



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

August 2013



What a Wonderful and Amazing Congregation!

I am privileged to serve a wonderful and amazing congregation. There are many reasons to say that. For instance, here's what a visitor said this past Sunday: "What a singing congregation you have here!" (I actually hear similar comments frequently from visitors who leave charged up when they experience our spirit during worship.)

Our congregation's leadership is also wonderful and amazing! At the June Council meeting, Council members asked what was overwhelming me as I looked forward over the next months. I listed three projects that our Ministry Associate, **Doug Cummings**, had been responsible for. Within minutes, Council members took leadership for them!

- **Brad Leek** has enlisted **Carla Javier** (both educators with Williamsburg-James City County) to help Christian Ed chair **Jim Ivey** bolster the committee as they plan this fall's Sunday morning Faith Formation program for children.
- **Sandy Croushore** will meet with Affirmation of Baptism students for instruction during the interim as we search for another pastor for our staff.
- **Stan York** is coordinating the posting of Sunday morning announcements on the Gathering Space monitors, and he's looking for others to help with that.

In addition, seven of our Stephen Ministers who are on "sabbatical" have offered to be on call to make hospital visits. I'll take responsibility for campus ministry, and I'm hoping to begin a Sunday morning gathering for

youth. Because of this coverage, we're well-positioned for the interim period as we search for another pastor to be my partner.

At its July meeting, the Congregation Council approved a list of names to be approached for the Call Committee. From that list, I was able to recruit these folks: **Alan Balma, Marcie Clark, Heidi Flatin, Jack Harris, Lewis Owens, Roberta Sulouff**. This is a strong group with diversity in age, life situation, and experience in the congregation. Here is how the call process will work:

- The Bishop, Council and congregation have all approved my desire to approach pastors that I know, and who have track records. That will give me a better sense of how that pastor will carry out his/her ministry compared to an interviewing process with someone I have never met before.
- The Bishop and I will recommend a name or names to the Call Committee. In each case, the Call Committee's role will be to test our suggestion that this would be a good pastor to work with me. If the members of the Call Committee endorse this, interviews will be scheduled with the pastor(s). All of this will be highly confidential.
- If the Call Committee agrees to choose one pastor as the Primary Candidate, the committee will recommend that pastor's name to the Congregation Council. That consensus among the Call Committee members will have to be overwhelmingly positive. The process is still confidential at this point.
- If the Council endorses this recommendation, the pastor's name will become known to the congregation. The pastor will meet with the congregation, preach, and lead worship. Congregation members

will have the opportunity for conversation with the candidate.

- After an interval of a week or two, a Congregational Meeting will convene to vote whether to call the candidate. If the vote is overwhelmingly positive, s/he will need to inform his/her current congregation and work through his/her leave-taking.

My standards will be very high. I have worked in the past in staff situations with other pastors who did not nourish me with their preaching and worship leadership. I do not want to recommend a pastor that I am not enthusiastic about! If there is not a candidate that meets those high standards at this time, I am willing to wait until one becomes available.

That said, and thinking about the pastors who look to be available, it is reasonable to think we could add another pastor to the staff by the first of the year.

The Spirit knows who our new pastor will be in teamwork with me. It is up to us to discern who s/he is! Please hold your congregation's leaders in prayer through this process.

Blessings to you –

Pastor Andy Ballentine



What's for Dinner?

Adolescence can be a difficult time for kids and parents. There are a myriad of challenges and concerns: school, grades, friends, parties and dating. There seems to be a new thing to worry about every day.

Surprisingly, one of the best ways to counter these issues may be as simple as sitting down at the dinner table together and discussing them on a regular basis. Think that your kids — especially teens — won't come to the table no matter what you do? The fact is, research has shown that almost 80 percent report that they enjoy eating together as a family.

Along with having better eating habits (both now and in the future), adolescents who dine with their family five or more times a week are at a lower risk of emotional and social problems. Some studies have also found that youths, especially girls, who take part in family

meals are at a lowered risk of developing eating disorders.

