More than twenty-five members and friends of Shadyside Presbyterian Church are preparing for “A Home Run” in the Pittsburgh Marathon on **Sunday, May 6**. The entire church is invited to run alongside them in a number of exciting ways:

- **Show Your Support:** This year, we are again honored to run with our local mission partner, Open Hand Ministries (OHM). To support our runners financially, visit their Crowdrise pages at [www.crowdrise.com/openhandministriespitt2018](http://www.crowdrise.com/openhandministriespitt2018).

- **Eat Dinner:** Friday, May 4, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Join the runners and meet our mission partner at a carb-loading pasta party. RSVP no later than **Sunday, April 29**.

- **Slice Oranges:** Saturday, May 5, at 1:00 p.m. in the Kitchen. Volunteer to cut oranges the day before the race by signing up in the Sharp Atrium or by calling the church office.

- **Be a Fan:** Sunday, May 6, from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the corner of Amberson and Fifth Avenues. Volunteer to cheer on runners and hand out orange slices to them as they all try to run the race with perseverance.

- **Worship:** Sunday, May 6, at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Due to the church’s location within the marathon route, our service of worship moves from the morning to the afternoon, when the Reverend Todd E. Leach will preach. The service will include Communion served by intinction. (There will be no worship at 11:00 a.m. and no Christian Education classes at 9:30 a.m. Nursery care will be provided during the service.) Following worship, enjoy an outdoor time of fellowship as we are joined by Garfield Community Farm’s Mobile Market and Franktuary’s food truck. Our mission partner Garfield Farm will sell plants to start your summer garden, and Franktuary will sell hot dogs, fries, and more for dinner.

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### Spring Food Collection

The food pantry of the East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM) is experiencing an increase in food requests. Following worship on **Sundays, May 6 and 13**, members of Shadyside Presbyterian Church’s Hunger and Homelessness Mission Action Community (MAC) will distribute bags to be filled with non-perishable food items for the EECM spring food collection. Members and friends are invited to participate and provide help to our neighbors in need. A list of suggested items will be attached to the bags, which will be collected at our worship service on **Sunday, May 20**.

In the event you are unable to attend the service, you are welcome to bring your bag to the church office during the week before **May 20**. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, checks should be made payable to “Shadyside Presbyterian Church” with “EECM Food Collection” on the memo line, and placed in the offering plate on **Sunday, May 20**.

Please consider serving the community in this simple but critical way. Questions may be directed to Rev. Todd Leach or any member of the Hunger and Homelessness MAC.

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**HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS**
The Importance of Discipline in Discipleship

On February 15 of this year, NASA's Mars Exploration Rover recorded with its Panoramic Camera (Pancam) its 4,999 Martian dawn. Pretty amazing given that the Mars Rover landed in January of 2004, with scientists hoping the mission would last 90 days — or “sols” — on Mars. A “sol” (Mars day) is approximately 40 minutes longer than an Earth day which lasts approximately 24 hours. Think of the impact on any scientist who worked multiple years on this project. If I understand correctly, these scientists would have to adjust their work schedules by 40 minutes every day in order to take advantage of the Martian daylight hours. This is when the solar-powered Rover functions most effectively.

Just imagine: one month, these scientists’ schedules could be in relative sync with those of their families. They could eat together, go to church, and attend school functions in which their children are involved. But in less than a month, they would have to rise in the middle of the night (Earth time) and spend an entire day out of sync with the lives of those they love. What commitment this would take to be involved with the Mars Rover mission.

Discipline must be key. They would have to train themselves to rise on cue, probably eat smaller meals, exercise regularly, spend work hours focused on specific tasks set before them, and retire to rest every day to coincide with Mars time in their body and mind’s frame of reference. I don’t know about you, but I think this sounds like a Herculean task.

Discipline is a vastly un-esteemed virtue in culture. Yes, we are trained in our youth to learn our lessons, to work with others, and to gain the skills needed to function in various vocations. But as adults, how often have we taken that enormous leap of commitment when presented with opportunity; not simply for personal gain, but for the common good? Are we truly preparing ourselves — training ourselves mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and perhaps even physically — to make the sacrifices that may be necessary to serve God and humanity?

What comes to mind is the Pharisees’ query of Jesus on matters pertaining to the Law. We read: “One of them, an expert in the law, tested Him with this question: ‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?’ Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.’ ” (Matthew 22:35-40)

Envision, if you will, the contribution and impact we could make in our world if our commitment matched just these two commands of our Lord. The sacrifices necessary to love God with every fiber of our being require discipline and courage to leave behind the alluring pleasures and temporary rewards of the world. But those prepared to put God first, and others’ interests above their own, can come to know the deep joy of discovery few people ever realize: a Kingdom not of this world or any other planet — a Kingdom where time is neutralized in infinity.

It is a task few will brave. It is a sacrifice few are willing to make. But what a difference their discipline will make in this world and the next, as their efforts illuminate the glory of God.

Is discipline required of you and me this day? Is God calling us to make sacrifices? Will we serve God this day with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength?

