



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

July 2019



NOW THE HARD PART HAS BEGUN

I announced my retirement way back in May because I wanted to tell the college students face to face. For weeks and weeks, August 1 seemed far away. But now, the hard has begun: saying goodbye. Folks have already started coming up to say that their family and/or travel plans mean they won't be around during the next weeks. And so, tears, hugs.

I'm having a hard time during Sunday morning worship. I'm wondering, "Where can we find another congregation with such a joyous spirit during worship?" I'm not sure we will. Patty will certainly miss participating in the music of St. Stephen, under Karen's leadership.

The question I'm hearing most often these days is: "What's Your Plan For Retirement?" The first thing I'm going to do is to cultivate boredom! That's because boredom allows for replenished energy, which leads to creativity.

When the news of my retirement emerged two months ago, I was encouraged by your reactions of surprise. That meant that my fatigue was not immediately evident. From time to time I have been aware of colleagues who were still in place, but who had lost enthusiasm for their work long previously. I have noticed how their congregations suffered from the leader's loss of energy. I have always vowed not to let that happen with me. But I am very tired, and I'm looking forward to boredom. I don't think, actually, that I ever have been bored. But I've been practicing, during days off recently! Here's the schedule: Waking up early

a few hours (outside!) on my bicycle or working in the garden. Then it's time for lunch, and a shower, and a nap. And then it's just about dinner time! I'm also looking forward to spending time with children and grandchildren; some long distance bicycle camping, perhaps; having the freedom to jump on a train to New York City on a Friday morning when the Thursday *Times* alerts me to a performer in a jazz club that weekend who I'd like to hear. How long will that be enough activity for me before I become restless? We'll see.

A number of years ago a colleague was retiring after a long and distinguished career of service to the Church. I asked him, "What's next?" He said, "Oh, the work will find me." That is certainly true for retired pastors. There is so much need; there are so many congregations that are in transition and need competent leadership, or cannot afford full-time pastors. I'll be able to be as busy as I want to be – eventually.

But first, I need to become bored. And then I will proceed as I always have when I'm asked to do something: with a process of discernment. I will be presented with an opportunity. I'll spend time listening, in prayer: is this work I'm feeling called to do? Or is it only work that I'm feeling I *should* do? The key to happiness and fulfillment, I think, will be avoiding the "shoulds" as much as possible.

Blessings to you.

Pastor Andy Ballentine



WHAT WAS, WHAT IS, WHAT IS TO COME

In the course of planning celebrations for Pastor Ballentine's 40th anniversary of his ordination, our Parish Administrator, Sandy Peterkin, found the bulletin used for celebrating Pastor Ballentine's 25th anniversary of his ordination. At that time, Michael Price was Director of Music and Linda Loyd was Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries. Women met at Pastor Heising's home for Bible study. The calendar for the week's activities occupied one-half of a page in the bulletin. We worshipped using the green *Lutheran Book of Worship*. We were recruiting ushers and greeters.

Today, Karen Ives is our Director of Music and there are two pastors. Instead of the green LBW, we are using the cranberry *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* book. Women meet for breakfast, and books studies take place in the church. Our church calendar takes a whole page. Oh! We are *still* recruiting ushers and greeters!

What is yet to come, after Pastor Ballentine rides into the sunset on his bike? Congregation Council will choose from among the interim pastors that the Virginia Synod recommends to us. John Wertz, the Assistant to the Bishop, will lead us through a workshop to determine where we are in ministry now, what our gifts are, and where we would like for us as a church to go. **[Save the date - Saturday, September 14]**. The Congregation Council will appoint two committees of six people each. One committee will complete our Ministry Site Profile, which will be available to candidates nationwide. The other committee will be our Call Committee. They will study the Rostered Leader Profiles. Once our Mission Site Profile is submitted, candidates will begin to submit their Rostered Leader Profiles. I encourage you to ask questions as I continue to provide information to you!

Some things change. While the wording has been updated, our purpose remains the same. It is foundational to we are as church together here in this place. Our mission statement for St. Stephen Lutheran Church, of Williamsburg, Virginia is as follows: *To celebrate and receive God's Gifts of Word and Sacrament; to express our belief in loving service to others; to commit ourselves to lifelong study of the faith; to seek the unchurched; to welcome all believers into our Christian faith community; to sustain ourselves*

as a family of believers. Our mission informs our actions and decisions. The Holy Spirit guides us.

Some things change. What we can be sure of is that God is present with us through it all. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty" [Revelation 1:8].

In God's amazing grace,

Pastor Cheryl Griffin

CELEBRATIONS FOR PASTOR BALLENTINE'S MINISTRY AT ST. STEPHEN

Sunday, July 7 is the actual 40th anniversary of **Pastor Ballentine's** ordination. Virginia Synod Bishop Robert Humphrey will be with us to celebrate that morning during our worship services. We'll have a reception between the services. Bring pies for the reception – it doesn't matter what you bring as long as it is in a pie shape. Bring anything from a quiche or fruit pie to French toast or coffee cake – baked in a pie pan!

