

The First Order

St. Stephen's Parish

Ph 413.448.8276 // Fx 413.442.5374 // mail@ststephenspittsfield.org // www.ststephenspittsfield.org

SEPTEMBER 2019

Church School

Rally Sunday is September 15th

in the downstairs Dining Room. Please check out the various ministries that St. Stephen's offers for congregational involvement. These ministries include such choices as Christian Education, Pastoral Care, Property Committee, Acolytes, choirs, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Guild, St. Stephen's Table and many more.

SEPTEMBER 22: Church School begins in the Auditorium at 9:30 a.m. At 9:45, we go to the 3rd floor classrooms. At about 10:30, we will join the congregation for Eucharist.

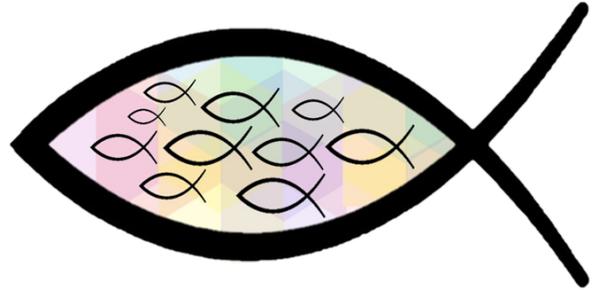
Please note that we are in need of additional teachers for the Church School. Please see Bert Boos if you can help out in this vital ministry.

Did You Know?

- That Herberg Middle School published its Honor Rolls (just in time for another school year!) and the following were included: **Brody Kaley** made High Honors and **Grace Garinther** and **Ella LaMalfa** made Honors. Congratulations!

Youth Sunday

All youth are welcome to participate in Youth Sunday, September 29th. The lay roles will be performed at the 10:00 a.m. service by the youth. We will need greeters, readers, collection basket helpers, singers, etc. More details to follow. There are many opportunities for different age levels, so please join in! If you have questions, contact Sara Garinther (sara.garinther@twc.com) or Matt Behnke (matthewbehnke@yahoo.com).



Stronger Together

Harvest Dinner for the Parish hosted by the Vestry and Stewardship Committee

Please mark your calendars for our October 5, 2019, Harvest Dinner for the Parish hosted by the Vestry and the Stewardship Committee. It will begin at 6 p.m. Our wonderful chef and loyal member Dan Moon will be catering a sit down pork loin dinner with a vegetarian option. Your Vestry and Stewardship Committee will serve you. This dinner will kick off our stewardship campaign, fortify our community identity as a parish, rekindle old ties and establish new ones and strengthen existing bonds. The dinner can also provide opportunities to remind us to fill out the parish CAT survey and review the clergy search process timeline. A fun time should be had by all!

BIO Update

In its effort to help create cultural competence in the Berkshires, BIO's Racial Justice Team has been working with Mr. Jason McCandless, superintendent of the Pittsfield public schools to create a black studies curriculum in the Pittsfield school system. On Tuesday, August 13, Superintendent McCandless and the BIO team under the leadership of Wes Gadson and Mabel Hamilton held a community conversation at Price Memorial Church on Racial Justice through Education.

There was standing room only as Mr. McCandless introduced Mr. Matt Bishop, principal of Taconic High School, Mr. Henry Duval, principal of Pittsfield High School, Ms. Heather McNeice, the teacher working on design/imbedding black studies elements into curricula at the two high schools and Mr. Jamal Ahmad, the first teacher of African American History and Literature hired to implement the program. The curriculum is designed as a corrective and enhancement of the role in American historical and literary life of African American individuals and the African American community. It is designed not just for African American students but for all students. Indeed, this program has relevance for the entire community of people desiring to become competent citizens in a world of diverse peoples.

Implementation of the program begins this fall at Taconic and Pittsfield High Schools. A second community meeting will be held in September when we will continue to explore the methods and meaning of this important program. Times will be announced.

Upcoming....BIO's Fourth Annual MICAHA Awards Celebration will take place on Sunday, October 27, 2019, 4:00 – 6:00 (doors open at 3:30) at the Stationery Factory in Dalton. Each year, BIO's Member Groups honor someone from each congregation or organization who lives into the prophet Micah's call to love mercy, act justly, and walk humbly. This year, St. Stephen's is proud to present the Reverend Gwen Sears as our Micah honoree. Plan on joining BIO and celebrate all that Gwen has accomplished serving the senior community of Kimball Farms and beyond. For those of you who have not had an opportunity to attend previous MICAHA events, now is the time to show your support of the social justice work that BIO does and to honor Gwen and others in our community who are recognized for their contributions. Tickets for this event are \$45.00 per person and will be available soon.

September

Happy Birthday:

- 2 Anne Marie Jones, Nicholas Trapani (16), Maria Zuckerman
- 3 Susan Cahill
- 5 Rob Langsdale
- 6 Alex Demary (8), Jean Gray
- 7 B.K.R. Brouker (91 years young!), Janice Furcinite
- 8 Beth-Anne Hamling, Ev Heiss (93 years young!)
- 10 Virginia Donovan
- 11 Matthew Fenton, Louis Senecal
- 13 Donna Chandler, Audrey Harrington (15), Mary Wheelock
- 14 Dan Doyle
- 17 Magdalena Plumb (8), William Cole Plumb (8)
- 18 Steve Wheelock
- 19 Jezzmyne Dowling-Black (13)
- 22 James Behnke (13)
- 24 Aloha Winchester
- 25 George Church III (90 years young!)
- 26 Jamie Bannon, Christopher Fenton (a milestone!)
- 29 David Adams, Helene Robillard, Sue Smith
- 30 Katie Haviland

Happy Anniversary:

- 1 Sarah and Glenn Novak (1980)
- 3 Leila and Tom Drury (1972)
- 12 Jayne and George Church III (1980)
- 14 Amanda and Joel Brunelle (2013)
- 15 Suzanne and Joe White (1984 (35 years))
- 19 Virginia and Craig Smith (1987)
- 23 Lois and Al Symonds (1967)
- 25 Diana and Bill Macfarlane (1993)



YoYo Ma Celebrates Music and Community

On Saturday, August 10th, St. Stephen's youth participated in the festivities on the Common with Yo Yo Ma, who hosted a "Day of Action," part of a two-year, 36-stop 'Bach Project' in an effort to build cooperation and togetherness. His hope is to come together to fight the division in the world today.

More than 200 people gathered to build tables from Berkshire ash tree wood that was cut by the Berkshire Woodworkers Guild, and inscribed with messages that complete the sentence beginning "The Berkshires make..." (i.e. make sense, make refugees feel welcome, make a place at the table for all).

Musical Notes from Joy Mullen

The Parish Choir is comprised of adult and teenage singers. New members are always welcome and the beginning of the fall is a great time to join the choir. Weekly rehearsals will begin Tuesday, September 10, and will run from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The only prerequisite for singing in the choir is the ability to match pitch, otherwise known as "being able to carry a tune." The choir sings at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service during the academic year and for special services. The ability to read music is not necessary, but quite helpful.

St. Stephen's Handbell Ringers rehearse Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m., beginning September

16. We play for services and a limited number of outside events, as we are able. At the moment, there are one or two openings in the ensemble. Reading music at the rudimentary level is necessary to learn to play bells. Please contact me directly, if you are interested in bell-ringing.

Youth Choir - If we can get four kids in grades 3-8, I will restart a choral group this year. The purpose of this group will be to learn to sing, gain a knowledge of sacred music, and augment worship on Sunday mornings. For those interested, please sign up on the first day of church school, along with the church school registration.