



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

February 2014



Quill Column by Pastor Cheryl Griffin

As I write this, I am anticipating beginning my call at St. Stephen on Monday, February 3. This is a homecoming for my husband, Griff, and me. Some of you may know that I was ordained at St. Stephen. The Rite of Ordination concludes with this statement:

She has Christ's authority to preach the world of God and administer the sacraments; serving God's people as together we bear God's creative and redeeming love to all the world.

I'm struck by the word "together." Throughout the call process, it was obvious that St. Stephen was searching for someone to do ministry with them. While this may seem natural to you, not all churches are like this! Many churches ask, "What can you do for us?" One of the many things that I love about the people of St. Stephen is that you not only care for those among you, you help people who are outside your walls as well. I am excited to be called to do ministry with you!

Pastor Ballentine and I have talked about our responsibilities. We both love ministry, and are flexible. We will share serving at worship and administering the sacraments, and we are still discussing programmatic things. Getting to know you will be a priority for me. Please help me to do that! I hope you will meet with me, inside or outside the church, so I can get to know you!

You have been given my biographical information, so you know my basic information. To help you know me

a little better, here's a bit about me and my family. My husband, Griff and I have four grown children. Ben lives in Florida, Kelly and William are at Virginia Tech. Kelly works there and William is a student. Kelly will be married on March 15 to Peter McCann. Michael and his wife Joanna live in Newport News, along with our precious and perfect grandson, Jonathan. Jonathan just turned one year old.

If you come to visit us, you will meet Winston and Meggie, a French Bulldog and a pug, respectively. Our back yard contains not just the dogs, but a vegetable garden. Every year, my husband plants and tends the garden. He grew up on a farm and loves to dig in the dirt. (He and Winston have many things in common!) We love comedy and crime movies and television shows. I have a book addiction, which is a pre-requisite for becoming a pastor.

We have been preparing to downsize our house. I have tremendous respect for those of you who have done this! Griff and I will be moving to Williamsburg and hope to be close to the church. We hope you will drop in when we get there!

In God's amazing grace,
Pastor Griffin



Pastor Cheryl Griffin will begin at St. Stephen on February 3. Her email is: pastorcg@saintstephenlutheran.net. Her cell phone number is 757-876-6371 and her home phone is: 757-898-1323.



St. Stephen January Council

Minutes

The Council met on January 14, 2014.

- Council voted to approve **Linda Vonderheide** as Financial Secretary, and **Doug Moore** as the Administrator for Electronic Contributions.
- **Stan York** agreed to review the new ELCA constitution and develop a draft, by this spring, to make St. Stephen's constitution compatible.
- **Reverend Cheryl Griffin** will start at St. Stephen on the first Monday in February.
- Council discussed doing "something" to honor **Michael Monaco** who is leaving as our Director of Music/Organist. His musical talents will certainly be missed.
- There was also some discussion of how to proceed.
- The company that tunes our organ sent a letter expressing concern about the temperature in our sanctuary and its effect on the organ. However, nothing has changed regarding the heating/cooling system and the thermostat setting, which is kept within their suggested range. **Pastor Ballentine** responded to them.
- **President Egloff** will check on the status of the Jamestown Road Task Group.
- Council approved a space request from the National Association on Mental Illness to meet at St. Stephen on 12 Thursday nights this spring to conduct a training session.
- A Synod "ambassador" will visit St. Stephen sometime this year as part of a Synod program to visit all ELCA churches.
- Council discussed changes in William & Mary's 2014 and 2015 graduations, and the impact on parking. This may be a stimulus for our trying something new then for our congregation and for LSA students and their families.

David F. Clark, Secretary



Health Ministry

The Health Ministry will be offering a First Aid Course **Saturday February 22** from **9:00 AM-12:00 PM**. The fee is \$25.00 per person payable on or **before February 10**. Contact **Amy Bergh (566-4557)** or **Parish Nurse, Marcie Clark (229-6688)**



Endowment Committee News

Yes, we have a winner!! The "1956 Society" is the name of our church's new giving society. Our church endowment has needed some "love and attention" and now the giving vehicle is in place. To help assure our church's future, to help in our numerous outreach efforts, to protect our church beyond its daily budget, **estate gifts** are the answer!

