



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

August 2018



HOW ARE WE DOING?

It's been quieter in the office these past few weeks, making it a good time for updating rosters and planning for this coming year. Even activities that are part of our congregation's normal routine are challenging to schedule because we engage in many ministries! Inquirers' gatherings, first communion and affirmation of baptism classes are now set for this coming year. We are working on settings and themes for worship, and for Advent and Lent.

Planning for this coming year inherently entails reviewing last year. Combined with planning for this coming year, I am compelled to ask, how are we doing? That question can be too general, and it is helpful to have a basis for assessment. Our Vision Statement reads: *We gather to worship and study God's Word, to deepen our faith and live our Christian witness and service in the community.* St. Stephen's states that our mission is: *To invite all to grow in celebration of God's Grace through Word and Sacrament, to love and sustain one another, and to serve others in the community and in the world.* In light of our Vision and Mission Statements, how are we doing?

We are an active congregation! Some of the things we do are known to most of our people. Other things are not, but yet both reflect and impact who we are as church. Let me tell you about one of the most recent projects one of our congregation members is undertaking. We have linens for our altar and for use during Holy Communion that have, over time, become worn or stained. One of our members is transforming those sacred linens into baptismal napkins that will be used to help dry the heads of those who have been

blessed by water and the word, and marked forever as a child of God. For years, these altar linens have absorbed our prayers in worship, been blessed along with bread and wine, and been witness to the proclamation of the Word in scripture and sermon. They have held the light of Christ in the candles on the altar. These sacred cloths have been part of services for those who have died. All these holy moments from years gone by have been woven together and now will bless the newly baptized. Wow!



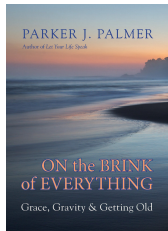
What are the things we do that are meaningful to you? In what ways does St. Stephen bless you, and bless our community? What might we do that we are not doing? In what ways would you like to help our church live into our vision and mission? Let's talk. I would love to hear your thoughts. We can have good conversation over coffee and cookies.

In God's amazing grace,
Pastor Cheryl Griffin

We give thanks for our newly-elected congregational leaders:

David Wills, Church Council President
Amy Bergh, Church Council Vice-President
Carol Wiers, Congregational Secretary
Linda Vonderheide, Financial Secretary
Jane deSolms, *Interim* Treasurer

Please offer your words of blessing and thanks to them!



THE FALL BOOK STUDY: *ON THE BRINK OF EVERYTHING* BY PARKER PALMER

What do you think is important at this stage of life? What did you used to think was important? What have you learned about yourself along the journey? How have you mentored those younger than you? What have you learned from those younger than you? Have you experienced aging as a passage of discovery and engagement?

Parker Palmer is one of the true wise men of our time. As he approaches his 80th birthday, he shares explores what he's learning about himself and the world, and what's most valuable is how his writing invited us to explore our own experiences. "In prose and poetry – and three downloadable songs written for the book by the gifted Carrie Newcomer – Palmer meditates on the meanings of life, past, present and future." "Palmer writes about cultivating a vital inner and outer life, finding meaning in suffering and joy, and forming friendships across the generations that bring new life to young and old alike."

You can participate on **seven Monday evenings, beginning September 17 (7:00 PM)** and/or **seven Thursday afternoons, beginning September 20 (3:00 PM)**.

The cost of the book is \$15. The ordering deadline is **Sunday, August 26**. Let me know if you want to be included in the book order!

Pastor Andy Ballentine

HEALTH MINISTRY THANKS

The Health Ministry thanks all who participated in the June "Germany walk about." Special thanks go to: **Brian Bergh** for his skill and expertise in designing and crafting the Tripod that securely held the map of Germany; **Jane Gingerich** who procured the beautiful detailed map of Germany that facilitated our understanding of the places visited; and **Janice Mayfield** for her diligence and precision in documenting the steps we were taking weekly. And too all who were cheering us on!

