



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

April 2016



Milestone Musings

For 13 years I have been your pastor, and for two years I have been one of your pastors: 15 years serving St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Williamsburg, Virginia! I can only think of one pastor in the Virginia Synod who has been in place longer, and only one in all the congregations of our Williamsburg community. May I take the opportunity to muse a bit?

The past 15 years have been eventful for me, personally. On April Fool's Day, 2001 (when I arrived at St. Stephen), Patty and I had a daughter finishing her senior year in high school and a son attending Mary Washington College. Now both are married to amazing spouses and we even have the two smartest grandchildren ever born.

Since April 1, 2001, both Patty's and my fathers have died. I nearly died, from histoplasmosis, a fungal infection that took over my lungs. Several years later, a surgical oncologist removed melanoma from one of my arms, as well as three sentinel lymph nodes. (I will always remember my cry of relief when learning that the lymph nodes were clean!) Patty has had her own surgeries to remove cancers.

During these 15 years, I have received a Master in Sacred Theology from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, and I completed a two-year course of training to be a spiritual director, from the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation.

In addition, the past 15 years have been deeply fulfilling in my vocational calling to be a parish pastor. You have welcomed my ministry among you. You have expressed appreciation for my preaching and teaching. You have

created small, vibrant, inquiring communities with me, during book and Bible studies. You have honored me by inviting me into your lives during experiences of deep sorrow as well as joyful celebration. Loved ones have died. Babies have been born. A sudden job loss. A medical crisis. A baby who has died in the womb. An adult child who has become honest about his/her sexuality. Where is God in all this? Generations, now, of College students have welcomed my presence as they have journeyed through school and into adult life, even asking me to officiate at their weddings, to participate in their ordinations, to join with them in celebration as they have earned PhDs and other graduate degrees, established themselves in careers and started families.

I have felt deeply blessed to be a part of this congregation's culture. Frequently, I hear from visitors that they wish their home congregations' worship was as joyous and spirit-filled as ours is. Frequently, I hear from newcomers how surprised they are to experience so much positive energy and encouragement for each other on our spiritual journeys. Newcomers to our study groups are enthused and energized by our open conversations, as we test out ideas and understandings, without the pressure to accept a "right answer." After a recent typical conversation of this sort, I so much loved hearing a new member (an elderly woman) remark, "I've never experienced a congregation like this one before!"

You have been a congregation fearless in outreach to the poor, the hungry and the homeless. We have worked together to accomplish two major building projects.

During the past 15 years, I have been asked to contribute beyond the congregation. I have served in the Virginia Synod's candidacy process, as Chaplain to the candidates for ordination. I have served as Dean of the Synod's Peninsula Conference. The Eastern Cluster of our three ELCA seminaries put me to work in the Lilly-funded "Project Connect," raising the possibility of seminary for young adults discerning their vocational call. It has been very important to me that you are one of the most generous congregations in the Virginia Synod in supporting the mission of the wider church.

My calling is to be a parish pastor. I thank you for your openness to my ministry. Your interest, your questions, your experiences have been very important to me as I have discerned how God is leading me on my own life path. As we have shared our journeys of faith with each other, the Spirit has borne the fruit among us of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. I look forward to what God will do with us in our continuing lives together!

-- Pastor Andy Ballentine



Past and Upcoming

Hello, people of St. Stephen!

I want to begin by thanking musicians who volunteered their time and talents this past Holy Week and Easter. Cantors old and new lead five wonderful and meaningful services of Holden Evening Prayer. Both the 8:30 and 11:00 Choirs did a superb job of leading the services for Passion Sunday, Good Friday, and the three services on Easter Sunday. Our Easter Sunday services were supplemented also with members of the Flute Frenzy, and the singing of the aria *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth* from Handel's Messiah, sung by **Tara Grove**.

The Choirs will continue leading the service for about two more months before taking a hiatus for the summer. If you have ever felt any desire to be a part of the 8:30 or 11:00 Choirs, please consider dropping by for a rehearsal! We would be most delighted to have you. While the Choirs are on break, we will use soloists from the congregation during the offering time; so if you are a vocalist or instrumentalist, and would like to participate, please feel free to make it known!

Lastly, there are two musical events that will be taking place in April outside of St. Stephen. I will present a solo organ recital at Bruton Parish Episcopal Church on April 19, at 8:00 PM. On April 24, Cantori Choral Ensemble, a group I am a part of, will present a concert at Walnut Hills Baptist Church, at 5:00 PM. Both events are free and open to the public, and all are cordially invited!