Estate gifts (sounds very impressive) are actually quite easy to pull together. With some expert help, you can protect our church, give some resources now and/or in the future, and doing so will not have any effect on your lifestyle today.

Estate planning is something you may already have begun. If so, talk to your experts and add St. Stephen. If not, talk to anyone on your Endowment Committee or the church staff and we'll help match you up with someone who can assist you.

Cash, stock, bonds, your home, land you own, life insurance policies – all can be utilized to help you help St. Stephen.

Estate planning is our future. Estate planning is a way to help beyond your yearly tithing. Estate planning gives all of us a chance to share God's message in an even wider, deeper way. The 1956 Society awaits your call. Join us today!

Gary Krull for the Endowment Committee



Online Donations

The traditional way for contributing to St. Stephen has been through our envelopes, and this will continue. For a number of years a program called "Simply Giving" has been available to enable members to use automatic withdrawals from their bank account to contribute to St. Stephen. The Stewardship Committee has requested and the Council has approved an expansion of this program to include payments through our website by either direct withdrawals from a bank account or via credit/debit cards.

There is now an online contributions button on the St. Stephen website homepage. As you look down the left hand side of the page below "Sunday Schedule", you will see a red bar entitled "Donations." If you click on this button, you will be linked to a page through VANCO which accepts your St. Stephen donations online. You need to create a profile for yourself which will be remembered by the system. You can make a one-time contribution or set up a recurring contribution to any of several Church funds. This can occur through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) directly from your checking or savings account, or you may donate from your credit/debit card. The system takes Master Card, Visa or Discover. A button may be checked if you wish to add 3% to your donation to cover the fees associated with credit/debit card transactions. Otherwise the church will have to absorb these fees. With a profile, you also have access to system reports involving all your giving records.

You will still receive financial statements from SSLC three times a year.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact **Doug Moore** at the_dugger@yahoo.com, or 757-903-4969.



Annual St. Stephen Christmas Pageant

Each year our 5:00 service features the children of St. Stephen in The Nativity. I try to impress on them this really is "The Greatest Story Ever Told" and because of the birth of this wonderful child, our lives are changed in ways we never expected and should be treated with respect. Of course, this statement doesn't always work because the children are so excited about donning their costumes and which role they will play. But, that's show biz.

This year we found some of our stalwart players would be out of town for the holidays! Also, there was no one to play Joseph. I hadn't participated in Faith Formation this fall due to my surgery and didn't know any new children until **Logan Case's** mother wrote that: "He was 8 years old and could read very well." Of course, I seized the opportunity and cast him as Joseph without ever seeing him! He was wonderful and our Mary, **Jacquelyn Shearer**, had the perfect look and memorized all her lines, as did many other children. Maybe because they have performed it so many times. Children's minds are wonderful sponges.

Our Angel Gabriel, **Mia Timberg** donned a pair of angel wings I had repaired that proved so big for her, I thought she was going to fall over backwards! I was grateful for the participation of the Timberg family as **Emma** was also our Narrator! Of course, it couldn't have been done without the help and cooperation of all the parents and Faith Formation team who helped get the children in their costumes and places. Thank you all, so much!

By 4:45 we had everyone there except **Carl Stauffer**, the Second Magi. As Pastor Andy said, this is the "anything goes" sermon when I showed up dressed as the second Wise Man! We were about to enter when the church front doors flew open and in ran Carl! We quickly changed costumes and solemnly entered the

sanctuary and no one knew what had gone on "backstage." Perfect!

**Carole Meyer,
Pageant Director**



My Journey With (and without) Stephen Ministry

Hope. This thought has been in my head for months. Just when you think things are bad, it gets worse. I continue to try to see what God has in mind for me or those around me. It gives me hope to believe that if I trust in God's plan, things will work out the way they need to. This is one of those times that I can't control the circumstances around me. So I wait, surprisingly at peace, hoping for the best. Or at least understanding.



