

# The Quill

# THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

## October 2019



# TRANSITIONS

When I walked into the church this morning, I was struck by the dichotomy of brown fallen leaves blowing across the driveway and the very warm, humid air. If I had shut my eyes, I would have thought that it is summer. If I were inside looking out, I would know it is fall. We are transitioning from one season into another.

St. Stephen is in the midst of transition, too. We are leaning into a different way of being church together. We are learning what is important. People are volunteering to do more. We are currently not doing some of the things we had done in the past, such as book studies. Our staff gives thanks for your patience when something gets forgotten. My prayer is that this is a time for us to discover new ways to live out God's call.

Pastor John Wertz, Assistant to the Bishop, led us in a workshop. We reviewed the past 40 years by decades. We saw strong social ministries, continued commitment to our benevolence, times when there was more than one pastor on staff, and several building projects. Add to this our ministry with William and Mary students, and changes brought to our Preschool. What lies ahead for us?

We will be calling a second pastor. Many expressed an appreciation of the continuity of having one pastor remain when the other leaves. This has also had people asking how old I am. A better question, one that gets to the heart of concerns, is "How long until Pastor Griffin retires?" My intent, my plan, my hope is to serve among you for five more years. (Sometimes God laughs when we say we have a plan!) Our Congregation Council will begin to work through the process of establishing two committees, both composed of six people. One committee will write our Mission Site Profile, or MSP. This committee will complete the paperwork required to begin a national search. With the insights gleaned from out workshop, conversations with our young families, and our Preschool staff, our MSP will state what gifts and skills we would like a pastor to have. It also gives our financial, demographic and statistical information. We all should give our Parish Administrator, **Sandy Peterkin**, a huge thank you for keeping this information current on our reporting to the ELCA every year!

A Call Committee will be formed to review submissions from pastors. The committee will conduct interviews, most likely using a computer application that has a video component. This will narrow down the number of candidates to come for in-person interviews. Whomever is thought to be a good candidate will come to preach, and to socialize with us. Once our Call Committee and Congregation Council approve a candidate and a financial package, the congregation will vote on both.

Questions? My door is always open! Except at night. And on my days off.

Blessings, Pastor Cheryl Ann Griffin



# MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

- October 1 Women are invited to join together for breakfast the first Tuesday of this month.
- October 3 Men are invited to join together for breakfast the first Thursday 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.



# HEALING SERVICE FOR ALL

Where in your life do you feel the need for healing? We will hold a Healing Service in our Worship Space on **Thursday evening, October 10, at 7 PM**. During this service, all who sense the need for God's healing in any aspect of their lives may join in prayer for others and themselves. Each individual will receive a word of blessing and prayer, and a laying on of hands – a sign that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked forever with the cross of Christ, who is health and salvation for the whole world.

# "THE DOORS ARE BROKEN .... "



This was the battle cry at the 8:30 and 11:00 AM services on Sunday, September 8, 2019. **The doors are not broken.** The doors were constructed and installed properly. The culprit was DORIAN. Although the hurricane did not strike Williamsburg, the storm pushed winds and heavy moisture (humidity) in our area. The new

doors, made of wood, absorbed five days of 100% humidity and increased in size by height, width and

thickness. Until the humidity decreases, the doors will remain enlarged. When the fall and winter arrive, we will experience a reverse action, low humidity and low moisture. Then the doors will shrink and present another problem. Until we have a few seasons of expansion and contraction, we will experience these problems. As we are in the historic district, per the City of Williamsburg's Architectural Review Board, we could only use wood for our new doors, not aluminum painted black as was my original proposal. Please be patient.

The original cost of the doors was \$31,395; however, with negotiations Nice Builders granted two reductions, the final cost being \$26,600. The church received \$25,777 in contributions and memorials.

Many church members have expressed to me how much they like the appearance of the new doors, the light transmitted through the glass into the Gathering Space, and the warm, welcoming feeling our doors give to members and visitors to our congregation. I personally thank everyone for their donations and memorials."

George Vonderheide, Property Committee

# CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEW DOORS

Total Donations to Date = \$25,777

### Memorials

In Memory of Corky Umberger Sylvia Payne Dixie Reese In Memory of Bill MacQueston Jan MacQueston



For Special Music In Memory of her brother, Frank Youngk Sandra Youngk Swatz

# STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. STEPHEN



### **CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER**

Caring for yourself is one of the most important - and one of the most overlooked - things you can do as a caregiver. Researchers know a lot about the effects of caregiving on health and well-being. The combination of loss, prolonged stress, and the toll of physical demands can place the caregiver at risk for health problems. Caregivers often report sleep deprivation, poor eating habits, failure to exercise, failure to care for themselves when ill, and failure to seek regular medical care, such as annual exams.

