



# The Quill

## THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

June 2018



### Gratitude

We find expression of thankfulness in scripture. *This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it (Psalm 118:24)* has been cross-stitched and hangs in many homes. I am a proponent of the spiritual discipline of gratitude. You may have heard me recommend keeping a daily journal of people, things and encounters which you appreciate.

I've recently learned why some have difficulty with expressing thanks. In her new book *Grateful*, Diana Butler Bass confesses that thankfulness was difficult for her. She did not like the "notion of debt and duty and required reciprocity (xxix). Duty-based gratitude is emotionally empty and causes resentment. It is easy to suspect that benefits are given to exert control by, or forge loyalty to, an unscrupulous benefactor (xxi)." There is no doubt that some would give gifts as a way to curry favor, but, even so, saying "Thank you!" may help us communicate grace. Bass also writes that being grateful to someone highlights our own lack of control.

While Bass has difficulty with expressing gratitude, I have difficulty understanding why people don't do it more often. Researchers have frequently found that it is good for our health. It is also beneficial to our relationships, including our relationship with God. Gratitude that does not open us up to others is not true gratitude. Bass goes as far as to say that gratitude is a form of empathy, in that it allows understand and be with others. Healthy individual and communal gratitude is not about dominance or superiority.

Our worship services are based on the essentials of gratitude, that of giving and receiving. The word "Eucharist" is derived from the Greek word for "thanksgiving." In Holy Communion, we receive Christ's body and blood that was given and shed for us. This is both an individual and communal experience.

Gratitude is a choice that transcends emotions. We can cultivate it through practice. Start the day with intentionality, and end it with reflection. Before you go to sleep, write where you knew abundance and joy. Engage in the monastic practice of *examen* with these steps:

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the day with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one aspect of your day, and use that as a basis for prayer.
5. Look toward tomorrow.

Summer is a wonderful time of year to begin this practice, which in time will become a habit. *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thessalonians 5:18).*

**Pastor Cheryl Ann Griffin**





## The Recovery of Historic Evergreen Cemetery

This is a fascinating story about the creation, the abandonment and the current efforts being made to recover Historic Evergreen Cemetery in Richmond. Evergreen, founded to be a counterpart to the famous Hollywood Cemetery, was founded in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is the final resting place for the remains of prominent African Americans, including the grave of Maggie Walker, whose home is now a National Historic Site. <https://www.nps.gov/mawa/index.htm>

Tragically, most of the upkeep of the cemetery was abandoned in the 1960s, much of it actually becoming a forest. Since November, Ted Maris-Wolf, an archeologist and historian (and a Preschool parent who has worshiped at St. Stephen with his family) has been leading the effort to recover Evergreen.

Come hear Ted tell the story of why Evergreen is so important, and of his work Sunday, June 3. We'll gather for a potluck meal at 5:30 PM. Ted's presentation will begin at 6:30 PM.

For an introduction to Historic Evergreen Cemetery: <https://enrichmond.org/evergreen-cemetery/>

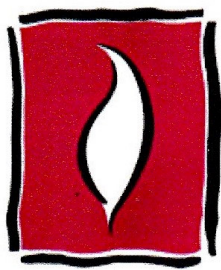


## The Memorial Statue Is "Back Home"

In 1971, Chad Michael Williams, a seven-year-old member of St. Stephen died, tragically. He was hit by a car, after getting off the school bus. A memorial statue was placed in the garden which was outside the church office entrance.

The 2003 building addition plans called for the elimination of that garden. What to do with the statue? It was moved to the back yard of the house the congregation owned at that time, at 608 Jamestown Road. When that house was sold, at the request of Martha Briggs, who lived next door to the church building at 610 Jamestown Road, the statue was moved into her front yard. Now that house has passed to a new owner. Recently, a crew moved the memorial statue back "home," in a new space created for it among the plantings around the front of our building.





## Increase Your Activity

Some of the many benefits of increased activity are improved brain health. Exercising increases circulation, which helps with brain function. Also, exercise builds strength, which helps to improve balance and coordination. There are many ways to get exercise. You can bike, run, walk, do gardening, go canoeing, hike, play golf or tennis, mow the yard or even count housework. You don't have to track steps if you don't have a pedometer. You can keep miles or even time. All of that is easily converted to steps.

