



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

August 2012



Big Things Are Happening At St. Stephen in August!

What summer slow-down?

Not only is Vacation Bible School happening **August 6-10**. (Is your child or grandchild registered? A friend's child or grandchild?)

Not only will we celebrate 10 years of loving and dedicated service by our Parish Administrator, **Sandy Peterkin, on Sunday, August 12**. (We'll gather between the services on that morning.)

On **August 13-19**, we will be one of the few locations in the U.S. for the display on loan from Halle University in Germany, "Henry Melchior Muhlenberg: Patriarch of the American Lutheran Church." This is part of the commemoration of the 300th anniversary of Muhlenberg's birth. Stop by the Fellowship Hall sometime during that week to learn about the man who spent 43 years travelling by horseback, wooden sailboat, and canoe in the 18th century, meeting with settlers in seven of the colonies and establishing Lutheran congregations. Imagine the challenges he experienced in this missionary activity!



On **Sunday, August 19**, our Theologian in Residence will be Timothy Wengert, Professor at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. What were the challenges Muhlenberg faced in establishing Lutheran congregations? What are the differences and similarities for us today, as

we invite others into a Lutheran worshipping community? Professor Wengert edited the translation of two volumes of Muhlenberg's correspondence into English, letters that provide great insight into this fascinating father of the American Lutheran church.

Dr. Wengert will be with us for worship on **August 19**, and for a presentation and conversation beginning at **1:00 PM**. Bring a dish to share for a **potluck mid-day dinner at noon!**

Blessings on your continuing journey through Pentecost –

Pastor Andy Ballentine

Pipe Peeps



As summer is coming to a close, I am in the process of planning the music for the fall, and I once again would like to extend an invitation -- I hear so many good voices singing in the Congregation, how blessed we would be if you would join one of the choirs! We need more voices in both groups, and I will work with you to become a member. Rehearsals are enjoyable, and we enjoy prayer and fellowship in addition to making beautiful music. We do it all for the Lord, and every note we sing is a musical offering of prayer.

We have had such a wonderful response to the Summer Music Ministry that I have been thinking of expanding it throughout the Church Year. In addition to a musical offering by the choir, there are several places in the liturgy where we can have another offering of music. How refreshing it would be to have different people offering their instrumental gifts throughout the year. Please let me know if you would be interested in participating.

We also could use a few more cantors. There are enough folks who participate as cantors so that no one person is overburdened. It is a very special experience as the cantor proclaims God's Word in a very special way. You become a herald as the assembly responds to your vocal invitation to join in praise of the Redeemer. Remember, **All Are Welcome!**

Your Brother in Christ, Michael Monaco

Take Advantage of One or Both Study Groups This Fall!



I.) I will be leading a Monday evening study of Barbara Brown Taylor's book, ***An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith***.

"From simple practices such as walking, working, and getting lost to deep meditations of topics like prayer and pronouncing blessings, Taylor reveals concrete ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see. Something as ordinary as hanging clothes on a clothesline becomes an act of devotion as we pay attention to what we are doing and take time to attend to the sights, smells, and sounds around us. Making eye contact with the cashier at the grocery store becomes a moment of true human connection. Allowing yourself to get lost leads to new discoveries. Under Taylor's expert guidance, we come to question conventional distinctions between the sacred and the secular, learning that no physical act is too earthbound or too humble to become a path to God. As we incorporate these practices into our daily lives, we begin to discover altars everywhere we go, in nearly everything we do."

Twelve Monday evening sessions will begin **September 10, 7:00 PM** each evening. The book costs \$10.19. Deadline for ordering a book: **Sunday, August 26**. E-mail or call me or sign up on the Sunday morning Blue Sheet to order a book!

II.) A couple of months ago during a Sunday morning sermon, I read an excerpt from Rob Bell's book, *Velvet Elvis*. (The excerpt caused quite a buzz!) On the way out of worship that morning, **Chuck Hilbinger** said,

"Rob Bell's new book, *Love Wins*, is much better than *Velvet Elvis*! Would it be ok if I led a study group?" I said, "Yeah, man!"

Here's the description of ***Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived*** from Rob Bell's website: "Rob Bell addresses one of the most controversial issues of faith – the afterlife – arguing, would a loving God send people to eternal torment forever...? With searing insight, Bell puts hell on trial, and his message is decidedly hopeful – eternal life doesn't start when we die; it starts right now. And ultimately, Love Wins."

Chuck adds: "This book is a fresh, modern, interesting look at Jesus, heaven, hell, and salvation written in a style that everyone can understand. Very captivating."

