



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

September 2015



Faith Formation Shows Up In How We Live

Last month, I wrote about some of the many people who have formed my faith. God has used my parents to form my faith, the mother of young children who died of leukemia, African-American grandmothers living in a south side of Chicago ghetto, and many others. Of course, during my years at St. Stephen, God has used many of you in my ongoing faith formation! (To read "How is the Spirit Forming Your Faith?" again, click: <http://www.saintstephenlutheran.net/what-else-you-can-read-and-download/blog/>)

Faith formation is an ongoing activity of God in our lives. It is often a daily remembering of what we first learned long ago: the God is love, grace, forgiveness, compassion. And as the Spirit forms us in faith, our way of living changes. We grow more deeply in love with God. We come to desire God more profoundly. That shows up in how we live. We come to be people of love, grace, forgiveness, compassion.

Do you think of St. Stephen Lutheran Church as a community of faith formation? As Brian McLaren puts it, "we must rediscover our faith as a way of life, not simply as a system of belief." We gather in community to teach, model, mentor and nurture each other in faith practices. We come to a deeper consciousness: practicing the faith in our daily lives for the sake of the world God has created. This will give us a chance to thrive as a congregation into the next generation. A vibrant community of disciples practicing the faith in

the world, for the sake of the world, will be a community that attracts newcomers!

I envision this as the theme for our book studies during the next few years. We'll begin this fall with *Finding Our Way Again: The Return of the Ancient Practices*, by Brian McLaren. Look elsewhere in this issue of *The Quill* for information about the Monday evening and Thursday afternoon study groups, and join one!

Blessings to you --

Pastor Andy Ballentine



Called to Be a Living Voice

This past July, I had the pleasure of attending *Called to Be a Living Voice*, the conference for the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, in Atlanta, GA. There was a great variety of people there; it was a reminder that there is great diversity within the bodies of the Lutheran church! I was able to attend services that included many different types of music and worship styles, knowledgeable speakers, and the chance to meet stellar musicians. And, it was my first time experiencing the great city of Atlanta, too!

Each morning began with a Morning Prayer service. Each service more or less followed the structure for Morning Prayer that is found in our hymnal, *The Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, (ELW.) The styles of each of these services were eclectic. They included traditional hymns and chorales, music from other

countries (such as China and Tanzania), and gospel tunes.

I had the pleasure of experiencing inspirational and spirit-filled evening services, also. The first of these was held at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, a prominent Lutheran church in Atlanta. It followed the order for Evening Prayer from the hymnal of the Lutheran Church of the Missouri Synod, and was led by the choir of that church. The congregational hymns included some of the staples of Lutheran church, and the choir presented timeless choral classics. Another evening service was held at Martin Luther King Jr.'s church, Ebenezer Baptist Church, also led by that church's choir. The themes of this service were equality and diversity. Two inspiring musical selections included an arrangement of *We Shall Overcome*, sung by the choir of Ebenezer, and a hymn written in honor of the "Charleston Nine."

Between the services, there were many options available. Some of them included various choral reading sessions. Those were opportunities to sing through newer publications of anthems that may appeal to music directors looking for pieces for their choirs. Another session was "The Art of Worship," which featured multi-sensory ideas (sight, taste, smell, touch, etc.) that could enhance worship services.

There were a few times when I encountered a "celebrity" in the Lutheran world (a well-known figure who has his/her choral and/or instrumental music published, or who is known as a performer). These people were often both knowledgeable and personable.

These kinds of conferences are both educational and inspirational for church musicians. It is an opportunity to experience worship services that are both diverse and high quality, associate with people who are in the same field, and most importantly, provide ideas for church musicians to put into practice in their own congregations.

Marty Barstow, Director of Music



Thoughts from the Parish Nurse

Philippians 2:4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Let me help

Do you know someone who is caring for a loved one? Caregivers need support. Whether you are offering to help new parents, an Alzheimer's caregiver, or the parent or partner of someone who is recently released from the hospital, ill or injured, here's how to help:

- **Be specific**

General offers of help can be hard for a caregiver to accept because they aren't specific. Avoid statements such as "Let me know if there is something I can do to help." When offering support, make a concrete offer.

- ✓ Offer to pick something up at the grocery store. Or offer to take them. "I'm going to the grocery store. What can I get for you?" or, "Come with me."
- ✓ Offer to sit with the family member so they can run an errand, get a haircut, or simply get away for a while.
- ✓ "I've got some time tomorrow afternoon I can sit in for you for an hour (or more)."
- ✓ Offer to prepare a meal. It relieves them of not only the task of cooking, but planning and shopping for a meal as well.
- ✓ "I've made _____. What time can I drop it off?"
- ✓ Think outside the box - Do they need help with laundry, yard work, picking up prescriptions, etc.?

