

The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

October 2011



Becoming A Better Pastor

I almost got educated real quick,+ said Charlie Manuel, world-famous philosopher, native of Buena Vista, VA (which is, obviously, where he learned his English grammar and syntax), and manager of the soon-to-be 2011 World Champion Philadelphia Phillies. Charlie was talking about a rookie pitcher named Justin De Fratus. Justin's first big league pitch was hit so far that the Philadelphia centerfielder caught the ball in the deepest part of the ballpark, with his back to the 401 foot sign. It was an out. But it's a big jump from Triple-A to the big leagues and, if Justin hadn't been aware of how big a jump it is, I almost got educated real quick.+

Over the past weeks, I've been thinking about my education. On the weekend of October 7-9, Patty and I will be back in my hometown of Wilmington, Delaware for my 40th high school reunion. Forty years ago, I was a first-year man+ at the University of Virginia. When I decided to become a pastor, I had to submit to the additional rigorous educational expectations of our tradition of Christianity: two years of graduate academic study including a simultaneous 10 hours per week course of field work in a nearby congregation, followed by a year of full-time internship, followed by a third year of graduate academic study. In the 32 years since, of course, I've received a good bit more education. Beginning with a three-day silent retreat with an Anglican monk in 1981, I've read and experienced a great deal about Benedictine monasticism. I've earned a second Master's degree: a Master of Sacred Theology (thesis title: How Benedictine Spirituality Can Nourish an American Congregation+). I've received training from the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation, so now spiritual direction is part of my ministry. There have been countless continuing education events sponsored by the two Synods in which I have served and, all of you who know me

know that I'm always in the middle of yet another book.

In my experience, it's not possible to get educated real quick! Instead, education is an ongoing, life-long process. It is, indeed, continuing education. In my case, the education continually makes me a better pastor.

That's certainly the case with the education I received during my near-death illness and recovery five years ago this fall and winter. And it is true of these past few months, from the diagnosis of melanoma through the pre-surgical tests, the surgery, the post-surgical tests, and into the recovery.

I'm used to being the care giver. It's an entirely different experience being the care receiver . and it's an experience that makes me a better pastor, better able to journey with you through your experiences, better able to offer credible suggestions of where God might be present and active.

For instance, I have a new awareness of what it's like to wait for doctor's appointments, wondering when and if the "all clear" will come. So far, with my case, the news is as good as it could be. The pathology report has come back that the lymph nodes are clear of cancer. The surgeon has actually said, "We got it!"+ But he also believes that several smart people looking at a case together are better than one. And so, as I type this, appointments have been set up with an oncologist and a radiologist. Even though my surgeon doesn't think there will need to be any oncology or radiation therapy, he wants the perspective of those specialists. He wants them to look at my PET scan, and my C-T scan. I have a new awareness of what many of you have experienced: until I receive the "all clear" from the others he's calling in, I won't be able to relax.

I've heard from you who have had experiences with melanoma that I'll need to visit the dermatologist frequently for years to come. So, I'll gain a new aware-

ness of what all of you other cancer patients anticipate, when you go in for three-month tests, and then six-month tests: What might they find this time?

I also have an awareness that outpatient surgery is not a minor thing! (I had anticipated that it would be a piece of cake. John Allen said, "That's because you're old enough to remember when outpatient surgery was minor. Back then, they would've kept you in the hospital for days!")

I consider it to be continuing education that makes me a better pastor: my new awareness of all of these things, and the refresher course on how to be patient, to wait, to be helpless in the face of a health crisis. (I hope I won't need to take this refresher course every five years from here on out!)

I began this column with a little bit of humor. Let me end it in that way, too. I was trying out some of these thoughts on another pastor. He understood what I was saying. But he replied, "All things considered, I'd rather not learn to be a better pastor in that way!"

Blessings to you on the journey of faith.
Pastor Andy Ballentine

Musings from the Ministry Associate



How do we define what we do as ministry? Is it when we distribute food to the hungry? Is it when we talk to somebody who is lonely? Is it ministry when we iron the altar linens? Is it ministry when we develop online media resources to spread the word of God?

