



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

April 2014



Pastor's Page

I've been at St. Stephen for five weeks now. Technically speaking, we are still in our honeymoon period. I had interviewed with several churches, and St. Stephen stood out. What I found different, and frankly, refreshing, was that underlying the discussions I had with the call committee and with council was a firm foundation of discipleship. What was implicit in our discussions was the question, "How can we together serve God through Christ?" What wasn't asked, implicitly or explicitly, was "What can you do for us?"

Being here among you confirms this mindset. Through your example, I've discovered a corollary to this foundational tenet that the church is about following Jesus and not self-serving. The church (which isn't a building, but rather is a community) is about relationship.

Andrew Root explores this on a deeper level in his book, *The Relational Pastor*. Keep in mind that as Christians, we are all ministers! In his chapter entitled, "What is a Person?" He warns against ministry based on influencing individuals toward our interest. Examples of this would be to become "friends" with someone so that they might join your church, or serve on a committee, or vote a certain way. Being church isn't about exercising influence and power; it's about relationship. In a similar vein, Pastor Chip Gunsten often said that we should be about being church, not playing church.

Root asserts that being a person is to share deeply in another's life, bringing about a state of "indwelling." Root writes:

...indwelling ...connects the personhood of our neighbor to the personhood of Jesus himself. Jesus is there with the hungry, homeless and imprisoned because Jesus' person indwells (shares in) them. Jesus indwells them so deeply that to participate in their person is to participate in Jesus; to act for them is to act for Jesus (p.73).

This is what I find at St. Stephen. There are literally countless examples of people sharing deeply with others. It shows when people give others rides, call them, bring flowers, participate in programs to help the disadvantaged, and serve on committees. Yes, other people do these things, too. What sets St. Stephen apart is intention and motivation. What I see is that people here do those things not for their own gain, but for giving to others as God would have us do.

This is all confirmation that the Holy Spirit has called me here, and that the Holy Spirit is working among and through you. Speaking of calling, I've been asked by many people what would I like to be called. Some people know me as Cheryl, and so that is good. Pastor Griffin is fine, as well. In my prior congregation, the youth called me "PG," which is short for Pastor Griffin. The adults adopted that name for me, too. To me, "PG" is a term of endearment, and so I like that very much. Whatever you decide to call me, please call! I am working on getting to know people, and I appreciate your helping me do that!

Pastor Griffin





Pastor Ballentine's Upcoming Sabbatical

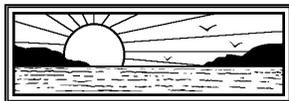
When St. Stephen called me, the call included releasing me from my work as pastor every six years to take sabbatical. This year I will take advantage of that for the second time. My sabbatical will begin May 19. I'll be back in the office August 11, in time to send out invitation letters to incoming William and Mary freshmen.

It is important for a congregation to offer sabbaticals to its pastors if the congregation wants to keep pastors for a long period of time. The work of a pastor carries a high risk of burnout and, often, a pastor feels the need to move to a new congregation because s/he's in need of new energy. I took my first sabbatical in 2008, and I've been here as pastor for 13 years this April 1. My desire is to serve St. Stephen for the remainder of my career! I would not serve well if I was burned out.

In the church, a sabbatical is rooted in God's gift of Sabbath time. Rest and refreshment is the primary purpose of a sabbatical. Any productive activity comes out of that rest. And so, even as I make plans for my sabbatical time, it would be a mistake to schedule too much to accomplish. I can share my thoughts at this point. I look forward to restful sleep! I would like to bicycle from Washington, DC to Pittsburgh and back – entirely away from traffic, on the C&O Canal and Great Allegheny Passage trails. I would like to have conversation with teachers of faith formation at the seminaries at Gettysburg and Philadelphia, and to visit pastors of congregations that are trying new approaches to faith formation. I would like to have time to read. (I literally have a shelf of books that I've bought and haven't had the time to read!)

