



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

November 2018



THE SOUND OF YOUR GENUINE

Every year in October, the rostered leaders, pastors and deacons of the Virginia Synod get together for updates on the thoughts and activities of the Synod staff, for worship, and for fellowship. We also have a guest speaker as part of our continuing education. This year, the Reverend Doctor Jill Crainshaw presented on how to have difficult conversations.

This was a timely presentation! People are finding it hard to speak with one another. This is not simply related to politics, although that is contributing to societal anxiety. We all have needed to have conversations that are hard for us, and not all of us are able to avoid them! Actually, it is best to have the ones we feel are important. I've not always been able to do that, which has led to tension in relationships.

This is November, and that means that families will be gathering together for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas. Uncle Frank, who usually drinks too much, sister Susie who talks about her genius children, and Mother Millie who can find something bad in everything will be there. Conversations are normally difficult. They can drain the life right out of us! Every year, the hope is that being together will be easier.

Jill Crainshaw provided helpful approaches to engaging in conversations that make our palms sweaty and our heads hurt. These are also ways, I think, that we should engage people no matter what our conversation or our relationship. It begins with knowing "the sound of your genuine." This is a hard concept to describe, so I will attempt to do it in various ways. "The sound of your

genuine" is the song that your heart plays. It incorporates your core values. When you step away from the "sound of your genuine," you go to a place of fear. Where does your heart feel grounded? For me, the sound of my genuine comes from a place of love. At appropriate times, it also reflects God-given joy. The "sound of your genuine" can change over time.

People differ in their values. Can you articulate yours? When we cannot have a civil conversation, we might not understand the other person's values. Maybe what we say and do is not reflecting the values that we think we have. Be generous in listening; everyone has something important to say. Don't make assumptions! Don't judge others, which is easy to say, but we do it everyday. I love the conclusion of a story that Pastor Crainshaw told. She said, "I was too busy not liking him to see God in him."

A sacred space for conversation is a place that is safe, a place where there is support and not judgement. It is also a brave space, a space that encourages dialogue. This applies not just physically, but emotionally as well. The most challenging aspects of conversations are the emotions that they trigger. It's hard for us to express our feelings. It's hard to listen to someone else express theirs.

Listening is important! Listen to understand. With all that we bring to a conversation, this is challenging. Do not listen to change someone's mind, or formulate your response as you hear them speak. We need to listen to our bodies, as well. Where in your body are you holding tension? For me, it is usually a headache that's my clue that I am highly uncomfortable.

You have heard me stress the importance of gratitude. I believe that thankfulness is foundational to who God

created us to be, and is a necessary part of all relationships. Thanksgiving is coming, and it is a good time to practice the spiritual discipline of gratitude. Keep a journal. At the end of the day, write down three things for which you are thankful. Write a note to someone expressing the things you appreciate about them. Be generous with compliments that are sincere. There are many ways to convey gratitude. Thankfulness is an important part of healthy relationships.

Relationships can be extremely challenging! But they also are what makes for life. Studies prove that the health of people who are socially isolated declines more quickly than those who are not. The investment it takes to maintain a relationship that is healthy is worth it.

Moses reviewed the covenant that God made with the Israelites. He concluded it with these words:

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days (Deuteronomy 30:19-20a).

Life is having good relationships, which at times means having difficult conversations. Choose life!

Pastor Cheryl Ann Griffin



Sponsoring Families For Christmas

This year St. Stephen will share the hope of Christmas with immigrant families living in Williamsburg who have endured significant hardship this year. We will be purchasing Christmas gifts for their children and grocery and gas gift cards for the parents. Look for our display starting **November 25** in the Gathering Space which will have specific gift ideas from the families. Please contact **Sharon Powell** (757-920-3913) or **Jane Gingerich** (757-345-5578) with questions.

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. STEPHEN



WE WANT YOU!

