



# The Quill

## THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

August 2017



### EXTRAORDINARY TIME

We are in the middle of summer, according to our secular calendar. Our liturgical calendar places us well into Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time is not named this because there is nothing special about it—every time we celebrate Christ's resurrection is extraordinary! Ordinary time is named reflecting its "order" rather than a specific or seasonal name. The Sundays after Pentecost are numbered. This season begins with Holy Trinity Sunday and ends with Christ the King Sunday, the end of the church year.

Like summer, the color for the season is green, which "signifies the life of the church in the Spirit, and recalls the tree of life that is Christ among us" (*Keeping Time*, 2009). Green is the color of grass that has re-emerged after a season of reduced sunlight and colder temperatures, and it is the color of newly leafed trees. In other words, this is a time to be devoted to growth and to new life.

In what areas of your life do you expend the energy it takes to grow? Do you need more patience, or would you like to be more generous? Do you want to improve your self-control? These are gifts of the Holy Spirit. Is there a relationship you would like to improve? Growing in your relationship with God will help with your other relationships.

How important is your relationship with God? Are you spending more time with God in these hazy, lazy, extraordinary days of summer? Listen to where God is speaking to you through your reading of scripture. Sit with God in prayer. At the end of your day, reflect on where you received healing and on where you were an

instrument of healing. Where have you felt God nudging you or challenging you? When is the last time you engaged in devotional reading? Come join our Gospel discussions Sunday mornings between services.

Our readings for August consist mainly of Jesus using parables to teach crowds of people. These stories in Matthew's gospel reveal who Jesus is, and what the kingdom of God is like. One of the images used is that of seeds—these are seeds of faith. God provides the growth, but we can do the planting and watering. After Jesus teaches people about his identity, discipleship, and faith, he will tell them to go and to teach others. We can only accomplish this if we spend time with Jesus, first.

As I write this, I am on my way to the Virginia Synod's event, "Power In the Spirit." This is not an event for pastors only—it is like a youth retreat for adults. This is an annual event, usually held mid-July from Thursday through Saturday at Roanoke College. This year's keynote speaker is The Rev. Dr. Tim Wengert, an editor of *Book of Concord*, our Lutheran Confessions, and our Bible presenter is Rev. Tracie Bartholomew, Bishop of the New Jersey Synod. There are worship services and workshops; our own **Jim Cobb** is leading a workshop on the historic and continuing relevance of the Augsburg Confession. **Ellen Bushman, Judy Cobb, Heidi Flatin** and **Sandy Peterkin** are here, too. Any one of us would love to tell you more! Will you join us next year? Summer, the time of growth, will be here again.

*I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love [Ephesians 3:16-17].*

In God's amazing grace,  
**Pastor Cheryl Griffin**



## **NEW ST. STEPHEN COUNCIL MEMBERS**

At St. Stephen's June 25 congregational meeting, four members were elected for the first time to church council. Please give them your support and prayers. Below is information on each of them:

**David Allen** is a Senior Budget Analyst for the Department of Juvenile Justice in Richmond. At St. Stephen he has served on the Finance Committee, Youth Ministry, sound ministry and as usher. He has also been a congregational representative at Synod Assembly. David is currently the co-chair of the Board of Directors of LINK of Hampton Roads, and he is on the PORT Steering committee. To him the church is family.

**Alan Balma** started attending St. Stephen four years ago, and he has participated on the liturgy committee as well as on the committee that evaluated our new candidate pastor, Pastor Griffin. Alan is a lector and a sound board operator. He volunteers at the Community of Faith Mission, and he cooks delicious meals for the LSA Sunday night meetings.

Alan has been married to his wife, **Mitzi**, for 46 years; they have two adult sons, David and Michael, and two granddaughters. After growing up and living in New Jersey, they retired to Williamsburg in 2009. Prior to that, Alan spent 17 years teaching secondary and college mathematics, worked 21 years for AT&T and then Lucent Technologies' Bell Laboratories, where he was a Department Head and managed large telecommunications software projects.

Alan has had a lifelong passion to design and build things with his hands. He and his wife are currently building their second house in Williamsburg that he designed. He is a woodworker, S Scale Model Railroader, and he works in stained glass. Alan loves cycling, hiking in the back county, canoeing in wilderness areas and climbing mountains. He has 39 years of scouting experience.

**David (Dave) Gamble** retired in 2002 as a Senior Executive with the Federal Government after 27 years of service. His career as a law enforcement officer was spent investigating the integrity of public officials and programs. He then continued working for another 11 years as a security contractor for the Government. After retiring again in 2014, Dave has been actively volunteering with the Coast Guard Auxiliary by augmenting the crew of a Coast Guard vessel and interviewing prospective cadets for the Coast Guard Academy. After graduating from Bucknell University, Dave earned his law degree from the University of Maryland.

