



The Quill

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Williamsburg, Virginia

September 2019



**MAY GOD BLESS YOU
AND KEEP YOU**

Many of asked for a copy of the Franciscan Benediction that we used in worship. Here it is, and if you have already read it, read it again.

May God bless you with a restless discomfort
about easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,
so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.

May God bless you with holy anger
at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

May God bless you with the gift of tears
to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish,
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness
to believe that you really can make a difference in this world,
so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

This benediction speaks the truth of God's work in our lives. God brings good out of bad. This is what heals us, to take our pain, and turn it around to help someone else.

Blessings on all your moments,

Pastor Cheryl Ann Griffin



MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

- **September 3** – Women are invited to join together for breakfast the first **Tuesday** of this month.
- **September 5** – 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.



SECURITY & SAFETY COMMITTEE

A Committee has been formed to consider the security and safety of our church. They will consider aspects of church processes, property condition and the local environment. Topics under discussion include physical safety, medical emergency response, and more. If you have any questions, concerns, or inputs for this Committee, please feel free to talk to any of the Committee members. Members are **Paula Agor** 757-294-5134, **Nancy Carter** 757-229-4907, **Brenda Lee** 757-912-1842, **Pastor Griffin** 757-229-6688, and **Paul Reier** 757-566-0092.



ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS

Growing enduring gifts for future ministry

The Endowment Fund continues to grow modestly through current giving, bequests and investment income. Total assets at the end of July: \$295,558.

Current support for special projects

The Endowment Fund has paid \$8,250 toward the cost of replacing aging HVAC equipment servicing the Church Office and Fellowship Hall sections of the building.

Jane deSolms was elected to a three-year term on the Endowment Fund Committee at the Congregational Meeting in June.

Here's just one of the many ways to make a special gift to the Endowment Fund

Autumn is the perfect time to plan a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an IRA before the end of 2019. If you're over age 70½ and take a yearly Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA, you have the option to contribute part of all of your distribution directly to a charity. To do that, you must follow one special rule: the financial institution that holds your IRA must make out the check to the charity, not to you. You can count this contribution toward your RMD yet you do not claim it as regular income or pay tax on the amount. However, a QCD can't be claimed as a charitable contribution on your tax return.

If you are new to Qualified Charitable Deduction procedures, it would be a good idea to talk with Financial Secretary **Linda Vonderheide** or **Jane deSolms** before requesting one from your IRA.

Please talk with any member of the Endowment Fund Committee to learn more about making your own enduring gift now or through a bequest.

Joyce Beene, Jane deSolms, Glenn Joppa, Bob Harman, and Charlene Smith



CONGREGATION MEETING WITH VIRGINIA SYNOD

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 14, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**. Our congregation will meet with Pastor John Wertz, Assistant to the Bishop. We will talk about who we are as a church, and set a vision for the coming few years. Lunch will be provided. The meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall. Mark the green sheet at Sunday worship if you are able to attend, or call the Church Office at 229-6688.

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. STEPHEN



VISITATION TEAM AT ST. STEPHEN

Our fellow parishioners at St. Stephen may need spiritual, emotional or other support for a number of reasons. Sometimes they may require help that only Pastor Griffin or another ordained pastor could provide. Perhaps their needs are more health-related and a visit from the Parish Nurse or other member of the Health Ministry Team may be needed. Individuals undergoing stressful situations, especially over extended periods, may benefit from weekly visits from one of our Stephen Ministers.

Some of our members find themselves unable to attend worship due to medical infirmity or physical disability. It is easy to see how these members may feel left out or otherwise not included in the body of the church. We provide fellowship by visitation on a regular basis and by the extension of communion from our worship services by home communion ministers.

Others who are unable to attend church regularly are the caregivers. They are the ones who look after loved ones who are unable to care for themselves. They may also need to receive the fellowship of a caring visit from one of our visitation team members.

The Visitation Team at St. Stephen needs a few good men and women to help boost our numbers. The more visitation team members we have, the better the service that we can provide. We can use members for the visitation team, for the home communion team, for the health ministry team, or to consider entering training to become Stephen Ministers. **If you are interested in any of these positions, call Sandy Peterkin in the Church Office or contact Bill Dichtel at (757) 232-5334.**

For anyone interested in learning more about the Visitation Services and how to make visits, **Bill Dichtel** and **Diana Tiller-Dichtel, Parish Nurse**, will lead a session on **Thursday evening, September 19 at 7:00 PM**. We hope to see some of you there!