There may be little a caregiver can do to stop the impact of a chronic or progressive illness of the person for which they are caring. However, there are several things a caregiver can do to enhance their own personal well-being. They include:

1. Understand your feelings

There are no right or wrong feelings about becoming a caregiver. You may experience sadness, anger, grief, guilt, and loneliness. Give yourself permission to feel a range of emotions.

- 2. Forgive yourself for your feelings Acknowledge whatever you are feeling and forgive yourself. In doing so, you empower yourself to cope with the situation.
- 3. Express your feelings

Talking with someone about your feelings often helps relieve the burden of unexpressed emotions. A friend, family member, pastor or Stephen Minister can listen without judgment.

4. Ask for help

Accepting help from others can be difficult. Letting others help is a step toward taking care of yourself.

### 5. Make time for yourself

Taking care of yourself can help you be a better caregiver. Do something for yourself every day. Caring for your own needs allows you to continue in your caregiving role.

Not every aspect of caregiving is burdensome. The caregiving role offers opportunities to share unique moment with the care receiver. These times can provide fertile ground for exchanging stories, reconciling conflicts or old wounds, and sharing truly loving experiences.

Receiving support from a Stephen Minister while you are undertaking this special role is a way to care for yourself. If you would like more information about seeking this kind of support, please contact Pastor Griffin or one of the Stephen Leaders (Jane Wills and Bill Dichtel).

Jane Wills, Stephen Leader

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#### Martha Clements Hank Mallue **Bob Phipps Chuck Hilbinger** Heather Macdonald Sharon Powell Keith Egloff Caitlin Leek Jaina Leek Ruby Umberger Ellie Bergh Ellen Bushman Sandy Peterkin Tom Berkey Jon Toler Roberta Sulouff **Gene Clements** Jayme Lawson 10 Ilianna Ogborn Evelyn Kernan 11 Jane Gingerich 13 Brenda Lee 14 16 Linda Laity Hite 17 Sandy Brust Joel Gillespie Kara Meermans 18 19 Martha Reier 20 Magnolia Sulouff 22 **Barbara Morris** 24 **Steve Jacobs** 25 **Ginny Hilbinger** Kym Reubush 26 Ryan Lohrengel Joan Miller 27 29 Neil Bailey 31 Pam Groman



### FACING CHANGE

Change is an inevitable part of life. Getting married, moving, and changing jobs or retiring are some of the most stressful things that will happen in our lives. Buying a new car, taking vacation and holidays are some of the least stressful things we do in our lives according to the Holmes Rahe Life Stress Inventory. We all know that life never comes one thing at a time. There are always a number of things going on in our lives at the same time.

You can face change and survive by using some strategies:

- Ask for help when/if you need it. God never intended us to through life alone. We survive because we have a strong community. We at St. Stephen are good at helping when we are asked and needed.
- Keep communications open and honest to navigate change successfully. If you feel you are having anxiety or conflict, seek to have a conversation for clarification or resolution.
- Create a special place where we can turn off the world and connect with ourselves. This may be listening to music, meditation, reading (such as scripture, devotions, or other positive material) or even doing yoga. It is an uninterrupted time to listen to ourselves and God.

Don't forget to plan for life as you navigate changes. Unexpected changes in health can really put you in unfamiliar territory. If you need help navigating these issues, I am here to help you. My door is open and my ringer is on.

### Diana Tiller-Dichtel, Parish Nurse



# PIZZA & GAME NIGHT

Come enjoy some pizza and play games with fellow St. Stephen members on **October 18, 5:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Pizza (variety of flavors) will be provided, for a donation. If you'd like, bring a dessert to share, and your favorite games for a rousing evening together! If you cannot or would prefer not to eat pizza, feel free to bring something for yourself and join in the fun and games!

Please assist us by marking the number of family members attending on the green sheet in the Sunday Bulletin so we have enough pizza for all of you!

### Keith Egloff



# 188 SMILES AND THANKS

... from the students in Grove that received new school shoes! Watch for the pictures of smiling faces on our monitors in the narthex. My personal thanks to everyone in the congregation who participated so generously by purchasing shoes or giving me money to do so. It has given me great joy over the past 14 years to be able to do this! My sincere thanks and love for all you do for others!!