Celebration Saturday - July 13!

- A **bike ride for all ages** is a casual ride on the Virginia Capital Trail at **9:00 AM**, gathering at the Jamestown Settlement trailhead and including refreshments and photos.
- A **reception and catered banquet** at **5:30 PM** at the Raymond A. Mason School of Business at the College of William & Mary will be held for the Ballentine family, our congregation, and invited guests. There will be opportunities to share stories, skits, music and memories.
- We are also discussing and welcoming ideas for increased community visibility **July 7-13**, such as encouraging members to wear church name tags around town and special exhibits at the Farmers Market.
- If you have any **memorabilia** related to Pastor Ballentine's ministry at St. Stephen that you'd like to share at the banquet and receptions, contact **Nancy Egloff** at knegloff@verizon.net to make arrangement to loan it for the festivities. We also encourage cards and letters for Andy and Patty. You can bring them to the banquet or get them to Nancy.

If you can volunteer to support these events, email **Nancy Carter** at njcarter@starpower.net or mark the white sheet.



MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

- **July 2** – Women are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Tuesday** of this month.
- **July 11** – Men are invited to join together for breakfast the second **Thursday** of this month. **(Moved to second Thursday because the first Thursday is July 4)**

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.



POWER IN THE SPIRIT

Have you ever wondered about divine violence in the Book of Joshua, or if equal justice under the law is real? Maybe you have thought about faith formation with children, or wondered what the Virginia Synod is all about. **Power in the Spirit** will answer these questions, and more! Lutherans across the state will gather from **July 11-13** at Roanoke College for study, worship, and relationship building. Registration forms are in the Gathering Space. If you are interested, speak with **Pastor Griffin**.

Thank You for your Generous Support of the Ministry of the Virginia Synod!



THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR TIME TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN YOUR CONGREGATION AND IN THE SYNOD!

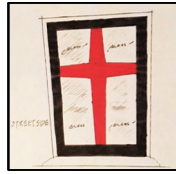
THANK YOU FOR SHARING FINANCIAL GIFTS THAT PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO EMERGING LEADERS, FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUTH AND ADULTS, AND STAFF SUPPORT FOR CONGREGATIONS!

THANK YOU FOR SHARING PRAYERS OF SUPPORT AND WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT AS WE SEEK TO RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE FOR US BY BEING A FAITHFUL, BOLD AND SERVING CHURCH!

THE MEMBERS OF THE VIRGINIA SYNOD COUNCIL

Pastor Kelly
 Maren Collins
 Bishop Bob Kelly
 Emil Boyers
 Jody Smiley
 Tyler M. Watson
 Pastor Jonathan Boynton
 Pastor Chris Carr
 Judy Astute
 [Signature]
 [Signature]
 Pastor Lealci Weber

OUR NEW JAMESTOWN ROAD DOORS



Thanks to those contributing to the cost of the new Jamestown Road doors, which are still being constructed. We have received just over \$20,000 in gifts towards the doors! Council has also approved using \$5,000 of undesignated funds in the Memorial Fund towards the cost. If you would like to contribute towards the \$28,500 cost, write a check to St. Stephen and write "Doors" on the memo line. If you would like your gift to be in memory of or in honor of a loved one, be sure to include a note giving that information.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEW DOORS

Memorials

In Memory of The Rev. Richard Batman and Dr. Louisa Batman

Jack and Joyce Behlendorf

In Honor of 50th Wedding Anniversary of George and Linda Vonderheide

Linda Laity Hite

In Memory of Corky Umberger

William and Nan Hoover

George and Linda Vonderheide

To the Glory of God

George and Gerri Bass

Ward Bourn

Kermit Eide

Stu and Pat Fretz

Bob and Carol Harman

Susan Kaufman

David and Beula Maris

Jim and Janice Mayfield

Lewis and Susanna Owens

Rich and Shana Wilkins



John Allen

Ward Bourn

Harlan and Anne Schone

Bill and Jane Holcombe

Frank Youngk

Harlan and Anne Schone

Tom and Sandy Peterkin

Elsie Hall (*Jean Kuhn Social Ministry Fund*)

Chris and Pam Groman

Alan Hockstetler (*Godparents for Tanzania*)

Donna Hochstetler

thank
you



We are grateful for your financial support of Grace Inside. Your help provides us the means to place Chaplains in Virginia's prisons. Through them, the inmates learn Christ's love.

Thank you.

