



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

MAY 2025

The East End Cooperative Ministry...Caring for the least of our brothers and sisters

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the just will answer him saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers, you did for me.' " ...Matthew c25 v35-40

East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM) was founded in 1970 as a collective response to changes in the East End community, born when local faith communities recognized that the troubles of the community were too great for any one of them to address alone. EECM was initially envisioned to serve the young, the elderly, and the poor of the area, as well as to promote interfaith events. Throughout its 50 years, EECM has continued to respond to changing community needs through its many programs and services. Its mission statement is simple: **EECM changes the lives of the people facing the impacts of poverty**

EECM offers:

Food Pantry

Their Food Pantry provides an array of fresh produce and dairy, as well as refrigerated, frozen, dry goods and shelf stable items for clients who may visit once a month. Hours are M-F 8:30am-10:30am & 11:30am-1:30pm.

Week Day Community Lunches

Their kitchen serves a hot lunch free of charge to all who are in need, no registration required. Anyone can take advantage of their well-balanced lunches. Hours M-F 12 noon to 12:45pm with bagged lunches available until 1pm.

Housing Services / Emergency Shelter / 150-Day Recovery House

Their shelter helps individual adults become stable by meeting their basic needs with shelter and food. Those in the emergency shelter also receive assistance obtaining benefits, accessing health care, and locating permanent housing. Once a person achieves stability in the shelter program, Case Management and the Education Employment team will work with them to build on their strengths, and develop a pathway to higher levels of self-sufficiency and self-fulfillment.

Children & Youth Services

Children & Youth Services reaches out to young people in the Pittsburgh Public Schools (K-12) to help them work toward a brighter future. Their programs help children and youth succeed in school, make healthy decisions, explore new interests, set personal goals, and most importantly, learn to value themselves. Services include: Summer Camp, In-School & After School Outreach and Recreational Programs.

All in need are welcome to their services. Sadly, food & shelter insecurity exists among many of our friends and neighbors and EECM is a nonjudgemental space to help those in need. They are located at **6140 Station Street Pittsburgh PA 15206**, in the East Liberty neighborhood, near Home Depot and the Social Security office.

Volunteering is easy, and EECM is a fun place to meet new people and give back to our community simply reach out to Rev. Tracy Hudson, Director of Volunteer Services at volunteer@eecm.org

-John Ferraro

FOOD OF THE MONTH

Tuna and other canned meats



Morning Prayer happens the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. See you on May 7!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1-Kevin Carter

May 21-Tim Brucker

May 30-Ernie Scott



RESTORATION FUND PAYMENTS ARE DUE BY JUNE 1!

WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ALL PLEDGES TO DATE. YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED A LETTER TELLING YOU THE AMOUNT PLEDGED FOR THIS YEAR.

PLEASE SEND A CHECK TO THE CHURCH OR PUT IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE BY JUNE 1 WITH "RESTORATION FUND" IN THE MEMO LINE. PLEASE CONTACT GERRY DALOTN WITH QUESTIONS. THANKS!

PRAYER FOR MAY

Oh Great Spirit who dwells in the sky, lead us to the path of peace and understanding, let all of us live together as brothers and sisters. Our lives are so short here, walking upon Mother Earth's surface, let our eyes be opened to all the blessings you have given us Please hear our prayers, Oh Great Spirit.

-Native American Prayer

Mindfulness Meditation with Derrick Jones in St. Stephen's Parish House Guild Room

To learn when sessions are being held, contact at derrickmjones7@gmail.com or 918-859-7819

WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE ABUNDANT THANKS TO THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH WHICH HAS AWARDED US A \$20,000 GRANT AND HAS ALSO GIVEN US FULL RELIEF FROM PAYING THIS YEAR'S ASSESSMENT WHICH AMOUNTED TO \$17,846. PRAISE GOD!!!



Palm Sunday



Heinz Chapel Choir Tour Farewell Performance

Monday, May 5, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.



The Heinz Chapel Choir is excited to return to St Stephen's where they will sing the farewell performance of their program "Invitation to Love" before they depart for their spring concert series in the Philadelphia area and Washington DC.

The concert is free and open to the public. They ask that guests bring a donation for the St. Stephen's blessing box which contains non-perishable food items for those in the community who are in need. Hope to see everyone there!

For more information about the Heinz Chapel Choir, see the link below.

<https://www.heinzchapelchoir.com/whoweare>

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



MISSION OF THE MONTH

East End Cooperative Ministry

EECM

Please see John Ferraro's article about EECM on the first page. In these times when so many are suffering, this is an opportunity to help those on the East End of Pittsburgh.

See the link below to donate or write a check and mail it to the church office or put in the offering plate. Thank you!

<https://>

donatenow.networkforgood.org/1436163

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*And if you are interested in getting more involved, see the link below. There is a special community collection date on May 10 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.*

*<https://www.eecm.org/?lang=en>*

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 28 WILL BE THE LAST BIBLE STUDY FOR THE 2024-25 YEAR. WE ARE FINISHING THE BOOK OF ACTS AND THEN READING PAUL'S LAST EPISTLE, 2 TIMOTHY. FEEL FREE TO JOIN US WEDNESDAYS AT 4 PM AND PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US NEXT YEAR!**

Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM

#### Contact Us

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#### 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