There are many places around Williamsburg to go to get exercise and experience the rich history of the area. Historic Jamestowne Bike Trail, Living Forest Interpretive Trail, Redoubt Park, Greensprings Greenway Interpretive Trail, College Landing Park, Veterans Park (Formerly Mid County Park), Powhatan Creek Park, Powhatan Creek Park, York River State Park, Little Creek Reservoir Park, Colonial Parkway, Virginia Capitol Trail, Colonial National Parkway, and Freedom Park. These are just a few of the places you can go in our area.

If you don't like to exercise alone, grab a friend. Another idea is to write down a few bible verses and do some prayer walking. Meditate on the verses while looking at God's beautiful creation.

Need more inspiration, see the bulletin board outside the nurse's office. There are many more places to check out.

### Diana Tiller-Dichtel, Parish Nurse



We welcome **Diana Tiller-Dichtel** who was commissioned on April 22 as our second Parish Nurse. Diana recently completed the eight week, 32 hour Faith Community/Parish Nurse course. Diana brings

with her a diverse nursing back ground and 40 years' experience. She has worked in physicians' offices, intensive care units and most recently in medical-surgical nursing, conducting pre-surgical evaluations and education for patients in a hospital setting.

She grew up in Southwest Virginia and lived in upstate New York for six years before moving to Williamsburg with her husband, Bill. They both joined St. Stephen Lutheran Church in November of 2017. She enjoys gardening and just completed the Master Gardener course. She will be working with Marcie Clark on the Health Ministry Team.



***Walking to Germany -  
won't you come  
with us?***

Some members of our congregation are traveling to Germany to follow in Luther's footsteps. Although we may not be able to go on this trip, we are planning a virtual "Walk Through Germany" which will coincide with the trip being taken by our fellow congregants. Thus, we can share in their experiences, and learn about the places they visit.

Our walk starts on May 27 and ends on June 24, but you can join us at any time. We will walk as a community and tally our collective miles each week, keeping track of them on our map of Germany. In addition to walking, exercise can include biking, running, playing tennis, playing golf and many other things. You can track miles or steps or even the amount of time it takes. Everyone is different so do your best.

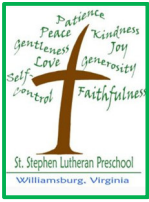
We will provide some equivalent activities on the back of the weekly tally cards. If you have any questions, please let us know. We are here to help.

Step Facts: Measure your progress by the number of steps you are covering each day. You can count on 2,000 steps equaling one mile (10,000 steps are considered five miles, and most people will do about 1,200 steps in ten minutes).

We will have a small celebration on Sunday, June 24 between services to share experiences and hear about the trip from our world travelers.

**Diana Tiller-Dichtel & Marcie Clark, Health Ministry**





## ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

What an amazing school year it has been! Thank you for your support as we integrated our Preschool families with our Church families – working together for the benefit of our children.

In May we released butterflies, celebrated mothers and grandparents, enjoyed two days of fun with water sports, and two end-of-the-year picnics.

As we turn the page and begin peeking at our next school year, we see our school is thriving with two of our five classes filled, and the others just a few away from full enrollment. Our staff is exceptional! We have been blessed with talented and dedicated teachers. Susan Berry-Ruane, our Lead Teacher, has worked closely with me to create a “Preschool Community” as well as craft a program that prepares our youngsters for Kindergarten and beyond. Susan assists in program leadership and teaches a class of five-day five-year-olds. It has been a joy working with Susan and the other teachers throughout this year.

We give thanks for Pastor Ballentine serving as a sounding board for some of our “creative” ideas as well as his leadership in Chapel – introducing our children to our worship space and tying his weekly chapel lessons in with what our children are learning on Sunday morning. Patty Ballentine’s guidance in teaching music to the children greatly enhances chapel time.