Marilyn Johnson Social Ministry Coordinating Committee

# ANDREW BALLENTINE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Total donations to date = \$22,590

Susan Britcher Jane deSolms Michael & Nancy Graves Jan MacQueston



# BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Love animals? So did St. Francis! Bring your pets, companion animals, and service and other working animals for individual hands-on blessings, to be offered by St. Stephen's **Pastor Cheryl Ann Griffin**. The blessing of the animals will be held at **10 AM on Saturday**, **October 5, 2019**, at St. Stephen Lutheran Church and Preschool on the forecourt, just outside the front doors facing Jamestown Road. Note that October 5 is also the first day of An Occasion for the Arts on Merchants Square.

The blessing of the animals at St. Stephen commemorates St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day (October 4). Canonized as a saint in the year 1228, St. Francis is the patron saint of animals and the environment. Many animals all over the world are blessed every October, commemorating his feast day.

# SECOND ANNUAL MULTI-FAITH COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING



Historic Area Religions Together (HART) welcomes ALL to its Second Annual Multi-faith Community Service of Thanksgiving, to be held at **7:00 PM, Monday, November 25**, at Walsingham Academy, McAuley

Auditorium, 1100 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Experience a diverse, interfaith community service during which we join together – to give thanks for our blessings – with neighbors of different religious traditions. Participate in thanksgiving through prayers, readings, poems, songs and more.

HART exists to build relationships among faith communities in Virginia's Historic Triangle.

Thank You



I just want to take a moment to say thank you! Your recent donation to Williamsburg Area Faith In Action (WFIA) in the amount of \$1,000 is making a difference in the lives of

seniors in the Greater Williamsburg area even now.

Throughout the community, we are widely known for providing transportation to seniors, but what many don't know is that our transportation services stretch far beyond the scope of medical needs. Just like anyone else, our care receivers have places they would like to go other than the doctor's office, and at WFIA we see to it that they get to those places like the beauty parlor.

Oftentimes when I share that we offer this type of transportation, I am met with strange looks, as many don't understand the importance of such transportation. While it is not one of our primary services, it is one that is so very important for those, like Jennie, who are unable to take care of their hair at home. Jennie, an 85-year old woman who lives alone. suffers with arthritis. which makes it impossible for her to wash, and even comb her own hair. Jennie enjoys her weekly trips to the hair salon. This weekly outing not only ensures that Jennie's hair gets the care and attention it needs, but it is also an opportunity for her to get some attention as well. She enjoys socializing with her stylist and other patrons in the salon, and they all just adore her. For those two hours a week. Jennie gets to take part in the normalcy of the world around her.

Your contribution has helped to give Jennie, and others like her a small piece of their lives back. On behalf of Jennie, and the hundreds of others we serve, thank you! We couldn't do it without you!

Ashleigh Cooke, Executive Director



On behalf of LINK of Hampton Roads, we would like to acknowledge and thank you for your contribution and support of our agency through your donation of

\$500 to A Peaceful Place. Your donation was a blessing towards our efforts to help those less fortunate in our community. Once again, thank you for your generosity!

Lynne Finding, Executive Director



MUSIC NEWS

### All Saints Sunday Celebration

On **Sunday, November 3**, we celebrate the festival of All Saints remembering our St. Stephen members and family who have gone to the church Triumphant this past year. While we revere those who have gone before us in faith and remember them in love, we are reminded that God unites all the faithful in to the one holy catholic and apostolic church – the church on earth and the church in heaven through holy baptism. In holy baptism God makes saints out of sinners. In Holy Communion God forgives the sins of all the saints. On this day we give thanks for all the saints "who from their labors rest," who have fought the good fight, who have gained the crown.

On **Sunday, November 3** at both worship services, our choirs will present a large choral work by Aaron David Miller: Behold Your Saints in Glory: Worshiping with the Saints. This exceptional work for choir, organ, trumpet and assembly is a complete multi-movement programmatic piece, including readings and prayers from the saints through the ages. Some of those saints include Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), Francis of Assisi (1182-1226), Patrick of Ireland (c.372-466), and Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997). Holy Communion will be included in our assembly's liturgy as well as a reading of names deceased this past year in the congregation.

### "A Strolling Afternoon Musicale" (AKA an Organ Crawl!) on Sunday, November 3.

Here's your chance to see the inside of the worship spaces of our Jamestown Road neighbors and to experience their worship music! Our Matins, Chancel and Handbell Choirs will all be a part of this fun afternoon. Refreshments will be served at your "final destination" – Williamsburg United Methodist Church. Come here a part or all this afternoon's array of musical gifts from our neighboring congregations.