More to come...

Pastor Ballentine



Nourishment during Lent and Easter

Wednesdays, March 19, 26, April 2 and 9

- **6:00 PM** - Soup Supper (with food provided by those who have signed up)
- **7:00 PM** - Holden Evening Prayer

April 17, Maundy Thursday worship (at St. Martin's Episcopal Church)

7:00 PM – During this Holy Communion service, those who are interested will be invited to give and receive foot washing. We will recall the story in John's gospel - of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, remembering that we are also to serve each other as the Body of Christ. The service concludes with the stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

April 18, Good Friday worship

7:00 PM – *Tenebrae*, the Service of Shadows.

April 19, the Easter Vigil

8:00 PM – This most dramatic worship service begins in darkness. With hand-held candles, we enter into an ancient chant. In half-light we hear Scripture readings of God's salvation history, and we return to our baptisms. We end in full light and full-throated singing, with the first Holy Communion of Easter!

April 20, Easter Sunday

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM – Festival Easter worship

8:30 – 11:00 AM – *Easter breakfast. Bring a dish to share!*



St. Stephen March Council Minutes

The Council met on March 11, 2014.

- The Search Committee for our new Director of Music / Organist has begun its work.
- It was noted that the Christian Education Committee and the Social Ministry Committee see themselves largely as coordinating committees which

work on tasks, projects, and events through Congregation members. Thus, in the future they will be referred to as the Faith Formation Coordinating Committee and the Social Ministries Coordinating Committee. This will more accurately reflect their roles.

- Council discussed options for saving both money and time by making staff and committee reports available electronically. Details will be worked out later, but initially reports can be submitted to Sandy Peterkin as PDF or Word documents, and she can distribute them electronically.

David F. Clark, Secretary

Health News

Thank you to Margaret Krull for the compassion and insight she provides us in the following article. We appreciate her willingness to share her personal experiences and the support she has given others. **Marcie Clark**



What to say - or not to say

What do you say when a person tells you s/he has been diagnosed with cancer? Sadly, it seems to happen more and more often. Our intentions are always good and we want to comfort the person but sometimes our words fail us. In my experience, there are several things to say or not say.

Say: “Modern medicine is a wonderful thing. The technology available today will help kick this disease out of you.”

My brother said this to me when I was diagnosed with breast cancer. It’s true, and I found it very comforting! We are so lucky to live in this decade and in this country where advanced medical treatments are available. The numbers prove it!

Don’t say: “My uncle had cancer and he had a long, hard fight, but he’s OK now.” Or, “My cousin struggled with cancer and died.” (Yes, believe it or not, people say that.)

This is your friend’s personal journey. What happened to someone else you know doesn’t matter to the person newly diagnosed. As your friend is trying to deal with new emotions, challenges and decisions, he/she doesn’t have the wherewithal to take on the problems of others facing medical issues.

Say: “I’m with you all the way,” and mean it!

Call the person. Check in with him/her from time to time. Share the journey with your friend. **listen.** Be supportive. **listen**

Don’t say: “Call me and let me know how you’re doing,” or “Call me if you need anything.”

Your friend has enough on his/her plate without you adding something else to it. Call from time to time. Drop off cookies. Write a note. Say a prayer. Send an interesting article. Recommend a fun book (not about cancer). Share what’s going on in your life.

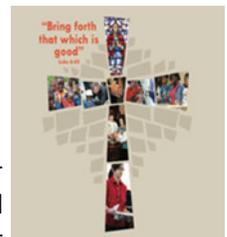
When you are “there” with your friend, you are truly blessing him/her with the gift of love, understanding and support. Such a gift will mean the world and will never be forgotten

Margaret Krull

I highly recommend these two books.
The Etiquette of Illness (2004) by Susan P. Halpern and
How to be a Friend to a Friend Who’s Sick (2013) Letty Cottin Pogrebin.

