



## THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

October 2016



### *Living Attractive Lives*

Will St. Stephen thrive into the future?

Our congregation will thrive if we invite others to our community of worship and study.

Do you break into a cold sweat at the prospect of offering such invitations? You might, if you think I'm talking about walking up to total strangers and saying, "Do you have a church?" (I wonder, actually, if this has ever been an effective method of evangelism?)

No, here's what I'm talking about. I'm thinking of our opportunities for invitations that happen when we live attractive lives. When our lives attract others' interest, they'll ask questions. Your invitation is a response to this interest!

Could a question come from someone attracted by one of those gaudy, yellor "God's Work. Our Hands." t-shirts? Sure enough! One of our members sent me this e-mail:

"We had an encounter in Kohl's at the Marquis Shopping center after church Sunday as a result of the family having the "God's Work, Our Hands" shirts....

"[Our daughter] and I were walking down a main aisle of Kohl's when a manager or assistant manager-type woman walks toward us. She greets us per corporate policy, polite and friendly. Then she pointed at [our daughter's] shirt and says, 'I like that shirt!' And we got into a conversation with her about church. Then she turned [our daughter] around and read the back.

'Evangelical Lutheran? I didn't know there were any Evangelical Lutherans in Williamsburg.' So, there was more conversation about St. Stephen, where we're located...etc. In the end we found out she attends Cross Walk and likes to try different churches."

You see, someone was interested. (I'll say the Holy Spirit created that interest.) She asked a question. That offered the opportunity for conversation anfor an invitation! (For others of you who like to practice "evangelism by attire," soon, as part of our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, there will be polo shirts with our church's logo--much more attractive than those gaudy yellor t-shirts!)

What are other ways we can live attractive lives?

My Monday night book study group is meeting in the Gathering Space because there are so many windows and there is so much foot traffic on Jamestown Road. When it gets dark, people look into the brightly lighted space and they see a group of people gathered in a circle of chairs, talking about something that must be important. I wonder if that will attract the interest of someone who's been experiencing the movement of God the Holy Spirit, who might say, "I wonder if that might be a community of people willing to talk about deeper concerns?" I wonder if that someone might show up on a Sunday morning?

I've been encouraging you to "check in" on Facebook at St. Stephen on Sunday mornings, before you silence or turn off your phones. (It's an idea I got from the wonderful web site, [livinglutheran.com](http://livinglutheran.com).) Who knows who that might attract? Who knows which of your Facebook friends might be experiencing the movement of the Spirit, and who might be interested in a

community such as ours--in which we encourage probing questions of faith, and don't tell you that you have to subscribe to a checklist of beliefs?

Of course, the old-fashioned way of living attractive lives is when the Spirit is simply bearing fruit within and among us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23) We cannot live in any of those ways by our own efforts! We can only treat others in those ways as the Holy Spirit bears faith within and among us! And the Spirit produces very attractive lives for those worn out by the anger and anxiety that's in our surrounding culture.

The great spiritual writer, Parker Palmer, puts it this way, in a blog published a couple of weeks ago: "We live in a culture of violence. Even if we're not at daily risk of physical injury or death, as are so many in the gun-obsessed U.S., our culture relentlessly assaults our souls with noise, frenzy, consumerism, tribalism, homophobia, racism, and more. It's common to become desensitized to these assaults. We "normalize" them in order to get on with our daily lives, disregarding our need for sanctuary as we do. But at times something happens that makes us hypersensitive to all that threatens our souls." (onbeing.org)

Or, as the Trappist monk, Thomas Merton, commented five decades ago (!), on our impulse to be too busy:

*"There is a pervasive form of modern violence to which the idealist...most easily succumbs: activism and overwork. The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most common form, of its innate violence.*

*"To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything is to succumb to violence.*

*"The frenzy of the activist neutralizes his (or her) work... It destroys the fruitfulness of his (or her)...work, because it kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful."*

When God the Holy Spirit bears fruit within and among us, that produces a better way to live! Who knows which persons you already know, who might notice, and who might be interested in such a life, as a follower of

Jesus, a more joyous way of life? They might ask a question. There's your opportunity – to offer an invitation!

Blessings to you as you follow Jesus!

