



# The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

---

Williamsburg, Virginia

July 2013

---



## *I'm Looking for a Pastor Like This ...*

We are in an interesting and a good time of discussion and discernment as a congregation. A couple of months ago, our Ministry Associate resigned to become a full-time Daddy! A couple of weeks ago, I sent out a letter presenting the need I see to add a pastor to our staff to share the work with me. That letter presented the needs in terms of our congregation's mission. (If you did not see that letter and would like to, let me know!) In the words that follow, I'm more personal. Here's the kind of partner I need, personally!

I need a partner who is emotionally healthy and honest with himself/herself, someone I can trust.

I need a partner who has a deep prayer life and a consciousness of practicing the faith in his/her daily life. S/he will be a model of that for others.

I need a partner whose preaching and worship leadership will feed me.

I need a partner who loves this congregation and the work of pastoral ministry as much as I do. S/he will be inquisitive and curious about the work God calls the pastor of St. Stephen to do. S/he will be eager to be current in his/her reading.

I need a partner who is flexible and creative, who sees possibilities for ministry and proposes initiatives.

I need a partner who seeks out and nurtures relationships among those within the congregation and also among those who are seeking God. S/he will enjoy being out of the office, among folks in their homes, workplaces, and schools.

I need a partner who is a resource for parents of young children out of his/her own experiences as a parent.

I need a partner who respects and encourages youth and young adults in their spiritual journeys.

I need a partner who is effective at using social media.

That begins my wish list! (Might as well begin with the ideal, right?) The Bishop, Congregation Council and Mutual Ministry Committee have endorsed my hunch that it would be good to begin by focusing on possible candidates that I already know. Join me in praying for openness to see who the Spirit might be drawing to our congregation's staff.

**Pastor Andy Ballentine**



## *Christianity After Religion: The End of the Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening*

Does that title of Diana Butler Bass' new book catch your attention? In our culture, interest in "spirituality" is on the rise. At the same time, traditional religious affiliation is plummeting across all denominations. What's going on?

According to Bass, we're in the midst of a great revival. What's your experience? What do you see in your children or grandchildren? How might we be open to what God is doing? How might a congregation like St. Stephen thrive into the future?

**Pastor Ballentine** will lead two seven-week studies of this book. An afternoon group will meet at **3:00 PM on Thursdays, beginning August 15**. An evening group will meet at **7:00 PM on Mondays, beginning September 23**. The book will cost \$12. (Deadline for ordering is August 4 for the afternoon group.) If you'd like us to order a book, please contact the church office!

## *Summertime Music Ministry*



I wish to thank **Ina Berkey** for her leadership in our "Favorite Hymn" project. In addition to giving everyone an opportunity to enjoy their favorite hymn within the Service, her insights about the history of the specific hymn have been very interesting to read. Coming this fall there will be other opportunities to celebrate our hymn heritage, and we look forward to Ina's welcome sharing of her expertise. The Lutheran Church celebrates one of the greatest traditions of hymns in all the Christian community!

Summer Music Ministry has gotten off to a very healthy start, and I am always so grateful for our gifted participants. In addition to the folks that I am aware of, I'm sure there are several more who continue to hide their

light under a bushel. I pray that the Spirit will give you a gentle push, (well, maybe not so gentle), and you will come forward. I hope to have a more regular opportunity to feature this ministry, and one of the places we are considering will be in sharing the Offering of Music at the 8:30 service.

Starting in the fall, we will be exploring new ways to praise the Lord in music at the 8:30 service, and in addition to a seasonal choir, there will be a need for other music. Please pray about what you might do to enrich our worship. Any ideas are most welcome!

I ask for your prayerful support,

**Michael Monaco**



## *St. Stephen June Council Minutes*

The Council met on June 18, 2013.

- Minutes of the May meeting were approved.
- The Endowment Committee reported on their work and plans to secure the financial future of St. Stephen. They have various activities planned, including Thrivent workshops this spring to inform the congregation about endowments, and how to include St. Stephen in estate planning.
- Council approved an additional \$1,100 (for a total of \$3,600) for an external audit of our financial records.
- Council approved a building use request to allow the Coast Guard Auxiliary to meet in the Fellowship Hall monthly.
- Several members of the Council and the congregation have offered to temporarily help with various tasks to take some of the pressure off Pastor until a permanent solution, such as a second pastor, can be found.
- Council discussed our need for a second pastor, and the informational presentation for the Annual Meeting June 23 between services.
- Staff and committee reports were discussed.
- Council thanked outgoing member, **Sandy Croushore**, for her years of service.

