



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

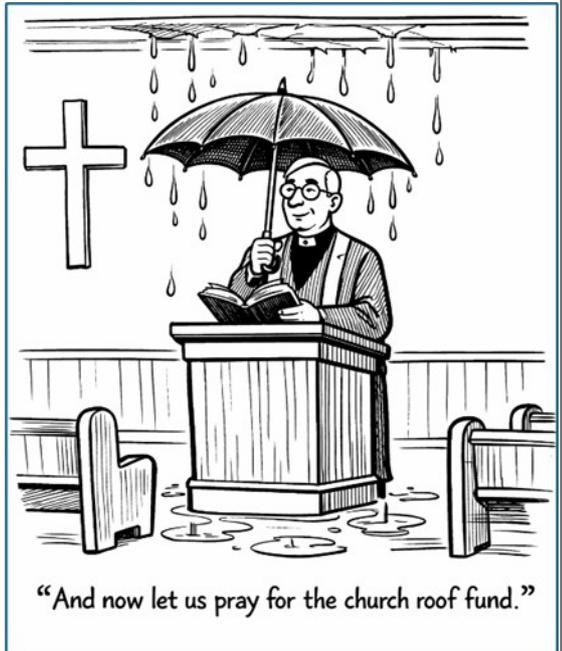
St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

TIME TO TALK ABOUT OUR ROOF

St. Stephen’s sanctuary roof is at the end of its life, and our current property insurance carrier is nudging us to replace it. Well, it’s not a nudge – it’s a hard shove. They’ve notified us that they won’t renew unless a new roof is installed – before our policy expires in July.

So please join us for an informational meeting after worship March 22, at 11:30 a.m. You’ll receive details to review a few days before the meeting. (We have additional renovation plans that also need discussion.)

One week later, after worship March 29, we’ll have a special congregational meeting to vote on whether to begin a capital campaign to raise money for a new roof over the sanctuary.



A SNEAK PEEK AT THE RETREAT AGENDA

By Caroline Collins

Are you eagerly anticipating our April 11 spiritual retreat? Or are you undecided, needing more information? Here is your reward: a SNEAK PEEK at the agenda! Let the enticing schedule pique your enthusiasm for the event, and/or provide the answers you need to get off the fence and register by this Sunday, March 15.

WAITING FOR EDEN: Holding Onto Hope in Hard Times

- 8:45 Check-in and gathering time
- 9:20 Welcome and speaker intro
- 9:45 Keynote Session #1 by Jacqueline Bussie
- 11:00 Options: solo reflection or group activities
- 11:45 Lunch (catered by Uptown Café)
- 12:45 Group picture
- 1:00 “Chat Packs” with Pastor Tom
- 1:45 Keynote Session #2 by Jacqueline Bussie
- 3:00 Stretch break
- 3:15 Book signing with Jacqueline Bussie
- 4:00 Closing gathering



Please note: Keynote Sessions will include group reflection. If you can’t come for the first, not to worry: #1 is not a prerequisite for #2. “Free time” is your flex time to spend as you wish, whether to go off to a quiet place to reflect, or to engage in an organized activity. We’ll leave the nature of the optional activities as a surprise for now but, trust us, they’ll be fun and/or enriching. “Chat Packs” consist of fun questions to spark conversation. There will be munchies and beverages available to fuel us all throughout the day.

DAY IN, DAY OUT, THIS IS A SPECIAL PLACE

By Rudy Hehn

Here is a 48-hour timeline of life at St. Stephen last week.

- Friday afternoon: People meet in the sacristy to select items useful for the April church retreat.
- Saturday morning: Multiple members spend the morning pruning bushes, restoring flower beds and repotting plants. Ages range from 10 to 87. Meanwhile, in the Hingst Hall are 16 people of various ages and ethnic backgrounds skillfully stitching quilts that they will distribute to those in need, free of charge.
- Saturday afternoon: Volunteers staff our table at Tallahassee Pridefest. Many attendees stop to chat, and several leave contact information for Pastor Tom.
- Sunday morning: worship.



We are making a powerful impact in our community. I'm grateful to belong to this congregation.

Thank you, Rudy. Among those beautifying our grounds Saturday were Emily Jennings (aka The Boss), Mark & Susan Warren, Rudy & Susan Hehn, Kirsten Ebbesen & Patrick Kennell, Pastor Tom, Monty Mortensen, Greta Scavone, and Rob & Donna Schiffer.

