



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

August 2015



How Is the Spirit Forming Your Faith?

I've been thinking of that question in my own life. God the Holy Spirit has been forming my faith through experiences in community – when I've been among other followers of Jesus who have been mentors, teachers.

My first mentors were my parents. From before I was even aware, my parents simply took me to worship every Sunday. Without fail. The teaching: this is as important as going to school. This is more important than other things we could be doing on a Sunday. I remember watching and listening to other mentors, the older people in the congregation, people who were not in my family (who probably didn't even know how important they were to my faith formation). How powerful God must be, if they were gathering together to greet each other with love, and to sing, and to sit quietly when the pastor was talking, and to bow their heads in prayer!

I remember the first time that it hit me: Jesus died for me on the cross! It happened suddenly, when I was with other kids in the children's choir, in the dreary basement choir room of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Wilmington rehearsing an anthem for Lent. I was in elementary school, old enough to read. The choir director and the other children were my mentors, God the Holy Spirit forming my faith in that context of community, as we went over the words of the anthem over and over again, learning how to sing it.

God the Holy Spirit used the African American grandmothers of Bethel Lutheran Church to form my faith, during my years in seminary. Bethel was located in the neighborhood of Englewood on south side of Chicago: the kind of place where the news media sends reporters when they want the backdrop of a depressed urban ghetto. Those grandmothers were my mentors, gathering for worship faithfully each Sunday, their grandchildren in tow, never knowing what peril they would need to fight to save their children from during the week to come. We ended each worship service by singing, "We've come this far by faith, trusting in the Lord..." We've come this far. They never took for granted that they would gather safely again, the next Sunday. Those mentors taught me to trust in God when everything else is uncertain.

In the congregation of Ascension Lutheran Church, in Towson, MD, God the Holy Spirit used my parishioner Barbara to form my faith, as she died of leukemia, fully trusting that her life in God would continue. Barbara was my mentor, teaching me how to be confident in God's love and grace, even at the time of death.

When I was at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Virginia Beach, the first congregation I served, "on my own," God the Holy Spirit used my neighbor, Carl, to form my faith. Carl was a faithful member – of the neighboring Lutheran church! He was a retired fund raiser and when he learned that we were entering into a building program at Emmanuel, and that I had no experience with capital campaigns, he gave so much of his time, teaching me about his experiences of God's generosity, and how to increase their awareness of God's generosity in their lives. What confidence he gave me, for the pastor's task to ask people to respond to God with generosity! What a mentor he was to me.

God the Holy Spirit used two nurses in the Progressive Ventilator Care Unit of Norfolk General Hospital to form my faith, as I was being weaned from a ventilator. They were African American, and my experience was similar to what I discovered back in Chicago, at Bethel: many African Americans are so much more open about sharing their faith than many white folks! When they learned I was a pastor, they knew they did not have to hide their faith in God as the source of healing. (When it was “bedtime” – in a ward when lights were always on, when you couldn’t tell what time it was –they would give me a shot of Ativan to make me sleep, and they would sing a hymn in my room!) What mentors! “Do not be afraid,” they were teaching me. “God is holding you, loving you, healing you.”

Do you notice something in common to all of these stories? God the Holy Spirit has been (and still is!) forming my faith in communities of Jesus people, in relationships, using people as mentors, models.

How is God forming your faith? How is God using you to form others’ faith?

This is an important reason why we gather together as the community of St. Stephen Lutheran Church: so God the Holy Spirit can use us to form each other’s faith. Sunday morning teaching is only one small aspect of how this happens (and you notice that not one of the stories I told above occurred in a classroom setting). The Spirit forms our faith through relationships, through experiences and the processing of those experiences. The Spirit forms our faith when “familying” happens: when intergenerational groups of people act as mentors and care-givers for each other. The Spirit forms our faith through the caring relationships we experience, as we worship with the community, as we celebrate liturgical seasons, as we read and learn the Bible, as we learn the Christian tradition and apply it to life, as we celebrate rituals and milestones, as we learn to pray and tend one’s spirituality, as we serve the poor, work for justice, and care for creation.

Whatever your age, whether you are a new follower of Jesus or have been following for years, I pray that you will be open and alert to how the Spirit is moving among us, forming us in faith in the risen Christ, our Lord!

Pastor Andy Ballentine



Hymn Writers in Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Brian Wren

Brian Wren was our Theologian in Residence in 2006. Born in England in 1936, he is one of the most prolific hymn writers of this generation. He served in the British Army for two years, and then obtained degrees in Modern Languages, Theology, and Philosophy from Oxford University. In addition, he is the Emeritus Professor of Worship of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, and a minister of the United Reformed Church, a denomination in the United Kingdom.

