



# The Quill

## THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

January 2018



### **Forwarding Faith**

We're beginning a new year – 2018! Doesn't a new year encourage you to look forward to what the new year will bring?

Leaders of our Virginia Synod and our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are looking forward, with hopefulness and confidence. That's because this is Christ's church, and the Spirit is leading us forward. There is no question that we are facing great challenges (as is true of all Protestant denominations). Fewer people worship weekly. Fewer parents bring their children to worship. Young adults in their 20s and 30s are nearly entirely absent on Sunday mornings. Can we simply continue doing church as we always have? Many of us are paying attention to new forms that the church is taking as mission opportunities arise. Fewer of us are willing to prop up institutional structures simply because "we've always done it that way."

Whatever the church becomes, the Holy Spirit is leading us forward, and faith formation will be at the center of what we do. The purpose of the Virginia Synod's youth and faith formation ministries is to offer support to what we do in our congregations. I want to make you aware of a three-year capital funds appeal which will endow those Synodical ministries into the future. The appeal is called "Forwarding Faith."

Currently the Virginia Synod's programs of faith formation include the youth events "7<sup>th</sup> Day" (for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders), "Lost and Found" (for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders), "Winter Celebration" and "Kairos" (for high school youth). All of these bring together hundreds of

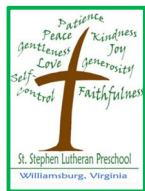
youth from around the Synod. For adults, the Synod brings in individuals with great expertise to lead studies of Bible, theology, and faith practices. The current offerings are the "Ambassadors Community for Theological Study" (ACTS), which offers two seminary-level courses each year, and the annual convocation-educational event, "Power in the Spirit." Many members of St. Stephen have participated in these events for youth and adults, which are only possible because we and the other congregations in the Synod send mission support to fund the necessary staffing!

What programs of faith formation will our Synod's leaders envision, as the Spirit leads us into the next generation? One thing is for sure: there will always be the need for financial support. That is why the Congregation Council of St. Stephen voted to participate in Forwarding Faith. Forwarding Faith will create an endowment that will fund the Synod's programs of youth ministry and faith formation. Already, just over \$2.5 million has been pledged to Forwarding Faith, which is nearly enough to fund current program levels into perpetuity! (Both Pastor Griffin and I have pledged, as has every other active pastor in the Synod – a remarkable response!)

Last April, when our Congregation Council voted to participate, Council members set a goal for our congregation of \$50,000 in pledges and gifts over the next three years. Tim and Evon Crittenden are coordinating the appeal in our congregation. You'll be hearing a lot about Forwarding Faith during the first five weeks of 2018, as we lift up the opportunity for you to respond!

Blessings to you  
**Pastor Andy Ballentine**

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL



December was a very short month for our Preschool, ut it was filled with a lot of activity. We celebrated the birth of Jesus in a number of ways at the Preschool:

- The area that was our farm stand in September; our firehouse in October, and our pumpkin patch in November transformed into "Bethlehem Town," a stable complete with star, manger, and costumes for children to become shepherds, cows, camels, and sheep!
- Our five-year-olds made nativity scenes from shoe boxes and paper towel rolls. When asked about it, a child answered that it was "Mary, Joseph, and baby God!"
- The Art Room was transformed into Santa's Workshop as the children made gifts for their parents.
- Our five-year-olds enjoyed attending the Virginia Regional Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker*. This annual performance is highly anticipated by the "big kids" as they dress up for the performance and walk across the street to Phi Beta Kappa Hall. They each receive a nutcracker as a memento of the day.
- Our parents helped support the two families adopted by our congregation for Christmas.
- Joining the church's food collection for FISH and the Pineapple Inn – parents brought in more than 50 bags of food to help restock the food pantries.
- Our Christmas party began with a time in our worship space with Pastor Ballentine telling the Christmas Story and the children portraying various parts, singing songs taught them by Music Teacher Patty Ballentine. It was nice to see church members come to enjoy the parties.



On January 21 the Preschool will be holding a Winter Carnival – transforming parts of the church building into festive winter scenes. There will be winter-themed refreshments, games, face painting, and a cake walk. We will need the congregation's help in a number of areas – please see Sherry Phipps or me if you are willing to assist!

