



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

March 2013



Listening Prayer

Brothers and Sisters –

Do you know how to listen when you pray? This is the theme, during Wednesday night Holden Evening Prayer services. (The remaining dates are **March 6, 13, 20, 7:00 PM** each night.)

Many of us haven't been taught to pray since we were children. Our parents would tell us, "Say your prayers." And we would think of people or things to pray for. That is one type of prayer. But prayer is more than thinking up stuff to say to God! What about listening for what God has to say to you?

I am following several Lenten devotionals that friends and colleagues are writing during this season. I was struck by these words, from Jamie Authier and Paul Walters:

"In our world of Google Translate and iPhone apps one would think communication would be easy. Yet, confusions, questions and frustrations over communication persist. We cannot bridge the gap between speaker and listener. The breakdown does not begin with the speaker's language, but with the listener's 'distractedness.' Too busy to listen. ...Yet, when we slow down, settle down and power down, we begin to hear. ... Listen this Lent to what God is saying and to the people in your life! "Empty yourself. Listen. Be filled by God. Amen."

And here are some words from Brother Curtis Almquist, a monk of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (Episcopal):

"When we pray, we are always responding to God's initiative. Even when we're naming someone or some thing, it is

God who has given us this person, these concerns, and when we name them in our prayer we are echoing what we have already heard from God."

On Wednesday nights in Lent we're practicing some listening to God in prayer!

Blessings to you –

Pastor Andy Ballentine

Lent Fellowship and Worship

Wednesdays, March 6, 13, and 20

6:00 PM - Soup Supper (with food provided by those who have signed up)

7:00 PM - Holden Evening Prayer

March 28, Maundy Thursday worship (at St. Stephen Lutheran Church)

7:00 PM – This worship service is a "book end" to the confession of Ash Wednesday. Each worshiper is invited to receive individual words of forgiveness. We share Holy Communion. The altar and worship space is stripped of all decoration in preparation for Good Friday.

March 30, Good Friday worship (at St. Martin's Episcopal Church)

7:00 PM – *Tenebrae*, the Service of Shadows.

March 30, the Easter Vigil (at St. Stephen Lutheran Church)

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! This is one of our four baptismal festivals during the year. We will receive new members through Affirmation of Baptism.

March 31, Easter Sunday ~ St. Stephen Lutheran Church

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM – Festival Easter worship

8:30 – 11:00 AM – Easter breakfast. Bring a dish to share!



***St. Stephen and St. Martin's
Episcopal Church To Join Together
for Maundy Thursday and Good
Friday Worship***

Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Episcopal Church USA are in full communion with each other, sharing sacraments and even clergy. In recent years, the clergy and some members from St. Stephen Lutheran Church and St. Martin's Episcopal Church have pursued living out this full communion, in the worship life of our two congregations. Members of St. Stephen have been encouraged to worship at St. Martin's on Christmas Day and for Ash Wednesday services during daylight hours. St. Martin's members have been encouraged to worship at St. Stephen to mark Thanksgiving.

To deepen this partnership and celebrate our shared faith in action, our two congregations will share in two services of our Holy Week worship in 2013:

Maundy Thursday worship will take place for both congregations at St. Stephen.

Good Friday worship will take place for both congregations at St. Martin's.

Please pray God's blessings on this exciting joint witness to Christ!

Pastor Andy Ballentine



***Sharing the Good
News!***

How do you invite people to worship? It can be a bit of an awkward conversation at times.

"So, do you go to church?"

"No, haven't for years."

"Would you like to join me at mine? We have great sermons that really challenge your ideas about how you live your life, and the hymns really rock the octagon... Now, wait, don't run away! Was it something I said?"

We can't attract people to church by putting on a great program that people will flock to and stay to see how it goes. It just doesn't work. People might initially respond to flash and furor, but will run away to the "next greatest thing" that pops up very quickly. We cannot attract people, we must invite them.

This is scary.

Talking to people at work, that you might know from your neighborhood, and inviting them to worship is not easy, and many of us (me included) can break out in hives and run for the nearest bush when religion becomes the topic of conversation.