Chuck would like to start a group that would meet **eight times (there are eight chapters), beginning the week of Sept. 17**. He could lead the conversations on **Tuesday or Wednesday or Thursday evenings**. What would work for you? **E-mail or call me, or call Chuck (259-0343)**, or mark the blue sheet to let us know! The book costs \$10.19. We can order you a copy!

Pastor Andy Ballentine

Disaster Preparedness



On **Sunday, June 3**, the Health Ministry Committee sponsored a **Disaster Preparedness Exhibit**. It was held between services in the Gathering Space. The location encouraged interaction among members, an opportunity to ask questions about the displays, obtain handouts and get specific information on how to be prepared in anticipation of hurricanes, tornados, or other potential disasters, There were also door prizes representing items one might need in a disaster (flashlights, batteries, matches, an "old fashioned" phone, manual can opener etc.)

Didn't have a chance to attend, but would like some information? We have many brochures, booklets, and handouts on *Disaster Preparedness*: for seniors; for families; for business owners; for pets, local contact information; shelters; building a first aid kit; items for a "to go" bag; and the "file of life." Just contact **Parish Nurse, Marcie Clark** for copies of these materials.

Thanks to the approximately 70 people who offered their help or resources in a disaster. If you would also like to join them in offering housing, help with meals, transportation, providing tools, equipment, or other disaster services please contact me.

Also please tell us if you or someone you know may need assistance or to be checked on in a disaster.



And on Sunday, August 26, there will be a table to display **the amount of food you would need during a disaster. You should be prepared to totally sustain yourself and your family for at least three days, since it may take that long for the first help to arrive.**

Below are some tips to be prepared and a good web site is: www.ready.gov

- Flashlights, lanterns or solar lights (can recharge when the sun is out)
- Extra batteries, for flashlights, hearing aids, medicals devices, portable radios
- Your local radio station in Williamsburg, it is WMBG 740 AM. TIDE 92.5 FM
- Canned and nonperishable food and water to last three days. Recommend two gallons of water per day per person, or more)
- If you have pets, you will need the same supplies for them
- A manual can opener
- A corded (old fashioned) phone to plug into a phone jack (cordless phones don't work if the electricity is out)
- A First Aid kit
- Prescription and nonprescription medications and any extra medical supplies (syringes)

Marcie Clark parishnurse@saintstephenlutheran.net or 757-229-6688



So much useful information was assembled at the Disaster Preparedness exhibit in June



My Journey With (and without) Stephen Ministry

What characteristics make a good Stephen Minister? My hard earned “gift” is empathy, the ability to identify with others, and to see both sides of an issue. Those of you who know me know that God has to shake up my world (more than once) to get my attention—mostly because I have tried to “do it my way.” When I was gaining empathy through the passages of my life, there were those of you who sensed I was upset, made me feel like you cared, and listened to my woes. Sometimes it was at a social, after church, even in the parking lot. Of all the qualities of a Stephen Minister, to me this is the most important. I have had to **learn** to listen, but there are those of you who do this without thinking, it is a part of your grace. To you I say, “Listen, listen God is calling, through the Word inviting...” Will you answer?

Cindy Gibbs

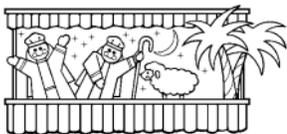


*Learn CPR coming soon
- Mark your calendar
for an
October Class*



Learn how to do Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, or CPR. This year marks the 50th anniversary of its invention. According to the [American Heart Association](#), "about 80 percent of all out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in private residential settings," so knowing how to perform CPR can mean the difference between life and death. Specific date in October will be announced soon.

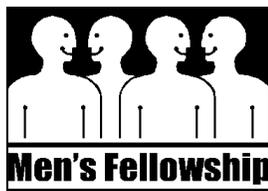
Marcie Clark – Parish Nurse



Vacation Bible School

***Vacation Bible
School to be
held in August***

An exciting week of Vacation Bible School will happen on **August 6-10 from 9:00 to noon** each day with the theme being "Jesus the Light of the World." Tri-leaders will be **Patty Ballentine, Lorie Harms and Carole Meyer** and we hope many of **you** will join them because there is much that can be done in big and little ways. Please contact **Ministry Associate Doug Cummings (229-6688)** or any of our tri-leaders to get involved in the fun!



Men's Breakfast

Men of the congregation have been joining for breakfast the **first Thursday of each month**, for conversation and friendship-deepening. This month, the first **Thursday is August 2!** Join with other men at **8:00**

AM Thursday, at the Colonial Pancake House, at the corner of Page Street and Penniman Road.

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

Pastor Ballentine



***"Sneaker
Smiles"***

It is once again time to put smiles on the faces of the students in Grove (for our 7th year) as we provide sneakers for them as they start their new school year. Last year we purchased sneakers for 165 children!

