



# The Quill

## THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

September 2017



### WHAT DO WE DO?

That is the question that I am hearing at this point. What do we do, as followers of Jesus, as we process the hatred and violence that erupted in Charlottesville on August 12? I have a number of suggestions.

First, we must recognize the reality and danger of the racial hatred that is coming from groups that are defending white supremacy in our culture. We cannot be naïve about this. According to the FBI, these racial hate groups proliferated in reaction to the last president. According to these groups' leaders' open statements, they are feeling emboldened under our current president. We can no longer ignore this re-emerging evil that our fathers and grandfathers fought to defeat during the last World War. For years, a question has been: "Why wasn't Nazism stopped in the 1930s, before it became a threat to all of humanity?" Aren't there similarities in our nation today? We must resist this out-in-the-open racial hatred.

Second, the stories about Jesus make it clear that violence has no place in the social and religious change that he was teaching. As followers of Jesus, we must fight the evil of racial hatred in a way that is non-violent. We must speak—that racial hatred has no place in our community. We must act—reaching out and building bridges, getting to know others who are "different from us." From these relationships, God the Holy Spirit will build local communities of people that are open and diverse and loving. This is the starting point for the healing of our nation.

Third, the stories about Jesus make it clear that Jesus was especially welcoming and invitational to those who were oppressed; those who were relegated to the margins by those with power. This is very hard for

those of us who are able to exercise influence within "the system." In particular, those of us who are white must recognize what is called white privilege. Most of us don't even recognize it, in the same way that a fish doesn't recognize water! In a nutshell, this is the effect of white privilege: in most cases, when it comes to first impressions, a person with white skin is given the benefit of the doubt while a person with dark skin is looked at with suspicion. It is good that we are finally listening to people of color who are saying what they have experienced for years. As painful as it is, we who are white must acknowledge white privilege, to repent of our role in this (even when we haven't even known our role), and to work to repair damage that has been done.

Fourth, in the stories about Jesus, it is striking how often he surprises both his supporters and opponents—when they are locked into polarities—with a path forward that the two sides haven't thought of! As followers of this Jesus, we must resist simplistic thinking. We must resist taking one side and blaming "the other." The struggle that has come out into the open transcends political parties and partisan positions. The Biblical word for this is "humility." Humility is a close second to love as the most important trait of a faithful follower of Jesus.

I want to share below a brilliant description of humility, from a recent column by David Brooks, even though the word he uses is "modesty." (And, if I may point this out, notice what an example of bridge-building this represents: a Jewish editorial columnist who is describing classical Christian theology, and even quoting a Danish Lutheran theologian.)

"In fact, the most powerful answer to fanaticism is modesty. Modesty is an epistemology directly opposed to the conspiracy mongering mind-set. It means having the courage to understand that the world is too

complicated to fit into one political belief system. It means understanding there are no easy answers or malevolent conspiracies that can explain the big political questions or the existential problems. Progress is not made by crushing some swarm of malevolent foes; it's made by finding balance between competing truths—between freedom and security, diversity and solidarity. There's always going to be counter-evidence and mystery. There is no final arrangement that will end conflict, just endless searching and adjustment.

"Modesty means having the courage to rest in anxiety and not try to quickly escape it. Modesty means being tough enough to endure the pain of uncertainty and coming to appreciate that pain. Uncertainty and anxiety throw you off the smug island of certainty and force you into the free waters of creativity and learning. As Kierkegaard put it, 'The more original a human being is, the deeper is his anxiety.'"

These are some preliminary thoughts toward an answer to the question, "What do we do?" as we fight against the evil of racial hatred. I am eager to continue our conversations.

One final preliminary thought: This is not something we can do on our own. We can only do it with God's empowerment. As theologian David Lose puts it: "[W]e...need to proclaim the Gospel clearly and compellingly, the Gospel that in Jesus' cross and resurrection we discover that God's love is, in fact, for all; that God is working in us and with us and through us to make this world a more just and equitable place; that God will grant us courage and grace sufficient to meet the challenges of the day; and that when we stand with and for those who suffer or are persecuted, we encounter God in a powerful and palpable way. Because the amazing thing about the Gospel is that, unlike instruction or good advice, it creates in us the ability to do what God would have us do and be the persons God calls us to be."

