



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

JULY 2024

This beautiful old church building in which we worship has been around for over 100 years. You've probably heard the parable of the mustard seed. Like the mustard seed, St. Stephen's had small and humble beginnings, and yet grew into a tree which sheltered the birds who made their nests in it. The St. Stephen's congregation is not the only bird who shelters in this oversized tree called St. Stephen's. There are many groups that shelter here: NA, AA, a youth basketball program, adult aerobics and karate classes, barber classes for the youth, small time entrepreneurs who are working hard to start their business and make a living, and two other church families. We have received feedback from some of these groups as to why St. Stephen's physical plant is a blessing to them. We hope it encourages those of you who have not yet made your pledge to the Restoration Fund to make that pledge! Because of our members' generosity, work on the masonry has already begun and the roof work will begin soon!

Russell Cain: This church has meant to me HOPE AND LOVE. On Sunday, I am sitting in church and listening to Father Chuck; on Wednesday, I am in the basement from 4 to 9 p.m. This is the AA room where people are fighting for their lives and sanity. St. Stephen's has supported us since 1944. 80 years! More miracles happen here than you can count. Some people in our program don't make it, and we deal with too many deaths. At St. Stephen's I believe there is an angel in this place, but I know for sure with Father Chuck and the gang upstairs, we have a lot of living angels. God bless you and thank you.

Narcotics Anonymous Saturday Group: NA has been at St. Stephen's for about 35 years. We love Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church, thank you.

Veez Decadent Brownies: I am so grateful that the church embraces the community and builds relationships with entrepreneurs by allowing them to use their commercial kitchen space.

Father Michael Singer of St. John's Open Episcopal Church: St. Stephen's is a beautiful parish. When I first came here, I saw that the breath of Life, the warmth of Christ's love emits from this beautiful parish. It is a home for my parish, a place that means everything to us, where we feel the love and warmth of Christ. The Spirit of Christ is in this building, a building that houses so much love and community spirit. Patrick and I love this building and want to protect it so it can be around for many more years, for many more generations to know the love that this building can give to people. Saint Stephen's is a beacon of love, hope, faith.

Reverend Apostle Jermaine D. Horne: St. Stephen's has given us the opportunity to continue ministry after our last location was sold. In the building we have been able to teach the word, worship and fellowship.

Time Out Academy: St. Stephen's is a blessing to us in so many ways, from having a space for all ages 5 and up; from dance classes for the youth as well as basketball training for our youth; Hip Hop boxing and aerobics for our adults; as well as a safe space for youth to young adults who come for training in cosmetology. We are able to give free haircuts and styles for those less fortunate. We also give discounted or free tax prep for those who qualify. We also hold events like project cradle care, and we have community baby showers at St. Stephen's.

All of this and more are the blessings this building provides. That is why it is imperative that we continue to be good stewards of what God has given us and what God has called us to do. Thank you for all of the ways you have contributed to and will contribute to the health of this building. The community is depending on it!!

Morning Prayer happens the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. See you on July 3.

PRAYER FOR JULY

O love ever burning and never extinguished

O Charity,

My God, set me on fire.

-St. Augustine, North Africa



CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

July 6-Kevin Sunderman

July 9-Krystal Albitz

July 16-Tee McCullough

July 18-Kathy Mulligan

July 19-Pam Sovich and Barb Hicks

July 21-Tameka Thompson

July 22-Tim Morris

July 25-Cathy Sunderman

July 31-Karen Teulle

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT HOLY CROSS

7057 Kelly Street

Monday, July 29 to Friday, August 2
from 12:30-3:00 p.m.

Children ages 3 1/2 to second grade

Theme: Christmas in July!

Below is the email if you are interested in sending your child to this VBS.

holycrosspdo@gmail.com

POTLUCK PICNIC ON THE LAWN!

St. John's Open Episcopal Church has invited us to a potluck picnic on the back lawn of St. Stephen's on Saturday July 27 at 2 p.m. Come to socialize and bring a dish to share!



"The financial records for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church are exceptionally well-organized and in very good condition. It is clear that the Vestry takes its responsibilities of fiduciary responsibility and proper stewardship very seriously. I am most grateful to **Gerry Dalton** who plays an important role in the management of the finances for St. Stephen's." -Marlene Rihn, Diocesan Senior Financial Administrator

RESTORATION FUND

Due to the generosity of our parishioners, we are over half way to our goal of raising \$150,000 for St. Stephen's Building Restoration. We have raised \$89,925 so far. Work has begun on the masonry and the roof work will commence soon. Thank you, thank you! And if you haven't made a pledge or donation, it's not too late! Pledge cards are in the back of the church or you can email us at ststephenswilkinsburg@gmail.com

THANKS TO OUR NEWEST VESTRY MEMBER

DOUGLAS CHAFFEY

who was appointed to be on the vestry due to the unforeseen absences of Mike Hogan and Ernie Scott. (Please keep Mike and Ernie in your prayers.)



FOOD OF THE MONTH

RICE AND BEANS



Mission of the Month

Wilkinsburg Public Safety Department

Working in public safety can be a very stressful job. We'd like to say "thank you" to the Wilkinsburg public safety department for their efforts on behalf of the community. If you'd like to donate to this effort, please write a check to St. Stephen's with "Wilkinsburg Public Safety" in the memo line, and we will use it to send a thank you meal to the public safety workers who work out of the Borough Building.

Thanks!



Happenings around St. Stephen's



Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM

Contact Us

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Parish Staff

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