



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

May 2019



Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Stephen,

This past December 4 was my 65th birthday. April 1 was the 18th anniversary of my arrival at St. Stephen as Pastor. I have just led a congregation through Lent and Easter for the 40th consecutive year. July 7 will be the 40th anniversary of my ordination.

Those last three dates, in particular, indicate unusual longevity in parish ministry. My 18 years with you have been a period of remarkable fruitfulness, for us as a congregation and for me as a person and a pastor. However, I am becoming increasingly aware that I do not have the energy or resiliency for the work as I did in earlier years. If I would hang on, I would be performing with diminishing effectiveness, and that would not serve well this congregation I love so much. I am writing to tell you that I will retire, effective August 1.

I am hoping this early announcement will give Pastor Griffin and our congregation's leaders plenty of time to prepare for an interim period, identifying needs that will exist and how to meet them. I will be as helpful as I can be. I look forward to spending the coming weeks and months preparing for preaching and worship leadership, being present for our College students as they finish this semester, continuing to work with children and their parents on Sunday mornings and in our Preschool and, perhaps most importantly, being present to you in conversation.

Transition Q/As

In the months to come, I plan to publish "Transition Q/As" with your questions and with answers to those questions. Here are questions I have heard and anticipate:

- Q: Does this mean Pastor Griffin has to leave?
A: No! When the congregation called Pastor Griffin in 2014, she was called as Pastor. Her call is independent of mine.
- Q: Who will help the congregation during the interim period?
A: Virginia Synod Bishop Robert Humphrey and his staff will be providing support and guidance. Assistant to the Bishop Kelly Bayer Derrick has already made an appointment to meet with Pastor Griffin and me. In addition, Pastor Griffin has scheduled a leadership retreat for September 14. At that event, Assistant to the Bishop John Wertz will help the congregation's leaders "assess where we are, where would like to be, and how to get there."
- Q: How long will the interim period be?
A: The first answer is that it is impossible to say. However, when a pastor has been in place for a long period of time, it is best for the interim period to be a long one. That allows for a period of healthy leave-taking, followed by a period of studying St. Stephen's current needs, envisioning opportunities for future ministries, and coming to a consensus on staffing needs for those opportunities. If the decision is made to call another pastor, there will then be a period of interviewing and prayerfully considering candidates who will be open to a call to St. Stephen.
- Q: Will an Interim Pastor be available to work with Pastor Griffin in the short term?
A: An Interim Pastor is one possibility, but that is to be determined, with help from the Bishop's office.
- Q: Will you and Patty stay in Williamsburg?
A: Yes.

- Q: Will you and Patty still be involved in the congregation after August 1?
- A: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America guidelines specify that a retired pastor and spouse not continue as members of the congregation that the pastor served. This is the best way to guard against role confusion and to provide space for an eventual successor to be himself or herself! Patty and I will join another congregation.

In all of this, please remember that the future belongs to the God who richly blesses us.

Pastor Andy Ballentine

Thanks



Thank you very much for your gift to Avalon of \$700 on April 4, 2019. We are very appreciative of your support.

For 40 years, Avalon has worked to end domestic and sexual violence. Each year we help more than 1,500 people in our community – more than half of those children – find safety, heal, and build a better future.

Teresa Christin, CFRE, Executive Director



The Board of Directors and all the Volunteers, as well as the thousands of clients referred to FISH for service, join me in writing this THANK YOU letter for your continued support of FISH, Inc. The need for our sharing with those less fortunate continues even as the economy has improved for many of us.

All of us at FISH join in this message of thanks to all the members of your church who so willingly continue to share their blessings with others in need.

Gene Bruss, President

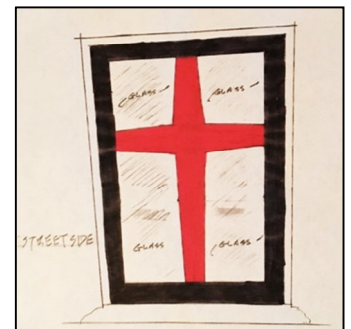
OUR HANDBELL GIFT



The Bells are coming! The Bells are coming! That's our cry as we are hugely grateful for the gift of four octaves of handbells with all the accoutrements such as tables, foam, lights, notebooks, gloves and boxes of music. Actually the bells have already arrived. Many thanks go to Jane DeSolms for being our liason and

for Paul Reier providing the "shipping." We have been graced with this gift by Grace Lutheran Church in Norristown, PA. While we grieve with Grace as their ministry comes to a close, we rejoice in this extraordinary gift given to us as a memorial honoring their longtime Director of Music, Ellen Benton. These handbells will continue to give glory to God in their new setting of St. Stephen. We will dedicate this gift on Sunday, June 16 when we will also be celebrating the Festival of the Holy Trinity. We are also grateful to Walsingham Academy for allowing us to use their handbells this school year.

OUR NEW JAMESTOWN ROAD DOORS



Would you like to contribute towards the cost of our new Jamestown Road doors? On Sunday, April 7, the congregation approved the construction of the new doors to replace the doors that are falling apart! The new doors will feature the same colors, and will feature four glass panels (similar to the doors into the Worship Space from the Gathering Space).

- If you would like to contribute towards the \$28,500 cost, write a check to St. Stephen and write "Doors" on the memo line.
- If you would like your gift to be in memory of or in honor of a loved one, be sure to include a note giving that information.

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. STEPHEN



This year we celebrate 25 consecutive years of Stephen Ministry here at St. Stephen. During this time St. Stephen has trained and commissioned approximately 79 Stephen Ministers. This is quite a record of caring and comfort to the afflicted.

A Stephen Minister is a lay person who has been trained to provide one to one confidential Christian care to people who are hurting. Potential care receivers include those faced with a particular life crisis including: loss of a loved one, hospitalization, divorce, retirement, unemployment, medical crisis, losses related to aging, recovery from an accident and other major changes.

We encourage everyone to learn more about Stephen Ministry by speaking with our Stephen Leaders or any of our past or present Stephen Ministers. We encourage anyone experiencing a life crisis to request a Stephen Minister from **Pastor Griffin** or **Pastor Ballentine**, and we encourage anyone who feels called to our ministry to speak with **Jane Wills**, our Stephen Leader or **Bill Dichtel**, our soon to be new Stephen Leader regarding training.

On **Sunday June 2**, we will celebrate the commission of three new Stephen Ministers: **Alison Carney**, **Pete Davis** and **Kathy Skube**; as well as our soon-to-be Stephen Leader **Bill Dichtel**. We pray God's blessing on them as they embark on this very special path of Christian caring and comfort for those in need.

Doug Moore, Stephen Minister



Ladonna Wiederholt
403 Ashway Cove
Newport News, VA 23606-1267



MAY BIRTHDAYS

1	Jessica Harms	
4	Dorothy Hinders	
6	Karen West	
8	Jim Larsen	
9	Jessie Schmitthenner	
11	Jon Lund	
13	Brian Agor	
14	Donna May Hochstetler	Alex Ogborn
15	Laura Bergh	
17	Ward Bourn	
20	John Olson	Kylen Saunders
22	Theo Bergh	Henry Lawson
	Julie Philipoom	
24	Regina Root	
25	Benjamin Yancey	
28	Cheryl Ann Griffin	
30	Tim Crittenden	
31	Sonja Cave	



MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

- **May 2** – Men are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Thursday** of this month.
- **May 7** – Women are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Tuesday** of this month.

Both gatherings take place at **8:00 AM** at the Colonial Pancake House, at the corner of Page Street and Penniman Road, Williamsburg, VA. The get-togethers promote conversation and friendship in a casual setting.



HEAR SCRIPTURE

For decades after Jesus' death and resurrection, the stories of his life and teaching were handed down orally--by the spoken word. Before many in the population could read, they *heard* the "good news." This performance, presented from memory, is a chance to hear the scriptures as they were first proclaimed.

THE PRESENTER

Rev. Shannon Rye Wall:

- Acting Pastor, 1st Congregational Church of New Milford, CT
- BA, College of William & Mary
- M.Div., Yale Divinity School, with awards for scripture reading and preaching
- MFA, Acting, New York University



GET TO KNOW THE EARLIEST GOSPEL

The Gospel According to Mark is widely believed to be the earliest Gospel written, and most scholars think that Matthew and Luke's Gospels used *Mark* as a source. Fast-moving, vivid in its details, and at times even funny, *Mark* shows Jesus at his most human. It focuses on his relationship with his disciples and his obedience to God.

EXPERIENCE THE WHOLE BOOK

All are invited to experience the three-year ministry of Jesus, told *only* in the words of scripture, and told with *all* the words of scripture. Rarely is a Gospel read in one sitting. Expect "Aha!" moments, surprising and unfamiliar stories, and new insights.

DETAILS

**Saint Stephen Lutheran Church, 612 Jamestown Rd.
Williamsburg, VA**

Saturday, May 4 at 2 pm

- People of all faith traditions (and none) are welcome
- Recommended for ages 10 and older at parents' discretion
- Running time: 2 hours, including intermission
- Q&A after the presentation (optional)
- New Revised Standard Version of the Bible with slight adaptations
- No charge--freewill donations will be accepted.
Reservations are recommended.

To reserve seats or for more information:
www.saintstephenlutheran.net; call 757-229-6688
email: office@saintstephenlutheran.net



WARM WEATHER REMINDERS

Warmer weather means summer is on the way. It is so much fun to be outside with friends. Time gets away from us before we know what has happened. As a nurse, I always want to remind people of ways to stay healthy in summer.

1. Drink plenty of fluids when it is hot. Water is the preferred drink. Alcoholic beverages, carbonated drinks, sugary drinks, and caffeinated drinks can contribute to dehydration when temperatures are high.
2. Avoid being outside in the hottest part of the day. If you are required to be outside, seek shade for a few minutes every hour.
3. Wear loose, breathable clothes. Long sleeves are best for sun protection.
4. Wear sunscreen even when it is cloudy. SPF 30 is the recommended for adults and SPF 50 for children. Reapply hourly if you are sweating or in the water to maintain a safe level of protection.
5. Be aware that children and pets may be more susceptible to heat than adults. Use caution when putting them in hot cars as buckles and metal objects may be very hot. Also use caution when walking on hard surfaces as they get hot and stay hot longer.

If you experience symptoms of heat exhaustion (increased pulse rate, dizziness, fatigue, muscle cramps, headache, nausea, and/or cool moist skin with goose bumps) seek medical attention immediately. If untreated heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke, which is deadly.

If you have any questions, I am available to help find the answers. Be safe and enjoy the warm weather.

Diana Tiller-Dichtel, Parish Nurse

AVALON TOUR

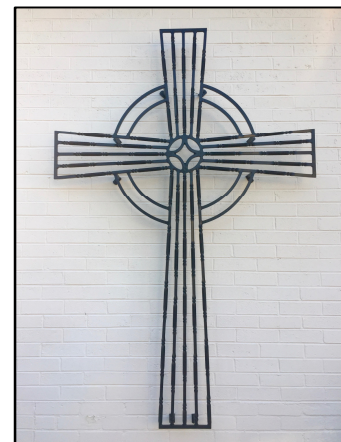


Avalon Center, our local agency working to end domestic and sexual violence, is offering a special tour of the Outreach Office and Shelter campus for St. Stephen members (both men and women) on **Friday, May 17 at 1:30 PM**. Avalon grew out of the Williamsburg Area Women's Center, which began in the basement of our church in 1978. Avalon now serves men, women and children with free counseling, shelter, and life skills programs. In 2018, 1,483 helpline calls were answered, more than 5,000 people attended educational programs, and more than 9,700 nights of shelter were provided. **If you would like to join this tour, contact Emily Rossiter by May 1** (oreosgran@yahoo.com or 804-370-9459).



ONLINE GIVING CAMPAIGN

Lutheran Family Services of Virginia is participating in the Give Local 757 online giving campaign on **Tuesday, May 14**. Consider making a gift by going to www.givelocal757.org and search for Lutheran Family Services of Virginia. Donations will support our Treatment Foster Care and Developmental Services programs in the Tidewater area. If you have questions contact Leah Shank at 540-562-8486 or lshank@lfsva.org.





ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

April was a short month with the Easter break starting it off, but it was filled with fun and activities.

Our April Spirit Event was at Moe's Southwest Grill. Thanks to Jeanne Garrison, a member of our Preschool Committee, for setting up this event. What fun we had over lunch and dinner! We thank you so much for your support of our Preschool.



See you all at **Panera Bread on Wednesday, May 8 from 4:00 to 8:00 PM.** Sherry Phipps helped out with arrangements for this Spirit Event. See you there.

Mother's Day comes a little early for our four- and five-year-olds at St. Stephen. We will be hosting a **Brunch for Moms on Wednesday, May 8.** We will engage our Moms in a few fun activities and then proceed to a brunch in the Fellowship Hall, decorated by our children. What fun – brunch at Preschool and then Panera for dinner!

In May we will see our butterflies develop and we will release them on the forecourt of the Church. The children (and the teachers) love to see the beautiful butterflies, which we have nurtured from the pupa stage, gain their freedom and fly away.



We are off on Memorial Day and then it will be **Water Play Days on Tuesday, May 28 and Wednesday, May 29.** This school year has simply flown by! Our school year ends with **picnics at Chickahominy Riverfront Park on Thursday, May 30 and Friday, May 31.**

Then – Summer Camp starts! We are offering eight weeks of Camp with different themes each week. We have expanded our program this year, assisting our current families with ongoing activities for their children, and inviting those families joining us in September to experience our Preschool before the new school year begins. The Camp programs are less structured than the school curriculum, but are still valuable educational opportunities.

Thank you for your generous and continued support throughout this year. It has been wonderful seeing our Preschool Parents and St. Stephen Members get to know each other during the many Spirit Events. It has been personally rewarding to see the two parts of this important ministry working together to bring God's word and love to our children.

Sandy Peterkin, Administrator



MAY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

The significance of baptism, Luther teaches in the *Small Catechism*, is “that the old creature in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily contrition and repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.”

