



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

July 2018



Patriotism, the Bible, and Citizenship

I love July 4 in Williamsburg. Nearly every year I go down to Duke of Gloucester Street to hear an interpreter read the Declaration of Independence. What a thrilling experience!

When do you feel most patriotic? For me, it's when I'm entering my assigned polling place on election day, when I'm mingling with my fellow citizens as we identify ourselves and receive our ballots and vote. I find that the more names on the ballot of women and people of color, the more patriotic I feel! It's become clear in recent years that we have never been taught a full sense of "American history," because so many voices have been excluded. For white males like me, it's painful but absolutely necessary to pay attention to the Americans who have felt empowered to speak, by "Me Too" and "Black Lives Matter," to describe American history from their perspectives, perspectives that have not been heard in the dominant culture.

This is a God thing. That's because all human beings, of all lands and races, have been created by God, and God's fundamental, primary concern is for the common good.

That's all through the Bible! The problem, as Jim Wallis describes it, is: "Too often, we don't seriously study the Scriptures; it is much easier to just use God to justify our own politics. Yet if we really look into the biblical texts, we find a God who speaks about 'politics' all the time – about what believing in God means for this world (not just the next one), about faith and public life (not just private piety), and about our responsibilities

for the common good (not just for our own religious experience). The big 'political' questions that face us ultimately have to do with how we are to live together in human community."

And so, when we actually read the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament), we find that God judges Israel's kings on just *two* criteria: Does the king live according to the 10 Commandments (especially the First Commandment; the rest follow from that one), and does the king care for the poor and the helpless? In other words, does the king care for all people, for the common good? Charles Gutenson writes: "God is concerned for those on the margins, those who are weak, or those who are in some way vulnerable. God did not call the Israelites to be his people because they were a strong people, but rather because they were weak. God is most concerned for those we would consider 'underdogs.'"

When we actually read the New Testament, we find stories of God in human flesh who spent *all* of his time with those who had been excluded from the common good! You may remember Jesus states this as the keynote for his ministry: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19. Jesus shocked his listeners when he said this, but he was simply quoting the prophet Isaiah!)

We read everything in the Bible through this lens of God's primary concern: for the common good, for all of God's children, of all nations of the world. For those of us who are Christian, Jesus shows us what God is like and how God intends us to live together as human

beings: in self-giving love, caring for the needs of those who do not have enough. How does that motivate you in your citizenship?

I'm always uncomfortable when someone prays in favor of or against a particular political policy proposal. That's because I think people of faith can be faithful to Christ while coming at an issue from multiple ways. For instance, I was raised by people who believed that government should be small, and who also gave away tons of money and time to the church and other organizations in service to the poor. One of my Christian social activist heroes, Dorothy Day, frequently wrote about her desire that the government would get out of the way of her work. But, on our own, can individuals and churches and other organizations meet the needs of those who have been excluded from the common good? We certainly cannot approach the scale of resources that governmental programs provide. It's complex, and we need to be very careful before we say something like, "If you don't support [name the particular policy proposal], you're not a good Christian."

But, it is certainly legitimate to insist that our role, as followers of Jesus, is to care for those who have been excluded from the common good, and to serve them, because then we'll be imitating Jesus. How does that motivate you in your citizenship, which includes your political activity? How does that motivate you to oppose governmental policies that exclude, and to support policies that increase inclusion – when it comes to tax policy, for instance, and safety nets, and access to health care, and bankruptcy laws, and monopoly laws, and civil rights for those of all sexual identities and racial backgrounds, just to name a few specific issues? How does this motivate you as you choose which candidates you will support during the next election?

The dismissal that concludes our worship – "Go in peace! Serve the Lord!" – charges us to serve the common good in our private actions and also as citizens of this nation that we love. Maybe I'll see you down on DoG Street on Independence Day!

Pastor Andy Ballentine



It was definitely a challenging time for me waiting a month for surgery, having surgery and the recuperation period. I appreciate all that was done for me during this time - many, many cards, phone calls, meals, visits, your caring and prayers. Thank you for all you have done. You went above and beyond. I am touched and very grateful.

Many thanks to Linda Hite, Jane deSolms and Susan Britcher who helped me with my Financial Secretarial responsibilities. You pitched in, and I truly appreciate all you did for me.

I take one day at a time. God has blessed me in so many ways.

Linda Vonderheide

My sincere thanks to all the members of our congregation who were so kind to me and my family during Fred's illness, passing and his Celebration of Life. I appreciate all the visits from Pastor Cheryl, Pastor Andy and Marcie Clark. I am overwhelmed with all the prayers, cards, memorial donations and wonderful reception our ladies served after the service. Thank you to Karen Ives for her wonderful musical talent. Choral & organ music were very important to Fred and I know he would be very pleased with the musical contributions from our Music Director and both choirs.

