

The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

January 2012



Ruminations at the Beginning of a New Year

When does a new year begin? For some, it is the Tuesday after Labor Day, when a new school year begins. A new Church Year begins with the first Sunday of Advent. But there's something about a new calendar year that encourages rumination

At the beginning of the year of our Lord 2012, what are your ruminations? Where are you on your journey?

My journey through my late-50s is challenging me. I'm finding it to be one of those ages when old assumptions have to be released, and new identities embraced. (This is also particularly true for most of us in our 20s, and in our early 80s; as well as when we lose loved ones, or work through unpleasant job transitions.) In recent years, I have had a couple of dramatic medical experiences that have made it clear that I won't live forever. (I once assumed that I would; or, at least, I lived that way.) I am adjusting to the fact that my body doesn't perform as it once did. I certainly have a high level of energy, and I stay as physically vital as I can be: nearly 2,500 miles on the bicycle in 2011. But I can no longer assume physical health or strength. I missed a couple of months of riding recovering from the surgery to remove the melanoma from my upper left arm. And I haven't been able to recover my former riding pace easily. (Perhaps it is especially hard for a man to discover that one's body no longer performs as it once did. I wish our culture gave more affirmation for men to give and receive mentorship on such subjects.)

At this stage on the journey, I am no longer surprised when someone asks me, "So, are you thinking about retirement?" (The answer, by the way, is, "Nope, not really.") I am no longer surprised when a family member or a pastor in his or her 20s or 30s looks to

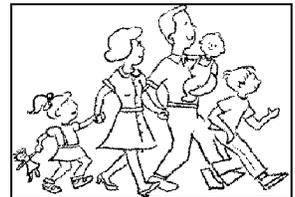
me for mentorship. But I am finding it hard to get used to that identity: of being a wisdom figure. After all, wasn't it only the month before last that I was the "bright young guy" (as my father used to say) seeking out those with more experience? How can it be possible that I possess any kind of wisdom for those younger than me?

I am discovering deep blessings while journeying through this stage of life. I don't have to prove my competence as I once did. There is a great deal of freedom in that! It is a blessing to have enough experience to know that the world is not going to end with the crisis de jour in the congregation. It is a blessing to receive each moment with my grandchildren as a precious gift of God. I am able to do that to a much greater extent than I was with my own children at that age – because life was so hectic in the raising of children, while I was at the same time working so hard to prove my professional competence.

So, what about you? As a new year begins, where are you in your journey? How is God blessing you, through what is painful and what is joyous? Are you having to release old assumptions? Are you finding yourself embracing new identities?

I welcome conversation.

Pastor Andy Ballentine



Ministry Associate Quill Musings

In the cold and dark of January (despite the fact that in Williamsburg it can be in the 60s occasionally!) is when I perform the yearly task of checking out my family's emergency supplies. Yes, that joyous task of inventorying and restocking everything from batteries to bottled water is something that I do every January. Perhaps it is to combat the quiet of the post-Christmas/New Year time; I break out the plastic bins

and backpacks to see what has expired, leaked, or missing. Despite my reasons for using January, it is a habit that I have gotten into over the past few years, and it is one that has worked for me. I bet your next question is why?

It sometimes seems that we are inundated with messages to prepare for things. Prepare for Christmas, Thanksgiving, Christ's Second coming, and the end of the world (Dec 2012 is coming!). We prepare for visiting guests, the end of the postal service (anyone gotten a magazine on time recently?), birthdays, anniversaries, the list is endless. When we add things like bad weather, or industrial accidents, it gets a little overwhelming. We are Americans, taking pride in our ability to do everything ourselves. While this is not a bad thing, we can't possibly be prepared for everything that could possibly happen. However, we can take a few basic steps to make sure we can be self-sufficient for a few days in case there is some really bad weather, or a man-made disaster occurs in our area. We must believe that God will assist us, but at some point, we must take some responsibility for ourselves.

