



# The Quill

## THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Williamsburg, Virginia

February 2016

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### *Returning to God, Resting in God, Discovering Delight in God*

Have you put your Christmas decorations away yet? You better hurry! Lent begins on February 10!

Are you interested in some trivia? Of course you are! Easter is March 27, which is just about the earliest that it can possibly be. (It will be two days earlier in the year 2035.) As everyone knows: Easter is the first Sunday following the first full moon following the vernal equinox. This year, in Williamsburg, the vernal equinox will happen during the first minutes of Sunday, March 20. The full moon will be only three days later.

Can Lent be a time when you practice returning to God, resting in God, discovering delight in God? The old fashioned word for return is "repentance," which often carries negative connotations. But think of how wonderful it is to have the opportunity to return from distraction, to return to an awareness of God's grace and forgiveness and love

It can be life-changing to practice returning to God, resting in God, discovering delight in God. One way to do this is to engage in one practice of the faith: that of Sabbath-keeping.

You may not have ever practiced Sabbath-keeping. Dan Allender writes, "For many the Sabbath has somehow morphed into Sunday, the day of the resurrection, and it is fulfilled by attending a religious event called Sunday morning church service. Once that is finished, the day is

spent in routine yard maintenance, diversion, and preparation for the coming week. It cannot be shouted louder from the rooftops: This is not Sabbath! This is Sabbath-breaking."

The Sabbath is "not a day off, but a day of celebration and delight. The Sabbath is a day when the kingdom to come has come and is celebrated now rather than anticipated tomorrow."

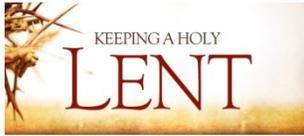
"Sabbath is not about time off or a break in routine. It is not a minivacation to give us a respite so we are better prepared to go back to work. The Sabbath is far more than a diversion; it is meant to be an encounter with God's delight."

Allender writes, "The holy usually comes in unexpected, utterly surprising moments where the gift of goodness opens our hearts to wonder and gratitude.... The holy comes in a moment when we are captured by beauty, and a dance of delight swirls us beyond the moment to taste the expanse of eternity in, around, and before us." This happens when we return to God, resting in God, discovering delight in God.

Let's get into this faith practice during this season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 10!

If it will help you in your practice, my book study for Monday evenings and Thursday afternoons during Lent will be *Sabbath*, by Dan Allender.

-- Pastor Andy Ballentine



## Upcoming for Lent

### Ash Wednesday, February 10

- 6:00 pot luck dinner in the Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 worship, featuring imposition of ashes, sermon and Holy Communion.

### Wednesdays February 17, 24, March 2, 9, 16:

- 6:00 PM -- Homemade Soup and Bread Supper
- 7:00 PM -- Holden Evening Prayer

## Musical Expressions of Lent



The season of Epiphany will end on February 10, Ash Wednesday, and then the season of Lent will begin. The amount of attention this season is given varies greatly from denomination to denomination.

As with any Sunday in the church year, the preludes and postludes, hymns, and choir anthems in Lent reflect the readings in the lectionary, which accounts for music with a comparatively more reflective mood.

When it comes to liturgy settings during Lent, many of you are aware that the Hymn of Praise is omitted, and the Gospel Acclamation never contains the word "Alleluia." Alleluia is a word associated with joy, and this season is one that is contemplative and penitential. This year, the theme of "Return to the Lord" will be emphasized, and we will use one of the musical settings of "Return to the Lord" for our Gospel Acclamation.

This year, I plan to withhold the use of the cymbelstern during Lent, since it is often used to reflect joyous and delightful musical moments. The cymbelstern, behind the organ case in the sacristy, contains several bells that form a "bell tree." When it is activated by the organist, they all ring together.

Palm Sunday and services during Holy Week are great examples of times when music (or lack thereof) especially helps to reinforce the theme of the day. Often times, the postlude for Palm Sunday is either meditative, which is uncommon for a postlude, or deleted entirely. For services during Holy Week, leaving in silence, without a postlude, is incredibly effective.

It is my hope that the different musical expressions will adequately express the various themes of Lent, and above all, offer glory to God.

**Marty Barstow Director of Music**



## Notes from the Parish Nurse-

*I asked Ursula Murden, a longtime member of St. Stephen, to share some life lessons that had led to her being so heavily involved in numerous community volunteer activities. She grew up in Germany during World War II and came to the U.S. after the war. Her example has enriched us all.*

**Marcie Clark**

### "Lessons From My Father"

I loved my father, but I did not know him. He was a typical Prussian father who believed children are not to be heard.

