



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

June 2017



INTENTION

What is your intention? The question itself is asked in particular circumstances, but this is also a life question. One dictionary definition says it means “a mental state that represents a commitment to carrying out an action.” Synonyms are “purpose, aim, attitude.” I’ve heard speakers use the term in this way before, but this time it stirred something in me. I encountered this word “intention” through a video on Facebook.

I don’t usually delve deeper into advertising that I see on-line, but this particular ad caught my attention:

A young man is creating bracelets and necklaces out of something that looks like a washer, a flat round piece of brass or nickel with a hole in it. On it, he stamps one or two words of your choosing. Two of the questions that the website suggests will help you choose your word are, “What virtue do you want more of in your life?” and, “What are you most passionate about and want to do more?”

How would you answer these questions? In one or two words, what is your intention? For me, the answer to this question must be grounded in God. My aim must be in line with God’s desire for me. I’ve been thinking about this for weeks. My immediate answer is “gratitude.” God has blessed me in innumerable ways, and my response to those blessings is gratitude. Additionally, focusing on thankfulness helps me to keep my life in perspective, particularly on days when things don’t seem to go well.

It is based on the words of a gospel song by Candi Staton. This is a reminder that I have reason to say, “hallelujah.” Then, “anyway” speaks out loud about disappointments and challenges. Put them together, and “hallelujah anyway” says that God’s goodness will prevail. God will not abandon us—ever.

As the week went on, I thought I should add the word, “grace.” Grace is kindness and goodness that we don’t deserve. Maybe if I wear this word on my wrist it will help me to recognize and accept this gift. Maybe it will be a reminder to give it to others.

What is your word? Share it with me. Share it with others. Most importantly, live it.

In God’s amazing grace,
Pastor Cheryl Ann Griffin



¹*The intentions of the heart belong to a man, but the answer of the tongue comes from the LORD.*

²*All a person’s ways seem right in his own opinion, but the LORD evaluates the motives.*

³*Commit your works to the LORD, and your plans will be established. **Proverbs 16***

**"We can make our plans,
but the Lord determines our steps."
Proverbs 16:9**





Breakfasts for Men and Women—

Promoting Conversation & Friendship

- **June 1**—Men of the congregation will join together for breakfast the first **Thursday** of this month.
- **June 6**—Women are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Tuesday** 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.



June Baptismal Anniversaries

Those celebrating anniversaries of their new birth in Christ:

3	Cheryl Ann Griffin	
4	Amanda Buckley	Melissa Buckley
6	Alan Balma	Danya Zimbauer
7	David Black	
12	Art Dorsey	Doug Moore
	Art Nelsen	
13	Rachael Wiers	
15	Jenni Punchard	
16	Jane deSolms	
17	Ethan Owens	
18	Sarah Harms	
19	Sam Melvey	
21	Jessica Harms	James Stein
	Erich Zimbauer	
25	Chris Black	Karl Zimbauer
30	Joshua Cosby	

Others with June baptismal dates:

Jane Holcombe
Brad Leek
Jon Lund
Jo Schumacher

Baptismal Festival: Pentecost Sunday, June 4

On Pentecost, **Margie Ehrhardt**, **Erik McKenna** and **Audrey Root** will affirm their baptisms. There will be a celebration reception between the services in the Gathering Space. If you would like to join St. Stephen on this day, please speak with either pastor.



CONGRATULATIONS! To 2017's Graduates

We give thanks for our graduating high school students!

Please extend your blessings to these young people:

Celie Collins, graduating from Lafayette High School. Celie is planning to pursue a career in dance.
Sara Osborn, graduating from York River Academy. Sara will be taking classes at Thomas Nelson Community College.
Alex Stauffer
Rachael Wiers, graduating from Lafayette High School. Rachel is considering a career in education and will be taking classes at Thomas Nelson Community College.
Karl Zimbauer, graduating from Jamestown High School. Karl will be majoring in Electrical Engineering at University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Congratulations to these higher education graduates:

Becca Groman, who has graduated from the School of Nursing at Thomas Nelson.

Dorothy Hinders, who has graduated from High Point University in North Carolina and is beginning a job with Mutual of Omaha in Houston, TX.

(Please let the church office know of other graduates who should be recognized.)



