



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

August 2019



LEAVE-TAKING AND BOUNDARIES

Many of you know that I hate people making a fuss over me! But I am very, very thankful for the celebration banquet that you gave for me on July 13, for the overwhelming number of people who gathered, for the stories and remembrances that were shared, for your expressions of love, for the laughter and the tears. I was very moved to have my family come in from north, south and west to share the weekend with me: our children, their spouses, our grandchildren, my brother, his daughter and her family. I was surprised to tears the next morning, when my children, Emily and Nathan, contributed to our Sunday worship music! (They had secretly practiced on Saturday morning, when I had been out with several of you on my "Retirement Bike Ride.") Wow.

I have been re-reading Joyce Rupp's extraordinary book, *Praying Our Goodbyes* during these last weeks as pastor of St. Stephen. Her wisdom – of what I would call hopeful grieving – has been helping me with the very emotional leave-taking conversations I've been having with many of you.

The reason why this is a painful process is because of the experiences we've shared together during these past years on the journey of faith. It has been a high and holy honor for you to invite me into vulnerable and intimate moments of your lives: births, illnesses, joys, and sorrows. On August 1, my relationship with you as your pastor comes to an end. I am grieving that.

Even as Patty and I will be staying in town, my primary concern will be the health of this congregation I have loved and served for the past 18 years. For that reason,

I will observe the ELCA boundary guidelines that a departing pastor must detach from his role as pastor to the members of his former congregation. Here is the specific language: "At the time of retirement, a minister of Word and Sacrament is no longer pastor of a congregation and therefore must discontinue the functions of the pastoral office in any congregation previously served unless specifically authorized to do so. Ministers of Word and Sacrament must respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve as well as the authority of the current pastors of such congregations.... Ministers of Word and Sacrament shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so by the pastor, or if there is no duly called pastor, then by the interim pastor in consultation with the Congregation Council."

Because I will not be your pastor any longer, I will say "no" to any requests from you for me to function as pastor. In this way, I will be continuing to serve this congregation I love so much: I will be discouraging you from holding on to the past, and encouraging you to look towards the future that God has in store for St Stephen. I will be encouraging your continuing and deepening relationship with Pastor Griffin and, in a year or so, with the new pastor or staff member God will call to St. Stephen.

Let me finish with some of Joyce Rupp's words:

"Goodbyes, when reflected upon in faith, can draw us to a greater reliance upon the God of love, our most

significant other. With God we can learn to live in hope, with greater meaning and deeper joy....

"We all need to learn how to say goodbye, to acknowledge the pain that is there for us so that we can eventually move on to another hello. When we learn how to say goodbye we truly learn how to say to ourselves and to others: 'Go, God be with you. I entrust you to God. The God of strength, courage, comfort, hope, love, is with you. The God who promises to wipe away all tears will hold you close and will fill your emptiness. Let go and be free to move on. Do not keep yourself from another step in your homeward journey. May the blessings of God be with you.'"

I will continue to love you very much, and I will continue to hold you in prayer as this wonderful congregation moves forward into God's future.

Pastor Andy Ballentine



GRATITUDE AND GRIEF - NOW WHAT?

Pastor Ballentine's 18-year ministry with St. Stephen softened hearts, provided comfort, and deepened faith. Bishop Humphrey joined us to celebrate his 40 years of ministry. We sponsored a group bike ride, and a booth at the Williamsburg Farmers' Market. Pastor Ballentine and Patty were honored with skit, song, gifts, and remembrances at a fabulous banquet. Their children, Nathan and Emily, surprised him by sharing their musical gifts the next morning in our worship service. We have been expressing our thanks and saying goodbye for weeks.

This issue of our newsletter will be published on the first day of Pastor Ballentine's retirement. Though he has gone, we don't stop memories by shutting of the door. There will be times in worship when one of our hymns will remind you of his ministry, bringing unexpected sadness for his absence. When St. Stephen does something different, expect to hear, "We've never done that before!" When something is not being done, expect to hear, "I miss that!" Change is inevitable! Change is uncomfortable sometimes!

Change is also an opportunity to examine who we are, and to look at the gifts we have to share with each other and the world. Where do our passion and people's need intersect? These are the things that we will discuss as a congregation. Pastor John Wertz, Assistant to the Bishop, will lead us in a workshop on Saturday, September 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. These conversations are important! This is your opportunity to share your vision for our ministry!

