



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

June 2012



My "official" greetings to the folks at Mongai

To: Pastor Exaud Makundi of the Mongai Parish in Tanzania

Dear Pastor Makundi:

I send the greetings of St. Stephen Lutheran Church to you and to all the people of the Mongai Parish!

We have been in partnership with the people of the Mongai Parish since 1996, and give thanks to God for the exciting growth of your ministry in these recent years. We have been pleased to help establish the parish industries of the grain mill, the sunflower seed press, and the welding shop, as well as the parish's vocational technical training school. We have been pleased to support the parish kindergarten, and to endow school scholarships for some of the students of the parish.

However: just as importantly, you have given a great deal to us at St. Stephen – through your witness of strong faith and trust in God! In past years, several of our members have visited Mongai. I was privileged to be with you for a Sunday in June of 2009. What a thrill it was for me to be with you for worship, and to bring God's word through the sermon! I cannot tell you how often I have thought of your joyful worship, your singing, your smiles, your friendship! You have strengthened my faith!

I wish I could be with Pastor Dwayne Westerman when he visits you in June. As he brings greetings from us, please accept them as if I was there as well! Please accept the gifts that the children of our congregation have made for members of the Mongai Par-

ish. I hope you will be able to display the photographs that Pastor Westerman will bring to you, so that the people of Mongai will remember us. In addition to the photographs of children, members of our Social Ministry Committee are posing together in one picture. They are the people who keep your ministries and needs in front of the rest of our congregation.

We pray for you often during our Sunday morning worship services, praying that God will continue to richly bless your ministry in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Thank you for your example to us.

Pastor Andy Ballentine

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
Williamsburg, Virginia USA





Quill Musing for June

June has arrived! Summer is here! School is ending, the days are getting hot, the air conditioning cranks up, and the Farmers Market is being inundated with fruits and veggies. Lemonade, sunshine and the sound of the ice cream truck combine for a magical time of year.

What could possibly go wrong? Oh, it is Hurricane Season! That's right, with the coming of summer; we herald mosquitos, tourists and hurricanes. Cue the ominous sounding music and the Weather Channel guys in rain gear facing into camera as waves rise high on deserted beaches with rain and wind lashing at them. Witness canned goods, water, matches (and junk food!) flying off the shelves at the grocery store. See the excited looks on guy's faces as they grab the last chainsaw at Lowes, relishing the opportunity to show their manliness as they cut up all the trees that inevitably fall around the area. Relish the sweltering heat since the power is out and the air conditioning isn't working.

Does any of this bring back bad memories to you? While we haven't had much in the way of devastation in this area for several years, it does get rather uncomfortable after a couple of days without power in the summertime. How do you cope? What do you need to be ready?

We will be having a Disaster Preparation presentation between the services on **June 3**. Members of the congregation will be there to answer questions and provide information. Besides the fun door prizes, informative packets, and healthy snacks, come and witness a true community banding together to get ready for a disaster. This is what our congregation is about, building a community in Christ that helps each other, supports each other when we are in need, and provides companions for our Journey with Christ.

It is vital to be ready when a disaster strikes. It is going to take time for outside help to reach you if a major storm moves through. Roads get blocked, power is out, and debris is everywhere. Being able to take care of yourself during this time is important. Helping others and living the message of Christ to love your

neighbor as yourself is just as important. Being prepared isn't just a matter of having food and water on hand, it is also about being ready to help, and more importantly, asking for help when it is needed. Know what you can do, both with the tools that you have on hand, and the skills that you have acquired, during a disaster to help those who perhaps aren't as prepared, or lack the means to do anything. It is the little things, like hosting a "Empty your Freezer" party for your neighbors when the power is out, or if you can't cook at home, impromptu potluck suppers cooked and shared at church (which has a gas stove and oven!) with people who can't cook at home. This is what brings a community together, and shows us why living together with Christ is so important.

Doug Cummings - Ministry Associate



Thoughts from the Director of Music

The end of our choir season is upon us, and I would like to thank the wonderful folks who make the Music Ministry possible. Despite the beauty of our fine pipe organ, the voice is first and foremost the instrument of Liturgical expression. Having choirs who are willing to share their expression of faith through music is a great asset to worship, and I am impressed by the generosity of the choir members at both the 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM services. A special thank you as well as to our Faith Formation Choir. Thank you also to our faithful cantors, instrumentalists, and guitarists as well. Blessings be upon you all.