Dave and his wife **Pat** were childhood sweethearts and have been married 43 years. They have eight grandchildren among their three children, who have continued their parents' tradition of public service. Dave and Pat joined St. Stephen when they moved to Williamsburg in 2003.

**Corwin (Corey) Knestrick** and his wife, **Lynn**, recently relocated to Williamsburg, having spent time in Athens, GA, Harrisonburg, VA, and the Philadelphia, PA, area. He was active in the Lutheran churches at all locations. Shortly after relocating to the area, Corey joined St. Stephen and has found the congregation to be very friendly, inclusive and spiritually alive.

Lynn and Corey have three adult children, residing in Redman, WA, Aldie, VA, and Melbourne, FL. They also have two granddaughters, ages 3 and 6, living with their parents in Aldie.

Corey's professional career is in animal nutrition, having served 28 years as Director of Nutrition and Research for Pilgrim's Pride Corporation and 5 years as Poultry Technical Consultant for Elanco Animal Health. Currently, he has an LLC company specializing in Feed Milling and Government Compliance. Corey looks forward to sharing his talents in advancing St. Stephen's physical and spiritual growth.

***Editor's Note:** Corey Knestrick is filling one year of an unexpired term (**Paul Melvey**); David Allen, Alan Balma and Dave Gamble are filling the slots of **Keith Egloff**, **Linda Laity Hite** and **Stan York**.*



## MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC ...

**Karen Ives**, St. Stephen's new Director of Music, will be joining the staff in late summer. She comes to us from Asheville, NC, where she most recently served as Cantor at Nativity Lutheran, Arden, NC. She oversaw a 12-choir program that included adults, youth, children, handbells and brass.

Karen graduated from Wittenberg University in Springfield, OH, and from Columbia College and the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, where she served congregations in the area. She is also a presenter for Augsburg Music Workshops and a highly sought-after accompanist for Lutheran Music Camps.

Karen's husband, Scott, has a background in Hospitality Services and in Maintenance Management. They have two cats and share a love for college sports. (Go Gamecocks!)

She is very eager to begin her call here. As she says, "I am Lutheran to the core. My grandfather was a pastor, my parents met at a Lutheran college, my father ran the Augsburg bookstore in Columbia, I went to a Lutheran college and have served in Lutheran parishes ever since." Karen has a passion and talent for encouraging all people to use their ministry gifts. She especially loves working with children and youth. Her strong spirituality shines through in all her musical endeavors. You can look forward to meeting her at a reception in **September**.



## Men's & Women's Breakfasts

- **August 1**—Women are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Tuesday** of this month.
- **August 3**—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.



Vacation Bible School will be held **August 7-11, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM**, at Bruton Parish, for children aged 3 years old through the 4th grade. We will be joining with families from St. Martin and Bruton

Parish Episcopal Churches, and below are further details:

- "Shepherds" are needed to walk the different age groups to their next center and help them with crafts or activities.
- The charge for snacks and materials is \$15 for a first child and \$10 for a second child, with a cap of \$25 per family.

If you need a registration form or more information, indicate that on the information request sheet in the weekly bulletin.



## AUGUST BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Those celebrating anniversaries of their new birth in Christ:

August 2	Edith Haecker Laura Bergh
August 5	Linda Baumgarten
August 17	Sara Martin
August 26	Paul Melvey Lisa Maroney James Ogborn III
August 28	Brian Crittenden
August 31	Randy Punchard
<u>Others:</u>	Bill Holcombe, Carla Javier

Thank you to those who are doing the detective work to discover your baptismal dates. As you are giving me the information of day, month, and year, I am compiling them. How great to be able to mark this special anniversary!

**Pastor Andy Ballentine**



“The Virginia Synod Assembly is an annual gathering of rostered leaders and elected voting members of congregations that gather together to experience and express what it means to be called to be Church together as the Body of Christ, as we care for necessary items of business, engage in fellowship, participate in and experience corporate worship, and are inspired by the theme and speakers.”  
<http://www.vasynod.org/synod-assembly/>

This year’s assembly was held June 9-11 at Roanoke College, and, on June 11, The Rev. Robert Humphrey, pastor of Muhlenberg in Harrisonburg, was elected to serve a six-year term as bishop. He was elected on the fifth ballot with 217 votes. Following are reports from two St. Stephen representatives who attended, **John Harms** and **Chris Punchard**:

#### **SYNOD ASSEMBLY, ROANOKE, VA—John Harms**

As one of the Congregation’s delegates to the Synod Assembly, I would like to provide my insight on this important meeting that elected a new Bishop for our Virginia Synod. Many saw the results of this election in the yellow insert in the June 18 church program, but other information was provided during this meeting as well as the dynamics involved in the ‘brutal’ task of electing a Bishop. (**Pastor Andy Ballentine’s** observation, with which I agree.)

