



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

March 2016

We are still in the season of Lent! No, we aren't talking about letting people use your things for a while. "Lent" comes from the word for "lengthen." In the spring, the hours of sunlight increase, and so the days lengthen. Today I awoke to the sounds of birds singing, and saw buds on the trees as I walked in my neighborhood. All this is to say that I have a sure and certain hope that spring will come! I see the signs!

The days are lengthening in our Lenten season. Our theme for Lent is "Sabbath-keeping as a way of 'Returning to God, Resting in God, Discovering Delight in God.'" It goes without saying that in order to rest in God and discover delight in God; one has to first return to God. Each part of the journey depends upon what precedes it.

The sequence of events is also meaningful for Holy Week, which begins with the Sunday of the Passion (formerly known as "Palm Sunday") on March 20. This begins the holiest week of our liturgical year. Because it is important to experience the whole story, and many people do not attend services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, the Sunday of the Passion tells of Peter's betrayal, Jesus' arrest, and his suffering and death. To go directly from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to his resurrection is to miss the mystery of Jesus' life and death to which Lutherans cling, that it is only through Jesus' suffering and death that we receive new life.

Join our walk with Jesus during Holy Week. The Three Days liturgically is one continuous service. On Maundy Thursday, we hear Jesus' commandment that we love each other as he has loved us. Jesus demonstrates humble servitude by washing his disciples' feet. We will have foot washing at our service at St. Martin's

Episcopal Church. We participate in the Last Supper, and witness the institution of the Holy Meal. The altar will be stripped, symbolizing both Jesus' abandonment by his disciples and Jesus' own stripping by the soldiers before being nailed to the cross.

Good Friday is our Tenebrae service, our service of shadows. We will say a bidding prayer, and watch the procession of the cross. In this service, we learn that we are not alone in our own darkness,

At the Easter Vigil, the first rays of light break into the darkness. Our Old Testament readings recount God's acts of salvation throughout history. We remember that in our baptism, we are joined to Christ, and receive new life through his resurrection. We are immersed into the mystery of Christ and our salvation in the Eucharist.

We live in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Come and worship to see the signs along the way. In God's amazing grace, **Pastor Cheryl Griffin**

Health Ministry



Thoughts from the Parish Nurse

We began our **Walk to Jerusalem January 3**. As of February 21 we will have traveled 11,620 miles and have arrived in Ethiopia. Our next stop will be Saudi Arabia; then on to Germany and will reach our destination, Jerusalem, by Easter. How exciting that we have had such a phenomenal response. Please join us for our celebration on **Sunday April 3 - 10:00 - 11:00 AM between services. We will be giving out some interesting and fun travel souvenirs.**

Speaking of walking...walking while texting (or tweeting, playing a game, etc.) can be dangerous. Texting while walking slows your response time. And we all know stories about people walking into the street and traffic. But believe it or not the majority of walking-while-texting-related injuries occur at home. The injuries include fractures, sprains and even concussions. As with so many issues related to cell phones, this one comes down to common sense. To avoid bumping into walls, falling down stairs and tripping over pets or clutter, keep your eyes up and focus on what's ahead.

Marcie Clark, Parish Nurse



St. Stephen February Council Minutes

The Council met February 9, 2016.

The January Council minutes were approved.

Council voted to establish a committee to plan the celebration activities for St. Stephen's 60th Anniversary, which is December 2016. Several people have already volunteered to help with this committee, but others are welcome to participate.

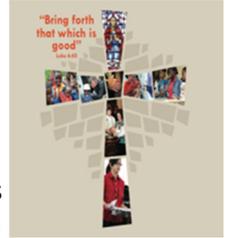
Council approved the Social Ministry committee's request for permission to pursue with the Red Cross to host a Blood Drive at St. Stephen on a Saturday, if arrangements can be worked out.

George Vonderheide is investigating the options for possibly updating our phone system so every office can have voicemail capability.

Pastor Griffin showed a new video made by the Virginia Synod showing examples of various activities of ELCA congregations, and their work helping others.

David F. Clark, Secretary

The Finish Line is in view



The Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to give you an update on where we stand in meeting our goal of \$1.2 million by St Stephen's 60th Anniversary. Currently we have reached \$812,700. This is 68% of our goal. Thank you to all who are part of The 1956 Society. If perhaps you have already made a commitment and have not told us, please know that you can report that commitment confidentially to the Endowment Fund Committee Financial Secretary, **Lou Rossiter**.

