



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

April 2019



Christ Has Died, Christ Is Risen, Christ Will Come Again

By the time Easter arrives, we will have been sitting with ashes for 40 days, mirroring the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. These 40 days of Lent have been a time to focus on the things that separate us from God. They have been our journey in the wilderness, too. What have you discovered about yourself and about God? If you have recognized what gets in your way of trusting and loving God fully and completely, you may also know that you need to rely on God's help to overcome those barriers.

Passion Sunday, or Palm Sunday, begins Holy Week. We will gather together at St. Martin's Episcopal Church on Maundy Thursday at 7 PM. Good Friday services are here at St. Stephen at 7 PM. Our Easter Vigil will begin at 8 PM outside in our forecourt, standing around a fire (a controlled fire, monitored by a fire watch person). Easter morning, services will be at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00.

For the early church, Holy Week was a time to complete a three-year instructional period for newcomers to the Christian faith. These new disciples – catechumenates – would be baptized during the Easter Vigil. The focus during Holy Week is on Jesus' last days. Maundy Thursday centers on foot washing, serving others, and Jesus' giving the new commandment to love one another as he loves us. The institution of the Lord's Supper is also commemorated. We move quickly through Jesus' arrest, trial, judgment, crucifixion, burial and resurrection. These events are the essence of our faith.

Jesus' death came from those who could not tolerate the in-breaking of God's kingdom which turned institutions and systems upside-down. That God could love thieves and prostitutes, homeless people, foreigners and those who were not educated was intolerable to the religious leaders of the time. At the cost of Jesus' life, they could not let the message of God's love and forgiveness for all people take hold. Jesus was judged, convicted and killed.

Jesus' resurrection is to be celebrated! But if we go directly from welcoming Jesus with palm branches to his empty tomb, from Passion Sunday to Easter, we do not experience the full meaning of Christianity. We miss God's suffering. We miss Jesus nailed to the cross. We miss God turning death into life.

There is nothing else in this world that dies and then comes to life. While our human understanding of this is limited, we confess the mystery of our faith: *"Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again."* We believe that Jesus' death and resurrection effected forgiveness of sins and reconciliation between God and humanity.

In our baptism, through the Water and the Word, we are joined to Jesus' suffering and death. It is only through death that new life comes. Herein lies our hope! Not only are we joined to Christ's suffering and death through our baptisms, we are also joined to his resurrection. In our living and in our dying, there is no place that we can go that Jesus has not gone before us. There is no place we can be that Christ is not with us. *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord*, St. Paul wrote to the Romans (vss. 38-39).

While I have written many words here, words cannot adequately convey the Easter story. But I can tell you to look at the ways we live out the message of brokenness and healing, sin and forgiveness, endings and beginnings. We live these things every day. Because of Jesus Christ, we live them with hope.

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Live into that.

Pastor Cheryl Ann Griffin



Wednesdays in Lent Nourishing Worship and Food!

Wednesday evenings in Lent: April 3, and 10, at St. Stephen:

- **6:00 PM:** soup and bread suppers. (*Food is provided by those who have signed up. All others come and enjoy!*)
- **7:00 PM:** Holden Evening Prayer

HOLY WEEK



Thursday, April 18, 7:00 PM – Maundy Thursday worship **at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 1333 Jamestown Road**, with the clergy from St. Stephen presiding, using the *Book of Common Worship*.

Friday, April 19, 7:00 PM – Good Friday worship **at St. Stephen**, with the clergy from St. Martin's Episcopal Church presiding, using the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

Saturday, April 20, 8:00 PM – The Easter Vigil **at St. Stephen**, followed by champagne, strawberries and chocolate!

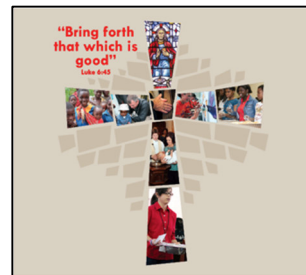
Easter Sunday, April 21

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM – Festival Worship.

Easter Breakfast

There has not been adequate response to the staffing needs for an Easter breakfast, so we won't have one this year.

ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS



The Rev. John Wertz, Jr. has accepted the invitation as keynote speaker for the **1956 Society Annual Dinner on April 25**. Rev. Wertz is Director of Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop of

the Virginia Synod, with special emphases in stewardship, congregational vitality and mission strategy. He's also a terrific speaker, as many can attest from his visits to St. Stephen.

The **1956 Society** is comprised of all those who have arranged legacy giving or made current gifts to the St. Stephen Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, ensuring that the mission begun in 1956 when St. Stephen was founded continues far into the future. The Society currently numbers sixty-four.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Endowment Fund assets continue to grow through new giving and investment proceeds. Current funds total \$289,000.