**David F. Clark, Secretary**



## Health Ministry

The following article was written by a member of our Health Ministry Team. In the next weeks we will focus in the bulletin on different aspects of nutrition for people of all ages.

### *Help, My Toddler Won't Eat*

Many parents and grandparents worry that their toddler is not eating enough. The good news is that almost every child eats enough. The brain sends messages that tell someone to stop eating when they are full. As we get older, we learn to ignore that message. For many of us that is a big problem.

When we worry about how much our children are eating, we tend to serve only the things that they want. For the most part, these are the unhealthy foods. Fix what you know to be healthy. At least half of the plate should include fruits and vegetables. Children need 16 to 24 ounces of milk a day. Juice is just empty calories. Serve the meal and do not fuss. Mealtime should be relaxing. If they want more, fine. If they do not eat, when you are done, so are they. Toddlers do need a mid-morning and mid-afternoon snack. This can be fruit or another healthy choice.

Your stomach is about the size of your fist. Look at your toddler's fist. It is quite small. For the first few years of life, average serving size is about one tablespoon of food. That is also not very much! After the first year of life children tend to grow in fits and spurts. When they are in a growth spurt, they will eat a lot. When they are not growing, it will seem as if they eat nothing at all. It is helpful to notice what your child eats over a week and not a day.

If you are really worried about the balance of food that your child eats, then a daily chewable multivitamin can be offered. When you go to the doctor for routine well child care, your child will be measured and plotted. Your doctor can then reassure you that your child is growing appropriately or if not, can help you investigate why not.

For additional information or questions please contact **Marcie Clark, Parish Nurse**

## July Article from the Endowment Committee



Last month, **Jane deSolms** explained how your weekly contributions to St. Stephen are received, how they are divided and then spent. That was the first of numerous articles that will be coming from your Endowment Committee.

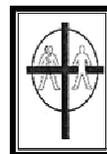
The committee has been formed to better address the long-term health of our church. We are, and always have been, a very caring, giving congregation and that should be recognized and rewarded. What can become lost in this successful support is that down the road there may be issues that need to be addressed and the weekly, monthly, yearly contributions cannot cover those. To secure our well-being, our ability to do our congregational and community outreach, we may need additional financial resources.

In the not-for-profit world, this issue exists in all venues. Museums, art centers and local charities strive to have endowments to protect them and their future efforts. To do this, it's a matter of planning and that will be explained to all over the next few months.

And now you say, "This must be very difficult, far beyond our means," and I would say, "not so." To share your investments, your savings, your home, your farm, your valuable possessions is much easier than you might expect. It is, with the help of experts, quite easy to establish your desired gift and with no financial loss to you as you continue through life.

Please keep an open mind, follow the story line of this column, and begin to think of ways you can help - - help to secure the future of your congregation, your church.

**Gary Krull for the Endowment Committee**



### *My Journey With (and without) Stephen Ministry*

May 18, Williamsburg, his face filled with grief as he looked at her casket, sitting above him, waiting for its place in the mausoleum. His wife of 20 years was

gone in 10 days, after learning of a life threatening illness. I wish I had known her better.

An hour later, Gainesville, FL: my husband's long-time friend buried his mother, gone after a long illness.

In the next hour, Springfield, IL: a feisty, life-filled lady slipped away after a sudden stroke. I had seen her only a few weeks before, when she told me all the travel plans she and her husband had made since he had stepped down from his Board of Directors position. She would see me in the fall. Her husband of 58 years is now shattered. All his plans are ash.

An e-mail from Gatlinburg TN: a co-worker's cancer has spread now a second time. She can't express it by phone. We had celebrated her remission in March. My heart aches as I know the road she will travel.

He says "I'm holding up." He means "I know you too well to tell you. You would be afraid for me."