"Easy is not the way of the Jedi Lutheran." Inviting people isn't about walking up to people and randomly inviting them to worship Jesus as their personal savior. It means developing a trusting relationship that allows you, as you get to know them, to make the invitation more deliberately, perhaps even waiting until they ask you about why you go to worship (note: we don't go to church, we go to worship!).

Next issue: why do you come to worship? I mean, that is the next logical path of the conversation, they are going to ask you why you go. How can you answer that? Is it the sermons (podcasts available on the website!), the music, the laughter during the announcements, the coffee, the people? What makes you drag yourself out of your warm bed on a cold, rainy Sunday morning in March to drive over and worship God? How can you articulate it in a way that makes other people say, hum, that sounds like a fascinating way to spend my Sunday mornings too?

Well, why do you? (Feel free to write down a few notes in the handy space below)

Now the fun part: Share the Good News! Live your faith, and don't be too hesitant to talk about it to other people. It isn't about scaring them about burning in hell, so come get saved! It is sharing why worship, and the people that you worship with, mean so much to you. Personal witness to the power of what we do for each other, and the genuine love that we have for each other, is the most powerful way we can invite

people to share in that love. It isn't about filling the pews, it is about sharing the wonderful news, and people, that we have here at St. Stephen.

So, Go in Faith and Share the Good News! (Since it is Lent, I shall avoid the A word)

Doug Cummings Ministry Associate



Pipe Peeps

As our Lenten journey draws to a close, we anticipate the glorious celebrations of Easter. This year, the 8:30 choir will sing a Mozart Alleluia anthem for the 8:00 Easter Liturgy; and the 11:00 choir will sing Handel's Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah for the 9:30 and 11:00 Liturgies. We have been working very hard to perfect the technical aspects of the music, but we always remember that we pray the word of God in music. We offer our talents to God in service of his people, and his people are the Church.

I have always been impressed with the congregational singing at St. Stephen, and it really is one of the best singing congregations that I have served. I have noticed, however, that some folks, as is their privilege, do not sing the hymns. In fact, some folks never open the hymnbook. We make every effort to carefully select hymns based on the appointed readings of the day as well as Pastor's sermon topic. The texts of the hymns are extremely important and help us to focus and draw deeper into the mystery of the worship service. Even if you do not wish to sing, may I invite you to open the hymnbook and follow the texts? You might be pleasantly surprised at the gifts of the Spirit if you do.

I pray you all the joys of the Paschal Season.

In Christ, **Michael Monaco**



Come to the Aid of a Friend

In a medical emergency or other crisis many individuals often feel helpless or lost, and they wait and depend totally on fire, Emergency Medical Service (EMS), and police first responders to handle the situation.

The focus of first responders is on saving lives, and providing immediate care. The emergency responders do not have time nor resources for supporting victims

and families in the hours and days after the event occurs.

Emily Rossiter offers the following suggestions for emergency situations:

"Friends can help when a call comes from someone in need, and no special training is necessary -- just a willingness to respond to a call for help. The call may come from an emergency room or hospital bed, a home or public place where professional first responders may also be attending a stricken individual.

There are a number of ways in which friends or neighbors can assist during a family or personal crisis:

- A calm presence, even in the midst of chaos and despair.
- A scribe or note-taker, to record instructions of professional responders and a friend's wishes
- A helper, to call other family members or neighbors, if the friend requests.
- Nurturer, to make sure that the friend in crisis is eating and drinking to sustain energy.
- Physical encouragement for movement and deep breathing to manage stress.
- Listening (response often unnecessary).
- Coordinating overnight or daytime coverage for the home and care for any other family members and pets.
- Following the friend's wishes about unsolicited phone calls and unscheduled visits."

Thank You, Emily, for these helpful ideas.

