



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

JUNE 2014



Pastor's Page

Those of us in the Christian tradition use many calendars. We use a liturgical calendar, which is based upon the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. New Year's Day in this calendar is the first day of Advent, which is calculated so that there are four Sundays before Christmas. The Gregorian calendar is the most widely used civil calendar. New Year's Day in this calendar is January 1. We also use the academic calendar. Using this calendar places the beginning of the year at the first Tuesday after Labor Day, generally speaking. Summer, the time when life seems to slow down, is also the time for planning the coming year.

Plans, in various stages of progress, are being made by all our committees. I can speak to a few.

Here is the update on our search for a Director of Music: The advertising for this position was expanded, and we have received many qualified candidates! The search committee is working diligently to discern which person will serve our community in the best way possible. The good news is that this is becoming a hard decision because there are several very qualified candidates! We will narrow the list and bring at least two people here to interview in person. Stay tuned!

Our Preschool will take a summer break beginning at the end of May, and we are once again offering "Summer Camp" in June. We are making plans to install teachers during our 8:30 AM worship service on **September 21**. Chapel for the students is being re-formatted. We are talking about ways to connect our church with families of the school. Let me know if you would like to be part of that!

Many women in the church have expressed an interest in a women's breakfast. My intent is that this will begin in the fall. We will be talking about where and when would best suit people. There will be more to come about that during the summer.

I have just finished reading Barbara Brown Taylor's newly published book, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. Since many of you studied her book, *An Altar in the World*, I am wondering if there is a desire to discuss her latest work. Let me know if you are interested!

The Virginia Synod facilitates learning through their ACTS program. ACTS stands for, "Ambassadors Community for Theological Study." This is a program where people gather for two large group presentations by a known scholar. Then, small groups meet weekly for further conversation and study. This fall, Mark Allan Powell will be the presenter for, "Biblical Authority in Matters of Faith and Conduct." Powell is a lively and engaging scholar. Pastor Ballentine and I are very excited about this course and hope that many of you will participate along with us. The two large group sessions in Waynesboro are on **October 4** and **November 8**. More information will be coming your way!

In the midst of all this planning, and as I write this article, I am thinking about my vacation. It has been planned and on my calendar for five years! It will be good to have two weeks of resting in God's arms, so that I will be refreshed to continue my ministry with you!

In God's amazing grace,

Pastor Cheryl Ann Griffin



Faith Formation



"Changed by the Good News"

The 2014 "Power in The Spirit" event is scheduled for **July 10 through July 12** at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia. Sponsored by the Virginia Synod, ELCA (in partnership with Roanoke College, Office of Church Relations), the conference theme is "Changed by the Good News," to be addressed by speakers, worship, Bible study and workshops.

This year's keynote speaker is Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, who was elected as ELCA's fourth presiding bishop at its 2013 Churchwide Assembly. Leading the Bible study is the Rev. Rolf Jacobson of The Luther Seminary. To date, five people from St. Stephen have registered; for more details, or if you would like to attend, contact **Pastor Griffin** at: Pastorcg@ststephenlutheran.net—or pick up registration materials in the Gathering Space tract rack.



Pentecost 2014

On **June 8**, we will observe Pentecost, one of three major festivals—along with Christmas and Easter—of the church year, held 50 days after Easter. To help celebrate, you can wear red, and if you bring in red-flowering plants to help decorate the worship space that Sunday, they will then be planted in the church gardens.

St. Stephen May Council Minutes

The Council met on May 13, 2014:

- **Dennis Kiser** reported on repairs on our house at 608 Jamestown Road. A new fuel oil tank has been installed. Council authorized Dennis to arrange for the old tank to be pumped out and filled with foam. He was also authorized to have new gutters, gutter guards, and downspouts installed. The total expense for the old tank and the gutter projects is not to exceed \$3,000.