Thank you for your support of our Preschool!

**Sandy Peterkin, Administrator**

## *The Church Mouse Hears*



... that Lou Rossiter has been asked to serve on Gov-Elect Northam's transition Policy Council for Health and Human Resources.

## November @ FISH

The FISH organization is very appreciative of the work ethic, cheerfulness, kindness and faithfulness the workers from St Stephen bring to FISH each November. Thank you from Social Ministry Committee and **Dianne Harris**, coordinator, as well for your dedication and good work.



Remember, the emergency services of this organization continue on a year around basis, and the bleak months of winter bring needs especially In the pantry, and for warm bedding. Thank you.

**Diane Harris**, Social Ministry Committe



## **MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS**

- **January 2** – Women are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Tuesday** of this month.
- **January 4** – 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.



## JANUARY 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.”

From Affirmation of Baptism, in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*:

*Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?*

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 Andy Ballentine

January 1 Jane Gingerich  
 January 5 Katie Harms  
 January 11 Sandy Croushore  
 January 12 Barbara Youngk  
 January 13 Alyssa Martin  
 January 15 Travis Meermans  
 January 15 Karen Sanderlin  
 January 15 Kenny Spencer  
 January 17 Nathan Egloff  
 January 20 Carl Stauffer  
 January 28 Ethan Owens  
 January 29 Becca Groman  
 January 31 Sammy Crittenden

Also in January: York Doerr

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



*Connections: Our Life Story, Our Faith Story  
 Women's Retreat 2018 - St. Stephen*

## WOMEN’S RETREAT

Save the date! Our Women’s Retreat is scheduled for **Saturday,**

**March 10.** Retired pastor **Judy Cobb** will lead us, exploring *Connections: Our Life Story, Our Faith Story*. We will be spending the day at St. Stephen, from **9:00 AM to 3:30 PM**, with an “After Party” for those who would like to keep the conversation going! Childcare will be provided.



Dear St. Stephen congregation,

Gary and I want to extend our most sincere thanks to our pastors and congregation for the wonderful support you’ve given us as Gary recovers from his heart surgery. Your cards and kind messages have lifted our spirits and made us feel very cared for. What a wonderful group of people our congregation is! We are grateful to be part of the St. Stephen community.

Many thanks,

**Margaret and Gary Krull**

Dear Friends,

They say it takes a village, and they are right. I am most blessed to be a part of the St. Stephen community, who supported me in myriad ways during and after my recent surgery. Thank you one and all for prayers, calls, cards, visits, delicious food and enjoyable fellowship, transportation hither and yon, yard work, and other contributions large and small. The journey would have been impossible without you.

Peace and joy,  
**Linda Laity Hite**

# the basics

## memory loss, dementia and alzheimer's disease



### an education program by the alzheimer's association

**Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging.**

If you or someone you know is affected by Alzheimer's disease or dementia, it's time to learn the facts. This program provides information on detection, causes and risk factors, stages of the disease, treatment, and much more.

Offered by: Alzheimer's Association of Southeastern Virginia

Time: **7:00 PM**

Date: **February 15, 2018**

Location: St. Stephen Lutheran Church 612 Jamestown Rd, Williamsburg, VA 23185

To Register Contact: Jane Wills at 703-989-4118 or email: [wilspwr@gmail.com](mailto:wilspwr@gmail.com)





“Working the shelter changes your life,” said one of our shelter workers this past Sunday. You see, your perspective changes after spending time with people who have next to nothing and are grateful for a smile, a conversation, or a hot meal.

St. Stephen is blessed to be able to help those coming to the Community of Faith Mission for a brief respite each night:

- We are blessed and humbled to sit and have a conversation that might not make much sense to us, but the shelter guest really wants to tell you his story.
- We are blessed and humbled when a shelter guest is leaving in the morning and tells US to have a good day.
- We are blessed and humbled when a shelter guest tells us how much she enjoyed the meal, then asking shyly what will be served at the next meal - not taking that next meal for granted.
- We are blessed and humbled to provide clean underwear and socks; socks that sometimes have to be crowded into too-small shoes. The shoes may be too small, making it difficult to walk, but they will keep the rain and snow off his feet.
- We are blessed and humbled as we rush from our warm homes to our warm cars to pick up an ingredient for dinner at the supermarket – remembering the guests who are standing patiently outside in the snow, waiting for the shelter to open for the evening.