I often speak with my college roommate, who has the most positive outlook on life of anyone I have ever known. She has had a great life, loving husband, enjoying life to the fullest. She was always positive, pulling me out of whatever funk I was in. Suddenly the economy got bad; they had to "retire" to a small house they owned in another state. Even though she's making ends meet with a waitressing job, she finds a way to take in a stray dog, to volunteer to help others. She is a person filled with love of life, and can always find the positive side to a bad situation. When I asked

how she remained so cheerful through adversity, she said that her faith in God had sustained her. She has hope. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

Cindy Gibbs



The Church Mouse hears

Have you noticed the growing collection of prayer shawls in the gathering space? The Friday knitters gather and enjoy knitting and talking.



Let Sandy Peterkin know if you are interested in joining in.



A very large and enthusiastic group is gathering at St. Stephen each week in January/February to discuss the short stories of Flannery O'Connor. Her writings give

so much to think and talk about.

Remember the snowstorm? This group of merry workers spent the afternoon of the storm working to build the shed at the back of the 608 property. It was cold! More workers came on the very cold Saturday after the snow to continue.

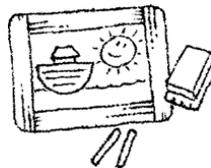


Address Changes



Ryan and Samantha Lewton
Caroline, Victoria
130 Sharps Road
Williamsburg VA 23188-2569

James Ogborn III
Ilianna, Alex
4175 Thalia Station Circle
Virginia Beach VA 23451-1750



Preschool News

The children are busy making lots of Valentines for their family and friends. Hearts are everywhere. They will become "Mail Carriers" on Valentine's Day and deliver their Valentines to their friends at school. They actually made their own "mailboxes!"

Our Open House for prospective families went well. We had a great attendance, and are almost full for the upcoming school year!

Dr. Morrison, DDS will visit us this month to teach us about good dental hygiene. He is one of our favorite visitors, the children love his jokes!

Staff from York River State Park will visit the Extended Day Program this month. They will teach us about the local bird and fish population found in our area.

Summer camp is on for the month of June! Sign-up will be in early March.

Preschool Director Lauren McQuain

Letters to our congregation



A word of Thanks The Virginia Interfaith center for Public policy thanked us both for the \$500 for their program and for the support we have given over the years. The Salvation Army thanked us for the donation of \$360 to the From His Hands Program homeless program. Avalon thanked us for the \$750 contribution and the collection at Christmas of \$383 with a lovely handwritten note.



Letters from our members

To our St. Stephen friends: Thank you for the emails, cards, phone calls, communion visitors, and support you gave to us during my mother's death. St. Stephen was her church away from home.

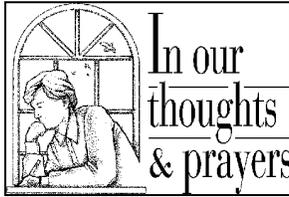
With grateful thanks, Rosalie and Chuck Frey

Happy Birthday



- | | | |
|----|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Hailey Shearer | |
| 2 | Don Hardenbergh | Gretchen Osborn |
| 3 | Thord Einarsen | Debbie Lawhon |
| 5 | Gwendolyn Agor | |
| 6 | Kurt Bailey | Robert Mazur |
| | Larry Shoberg | Christopher Stempien |
| 14 | Harlan Schone | |
| 15 | Chad Bingman | Rebecca Drake |
| 16 | Sara Dell | |
| 17 | Jane Bailey | Pat Janot |
| | Marilyn Johnson | |
| 18 | Glenn Joppa | |
| 20 | Samantha Shearer | Sarah Scheitrum |
| 22 | Keara Mahony | |
| 23 | Nicholas Brisson | Angie Groom |
| 25 | Nancy Egloff | Max Hinders |
| 26 | Kate Sipes | |
| 27 | Chelsea Dunbar | |
| 28 | Michael Nester | |

Is your name missing? Is your date wrong? Please let us know immediately!
Rev. January 24, 2014



Prayers

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Nancy Canny, Debbie DeLong, Anita Dorsey, Bill Gibbs, Cindy Gibbs, Dan Hanley, Michelle Ivey, Rick Meyer, John Moravetz, Lana Olson, Katie Punchard, Dan Stimson, Shana Wilkins and Soni York.** *Pray for those who are caring for these loved ones. **Pray God's blessings upon** Christine and Jon Hallman, Rachel and Andrew Martin and all parents who are awaiting the births of their babies.*

Pray for these who are physically unable to get to worship: Dick Batman, Elsa Englert, Ruth Ennis, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Willetta Heising, Jean Kuhn, Helen Lenox, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Dot Wright and Lois Wysong.