- The search committee for the Director of Music has conducted several Skype interviews, and is bringing two to three candidates in for further interviews.
- The next Congregational meeting will be **June 22**, between services. Agenda items will include: election of four Council members, Endowment committee members, changes in our constitution to match the model ELCA constitution, a Finance Committee mid-year update, a report on the Synod Assembly, and a brief report on the Jamestown Road Task Force.

David F. Clark, Secretary

HEALTH MINISTRY



Don't leave home without . . .

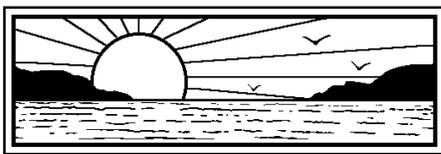
As we approach summer, many consider vacation plans. We look at where we will go, what we want to see, and how long we will stay. An equally important consideration is what to do about the safety of our home while we are gone. Below are some tips to help make your home safer and your trip more worry-free. More suggestions will follow in the weekly bulletins:

- Outside doors should be equipped with deadbolt locks, not spring locks that can be opened easily. Do not hide keys outside under decorative animals or rocks in the yard--burglars easily recognize these tricks.
- Make sure all doors and windows are shut and locked. Sliding doors and windows can be blocked with a wooden dowel rod or broomstick. Overhead garage doors can be pinned and the track blocked so the door will not open, or turn off the power to the automatic opener.
- Use electric timers to control some interior lights and the TV in the evenings, which gives the impression that you are home. Consider installing motion-sensor lighting around the outside of your house.

- If requested, local police departments will do “house checks” to keep an eye on vacationers’ homes. Arrange first-floor drapes and curtains in a near-normal daytime position so that neighbors and police can see into your house and spot any activity while you are gone.
- Notify the post office and newspapers to put on a “vacation hold” so they do not accumulate as an indication that you are gone.
- You might ask neighbors to keep an eye on your property, but do not leave an answering machine message saying you are on vacation.
- It is also a good idea to photograph and mark valuable items in your home, so that they can be identified, if stolen. Alternatively, take valuables to your bank for safe storage while you are gone.
- Set the thermostat for your furnace or air conditioner to maintain a reasonable temperature in the house, while also reducing the power bill while you are gone.

A special “Thank You” goes to Master Police Officer Alan McDowell of the James City County Police for his contribution to this article.

Marcie Clark, Parish Nurse



Invitation from “Living Water”

If you are planning a trip to Virginia’s Northern Neck this summer, Living Water Lutheran Church—www.livingwaterchapel.org—in Kilmarnock has extended an invitation to our congregation to join them while in the area. Located at 83 Bluff Point Road, its Sunday service begins at 10:00 AM.



“From His Hands” Motel Ministry

There are 10 local congregations in the Motel Ministry, serving hot meals at two local motels every Friday night, for the past several years. St. Stephen has two teams of faithful people (about 35 of our members), headed by **Michael Javier** (team pictured) and **Randy Punchard**.

Here are a few comments from our team leaders, describing their most recent meal service in April. Because both teams were serving on the same Friday evening, Michael’s team arrived in our kitchen and fellowship area earlier than Randy’s team, so that both teams could assemble meals without too much chaos. Each team develops its own menu, complete with main dish, vegetable, salad, rolls, and dessert. In addition, the teams often assemble breakfast items, special food if there are infants, and feed pets, too.

- From Randy’s recent report: “We fed 53 adults, 4 kids, 6 dogs and 2 cats. The preparation and assembly of the meal was done in such a high-spirited way that I was sorry I did not get it on film. ... One of the new contributing groups was from the College of William & Mary; the Oxfam organization had incredible energy and made the assembly go much faster ... They helped deliver it, too. ... Our congregational members do amazing work. The meal: ham-rice casserole, salad, rolls, brownies, fruit, bottled water and Easter treats. Our St. Stephen members are very supportive of FHH ... their tireless work in contributing to this ministry is a blessing beyond words.”