Marcie Clark, Parish Nurse

Give Now. Give Later. Give and Receive



The 1956 Society was created as a way to recognize and encourage charitable giving that will preserve the mission of St. Stephen Lutheran Church. Informative and thought-provoking workshops on estate planning/charitable giving were held in February and March led by Philip Storms, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans representative. Phil shared various strategies for legacy gifts to individuals, chari-

ties, and institutions: outright gifts, life insurance, bequests and beneficiary proceeds, charitable gift annuities, and charitable remainder trusts. He familiarized the attendees with the tax, legal, and financial consequences of the various strategies. A very helpful resource for more information on charitable giving is the Lutheran Community Foundation (www.TheLCF.org.) The LCF is “a national charity with a mission to serve donors, spread joy and change lives through charitable giving.”

- **Response Cards** have been placed in the pews and also mailed to your homes. Please use them to indicate if you have made plans for a gift to St. Stephen so we can welcome you into *The 1956 Society* as charter members.
- **A Dinner** to thank *The 1956 Society* members for their legacy gifts to St. Stephen will be held on Thursday, April 3, 6:00 p.m. at Waypoint Grill. Invitations will be mailed in March. Guest speaker for the evening will be Ellen Hinlicky who is the Director of Lutheran Partners in Mission at the Virginia Synod.
- **Questions** about the endowment fund, *The 1956 Society* or the dinner should be directed to any member of the committee.

Gerri Bass
 Ingrid Brown
 Gary Krull
 Jan MacQueston
 Lou Rossiter

My Journey With (and without) Stephen Ministry



“I cried because I had no shoes until I saw a man who had no feet.” Considered an inspirational quote, this Persian proverb (and quote from Helen Keller) is intended to help us be satisfied with our health, our worldly goods, and other factors of our lives. Today’s secular world seems to say “Get over it. It could be worse.” Often, as followers of Jesus, we may feel guilty if we mourn our losses because there is always

someone who is worse off. And, indeed, we must remember the poor whether in spirit or in goods.

But why must we “get over it” alone? We can celebrate that we still have our feet, but it is winter out there, and even in Williamsburg, it gets cold. If I have no shoes I may lose my feet like that guy over there! Can we not discuss our worries with others without worry of condemnation? Perhaps not to ask another to buy the shoes, but to help us protect our feet until we are up to the task of getting our own shoes—or to help us find God’s plan for us (with or without shoes). A Stephen Minister will not judge, and no concern is too unimportant if it is an issue to you. We can bring you in from the cold. God will provide the shoes. And if you’ve lost your feet he will give you wings. “My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” *Philippians 4:9*

Cindy Gibbs for Stephen Ministry

Social Ministry Requests



Social Ministry will be concentrating on two areas during the month of April. Your donation to either one or both will be greatly appreciated!

- ◇ **ELCA World Malaria Day** will be **April 25**. Did you know that it only takes \$10.00 to provide a mosquito net to prevent malaria? Money collected can also provide education on malaria, testing, medication and more to eliminate deaths from this disease. For more information, go to www.ELCA.org/malaria. Please make your check out to St. Stephen Lutheran Church. Put **ELCA Malaria Campaign** on the memo line.
- ◇ **Grove Sunday Event** is on **April 27**. Since Grove Christian Outreach Center has moved into their new building, this event each year now concentrates on replenishing supplies other than food. We did sheets and towels last year, and have decided to do underwear and socks for men, women and children this year. No t-shirts or bras, Please! All sizes will be gladly accepted, but the **MOST NEEDED** items are as follows:

- Men's Boxer or Boxer Briefs Sizes 32-34-36-42 and 44
- Women's Sizes 7-10-12 and 14
- Boy's Sizes 2T-3T-4-6-8 and 10
- Girls Sizes 2T-3T-4-5-6 and 8
- Men's and Women's athletic socks
- Children's socks—infant, toddler, Small, medium and large

Please put items in the plastic bin in the narthex marked **Grove Sunday!**

Watch for an article in The Quill in May for our idea to help the 40 homeless at The Pineapple Inn. **Thank You** for your support and generosity!!