You have seen the tremendous art work produced by our students under the tutelage of Kelly Kirkpatrick. Kelly writes, “A big ‘thank you’ to all who have donated crazy things like individual yogurt containers, paper towel tubes, and a multitude of other treasures to the Preschool art program! We make use of these treasures each day. You are a valuable resource for me!”

Colleen Wright, our Bees’ teacher found that she had to leave after Easter Break, and our Teacher Aide, Susan Reese stepped right in to lead her Monday-Wednesday-Friday class. Susan is a gifted teacher and will continue with us next year as our teacher for all of our three-

year-olds. Christina Johnson, a regular substitute for our teachers, will return next year as our Teacher Aide. Christina is a tremendous asset in helping us keeping things going smoothly.

Elaine Diehl, our Monkeys’ teacher, taught our four-day four-year-olds this year. We are sorry to say that she will not be returning next year. Julie Philipoom, who taught our three-year-olds this year, will “move up” with her students and teach the four-day four-year-olds next year.

It has been a tremendously successful year of building community and educating children. Praise be to God!

**Sandy Peterkin, Administrator**



### ***JUNE BIRTHDAYS***

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	Matt Vanlandingham	Greta Zimbauer
19	Janet Rinehimer	
20	Joshua Egloff	Lou Rossiter
21	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	



## *The 1956 Society's Fifth Anniversary Celebration*

In April 2014, The 1956 Society was founded to organize and recognize people who contributed or pledged gifts to the Endowment Fund of St. Stephen Lutheran Church. At the first dinner in 2014, The 1956 Society had 22 members. Ellen Hinlicky, Director of Lutheran Partners in Mission, was the guest speaker. Her message was directed at the impact of our newly formed endowment when she said, "What you do, when you make arrangements for a legacy, is that you live for the future. You are thinking of people you will never know, never meet, and in a spirit of Christian love and concern, you are modeling God's own generosity and charity to them."

Now in it's fifth year, The 1956 Society met again for its annual dinner in April. We now have 60 members. How fortunate we are that so many have heeded the call to leave a legacy. **Jim Cobb**, former ELCA pastor, current member of St. Stephen Lutheran Church and a member of The 1956 Society, was this year's speaker. He shared lessons he learned about endowments from his experiences as a pastor that we can apply to our own mission. Jim reminded us that people want to see how their money will be spent. The fund has grown large enough to support non-budgeted church activities such as the sermon video recording project. The Endowment Fund Committee (EFC) looks forward to further suggestions from the congregation.



This year, the EFC received a mini-grant from Thrivent Financial to form an Action Team dedicated to promoting positive change in our community by living generously. The grant was used to plan and implement this year's dinner. Our goal was to promote our cause and educate members. Certainly The 1956 Society is an example of what generosity can accomplish. Since the dinner, we have added three new members to the society. We thank Thrivent for their campaign encouraging us all to live generously.

The EFC would also like to give thanks for one of its members who contributed much to our endeavors. **Gary Krull** passed away a few weeks ago. He was a member of the EFC for 6 years and made significant contributions to our program. Gary was a human resources and development professional who shared his expertise with us as he guided us to grow the fund. Gary was known for his humor, but also his kindness, loyalty and generosity. He taught us much. He will be missed.

**Gerri Bass   Bob Harman   Glenn Joppa   Charlene Smith**



## ***MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS***

- **June 5** – Women are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Tuesday** of this month.
- **June 7** – Men are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Thursday** 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. The get-togethers promote conversation and friendship in a casual setting.

Pastor Andy and Pastor Cheryl,

For the past four years, our daughter **Marit Haugen** has found a home at St. Stephen. My wife Kathy and I are so grateful to you and the congregation for providing her that.

At St. Stephen, Marit found—as Pastor Andy put it—a safe space. A place of quiet and solitude where she could relax, introspect, and perhaps regroup. In the same space, she was able to safely socialize starting from a common baseline with her fellow LSA's and their guests. In the college room, she found comfort and security, a place to study, catch a some z's, and even bake a few cookies. On Sunday evenings, she enjoyed the fellowship of breaking bread together—these Sunday dinners were so important to her that she would leave us and a home-cooked meal to get back in time for them.