Ministry has been defined pretty narrowly in the past. People went into the ministry by becoming a pastor or missionary for the church. That has changed, and you will notice in the bulletin that we are all ministers of Christ, doing our work in the world! Yet we still sometimes get caught up in the traditional notions of ministry that confine it to the physical world in which we work and interact. Yet, how people interact with each other is changing, whether we like it or not, and ministry changes with it. Pastor Andy writes a blog that allows people from around the world to share in his thoughts about God in our lives. We have a website with sermons, information, ways to get in touch with the various ministries that our church takes part in. The Lutheran Student Association students engage in constant Facebook banter. How do these ministries fit in with our more traditional approaches?

Part of being a church is providing and building community, even when members of the community are oceans away. Imagine a soldier running on a base in Afghanistan listening to a podcast of Pastor Andy's latest sermon. A council meeting, video teleconferenced to allow a traveling member to take part in it even if they are in Texas, or Hawaii. A family who moves to a community with no Lutheran churches that can participate in worship by watching online to a video feed, and have their own Faith Formation using the tools available through our online subscription to the Spark Curriculum.

Is all this technology a panacea that will instantly make our church a more welcoming and supportive place? No, nothing can replace the community gathering together to worship and witness to each other. Online media can help to maintain that connection to the greater community when people are unable to physically be in the church for all events, not changing the interaction with God, but perhaps making easier for them to connect to the familiar.

Pastor Andy and I have been collaborating on the idea of Dinner Church for several months now, an idea we will test on **Wednesday October 5**. The idea is to create an environment that is very different than the usual Sunday morning church service, an environment that may be more comfortable to those who don't usually attend on Sunday mornings. This ministry will in some respects return to the very earliest roots of Christianity, where followers got together in small groups to break bread and eat a meal together in fellowship. It has nothing to do with advanced technology, but about reaching out to those who might not feel comfortable with ministry and worship as it is practiced by our traditional definition of "The Church." The same idea is behind the electronic media that we are producing. It is about evangelizing to those who are uncomfortable or unable to participate with the usual. Many of them are college students or young adults that are looking for religion, seeking but not really finding it on Sunday mornings. As the idea of ministry changes, leveraging the tools of electronic media and alternative worship ideas like Dinner Church are ways of bringing people to God that otherwise might miss the wonderful ideas and fulfillment that we have to offer.

Douglas Cummings
Ministry Associate



From the Director of Music

It is a joyful experience for me whenever we blend the guitars and keyboard as we did recently. When the organ is back, I also would include it in the mix. According to recent studies, the liturgy is far more effective when there is a blending of styles and instruments, and it represents the inclusivity of Church as community. I think it is well worth the effort, and I am hopeful that we will be seeing more of that style of liturgy in the future.

Both choirs are working hard as we are exploring some new anthems and also working on improving our musical interpretation. The idea of a choir sounding as one voice made of many voices is the ultimate goal of a music director. With Reformation Sunday approaching, perhaps you might consider participating in the Seasonal Membership, singing for the celebration, and then returning to your regular seat. A few more voices really add to every aspect of our ministry, and I will gladly work with anyone who would like to try.

I must also comment on the improvement of our sanctuary lighting. The choir area has been a difficult place to see well, but with the new lighting, it is a joy!

Your Brother in Christ,
Michael Monaco

Announcements from Parish Nurse, Marcie Clark



Office Hours: Parish Nurse, **Marcie Clark**, will have office hours each **Tuesday from 1:00 to 3:00 PM** and other times by appointment. She is also available to make home and hospital visits. Call 229-6688, stop by, or e-mail Parish-Nurse@saintstephenlutheran.net

Blood Pressure: Blood Pressure screenings will be conducted between services on **October 16, the 3rd Sunday of the month.**

“Brain Agility” Program: Save the Date! **November 4 from 2:00 to 3:30 PM**, **Nancy Rivolta**, BSN, a Health Ministry member, will present an interactive

program on how we can determine the pace at which we age. Nancy has worked at Williamsburg Landing for 13 years designing programs, supporting families, and teaching caregiving staff. **See more details** in Nancy's *Quill* article.