Busy schedules can lead to erratic meal times, and family members eating separately. But, if you regularly do that, your kids are missing one of the biggest brain-boosters around: Family Talk Time. The benefits of family meals aren't limited to teens; younger children gain too. Studies have shown that table talk is a critical factor in developing childhood vocabulary (even more so than storybook reading). In fact, detailed discussions at the table, and just more time at the table, were associated with stronger vocabularies in young children.

Creating a comfortable atmosphere at the table is critical. Instead of viewing your meals as one more, "to do" task, construct them as something special to share together. Here are some ways to start to build a healthy environment that will keep everyone coming back to the table.

Make meals an event. Begin by *everyone* sitting down together. Food really is a blessing, so **say grace at mealtimes**. A prayer, a word of appreciation, or a moment of silence before eating gets you ready to enjoy a relaxed meal. This leads to eating more slowly and feeling more satisfied. The person cooking might even consider a silent prayer before preparing the family meal.

Table time is a chance to model social behavior as well as nutritional habits. Keep in mind that meals are a time for socializing as well as refueling. Look up, put your fork down between bites, slow down, and savor both your meal and the conversation that goes with it.

Calming atmosphere. Given today's hectic family schedules, calm may not settle in naturally. Try a little mood setting. Turn on music or use flowers or candles to show this is a special time.

Ban the distractions. The number one offender is electronic devices. So, corral the phones, texting, and TV (that goes for parents, too), and focus on engaging with the people at the table.

Avoid stressful issues. While creating open communication at the table is good, the family meal is probably not the time to start discussing stressful issues. A child or teen who feels that every meal is a confrontation is going to start avoiding them. Instead, choose topics that will get the family involved in conversation — as simple as "What movie do you want to see this weekend?" or "I read something interesting today — I'd like to know what you think about it." Confront stressful issues at another time and place.

The family eating together results in a very different experience from individuals just inhaling a meal and rushing on to the next commitment. Family meals let you be part of your kids' day, and foster closeness. Start eating together and your kids are likely to welcome the event, and the chance to spend more time together as a family.

(This article is based in part on information from Cleveland Clinic Website)

Marcie Clark, Parish Nurse



Coming Soon from the Health Ministry. . . .

AED training -- Sunday, September 22 will be held between the services approximately **9:45-10:45 in the Gathering Space.** Cost is \$10.

CPR training -- Saturday, October 5 will include certification from the American Heart Association and will be held from **9:30AM to 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.** Cost is \$25.

Preregistration is necessary for either class. Talk to **Marcie Clark**, Parish Nurse



St. Stephen July Council Minutes

- The Council met on July 9, 2013.
- **Diane Bean** and **Sandy Peterkin**, from the Social Ministry Committee, informed the Council of the work being done by the Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission (GWOM) Friend-in-Need Homeless Program. Several churches, including St. Stephen, have been working to not only continue the feeding

and housing initiatives from previous years, but also to try and establish, along with public social agencies, a mechanism to help make some families self-sufficient. The program has been successful elsewhere, so it will now be tried in the Williamsburg area.

- Minutes of the June meeting were approved.
- The following were elected Council officers for the coming year:

President	Keith Egloff
Vice President	Emily Rossiter
Secretary	Dave Clark

- Pastor informed Council that good progress has been made on providing interim help for him until an additional pastor is secured.
- Council developed a list of 13 potential names for the six-member Call Committee for an additional pastor. The goal is to secure a diverse representation of the congregation on this committee.

David F. Clark, Secretary



From the Endowment Committee

Last month **Gary Krull** explained why endowment funds are important to not-for-profit organizations generally and why an Endowment Fund is vital for St. Stephen specifically. That was part of a series of articles that will be coming from your Endowment Committee.

This article is a case study of a very successful Endowment Committee at First Lutheran Church in Norfolk (First). A number of years ago, First had done as St. Stephen has done in the past few years: developed a written endowment fund accounting policy, rules for distribution, policies and procedures for the Endowment Committee.

