



# ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

May 2022

## MAY IS ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH.

Asians have been part of the Episcopal Church since the 19th century! The Episcopal Church has named people from the Pacific Islands, Japan, China, Korea, Philippines, Southeast Asia and South Asia "Asiamericans" and has recognized the importance of Asiamericans in the Episcopal Church. We know the importance of a Korean American in our own church, so Melanie asked **Soon Choi** to share some of her story with us, her church family. She was born in Seoul, South Korea to a privileged family in a poor country, and her mother was the first female doctor in South Korea! But Soon said that the culture of this poor country was hard at times because everyone was just trying to survive, so relationships, kindness and communication were often ignored. Soon said that her relationship with Jesus is what has changed her into a more compassionate person. She remembers the day she was born again, December 9, 1986, when she was looking out the window of her house. She had been confused by what she heard at her church and couldn't believe all the miracle stories or the story of the resurrection, but on that day, as she looked out of the window, she felt a certainty that somehow it was all true. Shortly after, in 1987, she moved to Pittsburgh from Korea with a scholarship to attend CMU and earn an MFA in piano performance. She became Catholic and went to church every day. On Sundays she would play at the Methodist Korean Church. She said that through relationships in church she learned to replace the values of wealth, prestige and education with compassion, gentleness and thoughtfulness. These new attributes prompted her to become a nurse, and she is now a nurse in a Vincentian home that houses many retired priests and nuns. She is thankful for these gifts that God has given her and believes that music and Christianity have taught her that what matters is not what you earn but who you are. Surrendering to God has given her the gift of a fully integrated life, and she is thankful. She knew she was living in God's will when her daughter told her, "I can see God working through you." We can all see God working through Soon and are thankful for her life among us.



## FOOD OF THE MONTH

Please put in boxes in back of the church.

### PASTA AND SAUCE



## BIRTHDAYS

May 1 - Louise Broujos,  
May 21 Tim Brucker, May 30 Ernie Scott

## LANDSCAPING AND GARDENING OPPORTUNITIES

We will be meeting soon to discuss landscaping designs and planting dates. If you would like to be involved or if you are thinning your perennials, let Gerry Dalton or Melanie Know. 412-243-6100 or

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

### Prayer for May

Oh Great Spirit who dwells in the sky, lead us to the path of peace and understanding, let all of us live together as brothers and sisters. Our lives are so short here, walking upon Mother Earth's surface, let our eyes be opened to all the blessings you have given us. Please hear our prayers, Oh Great Spirit.

-Native American Prayer

Remember that May 1 is the Pittsburgh Marathon and plan your route to church accordingly! Then we'll see you at Morning Prayer on Wednesday, May 4, at 10:30 a.m.



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

May 1 - ??, May 8 - Melanie and Louise,  
May 15 - ??, May 22 - ??, May 29 - ??

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 4 - 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

May 5 - National Day of Prayer

May 8 - Mother's Day

May 26 - Ascension Day

May 30 - Memorial Day

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO WORKED SO HARD TO CREATE  
FOR US SUCH A MEANINGFUL HOLY WEEK AND GLORIOUS  
EASTER. WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOU!!!



## Mission of the Month

### THE SANCTUARY PROJECT

“The mission of the Wilkesburg Sanctuary Project for Peace is to end youth and young adult violence in the community of Wilkesburg and beyond. We seek to be a presence of peace and hope in our community as we lift up Wilkesburg as a wonderful place to live, work, worship and attend school. Though many of us represent the Christian congregations of Wilkesburg, we welcome and work alongside people of all faith traditions for the saving of our young people and beloved community.”

You can donate by writing a check to “The Wilkesburg Sanctuary Project” and putting it in the communion plate or by getting on their website at

[wilkesburgsanctuaryproject.org](http://wilkesburgsanctuaryproject.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

Rev. Chuck Esposito, Priest  
Soon Choi, Dir. of Music Ministry  
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!