However, he gave my brother and me two very important lessons:  
always be honest and be good to other people especially the homeless and hungry.

When I was four years old, we were not allowed to eat ice cream from a wagon. My grandmother had given me a nickel and I ran to the ice cream man and bought an ice cream. At that time my father came home from work. He saw me and asked, "Did you just buy ice cream?" I answered, "No."

That was the first and last time my father spanked me BECAUSE I LIED!

Be good to other people was a lesson I grew up with because of the example my father and mother set for me. My father had an unpaid job with the Youth Hostel Association. His group refurbished old castles and made them into youth hostels – for instance Burg Ludwigstein and Bacharach at the Rhine River. My brother helped him. My mother did volunteer work for the Red Cross. She used to go to the train station, pick up refugees from the East and bring them home.

I never had a paying job except tailoring for a few years. My time was spent with volunteer work, especially in Williamsburg when I was older. My husband and I volunteered for many organizations including Meals on Wheels, the Senior Center, the RIDES program, the library, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Homeless Shelter, and the Motel Ministry. Without realizing it, we set an example for our children and grandchildren as they are also volunteers in their communities. The lessons learned from my parents have been passed down through the generations.

I urge all of you: “Don’t waste your time. Help others as much as you can!” You will be setting an example for others to follow!

**Ursula Murden**



## ***St. Stephen January Council Minutes***

**The Council met on January 12, 2016.**

- The December Council meeting minutes were approved.

- Preparations have been made for the January 24, 2016, Annual Congregation Meeting after the second service.
- We will form a Preschool Task Force to study our Preschool and make recommendations.

Initial items for study will include:

- \* Clarifying the mission of the Preschool
- \* Identifying how that fits with the mission of the church
- \* Accounting procedures
- \* Others as deemed necessary and appropriate

We are seeking members with a broad spectrum of backgrounds to serve on the Task Force.

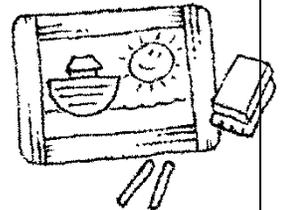
We are also seeking members to serve on the Parish Life committee, as it is rejuvenated. This committee will deal with church family social activities.

If you are willing to serve or have ideas for activities, please contact **Carol Wiers** or the **Pastors**.

**David F. Clark, Secretary**

## ***Preschool News***

Winter is in full swing and so is the Preschool! We have been creating winter snow scenes, and lots of Valentine cards and creations!



We will celebrate Valentine’s Day by becoming Postal Carriers “walking” down St. Stephen Lane to deliver Valentine Cards to our friends! We will also be decorating cookies!

Class pictures will be taken on **February 11 and 12**.

The Extended Day program will have a visit from staff from York River State Park. They will teach the children about the Web of Life.

There will be no school on **February 15, Presidents Day, or on February 29** as it is a teacher workday. The teachers will have CPR training that day.

Fathers Night is **Monday, February 29 from 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM**. The children will bring their dads to school for a great evening of fun! We will have our Physical Education class (also known as Wacky Wednesday) art class, and a pizza party at the end! This is a wonderful time for all.

**Lauren McQuain – Director of the Preschool**

Our Pastors' Discretionary Fund has been used extensively over this past year to help our church members who have experienced financial needs. Please consider helping to replenish this fund with your donation. Remember to mark your check "Pastors' Discretionary Fund."



**Join your prayers for healing** with God's desires for **Linda Baumgarten, Jack Behlendorf, Karen Chenault, Gene Clements, Linda Reuben, Regina Root, Rudy Stegmann, and Jerry Trone.**

**Pray for these who are unable to get to worship:** **Dick Batman, Art Dorsey, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Willetta Heising, Mary Jamerson, Helen Lenox, "Pete" and Kathy Peterson, Betty Rickerson, John Rivolta, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Dot Wright, and Lois Wysong.**

**Pray comfort and resurrection hope** for **Bob Mazur** and family, mourning the death of **Jane Mazur.**

**Pray God's blessings** on those in our community who have no permanent home, and on the churches who are serving them through the Community of Faith Mission this week.

