



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

SEPTEMBER 2022

One of the Pentecost messages that the first generation of Jesus' disciples embraced as we read about the emerging Church in the Acts of the Apostles and in the pastoral epistles of the early Church is that all are welcome because God loves us all and wants us to love one another. As we prepare for our Parish family kick-off Sunday liturgy on September 18th for the new 2022- 2023 year, I would invite us to pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in the important, sacred endeavor that each of us, by God's all-sufficient grace and our intention to be creative and ambitious with our unique gifts, talents and opportunities, can do so as to help Saint Stephen's to be a place where all feel invited, welcomed, respected, appreciated, cared for and loved. This is a lofty challenge God gives us.

We celebrate the ever-increasing high energy youth and family outreach that is being cultivated in a special way by Gerald Warrick's after school "Call Time Out Academy," well-established now in residence in the gym upstairs spaces of the Parish Hall. We give joyful thanks to God for the renewed dedication of our congregation in the ways that we are looking into keeping our grounds and gardens beautified with greenery and attention. We welcome all who feel inspired to pull a weed along the way and help us to add to the blossoms and foliage. Also we look forward to seeing our restored wooden doors on the Pitt Street entrance to the Parish House. We celebrate our choir members who, with our music minister Soon, will be back to bless our 10:30 Sunday morning Eucharistic liturgy. We invite people to consider joining us for a new year of Bible study on Thursdays from 12:00 noon-1:30 pm in the Parish House library and to join us on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:30 am for Morning Prayer liturgy in the choir stalls of the sanctuary.

We who celebrate Saint Stephen's and call it our spiritual home are invited continue the sacred, important endeavor of opening our hearts and minds to God's Word in our lives. We're called to bless each other with our presence together as much as we are able. We're called to be creative and ambitious in how we show invitation, welcome, respect appreciation, care and love in Jesus' name for all the good things underway among us. God is blessing us with grace and the power of the Holy Spirit so we can be the blessing we're called to be as we journey together as disciples of Jesus Christ here at St. Stephen's.

- Father Chuck+

FOOD OF THE MONTH

Please put in boxes in back of the church.

PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY



BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 3 - Dave Stefanik, Sept. 10 - Trish Schauf,
Sept. 27 John Sprenkel

ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 2 Joann and Bill Rau, Kevin and Cathie
Sunderman, Sept. 15 - Elise and Tim Morris

Prayer for September

**Make us worthy, Lord, to serve
our fellow men throughout the
world who live and die in pov-
erty and hunger. Give them
through our hands this day their
daily bread, and by our under-
standing love, give peace and
joy.**

**-Mother Theresa,
Calcutta**

**MORNING PRAYER HAS
BEEN CANCELLED FOR
SEPTEMBER. SEE YOU
OCTOBER 5.**

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. 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)

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

SEPTEMBER IS OPEN!

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 5 - Labor Day, September 18 - Kick off Sunday,

September 15-October 15 is National Hispanic Heritage Month

Latinos are the fastest growing demographic in the United States, and the Episcopal Church encourages us to think about how we can welcome them into our congregations so that we can mutually benefit from each other's fellowship. In fact, Father Chuck knows Spanish fluently so we can have a wonderful connection to the Latino community through him! Just recently, he facilitated our communication with a new renter for the kitchen who is from Honduras and who will be serving food from Antojitos Food Truck in East Liberty! We will let you know when they are open for business!

SACRED GROUND is a film based dialogue about faith and race consisting of eight week sessions that meet once a week. There are sessions at Calvary and other churches that are held at different times and during different months. If you'd like to attend one, please click on this link.

[Sign Up Information for "Sacred Ground" Small Group Formations. \(google.com\)](#)

Our Washington County parishes – St. Thomas' in Canonsburg and St. David's in Peters Township – have partnered with **RIP Medical Debt** to forgive debt portfolios in western PA, eastern Ohio, and northern West Virginia.

You're invited to join their campaign to bring a bit of light into the lives of families in our region. By raising \$5,000 we can forgive ~\$500,000 of medical debt in our region. Many Americans are affected by medical debt, especially many older people.

Donations can be made online through September.

[Let's Be a Blessing: Help Release Our Neighbors' Medical Debt - RIP Medical Debt](#)

Mission of the Month

EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

Episcopal Relief and Development works in collaboration with church partners and other local organizations to help communities that struggle with hunger, poverty, disaster and disease. Their three priorities are women, children and the climate. If you'd like to donate, you can write a check to the organization and put it in the offering plate, and we will send it for you, or you can donate online at

[Episcopal Relief & Development](http://www.episcopalrelief.org)

*To feed the hungry, care for the sick and
welcome the stranger.*

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

Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM

Contact Us

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