She loved her church family and the chance to worship with your congregation. Both sets of her church parents treated her well and gave her a bit of an anchor, even though we were only an hour apart. In my opinion, the importance of your LSA ministry cannot be overstated, and I am so gratified in the way the St. Stephen congregation has embraced it. Thank you for that and I would ask that you pass our gratitude to all your parishioners.

It was such a joy to watch her deliver—confidently, articulately, passionately—her half of the sermon on LSA Sunday. She has grown so much over the past four years and there is no doubt she leaves Williamsburg ready to make her contribution to the world in which she lives. The threads of St. Stephen now form a beautiful part of the tapestry of her life.

With much joy,  
Chris Haugen



Thank you for graciously adopting our Grove-Trotter "Oh Baby" box and hosting it within your church throughout the month of April. Through your charitableness and the generosity of your congregation, Grove Christian Outreach Center will be able to serve our Grove families by addressing their babies' and infants' needs. St. Stephen Lutheran Church gave abundantly to our Clothes Closet Ministry. Collectively, our Outreach Center has garnered nearly \$5,000 worth of donations in just a little over a two-month period through our collection boxes and, as such, we will be able to assist our Grove families in meeting many of their physical needs. This is a tremendous blessing.

We appreciate your partnership with Grove Outreach Center and the love you have for our families. We pray the Lord's blessings will be upon you as you have been a tremendous blessing to our families in the Grove Community.

Barbara Murray  
Volunteer and Special Events Coordinator



## ***From His Hands***

To the Members of St. Stephen Lutheran Church,

My winter in Williamsburg has been a very pleasant experience, not the least for the very thoughtful outreach of your congregation on Friday evenings to us senior citizens on tight budgets. We look forward to it, in great anticipation – the effect is as much psychological as culinary – it makes one feel protected and included in the community and leaves us with happy memories every year.

We look forward in gleeful anticipation when we head south each season of ice and snow in our home state!

God bless you!!  
Maury Briggs (from Stowe, VT)  
Motel 6





### **Gary Krull**

George and Gerri Bass – Endowment Fund  
 Paul and Marjorie Tongue  
 Fred and Edith Haecker – Homeless Ministry

### **Fred Haecker**

Susan Britcher  
 Ralph and Marilyn Johnson – Music Program  
 Bob and Joyce Rumpf – Music Program  
 Anne Schrot – Music Program  
 Margaret Simis – Music Program  
 William and Nancy Heinig – Music Program  
 Robert and Carolyn Parra – Music Program  
 Ronald and Donna Rosien – Music Program  
 Isabelle Lutzke – Music Program  
 Caroline Peters – Music Program  
 Patrick Miller – Music Program  
 Ralph and Elizabeth Schmidt – Music Program

### **Thord Einarsen**

Arnie and Pat Janot  
 Peterkin Family  
 Reed and Karen Nester  
 Ralph and Marilyn Johnson  
 Susan Britcher  
 Paul and Rita Kristiansen – Jean Kuhn Social Ministry  
 Fund  
 Jane deSolms  
 Henry and Marilyn Mallue  
 Harlan and Anne Schone

### **In Honor of Pastor Cheryl Griffin**

Jon and Denise May – ELCA National Youth Gathering



## ***Affirmation of Baptism***

Jaina Marie Leek, Caitlin Stephanie Leek  
 and Casey Lee Toler affirmed their  
 baptisms on Pentacost Sunday, May 20.





## God's Blessings to our St. Stephen Members Who Are Celebrating Educational Accomplishments!

**Gwen Agor** will graduate from Walsingham Academy this month, and will enter the Honor College at the University of Maine.

**Nancy Carter** will be receiving a PhD in Computer Science from the College of William and Mary. Her dissertation is titled, "Usability, Efficiency, and Security of Personal Computing Technologies."

**Carolyn McKenna** has graduated from Virginia Tech. This fall she will be teaching in Connecticut as part of the Teach for America program.

**Meghan Osborn** is graduating from Thomas Nelson Community College with her Associates Degree in Social Science. She will continue in the fall at Old Dominion University, pursuing a Psychology major.

