



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

July 2021

THE REV. KETLEN SOLAK ELECTED AS THE NINTH BISHOP OF PITTSBURGH



The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh has elected the Reverend Dr. Ketlen A. Solak as its next bishop. Bishop-elect Solak currently serves as rector of Brandywine Collaborative Ministries in Wilmington, Delaware. She will be consecrated and installed as the ninth Bishop of Pittsburgh on **November 13, 2021**, succeeding Bishop Dorsey McConnell, who is retiring.

“I’m ready to be a Pittsburgher for Jesus!” Solak said to the diocese after being elected. “I am deeply moved. God has done this. With God’s help you have discerned and elected a new bishop, and I am humbled by the honor of the one being chosen. The future of your diocese, which is soon to become our diocese, is bright.”

“We are so grateful for the historic election of Ketlen Solak as the ninth Bishop of Pittsburgh. She is a dynamic and collaborative leader who will support us in our ministries of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, welcoming all of God’s people, and working for justice and peace in our world,” said the Rev. Noah Evans, president of the diocesan Standing Committee, the senior governing body that oversaw the election process.

Rev. Dr. Ketlen Solak was born and raised in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. She earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music from the Catholic University of America, where she also met her husband Scott, before going on to earn Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Virginia Theological Seminary. For more information, visit the diocesan website. [Pittsburgh Episcopal Bishop Search – The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh \(episcopalpgh.org\)](https://www.episcopalpgh.org)

A special thanks to Gerry Dalton for serving on the transition committee and to Father Chuck, Beth Hardie and Don Block for serving as clergy and lay deputies. We are grateful for your time and faith.

Mission of the Month: HOLY FAMILY INSTITUTE

Holy Family Institute serves children and families in crisis, through trauma sensitive learning and career training programs. They provide mental health services and needed support to families in crisis. They are on the front lines of care for refugee children and families who come into this country with nothing but the shirts on their backs. They follow Christ's command to love the "least of these." If you can help them, please donate by writing a check to the Holy Family Institute and drop it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Or donate on-line at

[Donate - Holy Family Institute \(hfi-pgh.org\)](http://hfi-pgh.org)

CONSIDER SERVING AS BACKUP FOR THE FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

For several years, the Vestry has discussed the need to train people to understand the financial system of our church. Some of you may remember that it took us almost a year to get our books in order, after Lee Muffit died suddenly. We would like to avoid this in the future. I am therefore looking for people who would be willing to learn the financial procedures. This does not mean you would take over the position, should we find ourselves in the need of a Financial Administrator. However, you would be able to assist the person, selected for the job, to be able to prepare a "Profit/Loss" statement, as well as other reports. It is my thought we will hold training sessions in August or September. These would be scheduled, based on your availability. If you think this would be a way to serve your church, please let me know by July 25. Talk with me any Sunday or give me a call or send an email. Gerry Dalton
galton1364@gmail.com

Operation Backpack

The Wilkinsburg Community Ministry provides stocked backpacks to the children of Wilkinsburg every year. If you'd like to donate, please write a check to the Wilkinsburg Community Ministry (WCM) with "Operation Backpack" in the memo line. You can put your donation in the offering plate or mail it to WCM at 702-704 Wood Street, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221.

Are you a Wilkinsburg senior? The children of the Sanctuary Project are looking for stories of Wilkinsburg past. Contact Pastor Janet Hellner-Burris at 412-241-3556 or email at pastor-janethb@gmail.com to share your story.

Blessing Box Donation given by Beth Albitz in loving memory of Barb Albitz

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 if interested.

**FOOD OF THE
MONTH**

RICE AND BEANS



Birthdays

July 6 - Kevin Sunderman, July 9 - Krystal Albitz,
July 16 - Tee McCullough, July 18 - Kathy Mulligan,
July 19 - Pam Sovich, July 21 - Tameka Thompson,
July 22 - Tim Morris, July 24 - Janet Haston,
July 25 - Cathie Sunderman, July 31 - Karen Teulle

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

This summer we'd like to sing your favorite hymns and praise songs. Let Soon or Melanie know. ststephenswik@verizon.net

SAVE THE DATE!!

On Saturday, August 28, there will be a farewell party for Bishop McConnell. Details to follow.



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

July 4 - Independence Day, July 12 - National Simplicity Day, July 18 - World Listening Day

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.

The Wilkinsburg Community Ministry needs our help!

During a recent violent thunderstorm, their building was flooded, and the carpet and other things were ruined. The culprit was a roof in poor condition. WCM is dealing with all of this on top of a busier than usual year due to the pandemic. If you can donate to the WCM to help them out that would be wonderful!!

Wilkinsburg is LOVING the blessing box!

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

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

Cans of food or milk with pop tops

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.