How to prepare? Go on a shopping binge of canned goods, candles, and junk food? There are better options! Take the time to sit down and think through what you would do if you couldn't leave the house for three days, had no electricity and it is the middle of January. How would you stay warm? What would you eat? Where would you sleep? What would you drink? How would you keep your mind occupied (books, games, puzzles)? What would you do if you are hurt and an ambulance can't get to you? For a complete list of preparation tips and ideas, go to www.ready.gov for lots of information that is easy to use. But simply buying stuff isn't going to cut the mustard. You need to know how to use it. Why have the best radio money can buy if you don't know how to charge it or don't tune it to the right station before the power goes out?

You don't have to go and buy everything you need all at once. Staggering your purchases over the course of several months will make it more affordable. And you can't just do it once. A few days before the hurricane last August, I was checking things to see if they were okay, and when I pulled out the bottled water (in 1 gallon jugs), the plastic bin they were in had three inches of standing water in them! The jugs had deteriorated and cracked. We replaced them before the stores ran out, but that would have been pretty bad if we had really needed water. We had only had them for a year (the pipe to our house broke a year before, and we had used a few that day while waiting for the pipe to be fixed), so that item is now on the replace yearly list when I conduct my checks!

Lastly, practice! If you have to evacuate, how much stuff will your car take? What will you take with you? If you wake up to a tree crashing into your house, how will you get out? Thinking about, and planning for these things (scary as they may be) will make your life much easier than if you have to make it up when it happens!

Douglas Cummings



Quill thoughts from Michael Monaco

I am grateful to all those who have contributed their time and talents for our Advent and Christmas liturgies, and once again I express my thanks for being able to serve St. Stephen.

Despite the rhetoric of our society, this is an exciting time to be in ministry, and I look forward to building on our good foundation in 2012. From the very beginning the Church has been in a constant state of change, and all you have to do is read from the Apostle Paul to see all of the growing pains they were dealing with. The Church continues to evolve, and if we allow the Holy Spirit to enter into our lives, great things will happen. We could really use a few more voices in our choirs, and anyone with instrumental ability would be welcome. Please speak to me or email me, and I will be happy to discuss how you might be a part of our Music Ministry.

I received several favorable comments about my article exploring the use of candles in worship, and now I wish to explore an ancient tradition of the Church which for some has been greatly misunderstood. I am talking about making the sign of the cross. It is a very simple gesture that belongs to anyone who claims Christ as their Savior, and we can actually trace the practice back to the early believers as a means of identifying oneself as a Christian. The gesture was the simple tracing of a cross on your forehead. Here are the words of the second-century Church Father Tertullian: "In all our travels and movements, in all our coming in and going out, in putting on our shoes, at the bath, at the table, in

lighting our candles, in lying down, in sitting down, whatever employment occupies us, we mark our foreheads with the sign of the cross."

A thousand plus years later, Martin Luther in the Small Catechism instructs us as to the making of the sign of the cross: "In the morning, as soon as you get out of bed, you are to make the sign of the holy cross and say: God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over me, Amen." He also instructs us to do the same in the evening as well. It is a helpful reminder of who we are when we make the sign of the cross whenever we arrive or depart from worship, or when the Pastor invokes the Trinity in worship. Whether you choose to trace a cross of your forehead, or use the larger gesture of tracing a cross from your head to your heart and from shoulder to shoulder, you give an outward sign of the cross that you were marked with when you were baptized. It's always there, and this tiny gesture is but a small reminder of our birthright as followers of Jesus the Christ.

I ask for your prayerful support,

Michael

***When Holiday Blues
Linger***



Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is common in the winter and can be particularly difficult in the months between the holidays and warmer spring weather. Signs of SAD are: ongoing sadness, fatigue, oversleeping, social withdrawal, and loss of pleasure in hobbies. According to Katherine Nordal, Ph.D. former president of the American Psychological Association, "unlike the holiday blues, depression doesn't go away on its own...it can be treated." Shifts that help individuals with SAD include getting brighter, full spectrum light (read the morning paper by a sunny window, for example). Move your body more even when you don't want to. Research shows that just three sessions of 20 minute brisk walking reduces depressive symptoms. Working with a mental health professional can also help recovery.

