



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

May 2014



Who Are We? What Are We About?

It's a good thing to return to basic questions such as these. The answers point to our purpose. Who are we? What are we about? We are people gathering together, following Jesus on the Way. Here's some of what that means.

We gather together as the body of the risen Christ when we congregate for worship, prayer and study. When we are face to face with each other we are encountering Jesus in each other. (That's according to the *Bible*, at least.) We invite others into community with us, so they can experience the joy of encountering the risen Christ!

What are we about? We are gathering for worship, prayer, study and conversation to resist the dehumanizing pressures of our culture.

Aren't we under pressure to be busy, in non-stop accomplishment mode, always on-line, responding immediately, doing what our calendars tell us to do next? Doesn't this result in loneliness, because friendship requires space and time? We congregate as a congregation because we can take advantage of space and time to hang out together, to talk with each other, so that the Spirit can create and deepen relationships among us! If we allow it to happen, we become friends who share in each other's lives. To be human, we need friendships. (How many friends do you have? I don't mean work associates, or those with whom you exchange small talk when you're volunteering together,

or acquaintances whose kids play on your kid's team. I mean friends!)

How many friends do you have, people who know what you're celebrating and what you're struggling with? Here's what we are about: because we are the body of Christ, we are letting others into our joys and sorrows. We gather together as followers of Jesus, to encounter Jesus in each other. Can you allow yourself to share your celebrations (even though we're not supposed to "brag") and to ask for help when you're struggling (even though we're not supposed to admit weaknesses; we're supposed to handle our own problems, don't you know)?

Our culture worships privacy and self-reliance, and that's dehumanizing because (according to the *Bible*, at least) God created us to be in communion with each other. It is not good for us to be alone. So, here's another thing that we are about when we gather together as the body of the risen Christ: we are praying for each other! Indeed, when we pray for each other, we join our prayers with Jesus' prayers for us! As we pray for each other, we share in each other's lives, and this is how we share in God's life.

Blessings to you as we live forward together in the resurrection, as we invite others into the joy of the resurrection, as we serve those in need with the joy of the resurrection. We are the body of the risen Christ. It is God's work, our hands.

Pastor Andy Ballentine





Thoughts from Pastor Cheryl's class

During Lent, adults met to explore The Lord's Prayer. It is an interesting exercise to compose your own version. Several people did this, and would like to share them with you.

Bob Harman recalled Psalm 16:1.1 from a Taize service:
Keep me O God,
For I trust in you.
You show me the path of life.
With you there is fullness of joy.

Rudy Stegmann paraphrased:
My Father God, who abides in heaven, gloriously
beloved is your name.
Your kingdom exists eternally.
And may your will be accomplished both on
Earth as it is in heaven.
Provide us each day with our food, livelihood
and families.
Forgive our sins as we forgive, in love, those who
sin against us.
Protect us always from the temptation to sin,
and deliver us all from evil.
Teach us to love you, God our Father, who is
love. To love each other as you love us.
Reconcile (save) us into eternal life with you
within your eternal heavenly kingdom; the
power and the glory are yours forever
and ever. Amen.

Christine Roe explicitly paraphrases:
Our Father --
the one to which all life generates from
which art in heaven --
the one that exists in all things
hallowed be thy name --
sacred is your name- that it is to be cherished and
nourished and cared for-- not abused or misused
thy kingdom come- -
in all realms
thy will be done --
I pray that all will be well in whatever may be or
whatever may come
on Earth as it is in heaven --
our lives are to be lived now as if we are in heaven -
- caring for one another, loving one another
Give us this day our daily bread --

whatever it is I need today, I trust God will provide
for those needs
and forgive us our trespasses --
love me unconditionally
as we forgive those who trespass against us --
as I will love others unconditionally
and lead us not in to temptation --
test not my will, my faith
but deliver us from evil --
shove me out of the dark
for thine is the kingdom --
all that we have is yours
and the power and the glory, forever and ever --
all honor and praise is to you, always
Amen



St. Stephen April Council Minutes

The Council met on April 8, 2014.