She says, "I just need a little time off for the treatment." She means, "I don't know you well enough to trust you with my personal fears. I don't want everyone to know my business."

I say, "I'm fine." I think, "How can the sun shine, birds sing, people go on as though nothing happened?"

We "Jesus people" think "I'm supposed to trust in God to get me through this. People will think my faith is not strong enough if I ask for help." God *will* carry you through times of loss, but he does not mean you have to do it alone. Jesus told us to care for each other. Sometimes we need more than an understanding spouse, a trusted friend. A Stephen Minister can provide that caring relationship that will allow you to express the issues that are troubling you in a confidential, non-judgmental environment.

Contact **Pastor Ballentine** or a Stephen leader if you would like to consider working with a caregiver, or if you know of someone who might benefit from a caring relationship. We are there for you. "*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*" *Psalms 34:18.*

**Cindy Gibbs**



## ***Come to a Fun event!***

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Norge is planning an Oktoberfest fundraising event. They are trying to raise \$70,000 to upgrade their Parish Hall kitchen to commercial grade equipment so they can expand their social ministry opportunities. Among some of the things they would like to be involved with are motel ministry and the winter homeless shelter program.

As part of the greater Williamsburg ELCA family, we can assist them in reaching their goal in a number of ways. The first way we can assist is by attending their Oktoberfest event which will be held on **Saturday, October 19**. Secondly, we can offer our hands in the physical work of setting up and cleaning up. Thirdly, if you can assist in procuring auction items, please let me know and I will forward your contact information to them. But please await further instructions in this area as they are being very mindful of this process and are trying to avoid duplication of efforts. Additionally, advertisements are being accepted for the program.

The event will have two fun parts. There will be hors d'oeuvres, complementary wine tasting, and a silent and live auction from **1:00 PM to 3:30 PM**, followed by a Biergarten, and German food and music from **3:30 PM to 7:00 PM**. Note: this ends early enough that even early worship service attendees can get plenty of sleep between the Oktoberfest and Sunday morning worship.

The cost for attending the entire event is \$60 per person. If you would like to only attend the wine tasting, the cost is \$30 per person. Attending only the Biergarten is \$40 per person. I am the contact person at St. Stephen for this important and fun event, and would love to speak with you about the fundraiser. Please contact me in person, by e-mail at: [gro-man4@juno.com](mailto:gro-man4@juno.com), or by phone 220-0724.

Please consider putting Our Saviour's Oktoberfest on your calendar. **Pam Groman**

## The Church Mouse Hears .



We celebrate with three of our members who have recently received special recognition in the greater community. The Fan Free Clinic, providing medical care to low-income uninsured patients since 1968, honored **Dr. June Henderson** for her volunteer work at the clinic since September 2009 and June also serves on the clinic's board of directors. **Dr. Heidi Flatin** of General Academic Pediatrics received the James W. Hayes, MD. Faculty Teaching Award for outstanding contribution and commitment to pediatric education and for the fourth consecutive year, General Academic Pediatrics has received the Excellence in Patient Care Award from the residents and faculty of Eastern Virginia Medical School and the Department of Pediatrics of the Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters (CHKD).



**Paul Reier** was honored at the annual Interagency Wildlife Academy meeting at Longwood University on June 4 with the Bronze Smokey Bear award for those who are outstanding in wildfire prevention service.

**Joan Miller** and her teammate won the Northeast Division Pairs Playdowns in lawn bowling and will represent the division in the national championships to be held in October in California. And a special blessing for our high school graduates: **Justin Bredbenner; Rebecca Drake; Dorothy Hinders; Travis Meermans; Jonathan Toler; and Hannah Wiers.**

Many of St. Stephen long-time members remember charter member, **Virginia Paledes**, who died in Newport News at the age of 92 on June 7. She was very active at St. Stephen when she lived in Williamsburg.

Flash Be sure to turn to page 26 of the July issue of *Next Door Neighbors* to read the exciting story of our own **Tom Berkey!** We get to follow Tom and Ina in their journey to Williamsburg, Patriot's Colony, and St. Stephen Church. The mouse agrees that Tom and Ina are certainly not "sitting back and doing nothing in retirement."

