

THE VOICE

of St. Stephen's

May 2026 Volume 157 Issue 5



Christ the Light by Kelly Latimore

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Services

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3
10:45am
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 10
10:45am
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Congregational Meeting
May 17
10:45am
Pentecost
May 24
10:45am
Holy Trinity
May 31
10:45am



Dear Friends at St. Stephen's

I have finally begun the process of moving my library from the storage room over our garage to the Pastor's study here at St. Stephen's. I have had a few choice books on the shelves since my arriving, but the bulk of the library has remained in boxes- lots and lots and lots of boxes.

Over the course of the last 45 years or so of studying and preparing for and exercising ministry I have, it is fair to say, accumulated a few volumes, thousands of volumes. Many I have bought myself, some with book allowances provided by the churches I have served, more than half have been gifted to me- many from the libraries of fellow clergy who have seen the wisdom in parting with the books before it is a responsibility left to others. I can honestly say that I have read, at least in part, more than half of the volumes I possess. Some I remember well, some I look at and wonder where they came from or how that came to be in my possession. In spite of the great number of books I currently own, I too, have been passing the books along to others in hopes that they might be of use. (I have heard it said- probably from another Pastor- that it is good to have a library with unread books- a sign that one knows there is always so much more to learn.)

With this current burst of energy to get the library moved and established, I will quickly run out of shelf space. That is a good thing. The challenge for me will be to part with well-worn volumes that need fresh eyes, to open one of those unread books and see if there is something worth learning, and to once and for all get rid of those volumes that have little value- at least for me.

The prayers and promises at ordination remind us that all things necessary for our salvation can be found in The Book that contains the holy scriptures. For us, as a people of the Reformation, we know that means all things lead us to Jesus. Jesus is much more than words on any page, Jesus is the living word, the way, truth and life. Wisdom can certainly be found in the pages of a book, even a badly written one. But wisdom if left on the page is not really much wisdom at all. It is the application of that wisdom that makes wisdom wise. To know all there is to know about Jesus is a good thing indeed but not worth very much if one does not follow in his way.

Reflections from Pastor Barry– Continue

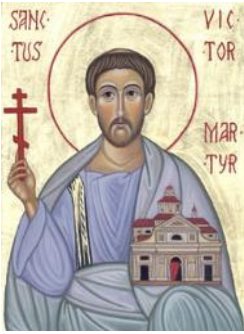
I would be remiss, if I did not also commend the wisdom that is not found in any book. The common-sense kind of wisdom that we learn from our forebears, from observing the world around us, the wisdom that comes from a life well lived. But then again, there are some amazing writers that help us with this kind of wisdom as well!

If you are looking for a good book these days and want to browse the ever more crowded shelves of my library, please know you are always welcome to do so! And thank you to those of you who pass books onto me for my consideration- those books in which you have found some kernel or two of wisdom to make this life's journey a little more bearable, more enjoyable, more meaningful.

The day of Pentecost is soon upon us. At Baptism we pray for the gifts of the spirit, the first among those gifts is the *spirit of wisdom and understanding*, then *the spirit of counsel and might*, *the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord*, *the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever*. May it indeed be so.

In Christ,
Pastor Barry

Voices of the Saints



Victor the Moor was born in the 3rd century in [Mauretania](#). Victor was born into a Christian family and was a catechumenate for the faith while serving as a soldier in the Roman Praetorian Guard. When he refused to exercise his duties as he saw a conflict with his faith, he was taken prisoner and tortured. Despite his infirmity, and declining health, he remained steadfast in his faith, gladly giving up his life for the Kingdom. Tradition has it that he was decapitated under Maximian.

A church was erected over his grave. According to St. Gregory of Tours, many miracles occurred at the shrine. In 1576, at the request of St. Charles of Borromeo, Victor's relics were eventually placed in the Basilica of Sant'Ambrogio in Italy. Victor is the patron saint of prisoners and exiles. His feast day is May 8th.