Marty Barstow

Reflections...on our "Walk to Jerusalem"



- As I got the family involved in "Walking to Jerusalem", sometimes reluctantly, we ended up with two surprises. By using the pedometers I was really surprised about how little we were walking. I am on my feet most of the day but apparently really stationary. I had to look for ways to add distance. The second big surprise was that the two youngest enjoyed having alone time with Mom walking. They would compete to see who would ask first and who got to walk the longest. Overall I know I put a lot more "Lenten" miles in than I have in the past and at least some to the children's exercise reluctance diminished. Maybe by this summer I will be able to keep up with Brian's morning walks. **Amy Berg**
- It has been a great way to involve many people in exercising and on looking forward to Easter. I enjoyed walking and also was involved in water aerobics. We continued to participate while on vacation, climbing at least eight flights of stairs a day. **Sue Voigt**
- I learned a lot and the pedometer helped me realize I wasn't walking as far as I thought I was. I walked more and was able to lose weight. I also enjoyed watching the progression of miles on the chart in the Gathering Space. **Gayle Spencer**
- I became motivated to walk more. I parked further away in the parking lots and took the steps more often. Some health benefits; I started a healthy eating program, I also did lose weight. **David Allen**
- It made me get to the Rec Center more. I was committed. I felt better about walking. It [The Walk to Jerusalem] was a good focus for us to

be more active, healthy and accomplish our goal. **Charlene Smith**

- Walking is JOY time--talking to the trees. They respond, "keep walking and humming." **Rosalie Frey**
- Our walks represented healing, recovery and attentiveness to the world around us. I valued the opportunities for family time, sharing our thoughts as we walked or just taking in the quiet of nature slowly turning from winter to spring." **Michael Lewis and Regina Root**
- The "Walk..." has been a good idea overall and it seems like half the congregation has participated. The pedometer was a helpful tool and I increased my steps more than I thought. I have enjoyed the weekly meditation cards and have used them when I walk. I have also liked the weekly information in the bulletin. **Marilyn Johnson**
- The "Walk..." was a great idea. Being conscious of moving is important for all ages. I found using the pedometer helpful and motivating. **Susan Britcher**

Council approved our congregation's youth holding various fundraising activities to raise money for their participation in the ELCA's upcoming National Youth Gathering.

The Preschool Task Group is moving forward with its work.

Council OK'd organizing our Parish Life activities with a number of subcommittees and coordinators rather than having one formal Parish Life committee to do everything.

David F. Clark, Secretary



Why a Preschool Task Group?

The response to our "Walk to Jerusalem" has been phenomenal. We had more than 125 members and traveled more than 19,000 miles, getting close to walking around the world! I have loved hearing people's stories, their successes, challenges, and the enthusiasm. Thank you to all who participated, supported and contributed to this fun event.

Marcie Clark, Parish Nurse



St. Stephen March Council Minutes

The Council met March 8, 2016.

The February Council minutes were approved.

Pastor Griffin reported on her recent participation in the Bishop's brainstorming session to find ways for the various ELCA churches on the Peninsula to work more closely together, particularly to assist those churches that are struggling to remain active. Pastor Griffin welcomes any suggestions.

You may be familiar with the expression "Anything worth doing, is worth doing right."

When it comes to our Preschool, the core idea of taking care of and enriching these young lives is certainly worth doing, because (in Matthew 9:14,) Jesus tells us that "the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

We believe that Lauren McQuain, our Preschool Director, has done a fine job with the education and enrichment of the 3-5 year-old children in our charge. But council has noted some gaps in the internal administration of the program (particularly budgeting and expense reconciliation) and a sense that the preschool program in is need of a greater connection to our congregation in order to spark ongoing initiative and investment that should flow organically from community ownership.

To that end, council has formed at Preschool Task Group to study the mission of the Preschool and how it complements the mission of the congregation. The members of the Task group include: **Paula Agor, Ward Bourn, Bob Hanny, Bob Harman, Sarah Melvey, Sherry Phipps,** and **Pastor Griffin**. Council has given the task group a broad mandate to consider the level of community interest versus the involvement that is required to do this right. What changes are necessary and how would they be implemented?

Council greatly appreciates the willingness of these members of our community to take the time to thoroughly study the issues involved and report back to council.

Stan York with the Council



Consider Camp Caroline Furnace

Camp Caroline Furnace Has Summer Programs for Rising 1st through 12th Graders!