Susanna Owens for Health Ministry

Social Ministry News

***Hearty Thanks from
the Social Ministry committee!***



As we all begin a new year of ministries in 2012, this

is a great time to offer our thanks to each and every one of our members who have made contributions – and participated in the Social Ministry projects and programs during 2011. We are truly blessed to have these opportunities to share and to be involved in helping people – here in the Williamsburg area, in Virginia, and all the way to East Africa in Tanzania!

Here is a short summary of the organizations, and the people involved, who have been blessed by your generosity:

- Angels of Mercy Clinic
- Avalon-Center for Women and Children
- Bread for the World
- Eastern State Hospital
- Family Inn Ministry
- FISH
- Grove Christian Outreach Center
- Hospice Support Care
- Housing Partnerships
- LINK of Hampton Roads and PORT
- Lutheran World Relief
- Meals on Wheels
- Olde Towne Medical Center
- Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center
- Special Needs Retirement Fund for ELCA Pastors
- United Lutheran Appeal
- United Way
- Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
- Williamsburg AIDS Network
- Williamsburg Faith in Action
- Williamsburg Fire Department
- Godparents for Tanzania Mongai Lutheran Parish, Tanzania!

For more details on some of these projects and organizations, check out the Social Ministry Annual Report, This will be available soon.

Diane Bean, for Social Ministry Committee

***Update on Grove Christian
Outreach Center***



2012--hopefully a groundbreaking ceremony for their much needed new building!!! Courthouse Construction of Gloucester has been selected as the general

contractor. The (supposedly) final cost will be \$1,206,000. They only have \$280,000 left to raise, but that number changes daily. They do not want to have a mortgage on the building. They are waiting to hear from several sub-contractors (electricians, plumbers etc.) on in-kind donations of services and materials. That will also reduce the price. They just received a \$50,000.00 matching grant from Richmond, and have already received \$16,000.00 towards matching that. By the time you read this, I will have to do another update!!

Pat McCormick wrote the following:

"We know this project is in the Lord's hands and his timing will be perfect. He has provided support from across our community and beyond. We are truly blessed to have been able to make so much progress toward our goal of a new facility. We earnestly solicit your prayers as we embark on this final phase of fundraising. God has blessed this ministry every step of the way, and we believe He will continue to lead us so that the new facility can be built and clients can continue to be served in the manner they so deserve. Let me thank you again for your support. We have come this far simply because enough people like you care about the families living in Grove."

The needs in Grove were even greater in 2011 than in previous years, especially with the tornado that made a direct hit on Grove in the spring. However, the volunteers work tirelessly to help all who come to them. You see a lot of smiles and joy when you visit or volunteer at Grove!! Over 400 Christmas shoeboxes were given to the children. About 1700 gifts were given for their Blessing Room where parents can choose presents for their children for Christmas at no charge. 50 Holiday dinner baskets were given to families. It was a very busy time for all involved!!

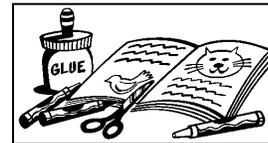
My special thanks go to everyone in our congregation who has helped Grove in any way this past year!! That means almost all of you because you have contributed in some way---money, groceries, sneakers, clothes, Christmas cookie bags and anything else I have not listed. May we always remember those less fortunate than us with our help and prayers!!

Marilyn Johnson
Social Ministry Committee



Women's Retreat, March 9-11

We have a great group of ladies registered for the 2012 St. Stephen Women's Retreat at the Eastover Retreat Center, **March 9-11**, and would like to invite any others to join us for the day on Saturday! This would include three study sessions led by the **Rev. Janell Nickols**, as well as lunch and an opportunity to help us assemble school kits for Lutheran World Relief. If you are interested in coming over for the day, please let **Nancy Egloff know (229-7859)**. There will be a charge of \$25 for the use of the facility and lunch. We hope you can join us!