CPR Reminder: Two classes are full for the **Saturday, October 8**, CPR/AED instruction. One class is from **10:00 AM to 12:00 noon**; the other is from **12:30 to 2:30 PM**. Place your name on a waiting list, if you missed these sessions.

Memory Loss Assessments: At the end of this month's *Quill* there is an article on Memory Loss, Dementia and Alzheimer's Assessments. (Copies of this article and *Know the 10 Signs* are also available outside the Health Ministry/Parish Nurse Office just outside the fellowship hall).

Brain Agility

Robert N. Butler, MD in his most recent book titled **The Longevity Prescription** outlines a step-by-step plan for maintaining optimum wellness and brain agility. Dr. Butler tells us by making small shifts in key areas in our lives . from our sleep and our diet to social relationships . we can achieve mental acuity for a long satisfying life. For example: did you know that a good marriage at 50 can be a good indicator of good health at 80 or that genes do not predetermine longevity? Come and hear about how we live can determine the pace at which we age; fascinating information for a lively discussion.

Dr. Butler, a Pulitzer Prize winning author and founder of the first department of geriatric medicine in the country at Mt. Sinai Hospital, is widely regarded as the father of geriatric medicine and was also the founder of the National Institute on Aging within the National Institutes of Health.

This interactive program will be presented on **November 4 from 2:00 to 3:30 PM**. Snacks and beverages will be served.

Nancy Rivolta, BSN
Presenter and Health Ministry Member



*October 2011
Update for our
Renovation Project
(written September 17,
2011)*



Significant progress is an understatement for the renovation, since the last update there have been many major portions of the project completed. You have only to look around to see the great strides.

The drywall in the Narthex has been installed and the molding is starting to go up. A significant portion of the lights are also in place.

The exterior brickwork has been completed and the memorial garden rail is in place and that area is being cleared.

Windows

Some of you have asked about the windows and why the one ramp has been clogged with uninstalled windows. The truth is that the window installation has been put on hold since the City of Williamsburg Architectural Review Board (ARB) requires windows with the mullions on the outside and the ones installed do not have them. The contractor and the architect have developed a fix for the problem. The architect and I had a meeting with the ARB on September 13 and they have approved the change which will give the desired look but do require some minor corrections. As soon as the new mullions are made and approved, the remaining windows will be installed. Fortunately, our contractor has been able to work around the completion of the window installation pending ARB review.

The lighting in the sanctuary is coming along. The cove lights and some of the molding has been installed - enough at least to have some nice pictures at the Gillespie/Moore wedding on September 13! The controllers and touch pads are being installed. Once the lighting has been completed, there will be training in the operation of the system for all involved.

The organ was unwrapped in time to be played for the wedding and hopefully it will remain unwrapped. There is a possibility that it may have to be re-wrapped to complete the project.

With a little luck and the conscientious efforts of the contractor, we may be able to conduct Sunday worship throughout the renovation without losing the use of the sanctuary.

The Contractor has advised that the interior is still projected to be completed on **October 7**. The exterior may not be finished until the following week.

Upcoming Milestones

- Completion of the narthex construction, painting, installation of the cabinets and carpet.
- Forecourt demolition has been delayed due to weather but the projection is now for demolition during the week of **September 19**.

Resolution of the window mullions problem and final installation of the remaining windows.

I continue to be amazed at the conscientious effort and the ingenuity of the members of David Nice Builders crew in making the progress that we have seen so far in this project and the skill they have shown.

**Paul Kristiansen
Project Manager**



***Further thoughts
about the
Renovation***

There are two more articles of interest to all of us who are following the renovation's progress. The first is the following article by Arnie Janot, which gives information about the assisted listening system being installed in the church – something of great importance to those of us who are, or are becoming, hard of hearing. The second article is a page at the end of the Quill listing giving opportunities for the audio visual enhancements in the narthex, the fellowship hall and the sanctuary.

