



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

AUGUST 2022

Some prayerful reflections on the results of our recent General Convention

I rejoice at the wonderful results of our recently concluded General Convention. More time was spent on worship, specifically enhancing our embrace of inclusion with supplemental, inspired and general convention-approved texts, than on the budget...amen for sure, huh? I also rejoice at hearing that our youngest lay deputy house leader, Julie Ayala Harris identifies as a Latina. Perhaps now we will see some growing strength of blessed, beautiful initiatives to invite, welcome, accommodate and empower members of the Latino community as a lively part of the Episcopal Church, especially in dioceses and parishes that have more Latino neighbors than are acknowledged currently.

Please pray with me for a Church with members who seek to show the Holy Spirit alive in their hearts as they work with ambition and creativity to exclude no one in any established or newer initiative and to invite all, particularly those who have been excluded, both overtly in schism – women and members who identify as LGBTQ+ in particular – and covertly in “glass ceilings” of ministry leadership, and active welcome into the topics decided as relevant for deeper discussions so that all can truly feel beloved in our Episcopal faith communities. Let's give thanks to God, also, for the reunion of Fort Worth and North Texas dioceses, whose members had a few years ago voted for a schism over the inclusion of LGBTQ+ people and ordained women.

Let's honor the efforts of justice for Indigenous communities, the ecology with healthy temperature, air and water and for decent healthcare coverage for all, including abortion services and birth control. Let's focus on empowering women by providing real options – providing housing, healthcare and a stipend – for a woman who might want to bring her child to term but doesn't have the income security, savings, safe stable home, or healthcare to make that decision freely. Let's pray for those sacred human life is in jeopardy: those who are on death row, those in danger through gun violence and those who lack the healthcare – physiological and mental – necessary for them to have the length of the precious life God our Creator has made possible. Let's be vigorous in our defense of countries attacked by military violence and protest loudly against any preemptive war that results in so many deaths. Let's try to avoid the dishonesty of far too many news media soundbites and rhetoric and be honest about our calling to honor God's gift of all human life in the ways that will save and preserve as many lives as possible.

Father Chuck Esposito



FOOD OF THE MONTH

Please put in boxes in back of the church.

PANCAKES AND SYRUP



BIRTHDAYS

August 5 - Pat Woodley

August 11 - Elise Morris

ANNIVERSARIES

August 13 - Don and Mary Block

Prayer for August

To our Lord, I offer this prayer.

**This body and soul are your
property and you are our mother
and father; we are your children.**

**There are many joys in your grace -
nobody knows your limits.**

-Prayer from India

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh provides several opportunities to get involved with the Beloved Community Initiative. On the first Wednesday of every month, you can join a zoom Bible Study; on the third Wednesday of the month you can participate in a zoom prayer and share, and this summer small groups will be formed for Sacred Ground exploration. See the links below if you are interested in learning more.

**Reading the Bible through the Beloved Community
Lens, 1st Wednesdays**

[Reading the Bible Through the Beloved Community
Lens – Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh
\(episcopalpgh.org\)](https://www.episcopalpgh.org/reading-the-bible-through-the-beloved-community-lens)

Prayer and Share, Third Wednesdays

[Prayer & Share with the Beloved Community – Episco-
pal Diocese of Pittsburgh \(episcopalpgh.org\)](https://www.episcopalpgh.org/prayer-and-share)

Sacred Ground, small groups this summer

[2022 Sacred Ground Sign Up Survey
\(surveymonkey.com\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com/sacred-ground)

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

AUGUST IS OPEN!

UPCOMING EVENTS

August is National Wellness Month. Check out suggestions at

[August is National Wellness Month - The Kim Foundation](#)

August is also Black Business Day. Check out Black Businesses in Pittsburgh at [Black-Owned Businesses in Pittsburgh | UNATION](#)

Open Positions for the 2022 Diocesan Convention!

Are you interested in serving in one of these positions? If so, email us at ststephenswilkinsburg@gmail.com and we'll send you an application and a more specific explanation of the jobs available or you can access the details on the diocesan website:

[Wanted: Candidates for Diocesan Offices – Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh \(episcopalpgh.org\)](#)

Standing Committee - 4 year term

Board of Trustees - 3 year term

Committee on Constitution and Canons - 3 years

Regional Disciplinary Board - 3 years

Commission on Ministry - 3 years

Deputies to 2024 General Convention - 3 years

Cathedral Chapter - 3 years

Resolution at the 80th General Convention

A resolution was made to confront The Episcopal Church's historic ties to the federal system of Indigenous Boarding Schools and to establish a voluntary Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equality and Justice and to affirm that all Episcopalians should be able to access abortion services.

Mission of the Month

WILKINSBURG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Wilkinsburg Community Council needs our help. The food needs of the community are great, and WCM also provides supplies for school students in Wilkinsburg.

On August 9 we have a special opportunity to feed our needy neighbors in Wilkinsburg and surrounding areas. The Pittsburgh Foundation is holding a Critical Needs Alert day, and one of the groups benefiting is the Wilkinsburg Community Ministry (WCM). The Foundation will partially match donations to the WCM. So please consider making a donation to WCM on the 9th by going to pittsburghgives.org and finding the page for the Ministry. All donations must be made online and by credit card for this campaign. (P.S. Did you know that WCM gives out 15,000 pounds of food each month?)

-Don Block, WCM board member and longtime St. Stephen's member

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

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