Perhaps more importantly, however, they also created a vehicle for the congregation at First to express grati-

tude to those contributing to their church's Endowment Fund either through current gifts or gifts in their estate plan. They called it the Cornerstone Society. Each year, individuals and couples who have given to the Endowment Fund or included the Church in their estate plans are invited to a sit down meal, usually away from church. There is a special speaker and an expression of thanks.

The Cornerstone Society first met with just a handful of people in 2004. More recently 14 individuals plus 18 couples have created bequest plans for the congregation and other ministries of the Church, totally over \$1 million. As with weekly pledges, these bequests are voluntarily reported in a confidential manner to the financial secretary and the total reported at the annual meeting of the Cornerstone Society.

Through this effort, First is able to thank givers when they are still alive, and celebrate the gifts of those who have already died and left a legacy gift. So it is an active way to remember people who have supported the Endowment Fund of the church. In addition to an ongoing financial summary of the current and expected Endowment Fund, they are able to hear how the Endowment Funds are being used to safeguard the future of the church.

If you would like to know more about this example of a successful Endowment Fund, please contact any member of the St Stephen Endowment Committee: **Jan MacQueston (Chair), Gerri Bass, Ingrid Brown, Gary Krull, Lou Rossiter.**

Lou Rossiter



ELCA 25th Anniversary Fun

St. Stephen will be celebrating in September. **Ina Berkey** is the chairperson and **Dianne Harris** is the

Publicity chairperson of the committee planning the ELCA 25th Anniversary celebration.

A quote from the office of the Bishop of the ELCA:

"On September 8, 2013, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 4 million members, in nearly 10,000 congregations, will have an opportunity to celebrate together the 25th anniversary of the ELCA, by taking part in "**God's work. Our hands.**" Sunday -- a day dedicated to serving the communities in which we live. You work every day to love your neighbors and make your community a better place. Now let's do it together."

"**God's work. Our Hands.**" will be held the day of our church party welcoming the beginning of our fall Faith Formation classes and the return of the students from William and Mary. Activities are planned to make this day special. For now, mark the date of **September 8** on your calendars. A community organization in need will benefit from our gift, to show our thanks for "**God's work through our hands.**" More information to follow soon!

Dianne Harris 229-7504



And tee-shirts add to the fun!

Celebrate the occasion by wearing a bright yellow tee shirt tying together St. Stephen and the ELCA anniversary. Allow 2-3 weeks for shirts with Congregation name. Limit custom imprint to Congregation name and town. (Don't tell the children, but they will receive a free tee-shirt during the Children's Sermon on September 8.)

Tee-shirts may be ordered in the Gathering Space for the next two Sundays - \$10 each. The last day to order "God's work. Our hands." tee-shirts is **August 8, 2013**

My Journey With (and without) Stephen Ministry



Let Go and Let God. As Stephen Ministers, this is one of the first things we learn. We must give our problems over to God and not worry about controlling the outcome or course of our current crisis. In my father's final illness I was blessed by a loving husband, an unwavering friend, two pastors, the parish nurse and two chaplains. Each day one or two were there to remind me that I needed to take care of myself and trust in God's plan. "Of course," I agreed. Seeing my exhaustion and increasing obsession after a few days they may have grown skeptical.

I set out to manage my father's care, sure that each day was the last one, reminding each new nurse of the type of care he needed. I was sure it was not in the computer the way it should be. I attempted to keep up with my workload from the hospital room. What if the managers sent out budgets I had not reviewed? (It happened, I still have my job.)

The funeral homes were notified, relatives told to plan for the following weekend. I was organized just the way Dad taught me! But he didn't die in 48 hours like the doctors predicted. Dad? It's been three days. It's okay to go. Jesus and Mom and Bill are waiting. After four days my husband begged me to come home. On the fifth day my very good friend finally sat me down—away from the hospital—and made me face my true feelings and motivations. I think she wanted to smack me with my waffle. I admitted I was trying to make myself feel better by being there and I needed to let go. And I came back to the hospital at midnight, much to the amusement of the night nurse and chagrin of my husband. On the sixth day my husband and I cleaned out Dad's room at the nursing home and I finally went home.