Marcie Clark and Diane Tiller-Dichtel, Parish Nurses

CAN WE PUT TOGETHER A GROUP FROM ST. STEPHEN TO EXPLORE THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS?



Lutheran Confessions with Dr. Timothy Wengert, professor emeritus of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. He co-edited the 2000 translation of the Book of Concord and has written and lectured extensively on topics of Lutheran theology and history. After a hiatus of several years, he has agreed to teach two sessions on the Lutheran Confessions. Students will discover how the Lutheran confessions from the sixteenth century (especially the Augsburg Confession and Luther's Small Catechism) can transform their lives and congregations in the twenty-first century. Hearing others confess their faith in Christ can strengthen our own witness to the gospel.

Dr. Wengert's presentations will be on **two Saturdays, October 20 and November 10**, in person in Waynesboro, VA, and by live interactive video in Hampton, VA. If folks from St. Stephen take part, I will lead a small discussion group after each presentation, at a time and place that works for us!

\$175 per person is the ACTS course registration fee; \$900 total if we have a group of six or more. (*Don't register on your own! Let me know if you want to be part of the group.*)

Need help with registration? I have money!

For more information:

<https://www.vasynod.org/ministries/acts/>

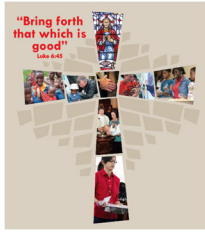
Let **Pastor Ballentine** know if you're interested.

"The Ambassadors Community for Theological Study is intended to enrich and equip laity for intentional service as ambassadors for Christ in homes, churches, and in their communities. It provides comprehensive exposure to the foundations of Lutheran faith through classroom and experiential education."



New cell phone numbers:

- **Bill Dichtel:**
(757) 232-5334
- **Diana Tiller-Dichtel:**
(757) 232-5924



WHAT'S YOUR LEGACY?

That's the title of an article in the June, 2018 issue of Thrivent Magazine. The article offers some good ideas as a starting point to think about what you want your legacy to be for your family, your community, whoever or whatever is important to you.

"Every person has something worth sharing with family and community," writes Stacey Freed in the article. "Legacies can be as simple as a book of Grandma's recipes, or a letter outlining life lessons. Even if you don't have substantial wealth, there are a number of ways you can leave a legacy."

Other examples cited in the article:

- A scrapbook of family photos.
- A letter to your children.
- A donation of tools to Habitat for Humanity, or musical instruments to a school
- Your own personal history or experiences important to you.
- Life insurance, which may be an income tax-free benefit for your family or a charity.
- An education fund, such as a 529 plan for a family member or a scholarship fund for others.
- Heirloom jewelry or a work of art.
- A trust to benefit family members or a charitable cause.
- One-time or ongoing support to a charitable cause or organization.

Do you have a legacy plan? And most importantly, is your plan in place? If your intentions are not in writing or known by your family, they're unlikely to be executed as you wish or hope.

What's your legacy? And what do you want it to be?

If you'd like to include your faith community in your legacy, as many St. Stephen Lutheran Church members have done, the Endowment Fund Committee can help.

Members are: **Joyce Beene, Jim Cobb, Bob Harman, Glenn Joppa and Charlene Smith.**

A special note of thanks to Gerri Bass for six years of service as a member of the Endowment Fund Committee and chairperson in 2017-2018. At the June 24 Congregational Meeting Joyce Beene and Jim Cobb were elected to the Committee and Charlene Smith was elected to a second three-year term.

Endowment Fund as of June 30, 2018: \$281,359.48. This includes \$57,587.38 designated for Theologian in Residence.

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. STEPHEN



For the past 24 years, Stephen Ministry services have been offered to our congregation. Stephen Ministry is a service provided by church members with extensive training in providing support for those of us dealing with life's crises. Emotional and spiritual burdens can be brought on by any number of stressors such as illness or death in the family, need for long term care, separation, divorce or divorce proceedings, depression, pregnancy and childbirth, family members with dementia, moving to a new area, loss of a job, or other stresses and concerns.