What will these next days and months bring? God's love, and our response to God's love. We will continue to care for each other and serve those in need. We will worship and pray, teach and learn. We will take a deep prayerful breath and give thanks for all that God has done, is doing, and will do. We will do these things together with the help of the Holy Spirit. I am excited for what God is doing and will do through us!

My prayer is that you will talk to me about your dreams, and about your concerns. Let's be in conversation. My door and my mind are open!

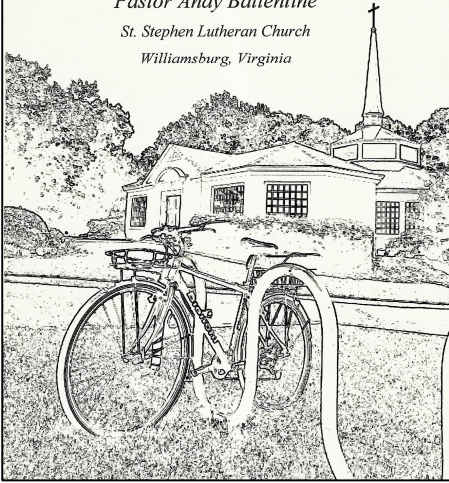
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him [Colossians 3: 16-17].

With gratitude,
Pastor Cheryl Griffin



A Celebration Banquet
July 13, 2019

Honoring the Retirement of
Pastor Andy Ballentine
St. Stephen Lutheran Church
Williamsburg, Virginia



OUR CAMPUS MINISTRY HAS NURTURED PROFESSIONAL LEADERS IN THE ELCA!

For many years, members of our Lutheran Student Association have gone on to theological seminaries. We give thanks for these leaders that we have nurtured during their college years, over the past 20 years.

Graduated from William and Mary

2002	Joel Neubauer
2004	Michael Powell
2005	Brett Wilson
2006	Kate Proctor
2007	Leslie Scanlan
2007	Deanna Scheffel
2009	Laura Tancredi
2010	Janelle Neubauer
2017	Dalton Ruggieri

Notes

Dalton Ruggieri is a student at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

Michael Powell's current ministry is Men's Gymnastics Coach, College of William and Mary.

The others are pastors in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, serving in Yorktown, VA; Washington, DC; Gaithersburg, MD; Chesapeake, VA; Winchester, VA; Ardmore, PA; and in Rawanda.

Pastor Andy Ballentine



MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

- **August 1** – Men are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Thursday** of this month.
- **August 6** – 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.



Jean Kuhn Social Ministry Memorial Fund

In Memory of John Allen and Corky Umberger
From Keith and Nancy Egloff

Endowment Fund

In Memory of Corky Umberger from Bob and Carol Harman

ANDREW BALLENTINE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Helen Allen
Karen Arledge
George and Gerri Bass
Tom and Ina Berkey
Paul and Janet Bird
Ed and Ingrid Brown
Douglas Crinklaw
Bill and Diana Dichtel
Elise Emanuel
Jeanne Garrison
Rich and Jane Gingerich
Christian and Kathryn Haugen
David and Terrell Hindman
Linda Laity Hite
Scott and Kaaren Arehardt Ives
Steve and Sharon Jacobs
Michael and Carla Javier
Corey and Lynn Knestrick
Paul and Rita Kristiansen
Neila Lamoureux
Steve and Jean Lannan
Heather Macdonald
Hank and Marylin Mallue
Reed and Karen Nester
Bob and Holly Newsome
Jim and Janell Nickols
Pastor Richard and Janyce Olson
Lewis and Susanna Owens
Tom and Sandy Peterkin
Randy and Chris Punchard
Dick Reeves
Peter and Bonnie Raquet
Lou and Emily Rossiter
Harlan and Anne Schone
Cyndy Touhsaent
Marian Thies
George and Linda Vonderheide
David and Jane Wills

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. STEPHEN



DO YOU HEAR ME?

Along with eyes in the back of her head, my mother had supersonic hearing. When I was young, I was sometimes overcome by a craving for chocolate. To satisfy my craving, I would stealthily make my way to the kitchen and try to quietly open the cabinet door behind which the M&M's were calling. Unfortunately, the door would sometimes emit the softest squeak (I was too young to know about WD40). Immediately following the squeak, my mother would call my name from a different room in the house. BUSTED! How did she hear that slight noise?

Fast forward to our current world. Unfortunately, "noise" has become a prominent sound in our lives. This noise includes physical noise (a car driving by) as well as physiological (what we are feeling) and psychological (what we are thinking) noise. How can anyone be heard with all this noise? Is anyone listening?