For more information about the Endowment Fund or legacy giving, ask any member of the committee: **Joyce Beene, Jim Cobb, Bob Harman, Glenn Joppa and Charlene Smith.**





LOOKING BACK & LOOKING FORWARD

In 2005 I completed the 40 hour Parish Nurse Course, and served as a Parish Nurse for five years at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Champaign, Illinois. We retired, moved and joined St. Stephen in 2010. When I suggested this Parish Nursing & Health Ministry to **Pastor Andy Ballentine** nine years ago, the idea was enthusiastically welcomed by him and many others. A core of people led by **Doug Cummings** and then-Council President **Diane Bean** provided encouragement and assistance to get things started. A room was found for an office, an old unused couch and chair were scavenged from the college room, a file cabinet appeared, as did painters, and someone donated a lamp. There were several who helped support this new ministry.

Recently in a Quill article, **Pastor Andy** wrote, “no one should be “stuck” with a church job forever....” I haven’t been “stuck,” and the Parish Nurse Ministry has never been for me, a “job.” It has touched my heart. This congregation has been a joy and a blessing – those who are reading this today, and those who are no longer with us. All have touched my heart and my life in many ways. I’ve known these blessings in holding your hand in the E.R., sitting with you as we await the outcome of surgery of family, listening to your heart in B/P screenings, and listening to your stories, embracing you as we wept, and holding your new baby. In laughter, joy, tears and prayers.

However, there does come a time when one looks to move aside and step down from a commitment. I do appreciate the support of the congregation with this ministry. Through the years many have contributed time and talents in various ways such as designing monthly bulletin boards and other displays, and assisting with projects. Also, many members have opened their lives to receiving help through this ministry.

I have worked with **Diana Tiller-Dichtel** for the past year as she transitioned into leading the Health Ministry. She was commissioned into this Ministry one year ago. As Diana continues as our Parish Nurse, I encourage your continued support for her, and to

become involved in the Health Ministry. (See the March Quill for ideas on how you can help.) I will no longer be a Parish Nurse after April 1 but will continue as part of our Health Ministry, on call for visiting those in need of healing.

Thank You. I have been honored and blessed to serve as your Parish Nurse.

Marcie Clark

RISE AND SHINE



During the month of April the Social Ministry will be providing congregants

another chance to be their brother's keeper by sponsoring the Rise and Shine box for the Grove Christian Outreach Center. This box needs to be filled to overflowing with gifts of breakfast foods for the Grove community. If unsure of what to provide, take a list off the box for suggestions of what to bring. Please help alleviate hunger in our own community.

Susan Neidlinger



MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

- **April 2** – Women are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Tuesday** of this month.
- **April 4** – Men are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Thursday** of this month.

Both gatherings take place at **8:00 AM** at the Colonial Pancake House, at the corner of Page Street and Penniman Road, Williamsburg, VA. The get-togethers promote conversation and friendship in a casual setting.



Linda Laity Hite
LJLHite@gmail.com

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. STEPHEN



Stephen Ministry for the Home or Nursing-Facility Confined

Health challenges may require many of us to be confined at home or in a nursing facility. Medical problems such as sight impairment, joint difficulties, unsteadiness, need for convalescence from surgery, or requirement for medical treatments may lead to confinement and medical supervision. A Stephen Minister may be a help in such situations, particularly if the confinement is anticipated to go on for a while.

Nurses, therapists and other staff in facilities, though professional and excellent, are busy and often stretched to the limit. Consequently, despite their best efforts, those under their care may often feel alone. Family members are often stretched thin in their visits as well.

Visits by a Stephen Minister to someone medically confined to a nursing facility or at home can literally be a Godsend. They often bring a touch from the outside world other than through the news channels on television. They can bring heartfelt and thoughtful conversation. They may have a scripture reading or a prayer. Their visits are held at regular, pre-arranged times and are usually rewarding to both the Stephen Minister making the visit and the individual that he or she is visiting.

If you, a family member, or a friend is in this situation and would benefit from being visited by a Stephen Minister, contact either **Pastor Andy Ballantine** or **Pastor Cheryl Griffin**, or **Stephen Leader Jane Wills**. Jane's email address is wilspwr@gmail.com and her phone number is (703) 989-4118.

Of course, you don't have to be confined to qualify for a Stephen Minister. If you have other challenging situations and need help, please do not hesitate to call.