- **‘Peace Corps,’ Lutheran Style:** This was a program I had never heard of before, but we have four young ladies (in their twenties) serving a one-year period, assisting remote Lutheran congregations. Two are in the Outback of Australia, one of these living in an Aborigine village. Having visited Australia on many occasions, I thought it unique that Christianity, especially as practiced by Lutherans, could ever replace the strong spirit world worship of the Australian aborigines. Another of these ladies is working in Sudan, while another is headed for South Africa.

- **Lutheran Mission Growth:** I was surprised at the inroads the Lutheran mission programs are making, primarily in Asia. These include a new church in Nepal, churches in Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia— countries with strong Buddhist and Muslim histories.
- **The Election of a New Bishop:** A unique but ‘brutal’ process, as I have previously noted. There were about 405 delegates with electoral authority from the 105 Lutheran Churches in our Synod—
  - **Ballot One:** Since few lay people know pastors from other congregations, people tend to vote for someone they know. Both Pastor Andy and Pastor Cheryl were nominated. This produces about five pages, each with about 40 names of nominations; those nominated have 12 hours to have their names removed, if they do not want to proceed in the process.
  - **Ballot Two:** With the initial names removed, we are down to one page of about 30 names, and we are to vote for seven of the remaining group. Therefore, voting seems to flow to the persons with the most votes.
  - **Ballot Three:** One of the pastors nominated in the group of seven who was not present sent an email stating he did not want to run, but his name still had to remain on the ballot. Thus, the remaining six nominees present were given five minutes to explain what they would do if elected as the new Bishop. In my opinion, five gave talks in generalities, while one provided a ‘game plan’ of what he would do. Since the order of speakers was determined from the order of names drawn from a hat, it appeared that the last two speakers had an advantage. It was evident that all six poured their heart and soul into explaining why they wanted to be the next Bishop. After this, we were to vote for three persons, and the vote was by electronic hand-held devices, not arduous paper ballot counting. The results were quickly known.
  - **Ballot Four:** Three nominees now remained, and each was asked three questions. One question appeared either poorly fashioned or was a trick question: ‘If you were Bishop, prioritize the following—Time, Programs, Family?’ Of the three, two prioritized each element, while one realized you cannot separate Time and Programs, since they are integrated as one.

- **Ballot Five:** No further questions were asked of the two remaining nominees, but the voting delegates knew by then for whom they would vote. Ballot five was conducted, and The Rev. Robert Humphrey was elected as our new Bishop.
- The Election Committee provided ‘Shepherds’ to each of the final six nominees to help people deal with their disappointment of not being selected Bishop. St. Stephen’s **Larry Shoberg** was assigned to Pastor Humphrey, so he had no work to do.

Thank you for allowing me to be one of your delegates to this important Assembly,  
**John Harms**

#### **REPORT FROM SYNOD ASSEMBLY—Chris Punchard**

First, I would like to thank all of you for allowing me to represent you at the Synod Assembly this year; it was an honor and a privilege. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of my personal observations and reflections beyond the highlights you received in the bulletin insert and at the congregational meeting.

- I was surprised how stressful the process of electing a new bishop was! We started out by everyone writing down on a piece of paper anyone you wished to propose as bishop, and each ballot required a different percentage of votes in order for a person to become bishop. It seemed to me that there should have been some names already on the ballot, but, apparently, in allowing the Holy Spirit to guide the process, that is not done. So, on Friday 75 people were nominated, and most of them quickly withdrew their names, including our own two pastors (thank goodness).
- On Saturday morning another ballot was held, with the remaining names numbering about 15. This resulted in narrowing the field to the top 7, who then gave speeches and provided biographical information prior to the early Saturday afternoon ballot. This then narrowed the field to the top 3. All the pastors present assured us that the Holy Spirit was at work. I had a headache that would not quit and a pain in my neck from the tension. The field of 3 was then presented with questions to answer, and a fourth ballot followed late Saturday afternoon, narrowing the field to 2.

