



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

January 2016



Joy to the World!

Merry Christmas! This issue of the *Quill* will arrive during one of the Twelve Days of Christmas. After the season of hopeful expectancy that is Advent, we celebrate Christmas for 12 days, beginning on December 25 and ending with “Twelfth Night” – January 5, the day before the Epiphany on January 6. (The Epiphany is the day we celebrate the Wise Men arriving with gifts at the house where the baby Jesus is, from the story in Matthew.)

Advent to Christmas to the Epiphany to the Baptism of Our Lord: the liturgical year is guiding us to discover where joy is found. “Joy to the World!” we sing. Our Director of Music, **Marty Barstow**, points out that this beloved hymn is in the Advent section of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* because the author intended it to point towards Christ’s second coming. We sang it as the Sending Hymn on the fourth Sunday of Advent, creating a nice transition from Advent to Christmas. Joy to the world!

In the book many of us are reading, *The Liturgical Year*, Joan Chittister writes this:

“We scatter ourselves looking for pleasure – going here, tasting this, wanting those, getting that. But pleasure is fleeting and can only be maintained for as long as we can physically tolerate what it takes to get it. Once ‘pleasured,’ it is necessary, then, to ratchet up the ante, to do more of what satisfied us in the first place. So we drink more. Or we gamble more and so lose more. Or we eat more ‘till eating itself is our problem. Or we play more. Or run more. Or buy more. Until all the joy of it runs out. Then pleasure doesn’t work anymore.

We simply have no capacity for tickling left in us. We jade ourselves trying....

“Joy, the deep-down awareness of what it means to live well, to live productively, to live righteously, is made out of self-giving, simplicity, and other-centeredness....

“Advent and the Christmas season show us life in its essence. In it, we are brought face-to-face with life stripped down and effulgent at the same time, simple and radiant at once. Here in the Child is promise and meaning, purpose and potential. ‘I’m bringing you,’ the angel says, ‘good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day...a Savior who is the Messiah, the Lord’ (Luke 2:10-11)

“The question with which the liturgical year confronts us at the beginning of the season, then, is a direct one: what does the life of Jesus now mean to us? How is this life affecting our own? Are we ourselves living both the promise and the potential?...

“The feast days of Christmastide make the full meaning of Christmas clear. There can be no doubt about it: this Child is human, yes, but He is of heavenly as well as earthly origin. In this Child’s light we all walk safely through the unknown. We are all here with the Magi, full of gifts to give in his behalf. What’s more, with the opening of the heavens on the bank of the Jordan, we all have our first vision of life beyond life.

“Christmas is larger than a baby in a manger. Christmas is the coming of a whole new world.

More than that, it is what makes that world possible.”

Joy to the world! Merry Christmas!

Pastor Andy Ballentine



***Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 24, following the 11:00
worship service***

Agenda:

- Approval of the 2016 Ministry Program Budget
- Reviewing and Receiving Ministry Reports from staff members and ministry committee chairpersons
- Electing Voting Members from St. Stephen to the Virginia Synod Assembly June 10-12, 2016.



We Three Kings

Both the tune and text to *We Three Kings* was written by John Henry Hopkins, Jr., an Episcopal priest, in 1857. During this time, he served at a church in Williamsport, PA and wrote the carol for a Christmas pageant. It has a total of five verses. The first verse tells of three kings and their journey to Bethlehem to see the Christ child. The last verse praises Jesus as king. The middle verses are representative of each of the three kings, and the gifts each of them brought, which are symbolic. Gold was the most precious metal of that time period, symbolic of his kingship over all. Frankincense was symbolic of his ministry. Myrrh was symbolic of the salvation that he accomplished for us through his death. One option when singing this carol is to have a chorus sing the first and last verses, and three different men singing each of the three middle verses, representing the three kings.

