



# The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

June 2013



## *What is the Work God Gives You To Do on This Day?*

In my work there is always more to do than I can get done. (Many of you can relate!) Here's what I've discovered: I do best on those days when I don't worry about how much I get done; when I simply give myself to the work that I can get to. On my best days, I engage in one of the most practical spiritual practices that I know: to be prayerfully present to the work that is in front of me, and not being anxious about what I haven't gotten to yet.

Of course, there are tasks that I have to complete, regularly, and on schedule. (For instance, folks might notice if there's no sermon on a Sunday morning.) If there is a crisis, then that takes precedence. Otherwise, it's a matter of discernment: what work God has given me to do on this day.

What work has God given me to do on this day? That may be a different question than asking "What's next on my checklist?" Instead, it's working with the faith perspective that God is present and moving, through the commonplace events of each day, through the people that I see and talk with – and so, maybe the next thing on the checklist I generated first thing in the morning isn't the most important work I need to do.

How hard it is to give up control!

How do you discern what work God gives you to do on this day?

Recently, Dorothy Day has been teaching me how to do that, even though she died in 1980. I've been reading her recently-published letters. They are full of her daily concerns. Each day's "to do" list was longer than what she could possibly accomplish in a single day. She was better than me at seeing her work as coming from God. But she also struggled with giving up control, most days. She was often frustrated by what she

was having to do because she wanted to get on to doing something else. But here is what she trusted, on her best days: that this work that she was having to do was the work that God wanted her to be doing.

At one point, I noticed that she had referred several times to an obscure little book by a little-known 17<sup>th</sup> century French spiritual teacher named Jean-Pierre de Caussade: *Abandonment to Divine Providence*. Well, you know me: I have that obscure little book on my shelf! And so, de Caussade has become my teacher, too. His faith perspective is radical. He writes, for instance: "The duties of each moment are shadows which hide the action of the divine will." In another place: "The activity of God is everywhere and always present, but it is visible only to the eye of faith."

God is in everything. Where is God in the work that is in front of you? Where is God in the person who is in front of you? Even though you're feeling frustrated because there's the next thing on the check list you've created that you feel the need to get to, could it be that the work in front of you is the work God is giving you to do on this day?

"Do not worry about tomorrow," Jesus taught his disciples. In other words, "Be present to today. Be present to the blessings of this day. Be present to the work God gives you to do on this day."

**Pastor Andy Ballentine**



## *Health Ministry June 2013*

June has arrived! Summer is here! School is ending, the days are getting hot, the air conditioning is cranking up, and the Farmers Market is inundated with fruits and veggies. Lemonade, sunshine and the sound of the ice cream truck combine for a magical time of the 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, while crazy surfers ride the waves. Witness junk food flying off the shelves at the grocery store! See the excited looks on guys’ 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 major devastation in this area for several years, we did see how uncomfortable it can get after a few days without power last summer. How did you cope? What do you need to be ready in case it happens again?

We will be having a Disaster Preparation presentation between the services on **June 2**. Join us and pick up information about getting ready and witness a true community banding together to get ready to help each other should the need arise. 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 before a disaster strikes, because you can plan your spending and not have to rush out with everybody else in the days before a storm. 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 an “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 for Health Ministry



### *Pipe Peeps for the June Quill*

The second Sunday in June marks the end of the choir season, and I would like to express my thanks to all who contribute to this ministry. We have had some wonderful moments of growth, and I am fortunate to work with folks who appreciate the aspect of prayerful music ministry. We pray our music, and we offer our gifts to the Lord, and we are blessed tenfold. I must commend the 11:00 AM choir as this season we have pushed the envelope a bit, and we have performed some very difficult anthems with good results. I thank those of you who take the time to affirm us in our ministry, and know that I have already started planning next year’s offerings.

This year, with the Summer Music Ministry, we will have some new participants from our young people. I am delighted to share their journey as they give their musical gifts to the Lord. We will also have some of our regular participants, and I would love to welcome a few more to take part. We are exploring possibilities of extending this program during the regular season, so keep posted for updates.

I ask for your prayerful support,

**Michael Monaco—Music Director**



### *Follow Your Money!!*

**Financial NOTES** *This is the first in a series of articles presented by the Endowment Committee.*

When you contribute to St. Stephen, either through weekly envelopes, by cash, loose check, or automatic deposit, your contribution is counted and recorded weekly by our tellers. After checking for accuracy the financial secretary posts this information as you have

designated in our Church Windows software program. Your financial statements are generated from this data.