Please take a child's name from the bulletin board in the Gathering Space---**and an individual instruction sheet. (This is a new idea this year.)**

Follow the instructions and return the shoes to the Gathering Space **on or before August 12!** KMart, Walmart, Target, and Payless are good stores for purchasing shoes.

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. I will purchase the shoes for you. If you would like the store receipt for tax purposes, please put that info on the outside of the envelope along with your name and address.

If you have any questions, please call **Marilyn Johnson (345-0806)** or email me at majohnson9@cox.net. Thanks in advance for your support!!

Social Ministry Committee – Marilyn Johnson



***Thoughts on
gardening in
God's world***

This is a tribute to **Sandy Peterkin**, who recently harvested her first container-grown tomato, and has given us a great introduction to the grow-your-own food concept!

Why grow your own food? Try expense: it costs money to ship those tomatoes across country, and you pay for them to travel! And who knows how long ago they were harvested. We don't know what sort of pesticides, fertilizers, or other chemicals they might have been exposed to. You might like different varieties from those found in the grocery. And nothing beats the joy and pride one feels when one goes to the garden and picks fresh vegetables or fruits for immediate use. Just ask Sandy!

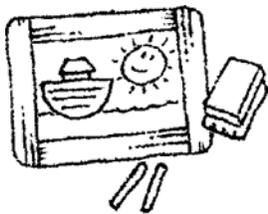
No, you don't need a big garden. A container (read: flower pot, tub, large bucket) will do, as will your flowerbeds, among the dianthus, salvias, and 'mums. If you choose a garden, it need not be a half-acre. Whatever, it does require fertile soil, good light (mostly sun) and attention to watering.

We are nearing the time of year (late August-September) when we can plant carrots, collards, lettuce, spinach, and such, because they will winter over and hopefully give us goodies along the way. Give it a go and see where it leads!

There are several other Master Gardeners (**Sue Voigt, Pat Janot, Forrest** and **Ruth Fenstermaker**), as well as, I'm sure, some REALLY master gardeners who have learned the hard way in our congregation. I'd be glad to discuss the advantages and fun of good gardening, and I'm sure they would also.

Go out there and play in the dirt! And while you're on your knees, pray for good temperatures, good rain, good soil, and someone to share your harvest with!

Ailene Bartlett



Preschool News

It is "Back-to-School" time! We hope you all had a great summer! The staff is excited to be back at St. Stephen Preschool! We have been very busy preparing for another wonderful year! This marks our 48th year of teaching Williamsburg's finest students! Open house will be on **August 30 and 31** and the first day of school will be **Tuesday, September 4**.

Please join us in welcoming **Samantha "Sam" Shearer** to our staff. She is our new Teacher Assistant. Her daughters, **Jacquelyn** and **Hailey** are graduates of St. Stephen Preschool. The Shearers are members here at St. Stephen.

Our students will soon be busy making new friends, learning shapes, colors, numbers, and letters! They will soon be having so much fun with all the new toys! The children will create works of art to be displayed at the Occasion for the Arts, held **October 6 and 7** in Merchants Square. Please come out and see their "Masterpieces."

Are you interested in sharing your time and talents? If so, please call **Lauren McQuain at 229-6688**. We would love to have you come to our Extended Day program and enrich the lives of our students!

The Church Mouse Hears . . .



Colonial Williamsburg has released in paperback, *What Clothes Reveal: The Language of Clothing in Colonial and Federal America* by **Linda Baumgarten**, curator of textiles and costumes for Colonial Williamsburg. Linda's book is available in several places in the historic area and Visitor Center – peruse it, you will find it beautifully illustrated and very interesting! . . . The church mouse thanks **Dorothy Hinders** for refreshing the quiet bags with new toys used by children on Sunday mornings! These bags are filled with quiet toys geared to specific age groups and are available in the Gathering Space. Dorothy also purchased some new supplies for the Sunday morning nursery (chalk, crayons, puzzles, etc.) . . . The mouse also thanks all who donate plastics for recycling and appreciates so much that many of you are noting that the offerings are in bags of all one number – like 1, 2, or 3-7 written on the bag. This saves hours of sorting! Thanks to **Bob Harman** for building the beautiful bulletin board for Social Ministry! It suits our new Gathering Space perfectly!

Address changes

Sandy Croushore; 302
Queens Crescent, Williams-
burg, VA 23185 (a/o 28 July)
same phone; same e-mail.