After seven days the hospital had to discharge him—not to Hospice House as planned, but back to the nursing home in West Point where he had lived for six years. I was hysterical; this was not what I **wanted**. He **needs** me. Or was it me who needed him? Maybe it was me who was afraid? OK, God, I get it, that was the point of moving him out of my control. Busted again.

And in acceptance of God's plan, not mine, I finally found peace. A week later I received the call that he had died, with his caring and familiar nurses and aides holding his hand to the end. Dad had come home to die, in the Father's time, not mine. "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze, For I am the Lord your God." Isaiah 43:2-3

Cindy Gibbs



Saturday, 19 October 2013
Live & Silent Auction • Wine Tasting • Biergarten

Reminder: Delightful evening of fun!

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Norge is planning an Oktoberfest fundraising event so they will be able to upgrade their Parish Hall kitchen enabling them to expand their community outreach opportunities.

We can assist them by attending their event on October 19, offering with set-up and clean-up help, assisting at their direction in procuring auction items, and with program sponsorships.

Hors d'oeuvres, wine tasting, a silent and a live auction will be from **1:00PM to 3:30PM** followed by a Biergarten, and German food and music from **3:30PM to 7:00PM**. The cost for attending the entire event is \$60 per person. If you would like to only attend the wine tasting, the cost is \$30 per person. Attending only the Biergarten is \$40 per person.

I hope our St. Stephen family will be a strong support system to Our Saviour's in their fundraising endeavor.

I would love to speak with you about this important and fun event. Feel free to contact me in person, by

e-mail at groman4@juno.com, or by phone 220-0724.

Pam Groman



Changes to your Directory

Mrs. Raymond Basley
4060 S. Riverside Drive
Lanexa, VA 23089
757-250-3316

[Double check you have this email address for **Marcie Clark's** home email]
mmclark-2@cox.net

Lewis and Susanna Owens
Ethan and Daniel
8420 Down Patrick Way
Williamsburg, VA 23188
Same phone number – (757/566-4648)
Same care group (# 5)

Anne Trapani [Double check that you have this email address]
latrapani@msn.com

The Church Mouse Hears



What a neat picture appeared in the *Virginia Gazette* of **Chris Einarsen** having a special time with The Arc of Greater Williamsburg at a busy evening of fun at Jamestown Settlement, making pinch pots and enjoying the ships The mouse recently enjoyed visiting with **Kristin Bass**, long-time member of St. Stephen, at the Lutheran University Chapel in Berkeley, California. A real treat!What hospitality our congregation showed to 25 youth and adult guides from Grace Lutheran Church in Hendersonville, NC. Thanks to **Julie, Jeffery, and Benjamin Berry, Alan Balma, Otis Childress, Sandy Peterkin, and Anne and Harlan Schone.**



Jeffery and Benjamin serving breakfast!

August Birthdays

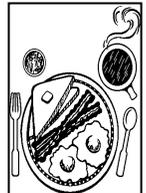


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|----|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Mary Dickerson | Danielle Kuck |
| 5 | Heidi Flatin | Elizabeth Geier |
| 6 | Forrest Fenstermaker | John Olsen |
| 7 | Melanie Buckner | Kristen Carter |
| 8 | Anthony Buschek | Pat Fretz |
| 9 | Doug Moore | |
| 11 | Pat Drubel | Josiah Hallman |
| | Thom Recktenwald | |
| 12 | Dave Clark | |
| 13 | Sonja Landvogt | |
| 14 | Norm Fashing | Dave Joppa |
| 17 | Cathy Bingman | Bethany Brisson |
| | Luke Sipes | |
| 18 | Nathan Egloff | Rachel Martin |
| | Betty Rickerson | |
| 20 | Lana Olson | |
| 22 | Rebecca Groman | Dianne Harris |
| | Jeane Moore | Lisa Thomas |
| 24 | Matthew Bosworth | |
| 26 | Nancy Canny | |
| 27 | Hannah Pierce | |
| 28 | Dick Batman | Christine Dietrich |
| 29 | Doug Cummings | |
| 30 | Danielle Walker | |
| 31 | Paul Kristiansen | |

Is your name missing? Is your date wrong? Please let us know immediately
Rev. July 22, 2013

Men's Breakfast

Meet at the Colonial Pancake House on Page Street , in-between Second Street and Penniman Road, on **Thursday, August 1, 8:00 AM.** The agenda: "How are you?" followed by conversation.