- St. Stephen's finances consist of assets (bank accounts) and liabilities (mortgage). Our assets are divided into funds which include the General Operating Fund and other funds set up for specific purposes. The General Operating Fund is governed by the budget that is approved by the congregation every January. The detailed budget for 2013 can be found in the Annual Report. The treasurer pays all bills from this fund for our day-to-day ministries including staff compensation, office expenses, utilities, mortgage payments, all program expenses (Faith Formation, Youth, Worship & Music, etc.), Synod and local benevolences that are budgeted. A monthly report of all these transactions is provided to the Council for their approval.
- The Building Fund is funded through the yellow Building Fund envelopes and is used to pay part of our current mortgage payments on our church building and as a reserve for major building maintenance projects.
- The Renovation Fund was set up for our recent expansion and renovation project in 2010. At the end of 2013, whatever money that has accumulated in this fund will be used to pay down principal on our mortgage, the fund will be closed, and the green Renovation Fund envelopes will go away.
- The Memorial Fund receives contributions in memory or in honor of individuals. This money is used for specific items like altar linens, hymnals, choir robes, as a need arises or as directed by the donor.
- The Endowment Fund receives all bequests from wills and estates as well as outright contributions. It was established in 2006 in order to be able to finance on a continuing basis activities beyond the scope of St. Stephen's ordinary operations. Once the fund reaches \$250,000 the income generated can be used for a number of purposes such as outreach programs, scholarships, or seed money for new ministry programs. The Theologian in Residence Fund is a sub-fund of the Endowment Fund. This special program was originally funded by a bequest in the will of a long-time member and is used to bring a guest speaker to St. Stephen for a weekend once a year.

Contributions can be made to any of these funds at any time. In addition, all contributions designated for specific campaigns such as Mongai, World Hunger, United Lutheran Appeal, Grove, Avalon, FISH, etc. flow through St. Stephen by the process described in the first paragraph and are directed to their designated recipients.

**Jane deSolms, Finance Chair**

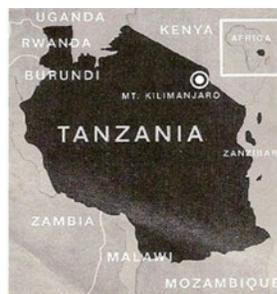


### ***St. Stephen May Council Minutes***

The Council met on May 21, 2013.

- Minutes of the April meeting were approved.
- The Endowment Committee wants to meet with the Council soon to discuss ideas.
- Bishop Jim Mauney met with Council to discuss St. Stephen's needs, and the possibility and process for bringing an additional pastor on staff to serve with Pastor Andy.
- We discussed nominees for the Council and the Endowment Committee to be presented by the Nominating Committee at the Annual Meeting.
- It was decided to hold the Congregational Annual Meeting after the second service **June 23** rather than between services, since we do not want to rush the discussion of an additional pastor.

**David F. Clark, Secretary**



### ***Special Father's Day Invitation***

You are invited to celebrate Father's Day on **June 16** – in a special way this year – by joining our Godparents for Tanzania (G4TZ) Team here at St. Stephen.

During the past school year, many of our members have supported Rogathe 'Roggy' Tippe – a college student at Sokoine University in Tanzania. Roggy is in the second semester of his second year of college

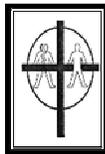
studying Wildlife Management. This is a particularly important field of study for university students in Tanzania, which is the home of world-famous wildlife parks, such as Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Kilimanjaro National Park, and several others.

Roggy will begin his third and final year of college in August, and our G4TZ Team will have the privilege of paying his tuition and expenses once again (about \$2,800 per semester). Currently, our G4TZ Team includes about 25 St. Stephen members – and it would be great to build our team!

It's easy to join the G4TZ Team and help support Roggy for the next year. Make your check payable to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and mark "Tanzania Mission" on the memo line. Contributions of any amount are most welcome, and can be made throughout the school year, if you prefer. We are in touch with Roggy via email, so we'll enjoy hearing about his next school year!