- Only a few resumes have been received so far for the Director of Music/Organist position.
- A motion was passed to present changes needed to bring the St. Stephen constitution into alignment with the new Model Constitution for Congregations of the ELCA at the June congregational meeting. **Sandy Peterkin** will send an e-mail to the congregation regarding the constitution, including a link so members can read the document electronically if desired. Paper copies of the changes will also be available.
- The June Congregational meeting will address needed constitutional changes, and also the election of Council and Endowment Committee members. President Egloff will appoint a Nominating committee.
- Pastor Price, the Bishop's representative, will visit and preach at St. Stephen on June 15.
- Council passed a motion, at **Pastor Griffin's** suggestion, that the offering from her installation be designated for the synod's *Funds For Leaders In Missions* to help support seminary students.

- After years of discussion, Council passed a motion that we make a recommendation to the Congregation at the January 2015 Congregational meeting as to whether we should sell the property at 608 Jamestown Road or keep it. The Jamestown Road Task Group needs to provide its recommendations regarding realistic potential mission uses of the property, and whether or not we should keep it, to the Council before the June 2014 Congregational meeting.
- Positive efforts are underway to better integrate the Pre-School into the mission of St. Stephen.

David F. Clark, Secretary



Sunday, March 24, at 4:00 PM we gathered in the worship space for my installation as pastor, serving alongside **Pastor Ballentine**. It was a glorious event! There were vast numbers of people involved in making the day both meaningful and wonderful. The preparation for the day, the worship service, and the reception afterward involved many details. I'm afraid if I began to list individuals, I would miss someone! In addition, the support that you have given to me has helped me to feel at home. I appreciate all of you!

The installation service is a visible mark that we begin our ministry together. One of the many blessings of St. Stephen is that you recognize that all of us, not only the pastors, are all called to spread the good news of Christ's love and forgiveness. I share St. Paul's sentiments in his letter to the Philippians: *I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel...* [3-5].

As **Pastor Ballentine** said in his sermon: *Our call is to share our joy that is rooted in the peace, good news and salvation of Christ – in relationships of love and trust, and while serving those who are in need. The keys are those relationships of love and trust. (You've nurtured*

such relationships your entire lives! Otherwise you would have no relationships with other people!)

Our call is, simply, to invite: "Come and see."

Any response, any faith that is created, is created by God!

As we continue our journey together in Christ, I give thanks for you!

Pastor Griffin



The Value of an Endowment

On April 3, 2014, The 1956 Society held its Charter Member Dinner at the Waypoint Seafood and Grill. The Society is currently made up of about 25 congregational members who have given or declared their intent to give to the St. Stephen Endowment Fund. The dinner was held to recognize and thank those in attendance for their commitment to the future of St. Stephen.

The Endowment Fund Committee also announced at the dinner that it has a goal of \$1.2 million dollars to be attained by 2016 to celebrate St. Stephen's 60th Anniversary.

Ellen Hinlicky was the guest speaker. She serves as the Director of Lutheran Partners in Mission, a ministry of the Virginia Synod whose mission it is to encourage philanthropy and volunteerism among Virginian Lutherans. Ellen's presentation, *The Value of an Endowment*, was very inspirational. Below are several excerpts:

"If you believe that God has called your church, St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Williamsburg, Virginia, to be a part of the ongoing effort to shine the light of Christ's love to the world, in this place and into the future, then an endowment is a statement of conviction, and of confidence, and especially of hope.

