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December 16, 2025

Diocesan Transitions for December, 2025

Appointments

Bishop Ketlen has appointed **the Rev. Bill Geiger** to serve as our diocese's new Chaplain to Retired Clergy and Families, effective immediately. The Chaplain acts as a liaison between the Pastoral Care Office of the Church Pension Fund and the retired clergy of our diocese who are Clergy Pension Fund beneficiaries. The Chaplain also provides pastoral care for retired clergy and their families and for the families of clergy who have died.

Bishop Ketlen has appointed **Arthur Noonan** of St. Andrew's, Highland Park, to a three-year term on the Board of Trustees, beginning January 1.

Upcoming Departure

The Rev. Erin Morey, Assistant Rector at St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, has accepted a call to serve as the next Rector of Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church in Beach Haven, New Jersey. Her final Sunday at St. Paul's will be January 11, 2026. Erin served as a lay staff member at St. Paul's before beginning seminary and was ordained to the priesthood in December 2022.

Retirement

The Rev. Nancy Threadgill will be retiring from her position as Priest-in-Charge of St. Mark's, Johnstown, at the end of February 2026. Nancy has served St. Mark's since November 2014 and, in recent months, has served as a regular supply priest for St. Francis in the Fields, Somerset. She has also been active at the diocesan level, wrapping up terms on the Standing Committee and Diocesan Council at the end of this year. Nancy intends to remain resident in Johnstown following her retirement.

Diocesan Staff Transitions

The Rev. Kimberly Karashin will be stepping away from her position as Canon to the Ordinary for Transitions and Clergy & Congregational Care at the end of this year. Kim has served in various roles on the diocesan staff since November 2015. She is intending to remain in Pittsburgh and is discerning how she might serve the diocese in the coming season. In the short-term, Kim will continue serving as the Diocesan Transition Minister in a limited capacity, primarily to continue her support of several parishes currently in a clergy search process.



2026 Bishop Visitation Schedule and Cycle of Prayer Now Available

Bishop Ketlen's **2026 Visitation Schedule**, January – August, is now [available here](#).

The **2026 Diocesan Cycle of Prayer** for January – August, is now [available here](#).

These documents, along with many others, are available on the Diocesan website under the [Resources tab](#).



A Call to Compline at the Cathedral

At 5:15 p.m. on Wednesdays, you will hear the bells of [Trinity Cathedral](#), Downtown, chime to call worshipers to Compline at 5:15, the end of the work day.

All are welcome to join us this Wednesday, December 17 for this contemplative service based on *Night Prayer* from the [New Zealand Prayer Book](#).

Trinity Cathedral Entrance, 328 Sixth Avenue
Trinity House Entrance, 325 Oliver Avenue



ECW Grant helps McKeesport Families

St. Stephen's, McKeesport, recently received a \$3,000 grant from the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) to establish a food pantry serving McKeesport families in need.

Pictured above are Outreach Coordinators Karen Danes (left) and Lisa Simko (right) in front of some of the food awaiting distribution.

Substantial donations from parishioners have supplemented grant funds, enabling this small but mighty congregation to continue making McKeesport a better place.





Sixteen Resources for Advent

Advent is right around the corner, beginning this year on Sunday, November 30, just after Thanksgiving.

To help you celebrate this sometimes overlooked season, the Episcopal Church Foundation's Vital Practices team has collected [sixteen resources](#) from across the Episcopal community, including calendars, prayers, coloring pages, toolkits, and more.



We hope you enjoy this upcoming season to pause and reflect on the hopeful miracle that is to come. Explore Advent resources [here](#).



Pop-Up Pumpkin Patch

Holy Cross Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Education Exploratory Committee

On a beautiful fall afternoon in October, the front lawn of Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Homewood was transformed into a festive Pop-Up Pumpkin Patch, welcoming more than 70 children and their families. Thanks to the generosity of individual friends, volunteers, and neighbors, a total of 77 pumpkins were donated and arranged to create a cheerful, child-friendly patch on the church lawn.



Children selected their perfect pumpkin before heading to the decorating tables, where volunteers offered stickers, paint, markers, and safe carving alternatives for all ages. Families enjoyed free refreshments and a relaxed, joy-filled time of fun and connection.

The event was organized by the Episcopal Education Exploratory Committee (EEE Committee) as part of its ongoing commitment to offer free, developmentally

appropriate opportunities for young children and families in the Homewood

neighborhood. Over the past couple of years, the committee has hosted or participated in Trunk-or-Treats, Parent/Child Together Time, Parents' Day Out, Vacation Bible School, Easter egg hunts, and other community-building events designed to strengthen relationships and provide opportunities for connection.

As shared at the November Diocesan Convention, the EEE Committee is now moving from the exploratory phase into the founding phase of launching a tuition-free Episcopal educational program in Homewood. The vision is to begin with one class of four-year-olds, adding a new class or grade level each year, partnering with families and offering a holistic approach that nurtures mind, body, and spirit.

Anyone interested in volunteering, supporting community engagement efforts in Homewood, volunteering with family programs, or learning more about this initiative is warmly invited to contact either:

- The Rev. Charles Fischer III, Priest-in-Charge, Holy Cross Episcopal Church at 412-242-3209 or frcfischer@gmail.com
- Eileen Sharbaugh, Episcopal Education Exploratory Committee, at sharbaugh@verizon.net

EEE Committee members are also happy to connect with church outreach groups, speak during adult forums, mission minutes, or meet with parishioners who would like to learn more about this emerging educational ministry.



Calling all high school students across the Diocese of Pittsburgh -- join us for a Winter Youth Retreat, **January 9-11, 2026**, at Laurelville Camp and Retreat Center in Mount Pleasant, PA! This retreat is an opportunity to take some time out of your busy school (and life) schedules and recharge at Laurelville's beautiful campus. Bring yourself, bring some friends, and get ready to make new friends from all across the region as we play, learn, eat, worship, and grow in community together! The registration deadline is **Friday, December 26**.

[Click Here to Register](#)

Registration fee is \$135. Scholarships are available.
Questions? Contact Bob Melvin at bmelvin@stpaulspgh.org



Around the Diocese



Bishop Ketlen's Schedule:

December 21: Atonement, Carnegie
January 11: St. Stephen's, McKeesport
January 18: St. Stephen's, Wilkesburg
January 25: St. Peter's, Brentwood

Parish leadership is reminded to complete a form, available in [PDF](#) or [Word](#), at least two weeks in advance of their visitation.

Bishop Ketlen's 2025 visitation schedule, August – December 2025, is [available here](#).

The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer for July – December 2025, is [available here](#).

To schedule time with Bishop Ketlen, contact Andrea Rath at 412-721-0853, ext. 251, or arath@episcopalpgh.org.



Parting Shots

A Busy Day in Mt. Lebanon

Bishop Ketlen joined the the clergy, staff and entire congregation at St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, on Sunday, November 23, for her annual visitation. There were 11 Confirmations and 7 receptions.



A Visitation in Highland Park

The St. Andrew's family has grown. On Sunday, December 7, Bishop Ketlen the Rev. Sara Irwin and confirmed Kolin Smith (L) and received Aaron Descamps (R).



Bishop Ketlen Visited St. James, Penn Hills

On Sunday, December 14, Bishop Ketlen visited St. James, Penn Hills and the Rev. Canon Eric McIntosh. While there, she confirmed Brandon Gordon and Wade Massey.



Has your parish been featured in the news? Do you have an event or content to share?

Please let us know via email at info@episcopalpgh.org

Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh | 325 Oliver Avenue Suite 300 | Pittsburgh, PA 15222 US