• **3:00** - First Church of Christ, Scientist. Tonia Herrin, pianist.

- **3:45** St. Stephen Lutheran Church. Karen Areheart Ives, Director of Music
- **4:30** Temple Beth El. Nesim Halyo, Director and Conductor
- **5:15** Williamsburg United Methodist Church, Tom Marshall, Organist

Karen Ives, Director of Music



### Do you enjoy Living Lutheran Magazine?

Most member families have been receiving Living Lutheran magazine this year through a congregational subscription provided by the Endowment Fund. We'd like to hear your comments about the publication. Do you find it interesting, useful? Would you like to continue receiving it? Please give us your opinions via the sheet in the Sunday Bulletin or share your thoughts and preference with any member of the Endowment Fund Committee.

You can also read or listen to full digital versions of the Living Lutheran on line. It's easy to access, userfriendly with a user guide. No account log-in is required. To read go to www.livinglutheran.org/issues. To listen to an audio version of every article in each issue, go to www.livinglutheran.org/audio-issues.

**Please help grow the Endowment Fund** by making your own enduring gift. Checks may be made payable to St. Stephen Lutheran Church. Write "Endowment Fund" on the memo line. If using a regular giving envelope, post the amount and "Endowment Fund" in the "Other" box.

Did You Know that Memorial Gifts may be designated to the Endowment Fund? You only have to specify that's where you'd like your memorial gift to go. Your remembrance thus becomes an enduring gift for future ministries of St. Stephen Lutheran Church.

Please talk with any member of the Endowment Fund Committee to learn more about making your own enduring gift now or through a bequest. The members of the Committee are Joyce Beene, Jane deSolms, Glenn Joppa, Bob Harman, and Charlene Smith



# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Another year has begun!

After a very successful series of Summer Camp weeks, our Preschool teachers and staff greeted new and returning children and parents the day after Labor Day! There were a lot of smiles as well as a few tears – from both children and parents.



Blessing of the backpacks, students and teachers on Sunday, September 1

Our first scheduled St. Stephen Preschool Spirit Night at Chick-fil-A in the Monticello Marketplace was held on September 25. It is always nice to see so many of our children, parents, and members of our congregation together – enjoying dinner and meeting each other outside of the School and Church.

Be sure to look for our student's artwork at An Occasion for the Arts on **Saturday, October 5** or **Sunday, October 6**. Mrs. Kirkpatrick, our Preschool Art Teacher, always has wonderful examples of our students' artwork on display.

We are settling into a routine with the Williamsburg-James City County Library's Mobile Services Van (Bookmobile) coming to our school twice each month. It comes on a Thursday and a Friday so that all of our students are able to borrow books, begin their love of reading, and their love of the public library.

We are thankful for all of the support that St. Stephen continues to give our Preschool. Over the summer, Randy Punchard joined our Lead Teacher Susan BerryRuane in painting the big room and the reading room. The fresh colors make the areas bright, warm and invite learning. Thank you for the supplies provided at the beginning of the year and, of course, the continuous flow of yogurt containers for use in our Art Class.

### Sandy Peterkin, Administrator















**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** God's work. Our hands.



**THANK YOU** so much for all of your generosity for Hospice House on "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday! It was fabulous to see the intergenerational event in the

Gathering Space on September 8 as children and adults together painted pinecone flowers and decoupaged vases to decorate and cheer residents in the rooms at Hospice House. Thanks to Lori Harms for leading that.

We also filled the little house to overflowing with the following items: Bottled water - 37 bottles, Soft drinks - 12 cans, Apple juice - 16 individual boxes, Berry juice - 8 individual boxes plus 2 half-gallon bottles, Tea bags – 370, Coffee K cups – 36, Cake/cookie/brownie mixes – 31, Multi-surface cleaner – 3, Disinfectant wipes - 27 containers, Bleach - 3 gallons, Liquid dish soap – 9, Liquid hand soap – 4, Dishwasher pods – 198, Laundry soap pods – 47, Men's black t-shirts – 4, Men's white t-shirts – 4, Disposable razors – 68, White bath towels – 5, Aluminum foil – 6, Parchment paper – 2, Large kitchen trash bags – 200+, Napkins - 6 packages, Paper plates - 2 packages, Paper towels – 18+, Toilet paper - 64 rolls.