So here is some practical advice for you, as members of St. Stephen Lutheran Church, and as founding members of your church's legacy society:

1. An endowment is simply a vehicle, a method. It is a way to hold and use money. But, it also has enormous symbolic power; it is a symbol of confidence in the future of your church's place in the world, and its calling to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. Your church's endowment should be for a very special use; never simply to pay bills, or to tide you over, or to pay for routine upkeep on your building. This is important! A church's ongoing expenses should always be covered by members out of their regular giving.
3. Your endowment should be set up in such a way that honors and furthers your church's unique and God-given place in the world. What does St. Stephen do well? What is its calling? How can its mission in the world be strengthened and enriched and enhanced? Answer those questions, and you will know what your endowment should be used for.
4. Giving the members of St. Stephen the chance to be part of a legacy society is a great gift to them. You honor their generosity and their commitment to their church when you recognize them in this way. Don't be afraid to publicize and thank those who leave legacy gifts! It's okay to do that!
5. We are usually older when we plan to leave a legacy. And humans learn by example. By honoring and thanking your (mostly older) legacy society members, you are demonstrating far-sighted, intelligent, selfless generosity. Don't you think that's a good lesson for people of all ages?

Establishing your church's mission endowment, and a legacy society that recognizes and honors donors, is the beginning of a wonderful journey for your congregation, and I congratulate you for having the courage and foresight to take these steps. May our dear Lord bless, guide and encourage all your efforts with astonishing success!"

(This presentation in its entirety can be found on St. Stephen's website.)

Anyone interested in more information about leaving a legacy gift to St. Stephen may fill out a card found in the pew pockets or ask any member of the Endowment Fund Committee: **Gerri Bass, Ingrid Brown, Gary Krull, Jan MacQueston or Lou Rossiter.**



The Committee

Health Ministry



It's Coming May 18

It's that time of year again...following the April showers and May flowers begins the season of storms; hurricanes, tornadoes and flooding. And, it's the annual reminder of Disaster Preparedness.

This year's theme is: "Be Smart, Take Part, **Prepare!**"

Get the Facts: Know Your Risk--

Disasters can strike anyone anytime and anywhere. They can happen quickly and without warning and can force you to leave your home, neighborhood or be confined to your home. Knowing what to do before, during and after an emergency is a critical part of being prepared, and may make all the difference when seconds count.

Hurricanes

Hurricanes have the power to cause widespread devastation and can affect both coastal and inland areas. Hurricanes can cause loss of life and catastrophic damage to property on coastlines and several hundred miles inland.

- **What:** Hurricanes are massive storm systems that form over the water and move toward land. Threats from hurricanes include high winds, heavy rainfall, storm surge, coastal and inland flooding, rip currents, and tornadoes.

- **When:** The Atlantic hurricane season runs from **June 1 to November 30**, with the peak occurring between mid-August and late October.

For more information, download the **How to Prepare for a Hurricane** guide, (see the website listed at end of the article) which provides the basics of hurricanes, explains how to protect yourself and your property, and details the steps to take now so that you can act quickly at a time when every second counts.

Tornadoes

About 1,200 tornadoes hit the United States every year, and every state is at risk. Tornadoes are one of nature's most violent storms, and can cause death, injury, and destruction within seconds.

- **What:** A tornado is a violently rotating column of air that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground and is often—although not always—visible as a funnel cloud. Lightening and hail are common in thunderstorms that produce tornadoes.
- **When:** Tornadoes can strike in any season, but occur most often in the spring and summer months. They can occur at all hours of the day and night, but are most likely to occur between 3:00 PM and 9:00 PM.

For more information, download the **How to Prepare for a Tornado** guide, which provides the basics of tornadoes, explains how to protect yourself and your property, and details the steps to take now so that you can act quickly when you, your home, or your business is in danger.

Floods

Flooding is the most common natural disaster in the United States and can happen anywhere. Flooding can occur during any season, but coastal areas are at greater risk for flooding during hurricane season (June to November). It is particularly important to be prepared for flooding if you live in a low-lying area near a body of water, such as a river, stream, or culvert. If you are in a flood-prone area, be prepared to evacuate flooded areas on short notice, elevate your electrical panels and utilities, waterproof your basement, clear debris from gutters and downspouts, and consider purchasing flood insurance.