- From Michael's recent report: "Our group served 45 people on Friday, including a 6-month-old who was provided with baby food. The meal was meatloaf, spring potato toss, salad, rolls, apples, bar cookies and bottled water. In addition, each person received a breakfast bag The night was full of challenges, due to [serving at both motels], ... but the issues were handled with grace and patience by our team, who have learned through experience to trust the process ... to provide an abundance of lovingly prepared food ... regardless of the challenges faced. ... [W]e had positive interactions with a number of the residents ... the most poignant was ... with a woman who told us this was her first night at the motel and being homeless. That conversation really put a human face on the problem of homelessness and strengthened our resolve to continue to do all we can to support those in need."

Our two FHH teams have created, assembled and delivered many great meals in the Motel Ministry, and there have been many wonderful evenings spent together, assembling these meals in our kitchen. If you are curious and would like to know more, contact **Randy Punchard** (Randy4Golf@aol.com) or **Michael Javier** (differentdrum56@yahoo.com).

Diane Bean



My Journey With (and without) Stephen Ministry

"Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." These familiar words leave out one person we have to forgive—ourselves. As Stephen Ministers, we see people weighted down with guilt that, though it may seem trivial to us, is still upsetting their lives. There are bigger sins (murder, covetousness, rejecting God); the guilt caused by these may be harder to live with and perhaps beyond our skills to address.

However, most of us are plagued by smaller sins and their accompanying grief. We may realize we contributed to a family breakup, or we question how we

did not notice our child was cutting, or depressed, or addictive. We might become so wrapped-up in ourselves that we forget to make time for family, friends—or God. As Stephen Ministers, we are often concerned that we are not "helping" people; remember, that is God's job. Therefore, I determined that I was going to write a column about learning how to forgive ourselves, and how Stephen Ministers can guide you through that.

Not long ago, my younger cousin, Jackie, died unexpectedly. I had not known of his recent terminal diagnosis. My first reaction was, of course, grief. The next was, "I didn't get to say goodbye," and then, "What will people think of me for not calling?" My grief was leading me down a path of guilt: "I should have known. If I'd known, I would have made the trip to Atlanta. I would have called and used my Stephen Ministry skills to make him feel better. I would have talked to his mother." As I thought of this article, and began to notice how many "I's" were in that guilt, I added the sin of self-centeredness to my guilt. So, we mourn—and wonder, "If only ... I'd checked the internet, e-mail and phone more." Guilt is easier than grief for some of us. I am trying to let the guilt go, and honestly mourn; I know Jackie knows that I mourn.

Finally, I am back to the topic of forgiving yourself, of going to God and putting it back in His hands. A caring Stephen Minister can help you get there: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." *1 John 1:9*

Cindy Gibbs for Stephen Ministry



NOTE!
ADDRESS CHANGE

Directory Updates

Jo Schumacher:

Winthrop Manor Assisted Living
2100 Idlewood Avenue
Richmond, VA 23220
Main phone: 804-278-8982

Joanne Shue:

11132 Carver Pond Road
Charlotte, NC 28269-5007

The Church Mouse Hears . . .



Emily Rossiter has been asked to join the board of directors for *Avalon: A Center for Women and Children*, where she has previously volunteered. In this new role, she will develop community outreach to inform more people about Avalon’s services and to attract volunteers.

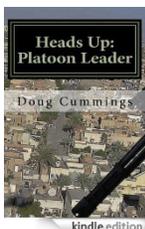


On May 3—after a delicious morning repast—15 St. Stephen workers sorted, trashed and recycled years’ worth of accumulated papers and church items during the Spring Storage Rooms Clean-Up Day. **George and Linda Vonderheide** headed this much-needed project.



Congratulations are in order for **Brian Van Rosendale**, accepted into the Governor's School for Science and Technology (Hampton) for his junior and senior high school years in the Scientific Programming “strand.” He will attend there mornings for math and science, and attend afternoon classes at Poquoson H.S.