John Calvin was born in France in 1509. Calvin was a law student at the University of Orléans when he first joined the cause of the Reformation. In 1536, he published the landmark text *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, an early attempt to standardize the theories of Protestantism. Calvin's religious teachings emphasized the sovereignty of the scriptures and divine predestination—a doctrine holding that God chooses those who will enter Heaven based on His omnipotence and grace.



Calvin lived in Geneva briefly, until anti-Protestant authorities in 1538 forced him to leave. He was invited back in 1541, and upon his return from Germany, where he had been living, he became an important spiritual and political leader. Calvin used Protestant principles to establish a religious government; and in 1555, he was given absolute supremacy as leader in Geneva. As Martin Luther's successor as the preeminent Protestant theologian Calvin was known for an intellectual, unemotional approach to faith that provided Protestantism's theological underpinnings, whereas Luther brought passion and populism to his religious cause. While instituting many positive policies, Calvin's government also punished impiety" and dissent against his particularly spare vision of Christianity— with execution. In the first five years

Voices of the Saints

of his rule in Geneva, 58 people were executed and 76 exiled for their religious beliefs. Calvin allowed no art other than music, and even that could not involve instruments. Under his rule, Geneva became the center of Protestantism, and sent out pastors to the rest of Europe, creating Presbyterianism in Scotland, the Puritan Movement in England and the Reformed Church in the Netherlands. Calvin died on May 27, 1564, in Geneva, Switzerland. It is unknown where he is buried. Today, Calvin remains widely credited as the most important figure in the second generation of the Protestant Reformation.

His feast day is May 27.

Social Ministry Corner

Past Events



In late March, St. Stephen's served its last hot meal of the 2025- 2026 Winter season at BES. On March 27, 6 members prepped the food and on

March 28, 11 members including Pastor Barry served about 50 guests, cleaned up after the meal and monitored the showers. The meal consisted of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce, bread and pound cake.

St. Stephen's members will prepare and distribute bagged lunches at BES the weekend of June 21-22. More information to come!

Members of St. Stephen's assembled and gifted 35 Easter baskets to New Bethany for distribution to children and teens in its programs.



Due to high turnover in families being served, we received a list with the number of baskets requested and associated youths' ages only a week before Easter. Thank you to everyone who created or donated money for the baskets. These baskets are just one of the ways that our members illustrate God's love to those in challenging circumstances.

Social Ministry Corner

Current Events



St. Stephen's members have graciously donated over \$370 toward the purchase of underwear that is included in the menstrual kits assembled and distributed by Days for Girls. These kits are used to help girls stay in school and preserve their dignity.

The Connecticut chapter of Days for Girls has recently delivered 400 kits to Cameroon and are preparing 400 kits to be delivered to Liberia. Due to restrictions on acceptable underwear, please do not purchase underwear on your own, but rather contribute money that the Social Ministry committee will use to purchase suitable underwear at the best price. Additional information about Days for Girls is available on their website: <https://www.daysforgirls.org/>.

Starting in May the Social Ministry committee will be highlighting one item a month to collect for our Operation Christmas Child Packing Party in November. This month we are collecting small baby dolls for the age 2-4 and 5-9 girls' shoeboxes. Dolls can be found at Amazon, Target, Dollar Tree and similar re-



Upcoming Events

Sunday May 31 – Social Ministry committee Meeting following the worship service. Lend your voice to how St. Stephen’s members are supporting our local, national and global communities.



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Ongoing Needs

We continue to collect items in support of several causes:



Operation Christmas Child– Toys, clothing, school supplies, combs/brushes, toothbrushes and stuffed animals that are small enough to fit in a shoebox. Items other than the highlighted “Item of the Month” are accepted at any time.

Food Cart to Benefit West End Food Bank- Nonperishable food items such as canned soups, fruit, vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, rice, cereal and mac & cheese. Place donations in the shopping cart in the Narthex.