**Pastor Andy Ballentine**



## ***October Baptismal Anniversaries***

Those celebrating anniversaries of their new birth in Christ:

1	Paul Kristiansen	Joe Philipoom
3	Emma Timberg	
8	Phil McKenna	Dorothy Hinders
12	Erik McKenna	
13	Katy Peterkin	
14	Stan York	
18	Greg Fitzpatrick	
24	Jennifer Voigt	
27	Sandy Peterkin	Jonathon Hallman
31	Sharon Powell	PJ McAteer

Other October baptisms: Ann Booth Young, Meghan Osborn, Sara Osborn.



## ***All Creatures, Worship God Most High!***

St. Francis of Assisi, who lived 1181-1226, is one of the most significant and beloved figures in Christian history. He was an Italian Roman Catholic friar and preacher, and is remembered particularly for his love of nature and animals. The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi occurs on October 4.

St. Francis of Assisi wrote more than 60 hymns. "All Creatures, Worship God Most High!" began as a poem known as "Canticle of the Sun," inspired by Psalm 148. It also reflects St. Francis' theological views, which reject materialism, and refers to animals as brothers and sisters of humankind.

William Draper later paraphrased and translated this text into English in 1910, titled, "All Creatures of Our God and King," and it first appeared in a hymnal nine years later. The tune we use for the text was first published with an Easter text in Germany in 1623. It first appeared in its present form in The English Hymnal (1906), arranged by English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. In the *ELW*, this text was re-translated to "All Creatures, Worship God Most High!" The primary reason for the change is that this translation stays more faithful to the original text.

Today, this hymn is one of the most frequently sung hymns in Christian churches. It also is one of the best in the repertoire for adequately conveying love and devotion to all of God's creatures.

**Marty Barstow, Music Director**

## ***Health News***

***Proverbs 4:26 'Keep straight the path of your feet and all your ways will be sure.'***



You probably don't pay much attention to your feet, but they are too important to overlook. There are some 26 bones and a complex framework of muscles, tendons and ligaments in your feet; they absorb the impact of your full body weight with every step, keeping you balanced and upright in the process.

Numerous problems can afflict your feet, and the best way to keep them healthy is daily care that will help keep the skin, bones and muscles functioning properly. Below are five foot care steps you can use every day.

- **Acts 12:8 ... "fasten your belt and put on your sandals ..."**

**WEAR COMFORTABLE SHOES:** First, your shoes must fit. Shoes that are too tight or too large can cause foot pain, blisters, hammer toe, corns and calluses. Remember that your feet "stretch out" late in the day, so go shoe shopping after work, when your feet are at their largest. You also might gain a half size as you age, and your usual size from 10 years ago might not be your correct size today. In addition, some shoes are bad for your feet even if they fit properly. Wearing high heels frequently can cause damage to the bones of the feet.

- **Isaiah 2:5 "Come, house of Jacob, and let us walk in the light of the Lord."**

**WALK:** The muscles in your feet are just like any other muscles--they need exercise to stay strong. You can't really lift weights with your foot muscles, but the best way to exercise them is to just take a walk. It does not have to be long, but taking one walk every day will keep those muscles firm and keep your tendons and ligaments flexible. That can prevent fallen arches later in life—and, your dog will thank you for it, too.

- **John 13:5 "... he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel ..."**

**WASH YOUR FEET EVERY DAY:** Even the most conscientious among us occasionally skips washing our feet in the shower, however, it is really important to their health. Your feet spend most of every day trapped inside a pair of shoes, especially in these cool fall and winter months ahead. All the moisture and sweat provides fertile ground for bacteria to grow, and the spaces between your toes are even more hospitable for bacteria and fungi. You do not need a special foot wash, but make sure you give your feet a thorough soaping and dry them thoroughly, especially between the toes.

- **John 12:3 "Mary took a pound of costly perfume, ... anointed Jesus feet and wiped them with her hair."**

**MOISTURIZE YOUR FEET:** Why add extra moisture? The wear and tear endured by your feet can result in areas of dry, cracked or scaly skin. While living in a warm, sunny climate and wearing sandals frequently, this problem may be significantly worse. The cure is simple--rub a lotion containing cocoa butter (a natural emollient) into the skin of your feet every day. However, if you have serious scaling or dry skin issues, you may want to try an overnight foot-moisturizing routine. Simply coat your feet in cocoa butter and put on a comfortable pair of cotton socks. The socks will hold the cocoa butter against your skin and keep it from getting all over your sheets. In the morning, the skin on your feet will be much softer.