- Camp Caroline Furnace is our Virginia Synod camp, and the staff is announcing their Summer, 2016 Explorer, Pioneer, Canoe, Horse, Fishing, Stars, Rocks & Dirt, Caving, Hiking, Horse, Whitewater, and Climbing Camps!
- There's information available in the Gathering Space.
- You can also find out more at www.CarolineFurnace.org
- You can e-mail Executive Director Reuben Todd at office@carolinefurnace.org

the largest food import and chocolate generates more than \$20 billion per year in revenue. Yet many of the world's coffee and cocoa producers live in poverty." These words are part of an interesting article covering the issues Lutheran World Relief (LWR) contends with in trying to help coffee and cocoa farmers leave poverty behind. LWR's senior relationship manager for coffee and cocoa, Rick Peyser, is interviewed explaining why the disparity exists.

The farmers often try to support their families on a single crop which leaves them vulnerable to market and climate changes. Often the farmers lack the basics of life for them and their children. Often they are aging and their children are looking for better opportunities in urban centers.

LWR is partnering with organizations like the Starbuck's Foundation and government and community groups to give technical assistance to grow crops in sustainable ways and diversify their sources of income.

Purchasing from our St. Stephen coffee table which is manned by **Denny** and **Diana Krieger** is one way we can become involved in the world-wide support for those farmers. After all, Lutherans do like their coffee!



Remembering Willetta Heising

I miss **Willetta**. She was my sister-in-Christ, my mentor, my pastor, and my friend. We met Willetta and Ken when they moved to Williamsburg in 1979 and joined St. Stephen. Ken was a retired Naval officer with a second career at NASA Langley researching improved helicopter design. Willetta had started her second career, after raising five children as a Navy wife. She had just completed a degree at Yale Divinity School.

They quickly joined into the fellowship of our congregation. Willetta served as vicar at St. Stephen under Pastor Benton Lutz and commuted to Union Theological Seminary in Richmond earning a master's degree in theology in 1991. I can remember Willetta having a desk on one side of the small kitchen off the



Jane Mazur

Ward Bourn – Godparents for Tanzania

Willetta Heising -

Shirley Minnick

Ward Bourn – Godparents for Tanzania

Lauren and Kevin McLees



Coffee News

Did you know that coffee and cocoa are big business all over the world? "In the United states alone, coffee is

undercroft, which became the office for the Task Force on Battered Women (later to become Avalon).

It was a joyous occasion when she was ordained at St. Stephen on her 59th birthday (July 1, 1981). She received a call from Grace Lutheran in Franklin, but Ken continued to attend St. Stephen and she stayed connected with our church as well. She provided pastoral care and supported other ministries with Vice **Pastor Thord Einarsen** after Pastor Lutz left in Dec. 1991. She taught confirmation classes, forming a special bond with one class of five young women. I could hardly wait until I retired in 1998 to be able to attend the weekly women's Bible study she hosted in her home in Kingspoint and later at Patriots Colony after she and Ken moved. She read lots of books and publications to share with her Bible class, often related to women, social justice issues and religious art. She was active in Church Women United, a women's clergy group, and presided at many Easter Sunrise Services on Jamestown Island. She married our older daughter and her husband after several premarital counseling sessions that made a lasting impression on them.

Meanwhile, Ken coordinated the first expansion of our sanctuary that added additional seating in two wings, handicap ramps, wider doors and an extended narthex. When Ken was severely debilitated with Parkinson's she spent every day in his room in the Patriots Colony convalescent center, to be close to him and monitor his care and medications. With Ken's permission, we persuaded her to come back to the villa for the Bible class each week.

I could go on with stories, but will end this brief remembrance with an invitation to fellow Bible class participants (and others) to join me in a "tribute to Willetta luncheon" in June or July. I will begin to organize it when I return from Ireland in April. Happy Easter, and Peace be with you.

Susan Voigt

The Church Mouse Hears . . .



- How nice it was to read **Ursula Murden's** article from the *Quill* in the recent *Virginia Lutheran*.
- Congratulations to **Tara Grove** of the William & Mary Law School for being chosen the

Federalist Society's 2016 Paul M. Bator Award on Feb. 27 at the society's 35th National Student Symposium, held at the University of Virginia School of Law. The award each year honors a legal scholar under the age of 40 "who has demonstrated excellence in legal scholarship, a commitment to teaching, a concern for students, and who has made a significant public impact."