- We went back on Sunday morning, and there were several reports, but the last report was from the youth. The president of the youth presented to the assembly thoughts on what they would like to see in the new bishop, and our own Sara Osborn was standing on the stage as part of the youth leadership team. Finally, some words of wisdom, and I was able to vote confidently for a candidate. It was the youth of our church who provided for me the most powerful sense of the Holy Spirit in the process.
- We elected Robert Humphrey, who is currently the pastor at Muhlenberg Lutheran in Harrisonburg. When asked what gifts he would bring to the office of bishop, his answer was ‘passion and commitment to Jesus, the Gospel, the church and the World.’ He also has a rich background in serving all sizes of congregations, training as a congregational conflict consultant, and he has served on many synod committees. I think for this time in our history as a church, Pastor Humphrey will serve us very well.
- The other meaningful highlights for me were the banquet in honor of Bishop Mauney’s retirement, and the always powerful worship service on Saturday night, with the ordination of Alexander Zuber into the synod as pastor at Stony Man Lutheran Parrish in Lurray, which was very special. Another special time was reconnecting with my former pastor from Connecticut, who now serves in Virginia. Most powerful of all for me personally was seeing Randy’s cousin Joyce arrive as the voting member from First English in Richmond. Many of you know that this time last year we were praying for her due to a brain infection, resulting in brain surgery. She had to relearn everything, and here she was a year later walking into the assembly.

So, thank you again. I look forward to the future with our new bishop. Peace to you,

**Chris Punchard**



Humphrey (left) will be installed as bishop on **September 9** at First Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro, VA.

The Rev. James F. Mauney, current bishop of the ELCA Virginia Synod, has served as bishop since 1999 and will retire **August 31**.





## The Church Mouse Hears

... A group from St. Stephen (pictured below, left) attended Norfolk Tides' Virginia Tech Hokie Night at Harbor Park on Thursday, July 13, courtesy of

**Dave and Jane Wills'** son, **Ryan**, an umpire with the International League, pictured below right with his father and **the Berrys** ...



On a hot summer day, **John McCurry** (left) was seen painting the pre-school office a cool shade of blue.

## August 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**A Calendar of Events is available on:**

[www.saintstephenlutheran.net](http://www.saintstephenlutheran.net)

- Click on: *More to Read and Download*
- Look on the lefthand side, under *More Pages*
- Click on: *Calendar*—  
<http://www.saintstephenlutheran.net/calendar/>
- This is a convenient way to see what is happening in the coming months.



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- |                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Mary Dickerson           | Danielle Kuck     |
| Bonnie Raquet              |                   |
| 5 Heidi Flatin             | Elizabeth Geier   |
| 6 Forrest Fenstermaker     |                   |
| 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 Bethany Brisson-Wilkins | Luke Sipes        |
| 18 Nathan Egloff           | Rachel Martin     |
| Betty Rickerson            |                   |
| 20 Lana Olson              |                   |
| 22 Rebecca Griffin         | Dianne Harris     |
| Jeane Moore                |                   |
| 24 Matthew Bosworth        |                   |
| 26 Nancy Canny             |                   |
| 27 Hannah Pierce           |                   |
| 28 Christine Dietrich      | Jane Wills        |
| Ann Booth Young            |                   |
| 29 Doug Cummings           | Linda Vonderheide |
| 30 Danielle Walker         |                   |
| 31 Paul Kristiansen        |                   |

**Freed  
& RENEWED  
in Christ**  
500 YEARS OF GOD'S  
GRACE IN ACTION

**"IN THE  
FOOTSTEPS OF  
MARTIN LUTHER  
AND THE  
REFORMATION"**

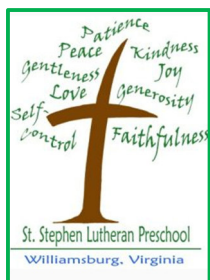
**JUNE 13-21, 2018**

This trip is your chance to explore Germany and sites associated with Luther and other reformers. It will be the final event in our congregation's commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. Brochures are available in the Gathering Space, and registration is now open to people other than church members and their family or friends.

The first payment deadline is **August 17**, and if you pay by cash or check, there is a 4% discount. To pay by credit card, visit:

[http://www.icbs.org/find\\_trip/detail.aspx?tour=JX18/L&d=06-13-2018&group=10939](http://www.icbs.org/find_trip/detail.aspx?tour=JX18/L&d=06-13-2018&group=10939)

## ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL



Registration is being accepted for the **2017-2018** term. Classes are available for 3-year-olds (2 days and 3 days a week), 4-year-olds (3 days and 4 days a week), and 5-year-olds (5 days a week).