Blessings to you followers of Jesus!  
**Pastor Andy Ballentine**



## SEPTEMBER BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

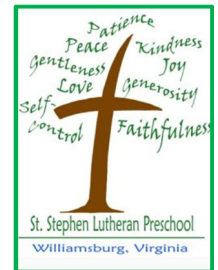
Those celebrating anniversaries of their new birth in Christ:

- 2 Heidi Flatin, George Vonderheide
- 3 Jerry Trone
- 6 Christine Drake, Spencer Sipes
- 10 Dianne Harris, Austin Pierce
- 11 Karen Schlicht, Hannah Wiers
- 13 Jeane Moore
- 14 Thom Recktenwald
- 16 Jack Harris
- 17 Greta Scheitrum
- 18 Susan Britcher
- 20 Ann McAteer
- 21 Josiah Hallman
- 23 Erika Cave
- 24 Katelin Cosby

Others with September baptismal anniversaries:

Marcie Clark  
 Doug Cummings

## SUPPORT OUR ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL



Harris Teeter offers a program, "Together in Education," whereby you can help the Preschool earn funds by giving your HT cashier St. Stephen's school code—1216—and your VIC card when you check out. Once linked, the Preschool will receive a percentage of your Harris Teeter brand purchases.

Mark your calendar for **Thursday, September 14**, for our Preschool's first Spirit Night of 2017-2018. Join us at Chick-fil-A on **Montecello Avenue (by Target) between 4:30 and 7:30 PM** for dinner. Mention St. Stephen Lutheran Preschool, and a portion of your bill will be donated to us. Bring your family, friends and neighbors to support the Preschool.







### **DINING WITH FRIENDS**

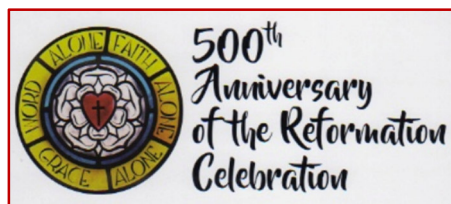
Have a meal with SSLC friends, old and new, at *Sal's by Victor*—Williamsburg Shopping Center, Richmond Road—**Sunday,**

**September 17, at 1:00 PM.** Call **Marian Thies** at 757-258-0018 to RSVP or details.



### ***Are you interested in learning more about St. Stephen?***

Join Pastor Griffin on **Sunday, October 15,** and **Sunday, October 22,** at 10:00 AM downstairs in the College Room for more information about St. Stephen. We will learn more about being Lutheran, our VA Synod, and the ELCA. Discover the ministries with which our congregation is involved and meet others who are also curious about these things.



### ***St. Stephen—King of Glory—Our Saviour's***

Our commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation continues! St. Stephen, King of Glory and Our Saviour's Lutheran Churches—united in Christ and sharing our heritage of faith—are joining together to serve God's people.

Join us at King of Glory Lutheran Church, 4897 Longhill Road, Williamsburg, for part or all of the day on **Saturday, October 28.** This is our schedule of sharing for the day:

**1:00-1:30 PM** Prayer Service

**1:30-3:30 PM** Help pack 10,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now; or, write letters to emergency personnel and soldiers.

**4:00-5:00 PM** Prayer Service & Reformation Hymn Sing

Together, all three churches will be delivering October's collection of food to FISH on **Friday, October 27.**



### ***"IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARTIN LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION"***

***JUNE 13-21, 2018***

This trip is your chance to explore Germany and sites associated with Luther and other reformers. It will be the final event in our congregation's commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. Our leader will be Dr. Monte Luker of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC. He led the trip Pastor Ballentine took to Egypt and Israel several years ago, and is an excellent travel leader.

**The first payment can be made as late as February 28.** If you pay by cash or check, there's a 4% discount. For more information, or to use a credit card, visit: [http://www.jcbs.org/find\\_trip/detail.aspx?tour=JX18/L&d=06-13-2018&group=10939](http://www.jcbs.org/find_trip/detail.aspx?tour=JX18/L&d=06-13-2018&group=10939)



### ***2018 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING***

At the end of **June 2018,** St. Stephen is planning on sending six youth with two adult chaperones to Houston, TX, for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. Our goal is to raise \$14,400, and, thanks to hard work and generosity, we have collected \$7,200.

**Now through September 24,** we are collecting change to reach our goal. Either drop a handful of change into the collection jar, take a jar home and fill it, or contact Pastor Griffin or the Church Office and tell us you need it picked up. You can either anonymously donate or put your name on it, and we will let you know how much you have given (for tax purposes).

Did you know that a 20-ounce water bottle holds about \$100 in dimes and that a mini M&M tube holds \$14 in quarters? Please help be a part of "the change" and get our youth to Texas.





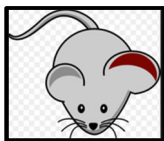


**A Calendar of Events is available at:**  
[www.saintstephenlutheran.net](http://www.saintstephenlutheran.net)

- Click on: *More to Read and Download*
- Look on the lefthand side, under *More Pages*
- Click on: *Calendar*—  
<http://www.saintstephenlutheran.net/calendar/>
- This is a convenient way to see what is happening in the coming months.