- "And they will know we are Christians by our socks."

**WEAR SOCKS:** Yes, there is a company that sells socks with scripture. "Standing on the Word of God" is actually the company slogan. Socks not only protect your feet from wear and tear, they absorb and wick away moisture. Most of the impact of walking or running is absorbed by a layer of fat in your heels. If you spend a lot of time on your feet, your heels might need some extra help. A soft pair of socks can add some shock absorption, and, as you age, that fat layer gets thinner, and cushy socks become even more important. In addition, socks act as a barrier between your feet and your shoes, reducing blisters and calluses.

- **Psalm 7:23 "Our steps are made firm by the Lord, when he delights in our way."**

No matter where your feet are taking you, it essential to take care of them.

**Marcie Clark, Parish Nurse**



## ***St. Stephen September Council Minutes***

The Council met September 13, 2016. The July Council minutes were approved.

Committee budget submissions for next year are due by September 30.

Representatives of the SSLC Preschool Task Group presented their finished report. Council thanked them for their extraordinary effort. Council discussed, amended, and endorsed the report.

Representatives of the Council and the Task Group will meet with the Preschool teachers to discuss the report, and to gather ideas for addressing the financial deficit in the Preschool.

The report and survey charts will then be distributed to the Congregation. Also, representatives will be available between services in the College Room on September 25 to answer questions.

**David F. Clark, Secretary**



## ***Preschool News***

We had a wonderful start to the school year! The children are flourishing and having lots of fun learning and playing together. They have created beautiful masterpieces that were displayed at the Occasion for the Arts in the Williamsburg Community Center. This is an annual event we always participate in.

We will be going on our annual field trip to Pumpkinville October 10-12. We will have visits from the Williamsburg Fire Department, York River State Park and Granny's critters this month as well!

Our tradition of having our Halloween Parades continue--look for us "haunting" Jamestown Road on Halloween! The younger children will parade around SSLC on October 27.

In November we will focus on what we are thankful for, and look for lots of "turkeys" on the loose!

Happy Fall!

**LaurenMcQuain, Preschool Director**



## ***The 1956 Society Three-fourths of the Way To Goal***

The Endowment Fund Committee gives thanks for all of those who have joined *The 1956 Society*. *The 1956 Society* has 44 members and total estimated pledging to the Endowment Fund of over \$900,000, toward our goal of \$1.2 million by the end of 2016.

The group is made up of persons who have given or declared their intent to give to St. Stephen's Endowment Fund, including provisions in wills and trusts. St. Stephen Lutheran Church Bylaws state: "the Endowment Fund shall be used for:

- outreach and ministry of the church;
- above the operating budget of the congregation; and
- not in replacement of regular congregational giving toward benevolence."

If you wish to designate a specific purpose for an endowed gift, now or in the future, it is a good idea to consult with a member of the Endowment Fund Committee. When you stop and think about it, expressing thanks now for a bequest that will be received at some point in the future, reminds us that the time will come when we may not be able to express gratitude to our benefactors. This is why *The 1956 Society* was created.

The Endowment Fund Committee invites anyone to become a member of this group simply by completing the postcard available in the pews or by saying something to an existing member of the committee. If you are already a member, you are welcome to give an estimate of giving confidentially to the financial secretary, Lou Rossiter. You would know that future generations would benefit and be grateful for your legacy gift.

Please join other members of *The 1956 Society* in helping to reach this goal of financial security for St. Stephen. This can be accomplished through a charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder trust, donor-advised funds, donor-directed distribution agreements, memorial endowment funds, an intended gift through a will or bequest. Visit: <http://elca.org/en/Give/ELCA-Foundation/Assistance-for-Members/Giving-for-the-Future>

Questions or comments about the Endowment Fund, including the options you have for creating a legacy gift, may be directed to any member of the Endowment Committee, noted below:

Gerri Bass	Lou Rossiter
Ingrid Brown	Charlene Smith
Gary Krull	



## ***DINE OUT!***

The Dining Out Group will gather at *Daily Donut*, 1425 Richmond Road (next to *Chipotle*), at 1:00 PM on Sunday, October 16. Besides delicious donuts, *Daily Donut* offers a complete breakfast and lunch menu, 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Please join us for good food and great fellowship. RSVP by signing up on the bulletin green sheet or by calling **Stew and Pat Fretz** at 757-603-6830 by October 10.