We faced new challenges during this year of service.

- When preparing our first dinner on Sunday night, we discovered that one of the ovens in our kitchen did not work. A faithful worker, who was not scheduled that evening, came in and took the main course to her home to heat

and delivered it to the Methodist Church in time for dinner.

- We ran out of food one evening and came back to the church to make sandwiches for those who came in after the hot meal was gone. Imagine 10 lbs. of meatloaf, 10 lbs. of mashed potatoes, 6 lbs. of corn, a relish tray and 35 rolls being eaten in 35 minutes! The guests were as grateful for the cold sandwiches as they were for the hot meal.
- The oven issue caused another problem on Wednesday, so one of our intrepid workers took the 5 lb. tub of cookie dough home to bake for that evening’s dessert. She then came in to work a regular shift of meal preparation.

All in all, the face of Jesus is seen in all those who served and those whom we served – young and old, men and women, white and black. There is no distinction – all are children of God.

Thank you all for your help and prayers for this year’s December week of the Community of Faith Mission as we served with King of Glory Lutheran and Williamsburg United Methodist Churches. We will again serve a week in February (18-25) with the Williamsburg Church of Christ on Merrimac Trail. Jo Hanny, Queen of the schedulers, will be asking for your help soon.

When one volunteers for the shelter, perspectives change. Whether it rains or snows, is hot or cold, we no longer take basic comforts for granted but instead recall how the elements cause logistical and physical difficulties for those without a permanent home.

I thank God for this change in me.

**Sandy Peterkin**



**Preston & Birdie Burton** wpbrsb@outlook.com



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

4	Ralph Johnson	Kenny Spencer
	Penelope Sulouff	
5	Cliff Henderson	Gayle Spencer
6	Amanda Buckley	Melissa Buckley
	Jim Mayfield	Chris Punchard
	Anders Timberg	
7	Judy Joppa	
8	Carole Meyer	
9	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	Frank Youngk
28	Nancy Carter	
	Ethan Owens	
31	Corey Knestrick	

### Dan Stimson

Jim and Virginia Ivey  
Arnie and Pat Janot  
Reed and Karen Nester

### Ursula Murden

#### Building Fund

Susan Britcher  
Ward Bourn  
Jane deSolms  
Ralph and Marilyn Johnson  
Harlan and Anne Schone  
Arnie and Pat Janot  
Dave and Marcie Clark  
Tom and Sandy Peterkin  
Barry Wood



## PRAYERS



Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for Doc Anderson, Otis Childress, Sally Crocker, Fred Haecker, Sonja Landvogt, Gary Krull, and Rudy Stegmann.

Pray for these who are unable to get to worship: Philip Arnold, Martha and Gene Clements, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Stan Hobday, Donna May Hochstetler, Mary Jamerson, Helen Lenox, Betty Rickerson, Dick Reeves, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, and Jerry Trone.

Pray God's blessings on Sharon and Michael Powell, Kristin and Chris Stahl, and Matt and Rachel Vanlandingham as they await the birth of their babies.

Pray God's blessings of Easter hope for family and friends mourning the death of Ursula Murden, and for Reed Nester and his family, mourning the death of his mother.