As some of you, including myself, may have noticed, *We Three Kings* was included in the *With One Voice* (WOV) supplement to the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW), the most previous hymnal, but not in the *Evangelical*

Lutheran Worship (ELW), our current hymnal. Although we are unsure of the specific reasons for it not being used, the main likely reason is that the number of kings (and even their names) who appeared to see Jesus at His birth is unclear. The reason for three kings is because there were three separate gifts given.

Although the historical accuracy of this hymn is somewhat questionable, it has a wonderfully singable melody, and brings to mind of one of the greatest gifts to ever be given to humankind.

Marty Barstow – Director of Music



***Walk to Jerusalem--
Who, What, Where, When
And Why***

Who?

All St. Stephen members can participate by walking and everyone is encouraged to join. Do you walk from your apartment to the dining room? That counts! Children can count school or neighborhood exercise! If you walk as a family you get a bonus mile. Any and all types of exercise convert into miles.

What?

Walking to Jerusalem is a vehicle to gain better health -- both physical and spiritual. Also, it is a way for our congregation to work together as a community toward a common goal.

All efforts will be recorded collectively. The large display map, in the Gathering Space will show how far we travel weekly and where we are on the journey.

All participants will receive a packet which contains: a weekly tally sheet, devotional booklet; informational handouts; a “walking” lapel pin. And, if you would like, you may receive a pedometer to help you keep track of the miles. We have received a grant from the

Nightingale Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation to purchase pedometers for this walk.

When?

Our journey begins **January 3, 2016**, but you can join at any time. We plan to reach Jerusalem by Easter, March 27, 2016.

Where?

We will travel from Williamsburg, to Roanoke, to Chicago, to New York, across the ocean with a side trip to Germany, then eventually to Jerusalem!

Why:

1. Join the walk because it is a fun activity for us to do as a community!
2. It is positive way to encourage us to stay strong and healthy.
3. Combining healthy physical activity and spiritual development is a good way to start 2016.

Brighten the New Year with a new, interesting challenge.

Sign up on the Blue Sheet or E-mail parishnurse@saintstpehnlutheran.net or Text 757-775-9664



St. Stephen December Council Minutes

- Approved a request for use of our Fellowship Hall for 12 consecutive Thursday evenings for a family class being taught by NAMI Williamsburg affiliate.
- Authorized the creation of a task force to research and implement a stationary video camera to videotape sermons and to post on the internet.
- Made plans for the January 24, 2016 Annual Meeting of the Congregation after the 11:00 AM service. The 2016 budget will be presented for approval and the congregation will select delegates to the Synod Assembly in Roanoke, June 10-12, 2016. Congregation members are

encouraged to consider volunteering as voting delegates to this meeting for St. Stephen.

- The 2016-17 Preschool Program budget was approved. Beginning January 2016, the Finance Committee will send monthly financial reports to the Preschool Committee.

Emily Rossiter, V. Pres., (Acting Sec.)



The 1956 Society Why Do People Give?

The 1956 Society is made up of persons who have given or declared their intent to give to St. Stephen's Endowment Fund, including provisions in wills and trusts. Why do people do this?

There are many reasons. One couple has always had a policy of directly supporting students in college. Asked by the college he graduated from to support the renovation of a dormitory for faculty offices, he declined, but gave a gift for scholarships. The couple gives to the St. Stephen Endowment Fund because the church Bylaws state "*the Endowment Fund shall be used for*

- *outreach and ministry of the church;*
- *above the operating budget of the congregation; and*
- *Not in replacement of regular congregational giving toward benevolence."*

They are much happier giving to church outreach. They also know they can designate a specific purpose for an endowed gift, now or in the future.

Another person might give in the name of a loved one who has died. They not only support the future of the church, they know that when they are also gone, both of their names will be remembered.

Another couple thinks of including St. Stephen Endowment Committee in their will as part of a "smart giving strategy." Yes, they have children, who could inherit the entire estate. But the children are well established and do not need all of their assets. By setting aside a portion, they believe they have a smart giving strategy that can increase the impact of their giving. Always having given generously to the church throughout the years, they can follow through on

opportunities to make a difference in their congregation and community.

