



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

September 2018



SPIRITUALITY, RELIGION, AND POLITICS

I'm working on definitions of three words that get to the core of what we are about, as followers of Jesus and as citizens. Do these make sense to you?

Spirituality is the desire for God. (This is true, even when the "spiritual" person does not know his/her desire is for God.) This hunger is created within us by God the Holy Spirit. As God draws us closer in our desire, the Spirit bears fruit within and among us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. *Galatians 5:22-23*

Religion is the set of daily and weekly practices that the Spirit uses to cultivate and nourish the fruit of the Spirit within and among us. Engaging in these practices in community decreases the danger of self-absorptive narcissism. Additional indications of spiritual formation are: Hospitality to strangers. Inclusion. Perseverance in prayer. Self-control. Compassion. Humility. Meekness (which means courageous resistance against the impulse to respond to violence with violence). Forgiveness. Thankfulness. Offering blessings rather than curses. Sharing in others' joys and sufferings. Associating with the lowly. Loving and feeding your enemies. Responding to evil with goodness. *Romans 12:2, 9-21; Colossians 3:12-17*

Politics is living together and working together in community and in civic life. Followers of Jesus are called to act politically to make known in the world the characteristics Paul lists in *Galatians, Romans and Colossians*.

How can these definitions be improved? I'd love to hear what you think!

pastorab@saintstephenlutheran.net

Pastor Andy Ballentine



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT ST. STEPHEN?

Learn more about St. Stephen Lutheran Church and meet others who are new to our congregation. Join **Pastor Griffin** on **October 14** and **October 21**. Our Inquirer's Class will meet downstairs in the College Room from **10:00 to 10:45 AM** on both Sundays. For those interested in joining our congregation, we will receive new members on All Saints Day, Sunday, **November 4**.



MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

- **September 4** – Women are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Tuesday** of this month.
- **September 6** – 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.



NEXT PUB THEOLOGY SEPTEMBER 4

It's been a long time since we last had a "Pub Theology" session. Let's make it a monthly event, **every first Tuesday, 7:00 PM.**

Here's the monthly topic: What have been your experiences following the way of Jesus? What have been challenges this month? The specifics of what we talk about will change from month-to-month! We'll be able to share our journeys with each other, as resources for each other.

What does it look like when we're following the way of Jesus? God the Holy Spirit forms you in these counter-cultural Christian practices and virtues, as: Love. Joy. Peace. Patience. Kindness. Generosity. Gentleness. Hospitality to strangers. Inclusion. Perseverance in prayer. Self-control. Compassion. Humility. Meekness (which means courageous resistance against the impulse to respond to violence with violence). Forgiveness. Thankfulness. Offering blessings rather than curses. Sharing in others' joys and sufferings. Associating with the lowly. Loving and feeding your enemies. Responding to evil with goodness. (*Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 12:2, 9-21; Colossians 3:12-17*)

The September Pub Theology will be on **September 4 at 7:00 PM** at Billsburg Brewery, 2054 Jamestown Rd, Williamsburg, VA 23185, across from the entrance to Jamestown Settlement. We'll gather at the picnic tables under the big tent. Even if you don't drink beer, join us!

Pastor Andy Ballentine

LANDS OF LUTHER REUNION AND GATHERING



Participants from the June "Lands of Martin Luther" trip will be gathering on Sunday evening, **September 16** for a reunion and get together to share pictures and stories of our experiences in Germany. Many St. Stephen members supported this trip but did not accompany us, and we would love for you to join us that evening. We'll start at **6:00 PM** with a potluck and share experiences at **7:00 PM**. Feel free to come and bring a dish to share.

Nancy Egloff



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Arnie Janot	
2	Brigitte Dietrich	Anne Schone
3	Zachary Meermans	
5	Brian Bergh	
	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	Matthew Groman-Griffin	
13	Kendall Delehanty	
14	Bob Achenbach	Jonathan Hallman
	Jim Ogborn, Jr.	
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
22	Joe Philipoom	Karl Zimbauer
23	Greg Fitzpatrick	Katie Harms
	Philip McKenna	
24	Phyllis Spencer	
26	Sandy Croushore	Bob Harman
	Hunter Ogborn	
28	Mia Timberg	Hannah Wiers
	Alyssa Martin	
29	Jim Cobb	Stephanie Drake
	Thomas Drake	
30	Mark Hinders	



SUNDAY DINING OUT

We are going to Victoria's Restaurant (Williamsburg Crossing Shopping Center at 5269 John Tyler Highway) for the new 2018-2019 schedule of the Dining Out Group. Join us at **1:00 PM** on **Sunday, September 23** for friendship, pleasant conversation and delicious food. Fill out the green sheet or call **Chuck and Ginny Hilbinger** at (757) 259-0343 by September 18. See you there!