**Here's what's
happening!**

Coming Soon - Assisted Listening System

During the sanctuary lighting renovation I coordinated the installation of a T-coil (telecoil) wire assisted listening system in both the sanctuary and fellowship hall. Those of us wearing hearing aids with a T-coil switch will be able to hear all microphone sound

sources processed by the sound system. At the same time I am investigating options for those members who do not have hearing aids with T-coil capability. Jim Miller of Assisted Listening Systems has completed testing and evaluation of the church space to ensure best results and has installed the necessary wiring and electronic components. He has installed similar systems in other Williamsburg area churches and community public and private meeting rooms. This is one opportunity for memorial contributions to the renovation project. see an expanded list in the following article.

Arnie Janot - Sound System Coordinator

***Christian
Education -- Faith
Formation for
Children and Youth***



Our Children and Youth Faith Formation kicked off with Bible presentations for children on **Sunday September 11**. The classes began **September 18** and we want to give a big thank you to all our volunteers! We are still looking for three more volunteers to help with the children's Bible story and activities; the schedule is flexible and volunteers are not needed for every Sunday. Please let **Jim Ivey** know if you have time and talent to share; he can be reached at **757-645-4480** or **jvivey@cox.net**.

***Children's Age 3 through 5th
Grade***

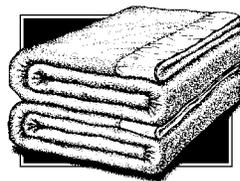
Youth age 3 through 5th grade meet in the undercroft between the services and are divided into appropriate age groups for lessons. In September, the children learned about John the Baptist through reading the Bible, crafts or other activities, demonstrations, and singing. For October, we will focus on Jesus' Baptism (Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:4-11; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22), Banquet with Simon (Luke 7:36-50), and Martin Luther in celebration of Reformation Sunday (October 30). The calendar for the entire year is available on the St. Stephen website (<http://www.saintstephenlutheran.net>).

As part of the children's faith formation, we will be collecting new or gently used outerwear for children at Grove. Examples of donations include gloves, hats, scarves, coats, etc. In addition, any money collected will be used to purchase outerwear.

Celebrating with Music! This year the children will once again be learning songs during Faith Formation and will share their talents during the services. Dates will be finalized soon, but the first musical offering will be in November.

Middle School and High School

The middle school and high school youth also meet between the services. The middle school youth meet in the conference room and are studying Martin Luther. The high school youth meet in Pastor Andy's office and are discussing their faith journeys.

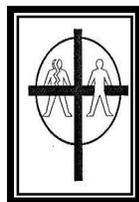


***Blanket Sunday Coming in
October!***

Blanket Sunday will be celebrated **Sunday, October 16**. Already, some of us are gratefully using our winter blankets making it an appropriate time to think of those folks who don't have any.

Envelopes will be provided for those who wish to contribute to this worthy cause. Please make your checks payable to St. Stephen with "Blanket Sunday" in the memo line. Our gifts will be forwarded to Church World Service. Your support helps provide a rainbow of caring to those in need in more than 80 countries. Please mark your calendars for **October 16**.

Sonja Landvogt for Church World Service



***A Journey with (and
without) Stephen
Ministry
Position Open - Saint***

Must be a Christian, a member of this congregation, willing to care for others. God will supply goodness, gifts, and grace. Stephen Leaders will supply training.

I don't see myself as a saint, although technically we all are in the biblical definition. But I do know that the

spirit filled me when I answered this call. We will be training a new class of Stephen Ministers beginning in January. Contact a Stephen Leader (**Cindy Gibbs, Rudy Stegmann, Pastor Ballentine**) or check the blue sheet if you would like more information on this opportunity to serve. Even if you are not a saint.

Cindy Gibbs for Stephen Ministry



The 2012 Women's Retreat is Coming —Save the Date!

