

# The Quill

### THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Williamsburg, Virginia

February 2020



# **OUR VISION**

What is your vision for St. Stephen Lutheran? Our vision statement reflects who we would like to be together as God's people. It reads: We gather to worship and study God's Word, to deepen our faith and live our Christian witness and service in the community. Notice the words, we, our, and community. These are relational words. God calls us into relationship not only with the Holy Trinity, but also with each other. Our vision statement reflects God's desires for us to grow in our relationships.

In February, I will mark my sixth anniversary and begin my seventh year of doing God's work with you and among you. It did not occur to me then that one day we would be searching for a new ministry partner together. This is an exciting time for St. Stephen! The Ministry Site Profile Committee has sought your input, and listened to what your hopes. Our desire is that you know you are a valuable part this process.

We expect our Ministry Site Profile (MSP), our "want ad" of sorts, to be complete by the end of February. The MSP will go to the ELCA, and to the Virginia Synod Bishop's office. Our search will be open to pastors across the country who are open to being called. Pastors who are searching for a call have completed their own paperwork called a Rostered Leader Profile, or RLP. (Last time I did mine, it took me 40 hours to complete!) The Virginia Synod office will send us papers for three candidates at a time. If none of those candidates are a good fit with us, then we receive paperwork for three more candidates. This continues until the Holy Spirit unites us with a pastor who is right for us. My hope is that our Call Committee will begin receiving Rostered Leader Profiles by May, if not sooner.

Thank you for your prayers as we learn, worship, and help others to know Jesus through our ministries. Thanks to all for this community, and for all that you do in your lives that bear witness to your faith. Thanks for your participation and your patience in what is a long process. It is a process guided by the Holy Spirit. Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened [Matthew 7:7-8].

Let's continue to have conversation! Come and talk with me. You won't have to knock; my door is always open.

In Christ,

**Pastor Cheryl Ann Griffin** 



### Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 26

**7:00 AM and Noon**: Worship at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, featuring the invitation to observe Lent, ashes, and Holy Communion.

**6:00 PM**: Pot luck meal in the St. Stephen Fellowship Hall.

**7:00 PM**: Worship at St. Stephen, featuring the invitation to observe Lent, ashes, and Holy Communion.

### Wednesday evenings in Lent March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1 at St. Stephen

**6:00 PM:** soup and bread suppers. Sign up in the Gathering Space to bring homemade soup and/or bread, or to oversee setup and cleanup.

7:00 PM: Holden Evening Prayer.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. STEPHEN



# A Personal Journey to Stephen Ministry

Coming from the Episcopal Church tradition, I had not been exposed to Stephen Ministry, as few Episcopal Church parishes have this service. After I had been a member of St. Stephen for a short time, both pastors became aware that I was the primary caregiver for a family member. I don't know if I looked overwhelmed, but I was asked if I would like to talk with someone who might help.

Not wanting to be rude, I thought that I might actually use some help. At first, I admit that I was skeptical, and not expecting much to happen. After a few meetings, I began to realize that I was feeling less burdened and frustrated with my role as a caregiver. More importantly, I believe I improved as a listener and could be open and honest with my family member.

I was told from the start by my Stephen Minister that anything I said was in strict confidence and would never be repeated to other Stephen Ministers or the Pastors. That was very important to me as I was dealing with some critical and sensitive issues. My caregiver and I met weekly for about nine months, and during that time, I began to cast off my frustrations with my own role as a caregiver and accept it as part of God's plan for me and my family.

The help I received during the nine months of care led me to accept the invitation to become a Stephen Minister. The time I spent in the training program made me aware of how much focused training is available to those preparing to be Stephen Ministers. We are taught the strengths of the program as well as our limitations as caregivers.

If you or a family member are going through a difficult time due to illness or other issue critical in your life, consider using the care offered by a Stephen Minister. The advantage of being able to talk to a caring person who won't judge or criticize you is so valuable. The time you will spend together is an oasis of calm and quiet that is priceless.