Conrad C. Sharps, Senior Pastor

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members

We extend our heartfelt welcome to the following new members who were received on Sunday, March 25:

- Michael Q. Baines
- Brian P. Davies
- Jenifer D. Johnson
- James M. Rowe
- C. Scott Walters
- Valerie A. Walters
Holy Land Pilgrimage Presentation and Dinner

On **Wednesday, May 9**, join us at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall to learn about our difficult and inspirational pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Dinner will be provided, and Rev. Todd Leach will share experiences from the pilgrimage. Participants from the journey will be seated at your table to share their personal experiences and answer questions you may have. Although there is no charge for the dinner, a freewill offering will be received to offset the costs of the meal. Please RSVP by signing up in the Sharp Atrium or by contacting the church office.

Above: *A shepherd mounted on a donkey leading a flock of sheep across the terrain of the Judean countryside creates a striking image. Photograph taken by Rev. Todd Leach during the Living Stones Pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine, February 25 through March 9, 2018.*

Book Collection for Mothers and Fathers of HOPE

The Foundation of HOPE empowers incarcerated and released individuals to restore their relationship with their God, rebuild their lives, and reconcile to their community. One aspect of this program is giving parents in the Allegheny County Jail an opportunity to read and record stories for their children. This is not only a service to the parents currently in jail, but also provides an outlet of love and support for their children as well. Please join us in providing new youth and children's books for all ages and ethnicities, which the parents will then pass along to their children after recording. A collection basket is located by the Westminster Place entrance; book donations are welcome and appreciated at any time, but we extend a special invitation to consider participating in this collection as Mother’s Day and Father’s Day approach.

All Smiles: *In a photograph (right) provided by his mother, Brady happily displays a book and CD his father recorded for him to enjoy through HOPE. Since 2015, SPC has mailed more than 300 CDs and books to children and young people who have parents and grandparents participating in the HOPE program, connecting families and bringing joy to young readers.*

Vacation Bible School: The Good Shepherd

Vacation Bible School is designed as an intergenerational event. We need learners and leaders of all ages to make this fun and exciting event possible. There are so many ways you can participate: preparing materials in advance of VBS, leading a craft or activity center, welcoming folks at arrival time, or helping with lunch.

- **Where and when?**
  Shadyside Presbyterian Church
  **June 18-22,** Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
  Friday afternoon celebration with families

- **Who?**
  Our campers are 4-year-olds through rising 3rd graders.
  Our junior counselors are rising 4th graders through rising 6th graders.
  Our senior counselors are rising 7th graders through adults.

The deadline to register is **Friday, May 25**. Registration is limited to seventy-five campers, so please register early. Cost is $50 per child or $90 per family, but liberal scholarships are available. Registration forms are available online through the church website. Want to help with Vacation Bible School? We need your help whether you are able to share only one hour or a whole week with us. Please contact Director of Christian Education Ellen Allston: 412-682-4300, ext. 119, or eallston@shadysidepres.org.
Who Benefits from Stephen Ministry?

Everybody benefits from Stephen Ministry. Those receiving care from Stephen Ministers benefit because they receive prayer and support throughout the crisis they face. Stephen Ministers benefit through the spiritual growth they experience from being involved in meaningful ministry. Our pastors benefit because caring ministry at Shadyside Presbyterian Church is expanded, and fewer people will slip through the cracks. Most of all, you benefit from the knowledge that special care is available to you should you need it. In addition, you now have a place where you can refer a friend, neighbor, co-worker, relative, or anyone else you know who is going through a difficult time so that they can receive special care when they need it most. Stephen Ministry makes Shadyside Presbyterian Church a much more caring place.

For further information, please contact Rev. Lynn Portz, or one of the Stephen Ministry leaders: Cathy Wilson or Janet Rohrer.

A Reflection on the Annual All-Church Retreat

After having attended Shadyside for a couple of years, we decided that we wanted the opportunity to deepen our connection to the community and put aside some time to reflect upon our faith. We are so glad that we did! We had the luxury of time to sit around the fire in the evening and the breakfast table in the morning and engage in conversation with members of the congregation that we only knew in passing. The morning worship service took place in the woods, and it was powerful to be able to connect to God in a place of nature. The workshop facilitator, Lisa Nichols Hickman, invited us to engage with Scripture and share our thoughts and experiences. The overall feeling was one of peace, acceptance, and connection. Our children felt this, too — whether they were playing tetherball, building forts with their friends, or participating in the whole-group activities.

Melissa Rychener

Calvin Coolidge Wilson’s A Box of Crosses Published

On February 15, 2018, Wipf and Stock Publishers released a new novel titled A Box of Crosses by C. Coolidge Wilson — known to us as Cal Wilson, who served as Associate Pastor at Shadyside Presbyterian Church for fourteen years, from January 1, 1994, through December 31, 2007.