November is the month that we honor all the men and women who have answered the call to serve our country as members of the uniformed services. I am proud to count my husband and myself among those veterans. Most of us can recall the posters of Uncle Sam pointing his finger at us and saying "We Want YOU!" Over the years, the recruiting slogans have changed to "The Few. The Proud. The Marines.," "An Army of One," "Aim High," "Born Ready" and "Forged by the Sea."

Jesus used a more direct approach. He said, "Come, follow me." The first apostles left their fishing nets and boats, their families, their tax-collecting job, and followed. There were no posters, no TV commercials, or any band-wagons. Jesus simply walked among the people choosing disciples to follow him.

Right now, we are looking for members of the congregation who are interested in becoming Stephen Ministers. The next training session will begin in January 2019. The classes cover a range of topics, such as "The Art of Listening," "The Person of the Caregiver," and "Distinctively Christian Caregiving."

Many of you may be reading this thinking, "I could never do that (be a Stephen Minister)." If you have ever been a shoulder to lean on, a listening ear for a grieving friend, a quiet presence for someone who is recovering from illness or surgery, you possess all the skills of a Stephen Minister. We do not "fix." We do not "cure." We do not have to have "all the answers." We simply care. By caring, we let others know God's love. By letting others know God's love through our caring, we follow Him.

If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister or would like more information, please contact **Jane Wills**, Stephen Leader, at wilspwr@gmail.com or by calling (703)989-4118.



MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

- **November 1** – Men are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Thursday** of this month.
- **November 6** – 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.

THANKS



Thank you for graciously adopting our Grove Trotter "Rise & Shine" box and hosting it within your church throughout the month of September. Through your charitableness and the generosity of your congregation, Grove Christian Outreach Center will be able to serve our Grove families by addressing their food needs. St. Stephen Lutheran Church gave abundantly to our Food Pantry Ministry with your food collection weighing 136 pounds and an estimated value of over \$230. Collectively, our Outreach Center has garnered over \$12,000 worth of donations in just a little over a seven month period through our collection boxes. This is a tremendous blessing.

We appreciate your partnership with Grove Outreach Center and the love you have for our families. We pray the Lord's blessings will be upon you as you have been a tremendous blessing to our families in the Grove Community.

Again, thank you. If you would like to host another "themed" Grove Trotter box in the future, please contact us.

Barbara Murray, Volunteer and Special Events Coordinator

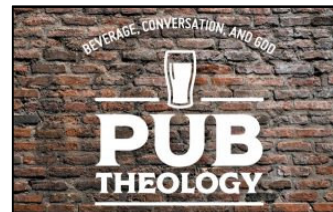
GIVING OPTION - REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION



If you are over 70-1/2 and have an IRA, you are required to take a yearly Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) which is treated as regular income for

tax purposes. You have the option of contributing part or all of your RMD to any tax exempt organization. This contribution is called a QCD or Qualified Charitable Distribution and must go directly from the financial institution that holds your IRA to the charity. It counts as your RMD, you do not count it as regular income, but you cannot claim it as a charitable contribution on your tax return. If you give a QCD to St. Stephen, you can designate it for Current Giving, the Building or Endowment Fund or for any special program which is important to you such as: Godparents for Tanzania, Homeless Ministry, Campus Ministry, Preschool, etc. When filling out the paperwork for the QCD with your financial institution, please ask them to indicate your name on the check or check stub and reference the contribution is a QCD or RMD.

Jane deSolms and Linda Vonderheide
Finance Committee



HOW DO CHRISTIANS FIT INTO THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM? THEY DON'T!

Gather for the next **Pub Theology** at **7:00 PM** on **Tuesday, November 6** – yes, the evening of Election Day – at the Wine Seller 4680 Monticello Avenue, #15, Williamsburg, 23188 (next to Publix – where Martins used to be). How do we citizens of God's kingdom exercise our citizenship in our democracy – especially since the historical Christian positions on social issues don't match up with contemporary political alignments? Wine, beer, soft drinks and food will be available! E-mail **Pastor Ballentine** if you want a copy of the "think piece" before the gathering.
pastorab@saintstephenlutheran.net

