

ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

AUGUST 2021

Late summer often seems like a time when we prepare for new beginnings. From my earliest childhood memories of school, then college and graduate school, seminary and then into teaching, counseling and ministry, the autumn "kicks off" many new things in communities. Saint Stephen's is one such community. I believe that God is calling us to take a moment in this late summer season to reflect on what we'd like to begin, where we might have been "slouching" over the past year and what we're being called by our baptism to do more of. Building up the unity in diversity we have among each other, showing respect and kindness to each other, and committing ourselves to inviting others to come and experience us might be an ongoing endeavor to give some thought to. Let's take some time this month to prepare ourselves to answer that call. I hope we can begin to ponder, pray about and plan for what will enhance the Saint Stephen's Church community as we seek God's grace in our hunger and thirst for holiness.

Some events on the horizon involve saying "farewell" to Bishop McConnell and "hello" to our new Bishop Elect Ketlen Solak. On Saturday, August 28, there will be a pig roast at Christ Church on Babcock Blvd from 4:00-7:00 pm. If you'd like to attend this event, please RSVP on the diocesan website by August 20. In lieu of gifts you might want to make a donation to the "Anglican Studies" track for Episcopal Ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. You are able to make a check to St. Stephen's and put "Dorsey" in the memo and one check can then be written from us to them.

On September 1, Reverend Dr. Ketlen Solak will begin in her ministry at the diocese, then on November 13, our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will consecrate her and install her as the ninth Bishop of Pittsburgh. Let's pray for her preparation for this ministry and ask God's blessing on us as we celebrate this person we've chosen. God led Ketlen to apply, and God led us to see her shine. We are blessed.

On Friday evening, September 10, we will have a cookout party on the lawn here at St. Stephen's. Please note these events, try to make room in your calendar for them and pray about what you'd like to see grow and thrive in the upcoming year here at our parish! Happy blessed summer!

Fr. Chuck



**Mission of the Month:
SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR
KELLY SCHOOL**



Notebooks

Pencils

Pens

Safety scissors

Kleenex

Lysol wipes

Wide rule paper

Hand sanitizer

**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. 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.

Dedication of Lincoln Statue

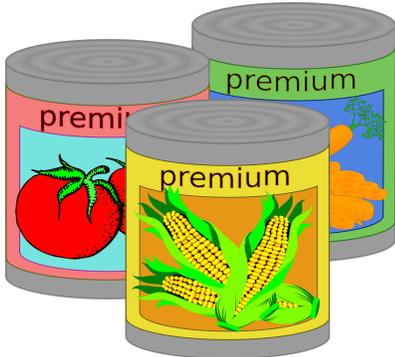


St. Stephen's on the Lawn!

The evening of **Friday, September 10**, will be a fun social event as we kick off a new academic year. Put it on your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors. Details to follow.

FOOD OF THE MONTH

Canned Vegetables



Birthdays

**Dat Woodley and Dave Wolfson- August 5,
Elise Morris-August 11, Jim Muth-August 24**

Anniversaries

Don and Mary Block-August 13

SAVE THE DATE!!

The celebration of the ministry of Bishop Dorsey and Betsy McConnell will be a “Pig Roast” (and more) to be held Saturday, August 28 from 4 - 7 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 5910 Babcock Boulevard, Pittsburgh PA 15237. You and your family are invited to drop by for a while or stay the entire time. Please RSVP by Friday, August 20, 2021 on the diocesan website. Contact Melanie Sprenkel in the office if you would like her to RSVP for you. Some ways you can contribute to this occasion are to 1) bring or send one or two dozen homemade cookies, 2) place a personal card, picture or remembrance in the basket at the event or mail it to the diocese, 3) in lieu of cash gifts, give a donation to the “Anglican Studies Track for Episcopal Ministry at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.” You may write checks to St. Stephen’s and put “Dorsey” in the memo line and mail to the church, and Gerry Dalton will write one check from our church.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

August 28 - Farewell Party for Bishop McConnell. September 10 - St. Stephen’s on the lawn. September 12 - Kick-off Sunday

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.

Interested in learning about the perspectives of others? Would you like to read reflections by people of different ethnicities and identities and their thoughts on justice? As part of the Episcopal Church's Way of Love and Beloved Community Initiatives, we are participating in a 90 day challenge to immerse ourselves more fully in the experiences of those on the margins. Let Melanie Sprenkel know if you'd like to receive a short daily email or if you'd like a hard copy to read. **Let's take this journey together!**

ststephenswilkinsburg@gmail.com

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 and paper products

Dish and hand soap

Cookies and crackers

Herbs and spices

Cans of food or milk with pop tops

Instant oatmeal

Brownie mix

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

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412.243.6105 (fax)

ststephenswilkinsburg@gmail.com (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.