**Coffee and tea**

**Boxed pasta and pasta sauce**

**Toiletries**

**Dish and hand soap**

**Cookies and crackers**

**Herbs and spices**

**Condensed or evaporated milk**

**Instant oatmeal**

**Paper products**

**Peanut butter and jam**

### Contact Us

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM

Office Hours: Mon - Thurs 10:00-1:00 (and by appointment.)

600 Pitt Street

Wilkinsburg, PA 15221

412.243.6100 (phone)

412.243.6105 (fax)

ststephenswilk@verizon.net (email)

### Parish Staff

Rev. Chuck Esposito Priest in charge

Soon Choi, Dir. of Music Ministry  
Melanie Sprenkel, 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.**