

# The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

July 2011



## *Increasing Our Desire For Our Lover*

I desire a new Ford Focus. I have desired one since I saw the new model in Jerusalem. (Even though Ford has been selling the new model for several years in the rest of the world, it's only recently been introduced in the United States.) I love the look. I love the fuel economy. I love the technology.

If I would satisfy my desire to buy a new car, would I satisfy my Desire?

No, I would not. That's because all desire is desire for God.

This is not a new idea. It was most famously taught by Augustine, in the 4th century. Indeed, for the first millennia of Christianity, more Biblical commentaries were written on the Song of Songs . the book of erotic poetry in the Bible . than on any other book. What might that say about the relation of erotic desire with desire for God, our Lover? (Indeed, how many have confused their desire for the holy with sexual desire . with disastrous consequences?)

Have you ever thought in this way about God? These days, many western Christians have a hard time with these connections. That's because all of us have been educated according to the values of the European Enlightenment, which still holds sway over most western thinking.

Rationality (intellectual thinking) is given highest value. That's infected religion . certainly so for Lutherans! Many of us think that, if we can master a list of intellectual principles (often called "beliefs"), then we are growing in faith. The heart is disparaged. Emotions are suspect. Desire is dangerous.

But when the Christian faith becomes a head trip, then it is only one of many competing philosophies of

life. It becomes an option. If I disagree with it, I reject it (since individual preference is sacrosanct in our culture). And if religion is only a head trip, then it does not satisfy the deep desires of our hearts. It's no wonder that there's been such an increase in those who call themselves "spiritual but not religious" in the last generation.

In fact, the teaching of the Enlightenment is wrong when it comes to religion. God is not the highest Rational Being. What is Biblical is this: God is our Lover, and God has created us to love God. In the Bible, how does God react when the people turn away? God becomes a jealous lover!

God is love. The Holy Spirit is always working on us, to increase our desire for our Lover.

The point of everything we do as a congregation has to be increasing our desire for our Lover.

The point of worship is to grow more deeply in love with God. The point of study is to know more about God so we can love God more deeply. The point of prayer is to allow our Lover to draw us more closely. We encourage each other when we sense that someone's love is cooling for his Lover, or when someone is doubting her Lover.

As a person's desire for God becomes more intense, his/her faith practices intensify as well!

Where are you in all this?

**Pastor Andy Ballentine**





## Quill Musings July 2011

Who is a mentor? Is it somebody who looks out for you from afar, keeping tabs on your progress to see if you are succeeding at whatever it is you are doing? Is it a person who comes up to you on Sundays to see how you are doing? Is it an expert who teaches you part (or all) of a craft like leadership or woodworking? Is it your boss who gives you the freedom to experiment to find the best ways of doing things? Is it the first person you called when you got a great new job? What is it that makes a person a great mentor and how do you go about finding one?

As we are a community of faith, we occasionally need help in finding our way through difficult times in our lives. That is one of the major benefits of being part of a community, getting help when we most need it, even if we have a great deal of trouble asking for it. In our community, we are increasingly seeing that extended family that is close by is unusual. When you grew up and lived within 50 miles of where you were born, the need for a community of care when you were in need was non-existent. Your family generally was able to help because they were close. Our society today is much different and many in our community do not have family that is nearby to help in times of need. So we turn to our other communities, in this case our faith community.

Now being in need does not mean destitute and living on the street, although that is one form of need. For most of us this could be as simple as somebody to turn to when you have questions about raising your children, or when looking for a job. A simple, "Oh yeah, my kids did that too when they were that age!" is massively reassuring to parents who are stressed out about the crazy things that their children are doing (or not doing as the case may be). Since many families do not have grandparents in the immediate area, having "adopted grandparents" can be helpful if your regular babysitter gets sick and can't watch your child so you can actually enjoy an evening by yourselves! The simple joy of eating without having to cut up food and trying to catch it before it hits the floor is a very big deal when you have a toddler!

The same can be said for teens. Since your parents are out to oppress you and make your life miserable, having another adult that you can talk to and assure you that your parents are only slightly nuts to restrict you (yes, snowboarding off the roof of your house might not have been the best idea!) is helpful. If they happen to be involved in a field that you find interest-

ing, all the better! Everybody looks for role models in life, and while we all aspire to emulate the life of Jesus, sometimes a more human, flesh and blood model is more helpful. This doesn't end when your kids grow up and leave the house to live their own lives (you hope!).