Planning has started for next year's Women's Retreat, which will be held the weekend of **March 9 -11, 2012**, at Eastover Retreat Center near Surry, Virginia. We are excited that **Reverend Janell Nickols**, who has led our worship at St. Stephen numerous times, will be our retreat's spiritual leader. Janell facilitated a number of retreats for us in years past and we look forward to having her with us again. We also are planning a service project, which will be announced soon. Watch for updates in the October/November bulletins. Call **Nancy Egloff (229-7859)** if you have questions.

A Change in "Gimmie Five"



To my environmentalist friends at St. Stephen,

Al and I need to share that circumstances in our personal lives have led us to the following decisions:

- After we clean up Hurricane Irene's damage, we will put our house on the market and plan to move to a retirement center in Ohio near our youngest daughter.
- It has become necessary to end my involvement with the "Gimme Five" program.
- Many thanks to all who have joined us in the "Gimme 5+ program, especially **Marilyn Johnson**

who inspired the program and to all the eight drivers who made the trips to the "Whole Foods Market" west of Richmond at Short Pump.

- We are fortunate to have received permission from the Colonial Williamsburg Recycling Center to use their well-organized program to handle #5 plastics as well as other numbered recyclables. (We already have members from St. Stephen who are doing that.) Our Quill editor will provide you with directions to the Center. (See directions following this letter.) Thank you for caring for this important project.

Jean and Al Kuhn



Directions to the Colonial Williamsburg Recycling Center

- The Recycling Center is found off Botetourt Street in the complex of office and utility buildings. Turn from Lafayette Street into Botetourt Street and go to the second possible left. It is pretty much a driveway and is not marked with a street name; however, you will see signs leading the way to the Recycling Center. Turn left and go as far as you can . maybe 100 yards.
- It is the large, always open, well-marked building to your right.
- When you enter the building, turn right and you will see many marked huge bins along the wall. The one you want for the #5s is at the end marked #3s through #7s. You can see that there are many more kinds of plastic available to leave and the #1s and 2#s do not have to have a neck like the Williamsburg/James City County rules state.
- When you leave, follow the one-way almost paved narrow street. It turns to the left and then right between two buildings out to Franklin Street where the Employment Center is located.
- Turn right as you return to Botetourt Street and out to Lafayette again. Stay tuned for further information because, as we get our storage benches in the renovated narthex, we hope to be able to collect and store

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Last year Thrivent Financial for Lutherans instituted a new program whereby qualifying benefit members may participate in choosing how the organization distributes some of its charitable grant money. Eligibility to participate is based on a benefit member's involvement in the fraternal organization. Benefit members (age 16 or older) are eligible to direct a minimum of \$25 Choice Dollars if they meet one or more of the following requirements:

- Have \$800 or more in annual planned premiums of qualifying insurance products.
- Have \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying products [e.g., annuity].
- Hold a Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership position.

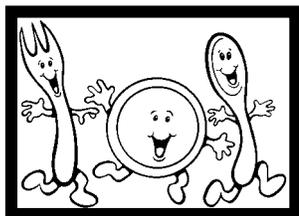
Choice Dollar amounts range from \$25 to \$2,500 for eligible members

Thus far we have had six members direct Choice Dollars to St. Stephen; in 2011 we have received \$1,571. Thrivent specifies that the gift be directed to a congregation's General Fund [Current Giving]. Payouts are distributed monthly and those dollars designated during the calendar year can be directed until March 31 of the following year.

For more information on this easy way to support further our congregation:

- ~ visit Thrivent.com/thrivent choice
- ~ call 1-800-847-4836 and say %Thrivent Choice+
- ~ contact our Thrivent Financial representative, John Gerke @ 757-469-2194 or email: john.gerke@thrivent.com

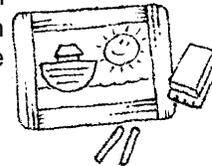
Susan Britcher—Financial Secretary



Dining Out

The October Dining Out Group will meet at **Opus 9 in New Town**, at **1:00 PM on Saturday, October 15**.

Jack and Dianne Harris are hosts and reservations are needed on the Blue Sheet or contact **Jack or Dianne Harris 229 - 7504**. Meal choice will be from the lunch menu and valet service at the door is advertised.