Listening seems like a simple, natural activity. In reality, listening is an active process, meaning it requires personal involvement. Listening takes work. An active listener must be fully present and focused on the task of hearing the words spoken. Listening requires patience. Active listening is a conscious effort to hear not only the words being spoken but, more importantly, the complete message being communicated both verbally and nonverbally. An active listener provides a safe outlet for spoken emotions. Being heard increases well-being. It also encourages respect and understanding. Listening is a way of caring.

During challenging times in our lives, it may seem like no one is listening. Depression, grief, illness, and loneliness can be overwhelming. Sometimes, sharing feelings with a loved one or friend is too difficult. Talking with a Stephen Minister may be an alternative. Stephen Ministers receive training on active listening skills and understand its importance in allowing God to heal suffering and pain. Being able to give voice to feelings and emotions within the scope of a care

receiver relationship can be a step to wellness and wholeness.

If you are in need of someone to listen to you, REALLY listen, the Stephen Ministry Team stands ready to fulfill that role. Please contact **Pastor Griffin** or one of the Stephen Leaders if you are ready to be heard.

Jane Wills, Stephen Leader, wilspwr@gmail.com



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Bonnie Raquet | |
| 4 Beth Grant | |
| 5 Heidi Flatin | Elizabeth Geier |
| 6 Forrest Fenstermaker | |
| 7 Kristen Carter | JR Lyons |
| 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 | |
| 14 Norm Fashing | Dave Joppa |
| 17 Bethany Brisson-Wilkins | |
| 18 Rachel Martin | |
| 20 Lana Olson | |
| 22 Dianne Harris | Jeane Moore |
| 26 Nancy Canny | |
| 28 Jane Wills | Ann Booth Young |
| 29 Rich Brown | Linda Vonderheide |
| Joe Yancey | |
| 31 Paul Kristiansen | |



A NEW SEASON

It is hard to change. At least, it is for me. I am a creature of habit. I like things the way they are so I don't have to adjust. But the truth is, the way things are is not the way they were before. I've had to adjust and learn to grow and get used to the way things are now. Where am I headed with this?

We are entering a new season at St. Stephen Lutheran Church. Pastor Ballentine is learning to adjust to his new normal. I know he will be fine. As a family, we are learning to adjust to our new normal. I am equally as sure we will be fine. We have Pastor Griffin to lead us and we will help each other, maybe taking on new roles. We will meet new friends and we will support one another.

If, however, you feel like you are struggling with the changes at St. Stephen, any other change in your life, or you just want to chat - please reach out. I am always available by phone or email. I can meet you anywhere. I am willing to listen to anything about which you want to talk.

I am excited about what the future holds for us all. I am excited to see what God has in store for us all. I am here if you want to talk - about anything.

Diana Tiller-Dichtel, Parish Nurse

(757) 232-5924, parishnurse@saintstephenlutheran.net



Julie and Jonathan Meeks
Jeffery Berry, Benjamin Berry

Donna Crinklaw and Dennis Kiser

Gene and Martha Clements

Call the Church Office for addresses.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT ST. STEPHEN?

Learn more about St. Stephen Lutheran Church, and meet others who are new to our congregation. Join **Pastor Griffin** downstairs in the College Room at **10:00 AM** on both **Sunday, August 11** and **Sunday, August 18**. For those who are interested in joining St. Stephen, this time together will be helpful.

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
Rich Brown, Treasurer

Please offer your words of blessing and thanks to them! Installation of our new leaders will be at both services on August 11.

Where Is Our Interim Pastor?



Our Virginia Synod had hoped to have an interim pastor to begin August 1 to help with various ministry tasks. The Virginia Synod has several people with whom they are talking, but no one has committed at the time I am writing this, which is July 17. If an interim pastor is not here as of August 1, we will continue by helping each other! We have a visitation team to see those who are hospitalized or ill, people to help with our Lutheran Student Association, and our Faith Formation team is stepping up their commitment to this ministry. My hope is to build a rotation of people who, during the time of the sermon, will engage children downstairs with the lesson for the day. (Let me know if you can help!) We can also engage a pastor once a month to preach. (Preparing a sermon is time consuming!) Thank you for your support as we continue our ministries!

Pastor Cheryl Griffin

GOD OPENS NEW DOORS



Our new doors are beautiful! Thanks to George Vonderheide who designed them and worked with Nice Builders through the process. Thanks to all who contributed to their cost. The glass in the door makes them open and inviting. Entering from downstairs, we wonder who left the door open. We still are not used to the

Gathering Space being so full of sunlight.