Our congregation is looking to recruit a few good mentors to be there for people of all ages. The requirements are pretty flexible

- ◇ breathing,
- ◇ sense of humor,
- ◇ willingness to talk to people about their lives/children/school/parents/interests.
- ◇ and the job satisfaction can be worth the less than vast sums of money that you will make at it.

It is following in the footsteps of Christ and makes a difference in a person's life, maybe even your own! Let me know if you are interested!

**Doug Cummings**  
Ministry Associate



## Musical Notes

Both choirs concluded our season with a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship at Larry and Karen Shoberg's residence a few weeks ago. They were most gracious as they accommodated a last minute change of venue. We had a great response with representation from both choirs, and I think it was one of our nicest celebrations to date. The delicious food and frivolity were most appreciated. I thank all who made this evening possible, and I am very happy that we have such dedicated folks who make the music ministry an uplifting expression of our prayer.

Our Summer Music Ministry is working well, and I hope that the variety of offerings find their way into more of our liturgies throughout the year. When we gather at St. Stephen on a Sunday, we represent the Church in a microcosm, and it is always a good thing to accept and celebrate our diversity. It is a challenge to be open to this expression of what we truly represent when we come together, but I have found that it is well worth the effort to extend a welcoming hand to all the voices of our common song of faith. Let us pray that the Spirit moves some who have

been observing to come forward and let their unique gifts be offered to the Lord.

Your Brother in Christ,  
**Michael Monaco**



***Welcome to our new Church  
Council and a thank you to our  
retiring members***

At the June 12 Congregational Meeting, **Mary Williams, Keith Egloff, Anders Timberg, Stan York,** and **Janet Rinehimer** were elected to the St. Stephen Church Council. Outgoing members **Glenn Carlson, Steve Friedrich, Pam Groman,** and **Rita Dunbar** were thanked with deep appreciation for their years of service.

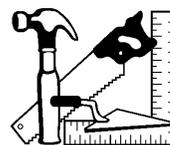
The officers chosen by the new council are: President, **Mary Williams**, Vice President, **Keith Egloff**, Secretary, **Christine Drake**, Treasurer, **Brian Agor**, and Financial Secretary, **Susan Britcher**.

The new members of the Endowment Committee are **Lou Rossiter** and **Ingrid Brown**. **Jack Harris** was re-elected as one of three Trustees.

St. Stephen has been and continues to be so blessed by strong leadership. Thank you to all who serve.



**Renovation Progress**



***From your Renovation Committee-  
June 2011 Update for the  
Renovation Project***

For those who have not been able to look through the ramp windows to see the amazing progress being made by our contractor, David Nice Builders, let me assure you that they have been hard at work to do the excavating and cement work required to form the basis for the retaining walls and Narthex Expansion.

The excavation has been completed and the foundations have been poured for the Narthex extension as well as the retaining wall around the mediation garden. The block work should be completed during the week of June 17. In short order we should start to see the framing for the extension start rising from the foundation blocks.

Once the fences went up, numerous questions were raised by the folks passing by the church. With the renovation sign on the fence, the community now knows what we are up to and can see a depiction of the renovation outcome.

One of the biggest problems facing the project has been the lighting. The Sanctuary lighting upgrade has been identified and the order has been placed to purchase the lighting and the controllers. I am expecting that those lights will be in during the week of June 24 and will be available for the General Contractor to install as soon as possible after the wiring has been installed.

The Narthex lighting was reviewed and the lighting consultant is reevaluating the quantity and type of lights required. As soon as that effort is completed, the lights will be ordered. In the meantime, the final locations of switches and controllers are being completed.

Since the Church is assuming the responsibility of identifying and procuring the lighting and controls, a significant cost savings is realized for the project.

We are concentrating on the exterior and Narthex work and doing all we can to ensure that the Sanctuary is available for the two scheduled July Weddings.

Upcoming Milestones:

- Framing Narthex exterior walls.
- Installing the under slab plumbing
- Pouring the concrete Narthex slabs
- Completing the Narthex lighting plans and ordering the lighting materials.

Paul Kristiansen  
Project Manager



### *Health Ministry Following Example of Jesus*

With our vision of establishing a healing community within St. Stephen in mind and the commissioning of **Marcie Clark** as a St. Stephen Parish Nurse on May 8, 2011, our health ministry mission is moving forward. This Health Ministry will serve to advocate for physical, emotional and spiritual health among the members of our congregation. It seeks to follow the example of Jesus Christ, as he ministered to the members of His community.