October Preschool Quill News

October is a very busy month with many activities relating to the fall as well as our ongoing daily learning activities and weekly chapel services.

A ranger from the York River State Park will be visiting the extended day class on **Wednesday October 5** introducing us to animals found in our part of Virginia. We will be visiting Pumpkinville on **October 6 and 7** . a favorite fall activity.

The Williamsburg Fire Department will visit the classrooms and teach the children about fire safety on **October 17 and 18**. The children are always impressed by the fire engine and the firemen and fire women in their uniforms.

With all the activities surrounding Halloween, the children will be making lots of decorations featuring witches, ghosts and spiders. Our traditional Halloween parades will be on **Thursday October 27** for the three-year-old classes and on **Monday, October Oct 31** for the 4s and PreK classes. This is a special event for the children.

The Preschool wants to thank **Nancy and Gary Jaworski** for their help and leadership on the Preschool Committee last year and for their generous donation to the St. Stephen Scholarship Fund. They are very much missed!

For the Preschool, Rudy Stegmann



New Addresses

Bob Achenbach: bob5531@cox.net

Pat and Stew Fretz: Phone 757-603-6830 and email is psfretz@cox.net.

Janet Higgs: vt56hokie4me@hotmail.com

Mel Melhorn

Spring Arbor of Salisbury
14001 Turnberry Lane, Apt 201
Midlothian VA 23113

Jeane Moore

3001 Mossy Creek Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23185 Care Group 12

Phone number changed to cell phones: **Randy Punchard** . 757-870-8410; **Chris Punchard** . 757-880-3347.

Dorothy Reeves: dot-reeves@widomaker.com



The Church Mouse Hears

The mouse saw many familiar St. Stephen faces at Walsingham Academy at the beautiful and meaningful September 11 Interfaith Prayer Service.

When the mouse was double-checking the directions to the Colonial Williamsburg Recycling Center (see **Jean Kuhn's** article), she was delighted to see **Karen Schlicht** bringing her recyclables to the center from her home in the Historic Area. It is a wonderful service and so much more convenient!

The food at the Faith Formation Kick-off breakfast was wonderful. Would the baker of the fantastic coffee cake with the layer of cherry on the bottom be willing to share the recipe? Also, the mouse really liked the potato, cheese, and crumb topping casse-



role and thinks many would enjoy that recipe as well. There were so many delicious and healthy things to eat.

If you would like us to print the recipes in forthcoming *Quills* please send them to the church and the mouse will make sure they get printed. The pictures show our gathering for



food and conversation. A wonderful time!

Carole Meyer was contacted by Colonial Williamsburg to take part in an Electronic Field Trip television presentation, a program which helps children across America understand and take an interest in our American history. Carole portrays Dolley Madison, the wife of our fourth President, James Madison. The episode, entitled **Marsh World, this World,** airs on **Thursday, November 17 at 11:00 AM on PBS Channel 15 (Norfolk)**. It deals with the relationships between Colonial slaves and their owners. It is a very interesting portrayal of life and times of that era. Tune in that morning and see what it's all about! Here is a picture of Carol in her Dolley Madison clothing.



The mouse enjoyed the recent picture and story about **Chuck Hilbinger** in the *Virginia Gazette* and his "Wish of a Lifetime" airplane flight- remembering his days in the Army Air Corps and as a flight instructor. Cheers for a wonderful experience!



October Birthdays

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Martha Clements
Bob Phipps | Hank Mallue |
| 2 | Kevin Drake | |
| 3 | Troy Deierling
Heather MacDonald | Chuck Hilbinger |
| 4 | Keith Egloff
Jaina Leek | Caitlin Leek |
| 5 | Ellie Bergh
Ruby Umberger | Brad Sipes |
| 6 | Jen Beaver
Sandra Peterkin | Rebecca Cockrell
Ellen Bushman |
| 7 | Jon Toler | |
| 9 | Gene Clements | |
| 10 | Ilianna Ogborn | |
| 14 | Adeline Ogaard | |
| 16 | Linda Laity Hite | Wilbur Peterson |
| 17 | Joel Gillespie | Warren Melhorn |
| 18 | Kara Jo Meermans | |
| 19 | Martha Reier | |
| 20 | Alexander Spencer | |
| 21 | Toby Lucy | |
| 22 | Lisa Odabasi-Alpino | Barbara Morris |
| 25 | Ginny Hilbinger | Kym Reubush |
| 27 | Joan Miller | Donna Floyd |
| 29 | Corky Umberger | |