## ***The Church Mouse Hears***

... Pastor Cheryl Griffin's August 13 children's sermon contained an apropos acronym, FROG, i.e., *Fully Rely On God*, aptly illustrated with a colorful visual aid (L) ... Parish and Preschool Administrator **Sandy Peterkin's** 15 years of service to St. Stephen was recognized on the same



Sunday with a celebration between services (R).

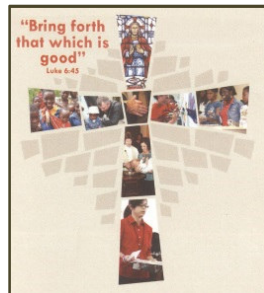


## ***FALL "INNER HEALING" STUDY AT ST. MARTIN'S***

David Benedict, one of SSLC's friends at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, has alerted us to this: The Triangle Chapter of the Order of Saint Luke is presenting a series of lessons on Inner Healing, being taught at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 1333 Jamestown Road, **10-11:30 AM** on these **Saturdays: September 16, October 14, and November 18.**

Participants will learn about deep spiritual healing, a process which helps with our sense of belonging, sense of worth and sense of being competent. Spiritual maturity and healing old wounds will be explored.

For more information about the Order of St. Luke, go to <https://orderofstluke.org/en/about.html>. To register for this event, please send an email with your contact information to: [oslwb1@gmail.com](mailto:oslwb1@gmail.com).



## ***ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE UPDATE***

Members of the Endowment Fund Committee are elected by the congregation to serve a three-year term that is renewable for a second term. The committee extends their appreciation to **Ingrid Brown** and **Lou Rossiter**, who had each served two consecutive terms. Ingrid was the chairman for five years and led the committee in forming *The 1956 Society*, which now has commitments for more than \$900,000 to further the mission of St. Stephen Lutheran Church. Lou Rossiter expertly guided and recorded the fund's finances and investments. The current funds have reached a point where the committee can begin to make grants, such as the one planned for special outreach through the sermon video recording project.

Newly elected to the Endowment Fund Committee are **Glenn Joppa** and **Bob Harman**. The group will resume meetings in September. On the agenda will be continued efforts toward the goal of a SSLC endowment of \$1.2 million, and the committee will also consider suggestions for future grants from the fund. As always, input from the congregation is appreciated.

Current members of the Endowment Fund Committee include: **Gerri Bass, Bob Harman, Glenn Joppa, Gary Krull and Charlene Smith.**



## ***NEW ADDRESS***

**Chuck and Rosalie Frey**  
 4108 Tufton  
 Williamsburg, VA 23188  
[clfrey@cox.net](mailto:clfrey@cox.net)



## 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	Jennifer Voigt	
7	Cricket Reubush	
8	Joe Beene	
9	Ailene Bartlett	
10	David Allen	Erika Cave
11	Ed Brown	
12	Jusup Silitonga	
13	Kendall Delehanty	Nancy Scanlan
14	Bob Achenbach	Jonathan Hallman
	Jim Ogborn	
16	Billie Purse	Fran Schwab
	Brian VanRosendale	Stan York
17	Greta Scheitrum	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	Greg Fitzpatrick	Katie Harms
	Philip McKenna	
24	Phyllis Spencer	
26	Sandy Croushore	Bob Harman
	Hunter Ogborn	
28	Dan Stimson	Mia Timberg
	Hannah Wiers	Alyssa Martin
29	Stephanie Drake	Thomas Drake
30	Mark Hinders	



## PRAYERS



**Join your prayers for healing** with God's desires for Trudy Arnold, Ed Brown, Nancy Childress, York Doerr, Bobbie Harms, Gary Krull, John Moravetz, Ursula Murden, Randy Punchard, Regina Root, and Dan Stimson.

**Pray for these who are unable to get to worship:** Philip Arnold, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Stan Hobday, Donna May Hochstetler, Mary Jamerson, Helen Lenox, "Pete" Peterson, Betty Rickerson, Dick Reeves, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, Rudy Stegmann, and Jerry Trone.

### **Pray God's blessings on**

- **Matt Bosworth**, serving with the Army in Iraq and we give thanks for the birth of Matt and Jess' daughter, Carolyn "Carrie" Marie, born July 25!
- **Patrick Diehl**, son of our Preschool teacher, Elaine Diehl, serving with the Army in South Korea.
- **Michael** and **Sharon Powell** as they await the birth of their baby.