Matthew 9:35-36 tells us that Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and infirmity. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion +

One of the basic premises of our Health Ministry is that it must grow in the knowledge and practice that everyone in the church is a healer and in some way may be a part of our church's healing ministry+ (as expressed by Rosemarie Matheus in her article, Ensuring a Successful Parish Nurse Ministry+).

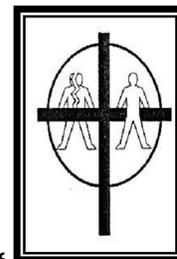
In the weeks and months ahead as we continue to develop this ministry, there are many services that can be filled by people who don't have formal medical training and those who do. If you feel called to participate in the ongoing work of the Health Ministry Team, contact Parish Nurse, **Marcie Clark**. She can be reached by marking the blue sheet in the Sunday bulletin, calling the church at 757-229-6688, sending an e-mail to parishnurse@saintstephenlutheran.net or approaching Marcie in person.

*The flame logo you are seeing on the articles about the health ministry originates from the lamp of Florence Nightingale. It symbolizes the ministry of healing for the body, mind and spirit.*

**Nelia Heide**

For the St. Stephen Health Ministry

### *A Journey With (and Without) Stephen Ministry*



After returning from a series of trips I was finally at home on a Sunday. My mind was full of worries and stress but as I sat in the worship service these cares began to ease. I realized what I had been missing. I was not really at home until I was able to share a service with our St. Stephen congregation. It is the caring attitudes of a congregation that will make a service ministry grow. Consider how you can help. even if it is just reaching out a comforting hand to someone beside you. "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ". Galatians 6:2.

**Cindy Gibbs**

For Stephen Ministry

### *The Church Mouse Hears . . . .*



We're celebrating the news that **Bill Gibbs** was named Officer of the Year, by the James City County Police force. Wow! . . . **Josh Eglhoff** and former member **David Baker** are performing with a local group of Fife and Drum alumni in a local business called Williamsburg Field Musick.+ In that capacity, they were sent to Miami, Florida a few weeks ago to play fife (David) and drum (Josh) for the filming of an ESPN commercial which is being used to advertise the US Open Golf Tournament, being played in



Blessing of Self-Propelled Wheeled Things and the food, enjoyed lunches including tables full of side dishes and desserts. About 50 people took part in the event.



Many of us enjoyed the Baked Blueberry and Peach Oatmeal at the celebration breakfast for Faith Formation. We thank **Sammy Shearer** for the recipe:

## Baked Blueberry and Peach Oatmeal

### Ingredients:

- 3 cups old-fashioned oats
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 egg whites
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 cups fat-free milk
- 1/4 cup canola oil ( you can split and use half apple-sauce & half oil...as long as there is a little oil)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 can (15oz) sliced peaches, drained & chopped
- 1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries
- 1/3 cup walnuts

### Directions:

In a large bowl, combine the oats, brown sugar, baking powder and salt. Whisk the egg whites, egg milk, oil and vanilla; add to dry ingredients and stir until blended. Let stand for 5 minutes. Stir in peaches and blueberries.

Transfer to an 11-in.x 7-in. baking dish coated with cooking spray. Sprinkle with walnuts. Bake, uncovered at 350 for 35-40 minutes or until top is lightly browned. Serve with additional milk if desired.

Bethesda, Maryland June 16-19! It was quite an exciting experience! . . . Many thanks to **Bob Phipps** and those who helped shape up our property at 608 Jamestown Road getting it spiffy for the new tenants. Besides some bee stings, chigger bites, stones thrown from Bob's weed whip we escaped unscathed. She is looking purdie+ now! Another work day for the inside is planned in August. Join the fun! . . . It is great seeing our Housing Partnerships crew **Glenn Joppa** and **Harlan Schone** looking so neat

and clean as they poured cement . . . A special Memorial Day program was held at



Williamsburg Memorial Park and you might recognize St. Stephen members, **Ray Basley** and our three Marines, **Ernie Schwab**, **Warren Melhorn** and **Walt Heide**. . . Cheers to **Lewis Owens**



who was recently awarded a patent for a



system to control the flow inside a special type of aircraft engine inlet in the work he has done at NASA. Wow! . . . And then there was the Congregation Fun Day, Saturday, June 18, at the Route 5, James City County Chickahominy Park.