In the weeks ahead look in the Sunday Bulletin for helpful hints on how to be prepared.

Sunday, May 18, will be the Annual “Be Prepared” disaster preparedness event. This event will be in the Gathering Space between services. The event will provide you with ideas of what you need to do and what you need to have to **Be Prepared!** The display will continue through the following **Sunday, May 25**. Stop by the display tables and pick up helpful booklets and information. Also, you may want to check out this helpful website:

<http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/AmericasPrepathon/groupHome>

Marcie Clark, Parish Nurse

Social Ministry Request

Pineapple Inn Food Pantry - The Social Ministry Coordinating Committee is concentrating on collecting food as a Summer Program for the Pineapple Inn Food Pantry. For the months of **June, July, and August**, a bin in the Gathering Space will be labeled for Pineapple Inn Food Pantry collection. Non-perishable foods will be collected and delivered to the Pineapple Inn Food Pantry for the 40 homeless people there. We appreciate your support and generosity. Be alert for further notice.



Jim Ivey for Social Ministry



What can a dollar do?

James 2:14-17 — “What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, ‘Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well-fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

With unprecedented national debt, near-zero interest rates, and more in student loans than we have ever seen, what can a dollar do? Who has a dollar to spare?

You would be amazed what a dollar can still do. Through the United Lutheran Appeal, your Partners in Ministry, your dollar can change a life. On your behalf, the eight Lutheran ministries in our own Virginia Synod help people experience God's love in so many ways. Our vital ministries care for the weak and lonely, the elderly, the child, and the prisoner. They educate those who hunger for knowledge.

May 4 is United Lutheran Appeal Sunday at St. Stephen. United Lutheran Appeal envelopes will be mailed to every household before May 4. They will also be in the church pews. **Please place the envelope with your gift in the offering plate, and the financial secretary will forward your contribution to the Virginia Synod.**

The United Lutheran Appeal envelopes give you the option of directing your gift to one of these mission partners:

- Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center
- Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of Virginia
- Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center
- Lutheran Family Services of Virginia
- Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary
- National Lutheran Communities and Services
- Roanoke College
- Virginia Lutheran Homes

Thank you for your support of the United Lutheran Appeal!

www.vasynod.org/ula



My Journey With (and without) Stephen Ministry

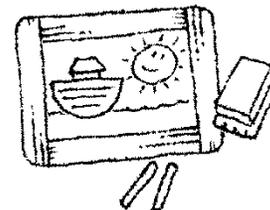
"Oh Lord, I'm not a good speaker.....Lord, please! Send somebody else!" I'm too busy, I can't pray in public, I don't know enough Bible verses, I'm shy, I'm not worthy. We always have a reason. I was reminded of that when I made weak excuses for not completing the auto draft form for my tithing. The plea above did not come from a prospective Stephen Minister. It came

from Moses (Exodus 4:10 and 13). We forget that throughout the *Bible* most people (except maybe Paul) did not feel worthy to serve.

Moses, if he were a Stephen Minister, would not have had to worry about his speech. It is our job to listen, not to speak. And the slow speech attributable to Moses in some translations would allow for thoughtful insight. Moses would have known what it was like to be alone, to commit a serious crime, and to feel different. His empathy would have been helpful to someone in need. In the end, God did help him to speak.

Paul discusses in first Corinthians the many ways we may serve God. You may feel you have too many shortcomings to serve, just as Moses did. God promised Moses he would provide the words, and He did. God saw to it that Moses did not walk alone, and inspired Moses' brother, Aaron, to help him in his quest against Pharaoh. Where is your call to service? "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." *1 Corinthians 12:7*

Cindy Gibbs for Stephen Ministry



Preschool News

The children in the four- and five-year-old classes have been preparing for our annual Mother's Day Brunch. It is held at Mrs. Colafrancesco's husband's restaurant, Rocco's Smokehouse and Grill. The children made the placemats and flower arrangements for the tables, as well as special pins for their moms to wear.