If you need assistance in deciding how to give a legacy gift, the following resources may be helpful to you (let us know if you would like these links emailed to you):

<http://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-Foundation>

<http://elca.giftlegacy.com>

<http://info.legalzoom.com/bequeath-something-church-22872.html>

<https://www.guidestar.org/Articles.aspx?path=/rxa/news/articles/2011/strengthen-through-legacy-giving.aspx>

The finish line **is** in view. We can meet our goal by December, 2016 with just a little more effort. Please feel free to ask for help from any member of our committee.

Ingrid Brown
Lou Rossiter
Charlene Smith
Gerri Bass
Gary Krull



Nancy Rivolta
Keith and Nancy Egloff – Godparents for Tanzania

Anita Dorsey -
Keith and Nancy Egloff – Godparents for Tanzania

Jane Mazur -
Walter and Winifred Moritz

Willetta Heising -
 Larry and Karen Shoberg
 Art Dorsey
 Harlan and Anne Schone
 Dick Reeves
 Robert and Ilene Koenig



Regina's Gift

What a special gathering it was of people from both St. Stephen and Temple

Beth El for our pot luck supper and the viewing of "Regina's Gift!" Each one of us in the room was touched by the faith and courage and love shown in this rich film.

We are fortunate that there is another opportunity to see this wonderful film. "Regina's Gift" will be screened at the Kimball Theater on **Sunday, March 6, 2:00 PM.** This is a free showing!

Also, if you would like to order a personal copy of the DVD, send a check for \$20.00, made out and mailed to:

Stik Dawg Media,
 8205 Natures Way,
 Williamsburg, VA
 23188. Indicate you're a St. Stephen member; the filmmakers will deliver any copies we order to the church.



Caroline Furnace News

Mark your calendar! The generosity of a church member has enabled our middle and high school youth to complete a service project at Camp Caroline Furnace. We will leave on Thursday, July 7 and return on Saturday, July 9. If you like to work with your hands, or simply love hanging out with youth, you are welcome to join us! Please talk with **Pastor Griffin** if you are interested.



Join the ministry of caring for our gardens and lawns

- The **Gardeners** take care of the weeding and watering throughout the growing season. You do not need to be an expert and families are encouraged to it together. Generally, you will be paired with one or two other people so you can spread out the responsibilities during your assigned weeks. In the past folks have been assigned a week to take care of the gardens every 5-6 weeks from March to November. Please indicate on the purple sheet if you would like to join the team. **Chris Punchard (880-3347)** organizes this team.
- The **Mowers** take care of mowing the grass and trimming the edges. The lawn mower and trimmer are available at the church. **Randy Punchard (870-8410)** organizes this group and would love to have more folks involved. Again you don't have to be an expert. If you can assist with this task please indicate this on the purple sheet.

Thanks from Chris and Randy!





The Women's Breakfast Group

We are trying a new restaurant - Old Mill Pancake and Waffle House. It is at 2005 Richmond Road, across the street from Hampton Inn and Suites! We will meet there on **Tuesday, March 1 at 8:00 AM!** If you have never attended, we hope to see you there! Blessings, **Cheryl**

We meet every **first Tuesday of the month at 8:00 AM.**



Men Will Meet Wednesday, March 3

- The Colonial Pancake House at the Corner of Penniman Road and Page Street
- **8:00 AM. First Thursdays**

Group Discussion



A new Sunday morning series for adults

A new Sunday morning series for adults: "Parables that disturb!"

- **March 6:** Could Jesus be suggesting that one's salary be based on the owner's generosity instead of the worker's production level? The parable of workers in the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16)
- **March 13:** Do you think we might be able to cajole God by nagging? The parable of the Unjust Judge (Luke 18:1-8)

- **March 20:** Is it possible that God asks us to take care of the one in need even when "undeserving"? The parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37)

Judy Cobb will facilitate the discussions. Meet in the College Room on these Sundays, 10:00 – 10:45 AM