Bill Dichtel, Stephen Minister



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2	Clare Stimson	Ray Walker
3	Evon Crittenden	Marian Thies
4	John Harms	
5	Chris Einarsen	
	Paul Reier	
7	Christine Jacobs	
8	Pete Davis	
9	Gerri Bass	
10	Trudi Arnold	Ingrid Brown
11	Jack Behlendorf	Arthur Nelsen
12	Jenni Punchard	
13	Judy Cobb	Christina Davies
	Sara Martin	
14	George Bass	Jonathan Davies
	Ellen LaPlace	Meghan Osborn
15	Stephen Grant	
16	Christine Hallman	
17	Julie Meeks	Ken Spencer
18	Jo Hanny	
20	Bill Miller, Jr.	
21	Bob Groom	
22	Sharon Jacobs	
23	Ellie Bailey	
24	Noah Delehanty	Bobbie Harms
25	Sharon Brown	Mary Swanson
29	Alan Balma	Helen Nelsen
	Susanna Owens	
30	Paula Agor	Donna Crinklaw



Karen VanRosendale
Henesey, LLC, Poquoson, VA

ADAGIO 2019 WOMEN'S RETREAT



Adagio is a musical term meaning in slow tempo. On March 16 and 17, a group of women from St. Stephen and their friends enjoyed spending time slowing down to listen to God. We explored how God speaks to us, ways to deepen our prayers, and what talents we are given. We also completed six blankets and one scarf as a service project! The blankets went to "Child Savers," an organization in Richmond that works one-on-one with troubled children. The greatest gift was that of fellowship and growing in the love of God through worship and song. Thank you to Pastor Cathy Mims of First Lutheran Church in Norfolk for being the presenter. Thank you also to **Pastor Cheryl Griffin, Pastor Judy Cobb, Ina Berkey, Alison Carney, Linda Reuben, Cyndy Touhsaent, Diana Tiller-Dichtel, and Sandy Peterkin** for all their hard work getting this program together.

Diana Tiller-Dictel



Thank You



The Board and Staff of the Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center gratefully acknowledges your contribution of \$1,500 to our Ministry of Pastoral counseling. We appreciate the support it represents.

Rebecca E. Glass, Executive Director



On behalf of the many FISH volunteers, and those we serve, I wish to express our gratitude to you for your generous support of FISH, which came to a total of \$1,000 in 2018.

Again, thank you very much. Your generosity will greatly assist FISH in providing emergency food and clothing to those in need in our community. It is only with your help and partnership that we are truly "Neighbors helping Neighbors."

Michael E. Motes, Treasurer

"Table Top Theology?" "Liquid Conversations?" "PUBLIC Theology?"

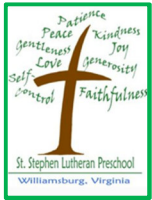


"Delectable Discussions?" "Theology Tastings?" "Theology Pub?" "Pub & Grub Theology?" These are some of the names suggested, since "Pub Theology" is copyrighted and we have to think of another name that's catchy, and that includes what we do on the first Tuesday of the month: beverages, faith conversation, and sharing stories from our experience. What are your suggestions?

Join us at **7:00 PM Tuesday, April 2**, at the Wine Seller (4680 Monticello Ave #15, Williamsburg, VA 23188, next to Publix). Soft drinks, wine, beer and food will be available for purchase!

For our discussion on April 2, we'll use the provocative material of the "Reclaiming Jesus" movement. Check out their web site: <http://www.reclaimingjesus.org/>

Pastor Andy Ballentine



ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

What a wonderful event our Shrove Tuesday/Pancakes & PJs pancake supper was! It is great fun to see our Preschool children come for breakfast-for-dinner, all ready for bed when they return home. Our Pastors were also ready to turn in following their meal. It was really great to see Church and Preschool families talking and building community – the Fellowship Hall was alive with activity.! We raised \$602 through our dinner – and one of our Church members anonymously made a matching gift! Thank you all for your generosity in supporting our Preschool.

On **Thursday, April 11** our Preschool will hold its next Spirit Day at Moe's Southwest Grill in the Windsor Meade Marketplace Shopping Center on Monticello Avenue. Moe's will contribute 20% of your bill **ALL DAY** (11:00 AM through 9:00 PM) to our Preschool. It's time for some Mexican food!

Our school will be closed for **Spring Break April 1-5** this year, following the Williamsburg-James City County School System schedule. **Easter Egg Hunts** will be **April 17 and 18** and **School will be closed on Good Friday.**

We are planning our annual Grandparent's Tea for our three-year-olds. Our Giraffes will bring their Grandparents to school on **Monday, April 15**, and our Zebras will bring their Grandparents on **Tuesday, April 16**. We sometimes need "surrogate" Grandparents, and volunteers. If you can help, please mark the purple sheet or let me know.

We recently had two guests from the Muscarelle Art Museum visit our Extended Day Program. They talked about drawing, showing how a portrait could be done with one continuous line, or by making every feature of the face a different color. When they began talking about famous artists, our group knew some of them and told interesting facts about the artists to the presenters.! Our Art Teacher, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, has chosen Andy Warhol as our Artist of the Month for April.

We have had good response to our Summer Camp offerings following the regular school year. We have expanded to eight weeks – four in June, two in July and two in August. This is a great opportunity for new students who are beginning in the fall to get a taste of our school ahead of time. Enrollment for our 2019-2020 School year is also very strong.