Mary McCarty, Board Member, Grace Inside

I'd like to express heartfelt gratitude to my St. Stephen church family for all the love and support after the passing of my husband Frank. A special thank you to Pastors Andy and Cheryl who have been by my side since day 1 (actually hour 1!) - I wouldn't have made it through this without them. Thank you to everyone who came to the funeral home, attended the service (Ina, thank you for the beautiful music!), helped with the amazing reception, sent cards, texts and emails, and offered prayers for me and my girls. Your continued support during this time is greatly appreciated as we deal with the aftermath of his suicide and navigate this new phase of our lives.

Warmly,
Barb Youngk

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. STEPHEN



The congregation of St. Stephen Lutheran Church is blessed in many ways. One of the greatest strengths we have is that we are a caring congregation. The people of this church truly care about one another. This is demonstrated in many ways but especially by the one-on-one interactions between our members. The pastors make regular visits to members; the parish nurse checks in on members following surgery or those experiencing a serious illness as well as families welcoming a new baby; the home communion team reaches those unable to attend church regularly; and the flower delivery team is also dropping off a flower arrangement that conveys the message of caring. But is all of this enough?

Some members of our congregation may live alone. Others reside in long-term care facilities. An acute crisis in someone's life may be resolved but they are still adapting to the new dynamic left in its wake. There are countless other scenarios. The need is that no one is forgotten. Every member of our congregation should feel important and vital regardless of whether they attend church every Sunday or not.

In view of this need, the Stephen Ministry Team will be launching a Visitation Program later this summer. The goal is to visit or phone members who otherwise may be forgotten. Studies have demonstrated that a visit by a caring individual can increase the sense of belonging and purpose; boost happiness; reduce stress; improve self-confidence and self-worth. It's also an opportunity to evaluate the health, safety, and well-being of an individual. The greatest impact of a visit or a phone call is that they convey love. Since we are all called by Jesus to love one another, let us obey His command through our actions and interactions with each other.

The logistics of the Visitation Program are still being developed. However, we want to inform the congregation that anyone is welcome to participate. It is NOT limited to those who have been trained as Stephen Ministers. We will be conducting an orientation to the program during our **Stephen Ministry meeting on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 7 PM**. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend if this is something in which you would like to

participate. If you have questions, please contact Stephen Leaders **Bill Dichtel** or **Jane Wills**.

Let us continue to be a community of caring.

Jane Wills, Stephen Leader, wilspwr@gmail.com



JULY BIRTHDAYS

3	Pam Anderson	Alison Carney
6	Kathie Eichfeld	Diana Tiller-Dichtel
8	Edith Haecker	
9	Robert Newsome	
11	George Vonderheide	
12	Craig Little	
13	Margaret Bleck	Rosemary Stimson
14	Janice Svendsen	
16	Janell Nickols	
19	Cooper Bailey	
21	Linda Baumgarten Jean Shivel	
23	Edward Delehanty Karen Schlicht	Dick Reeves Joanne Shue
24	Doc Anderson	Caroline McKenna
25	Katy Peterkin	
27	Carl Stauffer	



After placing 1st in the regional competition, the Jamestown High School Envirothon team went to the State Competition. The Jamestown team came in 3rd Place in Soils, 2nd Place in Oral Presentation, Wildlife and Forestry, 1st Place in Aquatics and 1st Place overall! The team will represent Virginia at the International Envirothon Competition in Raleigh, NC in July. Our own **Audrey Root** is third from left.



PROTECT YOUR EYES TO SEE A BETTER FUTURE

July is a great time to be outside. There is so much for us to see. But, we have to protect our eyes from UV damage and other things that can threaten our vision.

1. Wear sunglasses even when it isn't sunny. Just like our skin, eyes can be damaged by harmful UVA and UVB rays. Glasses should block 99 to 100 percent of these rays.
2. Wear eye protection when working in the yard, garden, or shop. It is so easy for something to splash, flip, swing, or otherwise enter our eyes. Especially when using power equipment or tools as they tend to throw things with force. If you have protection, you are much less likely to get eye damage.
3. Be aware of eye fatigue. This occurs from looking at looking at computer or phone screens for too long. Practice the 20-20-20 rule. Every 20 minutes, look away from your screen at least 20 feet for 20 seconds. This gives your eyes time to rest from close work. While eye fatigue will not damage your eyes, if you are having trouble getting your eyes to adjust after 20 seconds, you need to check in with your eye doctor. Something may be out of adjustment or you may even need new glasses.
4. If you wear contact lens, follow the manufacturer's instructions to decrease the chances of an eye infection. Give your eyes a break sometimes and wear glasses.

What should I do if I get an eye injury? **SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY.** Do not rub your eyes, do not rinse your eyes unless it is chemical and advised to do so, do not remove any foreign bodies, nor should you apply any ointments or drops unless instructed by a physician.

I hope to see you around this summer.

Diana Tiller-Dichtel, Parish Nurse

JULY PANTRY PROTEINS FOR FISH



It is never a comfortable time for those families wondering if their money will hold out until end of the month or if there will be a meal on their table that night.

