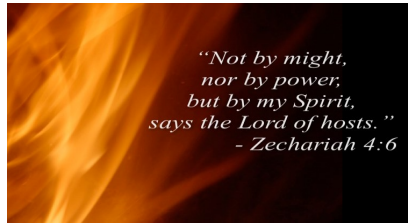




ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

June 2023



As we reflect on ourselves as disciples of Jesus after Pentecost, it's right for us to ask: How does Saint Stephen's make a welcome space for the Holy Spirit to abide? What are we able to celebrate that we already do well by God's grace and what, with God's help, can we do even better? I think a window into this is possible as I reflect on the funeral liturgy for Dick Groat we celebrated with his family. We began with the sense his family had of feeling called by God to have the liturgy of farewell to Dick in this life at Saint Stephen's, where Dick worshipped and brought his family to worship, since his baptism and childhood, to his marriage and into his life as a husband, father and child of God. We met Dick's family again as we worshiped together with them on the Sunday immediately following his death. Then from that faith-filled moment we built from it with our intention to minister to them and to serve God with our best. We worked with the kind respect and hard work that was required to navigate the logistics, create a plan for the liturgy with which the Groat family was pleased, help the funeral director, prepare the sacred music and the sanctuary. The office tasks and follow-up phone calls and emails, the ministerial gatherings and the commitment of ministers to the moment God placed before us was done well because we saw ourselves as called by God to prepare a Eucharistic liturgy here that would lift up the faith of the family, friends, guests and congregation members who would gather for that event at St. Stephen's. Many felt joy and gratitude to God for how we worshipped together. And that is also how many feel when they come to our Sunday liturgies and events. Let us pray with joy and gratitude for those at St. Stephen's who serve and minister with dedication and love and, with honest humility, pray for the grace necessary to move beyond any selfish, individualistic, or divisive choices so that the Holy Spirit can abide fully within each of us and in this sacred place. -Father Chuck+

Prayer for June

God, you are in 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. Ad may we always walk like you, walk in solidarity with those who suffer and so reflect your presence and comfort.
-Edward Hoyt



CELEBRATIONS

June 4 - Sig Tragard
June 6 - Bellamy Sprenkel
June 9 - Brianna Reed
June 12 - Bill Rau and Lindsay Angelo
June 15 - Beth Albitz
June 26 - Melissa McDonough
Happy Anniversary to Kathy Mulligan and Dan McKinley - June 16

JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH!

Jesus said: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35) In my years of ministry, I have personally



seen and been blessed by countless LGBTQ sisters, brothers and siblings. Dear friends, the church has in like manner been blessed by you. Together with many others you are faithful followers of Jesus of Nazareth and his way of love. You have helped the church to be truly catholic, universal, a house of prayer for all people. You have helped the church to truly be **a reflection of the beloved community of God.** You have helped the church to authentically be a branch of the Jesus movement in our time. Your ministries to and with this church are innumerable. You faithfully follow Jesus and his way of love. And in so doing you help the church to build a better world for God's sake.
-Bishop Michael Curry (June 12, 2019)

MORNING PRAYER WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 10:30 AM. (The first Wednesday of each month.)

HELP NEEDED SATURDAY, JUNE 10!

HELPING HAND



We are decluttering our 120 year old-church, and we need your help! On Saturday, June 10, we will be renting a dumpster and getting rid of the clutter. We need many hands; please let Gerry Dalton or the church office know if you can spare a couple of hours to help us out on June 10, starting at noon.
galton1364@gmail.com

WE HAVE THREE MINORITY BUSINESS OWNERS RENTING OUR KITCHEN SPACE. LET'S SUPPORT THEM!

VEEZ BROWNIES

Brownies and Cheesecakes

owner Violet Scott, 401-301-7300 or www.veezdecadentbrownies.com

ANTOJITOS HONDURENOS AND MORE FOOD TRUCK

Honduran Food, owner Lilian Velasquez,

200 Jefferson Road, Penn Hills, 412-519-6814, lilianvelasquez74@icloud.com

PAPELON BISTRO VENEZUELAN AREPAS BAR

owners Leonardo and Armando.

1928 Murray Avenue in Squirrel Hill, 412-445-8499

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 contact the office or find it on the diocesan website. Episcopalpgh.org

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 



Register today for discounted festival and hotel rates!

WATCH FATHER CHUCK'S PAST SERMONS by accessing our website, "Ststephenswilkinsburg.org," click "Worship," and then click on "Livestreaming our worship service."

FOOD OF THE MONTH BOXED CEREAL



THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE
MUSTARD SEED BABIES
HOME!!! WE ARE GRATEFUL
FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

We raised \$1050 and have
heard that the tuition has
come through and the
children are now in
school!

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Wilkinsburg Community Ministry

WCM shares food. They offer their Wilkinsburg neighbors a diversified and sustainable source of fresh food in addition to a variety of other foods provided by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

WCM shares food with over 5,000 residents each year, including senior citizens, citizens with disabilities, at-risk youth and families who are economically challenged, underemployed or facing emergency situations. The outcomes of their programs include reducing hunger in Wilkinsburg, supporting the health and well-being of our senior citizens, helping economically-challenged families have basic necessities and keeping Wilkinsburg streets safer through partnerships with education and after-school youth programs.

If you'd like to give, you can donate on their website

[Wilkinsburg Community Ministry | \(wcm15221.org\)](http://WilkinsburgCommunityMinistry.org)

Or write a check and place it in the offering plate or mail it to WCM, 704 Wood Street, Wilkinsburg PA 15221

Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM

Contact Us

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
600 Pitt Street
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221

412.243.6100 (phone)
ststephenswilkinsburg@gmail.com (email)

www.ststephenswilkinsburg.org

Parish Staff

Rev. Chuck Esposito, Priest
Soon Choi, Dir. of Music Ministry
Melanie Sprenkel, Parish Ministry
Coordinator
Gerry Dalton, Financial Admin.
Elise Morris, Archivist & Historian
Tim Brucker, Caretaker