During the day, when the sun is shining, those on the outside looking through these doors into our building see their own reflection. From that perspective, the glass acts like a mirror, even when the lights are on. From the outside, at night, when the world is dark, and the lights are on inside our church building, the cross in the door is highly visible. Through our church door, God's light shines in the darkness.

Isn't that how God works? Through the cross, we are shown how to see the world differently, to see it through a lens of love. Jesus' life, death and resurrection teach us to value each person, and to see each other through our Creator's eyes. One only has to listen to the news for a few minutes to confirm that is not how many people live. Recently, we experienced the power of compassion, love and prayer given to someone in crisis by members of our congregation. We were the face of Jesus. Love transformed chaos into calm. It is good to be here in community with the love of Jesus working through us.

Standing in the pulpit, I see the door to our worship space aligns with the door to exit our building; I see one cross and see what is on the other side of the doors. The same is true when I stand at our altar. From inside our building, the glass doors invite us to go out into the world by way of the cross of Christ. This is what God calls us to do, to learn and be fed, and then to go out into the world. Jesus' imperative given to the disciples and to us at the end of Matthew's gospel is, "Go! Go make disciples of all nations! Baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach what I have commanded you, to love God and all people. And remember - I am with you always and forever."

We are God's people, and this is our calling. I give great thanks to Pastor Ballentine's witness and service in the name of Christ. Though things will change now that he has retired, our mission will not. Thanks be to God.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Cheryl Griffin

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEW DOORS

Total donations to date = \$25,570

Memorials

In Memory of Corky Umberger

Dave Baker
Beverly Beck
Jane deSolms
Sharon Falat
Phyllis and Jean Forte
Janice Haynes
Clyde Hemp
Chase and Patricia Hearn
Ralph and Marilyn Johnson
KD & MT McAvoy
Pressly McCance, Jr.
Harlan and Anne Schone
Benjamin and Judith Sellers
Robert and Kelly Stuckey
Ronald Wheeler

In Memory of Loved Ones

Linda Laity Hite

In Honor of Daniel Owens' Confirmation

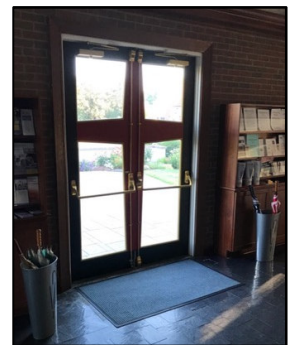
Neila Lamoureux

In Honor of and Thankfulness for Pastor Andy Ballentine

Chaplain Gordon and Carol Gabram

To the Glory of God

Doc and Pam Anderson
Kathy Eichfeld
Bob and Jo Hanny
Steve and Sharon Jacobs
Barbara Morris





Thank you for your donation of \$1,000.00. Because of your generosity, we will be able to help many residents of the

Historic Triangle remain safe, warm and dry.

Our organization would not be able to function without the generous support of a caring community.

Brandie Weiler, Executive Director



The Angels of Mercy Medical Clinic and I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for your faithful support. Your \$750 contribution was most generous. It will impact the lives of many of the uninsured and underserved of our community

Marian Bennett

*Williamsburg
Volunteer Fire
Department*

The Williamsburg Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad wishes to thank you for your recent contribution. It is through contributions such as

yours that we can continue our services to the community. Thank you for helping us help you.

Williamsburg Volunteer Fire Department

On behalf of my family, I want to thank you for the special cards, calls, and the caring thoughts and prayers before and after Corky's death. Please know that the prayer shawl comforted him every day.

We thoroughly appreciate the support of this wonderful congregation. May God continue to bless St. Stephen.

Ruby Umberger

The Social Ministries Coordinating Committee would like to thank the Congregation for its support of ELCA World Hunger. Once again you far exceeded our expectations in donating enough monies to provide 10 orchards of fruit trees. These fruit trees, along with training on how to care for them and market their produce, will be given to needy families to provide them with a source of food and income. Again thank you for your kind generosity.

Susan Neidlinger

Social Ministries Coordinating Committee



SUMMERTIME AND SNEAKER TIME

According to the calendar it is summertime! That means it is now time to buy school shoes for our students in Grove. Last year we purchased sneakers for 217 students and saw pictures of lots of smiling faces! Please take a child's name from the bulletin board in the narthex. Individual instruction sheets are attached to each name. Please follow the instructions and return the shoes to the narthex no later than August 18th. If you would like to contribute money instead, please put cash or a check made out to Marilyn Johnson in an envelope and give it to me or put it in the Social Ministry box outside the church office. I will then purchase the shoes. If you would like a store receipt for tax purposes, please put that info on the outside of your envelope along with your name and address. If you have any questions, please call **Marilyn Johnson** at (757) 345-0806 or email majohnson9@cox.net. Thanks in advance for your support!