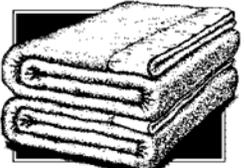
## July Birthdays



1	Willetta Heising	
5	Austin Pierce	
6	Kathie Eichfeld	
8	Edith Haecker	Bill Holcombe
9	Bill Gibbs	
11	Susan Burruss	
13	Margaret Bleck	Jessica Sidebottom
	Rosemary Stimson	
14	Janice Svendsen	
16	Emma Timberg	
17	Anita Dorsey	
20	Diane Bean	Nancy Childress
21	Linda Baumgarten	Pat Chapman
	Brad Rinehimer	Jean Shivel
23	Edward Delehanty	Dick Reeves
	Karen Schlicht	Joanne Shue
25	Katy Peterkin	
27	Carl Stauffer	

Is your name missing? Is your date wrong? Please let us know immediately!

Rev. June 20, 2013



### Blanket Sunday Update

A special "thank you" to all who gave so generously to Blanket Sunday on Mother's Day, May 12. What a blessing they will be to those who need them! Our total offering was \$455.

**Marian Thies for social ministry**

## ***New Addresses and e-mails***



### **Robert and Donna Camp**

14575 W. Mountain View Blvd., #523  
Surprise, AZ 85374  
[Rbc11spen@aol.com](mailto:Rbc11spen@aol.com)  
704/798-6980

### **Bill and Jane Holcombe [updated!]**

6180 Via Real  
#61  
Carpinteria CA 93013

### **Phyllis Spencer**

[Marbleheadlight1821@gmail.com](mailto:Marbleheadlight1821@gmail.com)

## ***Our Prayers***



**Join your prayers for healing** with God's desires for Jack Behlendorf, Kathryn Ogborn, Dick Reeves, Dorothy Reeves, Dan Stimson, Ruby Umberger

**Pray for these who are physically unable to get to worship:** Dick Batman, Elsa Englert, Ruth Ennis, Bernice Fahncke, Elsie Hall, Willetta Heising, Jean Kuhn, Helen Lenox, Jo Schumacher, Barbara Weekes, Dot Wright, Lois Wysong

### **Pray God's blessings upon**

- **Bernice Fahnke** (Rosalie Frey's mother who celebrated 100 years) and **Elsa Englert** (celebrating 103 years)
- **Holly Wurdemann** and **Daniel Walker** who were married at our altar on June 19
- **Matt Bosworth**, serving in Afghanistan

**Pray God's peace and comfort** for Jean Kuhn as she mourns the death of her husband, **Pastor Al Kuhn**.

**Pray for these loved ones of our congregation:** Nathalee Accomando, Nadine Adams, Donna Alt, Jan Altman, Craig Anderson, Millie Andrews-Young, Mar-

garet Blume, Lois Bomba, Joshua and Emmi Brown, Dee Butler, Bob Canny, Joanne Carlson, Karen Heide Carney, Casey, Donna Cherel, Ralph Clark, Benjamin Collins, Michael Compton, Jeris DeKievit, Dianne Drury, Debbie Effeney, Nick Finley, Mary Funkhouser, Nancy Gottschalk, Cheryl Griffin, Eleanor Harms, Janis Hepburn, Carol Horton, Barbara King, Jack Klein, Audrey Leek, Mildred Lindblad, Helen Mallen, Bertha McCabe, Laura McDonald, Kristin McGraw, Laura Mraz, Judy Murden, the Nasra family, Arthur Pate, Henry and Beth Pate, Ryleigh, Colton, Lee Peters, Ray Petro, Lisa Rivolta, Don Romig, Roland Scheiding, Bernadine Schlicht, Betty Schone, Glenna Schone, Nancy Spaniol, Evelyn Spear, Betty Carol Sutton, Connie Testerman, Jim Wood



### **Ray Crocker**

Rosemary Hacker

## ***Letters to our Congregation***



Williamsburg Area Meals on Wheels thanked us for our donation of \$1000 for their program.



**Thanks to the Health Ministry and Doug Cummings' work on the disaster planning exhibit**

*June 23 -- Congregation Votes to Proceed with Process of Calling a  
Second Pastor*