Marilyn Johnson for The Social Ministry Committee



***The Search Committee
for our Director of
Music***

We give thanks to the following people who are serving to search for a Director of Music!

**Bob Achenbach
Ina Berkey
Tara Grove
Pastor Andy Ballentine**

**John Allen
Dave Dell
Hannah Wiers
Pastor Cheryl Griffin**

At this time we have three viable candidates for this position. Do you have names of other candidates for the committee to consider? Please speak to any of the members.

***Spring Clean-Up Day at
St. Stephen***



Our Storage Rooms are full. Your help is needed to sort items and determine what needs to be stored. Our clean-up day is being planned for

Saturday, May 3, 2014

Time - 7:30 AM until noon

Coffee and Donuts will be served in the Fellowship Hall

Committees/groups utilizing the storage rooms, please look at the items stored prior to May 3.

Please check your calendar and let me know if; you are available to help. Mark the blue sheet, send me an email at gandl525@cox.net or give me a call at **757 645-4059**.

Thank you,
**George Vonderheide
Property Committee**



***Snow and Ice Cannot
Stop PORT***

On Monday, March 3 and Tuesday, March 4, 34 faithful St. Stephen members prepared and delivered food to serve 86 homeless people at Orcutt Baptist church in Newport News. Our people fed dinner and breakfast to these folks. It was our 9th year participating in PORT (People Offering Resources Together). The number of clients we served this year was the largest in our nine- year history. While the cold/snowy weather contributed to the larger number this year, it was also our latest date compared to other years due to our participation in our local Williamsburg homeless programs. The members who helped to make this another successful year were as follows: **Pat, Liz, and Arnie Janot** (Pat coordinated our food purchase and preparation for which we are very thankful), **Dianne Harris, Janice Svendsen, Marian Thies, Diana Krieger, Pat Fretz, Jo and Bob Hanny, Anne and Harlan Schone, Ursula Murden, Gerri and George Bass, Jonna and Sarah Toler, Ward Bourn, Carol, Hannah, and Rachael Wiers, Helen Allen, David Allen (PORT Administration), Sandy Peterkin, Linda Vonderheide, Jenni Punched, Raé Carlson, Lori Harms, Amanda Dell, Emily Rossiter, Ruth and Forrest Fenstermaker, and Randy and Chris Punched.**



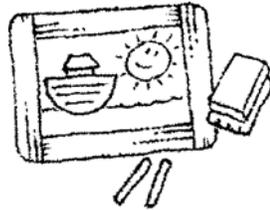
Rachael, Hannah and Carol Wiers at PORT

Our volunteer partners of Orcutt Baptist Church were also very wonderful to work with for the two days. It

was our first year to partner with them and they were extremely helpful as the host church.

Our St. Stephen congregation can be very proud of the ministry we provide to the homeless. The PORT program is another great example how we respond to this need. Thank you one and all for your participation.

Randy PUNCHARD
PORT Coordinator



Preschool News

March certainly "came in like a Lion and out like a lamb!" The children are learning a lot about the weather these last couple of months! Thank goodness for April.

The children will be preparing for Easter, making beautiful stained glass crosses, Easter baskets and eggs! We are awaiting the arrival of our caterpillars for the children to see the miracle of life as they watch them turn into beautiful butterflies.

Our spring break is from **April 7-11**. We will also be closed for **Good Friday (4/18)** and **Easter Monday (4/21)**.

Due to the snow on the 3rd of March we had to postpone Father's Night. We will celebrate our "dads" on **Monday, April 21 from 6:00-7:30 PM**.

Grandparent's Day was a huge success! St. Stephen's own **Marilyn Mallue** was a "surrogate" Grandparent for the day. Check out our pictures on Facebook and the Church Web site.



