



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

PRELUDE SURPRISE



A newcomer to St. Stephen might have thought that an interloper had wrested the piano bench from Katharine by force on Sunday. Yet his former Sunday School teacher Susan Warren, his confirmation leader Sandy Larson, and the director of his favorite summer camp, Miss Sue, all knew who was playing the prelude. Jay Buchanan, Jennifer and Tom’s elder son, was visiting from Maryland with his wife Maggie, their daughter Rosie, and their son Colby.

Maggie currently serves as the managing director of demand justice and as an expert advisor for the Miller Center of Public Affairs at UVA. In addition to being a partner with the law firm Optimal Counsel LLC, Jay is the music director at two small churches in Ellicott City, Maryland – Emory United Methodist and Gary Memorial Methodist. Jay spent many hours at St. Stephen during his formative years and stays in touch with congregational happenings by reading each week’s newsletter ... religiously.

Thanks to proud mom Jennifer for submitting this item and photo upon request. If you want to hear Jay’s powerful prelude for yourself, visit <https://www.facebook.com/ststephentallahassee/> . The prelude begins about 5 minutes into the video. Outstanding, Jay!

FOR THE RECORD

We just got this photo taken from the Aug. 3 congregational meeting. It’s a pretty impressive turnout for a sleepy, muggy summer day – and what a great mix of long-time and newer members. As Finance Committee leader Rudy Hehn said that day, the committee is just getting started. To be continued! *(Photo by Colin Hackley)*



A DEBT OF GRATITUDE

By Pastor Tom



Last Sunday during worship, we bid Farewell and Godspeed to Lori for over 13 years of service at St. Stephen. Though Lori did not like being the focus of so many people’s attention, she appreciated the greeting, well-wishes and reception in the Hingst Fellowship Hall.

We are fortunate to have Rita so quickly on our staff, but it is essential that we recognize the grief we feel in saying “So long” to Lori. Lori

continues to come by the church a few times a week to help Rita out in the parts of the job that can be tricky. We owe her an outstanding debt of gratitude for helping us through this transition. *(Photo by Colin Hackley)*

TOUGH LOVE: EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM’S LATEST SERMON

... In 1958, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote about a conversation he had with an influential white citizen of Montgomery, Alabama, who asked why he and his associates had come to destroy what he called the city’s long tradition of “peaceful and harmonious race relations.” King replied, “Sir, you have never had real peace in Montgomery. You have had a sort of negative peace in which the Negro too often accepted his state of subordination. But this is not true peace. True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice. The tension we see in Montgomery today is necessary tension that comes when the oppressed rise up and start to move forward toward a permanent, positive peace.”

The young Rev. Dr. King, Jr. then pondered, “This was what Jesus meant when he said, ‘I have not come to bring peace on earth, but fire and division.’”

Jesus, in my opinion, did not mean torturous flames that burn people, nor are his words about people being sent to hell. Today’s Gospel is not Jesus’ support for holy or unholy war. As King wrote, “Jesus seems to have been saying in substance: I have come to bring this old negative peace with its deadening passivity to an end. [To burn it down.] I have come to lash against this [false] peace. [Even if it creates familial conflict.] [Therefore] when I come, Jesus said, a conflict is precipitated between the [false] and the [true]. [A line is drawn.] I come, [therefore,] Jesus said, to set division between injustice and justice. It is for this positive peace, that Jesus brought, which always has the presence of justice, love and even the kingdom of God [in our midst].”

BY YOUR SANDWICH THEY WILL KNOW YOU

Kindhearted Val Kibler brought lunch to the Hartungs on Tuesday, stopping by Hopkins Eatery on Capital Circle to pick up sandwiches. She and Ruth wanted the menu item called The Guac. Ruth’s husband, a creature of habit if ever there was one, requested his usual. So when Val rattled off the ingredients of the third sandwich – turkey and cheddar on wheat toast, with lettuce, tomatoes and carrots – the friendly young woman behind the counter suddenly had a look of recognition. She didn’t know the man, but she’d taken that distinctive order dozens of times. Amused, Val provided little hints: “Tall guy? Little beard? Soft-spoken?” The employee nodded. Val gave one more clue: “Ron?” “That’s it!” In a fast-moving, upside-down world, it’s good to be known for *something*. Even a carrot sandwich.



BEFORE YOU GO...

- When you revisit the liturgy on our Facebook page, it helpfully provides you with subtitles. And the subtitle service does its best, though it might not be Lutheran. And certainly not St. Stephenish. During Ceilia’s announcement Sunday about the potluck, the subtitles renamed Hingst Hall as “Hinks Hall” and then “Hanks Tall.” Pastor Emory would be amused.
- We’re all invited to the Matthew Room at 9 a.m. Sundays for a study of the Gospel of Mark. The class is using Marcus Borg’s commentary, “Meeting Jesus in Mark,” to guide an exploration with discussion questions. “But you don’t need to buy the Borg text to participate,” Pastor Tom says. “Just bring your Bible, and we’ll have coffee with occasional breakfast treats!”
- If you don’t already have St. Stephen’s digital directory, check with Rita in the church office. (Yes, here’s Rita pictured in her new setting!)
- If you have an anniversary, birthday, special memory or special St. Stephen person or program you’d like to honor, celebrate by sponsoring the altar flowers for our service. Sign up on the flower chart, out by the name tags, or ask Rita to sign you up. Include the \$40 with your regular offering. And then take the flowers home!





UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Marilyn Larson - 08/22
Greta Scavone - 08/23
Jerry Harrison - 08/24
Andrea Notley - 08/26
Susan Warren - 08/26
Melissa Barton - 08/27
Annette Claussen - 09/06
Martha Marky - 09/08

SERVING THIS WEEK

Pastor Bob Berger, Preaching and **Pastor Tom**, Presiding; **Kirsten Ebbesen**, Assisting Minister; **Rita Ford**, Cup Minister; **Judi Duffy**, Lector; **Sylvia Smith and Cindy Suhrweir**, Tech Team; **Sandy Lamb-Daniels and Lawana Lamb-Daniels**, Altar Guild; **Kirsten Ebbesen and Rob Schiffer**, Counters; **Pastor Tom**, Cantor; **Denise Bookwalter**, Announcements

COMING UP

Today:

Noon - Al-Anon meets in Pastor Emory Hingst Memorial Fellowship Hall, aka Hingst Hall (HH)

7 p.m. - AA meets in HH

This Friday:

9:30 a.m. - TOPS meets in HH

This Sunday:

9 a.m. - Book study

10 a.m. - Worship: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

2 - 4 p.m. - Adventures in Renewal in HH

Monday, August 25:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

Tuesday, August 26:

5 p.m. - NA meets in HH

5:30 p.m. - Chair yoga in sanctuary

Wednesday, August 27:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH



If you have news or photos to share,
please send them to Rita at
sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com.

Don't forget our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/ststephentallahassee>.

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The Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor