



# The Quill

## THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

May 2017



### *God's Desires, Our Desires*

God desires to give us life. It's life that crackles! It's life that cracks us open—new life, Easter life!

We are captive to sin. We cannot free ourselves. And so, according to Luther, we resist the hope and joy of resurrection life. We protect ourselves from that Easter life that would crack us open. In Toni Morrison's great American novel, *Beloved*, the character Sethe has a hard time laying down "her heavy knives of defense against misery, regret, gall and hurt." She's afraid of what will be revealed, what she's kept covered up, if she lets down her guard. Isn't that true for you and me too?

Can God the Holy Spirit open you to the risk of Easter life? Can the Spirit draw you to the new life of the risen Jesus, life that cracks open all the protective barriers that we've erected around us?

That's what happens when the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. We read these stories in all four gospels. My favorite description is in the story Luke tells: Jesus' disciples are "startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost." They come to know that this is the risen Jesus but, even then, "in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering." This is beyond what they can control or even process. Startled and terrified, in their joy and disbelief, God has cracked open all of their assumptions.

God desires to give us Easter life, life that cracks us open. Can the Spirit create the desire in you for this new life? God can do that, as we practice the faith.

Joel Blunk writes this in the March-April 2017 newsletter of the Richmond Hill retreat center: "The residential community of Richmond Hill is guided by a twelve-part Rule of Life. First on the list is 'Conversion of Life,' which we define as 'living one's life as if it were a conversation with God, in a commitment to personal spiritual disciplines.' Note the close relationship between the words conversion and conversation. They both have the same root, which means, literally, 'to turn about with.' The change we seek, or that God offers, comes through engagement, relationship, interaction, and a willingness to converse back and forth. There is an interplay and exchange that leads to growth. ...

"We speak of the process often as spiritual formation—to be formed by the Spirit. God engages us and we are shaped into new beings ... . Old ways of understanding give way to new ones. In religious terms we might say that we are converted or transformed, or even saved. In this Easter season it's another way of understanding resurrection. Our lives are renewed through honest conversation. Dying to what was, we are born for new and wider possibilities."

Dying to what we have been, being born to what God is creating within and among us. This is an important theme of the seasons of Lent and Easter.

This also describes the daily life of baptism, according to Martin Luther. In the *Small Catechism*, Luther teaches that baptism has daily significance, as God drowns the old creature in us, so that, every day, the new person in us can rise up to live before God—in hope and joy, in Easter life!

The reason we gather together for worship and study is to help each other along in this!

Easter blessings,  
**Pastor Andy Ballentine**



## *Our Revised Worship Schedule for May 13 and May 14*

On this weekend, the College of William and Mary holds its graduation ceremonies. Parking across Jamestown Road from our building will not be available on Sunday morning.

- We will worship at 7:00 PM on Saturday, **May 13**, and at 5:00 PM on Sunday, **May 14**.
- Those interested are invited to gather for a potluck meal at 5:30 PM on Saturday, **May 13**.

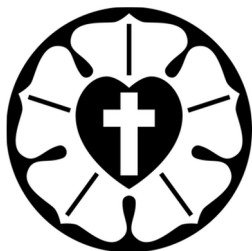


*For Men and Women;  
For Conversation and  
Friendship-Deepening*

Women are invited to join with St. Stephen friends for breakfast the first Tuesday of each month, which this month is **May 2**.

Men of the congregation join together for breakfast the first Thursday of each month, which will be **May 4**.

Both gatherings take place at 8:00 AM at the Colonial Pancake House, at the corner of Page Street and Penniman Road.



## *May Baptismal Anniversaries*

Those celebrating anniversaries of their new birth in Christ:

1	Benjamin Berry	Jeffery Berry
2	Anne Schone	
5	Annie Collins	Pete Peterson
8	Jean Gulesian	
10	Charlotte Stahl	
12	Marilyn Mallue	
14	Jan MacQueston	Chris Punchard
18	Julie Berry	
19	Helen Nelsen	Sarah Scheitrum
22	Julie Philipoom	
24	Russell Melvey	
25	Mathias Hallman	
29	Ellen LaPlace	
30	Elizabeth Bosworth	Landry Bosworth
	Matthew Bosworth	

Others with May baptismal anniversaries:

David Gamble  
Patricia Gamble  
Mary Swanson  
James Wolff

# let's do lunch

*Dine with Friends at SSLC*

Please join us for lunch after the late service on Sunday, **May 21**.

- Place: Second Street Restaurant
- Time: 1:00 PM

Reservations requested: Fill out the white sheet with Sunday's bulletin or call the hosts, **George and Linda Vonderheide**, at 757-645-4059, or email them at [gandl525@cox.net](mailto:gandl525@cox.net).



## May Preschool News

Our last month of school is a busy one. We will release our butterflies, which we watched turn from a baby caterpillar, to a chrysalis, and then turn into a beautiful butterfly! It is so wonderful to watch the miracle of life right before our eyes.

Kindergarten registration for W-JCC Schools is Friday, **May 5**. We will have our Mother's Day Brunch at Rocco's Smokehouse on Wednesday, **May 10**. A big thank-you goes out to Rocco and Amy Colafrancesco for hosting our brunch these past years.

Our 3-year-old classes celebrate our Grandparents on **May 10** and **11** at our annual Grandparent's Tea held at the Preschool. Our Extended Day program ends **May 18**. We will have Water Play days on Thursday, **May 25** and Friday, **May 26**.

We will end our year with our annual picnic for all the 3-year-old classes on Tuesday, **May 30**, 10 AM, at Chickahominy Riverfront Park. Our 4- and 5-year-old classes will have their picnic and Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday, **May 31**, 10 AM, at Chickahominy Riverfront Park.

I want to thank our wonderful families for a great year. It has been a privilege to learn and play with your children. Thank you for sharing your children with us. Have a great summer.

Thank you!  
Lauren McQuain

## *More Upcoming Events in Our Commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation*

Mark your calendars for the Virginia Synod's "Power in the Spirit" event, **July 13-15**, at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia. The presenter will be Dr. Timothy Wengert, world renowned Reformation scholar (and two-time St. Stephen Theologian in Residence). Dr. Wengert's working title for his presentations is, "The Reformation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church."

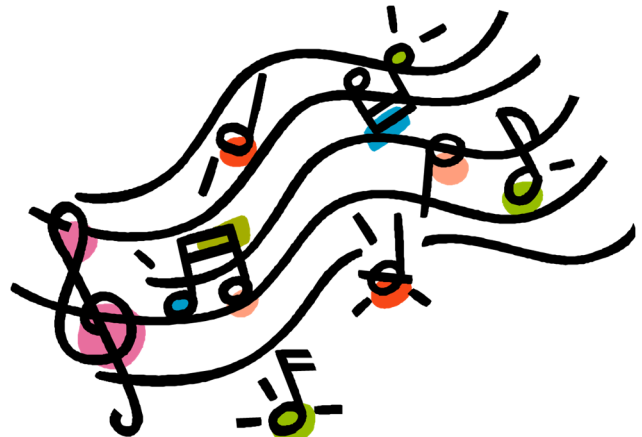


## Address Updates

**Marilyn Asprey**  
310 Settlement Drive  
Williamsburg VA 23188  
757-378-3919

**Stanley Hobday**  
Commonwealth at Williamsburg  
236 Commons Way, Apt 226  
Williamsburg, VA 23185  
757-603-0321

**Ann Booth Young:** torylodge7@gmail.com



## *Worship Music Leaders*

Until the search committee secures a new Director of Music, **Ina Berkey** and **Patty Ballentine** will be sharing our worship music leadership. Ina will be leading our music on the organ most Sundays, and Patty will lead us on the piano one Sunday each month. Patty will also be working with both choirs. We are so fortunate to have such experienced worship leaders among our own congregation.



## ***Thank You Love and Peace from The St. Stephen Social Ministry Coordinating Committee***

Most of you probably noticed the thank-you letter to St. Stephen from FISH, INC. in last month's *Quill*. There was also an article about feeding the homeless who live in local motels. Thanks to **Randy Punchard**, **John Moravetz**, and the St. Stephen teams who prepare and deliver meals to the motels—if you wish to help please contact the church office. We are blessed that so many of the St. Stephen Lutheran Church family participate in one or more church and/or community ministries. Thank you for your unselfish participation, love, and dedication to God through these ministries.

It is a joy and a blessing to serve as a members of the Social Ministry Coordinating Committee (SMCC). The SMCC routinely serves as representative or maintains contact with ministry representatives of our church and community ministries. The SMCC meets monthly to review and decide how best to serve these ministries. Some recent highlights include:

- The recent "500 Proteins for FISH" effort collected 554 containers of protein foods during the drive. St. Stephen's **Dianne Harris** is a regular volunteer at FISH and worked hard on this effort, as did others. Thank you Dianne, as well as all who were able to bring containers of protein foods. After our protein food effort, committee members talked with representatives of those ministries to whom we regularly contribute grocery items: Grove, Pineapple Inn, and FISH, INC.
- Grove agreed that currently it is not necessary to collect groceries for them, but please continue the back-to-school shoes drive for them in the Summer. Look for **Marilyn Johnson's** announcement about this as the time approaches.
- FISH needs the protein foods year round, and for FISH, we shall concentrate on collecting protein year round instead of the regular grocery items. As you may recall, those protein foods include:
  - Canned Chicken
  - Canned Turkey

- Canned Salmon
- Canned Tuna
- Dinty Moore or other brand Beef Stew
- Spaghetti Sauce with Meat
- Canned Hams
- Spam or Treet
- Peanut Butter
- NOTE: PLEASE, NO GLASS CONTAINERS.

- Grocery collections will continue for the Pineapple Inn.
- Beginning **May 1**, the two food bins in the Gathering Space will be designated as follows - one will be for regular groceries for the Pineapple Inn, and the other will be for protein foods for FISH. *Note: If you are unable to donate protein foods for FISH, they will gladly accept regular groceries too.*

**Jim Ivey**, Social Ministry Coordinating Committee

## ***Blessing of the Bikes***



"May is Bike Month" is packed with bicycling activities for everyone. The signature event is Pedal the Parkway on Saturday, **May 6**—the Colonial Parkway will be closed to motor vehicles between Williamsburg and Jamestown from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This is a family friendly event and a perfect recreational activity for cyclists of all ages and abilities. **Pastor Ballentine** will be conducting a *Blessing of the Bikes* on Sunday, **May 21**, at 2:00 PM. This will take place in the William and Mary parking lot across from St. Stephen, and will be followed by a relaxed bike ride to Redoubt Park and back. Information on all of the "May is Bike Month" activities can be found at [www.williamsburgbikemonth.org](http://www.williamsburgbikemonth.org).





## *The Church Mouse Hears*

... that **Ina Berkey** and **Danya Zimbauer** shared their ample musical gifts in a March 29 performance in Patriots Colony's Great Hall, enjoyed by an overflow crowd of PC residents that included **Dick Reeves**, shown here with **Danya** (L) and **Ina** (R).

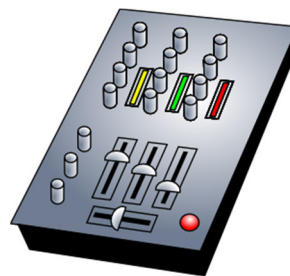


... that in conjunction with the opening of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, each of the 13 colonies had a day to celebrate. Pennsylvania Day was March 24, and Pennsylvanians **Susan Britcher** (L) and **Jane deSolms** (R), who donated the Pennsylvania flag, were part of the flag presentation and flag-raising ceremony. The Pennsylvania flag was flown over the encampment for that day.



## *Thinking of Summer Activities for Your Kids?*

Check out Caroline Furnace, the Virginia Synod's camp. More information is available on the display in the Gathering Space, and at [www.carolinefurnace.org](http://www.carolinefurnace.org).



## *Sound System Operators Needed*

Are you called to join the team of sound system operators for 11:00 AM worship? This important ministry enables amplified sound to reach the Gathering Space and Undercroft (the room under our Worship Space), and enhances the reception for those wearing hearing aids. Please sign up on the white sheet in the Sunday morning bulletin, if you are interested.



## May Birthdays

1	Elizabeth Bosworth	Landry Bosworth
	Jessica Harms	
4	Dorothy Hinders	
6	Karen West	
9	Jessie Schmitthenner	
10	Chris Black	
11	Jon Lund	
13	Brian Agor	Joshua Cosby
14	Donna May Hochstetler	Alex Ogborn
15	Laura Bergh	Jane Holcombe
17	Ward Bourn	
19	Ryan Wolff	
20	John Olson	Kylen Saunders
22	Theo Bergh	Julie Philipoom
24	Nate Collins	Regina Root
28	Cheryl Ann Griffin	
30	Tim Crittenden	
31	Sonja Cave	

***Do you know  
someone who  
needs to be  
wrapped in our  
prayers?***

Prayer shawls are available in the Gathering Space. Please take a shawl to him or her, with our love.



## PRAYERS

**Join your prayers for healing** with God's desires for **Doc Anderson, Nancy Childress, Stan Hobday, Pat Janot, Ursula Murden and Corky Umberger.**

**Pray for these who are unable to get to worship:** **Gene and Martha Clements, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Mary Jamerson, Helen Lenox, "Pete" Peterson, Betty Rickerson, Dick Reeves, Regina Root, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, Rudy Stegmann, and Jerry Trone.**

**Pray resurrection hope and comfort for all who mourn.** Bless **Ann Booth Young** and her family on the death of her son; bless **Lauren McQuain** and her family on the death of her father.

**We thank God** for giving **Bob Groom** 93 years of life! His birthday was April 21. Send him a card!

**Pray God's blessings** on **Jayme and Paul Lawson**, as they wait for the birth of their baby.

**Pray God's blessings upon** **Matt Bosworth**, serving with the Army in Iraq.

**Pray for these loved ones of our congregation:** Nathalee Accomando, Terry Bauer, Brennan Bayer, Tom and Bea Black, Blume family, Matt and Jess Bosworth (awaiting the birth of their baby), Grady Calhoun, Ruth Canny, Elaine Cari, Marla Canny, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Kathryn Dieter, Brian Doyle, Inge Felbier, Karen Felton, Mary Fitzgerald, Mertie Funkhouser, Bill Gottschalk, Frank Greenday, Carol Haecker, Madeline Hanlon, Anthony Hargrave, Sara Jane Harlan, Tammy Harman, Alan Hochstetler, Marian Hunt, Marsha Inge, Fran Kibler, Art Kirk, Carl Kountze III, Dean Kreitzer, Jane Kristiansen, Mary Beth LaFave, Gaston Lambert, Tamecha Lassiter, Frances Link, Mildred Lindblad, Bill Macdonald, Betty March, Simon Mayfield, McGraw family, Heidi Morris, Mary Newberg, Bob Orwoll, Barb Pendleton, Lesa Peppers, Inge Petersen, Robert Pushaw, Pat Ramering, Paul Ratzow, Shann Rufer, Georg Siegert, Linda Smalarz, Sharon Smith, Nancy Spaniol, Evelyn Spear, Hallie Thrash, Pierrette Tipton, Charley Underdahl, Sue Weilmuenster, and Micah Zabell.



... from Avalon Center for a \$700 donation. "Avalon works to end domestic and sexual violence through education, prevention, shelter and support services. Each year, with your help, we assist some 600 of our community members to find safety, heal, learn life skills for healthy relationships, and follow a path to a brighter future."

... from Hospice House & Support Care for a \$600 donation. "Your contribution makes it possible for Hospice House & Support Care of Williamsburg to enhance the quality of life for those facing end-of-life and to support those who love them. Your gift directly supports the individuals, families, and communities we serve."

... from Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters for a donation of 502 books. "The St. Stephen parishioners continue to be great supporters of reading and early literacy. Thank you once again for supporting our efforts at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters – General Academic Pediatrics with 502 gently loved books for our waiting rooms and exam rooms. Because of the support of caring organizations and people like you each year across the state of Virginia, more than 121,500 children ages 6 months to 5 years old are preparing to succeed in school with the help of their pediatricians and Reach Out and Read."



The Social Ministry Coordinating Committee wishes to thank the congregation for their support of our recent project. A total of \$500 will be sent to ELCA World Hunger to equip 25 families overseas with beehives that will help increase their crop production and establish small home businesses to produce soap, candles, and other honey-based products.

**Susan Neidlinger**



The Property Committee will hold a general church cleanup on Saturday, **May 6** from 9 AM to Noon. A light breakfast will be available in the Fellowship Hall starting at 8:30 AM.

The three storage rooms will be the focus of the cleanup plus other smaller areas. Please indicate your interest on the sheet inside the Sunday Bulletin.

Thank you,  
**George Vonderheide**



### ***Fair Trade Products***

Remember that your purchase of coffee and chocolate from the Fair Trade cart in the Gathering Space helps small farmers around the world and provides revenue for Lutheran World Relief. Prices have been lowered to encourage more participation and a regular grind French Roast has been added for more selection. Check it out.



### ***Building Fund Memorials***

**In honor of Nelia Lamoureux**  
Ursula Murden

**In honor of Jane deSolms' birthday**  
Ursula Murden



St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
612 Jamestown Road  
Williamsburg, VA 23185  
[www.saintstephenlutheran.net](http://www.saintstephenlutheran.net)

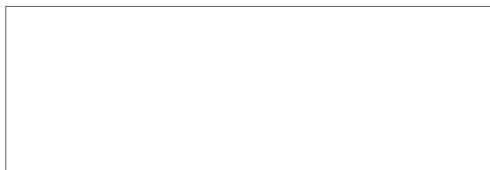
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**The Quill**

**[www.saintstephenlutheran.net](http://www.saintstephenlutheran.net)**

**May 2017**

***Congregational Officers:***

<i>President</i>	<b>Russ White</b>	220-1023
<i>Vice President</i>	<b>John McCurry</b>	606-389-1082
<i>Treasurer</i>	<b>Paul Kristiansen</b>	220-2709
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	<b>Linda Vonderheide</b>	645-4059

**Church Office:** Phone: (757) 229-6688  
email: All email addresses are:  
\_\_\_\_\_@saintstephenlutheran.net



***Church Staff:***

<i>Pastor</i>	<b>Andy Ballentine</b>	229-6742
	email	pastorab@
<i>Pastor</i>	<b>Cheryl Ann Griffin</b>	876-6371
	email	pastorcg@
<i>Parish and Preschool Administrator</i>	<b>Sandy Peterkin</b>	office@
<i>Interim Organist</i>	<b>Ina Berkey</b>	MusicDir@
<i>Interim Choir Dir.</i>	<b>Patty Ballentine</b>	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurse</i>	<b>Marcie Clark</b>	ParishNurse@

***Church Council:***

Amy Bergh	566-4557
Keith Egloff	229-7859
Jeanne Garrison	229-0978
Linda Laity Hite	220-2776
John McCurry	606-389-1082
Paul Melvey	598-1245
Sherry Phipps	810-4658
George Vonderheide	645-4059
Russ White	220-1023
Carol Wiers	564-0164
David Wills	378-2715
Stan York	345-0073

*The Quill* is published monthly by  
St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
612 Jamestown Road  
Williamsburg, VA 23185

***Co-Editors:***

*Diane Reeves (interim)*  
reevesde2@gmail.com  
Reed Nester  
reednester@gmail.com

***Mailing:***

*Pam Buckley*

***Article deadline: Fifteenth of the previous month.***