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4	Annie Collins	Art Dorsey
	Erika Geier	Soni York
8	Paul Black	Sammi Crittenden
9	Joyce Beene	
10	Helen Allen	Martin Bleck
11	Steven Harms	
14	Elsie Hall	
15	Alaina Jones	Kaili Jones
	Karen VanRosendale	
16	Linda Reuben	Carol Wiers
17	Debi Austin	
21	Jo Schumacher	
23	Marcie Clark	Travis Meermans
24	Stephanie Leek	Karen Nester
25	Marilyn Asprey	Benjamin Berry
	Susan Voigt	
26	Diana Krieger	
27	Don Nelson	
29	Ursula Recktenwald	
30	Bob Hanny	Matthew Sandridge



DISASTER RELIEF

Thrivent will match up to \$1 million dollars in personal donations made on Thrivent.com to selected nonprofit organizations supporting Hurricane Florence relief efforts. In addition, Thrivent is encouraging members to volunteer for disaster relief by forming Thrivent Action Teams or for eligible members to consider directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to relief organizations.

This matching opportunity is open to anyone and will run until the match is met or until December 31, 2018 – whichever comes first. The following organizations have been selected to receive the match dollars:

- Convoy of Hope
- Habitat for Humanity International
- LCMS Disaster Response
- Lutheran Disaster Response (ELCA)
- Orphan Grain Train
- Samaritan's Purse

- United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)
- WELS Christian Aid and Relief

For those interested in participating in the match, visit Thrivent.com, click on Hurricane Florence Relief and then follow instructions for personal donations.



WHY EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THEIR OWN "FILE OF LIFE"

Medical emergencies can happen anytime. When they do, there is confusion, panic and urgency. Paramedics arrive on the scene with no information about the person in need. Seconds count – they can make the difference between life and death.

Does the patient have prior medical conditions? Allergies? What medications are they taking? Who do they want us to call? How do we contact their family or friends?



File of Life puts these answers at their fingertips. It allows first responders to immediately begin the best possible treatment, notify loved ones, and pass this vital data on to awaiting physicians at the emergency room. File of Life has already saved thousands of lives. It is an absolute asset to emergency preparedness, and peace of mind, for every household and community across the nation.

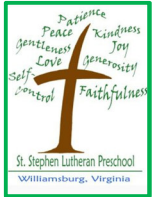
<https://www.folife.org/>

Stop by the Gathering Space and pick-up your *File of Life*. Once the form is completed put it on your refrigerator where the emergency crew can find it. And put the sticker on your front door or window so they will know that you have one.

Regularly review and update to ensure all the information is current and correct.

If you would like, the Parish Nurses can help. We can set a time to meet with you, review your medications and information, and complete the form. Just let us know.

Marcie Clark, Parish Nurse



ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

October is Fire Prevention Month and again our dramatic play area was transformed into a Firehouse. Children took emergency calls and dispatched their friends to help those in need. Our Williamsburg Fire Fighters came two days to teach our students about fire safety. We learned to check our smoke detectors twice each year; how to stop, drop, and roll if we were on fire; and that if fire fighters came to our house in an emergency, we shouldn't be afraid of them when they are wearing all of their fire-fighting gear. We got to go out and look at a firetruck and an ambulance. Later on in the month, Smokey Bear came to visit.



Our children's artwork, on display at An Occasion for the Arts, received two Youth Art Honorable Mention awards! Art Teacher Kelly Kirkpatrick worked with students in each class to create unique masterpieces. The award-winning "quilt" made by our Koala class is on display in the hallway by the Preschool.