Edith Haecker

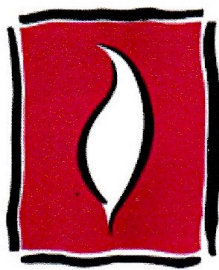


Carolee Bush

Morningside of Williamsburg
440 McLaws Circle, Apt 144
Williamsburg VA 23185
(757) 258-2322

New phone numbers for **Brad and Stephanie Leek**

- **Brad** – (757) 561-1782
- **Stephanie** – (757) 303-7958



Wondering What To Wear This Summer

Whether you are going to the beach or mowing the grass, all the “Best Dressed” folks are wearing the same thing –Sunscreen! Sunscreens help shield you from the sun’s dangerous ultraviolet (UV) rays, including ultraviolet A (UVA) and ultraviolet B (UVB).

Given all the options it can be confusing to choose the best sunscreen. Sunscreen’s Sun Protection Factor (SPF) measures the lotion’s ability to block UVB rays only. Clearly, you’ll want a sunscreen with broad-spectrum or multi-spectrum protection for both UVB and UVA. Look for a sunscreen that contains one of the following: ecamsule, avobenzone, titanium dioxide, sulisobenzonate, or zinc oxide.

For children avoid sunscreens with para-aminobenzoic acid (PABA) and benzophenones like dioxybenzone, oxybenzone, or sulisobenzonate. Children’s sunscreens use ingredients less likely to irritate the skin, like titanium dioxide and zinc oxide. Unlike chemical ingredients, these protect babies’ skin without being absorbed. For kids six months or older, look for a sunscreen designed for children with an SPF of 15 or higher. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that babies under six months be kept out of the sun altogether.

The American Academy of Dermatology now recommends an SPF of 30 or higher for everyone. The SPF factor rates how effective the sunscreen is in preventing sunburn caused by UVB rays. If you’d normally burn in 10 minutes, SPF 15 multiplies that by a factor of 15, meaning you could go 150 minutes before burning. If you’re going to be exercising or in the water, it’s worth getting a sunscreen resistant to water and sweat. But understand, water resistant sunscreen means that the SPF level stays effective after 40 minutes in the water. Very Water Resistant means it holds after 80 minutes of swimming.

Apply the sunscreen 15 to 30 minutes before you go out in the sun. Use about 1 ounce (or 2 tablespoons) to cover your whole body. Don’t skimp. A number of studies show that people simply don’t use enough. Don’t forget the

easy-to-miss spots, like the tips of your ears, your feet, the back of your legs, and, if you have one, your bald spot. Since your lips can also get sunburned, use a UV-protective lip balm, and reapply it regularly. No matter how long-lasting it’s supposed to be, reapply sunscreen at least every 2 hours, and more often if you’re sweating or getting wet.

Seek shade where available. Keep in mind the sun’s rays are usually strongest between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in the United States. Water and sand both reflect the sun’s damaging rays, so use extra caution when out at the beach.

Use sunscreen every day you’re outside, year-round. Even on cloudy days, the sun’s rays can pierce through with up to 80 percent efficacy. No matter how high the SPF, no matter how thickly you slather it on, sunscreen will never fully protect you. This misunderstanding can be dangerous: people who think they’re safe wind up spending too much time in the sun and raise their risk of skin cancer and other problems.

There is ONE BIG dilemma regarding sun screen. You have to use it! And you have to use it frequently.

Check out the Sunday bulletins for other Summer safety tips!

Marcie Clark, Parish Nurse



Volunteer Needs

We received the following information from Susan Voigt, an active volunteer and member of the FISH Board of Directors: FISH currently needs some new pantry volunteers who will work one day a month (9 AM - 4 PM). Each day a team of people greet clients referred by various social service agencies, accept donations, pack groceries, help clients select clothing and housewares, and restock pantry shelves. Normally there is a team of four people who work each day sharing in all these tasks. Currently there are openings on three teams: 1st Tuesday, 2nd Tuesday and 2nd Friday. If you can help and would like to volunteer, please contact **Susan Voigt** by email at svoight1@cox.net or by phone at (804) 966-8487. Thank you.

Social Ministry Coordinating Committee



JULY BIRTHDAYS

3	Pam Anderson	Alison Carney
6	Kathie Eichfeld	Diana Tiller-Dichtel
8	Edith Haecker	Bill Holcombe
11	George Vonderheide	
13	Margaret Bleck	Rosemary Stimson
14	Janice Svendsen	
16	Emma Timberg	
19	Cooper Bailey	
20	Nancy Childress	
21	Linda Baumgarten	Brad Rinehimer
	Jean Shivel	
23	Edward Delehanty	Dick Reeves
	Karen Schlicht	Joanne Shue
24	Doc Anderson	Caroline McKenna
25	Katy Peterkin	
27	Carl Stauffer	



MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

- **July 3** – Women are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Tuesday** of this month.
- **July 5** – 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.