For more information, call Preschool Administrator **Sandy Peterkin** at 757-229-6688 or visit the Web at: <http://www.saintstephenlutheran.net/what-we-do-together/preschool-2/>



Parish and Preschool Administrator **Sandy Peterkin** began her time on St. Stephen's staff in

2002. We will celebrate her 15 years of ministry with us between worship services on **Sunday, August 13**. Along with good things to eat, there will be a basket for your notes of appreciation.



## 2018 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

At the end of **June 2018**, St. Stephen is planning on sending six youth with two adult chaperones to Houston, TX, for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. Our goal is to raise \$14,400, and, thanks to hard work and generosity, we have collected \$7,200.

**August 6 through September 24**, we are planning to collect change to reach our goal. Either drop a handful of change into the collection jar, take a jar home and fill it, or contact Pastor Griffin or the Church Office and tell us you need it picked up. You can either anonymously donate or put your name on it, and we will let you know how much you have given (for tax purposes).

Did you know that a 20-ounce water bottle holds about \$100 in dimes and that a mini M&M tube holds \$14 in quarters? Please help be a part of "the change" and get our youth to Texas!



## A Gift to the Homeless Ministry:

Anonymous – given in homonr of Chuck Frey



## PRAYERS

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Judy Althans, Nancy Childress, Bobbie Harms, Pat Janot, John Moravetz, Randy Punchard, Linda Reuben, Regina Root, Dan Stimson, and Rosemary Stimson**.

Pray God's blessings of Easter hope for **Doug and Jeane Moore** and their family on the death of Doug's stepmother, Jo; for the family and friends of **Martha Briggs**, our long-time next-door neighbor; and for **York Doerr** and family, on the sudden death of York's daughter, Tracey Lister.

Pray for these who are unable to get to worship: **Philip Arnold, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Stan Hobday, Donna May Hochstetler, Mary Jamerson, Helen Lenox, Ursula Murden, "Pete" Peterson, Betty Rickerson, Dick Reeves, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, Rudy Stegmann, and Jerry Trone**.

Pray God's blessings on **Matt Bosworth**, serving with the Army in Iraq.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Nathalee Accomando, Brennan Bayer, the Bicknell family, Tom and Bea Black, Blume family, Matt and Jess Bosworth (awaiting the birth of their baby), Grady Calhoun, Elaine Cari, Marla Canny, Arlene Carruthers, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Kathryn Dieter, Marshall Eichfeld, Inge Felbier, Karen Felton, Alma Jean Fisher, Mary Fitzgerald, Mary Funkhauser, Mertie Funkhouser, Bill Gottschalk, Char Grabowski, Jean Gray, Anthony Hargrave, Sara Jane Harlan, Sam and Ronny Hayes, Alan Hochstetler, Marian Hunt, Fran Kibler, Jack Kaminski, Art Kirk, Carl Kountze III, Dean Kreitzer, Jane Kristiansen, Mary Beth LaFave, Gaston Lambert, Frances Link, Mildred Lindblad, Jack Malo, Simon Mayfield, McGraw family, Bruce Milne, Louise Mitchell, Heidi Morris, Mary Newberg, Barb Pendleton, Lesa Peppers, Inge Petersen, Dino Polizois, Robert Pushaw, Pat Ramering, Paul Ratzow, Al Rogers, Shann Rufer, Bruce Semanchik, Georg Siegert, Linda Smalarz, Sharon Smith, Evelyn Spear, Karl Spiker, Dave Splittorff, James Storm, Janelle Story, Pierrette Tipton, Lou Tulloh, Kimberly Turner, Sue Weilmuenster, Travis Wilson, Scott Wimbish, and Micah Zabell

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**The Quill**

**[www.saintstephenlutheran.net](http://www.saintstephenlutheran.net)**

**August 2017**

***Congregational Officers:***

<i>President</i>	<b>Russ White</b>	220-1023
<i>Vice President</i>	<b>John McCurry</b>	606-389-1082
<i>Treasurer</i>	<b>Paul Kristiansen</b>	220-2709
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	<b>Linda Vonderheide</b>	645-4059
<i>Congregational Secretary</i>	<b>Carol Wiers</b>	564-0164

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<i>Pastor</i>	<b>Cheryl Ann Griffin</b>	876-6371
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<i>Parish and Preschool Administrator</i>	<b>Sandy Peterkin</b>	office@
<i>Director of Music</i>	<b>Karen Ives</b>	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurse</i>	<b>Marcie Clark</b>	ParishNurse@

***Church Council:***

David Allen	645-8220
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Amy Bergh	566-4557
Jeanne Garrison	229-0978
John McCurry	606-389-1082
Dave Gamble	564-7030
Corey Knestrick	367-9904
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