Stephen Ministers are individuals who have answered a calling to help their peers who are struggling with additional burdens. Stephen Ministers are trained as "reflective listeners" who help individuals verbalize and receive God's help in dealing with issues that are often otherwise overwhelming. While they do not replace care of pastors, support of other family members, or medical or counseling help, they are often an additional source of help for individuals struggling with personal or family crisis.

Individuals who feel that they could benefit from having a Stephen Minister or who feel they have a calling to this ministry should contact **Pastor Andy** or **Pastor Cheryl** or they can contact our congregation's Stephen Leader, **Jane Wills** at (757) 378-2715.

The Stephen Ministry team will have a monthly column in future issues of the *Quill*. Look for us in future issues.

Bill Dichtel, Stephen Minister

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1	Mary Dickerson	Danielle Kuck
	Bonnie Raquet	
4	Beth Grant	
5	Heidi Flatin	Elizabeth Geier
6	Forrest Fenstermaker	
7	Kristen Carter	Jerry Trone
	JoAnn Wilkins	
8	Pat Fretz	Claire White
9	Doug Moore	
10	Klara Cave	
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	Rachel Martin	
20	Lana Olson	
22	Rebecca Groman-Griffin	Dianne Harris
	Jeane Moore	
24	Matthew Bosworth	
26	Nancy Canny	
28	Christine Dietrich	Jane Wills
	Ann Booth Young	
29	Rich Brown	Linda Vonderheide
30	Danielle Walker	
31	Paul Kristiansen	



THE CHURCH MOUSE HEARS

... that **Charlene Smith** was elected an officer of the Greater Williamsburg Women's Association at their June meeting, and

... that **Katy Peterkin** was a lead organizer of the Exceptional Games 2018 at Jamestown High School. Special Education students from all Williamsburg-James City County Schools gathered for a wide range of games including track and field events, football toss, soccer ball kick, water balloon toss, hula hoop, and bean bag toss. This event recognizes the importance of making sure all students feel strong connections to their schools, their peers, and caring adults.



FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

Is your child ready to receive Jesus in the bread and wine of Holy Communion? Does your child express a desire to take communion, and ask questions about it? Is your child able to show respect while receiving the sacrament, as God is present in and under and through the wine and the bread? Parents are the best people to assess their child's readiness to receive this sacrament. Remember, the blessing that comes in the bread and wine comes from God, and does not depend upon anything we do. It doesn't even depend upon our understanding. If it did, would you be able to partake in it?

Families, and parents in particular, are the primary educators of the faith. The family has the most influence on whether and how faith is transmitted from one generation to the next. Therefore, your presence with your child in class is important.

Classes will begin on **Sunday, September 16**, and run consecutively until **October 7**. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall from **10 until 10:45 AM**. Children will receive First Communion on **Sunday, October 14**.

If you have any questions about your child's readiness or about the classes, please contact **Pastor Griffin**.



ST. STEPHEN RECEIVES AWARD

St. Stephen has received a Community Award from the Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast. Girl Scout Troop 1004 meets in our building every other Thursday during William & Mary's academic year. Girl Scouts attending William & Mary lead this troop when they are students, handing the leadership off when they graduate. We were recognized for our support of the Girl Scouts, providing a place to meet and "build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place."

CHALLENGES AND CHANGES IN LATER LIFE: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?



Are you or a loved one facing later life challenges? Please join us on **Saturday morning September 22 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM** at **St. Stephen Lutheran Church** as we explore choices and options for ourselves and those for whom we care.

Marcie Clark and Diana Tiller-Dichtel, Parish Nurses

“Aging Safely at Home or Elsewhere”

Ed Golden (owner of Comfort Keepers) will share his extensive knowledge and experience in the world of Senior Care. His unique perspective is not only as a provider, but also a prominent volunteer contributor within our whole senior caregiving community.

The journey of finding services and care providers for yourself or a loved one can be overwhelming. Ed will discuss the various types of Senior Care Services available in our community and how to select those services that best meet the needs of the individual senior's situation. He will also provide guidance and suggest helpful questions to guide your decisions in choosing these services.