Women's Retreat Members Assemble School Kits

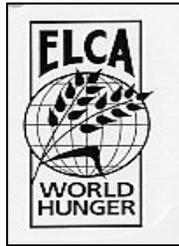
Those attending the St. Stephen Women's Retreat this coming March will be assembling school kits for distribution through Lutheran World Relief. According to the LWR website, these school supplies "mean the difference between getting an education or not. . . . In the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies . . . may be more than many families can afford." We would like to invite the congregation to contribute supplies for the kits. Items may be brought to the narthex and placed in the available bench, starting in mid-January. Financial contributions are welcome as well.

Items needed for the school kits are:

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper
 - One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
 - One pencil sharpener
 - One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
 - Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
 - Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
 - One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2½" eraser

Thank you for your help with this mission project.

ELCA World Hunger Appeal to be held in January



Please think about how you can support the World Hunger Campaign this year. **January 8, 15, and 22** are the dates for the campaign. Look for the envelopes and literature of this most important effort. Remember your many blessings and realize the difference your gift will make to the hungry, thirsty, and homeless around the world. If you have questions, contact **Ursula Murden (220-3699)**.

Each year, St. Stephen has an annual appeal focusing on the more than 800 million people on our earth who are experiencing poverty, daily hunger and disease -- often from unclean water, or lack of water which produces drought and loss of food supplies.

The World Hunger Appeal is a calling of hope because we are partnering with others on site in these countries, working together on new strategies and programs to erase the causes of much of the suffering.

With your gift, you welcome to the feast those who struggle in hunger, poverty, and disaster. Our gifts, when combined with the determination of these neighbors and the strength of our partners, are multiplied ensuring a more abundant harvest for the sake of the world. Still, more than 850 million people daily experience the silent disaster of chronic hunger and poverty. Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger are urgently needed to help break the cycle of poverty for neighbors, both around the world and close to home.

Like the ripening harvest, God's love is given in abundance. Thank you for sharing God's love through your generous gifts to ELCA World Hunger.

Ursula Murden for Social Ministry

A Change in "Gimmie Five"



As we sadly said goodbye to **Al and Jean Kuhn**, we can continue to celebrate one of the Kuhn legacies -- the care for the environment through recycling plastic containers:

- We have permission from the Colonial Williamsburg (CW) Recycling Center to use their well-

organized program to handle not only the number #5 plastics we have already saving, but also #1, 2, and 3-7 numbered recyclables

- Number 1 and 2 items do not need to have a neck as do the items picked up through the Williamsburg/James City County program so fruit boxes and many other containers work for the CW recycling center
- Look for the bench in the Narthex with an open lid marked #5s.
- Leave bags of clean cottage cheese, yoghurt, salad clamshell containers and more in the bench. One helpful person has been circling the #5 cartons and keeping them all together. Others have separated and marked them into 1, 2, and 3-7 for easy tossing.

Anne Schone (229-8674) and **Ailene Bartlett (229-2822)** are currently taking them to the CW center and would love to teach anyone else the simple process. You can also make the trip out there yourself following the directions that follow.



Directions to the Colonial

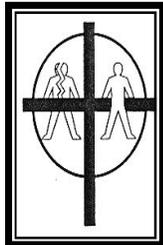


Williamsburg Recycling Center

- The Recycling Center is off Botetourt Street in the complex of office and utility buildings. Turn from Lafayette Street into Botetourt Street and go to the second possible left. It is pretty much a driveway and is not marked with a street name; however, you will see signs leading the way to the Recycling Center. Turn left and go as far as you can – maybe 100 yards.
- It is the large, always open, well-marked building to your right.
- When you enter the building, turn right and you will see many marked huge bins along the wall. The one you want for the #5s is at the end marked #3 through #7. You can see that there are many more kinds of plastic acceptable to leave and the #1s and 2#s do not have to have a neck like the Williamsburg/James City County rules state.
- When you leave, follow the one-way almost paved narrow street beyond the building. It turns to the left and then right between two buildings out to Franklin Street where the Employment Center is located. Turn right as you return to Botetourt Street and out to Lafayette again.