We give thanks for the ministry of **Phyllis and Gayle Spencer**. Phyllis and Gayle have just “retired” from helping in the Church office.

Phyllis began assisting with the processing of *The Quill* some 37 years ago! She remembers typing address labels out by hand to place on mimeographed newsletters – that were collated by walking around a table taking one page from each of the piles that had been printed!

With new technology, Phyllis and Gayle no longer have to collate or fold the bulletins, but they have helped prepare them for worship each week by placing the inserts in, as needed.

Their Friday afternoons belong to them now. Thank you for your many years of ministry!

Sandy Peterkin, Parish Administrator

GREATER WILLIAMSBURG OUTREACH MISSION



A Coalition of Faith Groups United to Serve the Homeless

Thank you for your generous donation of \$100 to the Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission. The monies you have provided will go toward ongoing support of GWOM activities including Grace Haven Family Shelter, Harbor Day Shelter, and food programs including the Community Kitchen and Summer Lunch initiative. We are thankful for the partnership of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in efforts to help our homeless neighbors turn their lives around.

Carl H. Gerhold, Vice-Chair, GWOM



**217 THANKS
AND SMILES ...**

... from the children in Grove for their new school shoes! What a joy our Church members have been to

work with on this project. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who purchased shoes and to those who donated money for me to purchase shoes. **Susan Kauffman** was a big help to me in buying shoes this year, and a belated thank you to **Susan Neidlinger** who helped me last year. This was our largest number of shoes in the 13 years we have been doing this. It is a lot of work, but so much fun to see all the colorful shoes purchased. Please watch for pictures on the monitors in the narthex in late September – you will see lots of smiles! Again, my thanks!!

Marilyn Johnson

Social Ministry Coordinating Committee



We wish to thank the members of the St. Stephen Lutheran Church for your generous donation to Meals on Wheels in the amount of \$1,000. With your assistance, we are able to sustain our program of delivering hot, nutritious meals to the homes of individuals in our community needing our service ... a significant percentage of whom cannot afford to pay even the basic cost of the meal.

To keep you up to date on the status of our program, here are some facts:

- We currently deliver **110-120 meals per day** spread over ten routes.
- The **volunteer commitment** on the part of the dedicated individuals who deliver our meals is extraordinary! This group annually contributes over **7,000 hours** of service while driving their privately owned vehicles (with no reimbursement) almost **60,000 miles**.

We can *always* use more volunteers to deliver meals. If anyone is interested in volunteering, feel free to call the office at the number listed below. Or if you would like to accompany a volunteer on one of our routes to learn more about what we do, we would be happy to set that up as well. And as always, if you know of someone who can use our service, please call us at 220-9250.

Catherine Upton, Executive Director



MUSIC NOTES FROM KAREN

Choir time is here, and I am thrilled to begin the “new season.” Please prayerfully consider sharing your gifts with your congregational family this year. Do not hide your light under a bushel. And for those who prefer the instrumental arena, we want your light to shine too. So for argument’s sake let’s say you have made the commitment and are joining our music ministry - here is your *Welcome Letter*:

Dear Choir Member,

Welcome to the Choir. I’m so glad you’re here. I consider your enrollment as a real answer to my prayer that God would “send forth Laborers into the harvest” (Matthew 9:38). Over the weeks to come you’re going to learn so much about how to sing, how to read music, about worship leadership. And if you’ve been down this road before (in other words, you are a returning choir member) you’re going to revisit the concepts of breath support, vowel production and consonant enunciation. I am so excited for you as a new member or a returning one! As you will see, our rehearsals are fairly fast-paced. We’ve found that in the long run this helps the choir learn music better, but it does take a while to get the hang of it. If you feel a little overwhelmed by that first rehearsal, then that’s a good sign – it simply means that you’re normal. Don’t be discouraged by this.

I want you to know that you won’t be alone. I’m going to be right there with you and veteran choir members will also be there to encourage, laugh, and pray with you on this musical journey. If you have any questions about Choir or the music ministry, feel free to ask. My cell number is (828) 242-1133, and the Church number is (757) 229-6688. I’m so looking forward to serving the Lord together with you in the days ahead. May God richly bless you and yours.

“Sing”serely,

Karen Ives, Director of Music



You can assist with legal fees for immigrants held in detention centers, by writing a check payable to St. Stephen, and noting “Jean Kuhn Memorial Fund - Immigration” on the memo line.

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. STEPHEN



Riddle Me This: What did the Care Receiver say during his visit with his Stephen Minister?