The Church Mouse Hears

... that congratulations are in order for **Jesse Zimbauer**, recently promoted to Captain, who will take charge of the *USS Indiana*



(pictured here at the vessel christening with the Zimbauer family) ... and, congratulations are due to **Paul Melvey**, recently promoted to Captain in the Supply Corps ... as well as for **Nate Collins**, selected as the new principal of Robert E. Lee High School in Staunton, VA. leaving Gloucester High School at



the end of the school year... and to **Carla Javier** (pictured center, above), named support employee of the year by the Williamsburg-James City County School Board, ... and, kudos go to **Katy Peterkin**, who will lead her students in the "Exceptional Games," tailored after Special Olympics, on **Thursday, June 8**, at Jamestown High School. Students from Williamsburg-James City County Middle and High Schools will participate; the Exceptional Eagles Club at Jamestown H.S. promotes inclusion of all students and abilities.



1956 SOCIETY NEWS

The 1956 Society met at Ford's Colony on April 27, 2017, for its Fourth Annual Members Dinner. Guest speaker for the evening was The Rev. Palmer D. Clemmer, a retired ELCA pastor from Hickory, North Carolina. He inspired attendees with the story of his personal journey to ordained ministry as a beneficiary of endowment funds in his home church, college and community. He is pictured above with society member **Charlene Smith**, who is thanking Rev. Clemmer for his inspiring talk.

Having returned to their college town to live in retirement, Rev. Clemmer and his wife Cindy are "paying it forward" by dedicating space in their home to house students who are preparing for a life in the ministry. This selfless act becomes more meaningful knowing that Pastor Clemmer has a debilitating form of multiple sclerosis, which makes most days a challenge for him.

The 1956 Society now has 50 members, and the Endowment Fund exceeds \$990,000 in pledges, which will ensure the future mission of St. Stephen Lutheran Church. Cash on hand has reached the point where it can now be used to fund some St. Stephen proposals, and grants from the Endowment Fund Committee are already earmarked for the video sermon project and a much-needed air handler for the church building.

The endowment fund was established to "extend the work and purpose of the Church's mission." With that in mind, the Endowment Fund Committee is now considering requests for grants from the earnings of the fund's investments. Members of the congregation are encouraged to submit their proposals to the committee.

Gerri Bass
Ingrid Brown

Lou Rossiter
Charlene Smith



Gary Krull

GODPARENTS FOR TANZANIA

Mungu akubariki! (God bless you!)

As many of you know, one of the ministries in which St. Stephen participates is supporting four high school students in Tanzania through their education. As we enter June, the long rainy season in Tanzania should be ending (it typically is March to May). Unfortunately, this year has been a year of drought, which has increased the cost of food, and, therefore, the cost of attending school.

June is the month that St. Stephen raises money for *Godparents for Tanzania*. This year, as we raise money, an anonymous donor has generously offered to match our donations dollar for dollar, a true blessing because costs for school have increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000. In response to the drought, let our donations fall like rain for our four sponsored students!

In order for your donations to be matched, please make your checks out to SSLC (St. Stephen Lutheran Church) with *Godparents for Tanzania* in the memo. Unfortunately, we will not be eligible for the match if checks are written directly to Godparents for Tanzania.

Please look for bulletin boards in June to see photos of the students SSLC is supporting. If you have questions, please call **Sharon Powell** at 757-775-8526. Sharon lived in Tanzania for 13 years while her parents were serving as ELCA missionaries. If you have questions, please ask.



Upcoming Events in the Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

- ✓ **The Virginia Synod's "Power in the Spirit" conference, July 13-15, Roanoke College, Salem, VA**

The presenter will be Dr. Timothy Wengert, world-renowned Reformation scholar (and two-time St. Stephen Theologian in Residence). He will discuss this year's theme, "On Our Way Reforming!" "Power in the Spirit" features worship, Bible study and related workshops. For more information and a registration form, go to:

<https://www.regonline.com/registration/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1959579>

- ✓ **St. Stephen's Theologian in Residence
Weekend, September 29 to October 1**

Working with St. Bede Roman Catholic Church—"The Reformation for Lutherans and Roman Catholics: Where We Were 500 Years Ago, Where We Are Today, Where We Are Going In The Future"

Roman Catholic Presenter: Bishop Denis Madden, Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore.