My Journey With (and without)

Stephen Ministry



The chemotherapy from the drug trial has made him dangerously ill and fatigued. He worries about the strain of his wife's fatigue in juggling family, care-giving, and work. He feels guilty about his weakness and inability to help her, as he must conserve his strength for this "last chance" to beat the cancer that he's battled for six years. Unspoken is the fear that all these efforts are in vain. In the bleakness of winter these trials can be overwhelming for those who are ill and those who care for them. God calls us to tend the dying—but He is also there for the caregiver. Stephen Ministers are there for both. *"Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*
Matt: 11:28

Cindy Gibbs for Stephen Ministry



Coffee News

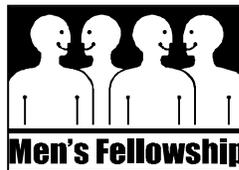
Robert Camp, who has taken on the responsibility for ordering supplies for our free trade coffee cart, has some great ideas to increase the business at the cart. It has been pretty slow lately.

Like **John and Nancy Rivolta**, Robert is more than happy to order a whole case of the preferred choice for those "heavy duty" users, assuring that there will be enough for them at all times. Robert orders whenever supplies begin to run low although he needs to meet the \$100 minimum for free shipping. He invites anyone to email him (rcb11spen@aol.com) with their preferences. He will add your order to the next shipment. This way you will get your favorites sooner and he will have a better idea about what you would like him to order. Don't forget these products are all organically grown and proceeds from our entire order goes directly to Equal Exchange Fairly Traded products. Your morning coffee helps small farmers break the cycle of poverty. Besides all this, these products are delicious! Think about using our special products for curling up in front of the fire with a hot "cuppa" [coffee, tea, or hot chocolate].



Pizza and Game Night!

Last year was so much fun, we are doing it again! Join other St. Stephen folk of all ages on **Saturday, January 21, at 6:00 PM** for a pizza dinner followed by games, games, games! A \$5 per person donation is suggested to help offset the cost of the pizza (which will be provided) and you are welcome to bring a salad or dessert to help round out the meal. And, of course, we encourage you to bring your favorite group game and/or willingness to play. Contact **Stan** or **Soni York** (stanyork@ssresources.com or soniyork@ssresources.com) if you have questions or would like to help set up.

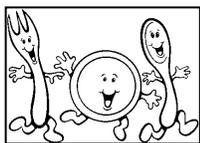


Men's Breakfast

Join with other men **8:00 AM Thursday, January 5**, at the Colonial Pancake House, at the corner of Page Street and Penniman Road.

This breakfast happens the first Thursday of each month. The agenda is: "How are you doing?" with discussion!

(Is there any way to figure out a breakfast time and place for men who are still working? If you have ideas, let **Pastor Ballentine** know!)



Dining Out in January

After a break in December, "Dining Out" will resume in January 2012! The January dining will be at noon on **Saturday, January 28** at The Cove Tavern. The Cove Tavern is the new restaurant in the former location of the Backfin on Strawberry Plains Road. Their menu can be found on their website at www.covetavern.com. Sign up on the blue sheet or call **Art/Anita Dorsey (564-0209 by Monday, January 23** if you plan to attend.



Address Changes

Shana Brisson
Nicholas, Bethany
10135 Old Stage Road
Toano VA 23168-9537

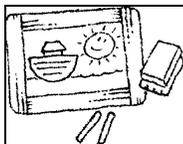
Robin Mansfield & Grant Hudson
13203 Bogie Road West Apt 1-A
Midlothian VA 23113
757-775-3042

Sammy Shearer email change
sammy.shearer@gmail.com

Jean Shivel
3800 Treyburn Drive Apt A-306
Williamsburg, VA 23185-3909

News from the Preschool

Happy New Year!



donation!

The staff, students and their families and friends collected bags and bags of food for the St. Olaf Food Pantry at their Christmas Parties. St. Olaf was very appreciative of this generous

What a way to teach children the joy of giving by helping others.

Now that it is winter, the children are busy creating snowmen, snowflakes and winter scenes.

The Preschool will be closed in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King on **Monday, January 16**.