Gary Krull

George and Linda Vonderheide – Endowment Fund
Forrest and Ruth Fenstermaker – Endowment Fund
Ward Bourn – Endowment Fund

Fred Haecker

Edith Haecker – Music Program
George and Linda Vonderheide – Music Program
Forrest and Ruth Fenstermaker – Endowment Fund
Kelly Bicknell – Music Program
Krystie Womack – Music Program
Lisa Pook – Music Program
Marilyn Gehr – Music Program
Ward Bourn – Endowment Fund

Thord Einarsen

Jane deSolms
George and Linda Vonderheide
The John Allen Family
Ward Bourn – Endowment Fund

The Church Mouse Hears



... that **Reed and Karen Nester** hosted the Eastern Tandem Rally in Williamsburg on June 15-17. There were 120 tandem bicycles (240 people) participating in the event, which last visited Williamsburg 25 years ago.



Reed and Karen are second from the left, leading the group down Duke of Gloucester Street.



JULY 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 Andy Ballentine

1	Rita Kristiansen	
2	Nicholas Brisson	Brenda Lee
3	Christina Davies	
5	Maddie Collins	Noah Delehanty
16	Theo Bergh	
24	Kylen Saunders	

Others who were baptized in July:

Ralph Johnson
Rita Kristiansen
Lou Rossiter
Regina Root

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



Sharon Powell, an immigration lawyer who owns a law firm in Williamsburg, will give a presentation on **Sunday, July 1 at 10:00 AM**, between the services in the Fellowship Hall. Sharon will speak on the issue

of separating children from their parents at our border. She will discuss what constitutes a colorable asylum claim under existing U.S. laws, define pertinent legal terms, and discuss the various policies that have been introduced by our current administration.

PRAYERS



Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Sally Crocker, Kathie Eichfeld, Julie Francis, Bobbie Harms, and Pat Janot.**

Prayers for God's comfort for **Phyllis Spencer** and her family upon the death of her sister-in-law, Mary Heminger. The family will be traveling to Ohio for her funeral service.

Pray God's blessings on **Roberta and Dave Sulouff**, and **Shana and Rich Wilkins**, as they wait for the birth of their babies.

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **Doris Bass, Carolee Bush, Martha and Gene Clements, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Stan Hobday, Donna May Hochstetler, Mary Jamerson, Sonja Landvogt, Helen Lenox, Dick Reeves, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, Jerry Trone, and Ladonna Wiederholt.**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Belinda Adams, Philip Andrew, Nathan Ballentine, Tom and Bea Black, the Blume family, Eliza Bicknell, Don Brannon, Marla Canny, Elaine Cari, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Kathryn Dieter, Bubba Drury, Angela Earl, Holly Edwards, Inge Felbier, Mary Fitzgerald, Sonya Frantz, Mertie Funkhouser, David Gade, Bill Gottschalk, Sam and Ronny Hayes, Chip Hilbinger, Marian Hunt, Anne Johns, Ben and Amy Johnson, Fran Kibler, Chris Kinney, Art Kirk, Dean Kreitzer, Terry Krull, Annie Layendecker, Mildred Lindblad, Charlotte Litterer, Hannah Mac, Abby Mayer, Heidi Morris, Joan Nares, Mary Newberg, Inge Petersen, Dino Polizois, Jackie Randall, Shann Rufer, Joyce Rumpf, Gwynn Sawyer, Bruce Semanchik, James Smith, Evelyn Spear, Dave Splittorff, Pierrette Tipton, B.J. Vann, Tait Walker, Pat Ward, Debbie and Sam Weems, Sue Weilmuenster, Peggy Wright, Aaron Zabell.



HOSPICE HOUSE
& Support Care of Williamsburg

Hospice House and Support Care of Williamsburg invites you to tour their gardens and their home. Learn what they do for our community! **Drop by between noon and 2 PM on July 5, August 2 and September 6.** Their address is 4445 Powhatan Parkway in Williamsburg.

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Church in America**
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Congregational Officers:

<i>President</i>	Russ White	220-1023
<i>Vice President</i>	John McCurry	606-389-1082
<i>Treasurer</i>	Paul Kristiansen	220-2709
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Linda Vonderheide	645-4059
<i>Congregational Secretary</i>	Carol Wiers	564-0164

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email: All email addresses are:
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<i>Pastor</i>	Cheryl Ann Griffin	876-6371
	email	Pastorc@

Parish and Preschool

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<i>Director of Music</i>	Karen Ives	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurses</i>	Marcie Clark	Parishnursemc@
	Diana Tiller-Dichtel	Parishnursedt@
<i>Preschool Lead Teacher</i>	Susan Ruane	Preschool@

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