Rangers from York River State Park visited us in March, as well as staff from the Great Wolf Lodge. The Great Wolf Lodge staff read to the children, brought one of their characters to visit, and gave the children "wolf ears!"

We are running our summer camp the month of June. Spots are still available if you are interested. We are also looking for college or high school age students to help volunteer at our camp. Please contact Lauren McQuain at 229-6688 if you are interested.

Lauren McQuain, Preschool Director

The Church Mouse Hears.



.
The Williamsburg Players has selected its 2014-2015 season and **Carole Meyer** has been chosen to direct the January play called "Run For Your Wife" a British comedy-farce filled with fun and mix-ups. Cheers for Carole and hope many from St. Stephen get to go and enjoy.

Directory Changes



"Pete" and Kathy Peterson moved from an independent apartment to Assisted Living still at Patriot's Colony. Their new address is:
6200 Patriot's Colony Drive
Apt. 231
Everything else (including phone number) is the same.



April Birthdays

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2 | Clare Stimson | |
| 3 | Robert Alpino | Marian Thies |
| 4 | John Harms | |
| 5 | Chris Einarsen | Grayson Henderson |
| | Paul Reier | |
| 9 | Gerri Bass | |
| 10 | Ingrid Brown | |
| 11 | Jack Behlendorf | Carole Finch |
| | Arthur Nelsen | |
| 12 | Jenni PUNCHARD | |
| 13 | Mandi Ogaard | |
| 14 | George Bass | Meghan Osborn |
| 15 | Justin Bredbenner | |
| 16 | Christine Hallman | |
| 17 | Al Bean | Julie Berry |
| | Rachel Lucy | Ken Spencer |
| 18 | Jo Hanny | |
| 20 | Bill Miller, Jr. | |

- 21 Bob Groom
- 24 Noah Delehanty Bobbie Harms
 Brenda Olson Linda Sidebottom
- 25 John Rivolta Mary Swanson
- 26 Rudy Stegmann
- 29 Alan Balma Jake Hughes
 Helen Nelsen Susanna Owens
- 30 Paula Agor Shirley Minnick

Welcome new member

Donna Hochstetler
119 Reserve Way Apt. 201
Williamsburg,
Virginia 23185
757 784-2517



Email: 6milelady@gmail.com



Prayers

Prayers of blessing on Pastor Cheryl Ann Griffin as she begins her ministry among us

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for Helen Allen, Nancy Canny, Anita Dorsey, Bill Gibbs, Dan and Deloris Hanley, Michelle Ivey, Marilyn Johnson, Lana Olson, Katie Punchard, Roberta Sulouff, Dan Stimson and Janice Svendsen. *Pray for those giving caring to these loved ones.*

Pray for these who are physically unable to get to worship: Dick Batman, Ruth Ennis, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Willetta Heising, Jean Kuhn, Helen Lenox, "Pete" and Kathy Peterson, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Dot Wright and Lois Wysong

Prayers of Easter hope to those mourning Elsa Englert, and to Jo Hanny and her family on the death of her brother.

Pray God's blessings upon

—Christine and Jon Hallman, Rachel and Andrew Martin and all parents who are awaiting the births of their babies.

—Those in the AA group who meet in our building on Wednesday evenings.