The Preschool is having a scholarship fund raiser at The Bounce House (near Ci-Ci's Pizza on Richmond Road) on **Friday, January 20 from 12:30-3:30PM**. Come out from the cold and have fun. Let them know you are from St. Stephen when you check in.

Our Preschool staff will be hosting an Open House on **Sunday, January 29 from 1:30 -3:30 PM** Please let anyone who may be interested in our programs to come to see the school and meet the staff. Registration for the 2011-2012 school year is currently in progress.

A big "Thank You" to all who donated to the St. Stephen Preschool Scholarship Fund! Donations are always welcome!

For the Preschool, Rudy Stegmann



A note from Susan Britcher Financial Secretary

Because of Christmas and New Year's falling on Sundays this year, 2011 year-end contributions to SSLC must be in the Church Office **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28** to be counted as 2011 donations. Any monies received thereafter will be considered 2012 contributions. Thanks.

Susan Britcher

The Church Mouse Hears



- **Kate Proctor Costa** has accepted a call to serve St. Luke, Culpeper. She will be ordained at St. Luke on January 14 at 4:00 PM. An Abingdon native, she's a graduate of the College of William and Mary and former LSA member. **Bishop Jim Mauney** will preside and **Pastor Andy Ballentine** will preach at the ordination service. Of the 10 seminary seniors approved for ordination, **Haley Vay Poynter** grew up in our congregation; **Deanna Scheffel**,

Leslie Scanlon, and **Brett Wilson Davis** were all active in our Lutheran Student Association. **Travis Wilson** married a member of our congregation – **Kristen Gillespie**. What a legacy we're creating!

- We congratulate **Paul Black** for early decision acceptance into University of Wyoming with a scholarship for out-of-state students.
- Williamsburg City Council re-appointed **Elise Emanuel** to Williamsburg James City Council School Board for four more years, Congratulations to Elise!
- Doctors **Cliff and June Henderson** were part of a "living art" with a purpose project and both held a red umbrella in a major undertaking for the staff at the Fan Free Clinic (FFC) on World AIDS Day. The occasion not only made the front page of the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, but also *The Washington Post!* As many of you know, June volunteers in the medical clinic at the FFC each Thursday where she works with AIDS/HIV outreach, counseling and support, as well as in the traditional medical clinic that sees more than 2500 people per year. There is a need in our country for good medical care for those of us who are not fortunate enough to have medical insurance.
- Did you see the long article by Ron Squire Steffey about our stained glass windows in the Opinion section of the December 7 *Virginia Gazette*.
- We celebrate with **Clare Stimson**, who graduated in December from Old Dominion University with academic honors.
- You need to excuse the ol' Mouse if, of all the schools, he roots for the Jamestown basketball team. **Tommy Peterkin** is co-captain of the boys team!
- And the Housing Partnerships projects go on. **Bob Harman and Norm Beard** [pictured] and **Glenn Joppa** are working with **Harlan Schone** on yet another wheelchair ramp, Cheers!



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	Andy Fisher	Carole Meyer
9	Andy Franck	Karen Shoberg
	Bill Wallis	Clay White
10	Shirley Basley	Jeffery Berry
13	Peter Stauffer	
14	Steve Bailey	Elise Emanuel
15	Brad Jefferson	Brandon Jefferson
	Brock Jefferson	Justice Jefferson
16	Julie Jefferson	
17	Susan Bosworth	
19	Chuck Frey	Howard Glenn
20	Mark Gulesian	Fred Haecker
21	Patty Ballentine	Tommy Peterkin
	Emily Rossiter	
22	Christina Gamble	Leah Hardenbergh
	Julia Mahony	Charles
	Schumacher	
23	Zeb Bishop	
24	Helen Lenox	
25	Mary Bieber	Gwen Deierling
28	Nancy Carter	Ethan Owens
	John Warner	
29	Lisa Maroney	
31	Alyssa Alpino	Abby Compton
	Christopher Shearer	Joani Wallis

Is your name missing? Is your date wrong? Please let us know immediately! Rev. December 14, 2011 December 18, 2011



Prayers

Pray to know God's will for healing
Kristi West Carter, Paul Kristiansen,
Steve Lannan, Paul Reier, Dan Stim-
son, Barbara Weekes