A Box of Crosses features the Reverend Stirling McCutcheon, a Scottish Presbyterian Minister who has been called to serve as Senior Pastor at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in Albany, New York. As one who has placed in juxtaposition Dostoyevsky’s notion that “there is nothing lovelier than the Savior” alongside Grünewald’s grotesque portrayal of the Crucified Christ, McCutcheon defines his own identity as a devotee of fractured beauty, an identity that rivets him to the beauty of his parishioners, fractured by misfortune and tragedy. A variety of crosses — icons that come to him in various ways — represents the suffering of his people, each cross possessing its unique story. In addition to dealing with the age-old question of a loving God who allows inexplicable suffering in His beautiful world, McCutcheon wrestles with the unnerving query whether God is expendable.

McCutcheon’s predecessor apparently hanged himself in front of his congregation during a Good Friday dramatic presentation of Paul Claudel’s Death of Judas. Was it an accident, or did his disillusionment cause him to identify too closely with Judas? In contrast to his predecessor, McCutcheon holds fast to his ordination vows as a shepherd of his flock, even at his own personal expense and that of his family.

A Box of Crosses is available on Amazon.com or may be ordered directly from the publisher by calling (541) 344-1528 or emailing orders@wipfandstock.com. Those who are interested may consider posting a review on Amazon.com.
IN MEMORIAM

Faithful Departed

The following members of our church family were called to their heavenly home. While we will miss their earthly presence, we rejoice that they have joined the Church Triumphant and give thanks for their lives.

Elise M. Allston
Raymond G. DeVries
Wafia K. Rizk
June Z. Weber

DEACONS

Save the Date and Sign Up to Help:
Strawberry Festival on June 8

Sponsored by the Board of Deacons, the 25th Annual Strawberry Festival occurs on Friday, June 8, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., and benefits Sojourner House, one of our local mission partners. This community event offers fun, food, and entertainment for the whole family. We are seeking volunteers to help staff the event, in addition to donations for the bake sale. Please sign up for these opportunities in the Sharp Atrium or contact the church office.

CARE & SUPPORT

Grief Support Group

Monday, May 21, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

For information, visit the website or call the church office.

SESSION

Annual Meetings

Our annual meetings will be held on Sunday, May 20, in the Sanctuary immediately following worship. Members are asked to remain so that we can accomplish the election of officers and handle other important business. Extended childcare will be available for the duration of the meeting.

MUSIC IN A GREAT SPACE

Music for Midsummer Nights: A Mini-Series of Midweek Concerts

Wednesdays in June, at 7:00 p.m.

At the conclusion of its 25th season, Music in a Great Space invites you to join us for a series of delightful concerts on Wednesday evenings in June. Please visit www.shadysidepres.org for details.

• Wednesday, June 6: How Can I Keep from Singing? An Evening of American Music — The Pittsburgh Camerata
Singing choral music with a distinctly American flair, the Pittsburgh Camerata salutes music written by American stars of all stripes — featuring composers from William Billings to Randall Thompson and John Conahan.
Tickets: $20 in advance; $25 at the door; $5 for students with valid I.D. Available for purchase online at www.pittsburghcamerata.org

• Wednesday, June 13: Happy Birthday, Irving Berlin! — Lyric Fest: Suzanne DuPlantis, mezzo-soprano; Randall Scarlatta, baritone; Dr. Laura Ward, piano
No charge for admission; donations appreciated.

• Wednesday, June 20: James W. Iman, piano
No charge for admission; donations appreciated.

• Wednesday, June 27: Justin M. Wallace, organ
No charge for admission; donations appreciated.

Music for Midsummer Nights: Above, from left to right: The Pittsburgh Camerata (photograph by Nick Conti, Imagebox Productions); James W. Iman; and Justin M. Wallace.
WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sunday Worship

Marathon Sunday, May 6, at 4:00 p.m., with Communion
The Reverend Todd E. Leach, preaching
Please see page 1 for additional marathon weekend information.

Sunday, May 13, at 11:00 a.m.
The Reverend Dr. Conrad C. Sharps, preaching

Pentecost Sunday, May 20, at 11:00 a.m.
The Reverend Dr. Conrad C. Sharps, preaching

Trinity Sunday, May 27, at 11:00 a.m.
The Reverend Dr. Conrad C. Sharps, preaching

Midweek Vespers

Wednesday, May 2, at 7:00 p.m.
These candlelit services, including the Lord’s Supper, offer
a more intimate worship experience in our beautiful Chapel.
The final vespers service until the fall will be led by
our Children’s and Youth Ministries.
Vespers will resume on Wednesday, September 12.

Live Worship Webcast

Sundays at 11:00 a.m.
Listen online at www.shadysidepres.org/live
Please share this link with friends and neighbors
who may not be able to join us in person.

COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter Deadlines

Deadlines for the Mouse are the first business day of each month.

Tuesday, May 1
June-July issue

Monday, July 2
August issue

Please submit Mouse articles to the editor, Peter Bodnar, at
pbodnar@shadysidepres.org. Comments are welcome.

www.shadysidepres.org/blog

Pulpit Notes

Thoughts, Prayers, and Devotions from the Pastor