**Sara Osborne** is continuing with her studies. She will be attending Thomas Nelson Community College in the fall.

**Dave Sulouff** has graduated from Old Dominion University with a degree in mechanical engineering. (Dave is already a Master Plumber!)

**Sarah Toler** will graduate from Jamestown High School. She will attend Johnson and Wales, working on a Baking and Pastries Associates degree, followed by a degree in Food Service Management – and, she will be playing for the Johnson and Wales women's soccer team.

**Hannah Wiers** has graduated from the University of Mary Washington with a major in Political Science. She would like to work in advocacy work in reproductive health care and sexual assault prevention.

## Congratulations to Tara Grove!

During Commencement ceremonies, William and Mary Law Professor **Tara Grove** received the Walter L. Williams Jr. Memorial Teaching Award. Each year, the graduating class at the law school chooses the professor who demonstrates excellence. This year's students cited Tara's ability to clarify that which is complicated, and her concern for her students' well-being on a personal level. We give thanks for Tara's use of the gifts she has received from God!







## **JUNE 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**

2	Judy Cobb	
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	
21	Sharon Brown	Jessica Harms
	James Stein	Erich Zimbauer
25	Chris Black	Karl Zimbauer
30	Matthew Groman-Griffin	

### **Others with June baptismal dates:**

Bill Arnold  
Jane Holcombe  
Brad Leek  
Jon Lund  
Julie Philipoom  
Jo Schumacher

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

## **PRAYERS**



We give thanks to God for blessing **Jessie Schmitthenner** with 97 years of life!

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Judy Cobb, Julie Francis, Bobbie Harms, Linda Laity Hite, Pat Janot, Dick Reeves, Linda Vonderheide, and David Wills.**

Pray God's blessings on **Roberta and Dave Sulouff**, and **Shana and Rich Wilkins**, as they wait for the birth of their babies.

Pray God's blessings on **Josh Egloff** and **Caroline Thomson** who were married yesterday at Christ Lutheran Church in Roanoke, VA.

Pray for these who are unable to get to worship: **Philip Arnold, Doris Bass, Carolee Bush, Martha and Gene Clements, Sally Crocker, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Stan Hobday, Donna May Hochstetler, Mary Jamerson, Sonja Landvogt, Helen Lenox, Dick Reeves, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, and Jerry Trone.**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Mary Ann, Mitchell, Alex, Jim, Sharon, Belinda Adams, Philip Andrew, Nathan Ballentine, Ellen Benton, Edie Berry, Tom and Bea Black, the Blume family, Eliza Bicknell, Don Brannon, Kallie Burgess, Kim Calhoun, Marla Canny, Elaine Cari, Peter Cline, Rosemarie Cristofolo, William Davis, Kathryn Dieter, Bubba Drury, Angela Earl, Holly Edwards, Inge Felbier, Mary Fitzgerald, Sonya Frantz, Mertie Funkhouser, David Gade, Bill Gottschalk, Jeff Hammock, Sam and Ronny Hayes, Marian Hunt, Anne Johns, Ben and Amy Johnson, Fran Kibler, Chris Kinney, Art Kirk, Dean Kreitzer, Terry Krull, Jean Lasche, Annie Layendecker, Mildred Lindblad, Charlotte Litterer, Hannah Mac, Abby Mayer, Bruce Milne, Heidi Morris, Joshua Mullen, Joan Nares, Mary Newberg, Colleen Ogborn, Inge Petersen, Dick Phillips, Dino Polizois, Shann Rufer, Joyce Rumpf, Gwynn Sawyer, Bruce Semanchik, James Smith, Evelyn Spear, Dave Splittorff, Linda and Bill Thies, Pierrette Tipton, Betty Tulloh, B.J. Vann, Tait Walker, Pat Ward, Debbie and Sam Weems, Sue Weilmuenster, Aaron Zabell.

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	email	Pastorc@

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<i>Director of Music</i>	<b>Karen Ives</b>	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurses</i>	<b>Marcie Clark</b>	Parishnursemc@
	<b>Diana Tiller-Dichtel</b>	Parishnursedt@
<i>Preschool Lead Teacher</i>	<b>Susan Berry-Ruane</b>	Preschool@

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