Pete Davis, Stephen Minister

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL



The St. Stephen Council met on January 14. Present at the meeting were Pastor Griffin,

Bob Achenbach, Amy Bergh, Ellie Bergh, Sandy Croushore, Pete Davis, Jeanne Garrison, Corey Knestrick, Doug Moore, George Vonderheide, Linda Vonderheide, Carol Wiers and David Wills. The following items were discussed:

- The Congregational Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 2, following the 11:00 AM service.
- An internal audit of St. Stephen's finances and financial practices was performed by three members of the congregation. They reported that they found no problem with the finances. Three operational recommendations were made.
- As our search for a new pastor progresses, the MSP (Ministry Site Profile) Committee has begun working on St. Stephen's Ministry Site Profile, using the input provided by the congregation. They hope to have the form completed in February.
- The Reverend Dr. Jeffrey Pugh will be visiting St. Stephen as our next Theologian in Residence. He will teach and preach over the TIR weekend. (see page 6)
- The Reverend Dr. Mary Anderson will speak at the Women's Retreat. She will also preach at St. Stephen and will give a workshop for Lutheran pastors in the area.
- The new cipher lock has been installed on the door adjacent to the Preschool and the College room. The combination is the same as one on the door near the Church Office.
- The St. Stephen Preschool is busy as usual. They
  recently hosted an Open House that was the
  best attended one they have ever had. Their
  Winter Carnival will be on Sunday, February 9.
  Help is always appreciated at this fun and
  popular event.

**Carol Wiers, Secretary, Congregation Council** 



# WOMEN'S RETREAT

#### **REGISTER FOR THE MARCH 14 WOMEN'S RETREAT**

What: St. Stephen 2020 Women's Retreat – "Not your

Mama's Church"

Who: All St. Stephen Women

When: Saturday, March 14, 2020, 9:00 AM to 4:15 PM

Where: St Stephen Fellowship Hall

Why: Faith, fellowship, friendship, learning, laughing,

worshipping, praying, singing, serving, sharing

Join your sisters in Christ – and bring a friend – for this one-day gathering at St. Stephen. The Women's Retreat includes AM and PM programs and four choices of breakout groups, as well as an outreach project, continental breakfast, lunch, and a closing social with snacks and beverages

### Program: "Not Your Mama's Church"

Through storytelling, humor, church history, recent research, scripture, group activities, and technology, Pastor Anderson engages her participants. She involves all ages and generations in conversation about the church we grew up in and the church we live in now, and to envision together the church for the next generation. May we hear one another's experiences of being disciples in the world, hear how the good news of Jesus gives grace to our lives, hear how we can be the body of Christ, and discern how we can keep telling the old, old story in a very new world.

We are pleased to welcome our presenter, the **Rev. Dr. Mary Williams Anderson**, a Columbia, SC, native and Lutheran pastor. As a graduate of Newberry College, Newberry, SC; the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia (now United Lutheran); and the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago; she has served in rural and urban congregations in Philadelphia, South Carolina, and metro-Chicago. She has a doctoral degree in preaching and has taught at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, SC. Pastor Anderson currently serves as the interim pastor of Christ Lutheran, Hilton Head Island, SC.

Want to get to know Pastor Anderson prior to the retreat? Visit her new website at <a href="https://www.mypocketpreacher.com">www.mypocketpreacher.com</a>, which includes her devotional blog, Ponder Anew.

There will be four choices of breakout groups:

- Margaret Krull is leading a thoughtful book discussion of *The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk Kidd (author of *The Secret Life of Bees*).
- Jeane Moore is leading a breakout group discussion on prayer, followed by the hands-on crafting of prayer bracelets.
- Janice Mayfield is leading a gentle yoga stretching session, including stretches that can be done on the floor, with options for stretches that can be done in a chair and while standing with support of a chair or wall.
- Pastor Anderson is leading a breakout group in sharing memories and making memories, working together towards nurturing faith in the next generation.

Look out for your registration letter, which is coming soon! The letter includes retreat details and registration instructions; retreat cost is \$35. We look forward to seeing you at the retreat!



# MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

- February 4 Women are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Tuesday** of this month.
- ➤ **February 6** Men are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Thursday** 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.



# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

After the Christmas break, both students and teachers are settling back into the winter routine. Our Dramatic Play area has been transformed from Bethlehem Town into an arctic igloo site. Teacher Susan Reese constructed the igloo and drew three life-sized penguins with the question, "are you taller than a penguin?" Some children are and some are not. Some penguins grow quite tall!

We look forward to our Winter Carnival on February 9, thanking so many for volunteering to greet, sell tickets, run games, bake, and simply being available to help. It is wonderful that our parents are able to enjoy the afternoon playing with their children and meeting folks from the church. Everyone is welcome to come join in the fun – congregational parents and children alike.

Ranger Brad visited our Extended Day program in January – teaching our students about local animals. The program is called Skulls and Skins!



Mark your calendars as our Preschool will again sponsor a **Shrove Tuesday / Pancakes & PJs dinner on Tuesday, February 25**. We will serve pancakes with all sorts of wonderful toppings, sausage, orange juice, coffee and tea. Tickets are \$7.00; children two and under are free. Proceeds will go toward enhancing the programming in our Preschool.

