



St. Stephen Alumni Newsletter

Website: <http://www.ststephen-hazelwood.org/>

Email: alum-coordinator@ststephen-hazelwood.org

March 2016

Vol. 3, Issue 1

Featured Story: THE MCSHEA FAMILY HAS A LONG HISTORY AT ST.STEPHEN'S

Mary McShea was the first of the McShea girls to attend St. Stephen's School in 1934. I was next two years later, then Jean two years after that, and Alice, two years after Jean.

Things were much different in the 1930's. Not many people had cars so we had to walk from Renova Street in Glenwood to St. Stephen's. School buses were unheard of then. Even lunch rooms or cafeterias were not to be seen at St. Stephen School. If you brought your lunch to school, you ate in one of the classrooms.

In the 1930's, Sisters of Charity were teaching us with a few lay teachers. I always thought the nuns were special people. One nun who did frighten me was Sr. Constantia who was the music teacher. When we had music class she would bang her ruler on the desk and shout "Sing" which always terrified me, but I sang. As I recall, Sister never hit any one with the ruler, but it sure kept me from taking piano lessons. Some of the smart-alecky kids called her Sr. Can'tstandyou.



I don't recall much about grade school, but I do remember my first day. The teacher said when she called our name we were to answer present. Being a backward six year old, I thought present meant that we would each receive a present, a gift. Of course that didn't happen. That day I learned there was more than one meaning for some words.

The one nun who stands out in my memory is Sr. Clementine who taught me in the seventh grade. She was very young, probably not more than eighteen years of age. I really liked her. She was a very good teacher for someone so young. Other nuns who I remember are Sr. Marie Charles, an Irish nun, Sr. Vincent Marie, a gentle nun, and Sr. Theodore, who was a tough cookie and took no sass from anyone.

I do remember we had a good foundation for our faith. Our parents, Mollie and Charlie McShea were our first teachers of the Catholic faith, then the nuns and priests at St. Stephen's continued teaching us. Monsignor Joseph Meenan was one of the teachers of religion in the upper grades. I'm not sure he was a Monsignor in the 1930's. Our Pastor, Father Dennis Murphy, would visit the classrooms from time to time, along with his Scottie dog named Sassy. All the students would be eager to see Sassy and to pet her. It was a nice break from class. Fr. Murphy also "surprised" the students at Mass each year on St. Patrick's Day (March 17th) by giving us the day off. We didn't get St. Stephen's Day off because it was celebrated on December 26th. St. Patrick's day was our spring break.

World War II did impact our school days somewhat. Because of the war the government was not selling some of our farm products overseas, which caused a surplus in the USA. Periodically the government would deliver grapefruits, oranges, raisins, cheese and sometimes butter. This was a nice addition to our diets. On the way home, some of the students amused themselves by throwing the raisins at each other. Luckily, the grapefruit wasn't thrown.

My parents, Mollie and Charlie McShea, moved to Renova Street after their marriage at St. Philips Church in Crafton in 1926 and joined St. Stephen Parish. They had four daughters. Mary married Carl Drezga in 1988. They had no children. Mary died in 2013. Jean is a parishioner at St. Stephen's. Alice married Eugene Ruffolo in 1957. They had three sons, Thomas, Richard and Michael, who all attended St. Stephen School, and were married in St. Stephen's Church. Rich is a Eucharistic Minister at St. Stephen's. Eugene Ruffolo died in 2008. I was married to Bill O'Neil at St. Stephen's in 1958. Two of our daughters were married at St. Stephen's. Caroline married James Deasy in 1985 and Mary Beth married Bill Doyle in 1987. Mary Beth's daughter, Katie attended St. Stephen School from 1996 to 2004. Two of our granddaughters were also married at St. Stephen's. Meghan Deasy married Dennis Saltzman in 2009 and Colleen Deasy married Logan Hanley in 2012.

I would like my friends to know how grateful I am for the faith community of St. Stephen, the Sisters of Charity, the Pastors, Priests, Deacons, the classmates I had throughout my school years and of course, my family.

Eileen McShea O'Neil
Class of 1944

St. Stephen Alumni Committee

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<http://www.ststephen-hazelwood.org/>

March 28, 2016

Dear St. Stephen Alumni and Parishioners,

We are delighted to welcome the Sisters of Charity, clergy, alumni, parishioners, and the faculty and staff of St. Stephen School, for a homecoming weekend at St. Stephen Parish on **June 10-12, 2016**. To kick the weekend off, the Alumni Committee will greet guests for an evening of Night at the Races with doors opening at 5:00pm, dinner served at 6:00pm and races beginning at 7:00pm. Join family, friends and fellow alum for a fun evening of dinner, horse racing, games and sharing memories.