Marcie Clark, Parish Nurse



*St. Stephen
February Council
Minutes*

*Ed. The church Council has been requested to publish their monthly minutes in the Quill. **Dave Clark**, as Secretary, will send an abridged version for us each month they meet:*

The Council met on **February 12, 2013** following a congregational pancake supper and gathering to burn palms for ashes for Ash Wednesday.

- Minutes of the January meeting were approved.

- Council agreed to publish a synopsis or bullets of Council meeting minutes in the Quill to help keep the congregation informed.
- The Conference is encouraging churches to help each other, and we have been asked by Our Savior's ELCA in Norge to assist them with their Oktoberfest and car show fund raiser to upgrade their kitchen for outreach work such as Meals on Wheels. We agreed to see how we might assist them, and to encourage our congregation to attend the October 19 event.
- Council voted to hire a certified home inspector to give us a thorough report on our house at 608 Jamestown Rd. This will identify potential repairs and upgrades that may be necessary in the future, so we can better anticipate and plan for them.
- Council will also conduct a review of the insurance coverage on the property. We are also looking at how Jamestown Rd. properties might fit into our current and future church mission and needs.
- Council approved our members promoting, (outside of during services) community events that may be of interest. An appropriate way of doing this is for the member to provide **Doug Cummings** with a power point slide or suitable electronic media, and he can post it on the monitors in the narthex.
- Council passed a Housing Allowance resolution for Pastor, based on the approved budget.
- Written reports from officers and committees were available for review.
- Pastor will inform the congregation of upcoming cooperative services with St. Stephen and St. Martin's Episcopal churches, and encourage our worshipping together.

David D. Clark, Secretary



Women's Retreat

The 2013 retreat is shaping up to again be full of spiritual nourishment, fun, and fellowship on **April 20 and 21** at Richmond Hill. Those who have registered are reminded to please send the balance of **\$70 to Marian Thies 2504 Sanctuary Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23188 by March 20, 2013.**

There's still space for day attendees--\$20 for meals, program and fun on **Saturday, April 20.** Day attendees need to also express their interest by **submitting \$20 by March 20.**

Room assignments, carpooling, and workshop information is coming soon!



Service Project Donations - for the Women's Retreat

This year's Women's Retreat service project is in honor of **Reverend Willetta Heising**, a member of our congregation and a founder of Avalon--A Center for Women and Children. We will supply a cabinet full of art supplies for Avalon. These crayons, paints, paper, and so much more are used at Avalon not just for creative expression, but also for therapy for the women and children. Art supplies and monetary contributions are needed for this service project. Please see the poster in the Gathering Space to commit to a donation of art supplies. Thank you for supporting Avalon, its women and children, and assisting the women of St. Stephen in this endeavor!



Grove Sunday in April

As most of you know, Grove Christian Outreach Center (GCOC) has reached their financial goal of moving into their new building DEBT FREE--what an accomplishment!! The building is coming along nicely and completion is expected by the end of March.

For the last few years, Grove Sunday has concentrated on cash donations for the new building from the many congregations and businesses that have supported GCOC. This year, GCOC has requested that the congregations fill the shelves of the new building with items needed by the residents in Grove. Our Social Ministry Committee chose linens--sheet sets and towel sets. The sheet sets can be twin, full, queen or

king size. Starting on **Sunday, March 3**, there will be a sign up sheet in the Gathering Space. Please purchase and return the items to the Gathering Space during the month of March. Items will be collected each week. The final date to return items will be **April 7**. Good places to shop are the discount stores, Bed, Bath & Beyond (with your coupons) or any other store that you prefer. Please avoid 100% cotton sheets as they may shrink!! Any colors are fine!

Please call or email **Marilyn Johnson** majohnson9@cox.net (345-0806) with any questions.