We have witnessed the miracle of life watching our caterpillars turn to butterflies, and watching chicks hatch. Thank you to Timothy Ickes' (PreK 3 Bunny) family for bringing in their baby chicks!

Our school year is coming to a close as we celebrate with water play days on **May 27 and 28**. Our 3-year-old picnic will be held on **Thursday, May 29**, and our Graduation and picnic for the 4-and 5-year-olds will be on **Friday, May 30**. Both will be held at Chickahominy River Front Park.

Summer camp runs the month of June and begins on **Monday, June 2**. Themes include Art, Space, Farm and "Movin' and Groovin!" Fun will be had by all.

The Staff of St. Stephen Preschool wishes you all a happy and healthy summer! Thank you for your support of our wonderful program.

Lauren McQuain, Preschool Director

Directory Changes

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The Church Mouse Hears. . .



"The Executive's Duty to Enforce the Laws" was the title of the presentation by Tara Grove on April 6, 2014.

Tara Grove, St. Stephen member and an Associate Professor at William and Mary Law School, recently presented at "TEDxCollegeofWilliam&Mary 2014" where the speakers explored and discussed the forces that are changing the world that we know today. Tara graduated from Duke University *summa cum laude* and graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School where she served on the *Harvard Law Review* and has had interesting and important job and literary experiences since then. Cheers for Tara!

Libby Lipscomb Boyer, organist at Apostles, Gloucester and former choir director and organist at St. Stephen, presented a concert at the **1734 St. John's Episcopal**

Church in King William County on Sunday, March 16. Several St. Stephen members joined in the celebration of music and for supper afterwards.

Nancy Egloff, a Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation historian specializing in the 17th century, was very much involved in the wedding of John Rolfe and Pocahontas recently re-enacted at Historic Jamestowne.



"Almost finished" says the dedicated "shed builders,"

Harlan Schone and his team of mighty warriors: **Peter Geier, Brian Bergh, Veronica Ferris, Forrest Fenstermaker, Denny and Diana Krieger, Tom Peterkin, John Moravetz, Glenn Joppa, Lewis Owens, Bob Phipps, and Bob Harman.** Time to celebrate!



Women of St. Stephen gathered together for a mini-retreat on Saturday, April 12. **Christine Roe**, who is a seminary student at Gettysburg, led the group. Salvation was the theme of the retreat, explored through scripture, personal stories, and a three-dimensional art collage.

For the fourth year, **Molly Sandling's** Jamestown High School class has organized a day of activities at Historic Jamestowne for National Junior Ranger day Saturday, April 19. They will be awarded the Hartzog Award for outstanding volunteer work.



Easter was a joyful time beginning after the Easter Vigil with the "Peeps roast" through the three services and the wonderful delicious brunch on Sunday filled with families, children and happy times. Christ is risen!





May Birthdays

1	Elizabeth Bosworth	Landry Bosworth
	Jessica Harms	Jane Mazur
2	Betty McKee	
4	Dorothy Hinders	
5	Jackson Sidebottom	
6	Karen West	
8	Kristina Finch	
10	Chris Black	
11	Jon Lund	
13	Joshua Cosby	
14	Donna May Hochstetler	Alex Ogborn
15	Laura Bergh	Jane Holcombe
17	Ward Bourn	Gill DeMari
20	John Olson	Kylen Saunders
21	Heather Alpino	
22	Theo Bergh	Julie Philipoom
24	Regina Root	
28	Cheryl Ann Griffin	
29	Ron Laign	
31	Cindy Bouschek	Jackie Locke



Prayers

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for Helen Allen, Jim Anderson Sr., Nancy Canny, Anita Dorsey, Christine Hallman, Dan Hanley, Donna May Hochstetler, Michelle Ivey, Marilyn Johnson, Rosa Miller, Ursula Murden, Lana Olson, Kathy Peterson, Katie Punchedard and Janice Svendsen. Pray for those giving caring to these loved ones.