Wren has published about 250 hymns. They are included in various hymnals in the United States, Canada, England, and Australia, and a good number of them have been translated into other languages. Many of them, such as *Jesus on the Mountain Peak*, *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us*, and *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing* appear in our hymnal. Since 1978, Wren has been a strong supporter of inclusive language, and he has since sought to challenge the church to be more inclusive. He also brings subjects of social justice, such as oppression against women and the poor, into his hymns. Wren also says that one of the goals of the hymn writer is to not only “to write poems of faith which people will pick up and sing,” but to also “speak truth by stepping beyond the church’s limits of comfort and convention.”

Brian Wren, one of the greatest hymn writers living today, has an amazing gift of writing poetry that is high quality, appropriate for a religious service, but also brings to mind important social justice issues. He is a hymn writer that deserves to be recognized for generations to come.

Marty Barstow Director of Music





Thoughts from the Parish Nurse

Hebrews 10:24

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works ...” (NKJV)

The need for personal connection is instinctive, beginning at birth. As a mother holds and rocks her infant she strives for eye contact. The infant responds by making noises and seeking out her face and eyes for comfort and security.

When a parent or other responds to the infants’ needs, a trusting relationship begins. This sets the stage for a child to enter a healthy relationship with others and to experience and express a full range of emotions.

This interpersonal need for connection that begins at birth doesn’t cease in infancy. Children learn to connect and relate to others by experiencing face-to-face contact with parents and others.

Modern technology enables faster, but often more superficial contacts. Many people even use technology to “hide” from having to interact with others directly. Another danger, particularly for teenagers who may be either insecure or naïve, or for the elderly who may be too trusting, is that they may reveal personal information, which can be misused by others.

Healthy relationships, between family, friends, and acquaintances take time to develop, and they are best grown by interacting personally and directly, rather than by everyone “doing his own thing.”

Recently I was seated in a restaurant and observed a couple with a young child, perhaps five years old. Both parents were absorbed with their individual phones. The child drew on the butcher paper table cloth. Neither parent looked at what he was drawing nor engaged with him or each other. This continued for some time, no one paying attention or interacting together.

This scenario is played out in malls, schools, homes, over and over. On a daily basis, people walk around, cross streets, and even drive cars, barely looking up to see what’s going on in the world around them.

There are multiple ways to communicate without connecting personally: Texting; Facebook postings; Instagram; Instant Messaging; Twitter; and emails. And we even have Emoticons to illustrate our emotions!

With all of our technology, we have become proficient in being removed from actual personal connections. And in this disconnecting, we are becoming more self-absorbed, some might even say narcissistic (ex. ‘selfies’).

Research shows that the more we connect through technology, the less we are attuned to facial expressions and the human voice. As a result, we become less aware of the subtle information that is communicated through someone’s voice and face.

Just as children learn to connect and relate to others by experiencing face-to-face interaction, so do adults. The more we connect personally with others, the stronger our heart-brain connection, which results in a greater capacity for interaction, friendship and empathy. These types of connections all positively impact our health.

So put down your devices and connect with someone face-to-face. It will do you both good.

Marcie Clark, Parish Nurse



St. Stephen July Council Minutes

The Council met on July 14, 2015.

- The June Council minutes were approved.
- Orientation was conducted for new Council members.
- Council voted on Council officers, and the Church Treasurer and the Financial Secretary.

Elected were: President **Stan York**, Vice President **Emily Rossiter**, Secretary **Dave Clark**,

Treasurer **Paul Kristiansen**, Financial Secretary
Linda Vonderheide.

- Council approved **Terry Hinders** undertaking a review of the current Child Protection Policy, and reporting back.
- Council approved the replacement of rotted and worn out windows in the sanctuary by David Nice for the bid of \$15,300.00.
 - The judge has approved the sale of the property at 608 Jamestown Rd, and the process is moving forward.

David F. Clark, Secretary



Wednesday Word and Sacrament, 6:30 PM each week

This is an informal worship service, featuring a conversational Bible study, guitar-led worship songs and Holy Communion. Worshipers take leadership for various small parts of the service – reading the Prayer of the Day, leading the Psalm, reading the evening’s Bible passage – from where they are sitting. Worshipers speak the prayers that are on their hearts. Worshipers offer the bread and wine to each other around the altar.

Join the group when you’re able!

Pastor Andy Ballentine



A New Monday Evening Book Study Beginning September 14

How can you remember that God is near each day?
What practices can we engage in, in community?

Pastor Ballentine will lead conversation as we read Joan Chittister’s *Wisdom Distilled From the Daily*, which explores St. Benedict’s rule for community life. “Daily life is the stuff of which high sanctity can be made,” she writes. “The Rule of Benedict has been a guide to the spiritual life for common people since the sixth century.” Practices include listening, humility, mindfulness, work, holy leisure, hospitality, obedience, stability.