Father's Night will be Monday, February 24 from 6:00 – 7:30 PM. Our children bring their dads to school for a great evening of fun and learning – including science, reading, art, and a pizza party!

Thank you for your continued support, interest and participation in our Preschool activities – supporting this important mission of our congregation.

#### Sandy Peterkin, Administrator





# ST. STEPHEN HOUSING PROJECTS



Over a number of years our group at St. Stephen has worked on housing projects with the Williamsburg organization Housing Partnership. We have built a number of wheelchair ramps (always obeying city and county building codes). We have also built a number of houses; this usually involves an owner occupied house which is beyond repair. Volunteer labor lowers the cost, and the owner obtains a low cost loan which covers materials as well as contracts for plumbing and other work which requires a license. We are currently assisting in construction of a house to replace a house which was lost to fire a few years ago. We began by building a floor, then proceeded to framing exterior and interior walls, and using trusses in creating a roof. We say assisted because the owner, a mason, has completed much of masonry, plumbing and other necessary tasks himself. Most recently we have been adding exterior vinyl siding, as shown in the photo. The St. Stephen members who have been involved include John McCurry, Glenn Joppa, Jim Ogborn, Bill Dichtel, Corey Knestrick, Lewis Owens and Denny Krieger. Other volunteers are always welcome.

### **Harlan Schone**





Above: Glenn Joppa, William Dictel, Jim Ogborn

Left: John McCurry

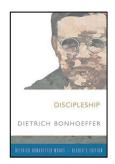


# CHURCH ENVELOPES

If you use church envelopes to give your contributions to St. Stephen, please fill in the amount going to Current and the Building offerings and indicate in "other" if you want to donate to a special campaign or other ministries at the church. For checks placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office, please indicate on the memo line on the check, or somewhere on the check stub from your bank, which fund(s) you would like your donation to go to. The Tellers do not see pledge cards. No markings on the envelopes or on the checks means your contribution goes into the Current Fund. The Tellers and I thank you.

Linda Vonderheide, Financial Secretary

### **BOOK STUDY**

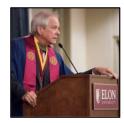


German pastor, theologian and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer's spiritual classic, *The Cost of Discipleship* was published in 1937, when the Nazis had secured their grip on church and state. Against this background, Bonhoeffer developed his theology of costly discipleship. A major focus on the book is Jesus' Sermon on the

Mount and centers on an exposition of the <u>Sermon on the Mount</u>, as Bonhoeffer spells out what he believes it means to follow Christ. It seems a particularly timely read with the return of nationalism in many places and Christians confront again the relationship between loyalty to Christ and the State.

**Pastor David Hindman**, retired United Methodist clergy and former campus minister at William & Mary's Wesley Foundation, will facilitate a six-session study and discussion of the book, which is also a good preparation for this year's Scholar in Residence program also focusing on Bonhoeffer.

The study will take place on **Mondays, February 17, 24, March 9, 16, 23, and 30**; participants can attend the 3:00 PM or 7:00 PM sessions. Cost of the book is \$13.25. Please mark the white sheet to indicate your participation.



# THEOLOGIAN IN RESIDENCE

APRIL 17, 18, & 19

# Jeffrey C. Pugh, Distinguished University Professor, Elon University

- Former Member of the Board, International Bonhoeffer Society
- Author of <u>Religionless Christianity</u>, <u>Dietrich</u> Bonhoeffer in Troubled Times (2008)

### Bonhoeffer\* in Prison: Revisiting His Legacy

On the 75th Anniversary of His Death in Prison

"I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Matthew 25: 36

### Friday Evening Session, April 17

Pot-Luck Dinner in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 – 7:00 PM Presentation in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 – 8:00 PM

# Bonhoeffer in Charlottesville: When the Nazis Come to Town You Have to Show Up

On August 12th, 2017 Neo-Nazis, White Supremacists, and other members of the extreme right descended on Charlottesville for the "Unite the Right" rally. In response to this provocation a small group of determined citizens, Congregate Charlottesville, trained and prepared for resistance to the rally. Motivated by a career studying Dietrich Bonhoeffer and other theologians during the Nazi regime, I joined this group of resisters. Little, however, could have prepared us for what we faced that morning. During my time on the line I continually thought about Bonhoeffer and Germany in 1933, though the lessons of that morning were not what I expected. The story of the trained clergy in Charlottesville may well be an untold story of August 12.