- **Check in**

Call them just to check in. Try to find a time when they're free to talk, and the call isn't disruptive. How are things going for *them*? What do *they* need?

Give them an opportunity to talk about their stress.

Emails and text messages work, too — but often personal visits are even better. You might consider sending a cheerful card or drop off a bright bouquet.

- **Gentle Persistence**

Sometimes people find it difficult to accept help. By nature they may tend to be independent, and self-sufficient. And/or, they may not want to impose on others. A gentle urging and persistence may help them accept your offers of help. Remind the caregiver that they don't have to do this alone. In order to continue to care for others they also need to care for themselves.

Marcie Clark, Parish Nurse



Council did not meet in August

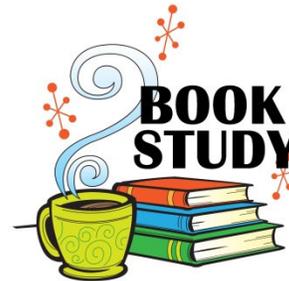


First Communion classes will be offered on **Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:45 beginning October 18 and ending November 15**. Parents and children will share five consecutive Sundays learning what God is doing in Holy Communion. Each child is different in their readiness, so there is no recommended age. Parents should be open to recognizing the Holy Spirit's leading your child to desire the Lord's Supper. If you have questions, please ask **Pastor Griffin**.

services. We will be there to share information about The 1956 Society and answer questions. With \$802,000 pledged thus far, we have made great strides toward reaching the goal of \$1.2 million before St. Stephen's 60th anniversary in 2016.

As we work to attain that goal, it is helpful to remember the purpose of the Endowment Fund: "to let the light of Christ's love shine in our community in special ways so that all may know of our congregation's commitment to express Christ's compassionate love." As the fund continues to grow, we can begin to dream of ways to fulfill its mission. Do you have ideas to share? Please let the committee know.

Gerri Bass for the Committee



Do you hunger for more than just talk about faith? Are you interested in exploring how you can live out your faith in your daily life?

Announcing a New Monday Evening and Thursday Afternoon Book Study of *Finding Our Way Again: The Return of the Ancient Practices*

In a culture where there is so much distraction, how do we focus on God's presence and come to know our purpose as children of God?

Too often, "Christianity" has become a system of belief, rather than a way of life. How can we cultivate behaviors that reflect Jesus' model of compassion, grace and forgiveness? Too often, "spirituality" is exclusively inner-focused. How can we engage in faith practices that combine the contemplative (individual prayer and devotion), the communal (what we do when we gather together), and the missional (serving those who are in need)?

Brian McLaren's book, *Finding Our Way Again: The Return of the Ancient Practices*, will get us started in this



Endowment Committee News

After a brief summer hiatus, The Endowment Fund Committee is back at work. We say farewell to **Jan MacQueston** who chaired the committee for six years and welcome **Charlene Smith** as our newest team member. **Ingrid Brown** has been elected chairperson. **Lou Rossiter** continues as financial secretary and **Charlene Smith** will assume the role of recording secretary. **Gary Krull** and **Gerri Bass** round out the committee.

On October 4, the committee will hold a "meet and greet" event in the Gathering Space between the

conversation. Practices such as daily prayer and spiritual reading, sharing in the sacred meal of Holy Communion, practicing Sabbath and observing holy days, fasting, generosity and simplicity “do for our souls what exercise does for our bodies or study does for our minds....These ancient practices are the means by which we prepare for grace to surprise us.”

This **Monday night study will begin September 14, at 7:00 PM.** The **Thursday afternoon study will begin September 17, at 2:30 PM.** Check the green sheet if you'd like to join us. Each copy of the book will cost about \$10.50. The book is readily available at amazon.com



Christians say the "Darndest Things"

This is the name of an adult class that **Judy Cobb** will lead in October between our worship services!

Have you ever heard, or said these?

1. "There but for the grace of God go I..."
2. "Put God back into the school!"

These are just two of the sayings we'll discuss during our time together. (What others would you add? "God never gives you more than you can handle?" "God needed another angel for his choir?" "If you have enough faith you will be healed?" Others?)

When: **October 4, 11, 18** (come to one, or all of the sessions.)

Time: **9:45 AM-10:30ish** (stay after the 8:30 service, come early for 11:00)

Location: the **College Room** (downstairs, at the rear of the church building)



Wednesday Word and Sacrament, 6:30 PM each week

This is an informal worship service, featuring a conversational Bible study, guitar-led worship songs and Holy Communion. Worshipers take leadership for various small parts of the service – reading the Prayer of the Day, leading the Psalm, reading the evening's Bible passage – from where they are sitting. Worshipers speak the prayers that are on their hearts. Worshipers offer the bread and wine to each other around the altar.