“As You Wish: Advanced Care Planning”

David Murray is the executive director of “As You Wish,” a program of the Advance Care Planning Coalition of Virginia. David launched this program with our regional health systems and area agencies on aging, in 2014. Previously, he developed the Peninsula Aging and Disability Network with the Peninsula Agency on Aging.

David will discuss the importance, at any age, of having an Advance Directive for Healthcare. He will address the steps that help each of us develop a document that will 1) identify your wishes, 2) provide guidance for your family, and 3) provide the medical team information about your wishes.

“Ending Life With Quality”

Janna Roche has served both the Hospice House and Patriots Colony Retirement Community as chaplain until she semi-retired. Since then she has been doing community outreach and celebrant work at Bucktrout Funeral Home. She also serves on the board of the Olde Towne Medical and Dental Center. She just published a book *“Visiting Hours Are Over - A Chaplain Discovers What Really Matters from Her Parents' Deaths.”*

Dying is non-negotiable. Sadly in our death-denying society many of us choose not to confront this truth. This presentation, based on personal experience, will provide practical death education to empower individuals to make wiser decisions regarding the dying times they eventually will face.

Thank You



Thank you, St. Stephen Lutheran! Because of your generosity, **Roberta Sulouff, Abigail Kane, Gwen Agor, Ellie Bergh, Kara Meermans, Casey Toler** and **Sarah Toler** had an amazing experience at the National Youth Gathering. Not only did you help our youth and adults make it to Houston, your offerings helped provide mission support to the Virginia Synod and the ELCA. Together our gifts allowed 31,000 Lutheran youth and adults to spend last a week in Houston sharing God's love and growing in faith.



You are a blessing to our community. This gift of \$700 from St. Stephen Lutheran Church will help us support foster families in the Tidewater area.

Each year, Lutheran Family Services of VA is asked to help find foster families for hundreds of children right here in Virginia. Although we are only able to serve a fraction of those children, the youth we receive in care have faced extraordinary challenges in their young lives and finding the right match for a family can be quite difficult. It takes significant resources to recruit, train and support our foster families. Your gift will help us continue to find families for children who need love, support and stability right here in our community.

--- and ---

We are most grateful for your recent gift of \$690, which allows Lutheran Family Services to provide vital services to almost a thousand people daily. We have a responsibility of caring for our neighbors in our group homes, schools, day support centers, and in their

homes. A responsibility we take seriously and one we cannot do alone.

Not only are we celebrating our organization's anniversary, we are celebrating all who are a part of the Lutheran Family Services family. We are excited to see what the next 130 years will bring through our work with children, individuals, advocacy and communities. Together, we are making a difference.

Ellen Bushman, Vice President of Development



We at FISH want to thank you for your generous donation of food to the families and individuals we serve. During the last six months you have donated 46 bags of food to us. Food that is being distributed to our many clients.

To date we have fed 3,719 individuals at FISH, and we are reaching out to other programs being started in the community. We participate in the communal effort to feed children at risk during the summer months and continuing into the school year. We are supporting the Ease the Need program and the Backpack program affiliated with Head Start and the community schools.

Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Thank you for caring enough to make a life. Even though our families will not be able to repay you, we know they are touched by your generosity and kindness. It is individuals like you who make this community the caring one that it is, and we are grateful for your support throughout the year.

Helen Scharfenberger, FISH Board Secretary



MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

- **August 2** – Men are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Thursday** of this month.
- **August 7** – Women are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Tuesday** 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.



AUGUST 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	Edith Haecker	Laura Bergh
5	Linda Baumgarten	
17	Sara Martin	
25	Alison Carney	
26	James Ogborn III	
28	Brian Crittenden	
31	Randy Punchard	

Others: Bill Holcombe
Carla Javier

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



LAST THINGS!