### Saturday Morning Session, April 18

10:00 AM - Noon

The Battle for Bonhoeffer: A Contested Legacy

When Bonhoeffer penned his letters from prison, searching for a way forward for Christianity after the

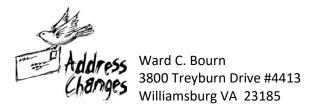
Holocaust, he could not imagine that these writings would launch the "God is Dead" movement years later. Nor could he have anticipated how his legacy would become a battlefield between political and theological camps during the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The fight over Bonhoeffer has reached an intense moment as America finds itself challenged by politics and partisans on all sides wonder if we're in a "Bonhoeffer moment."

### **Sunday Morning Services, April 19**

8:30 and 11:00 AM

Coffee in the Fellowship Hall 10:00 AM Sermon Title: **Somedays We're All Thomas** 

\*A young Lutheran pastor and theologian, Bonhoeffer's writings and actions stressed that Christians must work for justice in the world rather than back away from the sinful conduct of a seemingly godless world. He was also an adamant opponent of Hitler and his Nazi regime from the very beginning of their ascent to power in 1933. Eventually, his work with the German resistance led to his imprisonment in 1943. After the failure of the July 1944 attempt to assassinate Hitler, Bonhoeffer was accused of association with the conspirators. He was executed in prison just two weeks before American soldiers liberated its occupants. There are almost countless books and at least nine movies about his inspiring life.



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As Season Eight of the winter shelter is underway, we want to tell you what a blessing it is to have you as a donor to the Community of Faith Mission

(COFM). Your generosity in providing daily funding through the \$359 Campaign enables COFM to continue its mission of providing emergency food and shelter to the most vulnerable in our community.

We know there are many worthy causes in Greater Williamsburg and the surrounding areas, and we are so grateful that you have chosen to support the area's only emergency winter shelter program serving homeless men, women and families. During the coldest months of the year, people depend on COFM for a safe place to stay, three meals a day and essential supplies like hygiene items and bus tickets.

Thank you for remembering our community's homeless residents and for helping them through your donation to COFM.

We are so grateful that you feel compelled to help the people we serve. All of us who work in this mission truly appreciate your support and encouragement.

Fran Geissler, Secretary
Community of Faith Mission Board of Directors



Thank you for the support of your church in providing gift cards for our families during Christmas. You have

helped provide a brighter holiday for our clients.

Avalon provides safe housing and support to survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault. Each year, with the help of thoughtful donors like you, we assist more than 1,500 people in our community — more than half of those children — find safety, heal and follow a path to a brighter future.

Thank you again for your support. Together we can break the cycle of abuse and build a stronger, safer and healthier community.

Thank you to everyone, especially **Jim Ivey** for spearheading the project.

Mary Hard, Development Coordinator Avalon Center



On behalf of the Board, Staff and Volunteers at Grove Christian

Outreach Center, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$700. Your confidence and investment in Grove will allow us to remain focused on our mission of maintaining an outreach center in the Grove area of James City County in order to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of the poor and disadvantaged in the community.

As we look forward to celebrating twenty years of service to the Grove Community in 2020, we are striving to stay true to our beginnings of extending the Kingdom of God, while considering what growth opportunities await. Your confidence and your contribution will help us achieve great things, and we cannot say thank you enough!

Katie Patrick, Executive Director Grove Christian Outreach Center



Thank you for your generous donation of 100 books to the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail's Chaplain's Ministry Library. As Superintendent of VPRJ, I recognize how important it is to have faith based programs available to inmates, and to have texts and other materials on hand for them to utilize

while they are incarcerated. I am sure VPRJ inmates will find these books useful as they begin or continue their faith journey.

Tony H. Pham, Esq., Superintendent Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail



### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Don Hardenbergh Wesley Vanlandingham	Gretchen Osborn
3	Debbie Lawhon	
5	Gwen Agor	
6	Larry Shoberg	
10	Walker Beatty	
11	Kathy Skube	
12	Jesse Zimbauer	
13	Cyndy Touhsaent	Danya Zimbauer
	Erich Zimbauer	
14	Harlan Schone	
17	Pat Janot	Marilyn Johnson
18	Glenn Joppa	
19	Charlotte Stahl	
20	Sarah Scheitrum	
21	Bill Dichtel	
22	Keara Mahony	
23	Nicholas Brisson	Angie Groom
25	Nancy Egloff	Max Hinders
	Terri Larsen	
27	David Wills	



As our storage closets are full, we cannot take items your household can no longer use or need. We appreciate your thinking of the church when you look at a snow shovel or tools that you need to dispose of, but we do not need these items and have no place to store them. Thank you.