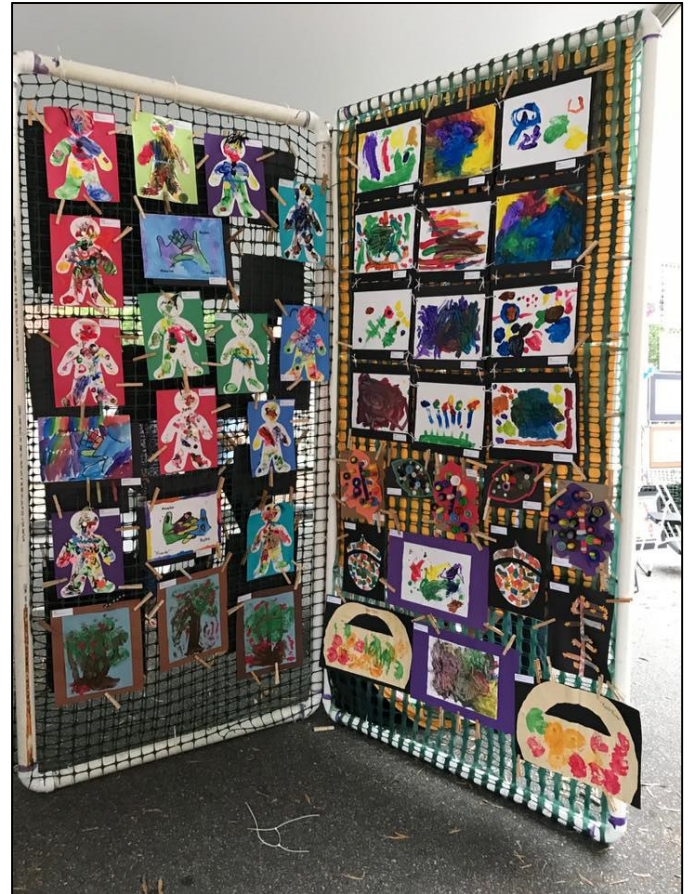
Our first field trip of the year was to KelRae Farm. Students, parents and teachers met the farm animals, had a tractor ride, made a bird feeder and chose a pumpkin to take home. Everyone had a wonderful time.

Thank you for your support of our Halloween Costume Pancake Supper on October 30. It is always fun to see

children (and adults!) dress up for Halloween. The pancakes, toppings, and everything were delicious.

We are so thankful for the support that St. Stephen has given to the Preschool – we are having another amazing year!

Sandy Peterkin, Administrator



THANKS

The Williamsburg Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad wishes to thank you for your recent contribution.

It is through contributions such as yours that we can continue our services to the community. Thank you for helping us help you.

Williamsburg Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad.



ROGGY & CONESSA

Roggy Tippe and Conessa are getting married on December 5! Many of you may wonder why this makes the people of St. Stephen so excited. Roggy was one of the students our congregation supported through Godparents for Tanzania. Four years ago we were blessed to have him come to visit us. Roggy delighted us all with his gentle and kind manner. His wonder of our plumbing systems and curiosity about garage door openers sparked an awareness of how different our environments are.



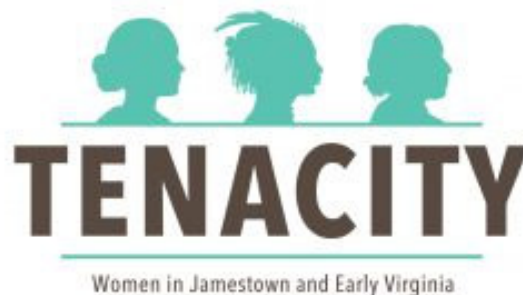
Roggy completed his education and is working for the Tanzanian government as a ranger in the Selous Game Reserve. It is not surprising, given his love of God's creation, that he is protecting animals from poachers.

Roggy's fiancée, Conessa, has finished up her coursework for an MBA and will graduate in November. She is working in Karatu at Uchumi Commercial Bank,

which is owned and operated by the Northern Diocese of the ELCT (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania).

We want to bestow our blessings on Roggy and Conessa. While there are many ways to do this, the most effective is for us to upload a video to the internet for them to view. (And you know, once this is on the internet, their great-great grandchildren will be able to see it, too!). On November 18, at any time in-between services, come to the Gathering Space where Nancy Carter will be recording your well wishes to the happy couple. Rather than record one video of all of us together, we envision brief shots of individuals or families. We are also going to be recording a song of blessing. That portion of our gift is now in the planning stage.