Pray for peace and comfort for **Chuck and Rosalie Frey** who are mourning the death of Rosalie's mother, **Bernice Fahncke.**

Pray God's blessings upon those who are **homeless in our community** and those who are serving them this week through the **Community of Faith Mission.**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Nathalee Accomando, Nadine Adams, Rita Adams, Craig Alt, Millie Andrews-Young, James Baker, Lilian Bean, Laurie Berger, Lois Bomba, Marita Bonnter, Bob Canny, Joanne Carlson, Sandra Carter, Cinzia Cervato, Rebecca Clark, Michael Compton, Mildred Craig, Betsy Cummings, Kathryn Dieter, Barbara Driscoll, Carl Eisen, Maxine Eittreim, Mary Egger, Inge Felbier, Margaret Flanders, Robert Frey, Natalie Fulton, Mary Funkhouser, Lori Galloway, Their Giardi, Bill and Nancy Gottschalk, Eleanor Hallman, Anthony Hargrave, Eleanor Harms, Mary Clara Haury, Carol Horton, Courtney, Jeff, Chase and Elani Jackson, Richard Johnson, Tim Killian, Pat Layton, Brittany Liberta, Mildred Lindblad, Nancy Luken, Roxanne Marcianti, Laura Martin, Julie Miller, Helen Minnick, Jo Moore, Heidi Morris, Laura Mraz, Fred Muller, the Nasra family, Nicholas Ogborn, Cindy Overman, Lisa Query, Benjamin Ricker, Lisa Rivolta, Carol Robinson, Joan Roderick, Dorothy Roger, Felicia Scala, Roland Scheiding, Dana Schiller, Bernadine Schlicht, Don Simmons, Linda Smalarz, Kevin Smith, Kristian Smith, Nancy Spaniol, Evelyn Spear, Annette Vosteen, Louise Walker, Wanda Watkins, Audrey Kay Watson, Shirley White, Gloria Williams, Lynda Wright, and Anna Zabdyr.



Community of Faith Mission

St. Stephen again participated in the Community of Faith Mission – serving between 15 and 23 of the homeless of Williamsburg – sheltering and feeding those in need during the week of January 12-19, 2014. Nearly 40 members of St. Stephen gave of their time and endless talent to serve as clients came into the shelter at 6:00 each night; preparing and serving dinner; staying overnight to ensure everything went smoothly; preparing and serving breakfast; and checking out clients in the morning. The shelter was housed at the Williamsburg United Methodist Church this week, and members of King of Glory Lutheran Church also helped out. We were most blessed by those who also gave needed food items, clothing and cash. We were all doing God’s work. Following are some observations ~

We set up placemats around all the round tables in the dining area with plastic ware and napkins. A group of five men and one woman moved six of the settings to a rectangular table. At first, the thought was, “why didn’t they just sit where I set out for them?” But then – we realized that this was a small way of taking control of a very small aspect of their lives. They cannot control much – not when they eat, not when they shower, not when they can smoke, not when they must go to sleep. But they could control where they sat. This “brain trust” had a number of animated discussions. One man was doing a cross word puzzle and asked who the main character was in Aldous Huxley’s book, Atlas Shrugged. There was a brief silence and another man answered, Ayn Rand wrote Atlas Shrugged! No...it was Huxley. And on and on. Unfortunately, the original question was lost in the discussion!

Betsy, a grandmotherly type, was well tanned and would have been at home in Florida on the beach. She was a physical education teacher in Newport News – but last hired is first fired - and budget cuts came and she lost her job. “I’ve spent more time in churches the past 30 days than in the past 30 years!” she told me. My first inclination was to make a flip comment that she wasn’t really “in” church. But then I realized that it was really church! We were church ministering to these children of God. I began talking about St. Stephen. How all are welcome to come and worship. “Not people like me,” she said. “Not dressed like this.” I assured her that there was always a seat available next to me – regardless of any category she put herself into, or what she looked like. She looked at me a while and said, “Go figure, a God who loves everyone.”