Join the group when you're able!

Pastor Andy Ballentine



Men of the congregation are invited to join for breakfast the **first Thursday** of each month, for conversation and friendship-deepening. This month, the first Thursday is September 3!

Join with other men at **8:00 AM at the Colonial Pancake House, at the corner of Page Street and Penniman Road.**

The agenda is: "How are you doing?" with discussion!



Dining Out:

Join us for a meal out!

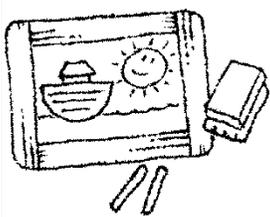
It is time for good food and fellowship as the dining out group begins its fall season. Please join us at **Center Street Grill, 5101 Center Street in New Town at 1:00 PM on Sunday, September, 27.**

Center Street offers a Sunday Brunch (not buffet) menu as well as their regular menu. There is ample parking in the parking lot behind the restaurant, if you don't find street parking. Park and follow the pathway by the Comic Book Store right to the restaurant.

Make a reservation on the green sheet in the Sunday bulletin or call **Stew and Pat Fretz at 603-6830**; the deadline for reservations is **Monday, September 21.**) We look forward to seeing you there.



Women of St. Stephen gather for breakfast at the IHOP on Richmond Road near Bypass Road at 8:00 AM the first Tuesday of every month. Come and join the fun and conversation.



Preschool News

We want to welcome back former students and our new students! We hope you all had a wonderful summer! Our summer camp in June was a huge success! The children participated in Messy Masterpieces week, Commotion in the Ocean week, and Dinosaur week.

Our school year starts with "Meet Your Teacher Days" **September 2 through 4.** We always look forward to meeting the children and their families, and giving them insight into the special time we will be spending with the children.

The children will be exploring colors, shapes, and all fall brings to us. We are making beautiful art work for the Occasion of the Arts - the first weekend in October. Please come see the children's artwork on display at the Community Building across from the Williamsburg Regional Library.

We received a very generous grant from the Williamsburg Junior Women's Club. The monies were used to purchase new art easels! A big "thank you" to the Juniors!

Thank you to all who participated in the Martin's A+ School Rewards Program! With you help we earned \$350 for our enrichment programs! Please check your account to verify that St. Stephen is your school assignment. The program begins September 1, 2015 for the upcoming school year.

Lauren McQuain, Preschool Director



September Birthdays

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Arnie Janot | |
| 2 | Brigitte Dietrich | Anne Schone |
| 3 | Zachary Meermans | |
| 5 | Brian Bergh | Gordon Gabram |
| | P.J. McAteer | Jim Ogborn |
| | Kyle Kuck | |
| 6 | Stephanie Mounaud | Jennifer Voigt |
| 7 | Cricket Reubush | |
| 8 | Joe Beene | |
| 9 | Ailene Bartlett | |
| 10 | David Allen | |
| 11 | Ed Brown | |
| 12 | Jusup Silitonga | |
| 13 | Kendall Delehanty | Nancy Scanlan |
| 14 | Jonathan Hallman | Jimmy Ogborn |
| 16 | Billie Jo Purse | Fran Schwab |
| | Brian VanRosendale | Stan York |
| 17 | Ernie Schwab | Mallory Spencer |

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Logan Timberg | |
| 18 Holly Walker | |
| 19 Daniel Owens | Ladonna Wiederholt |
| 20 Charlene Smith | Rushton White |
| 21 Madelyn Williams | |
| 22 Joe Philipoom | Karl Zimbauer |
| 23 Katie Harms | Philip McKenna |
| 24 Molly Sandling | Phyllis Spencer |
| 26 Sandy Croushore | Megan Gulden |
| Bob Harman | Hunter Ogborn |
| 28 Dan Stimson | Mia Timberg |
| Hannah Wiers | Alyssa Martin |
| 29 Stephanie Drake | Thomas Drake |
| 30 Mark Hinders | |



Back to School Prayer

*We thank you for the fragrance of a new box of crayons, Lord,
The rainbow in each perfect row;
Thank you for each bundle of snowy white notebook paper,
Awaiting fresh possibilities.
May they remind us that you make all things new and bless us with abundance.
Thank you for this ruler; for every eraser that tops every pencil.
May they help us remember to measure our blessings,
But never your boundless love for us;
To allow for the making of mistakes as a normal part of human learning.
As we lay out our new clothes for these first days of school,
Help us remember to put on Christ each day, too,
And to "clothe the naked" as He asked us.
But mostly, God, help us remember
that Jesus is always our best and most devoted teacher—
That we never outgrow all his lessons on how you want us to live and to love.*

By HomeFaith editor Mary Lynn Hendrickson

[Thanks to Marilyn Johnson]