The people who love us will be so grateful if we have cared for our final arrangements! Join us on Saturday, October 6, 2018, from 8:30 a.m. to noon to learn about planning for death. Save the date! **Karen Jones**, author of *Death for Beginners: Your No-nonsense, Money-saving Guide to Planning for the Inevitable*, will give you practical suggestions. **Pastor Judy Cobb** will talk about expressing your values through your funeral service, and how to plan a service. St. Stephen's **1956 Society** will have a representative to talk about how your generosity can continue to benefit our ministries. Direct your questions to **Pastor Griffin**.



PRAYERS

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Sally Crocker, Kathie Eichfeld, Julie Francis, Steve Grant, and Bobbie Harms.**

Pray God's blessings on **Chris and Kristen Stahl**, as Chris begins his 200-day unaccompanied deployment to Qatar.

Pray God's comfort Peace for **Phyllis Spencer** and her family upon the death of her sister-in-law, Mary Heminger and great-niece, Amanda Ashby, for; **Marj Gottschalk-Trone** and family as they mourn the death of her brother, Jack; and for **Helen Allen** and family as they mourn the death of her brother, Dean.

Pray God's blessings on the marriage of **Julie Berry** and **Jonathan Meeks**. They were married July 14 in Georgia!

Pray God's blessings on **Roberta and Dave Sulouff, Shana and Rich Wilkins, and Paul and Jayme Lawson** as they wait for the birth of their babies.

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **Philip Arnold, Doris Bass, Preston and Birdie Burton, Carolee Bush, Martha and Gene Clements, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Stan Hobday, Donna May Hochstetler, Mary Jamerson, Sonja Landvogt, Helen Lenox, Dick Reeves, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, Jerry Trone, and Ladonna Wiederholt.**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Belinda Adams, Philip Andrew, Mary Ann Arnold, Nathan Ballentine, Tom and Bea Black, the Blume family, Eliza Bicknell, Don Brannon, Marla Canny, Elaine Cari, Ray Cole, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Kathryn Dieter, Bubba Drury, Angela Earl, Holly Edwards, Lucy Eyler, Inge Felbier, Mary Fitzgerald, Sonya Frantz, Mertie Funkhouser, David Gade, Bill Gottschalk, Sam and Ronny Hayes, Sharon Hegland, Chip Hilbinger, Marian Hunt, Polly Jerrell, Anne Johns, Fran Kibler, Chris Kinney, Art Kirk, Terry Krull, Arthur Lapp, Annie Layendecker, Mildred Lindblad, Charlotte Litterer, Hannah Mac, Abby Mayer, Heidi Morris, Joan Nares, Mary Newberg, J. Drew O'Neil, Inge Petersen, Dick Phillips, Dino Polizois, Jackie Randall, Shann Rufer, Bruce Semanchik, James Smith, Evelyn Spear, Dave Splittorff, Pierrette Tipton, B.J. Vann, Tait Walker, Pat Ward, Debbie and Sam Weems, Sue Weilmuenster, Peggy Wright, Aaron Zabell, and Diane Zulawski.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
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www.saintstephenlutheran.net



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Congregational Officers:

<i>President</i>	David Wills	378-2715
<i>Vice President</i>	Amy Bergh	566-4557
<i>Interim Treasurer</i>	Jane deSolms	565-5646
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Linda Vonderheide	645-4059
<i>Congregational Secretary</i>	Carol Wiers	564-0164

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



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	email	Pastorab@
<i>Pastor</i>	Cheryl Ann Griffin	876-6371
	email	Pastorc@

Parish and Preschool

<i>Administrator</i>	Sandy Peterkin	Office@
<i>Director of Music</i>	Karen Ives	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurses</i>	Marcie Clark	Parishnursemc@
	Diana Tiller-Dichtel	Parishnursedt@
<i>Preschool Lead Teacher</i>	Susan Ruane	Preschool@

Church Council:

Bob Achenbach	206-1789
David Allen	645-8220
Alan Balma	206-1430
Amy Bergh	566-4557
Dave Gamble	564-7030
Jeanne Garrison	229-0978
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