## ***Congregation Connection***

A few weeks ago, we received a check from Mark and Robin Kelso--unsolicited and with no note. After looking at the check, I noticed that the Kelsos lived on Luther Road in East Aurora, New York--they lived next to my Godparents!

I knew of Mark--he played Defensive Back for the Buffalo Bills in the 1980s. I never met him but heard of him from my Godparents--Mark and his wife were both very helpful to them as they aged.

After finding the phone number online, I called Mark, leaving a message. I thanked them both for the generous check and asked if they would like it designated to a particular purpose.

This week Mark called the office, and I introduced myself as Aunt Lorraine and Uncle Franklin's niece. He was stunned to learn of this connection. Mark and Robin both attended William & Mary (he played football for the Tribe, too)--Robin being a member of the Lutheran Student Association.

They had been in Washington for a Bills-Redskins game, since Mark does color commentary for a Buffalo radio station, and they came down to Williamsburg to visit. They attended worship here and were very moved by the congregation's activities, especially the involvement of our college students. Hence, they "tithed to St. Stephen" that week.

We often get remarks from visitors written on the "liturgically correct sheet" about what a warm and welcoming congregation we are. It is especially moving to see the Spirit move among us and touch our visitors, as well!

**Sandy Peterkin**



## October Birthdays

1	Martha Clements Bob Phipps	Hank Mallue Tina Wolff
2	Kevin Drake	
3	Chuck Hilbinger Sharon Powell	Heather Macdonald
4	Keith Egloff Jaina Leek	Caitlin Leek
5	Brad Sipes Ellie Bergh	Ruby Umberger
6	Ellen Bushman	Sandra Peterkin
7	Tom Berkey	Jon Toler
8	Roberta Sulouff	
9	Gene Clements	
10	Ilianna Ogborn	
11	Celie Collins	
13	Jane Gingerich	
16	Linda Laity Hite Alyssa Jones	Wilbur Peterson
17	Joel Gillespie	Elizabeth Stein
18	Kara Meermans	
19	Martha Reier	
20	Alex Spencer	
22	Barbara Morris	Lisa Odabasi-Alpino
25	Ginny Hilbinger	Kym Reubush
27	Joan Miller	
29	Neil Bailey	Corky Umberger
30	Werner Bieber	Raé Carlson
31	Pam Groman	

**Pray the hope and comfort of Easter faith** on **Bob** and **Susan Voigt** and family as they grieve Bob's father, Donald; and on **Harlan** and **Anne Schone** as they mourn the death of Harlan's brother, Don.

**Join your prayers for healing** with God's desires for **Ellen Bushman, Steven Bushman, Klara Cave, Michelle Ivey, Gary Krull, Carole Meyer, Rick Meyer, Ned Neidlinger, and Regina Root.**

**Pray God's blessings** of patience and hope on **Dave** and **Roberta Sulouff** as they await the birth of their baby.

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

**Pray for these loved ones of our congregation:** Aziz, Bill, Jo, Joyce, Nathalee Accomando, Brian Anchondo, Robert Anderson, Tom and Bea Black, Blume family, Grady Calhoun, Melinda Campbell, Jeff Carino, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Kathryn Dieter, Patricia Dunahoo, Craig Eitreim, Inge Felbier, Harold Fenstermaker, Mertie Funkhouser, Bill Gottschalk, Carol Haecker, Kim Hanlon, Anthony Hargrave, Christopher Harris, Ken Hartline, Evan Hertzler, Alan Hochstetler, Marian Hunt, Fran Kibler, Art Kirk, John Klein, Jane Kristiansen, Mary Beth Lafave, David Lee, the Lentz family, Mildred Lindblad, Simon Mayfield, Mike and Brendan McGinty, McGraw family, Heidi Morris, Nasra family, Linda Orsini, Andrea Peralta, Inge Petersen, Linda Pulskamp, Robert Pushaw, Pat Ramering, Paul Ratzow, Natalie Rimmer, Betty Roth, Paul Rueckwald, Georg Siegert, Barbara Slifer, Paul Smalarz, Joyce Byerly Smith, Nancy Spaniol, Evelyn Spear, Kathy Straigert, Ester Sutin, William Thies, Jr., Lee Weaver, Sue Weilmuenster, and Anna Zabdyr.