Your baptismal anniversary is an opportunity to light a baptismal candle and to give some prayer time to reflecting on your experiences during the past year on your journey in faith!

Pastor Andy Ballentine

1	Benjamin Berry	Jeffery Berry
2	Anne Schone	
6	Walker Beatty	
8	Jean Gulesian	
10	Charlotte Stahl	
12	Marilyn Mallue	Sue Voigt
14	Jan MacQueston	Chris Punchard
18	Julie Meeks	
19	Helen Nelsen	Sarah Scheitrum
22	Julie Philipoom	
25	Mathias Hallman	
27	Jack Behlendorf	Hadley Ellis
29	Ellen LaPlace	
30	Elizabeth Bosworth	Landry Bosworth
	Matthew Bosworth	

Others with May baptismal anniversaries:

Trudi Arnold
David Gamble
Patricia Gamble
Mary Swanson

Were you baptized in May, but your name isn't on the list above? Let us know!

PRAYERS



We give thanks for the ministry of Pastor Andy Ballentine among us! April 1 was Pastor Ballentine's 18th anniversary of arriving at St. Stephen.

We thank God for blessing Bob Groom with 95 years of life! Send him a card!

Pray God's comfort and the blessings of resurrection faith for family and friends of our Charter Member, Elsie Hall; and for **Helen** and **David Allen**, as they mourn the death of beloved husband and father, John Allen.

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Bill Arnold, Joe Beene, Pat Gamble, Erika Geier, Karen Sanderlin, and Kathy Skube.**

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **Doris Bass, Preston and Birdie Burton, Gene and Martha Clements, Bob and Angie Groom, Stan Hobday, Michelle Ivey, Mary Jamerson, Helen Lenox, Billie Jo Purse, Dick Reeves, Jessie Schmitthenner, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, Jerry Trone, Corky Umberger, and Ladonna Wiederholt.**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Gary Abrams, Jon Alt, Mary Ann Arnold, Philip Arnold, Jane Ayers, Jean Ballentine, James Baum, Gary Baumgarten, Eliza Bicknell, Tom and Bea Black, Blume family, Audrey Burbank, Byrne Family, Marla Canny, Elaine Cari, Alan Clem, Patti Clem, Michael Cline, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Robin Daniel, Steven Dressler, Paul Dwiggin, Tabitha Dyess, Diann Ehlers, Inge Felbier, Mary Fitzgerald, Will Flatin, David Gade, Laurie Giner, Andrea Gonzalez, Bill Gottschalk, Ellen Green, Kara Gustafsson, JoAnn Hecker, Sharon Hegland, John Jacob, Jerome Johnson, Leesa Keene, Wendy Kent, Fran Kibler, Chris Kinney, Art Kirk, Reed Kirkpatrick, Rebecca Krueger, Mary Alice Kuntz, Torri Larson, Christopher Lee, Devin Lee, Mildred Lindblad, Caitlyn Ling's relatives: "Auntie" Chin, Gabriel and Michael, Jackie Lohr, Aidan McGraw, Jackie Mereness, Sharon Miles, Michael Mott, Dorothy Myers, Lenore Myers, Eric Nelson, Mary Newberg, Patricia Nowak, Sue Plevelich, Dino Polizois, Jenny Rice, Shann Rufer, Lucy Scott, Marion Seidl, Inge Seiter, Luke Short, Shumacker family, Patricia Simpson, James Smith, Sharon Smith, Evelyn Spear, Jennifer St. Clair, Luciana Stimson, Charley Underdahl, Nancy Wiers, Margaret Wieser, Terry Wilson, Sandra Wimbush, Donna Wood, Aaron Zabell, and Diane Zulawski.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
612 Jamestown Road
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<i>President</i>	David Wills	378-2715
<i>Vice President</i>	Amy Bergh	566-4557
<i>Interim Treasurer</i>	Jane deSolms	565-5646
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Linda Vonderheide	645-4059
<i>Congregational Secretary</i>	Carol Wiers	564-0164

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email: All email addresses are:
_____@saintstephenlutheran.net



Church Staff:

<i>Pastor</i>	Andy Ballentine	229-6742
	email	Pastorab@
<i>Pastor</i>	Cheryl Ann Griffin	876-6371
	email	Pastorc@

Parish and Preschool

<i>Administrator</i>	Sandy Peterkin	Office@
<i>Director of Music</i>	Karen Ives	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurse</i>	Diana Tiller-Dichtel	Parishnurse@
<i>Preschool Lead Teacher</i>	Susan Ruane	Preschool@

Article deadline: Fifteenth of the previous month.

Church Council:

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Dave Gamble	564-7030
Jeanne Garrison	229-0978
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