



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

NOVEMBER 2023

ALL SAINTS' DAY

This month, as always, the churches of the Anglican Communion, the Episcopal Church throughout the United States, throughout the Diocese of Pittsburgh and here at Saint Stephen's shall celebrate All Saints' Day.

All Saints' Day is one of the "principal feasts" of the Episcopal Church, when we as the church remember the saints, known and unknown. It is also one of the four holy days denoted as especially appropriate for baptisms, as well as the first Sunday after Epiphany, the Easter Vigil, and Pentecost.

All Saints' Day has early roots in the Church. A feast for all martyrs was observed as early as the 4th century on May 13th. And Pope Gregory III dedicated a chapel in Rome to all saints on November 1st. Pope Gregory IV promulgated All Saints' Day's observance officially in 837.

In England this feast was known as All Hallows (hallow was an old English term for saint), and the day before was All Hallows' Eve, or Halloween. It is believed that the traditions we associate with Halloween originate with Celtic harvest festivals, in particular the festival of Samhain, which celebrated the harvest and when the dead were said to return to their homes because the veil between the physical and spiritual worlds was thought to be thinnest at that time. Bonfires were lit to frighten away evil spirits.

The Episcopal service for All Hallows' Eve may include special prayers and readings such as "[The Witch of Endor](#)," a story from 1 Samuel 28: 3-25.

November 2 is the commemoration of All Faithful Departed, sometimes called All Souls' Day. It is a day when faithful Christians who have died are remembered. This feast's origin is attributed to Saint Odilo, the Abbot of the Benedictine Abby of Cluny, France. He established it as a feast at that monastery in 1031; then it was adopted by the universal Church in 1041.

In the New Testament "saints" refers to the entire Christian community. It has come to refer to all people whose holy deeds are remembered by Christians. Many remember their loved ones who have died on All Souls' Day. These days are sometimes called "All Hallowtide." Here at Saint Stephen's we maintain a book in the back of the church, near the entrance, where members and friends who visit can write down the names of people who have died and were a special blessing for them.

-Father Chuck +

PRAYER FOR NOVEMBER

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

-Philippians 4:5-7

Morning Prayer happens the first Wednesday of each Month. See you on November 1.

Prepare your heart to welcome Jesus— An Advent Devotional

Our bible study group is reading an Advent Devotional. If you can't join us, but would like to have a devotional for Advent, please let the office know, and we will order one for you. The cost will be \$9 or \$10.

Christmas is about the world-changing, transforming, and sometimes messy reality of "God with us." *Expecting Emmanuel* by Joanna Harader dives deep into the biblical accounts of Jesus' female ancestors and reflects on God's presence in their complicated lives. Through invitational spiritual practices and reflections, this daily devotional centers the stories of five women in Jesus' genealogy --Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary --plus three additional female figures connected to Jesus' early life in the days leading up to Epiphany.



CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

November 1 Vince Angelo,

November 5 Shayna Barbour,

November 7 Olivia Moe, November 8 John Cram,

November 18 Kay Romey and Jerome McCullough,

November 23 Samantha Giles,

November 28 Darlene Bradley,

November 29 Dave Swatzler

Mission of the Month

SAMARITAN'S FEET

The Kregar family store, circa 1908, was an integral part of the Wilkinsburg Community for many years. Once the parents passed away, the children wanted to continue that family's legacy in Wilkinsburg and joined with Samaritan's feet to establish a "Shoe Locker" for Wilkinsburg students. Manny, the founder of Samaritan's Feet, was blessed with a pair of tennis shoes, as he grew up in Africa. That blessing grew and grew as his organization now provides new shoes to impoverished children all over the world. If you would like to be part of this blessing to the children, you can donate by getting on the link below . You can also put a check to "Samaritan's Feet" in the offering plate. Thank you!

<https://samaritansfeet.org/donate/>

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

BEGINS ON

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5.

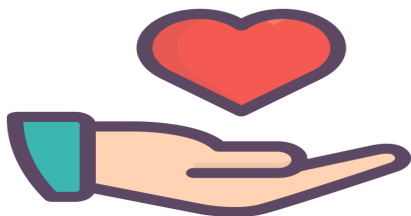
“FALL BACK!”

**YOU GET AN EXTRA HOUR
OF SLEEP!**

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



If you'd like to make a pledge to St. Stephen's to help us carry out the good work we have been called to do as a community of believers in Wilkinsburg, it will help if you turn in your Estimate of Giving Cards soon so we can plan for next year's ministry. If you have misplaced yours, there are extra ones on the tables in church or you can contact the office to send you one. Thank you!



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH—158TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Please join us for the 2023 Diocesan Convention which will be held on Saturday, November 11th at Trinity Cathedral from 7:45 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided for all in attendance.

Information about convention [is available here](#) including a tentative agenda and registration details.

The work of convention is integral to the health of the diocese. We appreciate clergy and lay deputies of each parish giving their time to make decisions that will contribute to the well-being of the diocese.

In addition to the work of convention, spiritual formation is also something we treasure. This year we will be holding a formation day separate from the Diocesan Convention. This will occur in late April/early May 2024. Details on the formation day will be announced at a later date.

We are scheduled to elect persons to the following leadership positions: Standing Committee, Board of Trustees, Committee on Constitution and Canons, Cathedral Chapter, Commission on Ministry, Diocesan Council, Growth Fund, Regional Disciplinary Board, and District Leadership. Contact the office if interested ststephenswilkinsburg@gmail.com

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.

If you'd like to attend one, please contact the office or find it on the diocesan website.

Episcopalpgh.org

FOOD OF THE MONTH

Please put in boxes in back of the church.

HOLIDAY MEAL BAGS

Did you know that 25% of Wilkinsburg residents are food insecure? Let's help our neighbors by contributing to the Wilkinsburg Community Ministry holiday meal bags.

Boxes of stuffing mix

Cans of green beans

Cans of corn

Cans of cranberry sauce

Cans of sweet potatoes

Boxes of corn bread mix

Boxes of dessert mix

Giant Eagle gift cards



MISSION OF THE MONTH

MILESTONE

First founded in 1969, Milestone has been giving back to the Wilkinsburg community for over 50 years.

According to Executive Director Jordan Coughlen, the idea behind Milestone came from parents who wanted to provide deinstitutionalized and community-focused care for children diagnosed with an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD). Since then, however, Milestone has become so much more.

"We have grown from a community-focused IDD day program and residential provider to a multi-faceted, multi-service line agency that provides care to individuals with a mental health diagnosis, substance use disorder, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and those just needing extra care and support in their recovery journey regardless of what they're dealing with," Coughlen said.

Milestone has been located in and devoted to the community of Wilkinsburg since it was established. Their first office opened at 712 South Avenue in 1969. Though Milestone may have evolved, their core vision of providing support remains the same. (from Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation)

Several members of the St. Stephen's Community have been involved in Milestone. It's a life-giving organization. If you'd like to make a donation to Milestone, see the link below or write a check to Milestone and put it in the communion plate, and we'll get it to them.

<https://www.milestonepa.org/>

Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM

Contact Us

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Melanie Sprenkel, Parish Ministry Coordinator
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Tim Brucker, Caretaker

