



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

JUNE 2022

WOMEN LEADERS IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



By Father Chuck

Deacons, priests and bishops are women and men. Amen! A core truth we observe in Sacred Scriptures' – God speaking to God's people – unfolding divine revelation across the span of salvation history is a plan of including people in a measurable, increasingly expanding progression. God establishes a relationship with us, inviting us to acknowledge that God is our creator who has every aspect of the created universe in that creation. Additionally God reveals to us that God's greatness is immeasurable from our perspective and that love, also immeasurable, is the essence of God.

It's in that theological backdrop that I celebrate women called by God to ordained ministry in the Church. Sadly, God's people in some denominations aren't able to celebrate this yet. The decision making leaders of the Roman Catholic denomination, for example, continue to resist inclusion. One of the most significant reasons I left that denomination where I was raised is what I see in the willful obstinateness of those leaders. After I resigned and transitioned, I was welcomed and blessed with several important, helpful mentors. My favorite mentors include two priests of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh: the Reverend Moni McIntyre and the Reverend Leslie Reimer. Women have been called to priestly ministry in the Church since Jesus' time among us. We have much to celebrate in the gift we have in ordained deacons, priests and bishops. Pittsburgh has shined in ordaining women over the past 40 years and we've shined in a new way with the consecration of our new diocesan bishop, the Right Reverend Ketlen Solak.

God sends the Holy Word to us, and we are hearers of that Word. God has spoken to us across the span of salvation history that we are made in the image of God the Holy Trinity, the Eternal communion of love through whom the universe – including each person – is created and sustained. God has spoken to us through the Holy women and men in and beyond our Sacred Scriptures. Women have had to wait for inclusion in the house of ordained clergy. I rejoice in the stamina and prophetic fortitude of the women who worked to answer God's call, and I rejoice with all who support them in what led to this moment in God's unfolding providence.

FOOD OF THE MONTH

Please put in boxes in back of the church.

Boxed Cereal



BIRTHDAYS

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

ANNIVERSARIES

Mulligan/McKinley

LANDSCAPING AND GARDENING OPPORTUNITIES

IMPROVING OUR LANDSCAPING: The Vestry is moving forward to improve the landscaping around our church property. If you would like to be involved in how we should proceed, please contact Gerry Dalton or call Melanie in the office. In the near future we will be needing people to clear and prepare the beds, do the planting of shrubs and plants, water the areas, etc. If this would be something you would be willing to do, let us know. PS: If you know of a professional landscaper, who works in our area, please forward their name to us.

**WANT TO MAKE
PEOPLE HAPPY?
SIGN UP FOR
COFFEE HOUR!
JUNE IS OPEN!**

Prayer for June

God, you are the still, small voice,

The gentle whisper that follows.

May our ears always hear.

May our hearts always cry out for one another.

May our hands always reach out to one another.

And may we always walk like you,

Walk in solidarity with those who suffer

And so reflect your presence

and comfort.

Edward Hoyt, Mexico

Catholic Relief Services

St. Stephen's recently received an online donation of \$500. You may be interested in the comment that was made by the donor:

"I was baptized in this church. When I was 14 years old I was entrusted to do a fundraiser. I raised \$50 and selfishly spent it on personal gains. I did not turn the money over. It is something that has never sat well with my conscious. I can never undo my theft. AS I reflect on my life I feel compelled to address my wrongdoing. I hope this is able to aid you in your mission. All the best."

UPCOMING EVENTS

June is National Pride Month

JUNE 1 - MORNING PRAYER, JUNE 5 - Pentecost,

June 19 - Juneteenth and Father's Day

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE BISHOP HAS GRANTED PERMISSION TO RESUME THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE WINE DURING THE EUCHARIST, AND WE WILL NOW DISTRIBUTE THE WINE AT BOTH SERVICES.

NATIONAL PRIDE MONTH

Constant Friend,

Because people of every sexual orientation, gender expression, and gender identity have the right to live with dignity and without persecution or discrimination, so we pray for....

LGBTQ+ people whose dignity and self-esteem have been eroded by hateful systems and structures. We remember them and seek to be people who love more fully.

Individually, we each uniquely reflect your glory and express your love, but anti-gay violence, homophobia, and transphobia have blocked many from recognizing your beauty in all people. All of creation suffers from the effects of such hate, fear, and violence.

Daily, may we dedicate ourselves to building bridges of love and hope where harmful divisions have been made, making equity and equality for all people our goal, while working continually for justice, so that everyone can live fully in your love. Amen.

—a prayer by Alydia Smith for Pride month

CREATION CARE RESOLUTION

The diocesan Social Justice and Outreach Committee (SJO) is working to address questions of environmental stewardship for each parish throughout our diocese.

The SJO would like to gain greater representation from churches throughout the diocese. If you're interested in helping us through membership, contact Marianne Novy at mnovy@pitt.edu.

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 inundated 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.

[Donate | Wilkinsburg Community Ministry \(wcm15221.org\)](https://www.wcm15221.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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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!