Lutheran Presenter: Dr. Kathryn Johnson, Director of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



NEW STEPHEN MINISTERS AT ST. STEPHEN

Our congregation will be welcoming three new Stephen Ministers to our Stephen Ministry team. **Doug Moore, Cyndy Touhsaent** and **Danya Zimbauer** have recently completed their training. They began their studies in January and have faithfully attended classes on Tuesday evenings to complete their 50 hours of training in Christian caring skills. The classes were taught by the Stephen Leaders from Williamsburg churches that participate in this ministry and included topics such as listening, Christian assertiveness, confidentiality, and maintaining boundaries within the caregiving relationship.

Doug, Cyndy and **Danya**, along with all members of the Stephen Ministry Team, will use their skills to relate and care for others, grow in faith, and journey with their care receivers during life's challenges. The training is distinctively Christian and focuses on God as the one who cures as we care. As they assume their roles as Stephen Ministers, they will be participating in twice-a-month meetings with our Stephen Ministry Team for supervision and continuing education.

These three new Stephen Ministers will be commissioned during both church services on **July 9**. Please congratulate them for their accomplishment, and feel free to ask them how they decided to join this ministry and serve our congregation. Maybe they will inspire you to consider becoming a Stephen Minister.

In service to the Lord,
Jane Wills, Stephen Leader



QUILTING FOR RELIEF



The St. Stephen Lutheran World Relief Quilters announce the raffle of a beautiful hand-crafted, queen-size quilt (detail of front and back sides shown above) they created from fabric donated by a long-time member years ago. Now completed, the quilt is being offered up in a raffle drawing at \$5.00 per ticket. Being held in early September, the drawing will produce proceeds to be gifted (sans cost of materials) to Lutheran World Relief.



"I want to thank everyone who prayed, called, sent cards and emails to me during my recent recovery from surgery. I am truly blessed that so many friends of the congregation were so concerned about my hip replacement surgery. Also, thank you for our pastors and parish nurse who visited me in the hospital and at home. We have a very caring community within St. Stephen and I appreciate all you did to help in my recovery. God is good and I feel truly blessed."

Edith Haecker



2	Karen Chenault	Sara Osborn
3	David Black	Leonard Bosworth
	Rosa Parks	
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	Peter Raquet	
14	Terry Hinders	
15	Ruth Fenstermaker	
16	Greta Zimbauer	
17	Gary Krull	
19	Janet Rinehimer	
20	Joshua Egloff	Lou Rossiter
21	Katelin Cosby	Michael Powell
22	Carol Harman	Audrey Root
23	Brandon Cave	Brian Crittenden
25	Carrie Bailey	Jeri Meermans
	Zhou Hui Stauffer	
26	Susan Britcher	Christine Drake
27	Donna VanDuyse	
29	Mary Jamerson	Sherry Phipps
30	Linda Olson	

Give thanks for the birth of Henry Keagan Lawson, born to Jayme and Paul on May 22!

We thank God for giving Jessie Schmitthenner 96 years of life!

Pray Easter comfort and hope for family and friends of Pat Chapman.

Pray for these who are unable to get to worship: Carolee Bush, Gene and Martha Clements, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Stan Hobday, Mary Jamerson, Helen Lenox, Ursula Murden, "Pete" Peterson, Betty Rickerson, Dick Reeves, Regina Root, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, Rudy Stegmann, and Jerry Trone.

Pray God's blessings on:

- **Matt Bosworth**, serving with the Army in Iraq
- **Janelle Neubauer**, former LSA member and newly ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, called to serve as the country coordinator of the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Rwanda, and as a missionary pastor serving the Lutheran Church of Rwanda.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Peggy, Joyce, Nathalee Accomando, Terry Bauer, Brennan Bayer, the Bicknell family, Werner Bieber, Tom and Bea Black, Blume family, Matt and Jess Bosworth (awaiting the birth of their baby), Grady Calhoun, Elaine Cari, Marla Canny, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Kathryn Dieter, Brian Doyle, Kelly Eichfeld, Inge Felbier, Karen Felton, Mary Fitzgerald, Mertie Funkhouser, Bill Gottschalk, Char Grabowski, Frank Greenday, Carol Haecker, Madeline Hanlon, Anthony Hargrave, Sara Jane Harlan, Tammy Harman, Sam and Ronny Hayes, Alan Hochstetler, Marian Hunt, Marsha Inge, Fran Kibler, Art Kirk, Carl Kountze III, Dean Kreitzer, Jane Kristiansen, Mary Beth LaFave, Gaston Lambert, Tamecha Lassiter, Frances Link, Mildred Lindblad, Bill Macdonald, Jack Malo, Betty March, Simon Mayfield, McGraw family, Bruce Milne, Heidi Morris, Mary Newberg, Bob Orwoll, Barb Pendleton, Lesa Peppers, Inge Petersen, Raines family, Pat Ramering, Paul Ratzow, Shann Rufer, Georg Siegert, Linda Smalarz, Sharon Smith, Evelyn Spear, Dave Splittorff, James Storm, Hallie Thrash, Pierrette Tipton, Charley Underdahl, Sue Weilmuenster, Travis Wilson, and Micah Zabell.



