



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

APRIL 2022



Women in the Episcopal Church Part II - PAULI MURRAY

As Christians we believe in the power of the cross that speaks the truth that out of great suffering can come great healing and freedom from the chains that shackle us. Pauli Murray lived this truth in her life, and today she is a saint in the Episcopal Church. But many of us have not even heard the name of this sainted woman. Kathryn Schullz wrote an article entitled "St. Pauli" for the New Yorker in the April 17, 2017 issue. Most of the information here comes from that article.

The suffering of Murray's life came in many forms: she suffered poverty, violence, orphanhood, discrimination, and confusion about her gender. Her suffering began when she was a child. Her mother died of a brain hemorrhage and her father, who had mental illness, was sent to a state institution where he was taunted with racial epithets by a white guard who dragged him to the basement of the building and beat him to death. Her life was borne out of trauma, but like Harriet Tubman before her, she instinctively knew the evil of segregation and how it restricted the lives of African Americans and women. And she had the wit and courage to prophesy this truth and to resist it.

Out of her trials, came healing for those who suffered in the same ways because Murray was willing to fight on their behalf so they could know the blessings of this country were rightfully theirs, and they were loved and beautiful as they were. Murray fought for the disinherited through the professions she chose: she was a lawyer and an Episcopal priest. She was a founder of the National Organization of Women and the originator of the ideas that successfully challenged "separate but equal." She was friends with Eleanor Roosevelt and worked with Ruth Bader Ginsburg to apply equal protection under the law to women. Two decades before Rosa Parks refused to move from her seat in the front of the bus, Murray was arrested and jailed for refusing to sit at the back of the bus.

A prophet sees beyond what everyone accepts as the societal truth to see the evil beneath – just like Jesus who challenged the religious of his day. She applied to UNC but received a letter telling her she could not apply because she was Black, so she enrolled at Harvard with "the single intention of destroying Jim Crow." After undergraduate school at Harvard, she applied to Harvard Law but received a letter saying she could not apply because she was a woman so she went to Howard and Yale Law Schools. She termed the degradation of women "Jane Crow." Her 1950 book, *States Laws on Race and Color*, was considered the bible of the civil rights movement. Many were surprised that she abandoned a lucrative law career in order to become an Episcopal priest. She was the first African American woman priest. Her sights were not set on wealth but on justice. She had in her person blasted through the walls created by the powerful of her day.

This little known woman has had a residential college at Yale named after her and has been sainted by the Episcopal Church, not because she sought fame but because she instinctively knew that "in Christ there is neither slave nor free, neither male nor female," and she could not rest until that truth was realized.

"When my brothers try to draw a circle to exclude me, I shall draw a larger circle to include them. Where they speak out for the privileges of a puny group, I shall shout for the rights of all mankind." - Pauli Murray

FOOD OF THE MONTH

Please put in boxes in back of the church.

TUNA AND OTHER CANNED MEATS



BIRTHDAYS

April 25 Aliya Sunderman

April 29 Gerry Dalton and Charlie Sprengel



THANK YOU, VESTRY, FOR THE WONDERFUL RECEPTION FOR BISHOP SOLAK.

Prayer for April

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

WE ALL ENJOY SOCIALIZING AT COFFEE HOUR

And we do need folks to help bring a snack and set up for **MAY**. It doesn't take much time, but it makes a big difference to those of us who love to fellowship with each other. Let Gerry or Melanie know if you can help at ststephenswilkinsburg@gmail.com

4/3 Bill and Joann, 4/10 Melanie and Louise, 4/17 Gerry, 4/24 Kathy M.



THANK YOU TO PAM SOVICH AND HER CREW, JOHN, CHUCK AND KAREN, WHO PROVIDED A FESTIVE SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER FOR US!

UPCOMING EVENTS

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY. (12 NOON IN LIBRARY ON THURSDAYS.
LET MELANIE KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING.
STSTEPHENSWILKINSBURG@GMAIL.COM)

APRIL 9 - SATURDAY 10 AM- PREPARATION OF THE PALMS AND
CROSS MAKING (IN CHOIR ROOM, LIGHT BREAKFAST SERVED)

APRIL 10 - PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 11-16 - HOLY WEEK

APRIL 15 - MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE AT 7 PM

APRIL 16 - GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT NOON

APRIL 17 - EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 24 - BAPTISM OF JOSEPHINE MCKINLEY LAUFER



Mission of the Month

BROTHER'S BROTHER

Brother's Brother Foundation helps bridge the gap between aid and sustainability by supporting localized programs and providing essential resources in the areas of Healthcare, Infrastructure, Disaster Response, and Education (H.I.D.E).

All programs are designed to fulfill the Foundation's mission by providing aid and developing sustainable projects.

Brother's Brother Foundation began in 1958 as a dream of a few to help many abroad who lack good healthcare, education, and nutrition. From the beginning, its founder, Robert A. Hingson M.D., urged that BBF's resources be shared with local counterpart organizations in developing countries that shared the common desire to help those in need. Today, these efforts include regularly scheduled relief shipments and programmatic work under the H.I.D.E. umbrella here at home and abroad. If you'd like to give to their relief efforts in the Ukraine, click on the link below which will lead you to their homepage. You can also write a check payable to "Brother's Brother" and send it to the church.

[Non Profit Organization For World Relief, Health And Education \(brothersbrother.org\)](http://brothersbrother.org)

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

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

Soup

Cans of food or milk with pop tops

Instant oatmeal

Brownie mix

Peanut butter and jam

Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM

Contact Us

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Parish Staff

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Melanie Sprenkel, Parish Ministry Coordinator
Gerry Dalton, Financial Admin
Dave Stefanik, Caretaker
Elise Morris, Archivist & Historian

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