Thank you all for your support of our Preschool!

Sandy Peterkin, Administrator





APRIL BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

The significance of baptism, Luther teaches in the *Small Catechism*, is “that the old creature in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily contrition and repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.”

Your baptismal anniversary is an opportunity to light a baptismal candle and to give some prayer time to reflecting on your experiences during the past year on your journey in faith!

Pastor Andy Ballentine

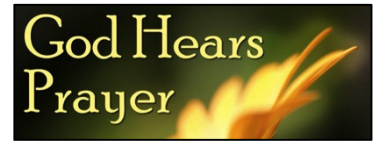
2	Gloria Lineberger	Daniel Owens
4	Mark Gulesian	Cyndy Touhsaent
5	Karen Chenault	
7	Cricket Reubush	
9	Tommy Peterkin	
10	Brad Jefferson	Brandon Jefferson
	Brock Jefferson	Justice Jefferson
	Paul Black	
12	Gretchen Osborn	
13	Karen Nester	
14	Bob Achenbach	Brian Bergh
16	Gwen Agor	
20	Nancy Egloff	
21	Frank Younk	
22	Chris Einarsen	
23	Phyllis Spencer	
25	Jim Mayfield	
26	Diane Reeves	

Were you baptized in April, but your name isn't on the list above? Let us know!



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

PRAYERS



We thank God for blessing Stan Hobday with 91 years of life!

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Bill Arnold, Joe Beene, Pat Gamble, and Erika Geier.**

Pray God's blessings on **Sandy Reed-Bryant's** son, Reed Bryant and Kinsey Cunningham, joined in marriage; and on **those in our community who have no permanent home.** We give thanks to the hundreds of workers who have served them this season through the Community of Faith Mission.

Pray for those unable to come to worship: John Allen, Doris Bass, Preston and Birdie Burton, Gene and Martha Clements, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Stan Hobday, Michelle Ivey, Mary Jamerson, Helen Lenox, Billie Jo Purse, Dick Reeves, Jessie Schmitthenner, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, Jerry Trone, Corky Umberger, Ladonna Wiederholt.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Gary Abrams, Jon Alt, Mary Ann Arnold, Philip Arnold, Jane Ayers, Jean Ballentine, James Baum, Bill Beck, Eliza Bicknell, Tom and Bea Black, Blume family, Byrne Family, Marla Canny, Elaine Cari, Alan Clem, Patti Clem, Michael Cline, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Robin Daniel, Steven Dressler, Paul Dwiggin, Tabitha Dyess, Diann Ehlers, Inge Felbier, Mary Fitzgerald, Will Flatin, Betty Frazee, David Gade, Laurie Giner, Andrea Gonzalez, Bill Gottschalk, Ellen Green, Virginia Lee Groves, JoAnn Hecker, Sharon Hegland, Emily Holdredge, Rick Jackson, John Jacob, Sharon Janot, Jerome Johnson, Sherry Johnston, David Jones, Leesa Keene, Wendy Kent, Fran Kibler, Chris Kinney, Art Kirk, Rebecca Krueger, Terry Krull, Mary Alice Kuntz, Torri Larson, Mildred Lindblad, Jackie Lohr, Jackie Mereness, Michael Mott, Dorothy Myers, Lenore Myers, Eric Nelson, Mary Newberg, Carmela Oliver, Sue Plevelich, Dino Polizois, Vivian Reaver, Jenny Rice, Shann Rufer, Lucy Scott, Marion Seidl, Inge Seiter, Luke Short, Shumacker family, Patricia Simpson, Luciana Stimson, James Smith, Sharon Smith, Evelyn Spear, Jerry Spear, Jennifer St. Clair, Linda Thies, Charley Underdahl, Nancy Wiers, Peggy Williams, Terry Wilson, Sandra Wimbush, Margaret Wieser, Donna Wood, Peggy Wright, Aaron Zabell, and Diane Zulawski

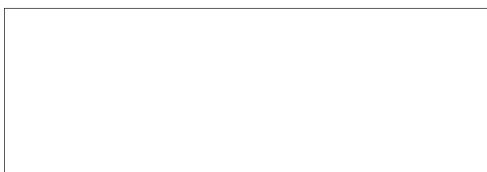
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**Evangelical Lutheran
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The Quill **www.saintstephenlutheran.net** **April 2019**

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<i>Interim Treasurer</i>	Jane deSolms	565-5646
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Linda Vonderheide	645-4059
<i>Congregational Secretary</i>	Carol Wiers	564-0164

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<i>Parish Nurse</i>	Diana Tiller-Dichtel	Parishnursedt@
<i>Preschool Lead Teacher</i>	Susan Ruane	Preschool@

Article deadline: Fifteenth of the previous month.

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