



# ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

FEBRUARY 2022

Thank you for all who made the commitment to be a part of our annual meeting last Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. We have been blessed with a few among our parish members who have agreed to serve on our Vestry. For those of you who are very familiar with this ministry in the Episcopal Church, I ask that you be ready to share your experience of it with those in our parish family who are newer to this faith or to Saint Stephen's. We answer God's call in our lives through being ready in prayer for the challenges we face, or the needs that we can help, or the blessings we can give by our compassion and care. We answer Jesus' commission by the Holy Spirit to serve as disciples in our daily life through the grace with which we are blessed by God. This grace is only strengthened and refined by our commitment to be a regular part of the worshipping community. Jesus' commission connects us to the Church, the Body of Christ, throughout the world and specifically to one another here at Saint Stephen's parish. Our annual meeting was a time for us to visit with those who often go to a Sunday Eucharistic liturgy that we don't attend and a time for us to enjoy each other's company as we focused on the mission we share here at Saint Stephen's, the ongoing challenges we are called to face and improve together, and the blessings in which we rejoice with grateful hearts.

In a particular way I wish to thank Ernie Scott who has agreed to my request that he serve as Junior Warden for a term. We thank our outgoing Junior Warden, Karen Teulle, for the years she has served in this important position on the Vestry ministry. I would also like to thank Pam Sovich for returning to the Vestry as a member again. Pam and Ernie, along with our Senior Warden Beth Hardie, our Secretary Mike Hogan, our Treasurer Gerry Dalton, and our Parish Archivist Elise Morris will meet with me each month and provide their insights, expertise, gifts, talents, time, energy, and above all, their faith in Jesus Christ and their dedication to Saint Stephen's in a focused way that will keep us all closer to the fire of God's call and Christ's commission by the Holy Spirit. Please pray for these ministers as we embark on a new year together. Please pray about what God is calling you to do with your faith and presence in our Saint Stephen's parish family. God bless us all.

Father Chuck+

## FOOD OF THE MONTH

### Hot cereal or Boxed Dinners

Please put in boxes in back of the church.



## BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 12 - Gregory Sprenkel

Feb. 28- Father Chuck

## NEED COVID TEST KITS?

The federal government is giving out four free covid test kits to each household. Check out the link below to order!

<https://special.usps.com/testkits>

Want to share a snack at coffee hour?

Thanks to those of you who have brought snacks to share at coffee hour. All of February is open.

If you'd like to bring something, let us know what date works best for you. Thanks!

[ststephenswilkinsburg@gmail.com](mailto:ststephenswilkinsburg@gmail.com)

## Prayer cycle for February

○ God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bishop Solak's First Visit to St. Stephen's

Sunday, February 27

Hope everyone can attend this 10:30 AM event!

## DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 2 - MORNING PRAYER AT 10:30 AM,

FEBRUARY 7 - VESTRY MEETING AT 7 PM, FEBRUARY 14 - VALENTINE'S DAY,

FEBRUARY 21 - PRESIDENTS DAY, FEBRUARY 27 - BISHOP SOLAK'S VISIT

## Ash Wednesday begins on March 2!

We are considering what we will do for our Lenten discipline.

Let us know if you have thoughts to share. One possibility raised by our diocese is "Getting to know your neighbor."

Who are our St. Stephen's Neighbors? How do we get to know them? We know that our doors are always open to all.

We faithfully maintain the blessing box. We open our doors to NA and AA groups and to the youth. How else can we get to know our neighbors? Consider whether this might be a way to keep a faithful Lent....getting to know your St. Stephen's neighbors. Maybe our Wilkinsburg parishioners can give us some guidance. If you are interested in this Lenten experiment, check out the website below and/or let us know you're are interested.

Maybe we can meet for coffee at Nancy's or dine at Ms. Jean's Southern Southern Cuisine. Maybe we can take a walk together. Maybe we can fellowship with a neighborhood church. What ideas do you have?

Let us know! [Ststephenswilkinsburg@gmail.com](mailto:Ststephenswilkinsburg@gmail.com)

[Getting to Know Your Neighbors Starter's Guide – Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh \(episcopalpggh.org\)](http://episcopalpggh.org)

**ABSALOM JONES DAY  
SERVICE!!**

**FEBRUARY 12 at 10 a.m.**

**The service will be  
livestreamed. We will send out  
the link soon.**

**Mission of the Month:  
JEREMIAH'S PLACE**

Jeremiah's Place provides emergency child care services for children ages 0-6 for a few hours or days based on the needs of each individual family. All services are free and available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Possible reasons for emergency care are hospitalization, funeral, homelessness, domestic violence, job interview, unsafe child care, and more.

If you wish to donate, you can send a check to Jeremiah's Place at 6435 Frankstown Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.

Or you can access the link below:

[Donate - Jeremiah's Place \(jeremiahsplace.org\)](https://jeremiahsplace.org)

**WE NEED DONATIONS FOR THE  
BLESSING BOX, PLEASE!!!**

**We always need more donations for  
this beautiful ministry. The sup-  
plies 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**

**Soup**

**Cans of food or milk with pop tops**

**Instant oatmeal**

**Brownie mix**

**Peanut butter and jam**

**Rice and stove top stuffing**

Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM

Contact Us

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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

**THERE'S A NEW  
PRAYER CYCLE  
BOOKLET IN THE  
SANCTUARY! GRAB  
YOUR YELLOW BOOK-  
LET AND START  
PRAYING!**