Answer: I can’t tell you that. We have confidentiality rules.

I wonder why more people don’t take advantage of the Stephen Ministers available to our congregation. Could it be that some folks don’t want others to know their business? One of the primary guidelines in Stephen Ministry is confidentiality. Stephen Ministers do not share the private information of their care receivers with others. In fact, Pastor Cheryl and Jane Wills (our Stephen Leader) are the only ones who know who our care receivers are.

Stephen Ministers meet once a month to discuss the situations of our care receivers with other Stephen Ministers, as well as Pastor Cheryl and Leader Jane, but names are not used, and rules of confidentiality govern our discussions.

Ideally, Stephen Ministers meet with their care receivers once a week at a time and place that is convenient for both. Usually, these meetings last an hour to an hour and a half, but no exact time frame is required. Stephen Ministers are not charged with solving anyone’s problems, but are present for active listening and support. Some of the common burdens faced by our care receivers are illness, injury, surgery, divorce, aging and problems with family members.

Please remember that your Stephen Minister, should you choose to have one, will never divulge your private information.

If you have an interest in this ministry, either as a prospective care receiver or as a potential Stephen Minister, please join us, your Stephen Ministers and Leaders, on **Sunday, September 16 between 9:45 and 10:45 AM** in the gathering space for a session we will call **The Stephen Ministry Corner**.

Doug Moore, Stephen Minister

CHALLENGES AND CHANGES IN LATER LIFE: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?



Are you or a loved one facing later life challenges? Please join us on **Saturday morning September 22 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM** at **St. Stephen Lutheran Church** as we explore choices and options for ourselves and those for whom we care.

Marcie Clark, Parish Nurse

“Aging Safely at Home or Elsewhere”

Ed Golden (owner of Comfort Keepers) will share his extensive knowledge and experience in the world of Senior Care. His unique perspective is not only as a provider, but also a prominent volunteer contributor within our whole senior caregiving community.

The journey of finding services and care providers for yourself or a loved one can be overwhelming. Ed will discuss the various types of Senior Care Services available in our community and how to select those services that best meet the needs of the individual senior's situation. He will also provide guidance and suggest helpful questions to guide your decisions in choosing these services.

“As You Wish: Advanced Care Planning”

David Murray is the executive director of “As You Wish,” a program of the Advance Care Planning Coalition of Virginia. David launched this program with our regional health systems and area agencies on aging, in 2014. Previously, he developed the Peninsula Aging and Disability Network with the Peninsula Agency on Aging.

David will discuss the importance, at any age, of having an Advance Directive for Healthcare. He will address the steps that help each of us develop a document that will 1) identify your wishes, 2) provide guidance for your family, and 3) provide the medical team information about your wishes.

“Ending Life With Quality”

Janna Roche has served both the Hospice House and Patriots Colony Retirement Community as chaplain until she semi-retired. Since then she has been doing community outreach and celebrant work at Bucktrout Funeral Home. She also serves on the board of the Olde Towne Medical and Dental Center. She just published a book *“Visiting Hours Are Over - A Chaplain Discovers What Really Matters from Her Parents' Deaths.”*

Dying is non-negotiable. Sadly in our death-denying society many of us choose not to confront this truth. This presentation, based on personal experience, will provide practical death education to empower individuals to make wiser decisions regarding the dying times they eventually will face.

CHALLENGES AND CHANGES IN LATER LIFE: LAST THINGS - NOT JUST FOR ELDERS!



The people who love us will be so grateful if we have cared for our final arrangements! Join us on **Saturday, October 6 from 8:30 AM – 12:00 Noon at St. Stephen Lutheran Church** to learn about planning for death. Save the date!

Pastor Cheryl Ann Griffin

“Death for Beginners”

Karen Jones is the author of *Death for Beginners: Your No-Nonsense, Money-Saving Guide to Planning for the Inevitable*. Karen will offer information on the difficult subject of planning for one's own death or organizing funerals for loved ones. She will discuss topics ranging from cremation, burial, caskets, services, and organ donation, offering definitions, examples, pros and cons, and helpful worksheets for narrowing down the best options. Karen emphasizes practicality and frugality, citing that if smart choices are made beforehand then expensive choices made in grief can be avoided.

“Funeral Planning”

Pastor Judy Cobb is a member of our congregation who retired after serving the ELCA for decades. It has been one of her passions to help people plan their own funerals. To this end, she has put together a work book to help. She believes that planning a funeral service is a gift to many people. It relieves the family from great stress when in the midst of grieving. When you choose hymns and scripture they become a statement of faith that gifts all who hear. Judy will talk about how to plan your service, ensuring that your values are expressed.