Doug Cummings has written and published a book, *Heads Up: Platoon Leader*, following Lieutenant Denver Lycoming and his infantrymen through their battles with Islamic insurgents in Eastern Africa.



Pastor Ballentine celebrated on May 10 with five graduating seniors in the Lutheran Student Association at William & Mary’s Baccalaureate Service of Celebration, a multi-faith worship service planned by the Senior Class and Campus Ministries United.



As we wish the **Dell** family well—while they prepare to leave on assignment to Germany’s Ramstein Air Force Base **August 2**—they are looking for a good home for their 10-year-old cat, Maya (pictured with **Sarah**), who is spayed, vaccinated and in good health. An affectionate “lap cat,” she would do best in a quiet home with no other pets. If interested, please contact **Amanda** at: amandaproctordell@gmail.com.

Through St. Stephen’s Social Ministry Coordinating Committee, **Heidi Flatin, Lori Harms, Linda Laity Hite** and **Sandy Peterkin** assembled 180 tote bags filled with donated items from the congregation, including more than 1,000 books, plus art supplies and arithmetic flash cards, covering elementary grades K-5. Dedicated during the May 25 service, they will be given to homeless children in the Williamsburg-James City County area for summer use.



The shed project that began construction at 608 Jamestown Road during the blustery winter months has reached its conclusion as of mid-May with the completion of the ramp. Kudos to **Brian Bergh, Forrest Fenstermaker, Veronica Ferris, Peter Geier, Bob Harman, Glenn Joppa, Denny and Diana Krieger, John Moravetz, Lewis Owens, Tom Peterkin, Tommy Peterkin** and team leader **Harlan Schone** on a job well-done.



Prayers

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Jim Anderson, Nancy Canny, Anita Dorsey, Elise Emanuel, Forrest Fenstermaker, Christine Hallman, Dan Hanley, Donna May Hochstetler, Michelle Ivey, Marilyn Johnson, Rick Meyer, Rosa Miller, Ursula Murden, Lana Olson, Kathy Peterson, Katie Punchard, Ursula Recktenwald and Janice Svendsen.** Pray for those giving care to these loved ones.

Pray for these who are physically unable to get to worship: **Dick Batman, Ruth Ennis, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Willetta Heising, Jean Kuhn, Helen Lenox, "Pete" Peterson, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Dot Wright and Lois Wysong.**

As **Rushton White** grieves for his mother; **Shirley Minnick** mourns the death of her mother; **Gretchen Radke** grieves her father and her grandmother; **Carol Gabram** mourns the death of her brother; and **Marj Gottschalk-Trone** mourns the death of her mother, pray for them the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Matthias Alexander Hallman came into the body of Christ through the sacrament of Holy Baptism on May 25! We pray that the Spirit will empower Matthias' parents, **Jonathan** and **Christine**, as they fulfill the responsibilities they are taking on.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Rita Adams, Lorraine Barnes, Lois Bomba, Carol Boyer, Michael Compton, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Judy Culler, Walter Degree, Mary Dickens, Kathryn Dieter, Maxine Eittreim, Joe Eustace, Inge Felbier, Sarah Fuhrman, Natalie Fulton, Mary Funkhouser, Bill Gottschalk, Eleanor Harms, Terry Holland, Joan Holt, Carol Horton, Richard Johnson, George Lair, Mildred Lindblad, Joe McCool, Al Meyer, Dianna Miller, Stanley Miller, Heidi Morris, Fred Muller, the Nasra family, Mike Newberg, Mike Overdorf, the Price family, Lisa Rivolta, Edie Roberts, Dorothy

Roger, Bernadine Schlicht, Paul Simis, Linda Smalarz, Kevin Smith, Nancy Spaniol, Evelyn Spear, Deana Spencer, Roger Spencer, James Storm, Susan Stumpf, Lana Taylor, Howard Teubner, Ann Thompson, Annette Vosteen, Jack Wilhite III, Gloria Williams and Lois Wright.