Pray God's blessings on those in our community who have no permanent home, and strength for the members of those who are serving them through the Community of Faith Mission.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Bonnie, Jack, Tom and Bea Black, Blume family, Eliza Bicknell, Kim Calhoun, Marla Canny, Elaine Cari, Peter Cline, Shirley Cocke, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Kathryn Dieter, Inge Felbier, Mary Fitzgerald, Keith Fravel, Mertie Funkhouser, Bill Gottschalk, Jean Gray, Jeff Hammock, Sara Jane Harlan, Sam and Ronny Hayes, Alan Hochstetler, Bill Holcombe, Marian Hunt, Anne Johns, David Johnson, Fran Kibler, Tim Keaney, Art Kirk, Mary Beth LaFave, Jean Lasche, Jane Lawson, Frances Link, Mildred Lindblad, Abbey Mayer, McGraw family, Bruce Milne, Heidi Morris, Mary Newberg, Inge Petersen, Dick Phillips, Dino Polizois, Robert Pushaw, Pat Ramering, Paul Ratzow, Shann Rufer, Kenneth Sage, Linda Smalarz, James Smith, Evelyn Spear, Dave Splittorff, Pierrette Tipton, Sue Weilmuenster, Janea Whitacre, Scott Wimbish, Mark Woodbridge, and Micah Zabell.



## FISH, INC.

The FISH Clothes Closet jumped into the winter months with the invaluable help of the wonderful volunteers from St. Stephen who arrived cheerfully and ready to work every Tuesday during the month of November. The clothing processed by these folks went directly onto the shelves to be readily available to FISH clients.

With the reliability of volunteers ready to help each November and the many levels on which your church is so supportive of our mission, St. Stephen truly is a vital part of the FISH family. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for all that you do for FISH.

Sincerely and on behalf of everyone in the Clothes Closet,

Mary Kafes



Thank you for your gift of \$300 to Rise Against Hunger. You have changed lives with your contribution, and we are truly grateful. Your gift helps build a firm foundation of support for children like Anderson in Zambia.

Anderson, who lost both of his parents, lives with his grandmother in the Chainda Compound Lusaka West, which is characterized by high levels of illiteracy and unemployment. He has made great progress since he began receiving Rise Against Hunger meals distributed to the school by Mercy Ministries International. Once a child with very little energy who rarely interacted with his classmates, Anderson is now cheerful and attentive in his classes and enjoys interacting with other children at school.

Anderson's life has changed because of you. With your support, Anderson and thousands of children like him around the world have a chance. And

because of you, they can break the cycle of poverty that so many of our global neighbors fight on a daily basis.

Please accept our sincere appreciation for your gift. Keep up with Rise Against Hunger and our work to end hunger by visiting [www.riseagainsthunger.org](http://www.riseagainsthunger.org).

Rod Brooks, President and CEO



Thank you for your gifts of \$1,457 and \$2,840 to ELCA World Hunger!

This year, in this season of Pentecost, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation is an opportunity to look back on our church's history and ahead to our future. With your gifts, you honor the Lutheran legacy of living out God's grace through service and generosity – being the church of "God's work. Our hands."

Your gifts also reach into the future. They bring hope to our companions and partners in the U.S. and in over 60 countries worldwide as they address poverty and hunger – through clinics, microloans, clean water, gardens, farms and animals.

You continue to reform, reconcile and renew this ministry with your faithful generosity.



Thank you for your gift of \$300 to Lutheran Disaster Response. With this gift you are providing emotional and spiritual care, supplying emergency relief, and addressing long term recovery.

With your gifts you are making possible the support of unmet needs, the coordinating of volunteers in the United States through our local affiliates, and the promoting of disaster risk-reduction internationally, expanding knowledge and ability.

Thank you for this gift and all your faithful generous gifts. Thank you for encouraging others to learn, act, pray and give with you. Thank you for living into God's words of justice and mercy and for joining with the whole church to love and serve one another.

In God's grace,

The Rev. Daniel Rift  
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
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Williamsburg, VA 23185  
[www.saintstephenlutheran.net](http://www.saintstephenlutheran.net)



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<i>Vice President</i>	<b>John McCurry</b>	606-389-1082
<i>Treasurer</i>	<b>Paul Kristiansen</b>	220-2709
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	<b>Linda Vonderheide</b>	645-4059
<i>Congregational Secretary</i>	<b>Carol Wiers</b>	564-0164

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<i>Pastor</i>	<b>Cheryl Ann Griffin</b>	876-6371
	email	pastorc@
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<i>Director of Music</i>	<b>Karen Ives</b>	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurse</i>	<b>Marcie Clark</b>	ParishNurse@
<i>Preschool Lead Teacher</i>	<b>Susan Ruane</b>	Preschool@

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