Katherine Hyland
4175 Winthrop Circle
Williamsburg, VA 23188
757-345-5694



August Birthdays

1	Mary Dickerson	
5	Heidi Flatin	Elizabeth Geier
6	Forrest Fenstermaker	John Olsen
7	Melanie Buckner	Kristen Carter
	Jerry Trone	JoAnn Wilkins
8	Anthony Buschek	Pat Fretz
	Claire White	
11	Pat Drubel	Josiah Hallman
	Thom Recktenwald	
12	Dave Clark	
13	Sonja Landvogt	
14	Norm Fashing	Dave Joppa
16	Patti Harris	
17	Cathy Bingman	Bethany Brisson
	Luke Sipes	
18	Nathan Egloff	Rachel Martin
	Betty Rickerson	
20	Lana Olson	Travis Rennich
22	Rebecca Groman	Dianne Harris
	Jeane Moore	Lisa Thomas
23	Carl Strikwerda	
24	Matthew Bosworth	Robin Mansfield
26	Nancy Canny	
27	Hannah Pierce	
28	Dick Batman	Christine Dietrich
29	Doug Cummings	
31	Paul Kristiansen	

Is your name missing? Is your date wrong? Please let us know immediately!

Rev. July 22, 2012



We give thanks to God

- For the marriage of **Joel Gillespie** and **Kara Hunt** who exchanged wedding vows at the Wren Chapel
- For blessing **Art Hanson** with 90 years of life
- For blessing **Willetta Heising** with 90 years of life

Pray for Jo Schumacher as she mourns the death of her husband, **Chuck**; for **Geri Bass** and her family as they mourn the death of her brother; and for **Nelia Heide** and her family and friends mourning the death of her husband, **Walt**. May we all be comforted to know the hope and confidence of Easter.

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Jo Austin, Jack Behlendorf, Ray Crocker, Stacey Cummings, Art Dorsey, Pat Janot, Sara Moretz, Susanna Owens, Paul Reier, Sam Trapani, JoAnn Wilkins**

Pray for these who are physically unable to get to worship: **Bill Dickerson, Elsa Englert, Ruth Ennis, Bernice Fahncke, Elsie Hall, Willetta Heising, Anna Lou Hobday, Jean Kircheis, Helen Lenox, Jo Schumacher, John Warner, Barbara Weekes, Dot Wright, Earl and Lois Wysong**

Pray that God will continue to bless

- The life-saving gatherings of the **Wednesday night AA meeting** and the Friday night **Young People of AA** meeting in our building
- The work of **Williamsburg Faith in Action**
- The work of the **Avalon** shelter for women and children
- The mission and ministry of our partner parish in the global church, **the Mongai Parish** in Tanzania

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation:

John Accomando, Paul and Rita Adams, family of Dave Arnold, Jack Allen, Donna Alt, Laurie Berger, Cathy Bierd, Lois Bomba, Linda Bonfiglio, Mary Breeden, Susan Cagle, Bob Canny, Joanne Carlson, Donna Cherel, Rosemarie Cristofolo, John Croushore, Betsy Cummings, Sydney Davies, Jeris DeKievit, Jodi Duke, Doug Fisher, Will Flatin, Mary Funkhouser, Sharon Garth, Jim and Deon Gebard, Nancy Gottschalk, Ingrid Gavribuc, Richard Gray, Mary Hallman, Catheryn Drost Hanson, Eleanor Harms, Timothy Hennie, Gail Henson, Janis Hepburn, Susan Hill, Carol Horton, Elbert Ivey, Bobby Jackson, Katherine Layton, Laura McDonald, Colette McKown, Roxanne Morris, Arthur Pate, Joyce Pate, Sarah Pettifer, Floyd Porter, Bob Reeves, Robert Reier, Lisa Rivolta, John Roberts, Don Romig, Don Scanlan, Roland Scheiding, Bernadine Schlicht, Danielle Schoch, Georg and Eva Siegert, Ron Smith, Helen Soultoukis, Nancy Spaniol, Connie Testerman, Claudia Tucker, Vivian Villaseñor, Wanda Watkins, Shirley White, Bitsy Whitten, David Willette, Bruce Young

to Andy, Doug, and others for visits, Care Group 12 for meals, wheel chair ramp builders, and furniture movers, as well as, my appreciation for the prayer shawl knitters and the many cards that I received during my confinement. Most of all I thank you for your prayers. You are truly God's presence in my world.

Pat Janot



Fun at the Ice Cream Social And Game Night on July 21



Marvin Happel

Gloria Happel
Pamela Glasgow

Mildred Roessler

Gordon & Carol Gabram

Walt Heide

Don and Jeanne Nelson – Building Fund
Harlan and Anne Schone – Renovation Fund
Art and Anita Dorsey



Letters from our members

Thank God for the continued healing of my broken ankle and thanks to everyone for your support after my fall and injury. Special thanks