June Birthdays

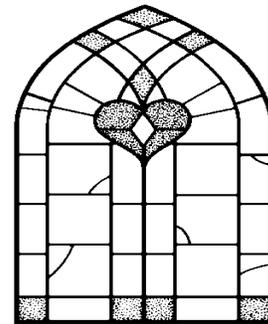
- | | | |
|----|----------------------|-------------------|
| 2 | Karen Chenault | Kathy Peterson |
| | Sara Osborn | Lois Wysong |
| 3 | David Black | Leonard Bosworth |
| 4 | Denny Krieger | Stephanie West |
| 5 | Sally Crocker | |
| 6 | Jack Harris | Brad Leek |
| 7 | York Doerr | |
| 8 | Ron Harris | |
| 9 | Rita Kristiansen | |
| 10 | Charles Osborn | |
| 11 | Randy Punchard | |
| 12 | Jesse DeMari | |
| 14 | Terry Hinders | |
| 15 | Ruth Fenstermaker | |
| 17 | Gary Krull | |
| 19 | Caitlyn Lucy | Alexander Ogaard |
| | Janet Rinehimer | |
| 20 | Joshua Egloff | Lou Rossiter |
| 21 | Katelin Cosby | Jean Kuhn |
| 22 | Carol Harman | Audrey Root |
| | Deloris Hanley | Jacquelyn Shearer |
| 25 | Jeri Meermans | Zhou Hui Stauffer |
| 26 | Susan Britcher | Christine Drake |
| 27 | Stephanie Bredbenner | Arthur Hanson |
| | Donna VanDuyse | |
| 28 | Arielle Alpino | |
| 29 | Mary Jamerson | Sherry Phipps |
| 30 | Linda Olson | |



BUILDING FUND GIFT

In Honor Of Tom and Sandy Peterkin
—Ursula Murden

- The Community of Faith Mission (COFM) thanked St. Stephen for being a Shelter Partner, providing care and encouragement to the homeless people of Williamsburg.
- ELCA thanked the church for its recent gift of \$3,498 to ELCA World Hunger, toward its vision to end hunger throughout the world.
- The Avalon Center for Women and Children thanked the congregation for a donation of \$700, helping them serve 550+ women and children in the area who are daily affected by domestic violence and other adverse issues.



As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 Peter 4:10



This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

Congregational Officers:

President	Keith Egloff	229-7859
Vice President	Emily Rossiter	345-6206
Secretary	Dave Clark	603-6346
Treasurer	Paul Kristiansen	220-2709
Financial Secretary	Linda Vonderheide	645-4059

Church Office: Phone: (757) 229-6688
 email: All email addresses are:
 _____@saintstephenlutheran.net



Church Staff:

Pastor	Andy Ballentine	229-6742
	email	pastorab@
Pastor	Cheryl Ann Griffin	898-1323
	email	pastorcg@
Parish Administrator	Sandy Peterkin	office@
Dir. Music/Organist	Ina Berkey (acting)	MusicDir@
Parish Nurse	Marcie Clark	ParishNurse@
Dir. Of Preschool	Lauren McQuain	258-3759
	email	preschool@

Monday - Friday: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Church Council:

Cathy Bingman	(515) 971-6915
Dave Clark	603-6346
Keith Egloff	229-7859
Bob Hanny	229-5080
Terry Hinders	221-0904
Linda Laity Hite	220-2776
Pat Janot	221-0289
Brad Leek	250-3473
Bob Radke	565-7993
Emily Rossiter	345-6206
Anders Timberg	741-2395
Stan York	345-0073

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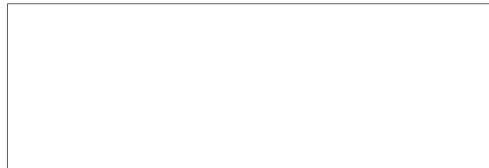
Pam Buckley

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