Bill Dichtel, Stephen Leader



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	John Gregoire	Arnie Janot
2	Anne Schone	
3	Zachary Meermans	
5	Brian Bergh	P.J. McAteer
	Jim Ogborn	
6	Jennifer Voigt	
7	Diana Lyons	Cricket Reubush
8	Joe Beene	
9	Ailene Bartlett	
10	David Allen	Erika Cave
11	Ed Brown	
12	Pam Little	
13	Kendall Delehanty	
14	Bob Achenbach	Jonathan Hallman
	Karen Ives	Jim Ogborn, Jr.
16	Billie Purse	Fran Schwab
	Brian VanRosendale	Stan York
17	Greta Scheitrum	Ernie Schwab
	Mallory Spencer	
19	Daniel Owens	Ladonna Wiederholt
20	Charlene Smith	Rushton White
22	Joe Philipoom	Karl Zimbauer
23	Katie Harms	George Martin
	Philip McKenna	
24	Phyllis Spencer	
26	Sandy Croushore	Bob Harman
	Hunter Ogborn	
28	Hannah Wiers	Alyssa Martin
29	Jim Cobb	
30	Mark Hinders	

WOMEN'S RETREAT- SAVE THE DATE



Planning for our annual Women's Retreat is underway. We will be on site at St. Stephen on **Saturday, March 14, 2020**. You won't want to miss this exciting day of inspiration and fellowship. Mark your calendar now and watch for further information.



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

September is National Preparedness Month. This is the peak of Atlantic hurricane season but many other things qualify as disasters. Attacks in public places, severe weather, fires, floods, and prolonged power outages are just a few of the events that are listed as disasters. While hurricanes happen during a specific time frame, other disasters can occur anytime during the year. Survival depends on knowing you have a plan and being able to carry it out effectively.

This year's theme is: "Prepared, Not Scared. Be Ready for Disasters." It is a time for individuals to get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, be informed about the different emergencies that may affect them, as well as taking the necessary steps to get trained and become engaged in community preparedness and response efforts.

The importance of being prepared cannot be overstated. Trying to figure out what to do in the midst of an emergency will produce less than optimal results. If you have pets, remember to include them in the preparations. If someone in your home is handicapped, disabled or otherwise unable to care for themselves, you need to have plans in place that will allow for their safety as well. There is a lot of information available on the internet to help with preparations. If you have questions or concerns, let me know. My door is open for conversation and help.

The following websites can provide more information on being prepared:

<https://www.ready.gov/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/features/petsanddisasters/index.html>

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/disaster-safety-for-people-with-disabilities.html>

<https://www.epa.gov/natural-disasters/september-preparedness-month>

Diana Tiller-Dichtel, Parish Nurse



Doris Bass
3301 Windbrook Lane, Apt. 118
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Joyce Behlendorf: JoyceL35@cox.net

Gene and Martha Clements
3301 Windbrook Lane, Apt. 216
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Dick Reeves
Apt.151
6500 Patriots Colony Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23188-1463

Joanne Shue
3301 Windbrook Lane, Apt. 109
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Joe Yancey: yancer60@gmail.com



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEW DOORS

Total donations to date = \$25,645

Memorials

*In Memory of Corky Umberger
Marian Thies*

To the Glory of God

Leland and Pamela Williams

ANDREW BALLENTINE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Total donations to date = \$22,265

Trudi Arnold
Sandy Reed-Bryant
Ted H. Ehrhardt
Arnie and Pat Janot
James and Diana Kane
Scott Kuhagan
Merry McCracken
Robert and Ann Reilly
Donna VanDuyse



In September the ELCA will again celebrate "God's Work. Our Hands". This year the Social Ministries Coordinating Committee has chosen to ask the Congregation to support Hospice House in two ways: providing items off their wish list that will be in August bulletins and an outdoor workday on **September 27 from 9:00-11:00 AM**. A headcount is needed for the workday so we can commit to projects like landscape cleanup, filling birdfeeders, painting fences, and power washing based on the workforce we have. Please mark the green sheet in the weekly bulletin to indicate you will help on the September 27. Watch for the "Hospice House" in the Gathering Space to deposit items from the wish list by September 9.

Susan Neidlinger
Social Ministries Coordinating Committee



After placing First in the State Competition, the Jamestown High School Envirothon team went on to capture the World Championship at the International Envirothon Competition in Raleigh, NC in July. They competed against teams from every state, as well as from Canada and China. The Jamestown team took home the title and \$15,000 in scholarship money to be split among the five team members. Our own **Audrey Root** is third from left, holding the First Place certificate. Congratulations Audrey!