Social Ministry Committee



My Journey With (and without) Stephen Ministry

In the season of Lent we contemplate the sacrifice that Jesus made for us—allowing his human body to be broken to the point of death, with complete faith that God would never leave him. We often turn to God in our times of brokenness—severe illness, death of a loved one, and other life changing events. Sometimes this is the first time we’ve reached out to Jesus and accepted his gift of life while other times it sparks a rededication to walk in His way. Stephen Ministers are considered “wounded healers” because most of us have been through these times of despair and hope to bring God’s healing touch to others. Recently I had lunch with a dear friend, and I arrived in my frequent “caught up in the worries of the world” state. We held hands as we prayed for each other before the meal, as we always do. As she prayed to lift my burden I felt a wave of peace come over me, a feeling of grace. I had not even realized that I was broken. Again, *“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all.” Psalm 34:18-19 NRSV*

Cindy Gibbs



Join us for a meal out!

Dining With Friends

Join a group of St. Stephen friends for lunch **on Saturday, March 16 at 12:30 PM at Food for Thought** on Richmond Road.

Helen and John Allen are hosts. Please sign up on the blue sheet or call Helen at **565-0797**.



New Addresses

Al Kuhn

6451 Far Hills Ave. (Cascade, Room 1171) Centerville, OH 45459

Rudy Stegmann: 345-0807

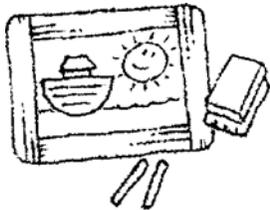


The Church Mouse Hears.

. . . .

The mouse said that the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper was the best ever! REAL maple syrup, delicious fruit salad, and even a “King’s cake” made the evening of friendship and fellowship special. Thanks to the Council for a wonderful meal. Put it on your calendars for next year The Friday night motel ministry for meals for the homeless has a large and faithful group serving delicious meals for the homeless. The mouse gives special thanks to **Bill Holcombe** for enlisting the support of Sal’s by Victor Restaurant who kindly provided a beautiful large pan of lasagna for the homeless meal that had everybody’s mouths watering “Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of

their appointed rounds.” [apologies to the US Post Office and Herodotus] The St. Stephen Housing Partnerships crew – **Harlan Schone, Denny and Diana Krieger, Bob Harman, and Glenn Joppa** with great help from St. Olaf member, **Dave Lester**, picked some pretty cold days to work on their most recent wheelchair ramp! Yes, that IS snow that you are seeing in the photograph!



Preschool News

March will be an interesting month filled with activities and special guests of fathers and grandparents.

The students in the four-year-old and PreK class are preparing for Father’s night on **Thursday, March 4, from 6:00PM to 7:30PM**. This is when the Dads come to school, and participate in all the activities their children do. The Moms provide snacks, which is always a big hit!

The extended day program will travel across James-town Road to visit the **Muscarelle Museum on Wednesday, March 6** to see the Michelangelo exhibit!

The three-year-old classes celebrate their grandparents and special friends with Grandparent’s Day on **Thursday, March 14**. Please note that this will be an abbreviated day, **10:00AM to 11: 30AM**.

The four-year-old and the PreK classes visit the Williamsburg Fire Department on **Friday, March 15**. This is an exciting day and the children learn much about the dangers of fire and good tips for fire safety.

All the classes will dig for “gold” that the leprechaun leaves in the sandbox around St. Patrick’s Day!

During the entire month, we are preparing for Easter by talking about Jesus, re-telling the Easter story, making a flowering cross, and, of course, holding our Easter egg hunts in late March.

We will be closed for Easter break from **March 29 to April 7**. Happy Easter!

We are so very grateful to School Crossing for having a St. Stephen Preschool Day! On **Saturday, March 16 from 10:00AM to 6:00PM** come on in and do some spring shopping! Let them know you are from St. Stephen and the Preschool gets 20% of the sale for the Scholarship Fund. Great educational toys, games and books just in time for Easter!