**Pray for these loved ones of our congregation:** Nathalee Accomando, Rita Adams, Robert Anderson, Ellen Benton, Norma Blaase, the Blume family, Lois Bomba, Roy Bouharb, Allan Bullman, Jeff Burgess, Grady Calhoun, Ayrton Climo, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Kylee Crittenden, Sylvia Croushore, Kathryn Dieter, Craig Eitreim, Bruce and Kay Flatin, Meredith Fuer, Jodi Georgenson, Carol Haecker, Ron Hayes, Bill Henderson, Diana and Elijah Herb, Alan Hochstetler, Ed Hyland, Lynn Isenburg, Fran Kibler, Art Kirk, Mary Beth LaFave, Mildred Lindblad, Robert Linsley, Dorcas Macauley, Sam Mifflin, Rick Meyer, Norma Mills, Sandy Moore, Heidi Morris, Tyler Murray, the Nasra family, Mary Newberg, Mike Overdorf, Inge Petersen, Robert Pushaw, Becky Ralston, Emily Reubush, Paul Rueckwald, Richard Seaver, Paula Shreiner, Nancy Spaniol, Evelyn Spear, Joe Tucker, Elaine Turner, Annette Vosteen, Sue Weilmuenster, Scott Wimbish, Amber Wolf, and Anna Zabdyr.



## February Birthdays

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 2 Don Hardenbergh   | Gretchen Osborn |
| 3 Thord Einarsen    | Debbie Lawhon   |
| Russell Melvey      |                 |
| 5 Gwendolyn Agor    |                 |
| 6 Robert Mazur      | Larry Shoberg   |
| 12 Jesse Zimbauer   |                 |
| 13 Danya Zimbauer   | Erich Zimbauer  |
| 14 Harlan Schone    |                 |
| 15 Chad Bingman     | Rebecca Drake   |
| 16 Sara Dell        |                 |
| 17 Pat Janot        | Marilyn Johnson |
| 18 Glenn Joppa      |                 |
| 19 Charlotte Stahl  |                 |
| 20 Sarah Scheitrum  |                 |
| 22 Keara Mahony     |                 |
| 23 Nicholas Brisson | Angie Groom     |
| 25 Nancy Egloff     | Max Hinders     |
| 26 Sarah Melvey     | Kate Sipes      |
| 27 Chelsea Dunbar   | David Wells     |
| 28 Michael Nester   |                 |



***Thank you to the congregation!***

LINK of Hampton Roads, Inc. thanked St. Stephen for our donation of \$1,145 to help those less fortunate.

## *Walk to Jerusalem*

Thanks to **Sandy Peterkin** for her excellent help in writing our grant from The Nightingale Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation which provided funds for the pedometers.

Also, thanks for the help of enthusiastic committee members: **Ina Berkey; Jane Gingerich; Pat Janot; Ariana Kuhnsman; and Janice Mayfield.**

**Marcie Clark, Parish Nurse**

Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission (GWOM) thanked us for our contribution of \$1500. Lutheran Disaster Response thanked us for our gift of \$325.



## *New Addresses*

### **John Rivolta**

Pillsbury Manor South  
20 Harbor View Road  
South Burlington VT 05403



## *Walk to Jerusalem*

The Walk to Jerusalem began January 3 of this year. Since that time we have more than 125 members participating and in the first three weeks of our program we have traveled more than 4000 miles.

We're walking, biking, "yogaing" and exercising our way from Williamsburg to Jerusalem. We went to Salem, Virginia and Chicago, Illinois to pick up our Bishops, continued on to Niagara Falls and then to San Juan, Puerto Rico and will arrive in Belem, Brazil by the end of January. In February we'll cross the ocean to Windhoek, Namibia and several other African countries. We will pick up our student, **Rogge**, in Tanzania. It will take us most of the month to journey across Africa -- it's a **big** continent! Keep exercising as we make our way to Jerusalem by Easter.

**Ina Berkey**



## *Community of Faith Mission*

They are fathers, proudly telling of their children's sports accomplishments; they are grandmothers, showing pictures of smiling grandchildren sitting on Santa's lap; they are a young couple, trying to make the stay in the Community of Faith Mission shelter at Williamsburg United Methodist Church seem like an adventure to their toddler.

They are retired professionals, teachers, pastors, and nurses; they are doctors, accountants, receptionists, and students – working together to serve at the shelter. We all came together to comfort, feed, listen, and minister to each other. Those in the shelter are a type of family – brought together by circumstance. We are brought to them by circumstance as well.