30 Werner Bieber Raé Carlson
 31 Pam Groman Cameron Jaworski
 Is your name missing? Is your date wrong? Please let us know immediately!
 Rev. September 22, 2011

Prayers



Pray God's blessings upon **Jeane Gillespie** and **Doug Moore**, who were married before our altar!

Pray to know God's will for healing **Andy Ballentine, Ailene Bartlett, Ellen Bushman, Glenn Carlson, York Doerr, Jack Harris, Jane Holcombe, Jon Lund, Susanna Owens, Dorothy Reeves, Gayle Spencer**

Pray for those who are physically unable to get to worship: **Bill Dickerson, Elsa Englert, Bernice Fahncke, Bob Groom, Elsie Hall, Willetta Heising, Anna Lou Hobday, Jean Kircheis, Helen Lenox, Warren Melhorn, Christine Pugh, Chuck and Jo Schumacher, John Warner, Dot Wright, Earl and Lois Wysong**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: John Accomando, Bea Black, Jean Bozeman, Lois Bomba, Katie Brachu, Hannah Calderon, Bob Canny, Joanne Carlson, Jane Cattermole, Donna Cherel, Michael Compton, Ann Cowling, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Catherine Crump, Dave Culler, Janice and Walter DeGree, Lois Derrick, Nick Finley, Ann Finley, Will Flatin, Lonna Gibson, Nancy Gottschalk, Bob Hailey, Eleanor Harms, Mary Heminger, Janis Hepburn, Isaac Herb, Carol Horton, Loretta Hughes, Joseph Javier, Sarah Kobezak, James Laubach, Kathi Leitner, Joe Mallen, David Martin, Collette McKown, Rick Meyer, Wayne Moss, Jone Nares, Sarah Marie Nelson, Nancy Norton, Pat Passarella, Bill and Joyce Pate, Amy Wettingel Pate and family, Georgette Pettit, Morgan Porter, Lisa Rivolta, Don Romig, Roland Scheiding, Barbara Schone, George Siegert, Alexis Smith, Ron Smith, Nancy Spaniol, Sue Sullivan, Connie Testerman, Linda Thies, George Thomas, Bob Tuttle, Sarah Verity, Annette Vosteen, Amy Wettenold and family, Shirley White, Peggy Wood

Pray

- that God will bless the future of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Hampton, and their new pastor, Charles Bang
- that God will bless the future of Reformation Lutheran Church in Newport News, celebrating their 50th anniversary

- for the work of the Mongai Parish in Tanzania
- for the safety of those working on the construction project of our building
- that God will bless the healing work of the Tuesday night Williamsburg Area Association for Mental Illness group that meets in our Fellowship Hall
- that God will bless the healing work of the Saturday morning and Wednesday evening AA groups that meet in our Fellowship Hall
- that God will bless the future of Temple Beth El and their newly installed Rabbi, David Katz

A word of Thanks



Letters of thanks to our members

Avalon thanked us for our gift of \$700 to Avalon, a center for women and children. Angels of Mercy Medical Clinic thanked us for our donation to their clinic. Lutheran World Relief gave us a certificate of appreciation for supporting communities in Guatemala and Mexico by using Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday this year.



Thank You!

Letters of thanks from our members

Dear St. Stephen Family,

Thank you all so much for the calls, cards and prayers as we dealt with our precious Lea's passing.

Words cannot express the gratitude and appreciation our family feels for all the comfort and support offered us during this most difficult time

Blessings,

Karen and Gary Chenault

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.+