PRAYERS

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for John Allen, Doc Anderson, Nancy Childress, Pat Janot, Jon Lund, Jo Moore, Ned Neidlinger, Linda Reuben, and Corky Umberger.



ITEMS OF NOTE

- ❖ **2017 Giving Statements:** The first of three statements for 2017, covering January 1 through April 30, were sent via email or printed copy the week of May 15. The email would have been sent from finance@saintstephenlutheran.net. If you have questions regarding your statement, or if you did not receive one, please contact **Linda Vonderheide** at 757-645-4059 or at gandl525@cox.net.
- ❖ **Grief Group:** Parish Nurse **Marcie Clark** has several women who are interested in forming a group to discuss the journey of grief and to share consolation. If this would interest you, contact **Marcie** at ParishNurse@saintstephenlutheran.net.
- ❖ **Lutheran Summer Camp:** Caroline Furnace (Virginia Synod) Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center, Fort Valley, VA, where campers can combine faith with daily life at a nearly 300-acre camp, located next to George Washington National Forest. Campers experience daily worship and Bible study, plus a large range of activities.
- ❖ **Motel Ministry:** St. Stephen's "From His Hands" ministry includes two teams of congregation members who feed those without permanent housing who are staying in area motels. Each team serves 40 to 50 meals, once a month. If you would like to become part of this important ministry, please contact the parish office at Office@saintstephenlutheran.net, and someone will have **John Moravetz** or **Randy Punchard** contact you.



ST. STEPHEN SPRING CLEANING

On Saturday, May 6, 13 volunteers came together to perform a spring spruce-up of St. Stephen. This included various tasks in the Sanctuary, Gathering Space and Storage Units, including:

- The pews and chairs in the Sanctuary were washed;
- The cabinets, window sills and woodwork were dusted;
- The coffee bar area in the Gathering Space was cleaned, and coffee cups and mugs were run through the dishwasher;
- Gathering Space wall-shelving units were dusted and storage units were reorganized.

Many thanks to:

Susan Britcher, Jane deSolms, Rosalie Frey, Pat Janot, Denny and Diana Krieger, Tom and Sandy Peterkin, Linda Reuben, Harlan and Anne Schone, and George and Linda Vonderheide.

There will be a "Fall Clean-up Day" announced in the future. If you can give up a Saturday morning between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM for this, I would appreciate your help.

Volunteers, you did a great job!

George Vonderheide

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
612 Jamestown Road
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www.saintstephenlutheran.net

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God's work. Our hands.



The Quill

www.saintstephenlutheran.net

June 2017

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

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



Church Staff:

<i>Pastor</i>	Andy Ballentine	229-6742
	email	pastorab@
<i>Pastor</i>	Cheryl Ann Griffin	876-6371
	email	pastorcg@
<i>Parish and Preschool</i>		
<i>Administrator</i>	Sandy Peterkin	office@
<i>Interim Organist</i>	Ina Berkey	MusicDir@
<i>Interim Choir Dir.</i>	Patty Ballentine	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurse</i>	Marcie Clark	ParishNurse@

Church Council:

Amy Bergh	566-4557
Keith Egloff	229-7859
Jeanne Garrison	229-0978
Linda Laity Hite	220-2776
John McCurry	606-389-1082
Paul Melvey	598-1245
Sherry Phipps	810-4658
George Vonderheide	645-4059
Russ White	220-1023
Carol Wiers	564-0164
David Wills	378-2715
Stan York	345-0073

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612 Jamestown Road
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Co-Editors:

Diane Reeves (interim)
reevesde2@gmail.com
Reed Nester
reednester@gmail.com

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Mailing:

Pam Buckley