Pastor Cheryl Ann Griffin



On **Friday, November 2 at 6:00 PM** we'll gather for a potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

At **7:00 PM**, our own **Nancy Egloff**, the Historian at the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, will give a presentation on the major new exhibition she's been working on that will open **November 10** at Jamestown Settlement.

"TENACITY: Women in Jamestown and Early Virginia" will explore little-known, captivating personal stories of real women in Jamestown and the early Virginia colony and their tenacious spirit and impact on a fledgling society. Visitors will hear stories of the first English women in the Virginia colony beginning in 1608 and the Powhatan Indian women they encountered. Exhibits will examine stories of the first documented African women to arrive in Virginia in 1619, and the Virginia Company of London's effort that same year to recruit English women to expand the Jamestown colony. From women's roles to women's rights, the exhibition will connect issues of the 17th century and their relevance today.



NOVEMBER 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	Jim Cobb	Barbara Morris
10	Josh Egloff	Carolyn McKenna
11	Henry Mallue	Hannah Wiers
13	Deloris Hanley	Alaina Jones
	Alyssa Jones	Kaili Jones
15	Greta Scheitrum	
16	Hunter Ogborn	Ilianna Ogborn
18	Bethany Brisson-Wilkins	
30	Kevin Drake	Julian Jefferson

Also in November:

Stephanie Drake
Thomas Drake
Audrey Root

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



Sonja Landvogt

Edith Haecker – LDR Hurricane Relief
John and Patricia Haldeman
James and Carol Ramage
Christopher and Teresa Doddy
Harlan and Anne Schone

PRAYERS



Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Philip Arnold, Martha Clements, Sally Crocker, Michelle Ivey, Susanna Owens, Paul Reier, and Benjamin Yancey.**

God has blessed **Martha Clements** with 93 years of life on October 1; **Chuck Hilbinger** with 94 years of life on October 3; and **Ginny Hilbinger** with 91 years of life on October 25! Share your blessings and send them a card!

Pray the blessings of resurrection faith for family and friends mourning the deaths of **Sonja Landvogt** and **Carolee Bush**; for **Marian Thies** mourning the death of her brother, Arthur Lapp; and for **Dennis Kiser** and family, mourning the death of his mother, Thelma.

Pray God's blessings on **Shana** and **Rich Wilkins, Jayme** and **Paul Lawson**, and **Antoinetta Rogii Stimson** and **Clare Daniel Stimson** as they wait for the birth of their babies.

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

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: **Jon Alt, Mary Ann Arnold, Jane Ayers, Bill Beck, Tom and Bea Black, Blume family, Eliza Bicknell, Don Brannon, Jennifer Brown-Hirsch, Marla Canny, Elaine Cari, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Karen Deperini, Kathryn Dieter, Holly Doyle, Inge Felbier, Mary Fitzgerald, Ward and Betty Frazee, Mertie Funkhouser, Bill Gottschalk, Virginia Lee Groves, JoAnn Hecker, Sharon Hegland, Donna Hershey, Chip Hilbinger, Emily Holdredge, Rick Jackson, Fran Kibler, Chris Kinney, Art Kirk, Barbara Knight, Rebecca Krueger, Terry Krull, Douglas Lankford, Mildred Lindblad, Jackie Lohr, Hannah Mac, McGraw Family, Heidi Morris, Eric Nelson, Mary Newberg, Charles Osborn, Inge Petersen, Dino Polizois, Jenny Rice, Shann Rufer, Marie Scheiding, Bruce Semanchik, Patricia Simpson, James Smith, Evelyn Spear, Sue Weilmuenster, Helen Wills, Donna Wood, and Peggy Wright.**

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
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Church in America**
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The Quill **www.saintstephenlutheran.net** **November 2018**

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<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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	Diana Tiller-Dichtel	Parishnursedt@
<i>Preschool Lead Teacher</i>	Susan Ruane	Preschool@

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The Quill is published monthly by
St. Stephen Lutheran Church
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Williamsburg, VA 23185

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Article deadline: Fifteenth of the previous month.