“Leaving a Legacy”

Cindy Aegerter, Senior Gift Planner from InFaith Community Foundation will talk about how your generosity can continue to benefit our many ministries through the **1956 Society**. It is through the generous gifts of many who have died that will provide future financial security for the church to not only continue its current ministry and programs, but to further expand them as the need arises.

As Ellen Hinlicky said at the first gathering of the 1956 Society, “If you believe that God has called your church, St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Williamsburg, Virginia to be a part of the ongoing effort to shine the light of Christ’s love to the world, in this place and into the future, then an endowment is a statement of conviction, and of confidence, and especially of hope.”



SEPTEMBER 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 Andy Ballentine

2	Heidi Flatin	George Vonderheide
3	Jerry Trone	
6	Christine Drake	Forrest Fenstermaker
	Spencer Sipes	
10	Dianne Harris	
11	Karen Schlicht	
13	Jeane Moore	
14	Thom Recktenwald	
16	Jack Harris	
18	Susan Britcher	
20	Ann McAteer	
21	Josiah Hallman	
23	Erika Cave	

Others with September baptismal anniversaries:
Marcie Clark

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



Sally Crocker
Brookdale
3800 Treyburn Drive, Apt 129-D
Williamsburg, VA 23185



Thord Einarsen

Elise Emanuel

Gary Krull

Derek Krull – Grove Sneaker Program

PRAYERS



Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Jack Behlendorf, Kathie Eichfeld, Julie Francis, Steve Grant, Sonja Landvogt, Keara Mahony, and Paul Reier.**

God has given Sonja Landvogt 96 years of life! Send her a card!

Pray God's peace for **Helen Allen** and family as they mourn the death of her brother, Dean; for **Bob and Rita Achenbach** as they mourn the death of her father, Ed; and for **Margaret Krull** and family as they mourn the death of her brother, Charles.

Pray God's blessings on **Roberta and Dave Sulouff, Shana and Rich Wilkins, and Jayme and Paul Lawson** as they wait for the birth of their babies.

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **Philip Arnold, Doris Bass, Preston and Birdie Burton, Carolee Bush, Martha and Gene Clements, Sally Crocker, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Stan Hobday, Donna May Hochstetler, Mary Jamerson, Helen Lenox, Dick Reeves, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, Jerry Trone, and Ladonna Wiederholt.**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Belinda Adams, Philip Andrew, Mary Ann Arnold, Nathan Ballentine, Tom and Bea Black, the Blume family, Eliza Bicknell, Don Brannon, Marla Canny, Elaine Cari, Ray Cole, Rosemarie Cristofolo, Toni Day, Karen Deperini, Kathryn Dieter, Holly Doyle, Bubba Drury, Angela Earl, Lucy Eyler, Inge Felbier, Tammy Fine, Mary Fitzgerald, Sonya Frantz, Mertie Funkhouser, David Gade, Bill Gottschalk, Sam and Ronny Hayes, Sharon Hegland, Chip Hilbinger, Polly Jarrell, Anne Johns, Sherry Johnston, Fran Kibler, Chris Kinney, Art Kirk, Rebecca Krueger, Terry Krull, Arthur Lapp, Annie Layendecker, Mildred Lindblad, Charlotte Litterer, Hannah Mac, Abby Mayer, McGraw Family, Heidi Morris, Joan Nares, Mary Newberg, J. Drew O'Neal, Inge Petersen, Dick Phillips, Dino Polizois, Jackie Randall, Shann Rufer, Ed Schardein, Bruce Semanchik, James Smith, Evelyn Spear, Dave Splittorff, Pierrette Tipton, Tait Walker, Pat Ward, Sue Weilmuenster, Peggy Wright, Aaron Zabell, and Diane Zulawski.

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



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Church in America**
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Congregational Officers:

<i>President</i>	David Wills	378-2715
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<i>Interim Treasurer</i>	Jane deSolms	565-5646
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Linda Vonderheide	645-4059
<i>Congregational Secretary</i>	Carol Wiers	564-0164

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_____@saintstephenlutheran.net



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	email	Pastorab@
<i>Pastor</i>	Cheryl Ann Griffin	876-6371
	email	Pastorc@

Parish and Preschool

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<i>Director of Music</i>	Karen Ives	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurses</i>	Marcie Clark	Parishnursemc@
	Diana Tiller-Dichtel	Parishnursedt@
<i>Preschool Lead Teacher</i>	Susan Ruane	Preschool@

Church Council:

Bob Achenbach	206-1789
David Allen	645-8220
Alan Balma	206-1430
Amy Bergh	566-4557
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