## Prayers

**We thank God** for blessing **Becca Groman** and **Charlie Griffin** with their new baby boy, **Matthew Charles Groman-Griffin!**

**God has given Martha Clements** 91 years of life! Here birthday is this Saturday, October 1. Send her a card!



### Willetta Heising:

Bob and Sue Voigt--Endowment  
Lou and Emily Rossiter--Endowment  
Heather MacDonald--Endowment  
Evelynanne Ford--Endowment  
Elizabeth Boyer--Theologian in Residence



## Change of Address

- **The Rev. and Mrs. Jack R. Behlendorf**  
Apt C-131, 3900 Windsor Hall Drive  
Williamsburg, VA 23188  
email: revjack59@cox.net
- **Reed and Karen Nester** now have cell phones, only:  
Reed cell: 757-846-0121  
Karen cell: 757-869-2949
- **Gary and Jonna Toler**  
3013 Stanford Place  
Williamsburg, VA 23185



## To the Congregation

Dear St. Stephen family,

A funny thing happened in August--I missed a *Quill* deadline! And, it was an important deadline because I wanted to thank all of you for the wonderful reception on my retirement as editor of our newsletter.

The poster is sitting on my computer desk; I look at it and re-read the clever "article" and also re-read all of the lovely notes written on the poster board. Thank you, and thank you and thank you! I have loved working for you and with you and am very grateful for the teamwork that went into the planning and production of the *Quill*.

We have a remarkable church family and giving love and service to others is a major part of our mission. I am honored to be part of all this.

In deepest appreciation,

**Anne Schone**

- FISH, Inc. thanked St. Stephen for its recent generous contribution, which they will use to help provide emergency food and clothing to local citizens in need.

- Gratitude came from Williamsburg Area Faith In Action (WFIA) for SSLC's \$1,000 donation toward its efforts.
- Avalon Center expressed thanks for toiletries given by the Congregation, aiding its goal of providing safe haven for victims of domestic violence.
- A gift of \$375 was gratefully acknowledged by Angels of Mercy Medical Clinic, who care for those in Greater Williamsburg, Charles City and New Kent Counties.



## The Church Mouse Hears . . .

Paul Reier shared news of another successful work weekend at Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center. Accomplished were projects such as tree removal and general property clean-up, drainage enhancements, trail work and new signage, plus overall building improvements, encompassing fresh paint and a roof, cabinet installations and ongoing maintenance.



## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Picnic Update

**Date:** Sunday, October 30, 2016

**Time:** 1 PM to 5 PM

**Location:** Waller Mill Park--Picnic Shelter #3

St. Stephen's commemorative picnic is this month, and the committee has these important requests and reminders for the 100+ who plan to attend:

- They are in need of 4 large coolers (2 for beverage ice, 2 for ice cream).
- Side dishes provided need to be COLD; the Church will provide the hot food.
- On the bulletin "green" sheet, please indicate if you need a ride to the park that day.

**Congregational Officers:**

President	<b>Russ White</b>	220-1023
Vice President	<b>John McCurry</b>	606-389-1082
Secretary	<b>Dave Clark</b>	603-6346
Treasurer	<b>Paul Kristiansen</b>	220-2709
Financial Secretary	<b>Linda Vonderheide</b>	645-4059

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

**Church Staff:**

Pastor	<b>Andy Ballentine</b>	229-6742
	email	pastorab@
		876-6371
Pastor	<b>Cheryl Ann Griffin</b>	pastorcg@
	email	office@
Parish Administrator	<b>Sandy Peterkin</b>	MusicDir@
Dir. Music/Organist	<b>Martin Barstow</b>	ParishNurse@
Parish Nurse	<b>Marcie Clark</b>	258-3759
Dir. Of Preschool	<b>Lauren McQuain</b>	preschool@
	email	

Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon



**Church Council:**

Amy Bergh	566-4557
Dave Clark	603-6346
Keith Egloff	229-7859
Jeanne Garrison	229-0978
Linda Laity Hite	220-2776
John McCurry	606-389-1082
Sherry Phipps	810-4658
George Vonderheide	645-4059
Russ White	220-1023
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