March Birthdays

1	Thomas Radke	Travis Spencer
2	Rebecca Timberg	John Scanlan
3	Sarah Harms	Janice Mayfield
4	Shelley Delehanty	Christine White
5	Dave Gamble	Reed Nester
7	Gary Chenault	Sam Melvey
8	McKenna Bingman	Janet Higgs
9	John McCurry	Spencer Sipes
10	Marilyn Mallue	
11	James Wiers	
12	Stan Hobday	Alexander Stauffer
	Rachael Wiers	
13	Preston Burton	
14	Daniel Walker	
16	Pam Buckley	Jeanne Garrison
17	Karen Einarsen	Pat Gamble
18	Hans Tiefel	
19	Ina Berkey	Erika Rinehimer
20	Carol Gabram	
21	Jane deSolms	
22	Liana Alpino	Matthias Hallman
24	Julian Jefferson	
26	Stew Fretz	
27	Arthur Gibbs	
28	Joyce Behlendorf	JR Griffin
	Erik McKenna	Truett Melvey
	John Watson	
31	Margaret Krull	



February, 2016 Annual Congregation Meeting

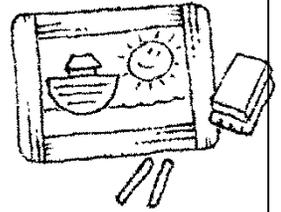
The Annual Congregation Meeting was held **February 7, 2016.**

Minutes from the June, 2015 Congregation meeting were approved.

- **David Allen** and **Sandy Croushore** were elected as our voting representatives to the upcoming Synod Assembly.
- Staff reports were available for review and comment.
- The sale of the house at 608 Jamestown Rd. enabled us to lower our mortgage by \$330,000 and reduce our debt service by \$27,000.
- The financial update through December 2015 shows income exceeded expenses by \$8,456, and the Building Fund balance is \$36,957.
- The Preschool finances were discussed briefly, and it was noted that the Council has established a Preschool Task Force to study the mission of the Preschool and how it complements the mission of the Congregation.
- A balanced church budget for 2016 was approved.
- It was noted that a committee will be working to plan events for St. Stephen's 60th Anniversary.
- The Congregation's thanks were extended to **Bob Phipps** for reviewing our insurance; **Paul Kristiansen, Linda Vonderheide, and Jane deSolms** for their financial work; **George Vonderheide** for property maintenance; and **Marcie Clark** for her work as Parish Nurse.

David F. Clark, Secretary

News from the Preschool



Spring is in the air, and all around the Preschool! The children are making rainbows and birds are everywhere! We will be having our annual **Grandparent's Tea on March 27 and 28.** We sometimes need "surrogate" Grandparents, if anyone would like to volunteer, please contact **Lauren McQuain.**

The four and five year-old classes will visit the **Williamsburg Fire Department on March 9.** **York River State Park staff** will visit the extended day students on **March 23** to teach the children about our local bird population.

Our **Easter Egg Hunts** will be **March 23 and 24.** We will be **closed on March 25 for Good Friday.** Note especially that the **Preschool will have Spring break from April 1-10.**

We are collecting large oatmeal containers, glass baby jars, and small yogurt cups for art projects. If you have any, please bring them to the Preschool or drop them by **Lauren McQuain's** office (across from **Sandy Peterkin's** office). Thank you in advance for any donations!

We still have a few spots available for the upcoming school year. If you know of anyone who may be interested please let them know about our wonderful program! Church members receive a 10% discount.

Lauren McQuain Director of the Preschool

Yet another wheelchair ramp!

In spite of serious weather-related delays [cold and snow] the crew completed a 22 foot ramp allowing one more person to stay in her home. **Bob Harman, Brian Bergh, Glenn Joppa, John McCurry, Denny and Diana Krieger, and Harlan Schone** joined with the Patriot's Colony duo of **Dave Lester and Glyn Bruhl** in crafting the ramp.





From our members

"A note of thanks"

To our members of St Stephen, I would like to say many thanks for your cards and emails that were sent to me after my recent surgery. I truly believe it helped to speed up my recovery time.
With much appreciation,

Randy Punchard



Letter from a friend from the Motel Ministry

January 15, 2016

Dinner was delicious and I wasn't expecting it at all. Can't thank you enough! God bless!



Women's Retreat reminder!

We will gather at Richmond Hill on **Saturday, April 24 and leave Sunday, April 25**. There is space for one more overnight participant. You may also come just for Saturday! Send your registration balance to Marian Thies, 2504 Sanctuary Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Please contact **Pastor Griffin** if you are interested in attending.