New Addresses

Chad and Cathy Bingman
McKenna
410 Caroline Circle
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Jusup Silitonga
1507 Mount Vernon Avenue
Williamsburg VA 23185

John and Bobby Streeter
703 Crestwood Drive
Lancaster, PA 17602

We will celebrate the 10th anniversary of Pastor Griffin's ordination on Sunday, September 20, with refreshments and fellowship in the Gathering Space between the services



Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Doc Anderson, Susan Britcher, Dan Hanley, Jack Harris, Ed Hyland, Michelle Ivey, Diane McCurry, Carole Meyer, Ned Neidlinger, Phyllis Spencer, John Rivolta, Regina Root, Jessie Schmitthener, Marian Thies, and Jerry Trone.**

Pray for these who are physically unable to get to worship: Dick Batman, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Willetta Heising, Mary Jamerson, Helen Lenox, "Pete" and Kathy Peterson, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Dot Wright and Lois Wysong.

We thank God for blessing **Mary Dickerson** with 90 years of life and for blessing **Sonja Landvogt** with 93 years of life!

Pray comfort and resurrection hope for **John Rivolta** and his family, mourning the death of his wife, **Nancy Rivolta**; **Dot Wright** and her family, mourning the death of her daughter, Debbie Effemey; and **Brad Leek** and his family, mourning the death of his mother, Audrey Leek.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Rita Adams, Robert Anderson, Joyce Blish, the Blume family, Lois Bomba, Paula Bradin, Allan Bullman, Kallie Burgess, Grady Calhoun, Melinda Campbell, Ayrton Climo, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Sylvia Croushore, Kathryn Dieter,

Marga Fischer, Bruce and Kay Flatin, Lenora Godette, Anabelle Green, Sarah Grey, Gregg Griffin, Bobbie Harris, Connie and Chris Harris, Ron Hayes, Alan Hochstetler, Marie Holland, Hank Hollar, Lynn Isenburg, Yvonne Jack, Alicia Jay, Julie Jindra, Fran Kibler, Eileen Kitchik, Jane Kristiansen, Frank Kunze, Theda Laubach, Tony Lee, Wendy Lee, Mildred Lindblad, Bertha McCabe, Kristin McGraw, Dick McGrew, Anne Meyer, Julie Miller, Mark Miller, Tom Miller, Heidi Morris, the Nasra family, Sharon Nickerson, Sharon O'Dell, Jeanette and Rodger Osborn, Lavonne Prescott, Robert Pushaw, Vivian Reaver, Lisa Rivolta, family of Alton Romig, Sr., Richard Seaver, Jackie Seipp, George Siegert, Judy Silvasy, Alex Skinkle, Julie Slye, Linda Smalarz, Emily Smith, Nancy Spaniol, Evelyn Spear, Janelle Story, Michele Thompson, Clarence Tolliver, Jean VanDuyse, Annette Vosteen, Curtis Wilkins, Margaret Wieser, and Anna Zabdyr.



Memorials

Anita Dorsey

Ken and Carole Helmig
 Forrest and Ruth Fenstermaker
 Arnie and Pat Janot
 Marjorie Tine
 Bill and Joani Wallis
 Carol Wisotzki
 Art Dorsey
 Harlan and Anne Schone
 Jane deSolms

Nancy Rivolta

Art Dorsey
 Harlan and Anne Schone
 Jane deSolms



A New Opportunity to Serve

Can you give your time in a new ministry, to open and maintain a much-needed day time shelter for those experiencing homelessness? "The Harbor" opens October 5 at the St. Bede Outreach Center, 10 Harrison Avenue. "The Harbor" will provide a place of respite, to include a mid-day meal, showers, computer access, and access to other services in a comfortable, welcoming environment.

Those giving their time will aid in the check-in process, lunch preparation and service, shower monitoring, and in other ways. If interested, please fill out an application (found in the display area of the Gathering Space) and submit it to **Sandy Peterkin**, in the Church Office.

You will need to participate in a training session. For further information, please contact **John Moravetz (564-9526)** or **Jo Hanny (229-5080)**.

Congregational Officers:

President	Stan York	345-0073
Vice President	Emily Rossiter	345-6206
Secretary	Dave Clark	603-6346
Treasurer	Paul Kristiansen	220-2709
Financial Secretary	Linda Vonderheide	645-4059

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



Church Staff:

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

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

Church Council:

Amy Bergh	566-4557
Dave Clark	603-6346
Keith Egloff	229-7859
Terry Hinders	221-0904
Linda Laity Hite	220-2776
Brad Leek	250-3473
Sherry Phipps	810-4658
Emily Rossiter	345-6206
George Vonderheide	645-4059
Russ White	220-1023
Carol Wiers	564-0164
Stan York	345-0073

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