Fair Trade Products

Are you finding what you want on the Fair Trade carts? If not, please make a note on the blue sheet and we will work to see that it is stocked!



"Bread Breakers"

We are organizing small groups of seven to nine individuals to gather in homes to "break bread" together. Singles, couples, small homes, large homes — all are welcome to join! Groups will meet as they wish between this coming September and January to share a meal. In January, the groups will be "shuffled" and realigned. This is a great way to meet new people and create new community. Captains are needed! If you are interested in participating either by being a captain of a group or a participant, please mark the bluer sheet. For more information, contact Donna Crinklaw (870-5140 or odhomes@cox.net.)

Sad News for our Recycling Program



The Twenning Road collection station is no longer accepting plastic items because they have no one who wants to buy them. Stay tuned and we will continue to explore alternatives but, for now, please do not bring them to church.



Prayers

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Angie Groom, Gloria Happel, Glenn Joppa, Carole Meyer, Kathryn Ogborn, Dick Reeves, Dorothy Reeves, Dan Stimson, Ruby Umberger**

Pray for these who are physically unable to get to worship: **Dick Batman, Elsa Englert, Ruth Ennis, Bernice Fahnce, Elsie Hall, Willetta Heising, Jean Kuhn, Helen Lenox, Lana Olson, Jo Schumacher, Barbara Weekes, Dot Wright, Lois Wysong**

Give Thanks for **Matt Bosworth's** safe return from Afghanistan

Pray God's blessings upon Retired Pastors Willetta Heising and Arthur Hanson – both celebrating 91 years of life!

Pray God's peace and comfort for **Cindy Gibbs** and her family as they mourn the death of her father; for **Paula Agor** and her family as they mourn the death of her grandmother; and for **Birdie Burton** and **Carolee Bush** and their families as they mourn the death of their sister, Margie.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Nathalee Accomando, Nadine Adams, Donna Alt, Jan Altman, Craig Anderson, Millie Andrews-Young, Lois Atkinson, Margaret Blume, Lois Bomba, Joshua and Emmi Brown, Dee Butler, Bob Canny, Joanne Carlson, Karen Heide Carney, Donna Cherel, Ralph Clark, Benjamin Collins, Michael Compton, Jeris DeKievit, Dianne Drury, Debbie Effeney, Nick Finley, Natalie Fulton, Mary Funkhouser, Bill Garcia, Wilbert Godette, Lenora Godette, Bill Gottschalk, Nancy Gottschalk, Cheryl Griffin, Eleanor Harms, Janis Hepburn, Carol Horton, Barbara King, Jack Klein, Edith Kress, Audrey Leek, Mildred Lindblad, Nancy Luckin, Helen Mallen, Lori Marino, Bertha McCabe, Laura McDonald, Kristin McGraw, Laura Mraz, Judy Murden, the Nasra family, Ryleigh Pate, Lee Peters, Ray Petro, Lisa Rivolta, Dorothy Roger, Don Romig, Roland Scheiding, Cheryl Scheiding, Jean Scherer, Bernadine Schlicht, Linda Smalarz, Nancy Spaniol, Evelyn Spear, Betty Carol Sutton, William Thies, Wanda Watkins, Jim Wood, Lynda Wright, Anna Zabdyr.



