



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

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

SEMPTEMBER 2025

As we kick off a **new ministry year** at St. Stephen's I am inviting us to ponder the core values we embrace as a parish family and the experience people have when they visit and connect with us. In a recent meeting some of the vestry members and I had with some diocesan staff regarding our possible new horizons in our communication media we were invited to reflect on what we see as a particular strength at St. Stephen's. The characteristic that came to the fore in our reflection and discussion is that we are an especially warm and welcoming parish. Visitors have remarked to me about how special we are at making them feel as if their presence were a blessing that the congregation intended to celebrate and that we would be glad to have that blessing continue with them among us. This was also shared by my cousin who was a guest with her husband last month. My nieces also remarked at how, even though they are not frequently worshipping with us, they each experience the warmth and genuine happiness of the St. Stephen's parish family with all guests and visitors, first time or returning.

As we transition from the special occasions and relaxed "down time" of the summer and lean into our new year, with the return of choir, Bible study, and the special events of the liturgical year I invite us to prayerfully ponder how we can be a source of blessing and strength within the St. Stephen's parish family. What ideas might you like us to daydream about implementing, one day in the future or soon? Who might you invite or bring to the parish for our study, social events and worship? What are you feeling called to be part of that might enhance your own spirituality and St. Stephen's spiritual growth as a family? One thing that sometimes gets in the way is complacency and one thing that can stifle our growth is forgetting the joy of our faith. We can bring one another down at times if we are too myopic in our view of what we're comfortable with and our negative attitude or unwillingness to try and stretch ourselves beyond the familiar and the comfortable. Our music can be a balance of traditional and contemporary, we can try harder to "roll with" the unexpected or the requests for help on short notice when such unexpected aspects of parish and community members' lives call us to adjust a bit. Above all, I would invite everyone to recommit themselves to making time to worship with us on Sundays, our foundational time together as the Body of Christ and as a faith family.

Also, we kick this year off with a new member of staff. Veronica Bradley, with the help of her husband Cameron, has accepted the invitation to serve as our parish ministry coordinator. We are blessed to have them with us in this ministry of welcome, administrative organization, communication and support to the ministries that make St. Stephen's the "gem" we all enjoy.

Fr. Chuck+

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 3 - Dave Stefanik

September 4 - Cadence Gally

September 8 - Jamie Cokes

September 14 - Alyssa Potance

September 21 - Anastasia Morin-Hutty

September 23 - Mary Dimond

September 27 - John Sprenkel

ANNIVERSARIES

September 2 - Bill & Joann Rau

September 15 - Tim & Elise Morris

**Vestry will meet again on
September 8.**

Congratulations to Alex and Elisabeth Lonnett on the birth of their
baby girl

Anna Marguerite

We wish you much joy and sleep!

Prayer for September

Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our fellow men (and women) throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give peace and joy.

-Mother Theresa, Calcutta

FOOD OF THE MONTH

Peanut Butter & Jelly



Your new Parish Ministry Coordinators!



Diocesan Passport Program

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh's Fellowship Committee is launching an innovative **"Diocesan Passport Program,"** designed to deepen our connections with one another, broaden our understanding of the varied expressions of parish life in our midst, and remind us that sometimes we don't truly see our own home until we've had the joy of traveling beyond it.

Why a Passport Program?

We all know the thrill of setting foot in a place we've never been before—the new faces, the unfamiliar sights, the surprising ways others worship and serve. In that moment of discovery, our hearts expand, and we gain fresh perspectives on our own traditions. If you've ever returned from a trip halfway around the world and described your hometown differently, you know exactly what we mean!

The Diocesan Passport Program brings that spirit of pilgrimage home, inviting each of us to step outside the walls of our own parish, meet fellow Episcopalians, and celebrate the rich tapestry of faith we share across the diocese.

To find out how it works, check out this link:

<https://www.episcopalpgh.org/diocesan-passport-program/>

Passport booklets will be available in the sanctuary

Help us invite members of our community for worship!

Looking for someone with artistic talent to help decorate our boards that will be displayed outside the church to welcome passersby.

Please let Fr. Chuck know if you are interested!

**KATHY MULLIGAN
AND
THE HOLY HIKING CREW!**



**Are you an outdoorsy person?
Check out the HOLY HIKE!**

<https://www.episcopalpgh.org/holy-hikes-southwest-pennsylvania-2025-schedule/>

Saturday, September 20th Nature Hike at
Indian Creek Valley Trail—2.75 miles

Let Kathy know if you want to attend!

Email krmulligan718@gmail.com

Choir practice resumes on September
9th!

If you'd like to join the choir, please let
Soon Choi know. Thank you, Choir, for
the beautiful music you give us every
Sunday.

-

Choir practice is every other Tuesday at
7 pm.

**KICK OFF SUNDAY
IS
SEPTEMBER 7!
BRING A FRIEND!**

Episcopal Relief and Development

Their mission is to feed the hungry, care for the sick, and welcome the stranger. Their work to heal a hurting world is guided by the principles of compassion, dignity and generosity. They take their mandate from the words of Jesus, found in Matthew 25. They provide fresh water to communities, respond to disasters, empower women through microfinance, protect children from malaria. They have been around for more than 75 years and have served over 3 million people annually!

If you would like to contribute, check out this link:

<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/>

Or write a check to “Episcopal Relief and Development” and put it in the collection plate or mail it to: “Episcopal Relief and Development, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058

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
Cameron & Veronica Bradley,
Parish Ministry Coordinator
Gerry Dalton, Financial Admin.
Elise Morris, Archivist & Historian
Greg Gent, Caretaker