—The homeless in our community and those who

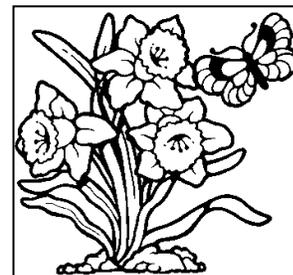
serve them.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Rita Adams, Thomas Alt, Laurie Berger, Birgit, Lois Bomba, Carol Boyer, Bob Canny, Joanne Carlson, Susan Carlson, Michael Compton, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Kathryn Dieter, Barbara Driscoll, Maxine Eittreim, Inge Felbier, Natalie Fulton, Mary Funkhouser, Their Giardi, Bill and Nancy Gottschalk, Carol Haecker, Eleanor Hallman, Eleanor Harms, Joan Holt, Carol Horton, Richard Johnson, Fran Kibler, Brittany Liberta, Mildred Lindblad, Brenda Lynch, Conner McGraw, Charlotte and Noelle McIlvaine, Dianna Miller, Stanley Miller, Helen Minnick, Jo Moore, Heidi Morris, Fred Muller, the Nasra family, Mike Newberg, Mike Overdorf, Maggie Riley, Lisa Rivolta, Carol Robinson, Dorothy Roger, Doris Roinestead, Roland Scheiding, Deb and Bill Schilling, Dwayne Sohiefelbein, Bernadine Schlicht, Linda Smalarz, Nancy Spaniol, Evelyn Spear, Norma Steinmuller, Lana Taylor, Annette Vosteen, Shirley White, Kerri Willette, Judy Wimbish and Gloria Williams.



Letters to our Members

Williamsburg Area Faith in Action sent our pastors a letter thanking our volunteer members for their work in assisting seniors. **Keith Egloff, Stewart Fretz, Carol Gabram, Pam Groman, Pat Janot, Marilyn Johnson, Doug and Jeane Moore, Larry and Karen Shoberg and Corky Umberger** have given care in many different and important ways. FISH thanked all from St. Stephen who have donated food, clothing, money, and their volunteer time this year. They also thanked the Children's Faith Formation Class. The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy thanked us for our contribution of \$200.



Congregational Officers:

<i>President</i>	Keith Egloff	229-7859
<i>Vice President</i>	Emily Rossiter	345-6206
<i>Secretary</i>	Dave Clark	603-6346
<i>Treasurer</i>	Paul Kristiansen	220-2709
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Linda Vonderheide	645-4059

Church Council:

Cathy Bingman	(515) 971-6915
Dave Clark	603-6346
Keith Egloff	229-7859
Bob Hanny	229-5080
Terry Hinders	221-0904
Linda Laity Hite	220-2776
Pat Janot	221-0289
Brad Leek	250-3473
Bob Radke	565-7993
Emily Rossiter	345-6206
Anders Timberg	741-2395
Stan York	345-0073

Church Office: Phone: (757) 229-6688
 email: All email addresses are:
 _____@saintstephenlutheran.net

Church Staff:

<i>Pastor</i>	Andy Ballentine	229-6742
	email	pastorab@
<i>Pastor</i>	Cheryl Ann Griffin	898-1323
	email	pastorcg@
<i>Parish Administrator</i>	Sandy Peterkin	office@
<i>Dir. Music/Organist</i>	Ina Berkey (acting)	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurse</i>	Marcie Clark	ParishNurse@
<i>Dir. Of Preschool</i>	Lauren McQuain	258-3759
	email	preschool@

Monday - Friday: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon



The Quill is published monthly by
 St. Stephen Lutheran Church
 612 Jamestown Road
 Williamsburg, VA 23185

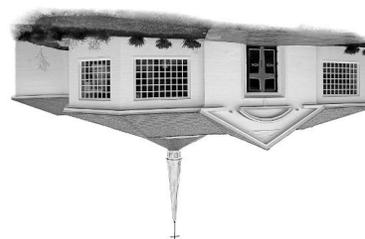
Editors:

<i>Anne Schone</i>	ahschone@cox.net
<i>Thord Einarsen</i>	teinarsen@aol.com

Mailing:

Pam Buckley

Article deadline: Fifteenth of the month previous



God's work. Our hands.
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



St. Stephen Lutheran Church
 612 Jamestown Road
 Williamsburg, VA 23185
 www.saintstephenlutheran.net

Dated Material
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
 PAID
 Permit No. 34
 Williamsburg, VA