The Endowment Fund Committee invites anyone to become a member of The 1956 Society simply by completing the post card available in the pews. If you are already a member, you are welcome to report your intentions confidentially to the Endowment Fund Committee financial secretary **Lou Rossiter**. You would know that future generations would benefit and be grateful for your legacy gift.

The Endowment Fund goal is \$1.2 million to be attained by 2016 to celebrate St Stephen's 60th Anniversary. Please join other members of The 1956 Society in helping to reach this goal of financial security for St. Stephen.

Questions or comments about the Endowment Fund, including the options you have for creating a legacy gift, may be directed to any member of the Endowment Committee.

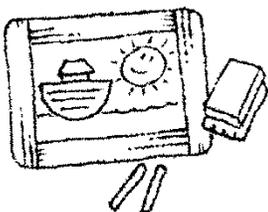
Ingrid Brown
Gary Krull
Charlene Smith
Lou Rossiter
Gerri Bass



Dining With Friends

Join us for a meal out!

You are invited to join your fellow St. Stephen parishioners for a meal out! Come to enjoy good food and good fellowship with old and new friends! We will meet at **12:45 on Sunday, January 17** at Peking Restaurant, 120 Waller Mill Rd (near KMART) around tables reserved for our group. Since the restaurant needs to know how many are coming, we need to know if you plan to attend. Please contact **Karen Shoberg (565-1264 or shobergs@cox.net)** or mark the attendance sheet on Sunday morning.



January Preschool Quill News

Happy 2016! We hope all of you had a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you to all the families who gave to our Scholarship fund, and who donated food bags to FISH, St. Olaf Food Pantry, and the Pineapple Inn. We are truly blessed.

The children will focus on winter weather, making "snow friends" and creating wonderful winter art! Check out the art work in the Gathering Space!

We will celebrate Martin Luther King, and how he wanted us all to be friends! There will be no school on Monday January 18 in honor of Dr. King. Our extended day students will have a visit from the Heritage Humane Society on January 13. We are collecting items for the animals. Please feel free to drop off any donations at the Preschool or Lauren's office. They need canned dog and cat food, dog and cat toys, non-clumping clay cat litter, paper towels, bleach, creamy low fat peanut butter and large bags of enriched rice. Thank you!

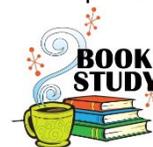
Lauren McQuain – Preschool Director



Gather on January 10 to begin planning for the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering!

This event will gather approximately 35,000 youth and their leaders, in Houston, Texas. It will be open to students who are currently in 6th through 10th grade. (They will be rising 9th to newly graduated 12th graders in 2018).

All eligible youth, parents, and anyone who would like to help with fund raising ideas: We will have an organizing meeting **January 10 after the 11:00 worship service**. One or two previous participants in the Youth Gathering will share their experiences.



Join a Community of Practice!

A congregation thrives when it is full of people practicing the faith on a daily basis. I have been thrilled

to see the growth in this at St. Stephen. It has been the theme of my recent book studies. Communities have gathered to explore Brian McClaren's book, *Finding Our Way Again: The Return of the Ancient Practices*; and Joan Chittister's book, *The Liturgical Year: the spiraling adventure of the spiritual life*.

My spring book study will use the book, *Sabbath*, by Dan Allender. Here's a description of this book, which looks very intriguing!

What would you do for 24 hours if the only criteria were to pursue your deepest joy? Dan Allender's lyrical book about the Sabbath expels the myriad myths about this 'day of rest,' starting with the one that paints the Sabbath as a day of force quiet, spiritual exercises, and religious devotion and attendance. This, he says, is at odds with the ancient tradition of Sabbath as a day of delight for both body and soul. Instead, the only way we can make use of the Sabbath is to see God's original intent for the day with new eyes. In *Sabbath*, Allender builds a case for delight by looking at this day as a festival that celebrates God's re-creative, redemptive love using four components:

- sensual glory and beauty
- ritual
- communal feasting
- playfulness

The 11-session study will begin on **Monday, February 22 and Thursday, February 25**. The cost of the book will be \$12. The deadline for ordering a book through church is **Sunday, February 7**.