Alas, I don't have the names of the other people who were working for the good of the community that day – or on countless other days. If you know of churchmates whose deeds are going unsung, and you'd like to sing about them, please send a note to the newsletter at rrhartung1@gmail.com.

CONSIDER THE LILIES

We'll be using Easter lilies to adorn the chancel area for Easter Sunday. If you'd like to dedicate one or more, complete the form in the narthex and drop it in the offering plate. You can also email Rita the dedication. The cost is \$10 each, and the deadline is March 25.



LISTEN UP, ST. STEPHEN CAMPERS

By Mark Greeley

The annual church camping trip is scheduled for the weekend of April 17-19 at St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. This is a great event every year: It never ever rains, and the mosquitoes only come by to gently fan you with their wings for a pleasant breeze. If you're interested in this event, check these details:

- We already have enough sites for everyone (got the reservations 11 months ago).
- The leaders handle the food. We don't eat fancy, but it's warm and filling and we cook it for you.
- Whether you want to stay 2 nights, 1 night or zero nights, you're welcome to come on out and spend some time with the group. There are friendly faces around from Friday morning to Sunday afternoon.
- If you need camping equipment, we can help. Talk to Colin Hackley or me.



In all seriousness, it's a fun weekend at a beautiful spot with time to walk, talk and beach — a chance to have campfires, sunsets and a Saturday-evening worship. Colin and I are your go-to people if you have questions.

Colin's and Mark's contact information is in the St. Stephen digital directory. If you don't have that, ask Rita in the church office.

SATURDAY IN THE PARK

Thanks to Simone Schuster and others, San Luis Mission Park is getting a cleanup this weekend. If you can help, show up at the park at 10 a.m. Saturday (or 9:30 if you want to start out with coffee and pastries). No need to bring anything; gloves, pickers, buckets and other materials will be provided.



THE WOMAN AT THE WELL: EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM'S SERMON

... [W]hile she didn't understand Jesus' teaching, she seized the opportunity to question a prophet about practicing worship and the ways God comes into the world. In very concrete ways, she herself is a theologian and an evangelist as she tells people about Jesus and God's presence.

Instead of fighting, fleeing, shutting down or even people-pleasing, the woman at the well paused, took a breath and continued to ask Jesus to clarify his words. Her ability to withstand automatic human responses makes her life become one not crushed by shame, but the model for discipleship and telling people about how God came to her.

BEFORE YOU GO...

- Right on cue, St. Stephen's famous white azaleas are brightening the view for Meridian Road commuters.
- On the way to church Sunday, I was humming the pesky "Fish Fish D'Lish" jingle from a Captain D's TV commercial. On the way home, though, inspired by Katharine Gossman's thrilling prelude, I was humming "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing." From the ridiculous to the sublime. Just one more example of better living through Sunday worship.



- Our diaper-drop collection for Refuge House is underway. Drop off diapers this month on the designated pew in Hingst Fellowship Hall.
- Please remember that you can look up past sermons or newsletters that you missed. Visit our website: <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/>.
- 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!
- And pictured here is the classic car of the week. This is a page from a brochure for the 1924 Ford Model T. We can't be sure, but if you squint just right and use your imagination, it looks as if the person behind the wheel might be a certain Phil Williams. Or maybe one of his early-20th-century relatives.

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. - Bible study

9:30 a.m. - Choir rehearsal

10 a.m. - Worship: Fourth Sunday in Lent

Monday, March 16:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

Tuesday, March 17:

5 p.m. - NA meets in HH

5:30 p.m. - Chair yoga

Wednesday, March 18:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

7 p.m. - Choir rehearsal

Thursday, March 19:

10 a.m. - Bible study

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Victor Muchuruza - 3/13

Chris Gossman - 3/19

Diane Hines - 3/23

Stephanie Leitch - 3/27

Davis Holdcraft - 4/1

Colin Hackley - 4/6

Gordon Fleischer - 4/6

Vicki Guttenplan - 4/7

Beth Alexander - 4/11

Rudy Hehn - 4/12

Erik Robinson - 4/14



SERVING THIS WEEK

Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Preaching and Presiding; **Kirsten Ebbesen**, Assisting Minister; **Rita Ford**, Cup Minister; **Jennifer Buchanan**, Lector; **Cindy Suhrweir and Colin Hackley**, Tech Team; **Rita Ford and Susan Warren**, Altar Guild; **Janet Barber and Susan Warren**, Counters; **Susan Hehn**, Cantor; **Denise Bookwalter**, Announcements



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>.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, ELCA