Pray for peace and comfort for **Bill and Judy Althans** on the death of their daughter, Kim; and to **Diane Bean** and her family on the death of her mother, LaTona Anderson

Pray

for the work of the **Mongai Parish in Tanzania**
for the work of **Avalon Center for Women and Children**

Pray for those who are physically unable to get to worship: **Bill Dickerson, Elsa Englert, Ruth Ennis, Bernice Fahnce, Elsie Hall, Willetta Heising, Anna Lou Hobday, Jean Kircheis, Helen Lenox, Chuck and Jo Schumacher, John Warner, Dot Wright, Earl and Lois Wysong**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation:

John Accomando, Betty Alexander, Sharon Beaver, Justin Borland, Lois Bomba, Hannah Calderon, Joanne Carlson, Bob Canny, Kelly Castro, Jane Cattermole, Donna Cherel, Michael Compton, Gary Crickenberger, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Janice and Walter DeGree, Nancy DeVincenzo, Nancy Fernandez, Ann Finley, Nick Finley, Doug Fisher, Amy Flatin, Will Flatin, Mary Funkhouser, Sheryl G.A. Gabram, Lonna Gibson, Chip Gillemwater, Bill and Nancy Gottschalk, Eleanor Harms, Mary Heminger, Janis Hepburn, Carol Horton, Gerda Hudgens, Loretta Hughes, Martha Katz-Hyman, Jeanne Keller, Jayne Marshall, Collette McKown, Sarah Marie Nelson, Matt Nester, Mike Shea Overdorf, Bill and Joyce Pate, Morgan Porter, Sam Powell, Lisa Rivolta, Don Romig, Steve Rossiter, Mary Catherine Ryan, Don Scanlan, Roland Scheiding, George Siegert, Nancy Spaniol, Diane Spearman, Connie Testerman, George Thomas, Bob Tuttle, Jone Wares, Helen Watkins, Shirley White, the Wilson family, Peggy Wood, Ray Wooten, Bruce Young

Memorials

Pat Chandler
Carrie Will

Lea Chenault
Chris and Pam Groman



Another Requested Recipe from the Faith Formation Kick-off Breakfast

Cherry Coffee Cake

Cake:

1 cup sugar
½ cup butter, softened
1 cup sour cream
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 ½ tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. salt
1 (21 oz.) can cherry pie filling (can use other flavors, too)

Topping:

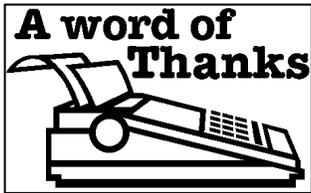
¼ cup all-purpose flour
¼ cup sugar
¼ cup chopped pecans
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
3 Tbs. butter

Heat oven to 350°. Combine 1 cup sugar and ½ cup butter in large mixer bowl. Beat at medium speed, scraping bowl often, until creamy (1-2 minutes). Add sour cream, eggs, and vanilla; continue beating until well mixed. Reduce speed to low; add 2 cups flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Beat until well mixed (1-2 minutes).

Spread half of the batter into greased and floured 9x13 baking pan. Spoon cherry pie filling over batter. Spoon remaining batter over pie filling; spread carefully.

Stir together ¼ cup flour, ¼ cup sugar, pecans and cinnamon in medium bowl. Cut in 2 Tbs. butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Sprinkle crumb mixture over batter. Bake for 45-50 minutes – until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean and topping is dark golden brown.

Preparation 30 minutes; baking 45 minutes.



Letters to our members

Olde Towne Medical Center thanked St. Stephen for the \$500 recently given to them to further their tradition of "Local People Helping Local People." The ELCA thanked us for our gift of \$700 for the Special Needs fun for Retired Pastors. They said "your faithful generosity makes a life-changing, life-saving difference."

Caroling to our members is a special Christmas gift for each of us



Two groups went to many homes and retirement centers spreading good cheer and familiar carols

Then we went back to the church and enjoyed conversation, chili and cornbread and much more.