### **Pray for these loved ones of our congregation:**

Nathalee Accomando, Tom and Bea Black, Blume family, Grady Calhoun, Elaine Cari, Marla Canny, Arlene Carruthers, Lynn Chandler, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Kathryn Dieter, Inge Felbier, Karen Felton, Alma Jean Fisher, Mary Fitzgerald, Mary Funkhauser, Mertie Funkhouser, Bill Gottschalk, Char Grabowski, Jean Gray, Anthony Hargrave, Sara Jane Harlan, Sam and Ronny Hayes, Alan Hochstetler, Marian Hunt, Fran Kibler, Jack Kaminski, Art Kirk, Carl Kountze III, Dean Kreitzer, Jane Kristiansen, Mary Beth LaFave, Gaston Lambert, Frances Link, Mildred Lindblad, McGraw family, Bruce Milne, Louise Mitchell, Heidi Morris, Mary Newberg, Barb Pendleton, Lesa Peppers, Inge Petersen, Dino Polizois, Robert Pushaw, Pat Ramering, Paul Ratzow, Ries family, Al Rogers, Shann Rufer, Bruce Semanchik, Georg Siegert, Linda Smalarz, Sharon Smith, Evelyn Spear, Karl Spiker, Dave Splittorff, James Storm, Janelle Story, Pierrette Tipton, Kimberly Turner, Sue Weilmuenster, Scott Wimbish, and Micah Zabell.



## QUOTES TO PONDER



To our Dear Family at St. Stephen,  
We are humbled to be a part of  
a congregation which has given us so  
much love and support during the  
decline and death of our dear Josita.  
We appreciate the lovely reception you  
provided and every hug, card, kind  
word and food. Blessings on our journey  
together, Jane + Doug



**Thank you** to our congregation for the hundreds and hundreds of soup labels and 'box tops for education.' I send them to Lutheran Family Services of Virginia, who gives them to their Minnick Schools. They are used to buy things like playground equipment, field trips, school supplies, etc.



Unfortunately, Campbell Soup has discontinued its labels for education program, but we will continue to collect 'box tops for education' for the Minnick Schools. Please place your box tops ... in the basket in the Gathering Space.

Many thanks for your help,  
**Chris Einarsen**

**Peter 3:8-11:** "Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, ... whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil ... ; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it."

**Nelson Mandela:** "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

**Mother Teresa:** "Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person. Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."

**The Dalai Lama:** "It is under the greatest adversity that there exists the greatest potential for doing good, both for oneself and others."

**Martin Luther:** "You are not only responsible for what you say but for what you do not say."

**Eleanor Roosevelt:** "One's philosophy is not best expressed in words; it is expressed in the choices one makes ... and the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility."

**Martin Luther King, Jr.:** "History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people."



**Jo Moore**  
Sarah Estes

**Homeless Ministry**  
Fred and Edith Haecker—in honor of Sandy Peterkin

St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
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Williamsburg, VA 23185  
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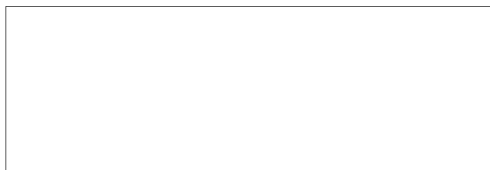
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Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



**The Quill**      **[www.saintstephenlutheran.net](http://www.saintstephenlutheran.net)**      **September 2017**

***Congregational Officers:***

<i>President</i>	<b>Russ White</b>	220-1023
<i>Vice President</i>	<b>John McCurry</b>	606-389-1082
<i>Treasurer</i>	<b>Paul Kristiansen</b>	220-2709
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	<b>Linda Vonderheide</b>	645-4059
<i>Congregational Secretary</i>	<b>Carol Wiers</b>	564-0164

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



***Church Staff:***

<i>Pastor</i>	<b>Andy Ballentine</b>	229-6742
	email	pastorab@
<i>Pastor</i>	<b>Cheryl Ann Griffin</b>	876-6371
	email	pastorcg@
<i>Parish and Preschool Administrator</i>	<b>Sandy Peterkin</b>	office@
<i>Director of Music</i>	<b>Karen Ives</b>	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurse</i>	<b>Marcie Clark</b>	ParishNurse@

***Church Council:***

David Allen	645-8220
Alan Balma	206-1430
Amy Bergh	566-4557
Dave Gamble	564-7030
Jeanne Garrison	229-0978
Corey Knestrick	367-9904
John McCurry	606-389-1082
Sherry Phipps	810-4658
George Vonderheide	645-4059
Russ White	220-1023
Carol Wiers	564-0164
David Wills	378-2715

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612 Jamestown Road  
Williamsburg, VA 23185

***Co-Editors:***

Diane Reeves (*interim*)  
reevesde2@gmail.com  
Reed Nester  
reednester@gmail.com

***Mailing:***

Pam Buckley

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