National Youth Gathering

- At our Congregational Meeting, you might have noticed a lot of excitement in our youth about the ELCA National Youth Gathering to be held in July of 2018. Opportunities abound to enable and encourage their enthusiasm:
- **Do you have the gift of organization?** We need help ensuring that we follow proper procedures for registration.
- **Do you have the gift of fundraising?** Our youth are willing, but need guidance. Maybe you could take the lead on a fundraiser! Or just volunteer to assist and put the FUN in Fundraising.
- **Do you have the gift of financial wizardry?** Can you keep your checkbook and balance your own bank statements? We need someone to keep track of and report money raised. Also, an estimate of costs is needed.
- **Do you have the gift of communication?** We need someone to head up publicity and to keep the youth focused on short and long term goals.

We already have some core youth leaders - but this community effort is very important. With your help, July 2018 will be a true mountain-top, life-forming experience for our youth.

You do not need to have a child who is attending the Gathering to participate! If you would like to help in any way, please contact **Pastor Griffin**.



Nourishment during Lent and Easter

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Linda Baumgarten, Jack Behlendorf, Karen Chenault, Jeanne Garrison, John Harms, Cliff Henderson, Heather Macdonald, Linda Reuben, Regina Root, and Jerry Trone.**

Pray resurrection hope and comfort for **Janna Fitzgerald** and her family on the death of her mother, **Karen Schlicht** and her family on the death of her mother, and for family and friends mourning the deaths of **Willetta Heising, Dick Batman and Dot Wright.**

Pray for these who are unable to get to worship: **Art Dorsey, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Mary Jamerson, Helen Lenox, "Pete" and Kathy Peterson, Betty Rickerson, John Rivolta, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, and Lois Wysong.**

Pray God's blessings on those in our community who have no permanent home, and those are serve them through the Community of Faith Mission.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Nathalee Accomando, Rita Adams, Robert Anderson, Ellen Benton, Norma Blaase, the Blume family, Lois Bomba, Roy Bouharb, Allan Bullman, Jeff Burgess, Grady Calhoun, Melinda Campbell, Ayrton Climo, Kasey Cosby, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Kylee Crittenden, Sylvia Croushore, Kathryn Dieter, Craig Eitreim, Trudy Fass, Bruce and Kay Flatin, Maureen Flatt, Meredith Fuer, Jodi Georgenson, Jean Gottschalk, Carol Haecker, Ron Hayes, Sam Hayes, Bill Henderson, Alan Hochstetler, Lynn Isenburg, Yvonne Jack, Courtney Jackson, Fran Kibler, Art Kirk, Carl Kountze III, Dean Kreitzer, Mary Beth LaFave, Tony Lee, Mildred Lindblad, Robert Linsley, Dorcas Macauley, Sam Mifflin, Rick Meyer, Norma Mills, Sandy Moore, Heidi Morris, Tammy Murden, Tyler Murray, the Nasra family, Mary Newberg, Mike Overdorf, Lesa Peppers, Inge Petersen, Robert Pushaw, Becky Ralston, Jean Reier, Emily Reubush, Paul Rueckwald, Richard Seaver, Paula Shreiner, Nancy Spaniol, Evelyn Spear, Joe Tucker, Elaine Turner, Annette Vosteen, Sue Weilmuenster, Scott Wimbish, Amber and Elishu Wolf, and Anna Zabdyr.

Wednesdays in Lent: Sabbath-keeping

March 2 Playing in God Luke 15:11-32

March 9 Resisting Multi-Tasking Amos 8:4-8

March 16 Resisting Anxiety Deuteronomy 5:6-21

- **6:00 PM** - Soup Supper (with food provided by those who have signed up)
- **7:00 PM** - Holden Evening Prayer

March 24, Maundy Thursday worship (at St. Martin's Episcopal Church)

- **7:00 PM** – During this Holy Communion service, those who are interested will be invited to give and receive foot washing. We will recall the story in John's gospel - of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, remembering that we are also to serve each other as the Body of Christ. The service concludes with the stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

March 25, Good Friday worship

- **7:00 PM** – *Tenebrae*, the Service of Shadows. A contemplative service of readings and prayer

March 26, the Easter Vigil

- **8:00 PM** – This most dramatic worship service begins in darkness. With hand-held candles, we enter into an ancient chant. In half-light we hear Scripture readings of God's salvation history, and we return to our baptisms. We end in full light and full-throated singing, with the first Holy Communion of Easter!

March 27, Easter Sunday

- **8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM** – Festival Easter worship
- **8:30 – 11:00 AM** – Easter breakfast. Bring a dish to share!