Marilyn Johnson

Social Ministries Coordinating Committee





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 Cheryl Griffin

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

Others who were baptized in August:
Carla Javier

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



PRAYERS



Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Brian Agor, Doc Anderson, Joe Beene, Martin Bleck, Ed Brown, Steven Bushman, Sammi Crittenden, Sandy Croushore, Janna Fitzgerald, Erika Geier, Dianne Harris, Lynn Knestrick, Laura Spencer, Mitchell Stauffer, and Janice Svendsen.**

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **Philip Arnold, Doris Bass, Preston and Birdie Burton, Gene and Martha Clements, Bob and Angie Groom, Michelle Ivey, Mary Jamerson, Billie Jo Purse, Dick Reeves, Jessie Schmitthenner, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, Jerry Trone, and Ladonna Wiederholt.**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Gary Abrams, Craig Arnold, Mary Ann Arnold, Jane Ayers, Jean Ballentine, John Ballentine, Steven Barton, James Baum, Gary Baumgarten, Laurie Berger, Eliza Bicknell, Norma Blaase, Tom and Bea Black, Blume family, Audrey Burbank, Marla Canny, Elaine Cari, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Robin Daniel, Michael Dorsey, Tabitha Dyess, Craig Ettreim, Inge Felbier, Mary Fitzgerald, Will Flatin, Janis Gilbert, Carole Gilman, Laurie Giner, Andrea Gonzalez, Bill Gottschalk, Kara Gustafsson, Barbara Harvell, Nick Havola, Sharon Hegland, Marian Hunt, Robin Jones, Fran Kibler, Chris Kinney, Sandy Kinsler, Art Kirk, John Knestrick, Rebecca Krueger, Torri Larson, Christopher Lee, Devin Lee, Mildred Lindblad, Jackie Lohr, Patrick and Kristine McGraw, Jackie Mereness, Sharon Miles, Michael Mott, Eric Nelson, Patricia Nowak, Sue Plevelich, Dino Polizois, Jenny Rice, Barbara Roachat, Shann Rufer, Jeannette Sampson, Paul Sampson, Lucy Scott, Marion Seidl, Inge Seiter, Jean Seitz and the Seitz family, Patricia Simpson, James Smith, Sharon Smith, Evelyn Spear, Luciana Stimson, Charley Underdahl, Tracy Vercillo, Tate Walker, Nancy Wiers, Margaret Wieser, Curtis Wikins, John Wilson, Peggy Williams, Sean and Sarah Wills as they await the birth of their baby, Donna Wood, Aaron Zabell, and Diane Zulawski.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
612 Jamestown Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185
www.saintstephenlutheran.net



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

Dated Material
Address Service Requested

**Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 34
Williamsburg, VA**



The Quill **www.saintstephenlutheran.net** **August 2019**

Congregational Officers:

<i>President</i>	David Wills	378-2715
<i>Vice President</i>	Amy Bergh	566-4557
<i>Treasurer</i>	Rich Brown	565-5646
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Linda Vonderheide	814-404-8992
<i>Congregational Secretary</i>	Carol Wiers	564-0164

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



Church Staff:

<i>Pastor</i>	Cheryl Ann Griffin	876-6371
	email	Pastorcga@
<i>Parish and Preschool Administrator</i>	Sandy Peterkin	Office@
<i>Director of Music</i>	Karen Ives	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurse</i>	Diana Tiller-Dichtel	Parishnurse@
<i>Preschool Lead Teacher</i>	Susan Ruane	Preschool@

Church Council:

Bob Achenbach	206-1789
David Allen	645-8220
Amy Bergh	566-4557
Ellie Bergh (Youth Member)	566-4557
Sandy Croushore	476-5789
Dave Gamble	564-7030
Jeanne Garrison	229-0978
Linda Laity Hite	876-7431
Corey Knestruck	367-9904
Doug Moore	903-4969
George Vonderheide	645-4059
Carol Wiers	564-0164
David Wills	378-2715

The Quill is published monthly by
St. Stephen Lutheran Church
612 Jamestown Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Editor:

Reed Nester
reednester@gmail.com

Mailing:

Pam Buckley

Article deadline: Fifteenth of the previous month.