On Saturday at 11:00am, join the Alumni Committee and the Sisters of Charity for the blessing and dedication of the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton statue in honor of the Sisters of Charity who dedicated over 100 years of service to the students and families of St. Stephen School. We will have a luncheon immediately following the dedication.

On Sunday, a continental breakfast will be served in the parish hall at 9:00am. Anyone wishing to attend mass can do so before the breakfast at 8:00am or after the breakfast at 11:00am. All weekend, there will be plenty of opportunity to enjoy old friends and make new ones.

Please print clearly and fill out the form below and return it to St. Stephen Alumni Committee.

Name _____ Address _____
Email/Phone Number _____

Event Options

- I would like to attend the Night at the Races \$20.00/person
Horse Owner _____ Horse Name _____ There are 120 horses available.
If purchasing more than one horse, write additional horse owners and names on another sheet You will be contacted to
(Includes Horse, Dinner & Admission) confirm your reservation.
- I would like to attend the Night at the Races \$15.00/person
(General Admission Includes Dinner & Admission)
- I would like to attend the Luncheon \$20.00/person
- I would like to attend the Night at the Races & Luncheon \$30.00/person
- I am unable to attend, but please accept this donation

Payment: Check payable to *St. Stephen Parish*

Please note St. Stephen School Building Fund on the memo line
Mail to **St. Stephen Parish, ATTN: Alumni Committee**
5115 Second Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Any questions please email the Alumni Committee at alum-coordinator@ststephen-hazelwood.org.

Everyone Welcome!

Tell Your Friends!



Come back and relive your Junior High dance experience for a night!

ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL HALL • 7:00-11:00 PM

Who says you can't go home? We've got the same hall, the same DJ (Deadmau5 was unavailable) and maybe even some of the same teachers, coaches and chaperones!

Single Admission: \$15.00 • Couples: \$20.00 • Includes food & beer • BYOB

Contact Bridget Mesko for tickets at 412-277-1842 • email: bridget.mesko@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS BRANDON HABURJAK!

Central Catholic High School is pleased to announce the hiring of Mr. Brandon Haburjak, '06, as Director of Alumni Relations.

Haburjak grew up in Hazelwood and attended St. Stephen School prior to Central Catholic. While at Central, he played baseball and football and was member of the 2003 WPIAL Championship football team and 2004 WPIAL & State Championship football team. After graduating from Central, he attended Point Park University and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences ('10) and a Master of Arts degree in Organizational Leadership ('15). He was also a four year member of the Point Park University baseball team and was named Captain his senior year.

Over the past five years, Haburjak has worked in higher education, primarily as a Senior Admissions Counselor at Point Park University. He currently resides in Munhall with his wife Erin and daughter Harper.

Of his return to Central Catholic, Haburjak said, "Without the generous support of the alumni and the Central Catholic community, I would not have had the opportunity to experience this extraordinary brotherhood. I am excited to return to Central Catholic and collaborate with my brothers to ensure that the next generation of Central students have the same opportunities that I did."

Brother Robert Schaefer, FSC, Principal of Central Catholic, said, "We are excited to welcome Brandon back to his alma mater and to continue the great outreach to our graduates so that the Central Catholic brotherhood remains a vital part of our mission." (Reprinted from news release, 3/7/16)

Patti Mangan Suzio, a member of our alumni committee and one of Brandon's teachers at St. Stephen, contacted Brandon who commented, "'I am grateful for the foundation that St. Stephens gave me. Education is very important to me and I firmly believe that teachers change lives. I was fortunate enough to learn from many great teachers over the years and I am proud to be a graduate of St. Stephens School."



Alumni Notes

Wedding Congratulations to Regina Coyne '96 and Nate Steuer, who were married on March 26, 2016 in Washington, D.C.

We want to hear from you! Share weddings, engagements, births, graduation announcements, congratulatory messages or what is happening in your life so we will add it in our next newsletter by contacting alum-coordinator@ststephen-hazelwood.org

Would you like to be a featured alumni or would you like to submit a person to be featured? Contact us!

Next publication date:
September 2016

Upcoming Alumni Events

If you would like to announce an alumni sponsored event or reunion, please let us know!

Next Alumni Committee Meeting: April 26, 2016

Fallen Spartans

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to alumni, family and friends of St. Stephen School

Joan (Dwyer) Faulkner
Gary Motta
Tricia Lynn Vavro

Upcoming Parish News, Events & Activities

April 30, 2016

Spring Thing Festival
2pm to 7pm

Eileen McShea O'Neil continued...



- 1) Eileen on her First Holy Communion
- 1) Eileen's Class photo
- 2) The McShea Sisters: (l to r) Eileen, Jean, Mary and Alice

1 Eileen is in the second row standing and third from the left