Now, it's your turn to offer your musical gifts to the Lord. The Summer Music Ministry program has been growing over the past few years, and many different styles of music have been offered. I have several folks who have stepped up, and there is room for several more. Please know that I am more than willing to assist you in any way I can to help facilitate your participation. We do ask that you be willing to offer your music at both services, and I

know that whatever you offer in the name of the Lord will be beautiful music to our ears.

Your Brother in Christ, **Michael Monaco**



Health Ministry: Countdown to summer

5 Prevention Tips for Summer Safety

5: Ticks

- Prevent tick bites and tick-borne illnesses by: wearing light-colored clothing and shoes which helps you spot ticks,
- tucking your pant legs into your socks when in grassy or wooded areas (although not a fashionable look),
- using insect repellents, and doing a tick check on everyone in the family every night.

Contracting a tick-borne illness can take up to 36 hours, if a tick isn't removed, so you want to be prompt and thorough. The Center for Disease Control recommends you check under both arms, between your legs, around your waist, inside your navel, and don't forget your hairline and scalp.

4: Poison Ivy

Poison ivy, as well as poison oak and sumac, contains an oil called *urushiol*, which when it comes in contact with skin, causes an allergic reaction in about 85 percent of the population. The subsequent rash that develops will only appear where the skin came in contact with the plant's oil -- and luckily, it isn't contagious, but it can spread through indirect contact (such as petting a dog that has run through poisonous plants). Wearing clothing that covers a good amount of skin will help reduce your risk.

3: Food Poisoning

One of the best ways to avoid food poisoning during the summertime is to be sure food items that contain mayonnaise, milk, eggs, meat, poultry and seafood aren't kept at room temperature for more than an

hour or two (one hour max if it's 90 degrees F outside). Meat and eggs aren't the only culprits; raw fruits and vegetables can cause problems, if not properly washed and stored. If you're traveling with food, be sure to pack any raw meat separately from ready-to-eat foods to avoid contamination.

Food-borne illnesses are caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites and other toxins. They look a lot like the flu, and typically include nausea, stomach cramps, vomiting and diarrhea. Symptoms can range from mild gastrointestinal discomfort to bloody stools.

2: Heat-related illness

Did you know that if you're feeling thirsty, you're already mildly dehydrated? Relying on thirst as a reminder to take a drink leaves you at risk for dehydration. Staying hydrated in hot weather can help reduce the risk of heat-related illness. Mild symptoms of heat exhaustion may include feeling thirsty, fatigue and cramps (legs or abdominal). If left untreated, heat exhaustion can progress to heatstroke which is serious. Children are also at risk for heat illnesses if left in a hot car -- even if the windows are cracked and even if it's only for a few minutes. Never leave a child unattended in a car.

1: Sunburn

Regardless of age and skin type (whether or not you burn easily), the American Academy of Dermatology recommends that everyone, adults and children alike, apply a water-resistant sunscreen that protects against both UVA and UVB rays every day of the year. Yes, even in winter and on cloudy days. Choose a sunscreen that is at least SPF 30 and apply it 15 to 30 minutes before going outside. When using sunscreen, apply as much as would fill a shot glass and if you're using both sunscreen and insect repellent, apply sunscreen first and then repellent. According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, getting one blistering sunburn when you're a child doubles your chances of developing melanoma.

More tips next month and in the Sunday Bulletins. Have fun and be safe this summer!

Information gleaned from website [Discovery Fit & Health](#) by [Maria Trimarchi](#).



***You're invited.....to a special
Father's Day
celebration on June 17!***

We will celebrate our relationship with **Godparents for Tanzania (G4TZ)** – which provides scholarships for extremely poor primary/secondary school and university students in Tanzania. Our support enables these young people to lift themselves from poverty by obtaining an education!

Breaking the cycle of poverty, they are able to contribute to the improvement of their families and their communities. With our help, through G4TZ, these young people will get the education to enable them to be future leaders of their communities and country.