Rudy Stegmann for the Preschool



March Birthdays

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Robert Radke | Travis Spencer |
| 2 | John Scanlan | |
| 3 | Sarah Harms | Janice Mayfield |
| 4 | Shelley Delehanty | Christine White |
| 5 | Dave Gamble | Reed Nester |
| 7 | Gary Chenault | |
| 8 | Janet Higgs | |
| 9 | Allison Lucy | Spencer Sipes |
| 10 | Marilyn Mallue | |
| 11 | James Wiers | |
| 12 | Stan Hobday | Alexander Stouffer |
| | Rachael Wiers | |
| 13 | Preston Burton | |
| 16 | Pam Buckley | Jeanne Garrison |
| 17 | Karen Einarsen | Pat Gamble |
| | Lorraine Hudson | |
| 18 | Hans Tiefel | |
| 19 | Ina Berkey | Erika Rinehimer |
| 20 | Carol Gabram | |
| 21 | Jane deSolms | |
| 22 | Liana Alpino | |
| 24 | Julian Jefferson | |
| 26 | Stew Fretz | |

27 Arthur Gibbs
 28 Joyce Behlendorf Jill Lucy
 John Watson
 30 Bob Newman
 31 Margaret Krull

Is your name missing? Is your date wrong? Please let us know immediately!
 Rev. February 24, 2013

Prayers



Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Ray Basley, Gerri Bass, Ray Crocker, Debbie DeLong, Stan Hobday, Paul Kristiansen, Carole Meyer, Katie Punchard, Dorothy Reeves,** and **Linda Vonderheide**

Pray God's peace and comfort for **Debi Austin** as she mourns her mother, **Jo**; **Mary Dickerson** as she mourns her husband, **Bill**, and for **Stan Hobday** as he mourns his wife, **Anna Lou**; and for **Dorothy Wright** as she mourns her son, Benjamin; friends and family as they mourn **John Warner**; **Pastor Andy Ballentine** and family on the death of his uncle.

Pray God's blessings

- upon the pastoral ministry of **Haley Vay Poynter**, newly ordained an ELCA pastor
- **Matt Bosworth**, serving in Afghanistan upon those who are homeless, and upon those who are serving the homeless in Williamsburg this week as part of the **Community of Faith Mission shelter**

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

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: **Nathalee Accomando, Alice Adams, Donna Alt, Millie Andrews-Young, Michael Arrelano, Lisa Ballinger, Cathy Bierd, Lois Bomba, Rebecca Boyer, Cara Cameron, Bob Canny, Joanne Carlson, Karen Heide Carney, Bob Casey, Donna Cherel, Bobbie Jo Collins, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Betsy Cummings, Jeris DeKievit, Debbie Effemy, Mary Egger, Marg Ewing, Inge Feilbier, Nick and Ann Finley, Mary Funkhouser, Lori Galloway, Bill Garcia, Sharon Garth, Erin Geary, Norma Geary, Nancy Gottschalk, Mary Hallman, Eleanor Harms,**

James Hart, Gail Henson, Janis Hepburn, Carol Horton, Kristin McGraw, Diana Miller, Roxanne Morris, the Nasra family, John Newberg, Mary Noyes, Cindy Overman, Arthur Pate, Henry and Beth Pate, Christina Phillips, George Rauchfuss, Lisa Rivolta, John and Suzie Roberts, Don Romig, Trisha Dell Roy, Mark Salzman, Roland Scheiding, Bernadine Schlicht, Jeffrey Shafer, Brandon Smith, Ron Smith, Nancy Spaniol, Evelyn Spear, Arlene Steinberg, Connie Testerman, Vivian Villaseñor, Bitsy Whitten, Gloria Williams, Peggy Wood, Larry Wright



Sam Trapani

Carolyn and Robert McAllister

Jo Austin

Bob and Sue Voigt
 Hazel Farkas
 Jeanne Vanderveer
 Mona West

Notes from our members



The prayers, the visits, the flowers, the cards, the phone calls - all have been an enormous help toward recovery from my hip surgery. Thank you so very much.

Pat Fretz



Letters to our congregation

Williamsburg Area Faith in Action thanks St. Stephen members, **Keith Egloff, Stew Fretz, Carol Gabram, Jo Hanny, Pat Janot, Marilyn Johnson, Doug Moore, Larry and Karen Shoberg and Corky Umberger** for their volunteer help during 2012.