Working six meals in a row is exhausting – getting up at 3:00 AM and getting home by 10:00 PM. I was fortunate enough to get a power nap for an hour each morning. But there was a wonderful benefit of the consistency of our presence – it made for more in-depth conversations and questions.

- When you pray for the dead, does it do any good?
- Why are there no animals in heaven? It says so in the Bible.
- Everyone who is dying says, “Oh God...” Doesn’t that prove that there is a God?
- Scientists have proven that there is no God – we descended from apes. What do you think?
- Would I really be welcome at your church?

This is a lot to discuss over meatloaf and green beans!

The meals we cooked were certainly not gourmet. It was simple home cooking – meatloaf, chicken, mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, biscuits and sausage gravy, corn, brownies, etc. We made basic comfort food with nutrients and protein to help sustain. One of our cooks cleaned, eyed, cut up and mashed 13 lbs. of potatoes – a much more complicated procedure than simply opening a package and adding water to instant potatoes. When one of the guests received the potatoes on his plate, he looked up at the server – the woman who had prepared them – and said, “REAL potatoes! Thank you!”

We baked chicken instead of purchasing fried chicken from one of the supermarkets. “Thank you,” several said, “this is much healthier than fried chicken!” “You hit this one out of the park!” said one man. “Why are you working so hard for us?” I told them that I was serving them food that I would eat – that I have eaten and served to my family. Many of those serving at the shelter took plates of food and sat with the guests – talking and eating with them. I told them that it was a privilege to serve them – that we were doing God work with our hands.

Carol and Jim were “together.” I don’t know if they were married, but they were certainly looking out for each other. Looking me in the eye, Carol said, “This can happen to anyone. You don’t understand.” I assured her that I did, indeed understand that life circumstances can change very quickly and many folks are living on the edge. They used to live in Florida and were currently trying to sell their home there. Both had jobs, and paid for a new SUV with cash. But their investments lost their value in the recent crash and they lost their jobs as the economy tanked. Animal lovers, they own two retired race horses. They were sleeping in the horse trailer. Carol is a trained accountant, but much prefers working with children, the elderly and animals. She got a job locally as an accountant but didn’t own an I-pad and so couldn’t take the job.

I give thanks to the many folks from St. Stephen, including the Lutheran Student Association, who gave their time and talents to serve the shelter. I cannot adequately express the appreciation and thankfulness of those staying at the shelter. When I told one woman that we pray for them every day, a look of quizzical gratefulness came over her face. It is a look that haunts me and sustains me as I will continue to serve them as I am able.

Sandy Peterkin





Congregational Officers:

<i>President</i>	Keith Egloff	229-7859
<i>Vice President</i>	Emily Rossiter	345-6206
<i>Secretary</i>	Dave Clark	603-6346
<i>Treasurer</i>	Paul Kristiansen	220-2709
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Linda Vonderheide	645-4059

Church Council:

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Dave Clark	603-6346
Keith Egloff	229-7859
Bob Hanny	229-5080
Terry Hinders	221-0904
Linda Laity Hite	220-2776
Pat Janot	221-0289
Brad Leek	250-3473
Bob Radke	565-7993
Emily Rossiter	345-6206
Anders Timberg	741-2395
Stan York	345-0073

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<i>Pastor</i>	Cheryl Anne Griffin	898-1323
	email	pastorcg@
<i>Parish Administrator</i>	Sandy Peterkin	office@
<i>Dir. Music/Organist</i>	Ina Berkey (acting)	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurse</i>	Marcie Clark	ParishNurse@
<i>Dir. Of Preschool</i>	Lauren McQuain	258-3759
	email	preschool@

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



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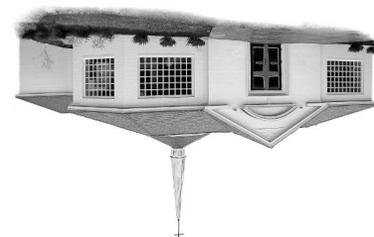
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God's work. Our hands.
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Evangelical Lutheran



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