Are you curious about becoming a Godparent for a Tanzanian student? It's easy!

You can become a Godparent to a primary or secondary school - or a university student pursuing a first degree in:

- * **Education** (primary and secondary school teachers)
- * **Health** (clinical officers and nurses)
- * **Wildlife Management** (conservationists and rangers)

When you become a Godparent, a student will be assigned to you, based on the careful selection criteria of financial need and family circumstance. (For example, university students often have multiple sponsors, due to the costs.)

When your student has been assigned, you will receive biographical information, a recent photo and contact information when possible. Your student will be informed that you are supporting him or her; with your permission, your contact information will be shared so you can be in touch with your student. You will receive an annual report from G4TZ on your student's situation, along with a current photo and letter.

The current G4TZ annual scholarship is \$540 – which may be paid in any increments you wish, within a 12-month period. This gift of \$540 covers your student's school fees, uniform, supplies, exercise books, transportation and health care, when needed. It also insures that your student's nutritional needs are met. In the case of university students, you are joining others to provide for these needs.

Please **stop and see the G4TZ display in the Gathering Space** – and check out the informative brochures, too.

Let's enlist at least **10 new Godparents for Tanzania** - at **St. Stephen on June 17!** What a wonderful way to celebrate Father's Day this year!



***Wanted - Woman's Retreat
Leadership!***

We have had a number of successful women's retreats in past years and would like to continue that pattern. However, we need some new leadership to step up and help plan for 2013. There is a large notebook full of information to aid in planning, and past leaders would be willing to lend their guidance. Positions that are particularly needed include:

- ◆ **Coordinator**, who convenes committee meetings and sets agendas, serves as liaison with the retreat center, and prepares correspondence and schedules
- ◆ **Publicity person**, who handles publicity in the bulletin and *Quill* (templates are available from past years as examples)
- ◆ **Worship and Music Director**, who plans the Friday and Saturday evening worship services, the Sunday morning worship, and works with a music team.

- ◆ **Service Project Leader**, who determines the type of project and coordinates its implementation, both before and at the retreat.
- ◆ **Treasurer**, who keeps the budget.

Those willing to serve in any of these capacities to plan another meaningful retreat, please contact **Sandy Peterkin (229-6688)**.



***An Opportunity for Summer
Volunteers:
"Peace in the Streets"***

The Grove Christian Outreach Center will host a summer feeding program (sponsored by the Virginia Department of Health) – beginning the week of June 18 and ending the week of August 27. Here is how it works:

Groups of six to ten people will volunteer for one week (five days, Monday-Friday,) to help serve breakfast and lunch meals for up to 100 children. The volunteer times are 7:30-9:15 AM and 11:15-1:00 PM. This is a great project for families, a group of friends, a neighborhood group, even a book group!

If you are interested in volunteering for one of the summer weeks, or getting more details, please contact Deena Walls at godspeed974@cox.net.

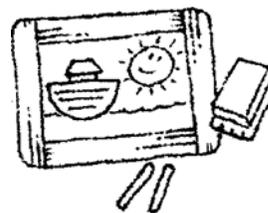


***My Journey With (and
without) Stephen
Ministry***

In June our training class of Stephen Ministers – 24 men and women from all over the Williamsburg area—will graduate. They started in January and have completed 50 hours of classroom training. In preparation for each session there were reading assignments as well as prayer and reflection. Sometimes they drove the people in their households crazy as they tried out their new skills. At least I did. Now they will be

paired although maybe not right away with a care receiver. Twice monthly meeting will give them the support they need as they learn to care for others. These Stephen Ministers trained through the Williamsburg Stephen Ministry Network. Other churches have done their own training. No matter where they are from, let us give thanks and congratulations to these new ambassadors of Christ. *"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."* 2 Corinthians 5:18

Cindy Gibbs



***End of year activities at the
Preschool***

The preschool year has just flown by! The children in the four-year-old and PreK classes treated their Mothers to a wonderful luncheon at Rocco's Smokehouse Grill. They prepared invitations, placemats, flower arrangements and helped prepare the desert for their Moms. It is truly one of our favorite days!