This Monday night Book Study will begin **September 14**. Let Pastor Ballentine know if you’d like us to order a book: pastorab@saintstephenlutheran.net Each copy of the book will cost about \$10.50. *The deadline for signing up is Sunday, August 30.*



Men's Breakfast

Men of the congregation are invited to join for breakfast the first Thursday of each month, for conversation and friendship-deepening. This month, the first Thursday is **August 6!** Join with other men at 8:00 AM at the Colonial Pancake House, at the corner of Page Street and Penniman Road.

The agenda is: “How are you doing?” with discussion!



A Giving Opportunity

The windows and window frames at the end of the transepts in the sanctuary need to be replaced because of wood rot. The cost for doing so is **\$15,500**, and the congregation council would welcome any contributions toward that goal. If you wish to contribute, please make your check payable to St. Stephen and indicate ‘Windows’ in the memo line. Thank you.

Address changes

Doug and Stacey Cummings

Abigail, Bradley

308 Abbey Road
Danville PA 17821



The Church Mouse hears . . .

- The Jamestown Yorktown Foundation honored staff historian **Nancy Egloff** for 30 years of service. Cheers to Nancy!
- Good seeing a photo of **Chris Einarsen** enjoying the ARC annual meeting and silent auction in the *Virginia Gazette* on July 18.
- Greeting St. Stephen friends and their children and grandchildren choosing delicious food at the Farmer's Market is such fun!
- Each summer forty Japanese students from Keio University come to William and Mary to learn about American history, society, and culture through classroom lectures, discussion, and first hand fieldwork with William and Mary undergraduate and graduate students. Students learn about topics including higher education, African American history, and religion in America through trips to Colonial Williamsburg, Hampton University, and a four day stay in Washington, D.C. and a group from the school traditionally attend St. Stephen. The group will be coming **Sunday, August 9**. It is a treat to welcome them.



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|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Mary Dickerson | Danielle Kuck |
| 5 Heidi Flatin | Elizabeth Geier |
| 6 Forrest Fenstermaker | John Olsen |
| 7 Kristen Carter | Jerry Trone |

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| JoAnn Wilkins | |
| 8 Pat Fretz | Claire White |
| 9 Doug Moore | |
| 11 Pat Drubel | Josiah Hallman |
| Thom Recktenwald | |
| 12 Dave Clark | |
| 13 Sonja Landvogt | |
| 14 Norm Fashing | Dave Joppa |
| 17 Cathy Bingman | Bethany Brisson-Wilkins |
| Luke Sipes | |
| 18 Nathan Egloff | Rachel Martin |
| Betty Rickerson | |
| 20 Lana Olson | |
| 22 Rebecca Groman | Dianne Harris |
| Jeane Moore | Lisa Thomas |
| 24 Matthew Bosworth | |
| 26 Nancy Canny | |
| 27 Hannah Pierce | |
| 28 Dick Batman | Christine Dietrich |
| Ann Booth Young | |
| 29 Doug Cummings | Linda Vonderheide |
| 30 Danielle Walker | |
| 31 Paul Kristiansen | |



Prayers

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **John Allen, Doc Anderson, Elise Emanuel, Dan Hanley, Jack Harris, Janet Higgs, Michelle Ivey, Ralph Johnson, Carole Meyer, Ned Neidlinger, Regina Root, Jessie Schmitthenner, Marian Thies, Jerry Trone, and Linda Vonderheide.**

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

Pray that God will bless **Katy Peterkin** and **Travis Gohsman** who were married by Pastor Griffin on June 27, and **Sarah Harms** and **Ray Beatty**, who were married by Pastor Ballentine on June 28.

Pray comfort and resurrection hope for **Art Dorsey** and his family, mourning the death of **Anita Dorsey**; and **Donna Crinklaw** and her family, mourning the death of her mother, Emily Crinklaw; and **Chris Punched** and her family on the death of her mother, Alice Laub.

We thank God for blessing **Bill Holcombe** with 91 years of life!