Families swam, peddled bikes on long and short trails, took boat rides, grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, and after **Pastor Andy Ballentine's**



## Birthdays for July



- 1 Willetta Heising  
Andrew White
- 2 Sara Nugent
- 5 Austin Pierce
- 6 Kathie Eichfeld
- 7 Susan Deierling
- 8 Edith Haecker

Bill Holcombe

9	Bill Gibbs	
11	Susan Burruss	Virginia Dressler
13	Margaret Bleck	Jessica Sidebottom
	Rosemary Stimson	
14	Janice Svendsen	
16	Jay Floyd	Emma Timberg
17	Anita Dorsey	
20	Diane Bean	Nancy Childress
21	Linda Baumgarten	Pat Chapman
	Brad Rinehimer	Jean Shivel
22	Anna Lou Hobday	Ray Crocker
23	Edward Delehanty	Dick Reeves
	Karen Schlicht	Joanne Shue
25	Katy Peterkin	
27	Carl Stauffer	



## Letters to our members

Lutheran World Relief thanked us for our gift of \$339.20 for the Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund. Angels of Mercy Medical Clinic thanked us for donating to their clinic. LINK of Hampton Roads thanked us for our donation of \$300 to help purchase a PORT bus. The chaplain at Eastern State Hospital thanked us for the Bibles and hymn books we recently donated and for being a faithful partner in their ministry.

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



## Letters from our members

Beginning this summer, we (**Gail Bossenga and Carl Strikwerda**) will be joining Elizabethtown College as Scholar-in-Residence and President, respectively. We are looking forward to a new adventure amidst the rich history of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

We would like to thank the St. Stephens congregation for the wonderful fellowship and support we have enjoyed over the past seven years. Being part of the St. Stephen community has been a true joy and blessing.

Our new address as of July 7, 2011, is:

Gail Bossenga  
Carl Strikwerda  
307 East College Avenue  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022-2414  
bossengag@etown.edu  
strikwerdac@etown.edu



## Address changes

**Gail Bossenga**  
**Carl Strikwerda**  
307 East College Avenue  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022-2414  
bossengag@etown.edu  
strikwerdac@etown.edu

**Robin Hudson**  
P.O. Box 1281  
Williamsburg VA 23187  
332-1215  
rhudson824@gmail.com

**Mary Williams:** mwmewmail@gmail.com

## Our Prayer List



We thank God for blessing **Larry and Jeanne Lubbs** with 50 years of marriage; **John and Nancy Rivolta** with 57 years of marriage; and **Chuck and Ginny Hilbinger** with 63 years of marriage! At the Virginia Synod Assembly, **Larry Shoberg** was honored at the 50th anniversary of his ordination, and **Al Kuhn** at the 60th anniversary of his ordination!

Pray to know God will for healing **Jo Austin, Ailene Bartlett, Carolee Bush, Lea Chenault, Thord Einarsen, Michelle Ivey, Billie Purse, Dorothy Reeves, Dan Stimson, Jennifer Voigt**

Pray for Peace and comfort to **Larry Shoberg** and his family on the death of his sister; and to the family

and friends of **Judie Schrag**.

Pray for the safety of those working on the expansion and renovation of our building, the house of our church.

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

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Ann Baker, Anna Baldwin, Frances Boitnott-Schluter, Kae Brown, James Burkle, Hannah Calderon, Ron Campana, Bob Canny, Joanne Carlson, Melissa Cavessa, Jane Cattermole, Brenda Cook, Dave Culler, Janice and Walter DeGree, Paul Derin, Lois Derrick, Bubba Drury, Dianne Drury, Mae Failoni, Bruce and Kay Flatin, Inge Felbier, Doug Fisher, Lonna Gibson, Nancy Gottschalk, Loretta Hughes, Denise Jones, Gloria Kochenour, Joe Mallen, Rick Meyer, James Ogborn, Sr., Patrick Passarella, Bill and Joyce Pate, Laura Petrillo, Tom Roberts, Norwood Robertshaw, Roland Scheiding, Barbara Schone, Gilene Seege, Rosemary and Ed Slayton, Alexis Smith, Nancy Spaniol, Connie Testerman, Linda Thies, Shirley White.



*Our new members . . . .*



**Brian and Amy Bergh  
Laura, Eleanor, Theo**

111 Fairmont Drive  
Williamsburg, VA 23188  
757 566-4557  
Amy: [abergh@verizon.net](mailto:abergh@verizon.net)

Care Group #5



## *Memorials*

### **For Judie Schrag**

Gordon and Carol Gabram  
Dick and Dorothy Reeves



### ***Remember Food Banks***

Those served by FISH and Grove Community Outreach Center need food especially during the summer months when school children do not receive help with breakfast and lunch at school. Especially needed: breakfast items, cereals and cereal bars, peanut butter and jelly, soup, canned fruit and juice boxes

Thank you so very much!