



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

MARCH 2025

Remembering Michael Hogan - People of Saint Stephen's knew Mike as a dedicated member of the church.

Mike participated in weekly Bible study, he was a choir member, Vestry member, secretary of the Vestry and always attended Parish dinners and other events. I was privileged to know Mike through a different aspect of his passions: community involvement.

It was late spring of 1993 when Wilkinsburg residents and business owners were fed-up with drug dealers, gang members, increasing crime and violence infiltrating local neighborhoods. State, county and local law enforcement personnel started cracking down to help make Wilkinsburg safe for law-abiding citizens. One effort was to recruit a nationally known Anti-Drug fighter, Herman Wrice from Philadelphia to lead residents on a March Against Drugs. Wrice came to Wilkinsburg to demonstrate his technique of having marchers show up on the same streets where drug dealers were, thus disrupting drug trafficking. Mike Hogan was passionate about doing his part to try to regain his safe neighborhood. Mike knew the streets better than most. He didn't own a car and walked everywhere, or waited at the bus stops. He knew which neighborhoods were most at risk. By July, 1993 Wilkinsburg March Against Drugs (WMAD) organized marches through affected neighborhoods four evenings a week. Mike Hogan participated in every single march. Other church people included Stan and Elli Huppert as well as Tim and Elise Morris.

Initially WMAD had 80+ marchers but as the months went by and cold weather set in, many of the WMAD marchers dropped out. Mike Hogan and a few others were more determined than ever to keep going. He believed that it was his responsibility to do his part to make Wilkinsburg's streets safe. Marchers donned white hard hats to deflect rocks that were sometimes hurled by gang members. We marched and held vigils three to four evenings a week unless the temperature was below 15 degrees. We made it a priority to show up and occupy street corners. WMAD acquired a bull horn to announce our presence with chants such as: "We're back, We're back, We're taking our neighborhood back." The WMAD presence of face-to-face confrontations was critical because it made more people aware of the problems. Mike especially loved when residents came out of their homes to thank the WMAD marchers. Mike Hogan was one of the most passionate in leading the marches. The marches continued for over eight years. Gangs all but disappeared, Open-air drug dealing was greatly diminished. Mike inspired the WMAD group to continue disrupting drug traffic. Michael Hogan eagerly stood up for the Wilkinsburg he loved, lived in, worshiped in and was willing to fight for.

-Elise Morris



FOOD OF THE MONTH

SOUP, CRACKERS AND RAMEN



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

PRAYER FOR MARCH

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ash Wednesday, March 5, begins the Lenten season. On Shrove Tuesday, March 4, we will host our annual pancake dinner from 5-7 p.m.

Hope you can come, and bring your palm crosses and branches from last year so Father Chuck can use them to make ashes for Ash Wednesday!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 5-Jotham Parsons

March 17-Soon Choi

March 25-Russ Cain



MISSION OF THE MONTH

Wilkinsburg Community Ministry

The Wilkinsburg Community Ministry needs us more than ever because they are feeding and caring for more people than ever! Let's support them financially this year as they expand their operations. See the link below for their website and to donate. You could also write a check with "WCM" in the memo line and put in the offering plate or mail it to church.

<https://wcm15221.org/>

EAST END PARISHES
2025 LENTEN
PREACHING SERIES



Be Doers of the Word: The Gospel in Action

6 p.m. Dinner | 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon

Tuesday, March 11

Preacher: The Rev. Guy Brown
[Curate at St. Thomas, Oakmont]

at Calvary – 315 Shady Ave., East Liberty

Tuesday, March 18

Preacher: The Rev. Canon Kim Karashin
[Canon to the Ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh]

at St. Matthew's – 336 E 10th Ave., Homestead

Tuesday, March 25

Preacher: The Rev. Deanna Briody
[Curate at Calvary, East Liberty]

at Redeemer – 5700 Forbes Ave., Squirrel Hill

Tuesday, April 1

Preacher: The Rev. Jean Chess
[Retired Deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh]

at St. Stephen's – 600 Pitt Street, Wilkinsburg

Tuesday, April 8

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Asa Lee
[President of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary]

at St. Andrew's – 5801 Hampton St., Highland Park

WOMAN'S HISTORY MONTH

**Living God,
long ago, faithful women
proclaimed the good news
of Jesus' resurrection,
and the world was changed forever.**

-Episcopal Church Women

2025 Lent & Easter at St. Stephen's

Bible Study 4-6 PM,
Wednesdays in Lent, Library

April 12-Preparation of the
Palms 10:00 AM, Choir
Room

April 13- Palm Sunday 8AM
& 10:30AM

April 17 - Traditional Maun-
dy Thursday Service 7PM

April 18 - Good Friday Ser-
vice 12NOON

April 20 - Easter Sunday
Service 8AM & 10:30AM



2025 Easter Flowers Order Form

Tulips and Lilies - PLEASE order by April 6.

Name: _____

Contact Number: _____

Special Dedication:

Flower type	Cost		\$Total
Tulips	Each \$8.95		
Lilies	Each \$10.95		
Please write Easter Flowers on your check & Envelope		TOTAL DUE:	

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
 Greg Gent, Caretaker