We did what was needed and what we could – so many from our congregation gave of their time, contributed money and supplies, and prayers. There are vivid images of St. Stephen that have stayed with me from this week -- **Bob Harman** carrying fresh, clean towels to those waiting to take their 15-minute shower; **Nancy Egloff** lining up the bags holding the guests clothes and valuables, labeled with their shelter number; **Jim and Judy Cobb** sending Tom and me home on Friday night and cleaning the pans used for dinner; **Jane deSolms** making coffee; **Keith Egloff** and **John Moravetz** coming

by to help bring the food from our kitchen to WUMC; **Pastor Griffin** sitting with the guests, listening to their stories; **Heidi Flatin** standing by my side preparing and serving every meal; **Bob and Jo Hanny** appearing at nearly every shift that St. Stephen covered.

During the day, they go their separate ways – to jobs, to stay warm at various places where folks frown only slightly when they come.

As the snow was falling on Friday, I wondered about our haphazard family – where they were finding warmth – dry, safe places to spend the day. Then I heard that the City of Williamsburg closed at noon; restaurants closed; roads became slick.

There was concern over breakfast that the busses would stop running if the weather got too bad. They hoped for an hour's notice so that they could return to the church. You see, it's not easy to get around when you rely on public transportation. One guest wanted to spend the day at the Rec Center on Longhill Road. In order to get there via the bus system, he had to take the bus from the church on Jamestown Road to the Train/Bus Station. From there he had to catch the bus to Walmart, and then change busses to go to the Rec Center. Quite a convoluted rout to travel about five miles!

Everyone asked if they would be allowed to come into the shelter early – before 6:00 PM – to get out of the weather. As it turned out, guests were allowed in at 2:00 PM. Workers had to be found to provide oversight to those at the shelter. Some volunteers from St. Stephen couldn't get in to help – not able to drive in the snow storm – angsting because they knew that our service was greatly needed. Others stepped up and did extra duty – everyone did all that they could.

Among the guests, there was sincere gratitude – and a bit of astonishment. They knew that we were making sacrifices to help them. When it was time to go after dinner, we were all telling each other, “take care of yourself.” Both shelter guest and worker – we were all one family – children of God.

**Sandy Peterkin**



Lewis and Daniel Owens - It was mighty cold but warm hearts served!



Our Annual Congregational Meeting, postponed due to the recent snowstorm, has been rescheduled for **Sunday, February 7 after the 11:00 service.**

Agenda:

- Election of Voting Members from St. Stephen to the 2016 Virginia Synod Assembly.
- Approval of 2015 ministry reports from St. Stephen staff, officers and ministry committees.
- Approval of the 2016 ministry program budget.



## ***And the Church Mouse Hears!***

- We hope everyone saw our Susanna Owens featured in a wonderful article in the recent *Next Door Neighbors!*
- Amazing 59 (plus Pastor Andy and Patty) hearty souls who overcame the elements and made it to church on “Snowy Sunday.”
- Thanks to the many people who shoveled, de-iced, and prepared for both the services and the building being open. A big Thank You!
- On “Snowy Friday” a big pile of LSA students braved it through the storm to get to the LSA room for a *Star Wars* movie night!
- Keep on walking to Jerusalem!



**Congregational Officers:**

President	<b>Stan York</b>	345-0073
Vice President	<b>Emily Rossiter</b>	345-6206
Secretary	<b>Dave Clark</b>	603-6346
Treasurer	<b>Paul Kristiansen</b>	220-2709
Financial Secretary	<b>Linda Vonderheide</b>	645-4059

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



**Church Staff:**

Pastor	<b>Andy Ballentine</b>	229-6742
	email	pastorab@
Pastor	<b>Cheryl Ann Griffin</b>	876-6371
	email	pastorc@
Parish Administrator	<b>Sandy Peterkin</b>	office@
Dir. Music/Organist	<b>Martin Barstow</b>	MusicDir@
Parish Nurse	<b>Marcie Clark</b>	ParishNurse@
Dir. Of Preschool	<b>Lauren McQuain</b>	258-3759
	email	preschool@

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

**Church Council:**

Amy Bergh	566-4557
Dave Clark	603-6346
Keith Egloff	229-7859
Terry Hinders	221-0904
Linda Laity Hite	220-2776
Brad Leek	250-3473
Sherry Phipps	810-4658
Emily Rossiter	345-6206
George Vonderheide	645-4059
Russ White	220-1023
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Stan York	345-0073

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