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Rita Adams, Robert Anderson, Joyce Blish, the Blume family, Barry Boger and family, Lois Bomba, Paula Bradin, Kallie Burgess, Grady Calhoun, Melinda Campbell, Ayrton Climo, Michael Compton, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Sylvia Croushore, Kathryn Dieter, Debbie Effemey, Marga Fischer, Bruce and Kay Flatin, Lenora Godette, Bill and Jack Gottschalk, Anabelle Green, Gregg Griffin, Connie and Chris Harris, Ron Hayes, Alan Hochstetler, Marie Holland, Hank Hollar, Lynn Isenburg, Yvonne Jack, Alicia Jay, Julie Jindra, Fran Kibler, Eileen Kitchik, Jane Kristiansen, Theda Laubach, Tony Lee, Wendy Lee, Mildred Lindblad, Bertha McCabe, Kristin McGraw, Dick McGrew, Anne Meyer, Rick Meyer, Julie Miller, Heidi Morris, the Nasra family, Sharon Nickerson, Mary Noyes, Sharon O'Dell, Jeanette and Rodger Osborn, Lavonne Prescott, Robert Pushaw, Vivian Reaver, Connie Reifsnnyder, Cindy Renzo, Lisa Rivolta, Richard Seaver, Jackie Seipp, Georg Siegert, Linda Smalarz, Emily Smith, Nancy Spaniol, Evelyn Spear, Nelson Steele, Clarence Tolliver, Jean VanDuyse, Annette Vosteen, Curtis Wilkins, Margaret Wieser, and Anna Zabdyr.



Letters to the Congregation

Meals on Wheels thanked St. Stephen for the \$1000 contributed to their program of delivering hot and nutritious meals to 120-130 members of our community.

From the Harris family

The entire family of Jack and Dianne Harris want to thank our family at St Stephen for the love and care during our confinement and surgery. The rides and the delicious meals from Care Group 6 and the phone calls and many cards and most important the prayers for healing continue to give us strength and hope during the difficult days. Our endless attention from the Pastors kept us aware of God's love and it showed every moment of the day for the past four months. We are healing although not as quickly as when we were 30 years old. Thank you, **Dianne and Jack**



The Harbor Project

Volunteers are needed to open and maintain a very needed day time shelter, The Harbor, for those experiencing homelessness. The Harbor opens, October 5, and "will provide a place of respite, to include a mid-day meal, showers, computer access, and access to other services in a comfortable, welcoming environment at St Bede Outreach Center, 10 Harrison Ave., Williamsburg, VA. Volunteers will aid in the check- in process, lunch preparation and service, shower monitoring, and in other ways. If interested, please fill out an application(found in the gathering space) and submit it to Sandy Peterkin. Volunteers will need to participate in a training session. For further information, please contact **John Moravetz at 564-9526.**

Parking News

We have beautiful new paving along Jamestown Road and in the College parking lot across the street! Here's how the parking works:

On Sunday mornings:

- Parking is permitted in the College parking lot across the street from the church building.
- Parking is permitted on Sundays along Jamestown Road, on the other side of the street from our building, from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM.
- Handicapped parking is permitted right in front our building on Sunday mornings, as before, even though the bike lane has been painted.

On weekends (5:00 PM Friday through Sunday night):

- Parking is unrestricted in the College parking lot across the street from the church building.

On evenings during the week (after 5:00 PM):

- Parking is available to us and to community groups in the College parking lot across the street from the church building.

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is September 13, 2015



As a mission project, St. Stephen will be creating School Kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR).

To the children who receive School Kits, these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not. Public school is usually free, but in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford.

And when parents can only afford to send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority...yet the education level of mothers has the biggest impact on development.

These kits will be dedicated on “**God’s work. Our hands.**” **Sunday.**

Our LWR quilters and a number of members have been making tote bags which will be filled with school supplies for children around the world.

Our goal is 75 School Kits, each containing:

- Four **70-sheet notebooks** of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8 x 10^{1/2} - no loose-leaf paper
- ~~One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other~~ (already donated!)
- One **2^{1/2} inch eraser**
- One blunt Fiskars **scissors** (safety scissors with imbedded steel blades work well)
- ~~Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers~~ (already donated!)
- Five black or blue **ballpoint pens** (no gel ink)
- One box of 16 or 24 **Crayola crayons**
- ~~One pencil sharpener~~ (already donated!)

Please bring these items to the bin in the Gathering Space by **August 30.**

If you wish, make a check out to St. Stephen with “God’s work. Our hands.” on the memo line and we will shop for the school supplies.

If you want to help make the backpacks, contact **Sandy Peterkin** (229-6688)

Questions? Contact **Heidi Flatin** (2547859), **Linda Laity Hite** (220-2776) or **Lori Harms** (229-5242).

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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 email: All email addresses are: _____@saintstephenlutheran.net



Church Staff:

Pastor	Andy Ballentine	229-6742
	email	pastorab@
Pastor	Cheryl Ann Griffin	898-1323
	email	pastorcg@
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:

Amy Bergh	566- 4557
Dave Clark	603-6346
Keith Egloff	229-7859
Terry Hinders	221-0904
Linda Laity Hite	220-2776
Brad Leek	250-3473
Sherry Phipps	810-4658
Emily Rossiter	345-6206
George Vonderheide	645-4059
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