The end of year brings water play days, a visit from "Jake" the Parrot, and our annual picnics and Graduation ceremony held at Kidsburg.

We had our first "Books and Breakfast" event for our children and their families, it was a huge success! The children brought in a book they wanted to "give away," and then they could choose a "new" book to take home. The parents read their "new" book to them while they enjoyed a light breakfast. We will definitely be doing this with all our students next year!

Thanks to the many generous donations to the St. Stephen Scholarship Fund, we are able to help three families with the tuition next year! We also raised enough money from T-shirt and magnet sales to purchase a new "Castle" for the playground next year. We had to say "goodbye" to the ship, as it was "well loved!"

The staff wishes you all a wonderful summer, and look forward to another exciting year in September!

Lauren McQuain



New Addresses

E-mail address for Amanda Dell: amandaproctor-dell@gmail.com



The Church Mouse hears

The mouse wants to thank the overwhelming response to the "Gimmie five" program. Each time he goes to the recycling center, he thinks of **Jean Kuhn** and her devotion to the environment and all God's world and wishes her fast healing. He particularly thanks those "Gimmie five" users who sort carefully and mark their donation bags with the numbers for the recycling 1, 2, and 3-7. It makes the sorting go so smoothly.



Join us for a meal out!

Come to the group dining out at the Polo Club

Dick Batman and **Jeanne Garrison** are hosting the final dining out of the season which will be held at the Polo Club on Jamestown Road. Please join with them on **Saturday June 16** at **12:30PM**. The cut off for reservations is **Sunday June 10** and anyone can call **Jeanne 229-0978** or sign up on the Blue Sheet.

Jeanne Garrison



Meet Our New Members who joined on April 29



Chad and Cathy Bingman
410 Queensbury Lane
Williamsburg, VA 23185
515-971-6915
cathybingman@me.com
Care Group 6



Join the Quilters

The quilters will meet on the third **Monday, June 18**, with busy hands and pleasant "chit-chat." Won't you join us?? Then we are on hiatus during July and August, returning on **September 21**.

There's a job for every pair of hands!!

Ginny Hilbinger (259-0343)



Dennis Kiser and Donna Crinklaw
123 Matoaka Court
Williamsburg, VA 23185
870-5140
odhomes@cox.net
Care Group 1



Kristy Prescott
410 Queensbury Lane
Williamsburg, VA 23185
515-971-6915
Care Group 6



**Ryan and Samantha Lewton
Caroline & Victoria**
3720 Cherry Walk
Williamsburg VA 23188
229-0896
salewton@msn.com
Care Group 3



**Steven and Larisa Stein
Benjamin and Elizabeth**
140 John Rolfe Lane
Williamsburg VA 23185
784-0133
stevenrstein@gmail.com
larysanstein@gmail.com
Care Group 12



Letters to the congregation

Avalon thanked us our contribution of \$700 to serve the women and children experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, and homelessness in our Williamsburg area.



We pray God's blessings on **Stephanie Drake and James Alexander, on **Mike Ellis and Jeymie Mitchell**, and on **Grayson Henderson and Emilie Wyble**, who were all married recently!**

We give thanks to God for leading **John (Jake) Patrick Hughes, Thomas William Radke and Brian David Van Rosendale this far along their journey of faith. They affirmed their baptisms at the 8:30 service on May 27. We joined in a celebration in-between the services in the Gathering Space!**

We celebrate how God has blessed our graduates! **Glenn Carlson, Jr., Kendall Delehanty, Kelly Dunbar, Katy Peterkin and Lucas York all graduating from college. St. Stephen member **Haley Vay Poynter** and former LSA member **Deanna Scheffel** graduated from seminary this past Friday. Former LSA members **Brett Wilson Davis and Leslie Scanlon** graduate from seminary on May 18, and **Travis Wilson** (Kristen Gillespie Wilson's husband) graduates from seminary on May 19.**

As we pray for healing, pray to know how God is healing **Otis Childress, Art Dorsey, Cindy Gibbs, Pat Janot, Aly Kozacek, Julie Kuck, Jean Kuhn, Susanna Owens, Paul Reier, Sam Trapani**

