



# ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

JUNE 2024



## The 25th Anniversary of Father Chuck's Ordination to the Priesthood!

Looking at the five years I have been here at Saint Stephen's so far, I am reflecting with joy and gratitude to God for the blessings I am given in living out my calling to serve God's people as a priest of Jesus Christ. I am gazing back with wonder at how many inspired moments in prayer and encouraging words from spiritual guides helped me to stay true to my calling and begin the journey of intense college study and priestly formation, then how, in spite of occasions of questions and doubts, with God's wonderful grace and through the power of the Holy Spirit I was accepted into the major seminary with four years of graduate study in Sacred Scripture, theology, pastoral internships, daily worship and prayer, study and spiritual direction where I felt my gifts were able to be developed and prepared for my life as a priest for a parish congregation.

I felt God reassuring me that I was exactly where God was calling me to be throughout those four years of full time residence and intensive graduate study in the priestly formation program. My professors and pastoral mentors, my spiritual director and my nearly 30 classmates from dioceses from all around the United States and the world blessed me and helped me to recognize how I was able to be a blessing in allowing God, through them, to form me into a priest for the Church. With my family and friends joining the seminary community in Chicago I was ordained a deacon on December 12, 1998, then began preaching and ministering as a deacon at a parish near the seminary. The pastor and the people of that parish then became mentors for me on the last stretch of the journey toward my ordination to the priesthood on June 5, 1999. I am blessed with a life filled with happiness. My joy at answering God's call in my life to serve as a priest throughout these past 25 years has been its own blessing, but I am also humbled and overjoyed at the appreciation and encouragement I have received by the many members of the various parish congregations where I have served. I have been called to and served at a few different parishes over the past 25 years with many wonderful people in each one. However, my favorite parish to which God has called me is here at Saint Stephen's. Thank you for your prayers and support, thank you for your love and appreciation, thank you for your welcome five years ago and for your words of gratitude for my ministry here. Let us be a blessing to each other.

-Father Chuck

Morning Prayer happens the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. See you on June 5.

### 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. And may we always walk like you, walk in solidarity with those who suffer and so reflect your presence and comfort.*



### CELEBRATIONS BIRTHDAYS

June 4-Sig Tragard, June 6-Bellamy Sprengel, June 9-Brianna Reed and Deanna Broujos, June 12-Bill Rau and Lindsay Angelo, June 14-Bruce Frey, June 15-Beth Albitz, June 19-Gary Marzolf, June 25-Gregg Broujos, June 26-Melissa McDonough

### ANNIVERSARIES

June 16-Dan McKinley & Kathy Mulligan

### TEE AND JEROME'S JOYOUS BAPTISM



*I wanted Rosemary to be baptized because I want her to always know that there's a place for her in the church, no matter what. That she can find community there, imperfect as she is, imperfect but full of grace. I want her to know that God's love is whole and complete, which makes her and the rest of us sinners whole and complete.*  
-Lindsay Angelo



MAY  
birthday  
celebration!

## RESTORATION FUND

*You recently received information concerning our goal of raising \$150,000 for St. Stephen's Building Restoration. We realize this is asking you to make a difficult decision as you may need to commit funds from your savings and/or retirement accounts.*

*Please know that this fundraising event is necessary as we are already committed to the following projects:*

*Hallway floor \$ 2,600*

*Masonry work \$52,360*

*Roof repairs/replacement  
\$71,092 (minimum)*

*\$126,052 Total*

*PLEASE PRAY about how you might help us preserve our physical plant for years to come.*

St. John's Open Episcopal Church is planning a few social events and would like to invite St. Stephen's and Breath of Life Community. Mark your calendars!

July 20-Picnic

August 10-Mystery Theatre

September Spaghetti Dinner TBA

## FOOD OF THE MONTH

### BOXED CEREAL



## Mission of the Month

### GWEN'S GIRLS WILKINSBURG

A study by the Black Girls Equity Alliance in 2020 found that Black girls are 10 times more likely than white girls to be referred to juvenile justice, and the majority of arrests are for minor offenses that are not safety related. Along with other programming, Gwen's Girls created Caring Connections for YOUth to intervene before law enforcement is called, and the organization is expanding in even more ways. Gwen's Girls offers programming for girls from third through 12th grade in Allegheny County to empower them, offering help with schoolwork, life skills and a place where they can be themselves. Their new program, Caring Connections for YOUth, has already helped 130 families in its first year. It's designed to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline by providing services and support for kids and families before a situation escalates to the justice system. AND GWEN'S GIRLS IS BREAKING GROUND IN WILKINSBURG! Please support our neighborhood by donating to Gwen's Girls using the link below. -information from KDKA, March 4, 2024

[https://gwensgirls.org/day\\_of\\_giving/](https://gwensgirls.org/day_of_giving/)

Or send a check to Gwen's Girls, 711 West Commons, Third Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Gwen's Girls has been empowering girls since 2002!

*Whoever wishes to be great among you  
must be your servant.*



*Please join us at St. Stephen's on Sunday, June 2, to give thanks  
for this great servant of God. We are celebrating the 25th anni-  
versary of Father Chuck Esposito's ordination.*

*Our regular liturgy will be held at 10:30 a.m.  
(There is also an 8 a.m. service.) After the 10:30  
a.m. service, we will meet in the parish house to  
celebrate the 25th anniversary of Chuck's ordina-  
tion. Please come and celebrate with us!*



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](http://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