Our local food shelters routinely have higher inventories of canned vegetables than proteins. Your Social Ministry Coordinating Committee and our FISH volunteers challenge everyone to bring at least one item of protein to church in support of the FISH Food Pantry during the Month of July. The drive will continue from **June 30 through July 28**. Our goal is 500 items. Here are some suggestions:

- Canned Chicken
- Canned Turkey
- Canned Salmon
- Canned Tuna
- Dinty Moore or other brand Beef Stew
- Spaghetti Sauce with Meat (plastic jars)
- Canned Hams
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Spam, Treet, etc.

There will be a container in the Gathering Space labelled for these donations.

Let's make this "JULY PANTRY PROTEINS FOR FISH" a big success!

Love and peace,

St. Stephen Social Ministry Coordinating Committee



Ed and Ingrid Brown

Contact the Church Office for information.



ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Here's a sample of our first three weeks of summer fun
- Art Camp, Space Camp and Train Camp.

Sandy Peterkin, Administrator





Fun, Fun, Fun





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 | Noah Delehanty | |
| 14 | Ruth Fenstermaker | |
| 16 | Theo Bergh | |
| 24 | Kylen Saunders | |
| 31 | Bob Newsome | |

Others who were baptized in July:

- Ralph Johnson
- Lou Rossiter
- Regina Root

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



PRAYERS



Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Doc Anderson, Joe Beene, Sammi Crittenden, Janna Fitzgerald, Pat Gamble, Erika Geier, Janet Higgs, Terri Larsen, Henry Mallue, Kathy Skube, Laura Spencer, Rosemary Stimson, Janice Svendsen, and Linda Vonderheide.**

We pray the blessings of resurrection faith to **Mark Hinders** and his family on the death of his father, Dean; to **Ruby Umberger** and her family and friends mourning the death of **Corky**; and to friends and family of **Stan Hobday.**

Pray for those attending Kairos, the Virginia Synod week-long faith formation event for high school students. **Ellie Bergh, Casey Toler,** and small group leaders **Laura Bergh** and **Pastor Griffin** are attending.

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **Philip Arnold, Doris Bass, Preston and Birdie Burton, Gene and Martha Clements, Bob and Angie Groom, Michelle Ivey, Mary Jamerson, Billie Jo Purse, Dick Reeves, Jessie Schmitthener, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, Jerry Trone, and Ladonna Wiederholt.**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Gary Abrams, Mary Ann Arnold, Jane Ayers, Steven Barton, James Baum, Gary Baumgarten, Eliza Bicknell, Tom and Bea Black, Blume family, Audrey Burbank, Marla Canny, Elaine Cari, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Robin Daniel, Michael Dorsey, Tabitha Dyess, Craig Etreim, Inge Felbier, Mary Fitzgerald, Will Flatin, Janis Gilbert, Carole Gilman, Laurie Giner, Andrea Gonzalez, Bill Gottschalk, Kara Gustafsson, Sharon Hegland, Marian Hunt, Robin Jones, Fran Kibler, Chris Kinney, Sandy Kinsler, Art Kirk, John Knestrick, Rebecca Krueger, Torri Larson, Christopher Lee, Devin Lee, Mildred Lindblad, Jackie Lohr, Aidan McGraw, Jackie Mereness, Sharon Miles, Michael Mott, Eric Nelson, Patricia Nowak, Sue Plevelich, Dino Polizois, Jenny Rice, Barbara Rochat, Shann Rufer, Paul Sampson, Lucy Scott, Marion Seidl, Inge Seiter, Patricia Simpson, James Smith, Sharon Smith, Evelyn Spear, Luciana Stimson, Charley Underdahl, Tracy Vercillo, Nancy Wiers, Margaret Wieser, Curtis Wikins, John Wilson, Donna Wood, Aaron Zabell, and Diane Zulawski.

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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.



The Quill **www.saintstephenlutheran.net** **July 2019**

Congregational Officers:

<i>President</i>	David Wills	378-2715
<i>Vice President</i>	Amy Bergh	566-4557
<i>Treasurer</i>	Rich Brown	565-5646
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Linda Vonderheide	814-404-8992
<i>Congregational Secretary</i>	Carol Wiers	564-0164

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Church Staff:

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	email	Pastorab@
<i>Pastor</i>	Cheryl Ann Griffin	876-6371
	email	Pastorcg@

Parish and Preschool

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<i>Director of Music</i>	Karen Ives	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurse</i>	Diana Tiller-Dichtel	Parishnurse@
<i>Preschool Lead Teacher</i>	Susan Ruane	Preschool@

Article deadline: Fifteenth of the previous month.

Church Council:

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Ellie Bergh (Youth Member)	566-4557
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Jeanne Garrison	229-0978
Linda Laity Hite	876-7431
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