Pastor Andy Ballentine



Address Changes

JoAnn Wilkins

3800 Treyburn Drive, Apt. B203, Williamsburg, VA 23185



Screening of "Regina's Gift" Sunday, January 31.

"Regina's Gift" is a very moving documentary film made about illness, recovery and a journey in faith. The subjects of the film are Regina Root, her daughter, Audrey, and her husband, Michael Lewis. The film makers, Mark and Susan Goodin, have given great emphasis to Michael's Jewish faith tradition and to Regina and Audrey's Christian path.

On **Sunday, January 31**, members of Temple Beth El and St. Stephen are invited to gather for a potluck supper (5:30 PM), followed by the film (approximately 6:15 PM) followed by conversation with Regina and the film makers.



January Birthdays

4	Lauren Franck	Ralph Johnson
	Ken Spencer	
5	Cliff Henderson	Gayle Spencer
6	Amanda Buckley	Melissa Buckley
	Jim Mayfield	Chris Punchard
	Anders Timberg	
7	Judy Joppa	
8	Carole Meyer	
9	Andy Franck	Karen Shoberg
10	Jeffery Berry	
12	Diane Reeves	
13	Peter Stauffer	
14	Elise Emanuel	
15	Brad Jefferson	Brandon Jefferson
	Brock Jefferson	Justice Jefferson
16	Julie Jefferson	
17	Susan Bosworth	Ned Neidlinger
19	Chuck Frey	
20	Mark Gulesian	Fred Haecker
	Susan Neidlinger	
21	Patty Ballentine	Tommy Peterkin
	Emily Rossiter	
22	Leah Hardenbergh	Julia Mahony
24	Helen Lenox	
25	Mary Bieber	

- 28 Nancy Carter
Ethan Owens
29 Lisa Maroney
31 Alyssa Alpino



Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Debi Austin, Jack Behlendorf, Joyce Behlendorf, Steven Bushman, Nancy Carter, Jane Mazur, Randy PUNCHARD, Linda Reuben, Regina Root, Ernie Schwab, Jerry Trone, and Don VanDuyse.**

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

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Nathalee Accomando, Rita Adams, Robert Anderson, Suzanne Baldrick, Bill Blackburn, the Blume family, Lois Bomba, Roy Bouharb, Eric Brown, Allan Bullman, Jeff Burgess, Grady Calhoun, Melinda Campbell, Ayrtion Climo, Rasey Cosby, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Kylee Crittenden, Sylvia Croushore, Joyce Dale, Kathryn Dieter, Craig Eitheim, Glida Fairenholdt, Tammy Fine, Bruce and Kay Flatin, Natalie Fulton, Meredith Furr, Wilbert Godette, Carol Haecker, Sara Jane Harlan, Ron Hayes, Bill Henderson, Max Heiniluoma, Diana and Elijah Herb, Alan Hochstetler, Ed Hyland, Lynn Isenburg, Yvonne Jack, Fran Kibler, Art Kirk, Jane Kristiansen, Mary Beth LaFave, Tony Lee, Mildred Lindblad, Robert Linsley, David March, Dorcas Macauley, Dick McGrew, Kent McQuain, Sam Mifflin, Rick Meyer, Norma Mills, Sandy Moore, Heidi Morris, Tyler Murray, the Nasra family, Mary Newberg, Linda Osborne, Cindy Overman, Inge Petersen, Robert Pushaw, Becky Ralston, Kate Ramoth, Paula Ratzow, Emily Reubush, Paul Rueckwald, Richard Seaver, Alex Skinkle, Tom Smalarz, Nancy Spaniol, Evelyn Spear, Elaine Turner, Todd Turner, Jean VanDuyse, Annette Vosteen, Arthur Williams, Scott Wimbish, Lary Woodley, Donald Yent, Anna Zabdyr, and Reni Zvetz.