Law School Dean, Davison M. Douglas, made the following comment, "I am delighted to see Tara Grove receive the Bator Award," "she is a rising star in the fields of Federal Courts and Constitutional Law, and is a very deserving recipient of this honor."

- Don't forget "**Earth Day**" is **April 22**. Join the many activities planned.
- Cheers to **Brian Van Rosendale!** He was part of a team from the Governor's School for Science and Technology (in Hampton) that participated in 'The Great Computer Challenge' held at ODU March 5. Brian's team won third place in the computer programming division. They were given several problems to solve by writing computer programs.

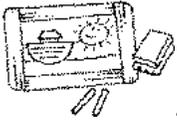


Women's Retreat reminder!

We will gather at Richmond Hill on **Saturday, April 24** and leave **Sunday, April 25**. You may also come just for Saturday! Please contact **Pastor Griffin**



- ❖ The Women will meet at the Old Mill again at **8:00 AM on Tuesday, April 5**. It is at 2005 Richmond Road, across the street from Hampton Inn and Suites.
- ❖ The men will meet on **Thursday, April 7** at **8:00 AM** at The Colonial Pancake House at the Corner of Penniman Road and Page Street.



April 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.
- 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 1-10**.
- We will celebrate Grandparent’s Day on **April 27** for the Bunny Class, and **April 28** for the Cubs and Raccoons.
- Kindergarten registration is **Friday May 6**.
- We will celebrate our Mothers at our annual Mother’s Day Brunch at Rocco’s Smokehouse on **May 10**.
- Judy Brown and her parrot, Jake, will visit the Extended Day program on **April 19**.
- Our “Out of this World Space Camp!” runs the first three weeks in June! We are currently full week 1 and week 2; we have three spots available for week 3. 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.

Virginia Lutheran Men in Mission (VALMM)

The 2016 annual Gathering (formerly called a "retreat") of the VALMM will take place at the Roslyn Retreat Center on **May 14-15**. The theme is "Illumination 2016: Imagine and enter a new world - The kingdom of God." Primary clergy involved are Rev. Andrew Bansemer, Chaplain and Worship Leader plus Rev. John Herman who will be teaching on the Parables of Jesus.

The Gathering begins **Saturday, May 14** at noon and ends after lunch on Sunday. The cost is \$160, which includes lunch and dinner on Saturday, breakfast and lunch on Sunday, plus overnight accommodations.

Registration forms are available on the Virginia Synod website <http://www.vasynod.org>. The deadline for registration is **April 30**.

The Roslyn Retreat Center is an Episcopal facility located on a beautiful site overlooking the James River on the western edge of Richmond. I have attended several of the previous Gatherings. I always felt that they were inspirational and worthwhile.

Art Dorsey



April Birthdays

2	Clare Stimson	Ray Walker
3	Robert Alpino	Marian Thies
4	John Harms	
5	Chris Einarsen	Grayson Henderson
	Paul Reier	
9	Gerri Bass	
10	Ingrid Brown	
11	Jack Behlendorf	Maddie Collins
	Carole Finch	Arthur Nelsen
12	Jenni PUNCHARD	
13	Sara Martin	
14	George Bass	Jonathan Davies
	Ellen LaPlace	Meghan Osborn
16	Christine Hallman	
17	Julie Berry	Ken Spencer
18	Jo Hanny	
20	Bill Miller, Jr.	
21	Bob Groom	
23	Ellie Bailey	
24	Noah Delehanty	Bobbie Harms
25	John Rivolta	Mary Swanson
26	Rudy Stegmann	
28	Gary Brocksmith	
29	Alan Balma	Jake Hughes
	Helen Nelsen	Susanna Owens
30	Paula Agor	Donna Crinklaw
	Shirley Minnick	



Join your prayers for healing with God’s desires for **Nancy Childress, Thord Einarsen, John Harms, Arnie Janot, Heather Macdonald, Linda Reuben, Regina Root, Jerry Trone, and Linda Vonderheide.**

Pray God's blessings on Tara Grove and David Davies, and Becca Groman and Charlie Griffin as they await the birth of their babies.

Pray resurrection hope and comfort for Karen Schlicht on the death of her mother.

Pray for these who are unable to get to worship: Art Dorsey, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Mary Jamerson, Helen Lenox, Bob Mazur, "Pete" and Kathy Peterson, Betty Rickerson, John Rivolta, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, and Lois Wysong.