**George Vonderheide, Property Committee** 



### HEART MONTH

February is American Heart Month, and Valentine's Day is February 14. Clearly, we are to look within ourselves to see how our heart health stands. We have been working on our New Year's resolutions for a little over a month so we should start to tweak those as well. Some things to help with heart health:

- Keep track of your blood pressure
- Avoid smoking
- Alcohol in moderation
- Keep up with exercise

Did you have a goal to lose some weight? Look at how that is going. This is a good time to renew your determination to eat healthier. Be more food conscious by eating less sodium and fats. A great way to change things up is to find one or two new recipes and work them into your weekly meal plans. Soon it is easier to add in healthier options.

Spread love not germs in February. Be sure to wash your hands after using the restroom, after touching door handles and before preparing food. You can use hand sanitizer as needed if you can't wash immediately. We are still in flu season, so cover coughs and sneezes.

If you plan to travel, make sure vaccinations and shots are up to date. Drive safely and have an emergency kit in your car. Things to think about are a full charge on your phone and plenty of gas in your tank in case you get stuck in weather in your car.

Most important is to look around. Is someone missing? Do you feel like it has been a while since you have seen someone at church? Has your neighbor not been out of the house in a few days? You can call and check on them, call someone at church and we can check on them, or even call the police and ask for a well-check.

Diana Tiller-Dichtel, Parish Nurse



# FEBRUARY 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 Ann Griffin**

6	Rosalie Frey	
10	Delaynie Wilkins	
13	Keith Egloff	
14	Brian VanRosendale	
15	Susan Neidlinger	Karen Shoberg
	Gayle Spencer	
17	Eleanor Bergh	
21	Alex Stauffer	Mitchell Stauffer
	Peter Stauffer	Zhou Hui Stauffer
22	Caitlin Leek	Jaina Leek
24	Keara Mahony	
25	Tom Berkey	

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

## **PRAYERS**



Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for Judy Althans, Joe Beene, Ward Bourn, Kristin Carter, Janna Fitzgerald, Dianne Harris, Lynn Knestrick, Paul Kristiansen, Ned Neidlinger, Paul Reier, Laura Spencer, and Susie Yancey.

<u>Pray God's blessings</u> on Sara Harms and Ray Beatty as they wait for the birth of their baby.

<u>Pray God's blessings</u> on those in our community who have no permanent home and on those serving them through the Community of Faith Mission.

<u>Pray for those unable to come to worship</u>: Doris Bass, Martin Bleck, Preston and Birdie Burton, Gene and Martha Clements, Bob and Angie Groom, Mary Jamerson, Billie Jo Purse, Dick Reeves, Jessie Schmitthenner, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, Darlene Simon, Jerry Trone, Ladonna Wiederholt

**Pray for these loved ones of our congregation**: Gary Abrams, Mary Ann Arnold, Jane Ayers, Jean Ballentine, Gary Baumgarten, Rose Baumgarten, Eliza Bicknell, Tom Black, Blume family, Julie Boardman, Lou Byers, Jr., Terri Byers, Marla Canny, Alex Cline, Nancy Cline, Graham Darnell, Karen Deperini, Will Draughton, Diann Ehlers, Nancy Ely, NeYSa Ely, Inge Felbier, Mary Fitzgerald, Betty Frazee, Steven Friend, Hollis Fulton, Burt Gay, Carole Gilman, Laurie Giner, Andrea Gonzalez, Bill Gottschalk, Barbara & Edward Granlund, Kara Gustafsson, Ted Harms, Sharon Hegland, Lilly Higgins, Terry Holland, Robin Jones, Fran Kibler, Chris Kinney, Rodney Knauss, John Knestrick, Eugene Kreitzer, Rebecca Krueger, Torri Larson, Mildred Lindblad, Jackie Lohr, Patrick & Kristin McGraw, Brittney & Aiden McQuage, Al Meyer, Laura Moseley, Sterling Nichols, Janet Overdorf, Mike Overdorf, Jenny Rice, Jennifer Rideout, Edith Roberts, RoseAnn Roberts, Shann Rufer, Paul Sampson, Marion Seidl, Inge Seiter, Patricia Simpson, Ale Skinkle, James Smith, Sharon Smith, Evelyn Spear, Ralph Stonebraker, Jill Watson, Nancy Wiers, Carolyn Williams, John Wilson, Donna Wood, Aaron Zabell



Virginia Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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### **Dated Material** Address Service Requested

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







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### Congregational Officers:

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Congregational

Secretary **Carol Wiers** 564-0164

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Teacher

Article deadline: Fifteenth of the previous month.

#### Congregation Council:

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