FISH, INC. *A Thank you!*

On behalf of FISH and our St. Stephen Family, I wish to say thanks to nearly 25 ladies and gentlemen who volunteered to work in the Clothing Closet during Tuesdays in November. Many were there more than once. To quote FISH ladies, "St. Stephen has completed an unbelievable amount of sizing and sorting and they are the happiest and nicest people ever." Thank you for your willing service. The need is great.

Dianne Harris



Letters to the Congregation

ELCA World Hunger thanked us for our gift of \$720. The FISH Clothes Closet thanked us for our November volunteering each Tuesday.



Keith and Nancy Egloff (Godparents for Tanzania) in memory of

- Nancy Rivolta
- Anita Dorsey



Community of Faith Mission - December 2015

The weather was relatively warm – for December.

This is our third year of service to those in our community with no permanent home. We have served five different weeks. Each week has been different in nature and experience.

We are learning how to serve our neighbor.

We are getting so much better at interaction – conversation – service.

- I tend to follow the Golden Rule, as applied to cooking – feed others as you would like to be fed. Our menus have centered on homemade comfort food. This approach is so appreciated by the guests in the Shelter. There is wonder in their eyes when they realize that we’ve made “real” mashed potatoes, or baked oatmeal, or barbeque, or baked chicken. We’ve taken the time to put love into our preparation of food for them.
- One of our members worked in the kitchen her first year – she didn’t want to serve the meal, as she was unsure of her emotions when face-to-face with homelessness. This year she assisted in checking guests into the shelter, and ate dinner, having conversation with a number of guests.
- One of our members, not wanting the institutional packet of knife, fork, spoon, salt, pepper and napkin to await the guests at the table, opened each packet, folded the napkin and placed the flatware as you would when entertaining guests in your home.
- It was raining on Friday morning when the guests had to leave for the day. One of our members went to her car and got her umbrella and gave it to a guest who had nothing to shield her head from the rain.
- One of the guests was having difficulty managing his suspenders – difficulty keeping his pants properly in place. One of our members tended to the man with gentleness and dignity.
- When a guest came in late – for the first time serving, all the food was gone. We rushed back to Church to get some sandwiches that were left over from the prior day’s lunch. Our member took two sandwiches out of their plastic baggies and placed them on a plate, delivered them with a napkin, and asked if he wanted coffee or milk to drink. Service you would offer to guests in your home.

Matthew 25:35: For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothing. I was sick and you took care of

me. I was in prison and you visited me....I was lonely and you spoke with me...I was afraid and you reassured me...I was embarrassed and you lifted me up...I was frustrated and you listened to me...I needed help and you tried to help me. You prayed for me.

Sandy Peterkin



Congregational Officers:

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

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



Church Staff:

Pastor	Andy Ballentine	229-6742
	email	pastorab@
Pastor	Cheryl Ann Griffin	876-6371
	email	pastorcg@
Parish Administrator	Sandy Peterkin	office@
Dir. Music/Organist	Martin Barstow	MusicDir@
Parish Nurse	Marcie Clark	ParishNurse@
Dir. Of Preschool	Lauren McQuain	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
Carol Wiers	564-0164
Stan York	345-0073

The Quill is published monthly by
St. Stephen Lutheran Church
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Williamsburg, VA 23185

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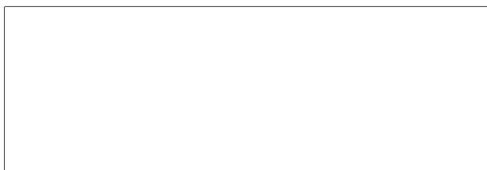
Pam Buckley

Article deadline: Fifteenth of the month previous

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612 Jamestown Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185
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Dated Material
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