Pray for these who are physically unable to get to worship: **Bill Dickerson, Elsa Englert, Ruth Ennis, Bernice Fahncke, Elsie Hall, Willetta Heising, Anna Lou Hobday, Jean Kircheis, Helen Lenox, Chuck and Jo Schumacher, John Warner, Barbara Weekes, Dot Wright, Earl and Lois Wysong**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: **John Accomando, Paul and Rita Adams, Tom Adcock, Donna Alt, Lois Bomba, Mary Breeden, Gilbert Burton, Bob Canny, Joanne Carlson, Ann Carmer, Bob Casey, Deb Chaison, Ed Champa, Donna Cherel, Bob Christel, Michael Compton, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Betsy Cummings, Jeris DeKievit, Nick and Ann Finley, Will Flatin, Mary Funkhouser, Nancy Gottschalk, Mary Hallman, Eleanor Harms, Janis Hepburn, Carol Horton, Loretta Hughes, Elbert Ivey, Ruth Jordan, Krentz-Wee family, Katherine Layton, Laura McDonald, John Mertins, Harold Noyes, Atti-**

cus and Evelyn Parsons, Arthur Pate, Joyce Pate, Sarah Pettifer, Robert Reier, Lisa Rivolta, Don Romig, Joyce Rumpf, Don Scanlan, Roland Scheiding, Bernadine Schlicht, Georg and Eva Siegert, Ron Smith, Tom Smith, Helen Soultoukis, Connie Testerman, Vivian Villaseñor, Shirley White, Bruce Young



Please Remember!

The June Congregational Meeting will be **Sunday, June 24, at 10:00 AM. The agenda will include election of Council Members, Trustees and members of the Endowment committee, approval of a motion from Council to refinance our congregation's mortgage, and a report from the Synod Assembly voting members from St. Stephen.**

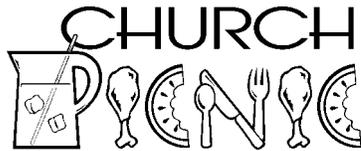


June Birthdays

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 | Karen Chenault
Sara Osborn | Kathy Peterson
Lois Wysong |
| 3 | David Black
Earl Wysong, Jr. | Leonard Bosworth |
| 4 | Stephanie West | |
| 5 | Sally Crocker | |
| 6 | Emily Cowan
Brad Leek | Jack Harris |
| 7 | Garrett Bailey | York Doerr |
| 8 | Ray Basley
Ron Harris | Elsa Englert |
| 9 | Rita Kristiansen | |
| 10 | Charles Osborn | |
| 11 | Al Kuhn | Randy PUNCHARD |
| 12 | Jesse DeMari | |
| 14 | Terry Hinders | |
| 15 | Ruth Fenstermaker | Grant Hudson |
| 17 | Gary Krull | Katie PUNCHARD |
| 19 | Caitlyn Lucy
Janet Rinehimer | Alexander Ogaard |
| 20 | Joshua Egloff | Lou Rossiter |
| 21 | Katelin Cosby | Jean Kuhn |

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|-----------------|
| 22 | Carol Harman | Audrey Root |
| 23 | Deloris Hanley | Rita Krajnik |
| | Jacquelyn Shearer | Jessica Walker |
| 25 | Jeri Meermans | Audrey Rojas |
| | Zhou Hui Stauffer | |
| 26 | Susan Britcher | Christine Drake |
| 27 | Stephanie Bredbenner | Arthur Hanson |
| | Donna VanDuyse | |
| 28 | Arielle Alpino | Kim Cowan |
| 29 | Mary Jamerson | Sherry Phipps |
| 30 | Lisa Fisher | Linda Olson |

Is your name missing? Is your date wrong? Please let us know immediately!
Rev. May 24, 2012



All Church Picnic and Bike Hike will be Saturday, June 23 from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM at Chickahominy Park (out Route 5). There is a playground, pavilion, and swimming pool. Please bring your choice of meat to grill and a side dish to share. Drinks will be provided, along with paper products and condiments. If anyone has lawn games that would add to the fun, please bring them. For folks who are planning to participate in the Bike Hike, please indicate that on the Blue Sheet so that we have enough water at the check points.

Bike Hike