Pray for these who are physically unable to get to worship: Dick Batman, Ruth Ennis, Bob and Angie

Groom, Elsie Hall, Willetta Heising, Jean Kuhn, Helen Lenox, "Pete" Peterson, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Dot Wright and Lois Wysong.

We celebrate God's gift of Matthias Alexander, born to Jonathan and Christine Hallman March 22 and Sara Kathryn, born to Rachel and Andrew Martin on April 13!

Prayers of Easter hope to Stephanie Leek and family on the death of her grandmother; Karen Nester and her family mourning the death of her mother; to Paul Reier and his family on the death of his aunt; to Jonna Toler on the death of her father; and to Rushton White and family on the death of his mother.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Rita Adams, Thomas Alt, Lois Bomba, Jaxon Bourn, Carol Boyer, Bob Canny, Joanne Carlson, Michael Compton, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Judy Culler, Walter Degree, Kathryn Dieter, Maxine Eittreim, Joe Eustace, Inge Felbier, Janice Fowler, Natalie Fulton, Mary Funkhouser, Their Giardi, Bill and Nancy Gottschalk, Eleanor Hallman, Eleanor Harms, Terry Holland, Joan Holt, Carol Horton, the Jackson family, Richard Johnson, Fran Kibler, George Lair, Brittany Liberta, Mildred Lindblad, Kristin McGraw, Dianna Miller, Stanley Miller, Helen Minnick, Heidi Morris, Fred Muller, Bill Murden, the Nasra family, Mike Newberg, Mike Overdorf, the Price family, Lisa Rivolta, Dorothy Roger, Jean and Bob Scherer, Bernadine Schlicht, Paul Simis, Linda Smalarz, Nancy Spaniol, Evelyn Spear, James Storm, Lana Taylor, Annette Vosteen, Judy Wimbish, Gloria Williams and Lois Wright.



Elsa Englert
Linda and Bernard Tuohy

Chuck Schumacher
Linda Rastinehad



how much our support means to their program. Hospice House thanked us for our donation of \$600.

Thank you to the Congregation

Hello everyone,

It has been my pleasure and honor to have spent these past several months with you all, as your student. I was given goals and objectives from the seminary and then you all provided an interactive classroom for me on Sundays. I was given opportunities to teach and preach. Thank you to the leaders and students of Faith Formation and Affirmation of Baptism for your trust and guidance. I am grateful for the mentor hours I spent with both Andy and Cheryl. I have spent many hours in dialogue with you all, listening to your stories of faith, sharing our journeys and receiving feedback from you on questions I presented. Thank you for your time and honesty. I thank you for the healthy congregational model I have witnessed at St. Stephen, both in and out of the church building. You are a community of saints. I appreciate your gifts of compassion, generosity, love, spirituality, honesty, devotion and, most especially, I appreciate the love of Christ that shines through all of these gifts, as seen in all of you.

May the peace of Christ be with you all,

Christine Roe

M.Div. student

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg



***Thank you to St.
Stephen members from
the Community***



Orcutt Baptist Church in Newport News thanked St. Stephen for our donation of \$75 while we hosted PORT in their church on the cold icy days in early March – a time we will truly remember. Avalon thanked us for the items sent to them from St. Stephen and mentioned

Congregational Officers:

President	Keith Egloff	229-7859
Vice President	Emily Rossiter	345-6206
Secretary	Dave Clark	603-6346
Treasurer	Paul Kristiansen	220-2709
Financial Secretary	Linda Vonderheide	645-4059

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Dir. Music/Organist	Ina Berkey (acting)	MusicDir@
Parish Nurse	Marcie Clark	ParishNurse@
Dir. Of Preschool	Lauren McQuain	258-3759
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