Breakfast Bars for Local Schools - Individually wrapped breakfast bars will be distributed to local schools. Place items in the designated bin in the Narthex.





**Kathy Bielinski
Kym Ohmacht
Helene Longacre
Gordon Maule**

**Lisa Levick
Eleanor Harte
Debra Perry
Lisa Todd**

Birthdays for May

**1-Marilyn Eckley
3-Mark Zarzecki
4-Craig Israel
5-Mason Castro
12-Emily Walker
13-Sandra Weitknecht
14-Claire Larkin
15-Brit Seitzinger
17-John Phillips III
21-Marianne Hamel
21-Allyson Zarzecki
24-Cynthia Williams
25-Alyssa Ehret
26-Garrett Carson
27-Reinhold Radke
28-Diana Arnold
28-Betty Jaxheimer
29-Michelle Hoysan
31-Rose Zuber**



Anniversaries for May

**5- Thomas & Haley Flatley
8-Frank & Jenniah Herb
11-Tom & Brenda Lambert
12-Ed & Sandy Acevedo
13-Alan & Sandy Beahm
15-Frank & Debra Nemia
19-Phillip & Tiffany Herring**





Congregational Meeting
May 17, 2026



Come join us for Fellowship on
Thursday, May 21
at 9:30am
at 418 3rd Ave
Bethlehem, Pa 18018



Wear Red on Sunday, May 24
to celebrate Pentecost



St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Worship Service Assistants

May 2026

Altar Care: Sandy Beahm

Worship Service					
May 3 10:45am	Noah Yonney	Ron & Mary Jo Reed, Suzanne Bachman	Open	Ron & Mary Jo Reed	Hoysan & Reese Families
May 10 10:45am	Open	Scott Albanese Ed Acevedo Todd Siegfried Aiden Hanley	Ed Acevedo	Joan Neff	Open
May 17 10:45am	Noah Yonney	Ron & Mary Jo Reed Jeanine Siegfried	Ron Reed	Ron & Mary Jo Reed	Pierog & Shellnberger families
Pentecost May 24 10:45am	Open	Scott Albanese Ed Acevedo	Open	Joan Neff Rosalie Adducie	Open
May 31 10:45am	Aiden Hanley	Scott Albanese Suzanne Bachman	Open	Joan Neff	Open

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Barry J. Harte
Secretary: Christine Baylor

Organist: John Phillips Jr
Sexton: Shawn Barger

CHURCH COUNCIL

Suzanne Bachman	610-428-7021	suzbach756@aol.com
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Craig Spangenberg	484-767-3384	jlsparenberg@juno.com
Todd Siegfried	610-392-8940	jtsiegfried@msn.com

CHURCH COMMITTEES

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Suzanne Bachman (Chair), Michelle Hoysan, Carla Perry, Bev Carson.

EVANGELISM

Suzanne Bachman, Pat Handlovic , Dennise Lopez (Chair),
Joan Neff

FINANCE

Kim Bluder, Tom Hartzell (Chair, Treasurer), Mike Hosfeld, Michelle
Hoysan, George Klose, Charles Miller, Ron Reed, Barbara Seifert-
Sigmon , Mary Jo Reed

PROPERTY

Ed Acevedo, Dwayne Gaumer, Pam Hartzell (Chair), Linda Reese,
Todd Siegfried, Craig Spangenberg, Joann Spangenberg. Herb
Shellenberger

SHARED MINISTRY

Todd Siegfried, Lauren Morton , Mike Hosfeld (chair)

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Suzanne Bachman, Kathy Bielinski, Kim Bluder, Pat Handlovic
Jeanine Siegfried, Joan Neff, Linda Reese

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sandra Beahm, Kathy Bielinski, Cheryl Hosfeld (Co-Chair), Mike Hosfeld,
John Phillips Jr (Co-Chair), Evan Reese, Linda Reese, Mary Jo Reed,
Jeanine Siegfried.