*(Don't forget to check out the special photo display in the Gathering Space!)*

#### **Diane Bean for Social Ministry**



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

On June 4 the 2013 Stephen Ministry training class will complete their 50 hours of classroom training. Of the 16 trainees, five are from St. Stephen: **Doug Cummings, Nancy Egloff, John Harms, Roberta Sulouff, and Marian Thies**. They will be commissioned soon after. In addition to their classroom time, they have done extensive reading and spent hours in prayer and contemplation. They now face real world experience—caring for someone in need. This is where their training will allow them spiritual growth and allow, at times, a true state of grace. There are some for whom Stephen Ministry is an extension and enhancement of their professional life. We are fortunate to have them among us, and they know the blessing that comes with

care giving. There are others who, like me, were extremely nervous facing that first care receiver, and in the first reporting in group supervision. They will learn to listen, hold their tongue on giving advice and will come to realize that they have received as much as they have given. It is the joy of giving selflessly, when it is no longer about "me" and always about "you." *"Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." John 21:16b*

**Cindy Gibbs**



*Join us for a meal out!*

### ***Delicious Dining in June***

A group of folks from St. Stephen will gather at the Opus 9 Steakhouse on **Saturday, June 22, 2013 at 1:00 PM** for what is sure to be a delicious lunch. Opus 9 is located in New Town Center at 5143 Main Street. The restaurant is continuing the Restaurant Month Special Lunch at reduced prices. The complete menu can be found at [Opus9Steakhouse.com](http://Opus9Steakhouse.com) on the internet. Please join us by signing the Blue Sheet or calling **Preston or Birdie Burton at 564-8846** before June 19 for reservations.



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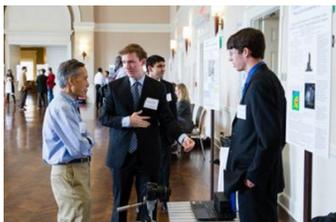
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## ***Congratulations to our graduates!***

- **Sarah Aviles** (Doctor of Jurisprudence from the William and Mary Law School)
- **Liz Bosworth** (Master's in Higher Education Administration and Student Personnel from Kent State University)
- **Josh Egloff** (Bachelor's in Kinesiology from James Madison University)
- **Ralph Geilker** [LSAer] (Bachelors in Business from William & Mary)
- **Reland Happel** (Bachelor's in Art from William and Mary)
- **Katie Harms**, (Bachelors in Harp Performance and French from Ball State University)
- **Katy Peterkin** (Master's in Special Education from Radford University)
- **Hannah Pierce** (Bachelor's in Exercise Science from Old Dominion University)
- **Matt Sandridge** (Bachelor's in Chemistry and Psychology from the University of Virginia)

Cheers to you all!



**Matthew Sandridge** was a finalist in the President's poster contest at the University of Virginia. He didn't win but he got the big photo! Check it out. In his words, he "had to put on a suit and tie and present his work to the President."

## ***Welcome New Member***

**Rachel Scheitrum** joined St. Stephen on Pentecost and her daughter, **Sarah Scheitrum**, was baptized.



## ***The Church Mouse Hears . . . .***



We celebrate with **Randy Punched**, who was inducted into the Armstrong County (PA) Sports Hall of Fame! . . . Check out all the pictures and information on the St. Stephen Facebook page! . . . We bid farewell and Godspeed to **Robert Camp**, who is moving to Arizona and we will surely miss him . . . . We thank you for all the recycling materials left in the gathering space. We, at St. Stephen, can be proud of our efforts. The mouse had a recent conversation with the staff at Tewing Road which focused on exactly what we can and cannot donate. Plastics 1-7 are great but **NO** Styrofoam, even if it has a number on it. This includes all clamshells of left-over restaurant food and some from the grocery store packaging. Also, please remove and discard the lids from all the bottles. Sorting is such a time-consuming project. The mouse finds himself singing the favorite hymns suggested by the congregation. Have you noted your favorites on the blue sheet? We will be singing them this summer!