Pray God's blessings on those in our community who have no permanent home and on members of Smith Memorial Baptist Church who are serving them through the Community of Faith Mission this last week of the Shelter season.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation:

Nathalee Accomando, Rita Adams, Robert Anderson, Ted Beaver, Ellen Benton, Norma Blaase, Tom Black, the Blume family, Lois Bomba, Roy Bouharb, Allan Bullman, Grady Calhoun, Melinda Campbell, Gerald Childress, Ayrton Climo, Kasey Cosby, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Kylee Crittenden, Sylvia Croushore, Danielle DeVees, Kathryn Dieter, Craig Eitreim, Trudy Fass, Bruce and Kay Flatin, Maureen Flatt, Meredith Fuer, Jodi Georgenson, Jean Gottschalk, Carol Haecker, Ron Hayes, Sam Hayes, Bill Henderson, Alan Hochstetler, Lynn Isenburg, Yvonne Jack, Courtney Jackson, Amy Johnson, Fran Kibler, Art Kirk, Carl Kountze III, Dean Kreitzer, Mary Beth LaFave, Tony Lee, Mildred Lindblad, Robert Linsley, Dorcas Macauley, Rick Meyer, Norma Mills, Sandy Moore, Heidi Morris, Tammy Murden, Tyler Murray, the Nasra family, Mary Jo Neubauer, Mary Newberg, Mike Overdorf, Jim Paine, Lesa Peppers, Inge Petersen, the Price family Robert Pushaw, Becky Ralston, Jean Reier, Emily Reubush, Paul Rueckwald, Richard Seaver, Paula Shreiner, Nancy Spaniol, Evelyn Spear, Joe Tucker, Elaine Turner, Annette Vosteen, Sue Weilmuenster, Cynthia Wilkes, Scott Wimbish, Elishu Wolf, and Anna Zabdyr.



Letters to our Congregation

We received a note from the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy thanking St. Stephen for our contribution of \$200 helping to create social justice in Virginia.

Dear St. Stephen, I wanted to thank you for the beautiful celebration of my mother, Willetta's, life. My parents loved St. Stephen and it was overwhelming to receive all that love shared back on my family.

I was deeply touched by those of you that shared memories of how she impacted your life. A special thank you to Pastor Ballentine for his spiritual support and the ladies of St. Stephen for the wonderful reception.

With love,
Ellen Barlow



Grove Sunday May 1 "The Three J's"

For the past several years, Grove Christian Outreach Center has designated one Sunday a year to collect needed items for the families they serve. Churches and businesses help in this effort. This year we have decided to do the three J's -- **Jeans, Jelly and Juice**.

- Jeans can be purchased in all sizes for men, women and children. Good buys can be found at the Vanity Fair/Lee Wrangler outlet store on Richmond Road in the High Street shopping center. You can also buy jeans in good condition at the new Goodwill store next to Staples on Richmond Road. If you have gently used jeans that you are not wearing, you can donate those.
- Jelly should be in plastic containers only! We don't want jelly all over the floors---only on kids faces!
- Juice of any kind in boxes or plastic containers will be much appreciated for thirsty children and adults.

Bring these items to the church any time in April. There will be a special plastic container in the gathering space marked **Grove Sunday**. Please do **not** put them in our normal bin marked for Grove and Fish food collection.

Call **Marilyn Johnson at 345-0806** if you have any questions.

Many thanks!!!

Social Ministry Coordinating Committee

Congregational Officers:

President	Stan York	345-0073
Vice President	Emily Rossiter	345-6206
Secretary	Dave Clark	603-6346
Treasurer	Paul Kristiansen	220-2709
Financial Secretary	Linda Vonderheide	645-4059

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 _____@saintstephenlutheran.net



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Pastor	Cheryl Ann Griffin	876-6371
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Parish Administrator	Sandy Peterkin	office@
Dir. Music/Organist	Martin Barstow	MusicDir@
Parish Nurse	Marcie Clark	ParishNurse@
Dir. Of Preschool	Lauren McQuain	258-3759
	email	preschool@

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

Church Council:

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Terry Hinders	221-0904
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Brad Leek	250-3473
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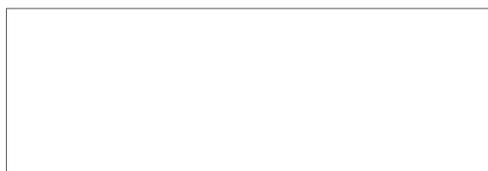
Pam Buckley

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