Amazing! Thanks to Jane and Rich Gingerich for delivery. And last but not least, many thanks to all who came on September 27 to work on the grounds and in the gardens at Hospice House. Thanks to Susan Neidlinger for organizing that activity. We truly did God's work for Hospice House, with ALL of our hands.

### Nancy Egloff







We are truly overwhelmed by your generosity and thoughtfulness of your donation to Hospice House. We have so many guests and families that will benefit from each of these items. Our "wish list" was filled to abundance. You are a wonderful example of God's work in today's society.

Bernice Todd, Volunteer, Hospice House



# OCTOBER 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 Cheryl Ann Griffin

- 1 Paul Kristiansen Joe Philipoom
- 2 Kathie Eichfeld
- 8 Dorothy Hinders Phil McKenna
- 9 Diana Lyons
- 12 Erik McKenna
- 13 Katy Peterkin
- 14 Stan York
- 22 Jim Larsen
- 24 Jennifer Voigt
- 27 Jonathan Hallman Sandy Peterkin

31	PJ McAteer	Sharon Powell
51		Sharon rowen

Others who were baptized in October:

- Pam Little Meghan Osborn Sara Osborn
- Ann Booth Young

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





<u>We thank God for blessing</u> Ernie Schwab with 91 years of life, Martha Clements with 94, and Chuck Hilbinger with 95! Send them cards!

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for Brian Agor, Doc Anderson, Mitzy Balma, Joe Beene, Jack Behlendorf, Kristin Carter, Dianne Harris, Lynn Knestrick, Reed Nester, Laura Spencer, Mitchell Stauffer, Janice Svendsen, Marian Thies.

<u>We pray the blessings of resurrection faith</u> to Janyce Olson, frequent visitor from Richmond, mourning the death of her husband, Richard; to **Trudi Arnold**, mourning the death of her husband, Philip; to Jean Lannan, mourning the death of her mother, Christine Graham.

<u>Pray God's blessings</u> on Sara Harms and Ray Beatty and Christina and David Johnson as they wait for the birth of their babies. Christina is the teachers' aide in our Preschool.

<u>Pray for those unable to come to worship</u>: Doris Bass, Martin Bleck, Preston and Birdie Burton, Gene and Martha Clements, Bob and Angie Groom, Mary Jamerson, Billie Jo Purse, Dick Reeves, Jessie Schmitthenner, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, Jerry Trone, and Ladonna Wiederholt.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Mary Ann Arnold, Jane Ayers, Steven Barton, Gary Baumgarten, Laurie Berger, Eliza Bicknell, Tom and Bea Black, Blume family, Julie Boardman, Sharon Buckley, Audrey Burbank, Lou Byers, Jr., Terri Byers, Marla Canny, Elaine Cari, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Robin Daniel, Graham Darnell, Michael Dorsey, Tabitha Dyess, Inge Felbier, Mary Fitzgerald, Hollis Fulton, David Gamble, Jr., Robert Gay, Janis Gilbert, Carole Gilman, Laurie Giner, Andrea Gonzalez, Bill Gottschalk, Kara Gustafsson, Barbara Harvel, Nick Havola, Sharon Hegland, Emily Holdredge, Terry Holland, Will Hosey, Marian Hunt, Robin Jones, Fran Kibler, Chris Kinney, Sandy Kinsler, Art Kirk, John Knestrick, Rebecca Krueger, Torri Larson, Christopher Lee, Devin Lee, Mildred Lindblad, Jackie Lohr, Julia Lopac, Patrick and Kristine McGraw, Jackie Mereness, Sharon Miles, Eric Nelson, Patricia Nowak, Dino Polizois, Jenny Rice, Edith A. Roberts, Shann Rufer, Jeannette Sampson, Paul Sampson, Marion Seidl, Inge Seiter, Patricia Simpson, James Smith, Sharon Smith, Evelyn Spear, Luciana Stimson, Charley Underdahl, Tracy Vercillo, Tate Walker, Nancy Wiers, Margaret Wieser, Curtis Wikins, John Wilson, Sean and Sarah Wills as they await the birth of their baby, Donna Wood, and Aaron Zabell.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church 612 Jamestown Road Williamsburg, VA 23185 www.saintstephenlutheran.net

### Dated Material Address Service Requested

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# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



# The Quill www.saintstephenlutheran.net

### Congregational Officers:

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### Article deadline: <u>Fifteenth of the previous month.</u>

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### Church Council:

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