



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

NOVEMBER 2024

Last Sunday the Gospel lesson was the story from Mark of Jesus healing Bartimaeus, whose name in Aramaic indicates that he is the son of Timaeus. Bartimaeus lost his sight and, because of his lack of social support, was in a circumstance of need, "sitting by the roadside begging." By God's plan through Bartimaeus' strong faith and his study of the Hebrew Scriptures, he calls out in a bold declaration of faith in Jesus as the Messiah: "Son of David, have mercy on me!" In the midst of autumn the Church has traditionally celebrated [All Souls and All Saints](#) in a solemn, formal way. We make this Sunday, as is our custom at St. Stephen's, our Eucharistic liturgy for All Saints Day. We invite all to cherish the names and memories of their loved ones who have died, whom we believe are with God, awaiting Jesus' return with all the other saints, living and deceased. We are invited to use this solemn remembrance as a spiritual bridge to eternal life. We celebrate our faith in the Kingdom of God and our salvation in Jesus Christ by which we know that life after our earthly journey is changed, not ended. By God's mercy we seek and find, by the Holy Spirit whom Jesus has sent among us gathered as the Church in the name of the Lord, our heart's desire, our faith's goal, our living relationship with God, our Creator and Redeemer in Jesus Christ, a foundation in eternal life by which we can see the limits, suffering and death of our brief, passing life here with new eyes in a perspective of being part of God's new, perfect covenant with us. We visit the graves of our loved ones. We miss them and hold their memory dear. And we believe that we shall be together with them forever and that, in the meantime, they are watching over us and praying for us. Let us celebrate life fully by this faith.

-Fr. Chuck

Morning Prayer happens the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. See you on November 6 .



KEVIN CARTER

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

Kevin Carter is such a quiet presence that you may not know much about this man who doesn't miss a Sunday service. It was a pleasure to speak with him to get a glimpse of who he is.

Kevin is a Wilkinsburg native and could probably tell us stories of growing up in Wilkinsburg. He went to Turner Elementary and has fond memories of walking a young lady home every day after school! He's also lived in the Hill and East Liberty but ultimately, he came home to Wilkinsburg where he now works at Milestone.

Kevin was an only child, but he had FIVE children! He had three daughters and two sons in roughly ten years.

Kevin grew up in the Baptist church so I asked him why he likes St. Stephen's, and he said that he likes Father Chuck.

Watching Steeler games is also something Kevin likes to do in his free time, and he believes that Russell Wilson will come through for us this year.

I also asked him how his friends and family would describe him, and he said they would describe him as lovable and helpful. Soon Choi overheard our conversation and said, "He is a true gentleman."

Getting information out of this quiet man was not easy. He listens more than he speaks. And we all know this world needs more people who listen. But I challenge you to sit down with Kevin at some coffee hour and ask him questions about Wilkinsburg or the Steelers. You may just learn something!

FOOD OF THE MONTH

BLESSING BOX DONATIONS NEEDED

(You can put these items in the box in the back of the church or in the blessing box. Please do not put any perishable food items in the blessing box.)

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

MYSTERY PARISHIONER (ON THE LEFT!)



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: <https://www.wcm15221.org/donate.htm>

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

On Saturday, September 28th, the governance committees of the diocese held the first **Diocesan Mutual Ministry Review** which is a way to pause and prayerfully ask, "How are we doing?" (Don Block represented St. Stephen's.) It is a time to evaluate where we are, celebrate what has been done well, and understand what might be done better as we seek to practice common and collaborative ministry in our diocese. By exploring reflective questions together, eighteen individuals, recruited for their involvement and expertise, focused on means of shared ministry accomplishments and proposed possible improvements within our three primary goal areas - Growth, Communication and Fellowship - as outlined by Bishop Ketlen in her 2023 address to Diocesan Convention. These discussions will serve as the foundation of a report for this year's diocesan convention. It is another step toward achieving our common purpose of being a community of Christ's followers in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 1-Vince Angelo

November 5-Shayna Babour,
Cameron Bradley

November 7-Olivia Moe

November 18-Jerome McCullough,
Kay Romey

November 23-Samantha Giles

November 28-Darlene Bradley

November 29-Dave Swatzler



Thanks to our hosts Chef John and Sous-chef Chuck and to the wonderful people who helped set-up, serve and clean up at the spaghetti dinner! We were spoiled with gourmet food and fun!



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM

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