SAFE & HEALTHY CHURCHES TRAINING

The inFaith Community Foundation is offering a training session geared toward ending family violence. It is being offered to clergy and lay leaders in order to help them understand the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence. The session highlights protocols to protect victims, prevent future harm, and respond effectively and sensitively to victims and survivors. Teams of 3-4 from each church are encouraged to attend. This is a two-day training session being held in Norfolk on **September 27 and 28** and seating is limited. Copies of the registration form are available in the Gathering Space. If you are interested, contact **Parish Nurse Diana Tiller-Dichtel** for more information.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Pastor Griffin will hold a Blessing of the Animals at **10:00 AM on Saturday, October 5**, on the forecourt of our building, facing Jamestown Road. October 4 is the feast of St. Francis, the patron

saint of animals and the environment. Bring your family pet for a blessing! If you wish to bring dog or cat food or pet toys, these will be taken to the Heritage Humane Society following the blessing.





2019 ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

AUGUST 5-10, 2019 • MILWAUKEE

Our denomination, the ELCA, holds a churchwide assembly triennially - to worship, vote on matters of governance and policy, and be church together for the sake of the world. This past week's churchwide assembly was full of important votes and actions, including:

- Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was reelected for a second six-year term on the first ballot.
- A declaration of apology to our siblings of African descent, which was received by the African Descent Lutheran Association with thanks and a call for accountability and living into the words shared.
- Approved resolution declaring the ELCA is a "sanctuary church body," encouraging participation in the ELCA AMMPARO initiative for migrant children, discernment of care for our immigrant neighbors in our context, and the promise of forthcoming resources for this work.
- Approved support for the World Council of Church's *Thursdays in Black*, awareness movement for a world without rape and violence.
- Voted to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance, in honor and remembrance of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9.
- Approved a declaration for inter-religious commitment, reaffirming ecumenical and interfaith partnerships.
- Approved the recommendations from a strategic taskforce which has been studying how to work toward authentic diversity in our church.
- Approved memorials: affirming but not "endorsing" the Poor People's Campaign, care for immigrants and refugees, and other statements.
- Adopted a new social statement, "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: a Lutheran Call to Action," and its implementing resolutions.
- Deacon Sue Rothmeyer was elected Churchwide Secretary, a full-time position which acts as executive administrator and leader on all constitutional matters and interpretation.
- Constitutional change for Deacons (rostered ministers of word and service) to be ordained, from the previous practice of consecration.
- Celebrated the milestones of 50 years of women's ordination, 40 years since the first woman of color was ordained, and 10 years since full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ clergy.



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 Cheryl Ann Griffin

- 2 Heidi Flatin
George Vonderheide
- 3 Jerry Trone
- 6 Christine Drake
Forrest Fenstermaker
- 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 who were baptized in August:
Marcie Clark

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

PRAYERS



Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Brian Agor, Doc Anderson, Joe Beene, Kristin Carter, Judy Cobb, Dianne Harris, Janet Higgs, Lynn Knestrick,**

Henry Mallue, Laura Spencer, Mitchell Stauffer, and Janice Svendsen.

Give thanks for the birth of Tallulah Grace Sandridge, born to **Matthew and Jessie Sandridge** this past Tuesday! Congratulate Grandma **Ellen Bushman!**

Pray God's blessings on **Christina and David Johnson** they wait for the birth of their baby. Christina is the teacher's aide in our Preschool.

We pray the blessings of resurrection faith to **Jane Wills** and her family of the death of her mother, Norma Blaase.

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

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

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



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

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Congregational Officers:

<i>President</i>	David Wills	378-2715
<i>Vice President</i>	Amy Bergh	566-4557
<i>Treasurer</i>	Rich Brown	565-5646
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Linda Vonderheide	814-404-8992
<i>Congregational Secretary</i>	Carol Wiers	564-0164

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email: All email addresses are:
_____@saintstephenlutheran.net



Church Staff:

<i>Pastor</i>	Cheryl Ann Griffin	876-6371
	email	Pastorcga@
<i>Parish and Preschool Administrator</i>	Sandy Peterkin	Office@
<i>Director of Music</i>	Karen Ives	MusicDir@
<i>Parish Nurse</i>	Diana Tiller-Dichtel	Parishnurse@
<i>Preschool Lead Teacher</i>	Susan Ruane	Preschool@

Church Council:

Bob Achenbach	206-1789
David Allen	645-8220
Amy Bergh	566-4557
Ellie Bergh (Youth Member)	566-4557
Sandy Croushore	476-5789
Dave Gamble	564-7030
Jeanne Garrison	229-0978
Linda Laity Hite	876-7431
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