## ***June Birthdays***

2	Karen Chenault Sara Osborn	Kathy Peterson Lois Wysong
3	David Black	Leonard Bosworth
4	Denny Krieger	Stephanie West
5	Sally Crocker	
6	Jack Harris	Brad Leek
7	York Doerr	
8	Elsa Englert	Ron Harris
9	Rita Kristiansen	
10	Charles Osborn	
11	Al Kuhn	Randy Punched
12	Jesse DeMari	
14	Terry Hinders	
15	Ruth Fenstermaker	Grant Hudson
17	Gary Krull	
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 Jessica Walker	Jacquelyn Shearer

25 Jeri Meermans  
 26 Susan Britcher  
 27 Stephanie Bredbenner  
     Donna VanDuyse  
 28 Arielle Alpino  
 29 Mary Jamerson  
 30 Linda Olson

Zhou Hui Stauffer  
 Christine Drake  
 Arthur Hanson  
  
 Sherry Phipps

Pate, Ryleigh, Colton, John and William Pate, George Rauchfuss, Lisa Rivolta, Don Romig, Roland Scheiding, Bernadine Schlicht, Jeffrey Shafer, Jan Shapley, Diana Shepherd, Ron Smith, Nancy Spaniol, Evelyn Spear, Jennifer Styles, Gail Swann, Connie Testerman, Louise Walker

Is your name missing? Is your date wrong? Please let us know immediately!  
 Rev. May 27, 2013



**Prayers**

**Join your prayers for healing** with God's desires for **David Allen, Ed Brown, Nancy Childress, Al Kuhn, Dick Reeves**

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

**Pray God's blessings upon**

- **Matt Bosworth**, serving in Afghanistan
- **Pastor Haley Vay Poynter**, installed April 28 as Pastor for Children, Youth and Family Ministry at Zion Lutheran Church, York, PA
- **Emily Crinklaw and Brian Bunch** who were married at our altar on May 4

**Pray for these loved ones of our congregation:**

Nathalee Accomando, Donna Alt, Millie Andrews-Young, Joseph Asprey, Anna-Lisa Baldwin, Raymond Barnes, Walter Bartin, Michael Beer, Mickey Bennett, Frances Berry, Cathy Bierd, Marion Bley Lois Bomba, Joseph Brown, Dee Butler, Bob Canny, Joanne Carlson, Karen Heide Carney, Ware Carpenter, Bob Casey, Donna Cherele, Gavin Declan Cheves, Phil Clark, Jean Cogle, Benjamin Collins, Howard Correll, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Bob Daum, Jeris DeKievit, Beulah Douglas, Dianne Drury, Debbie Effemey, Inge Feilbier, Nick Finley, Mary Funkhouser, Bill Garcia, Erin Geary, Joanna Gehr, Pamela Glasgow, Nancy Gottschalk, Cheryl Griffin, Eleanor Harms, Jennifer Herndl, Janis Hepburn, Carol Horton, Doris Hughes, Emily James, Jack Klein, Mildred Lindblad, Betty March, Helen Mallen, Laura McDonald, Roxanne Morris, the Nasra family, Arthur Pate, Henry and Beth



***To our congregation***

**Very Much!** St. Stephen Lutheran Church recently made a large donation of art supplies to support the *A Window Between Worlds Art Program* at Avalon: A Center for Women and Children. *Ed. Note: A Window Between Worlds (AWBW) is an interactive art program for battered women and children that facilitates creative expression. The women and children gain a sense of renewal and power from the program, according to Avalon, and the images of hope, survival and strength they produce educate the public and become "a window between worlds" for survivors taking steps to change their lives.*



*This letter was in response to the contributions of art supplies collected during the 2013 Women's retreat and our congregation, honoring Pastor **Willetta Heising**.*

Dear St. Stephen Members,

Everyone here at Avalon would like to thank you so much for your amazing craft supply donation. We were blown away that you all collected and organized so much for us. These supplies will be used for our "Window Between Worlds" art program by the women and children we serve so they can work through some of their emotions in a healthy and beautiful way. Thank you so much for all your support! With gratitude, All of Avalon

- The Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center thanked us for our \$1,500 contribution to their program. They are celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- The Young People's AA meeting thanked us for being able to use the space for their meetings.
- The Angels of Mercy Medical Clinic thanked us for our donation to their program.

## *Happy Happenings at St. Stephen*

### *Affirmation of Baptism*

We all celebrated with **Laura Bergh, Alexander Stauffer** and **Rachael Wiers**, when they Affirmed their Baptisms at the 8:30 service on May 12



### *Photos from the 2013 Theologian in Residence April 26, 27, and 28 with our own Hans Tiefel*



**From His Hands” ministry to the Williamsburg Homeless — April 12, 2013**



**Wow!  
The sanctuary looked great for Pentecost!**