Memorials

Memorials

Al Kuhn

Larry and Karen Shoberg
Fran and Ernie Schwab
Bill and Jane Holcombe



Thank you notes from our Members

From Stan Hobday:

Dear Members of St. Stephen,

The past six months have been very difficult for me due to the loss of my wife and my own illness. During that time the members of St. Stephen were most helpful. I so appreciated the cards, phone calls and food, and for the generous reception following Anna Lou's memorial service. Thanks to all of you! A special thank you to **Pastor Andy** and to **Sandy Peterkin** for all their help.

Stanley Hobday

From Ann Trapani:

"Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted" Matthew 5

Blessing and Mourning, were two words that to me did not go together. I did not feel blessed when I lost my loving husband of 40 years. During Lent I took another look at this scripture. And, as Andy suggested during services, I listened to what God was saying. Putting the proverbial 2 + 2 together. St. Stephen's has been a "blessing."

The "comfort," love and support given by **Pastor Andy**. For the "comforting" support given by **Doug, Marcie and Sandy**, I am truly grateful. My Care Group #3 was such a "blessing" the day of the funeral. Thank You!

How "blessed" I was that day to have everything taken care of during a very difficult time for my family and me. The "comfort" I felt in seeing **Mr. Harman** and **Mr. Peterkin** and thankful for their dedication as ushers.

I hope to be there to help ease someone else's loss. To help in a way so many did for me. I am ever grateful for the continued support of my St. Stephen's family.

God makes such wonderful people and I have met many at St. Stephen's.

Blessings,
Ann Trapani and family

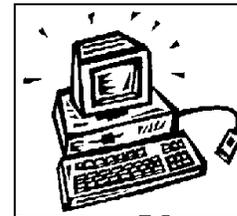


Letters to our Members

Here is a note we received with a donation from the folks who gather for the Friday afternoon Al Anon meetings in our church building:

"Thank you for being an example of God's love, spiritual healing, and sharing for the betterment of our community. We pray for your continued blessings."

I am so glad that our building is used by AA and Al Anon groups because lives are being saved in those meetings! **Pastor Andy Ballentine**



Computers Needed

Do you have a Windows 7 desktop computer that you no longer need but are willing to donate? St. Stephen is seeking donations of Windows 7 machines with the Microsoft Office suite to replace some old equipment. Please contact **Nancy Carter** (njrcarter@starpower.net) if you are able to help.

Thomas Drake and Paul Black were welcome recruits during a recent Housing Partnership wheelchair ramp build said Bob Harman and Harlan Schone



Here are 7th graders at the Bashay Primary School in Karatu, Tanzania. They're trying out their solar study lamps that we at St. Stephen sent them, through the Godparents for Tanzania foundation!

Congregational Officers:

President	Keith Egloff	229-7859
Vice President	Emily Rossiter	345-6206
Secretary	Dave Clark	603-6346
Treasurer	Paul Kristiansen	220-2709
Financial Secretary	Samantha Shearer	258-1337

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

Church Staff:

Pastor	Andy Ballentine	229-6742
	email	pastor@
Parish Administrator	Sandy Peterkin	office@
Dir. Music/Organist	Michael Monaco	MusicDir@
Parish Nurse	Marcie Clark	ParishNurse@
Dir. Of Preschool	Lauren McQuain	258-3759

Monday - Friday: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon



Church Council:

Cathy Bingman	(515) 971-6915
Dave Clark	603-6346
Keith Egloff	229-7859
Bob Hanny	229-5080
Terry Hinders	221-0904
Pat Janot	221-0289
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Stan York	345-0073

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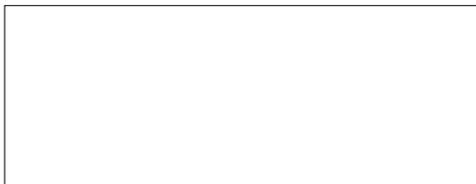
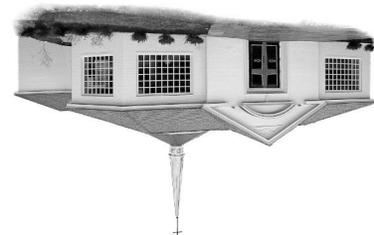
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Pam Buckley



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



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