



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



*These are the talented rascals from last year's talent show. Some of them will be back for Sunday's show! (Photo by Colin Hackley)*

## THIS SUNDAY: TALENT SHOW!

At last, it's show time again! Master of Ceremonies Pastor Tom invites you to stick around after this Sunday's liturgy (and after a catered Mediterranean lunch) for the annual St. Stephen Mardi Gras Talent Show. There's always the possibility that internationally renowned performers will show up at the last minute – but so far the lineup includes locally renowned Ceilia and Violet Greeley, Jen & Chris Reece, Susan & Rudy Hehn, Colleen and Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Rita Ford, Cassandra White, Dave Suhrweir and, for the first time, Greta Scavone and Simone Schuster! You dare not miss it.

## WANNA BECOME A MEMBER?

Pastor Tom says we're planning a new-member welcome March 23 – because three more people wish to join the church! He says we'd be happy to welcome even more, in case you've been thinking of joining. If you have any questions about that process, please see Pastor.



## GOOD READING

By Rudy Hehn

The FSU College of Medicine produces a magazine. In the latest edition, several articles were written by Audrey Post, their news and public affairs specialist, and the photography was by Colin Hackley. They did a great job explaining the medical school's role in promoting excellent medical care for underserved populations. Here is the link to the magazine: <https://med.fsu.edu/newsPubs/FSUMedMagazine> (Rudy was a faculty member at the College of Medicine)

## DIAPERS ARE PRICEY – CAN YOU HELP?

*By Sharon Simmons, outreach coordinator*

In the 17+ years since I was buying diapers for my granddaughter, the price has skyrocketed. Many families facing economic challenges find it difficult to provide diapers along with food and other necessities.

A member of the congregation brought this to the attention of the Outreach Committee, so next month we're sponsoring a Diaper Drop. Children's diapers, sizes 2-6, are the most requested at various agencies. We'll collect packages of diapers in the Rev. Emory Hingst Fellowship Hall through March 30, then we'll transport them to the Refuge House. Our partners and friends from New Mt. Zion AME Church will join us in collecting.



I've done some scouting. Dollar Tree has packs of diapers for \$6, and recently Walgreens has had brand-name diapers (Pampers and Huggies) on sale.

## UPDATE FROM MANNA ON MERIDIAN

*By Sharon Simmons, still the outreach coordinator*

St. Stephen is looking for a liaison to represent us in our partnership with the Manna on Meridian food pantry. If you're interested, talk to me. Are you unfamiliar with Manna? Below is some information forwarded to us by Shellie Camp, who is Faith Presbyterian's Manna liaison. (Faith is right across the street from St. Stephen.)



Manna on Meridian is a volunteer-driven, community-based food pantry dedicated to fighting food insecurity in Tallahassee. With an annual budget of around \$70,000, Manna operates through the generous support of five partner churches, over 200 volunteers, and countless donors who believe in nourishing both body and spirit. We are proud to partner with [Second Harvest of the Big Bend](#) to extend our reach and impact.

### Hours of Operation

- Walk-up Choice Pantry: Sundays, noon-1 p.m. – offering fresh produce and baked goods donated by local retailers.
- Main Drive-thru Distribution: 3rd Saturday of each month, 8-9:30 a.m.

### How You Can Help

#### Volunteer:

- Stay Informed: [Join our email](#) list to hear about upcoming volunteer opportunities.
- No Sign-Up Needed:
  - \* Fridays: Inventory and produce packing.
  - \* Main Drive-thru Distribution: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month. Arrive anytime between 6 and 9 a.m. to help with setup, distribution, bagging and cleanup.
- Sign Up for Sunday & Monday Opportunities: [Volunteer Here](#)
  - \* Sundays: Publix (#1836) pick-up, Trader Joe's pickup, setup and distribution.
  - \* Mondays: Trader Joe's pickup, sorting and distribution.

#### Donate:

- Financial Contributions: [Donate Here](#). Just \$15/month can provide over 30 lbs. of groceries to a family of three monthly.
- Most Needed Items:
  - \* Recyclables: Brown grocery bags (saved \$1,000 in 2024), plastic bags, egg cartons (6 or 12 count).
  - \* Pantry Staples: Cereal (16-18 oz.), peanut butter (16-17 oz.), canned vegetables/legumes, canned chicken/tuna, soups, mac & cheese.
  - \* Fresh Produce: Surplus fruits and vegetables, including citrus from home gardens.

For more about Manna, visit its [Facebook](#) page.

## MUSIC FOR WATER IN KENYA

St. Stephen friend Michele Hartson has an invitation for us. From 6:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 15, Tallahassee singer Avis Berry will perform at Element3 Church, 1190 Capital Circle NE. Her performance will raise money to dig a well that will serve 20 families in her husband Amon's village of Kaguma, Kenya. Tickets are \$25. Buy them here: [www.Bit.ly/E3KenyaWaterConcertMar15](http://www.Bit.ly/E3KenyaWaterConcertMar15) . Michele adds:



“Consider donating more if you can to this crucial project.”

Here's a look at the scope of this undertaking: In Phase I, the men in the village dug a well 75 feet deep and hit surface water. They built a storage tank there to hold a large amount of water and piping to a number of smaller tanks at homes in the village. Those small tanks are shared between several families. In the dry season, though, that well dries up. The women in the village hike a mile to the river, fill containers, then carry them home. So the next phase of the project is to drill 600 feet deep to hit an aquifer that will not go dry – and to extend the piping and storage tanks to a number of additional homes. Total budget: \$25,000. Maybe we can help.

## PASTOR TOM'S WELCOME NOTES FROM LAST SUNDAY

In your youth, you may have been like me and joked from time to time about this existential question: “Why am I here?” It might have occurred when gazing up at the stars or considering a career. As we age, the question becomes less of a joke.

As we gather today in the midst of a shrinking institutional church, I'm now seriously asking the question: “Why are we here?” If you weren't forced to be here, perhaps you came for relationship, healing, education or presence. Maybe for all of them? It's important to name the reason.

I'm coming to see that we cannot separate personal healing from societal healing. One cannot occur without the other. When I say “I must sweep my own doorstep before my neighbor's,” then I've separated personal healing from societal healing. They must happen together. May I suggest that to be why we are here?

## BEFORE YOU GO...

- The funeral service for Jake Hartung's mother, Janet Faris, is scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, at St. Jude's Episcopal Church in Niceville. In case you plan to attend, please note: Niceville is in the Central Time Zone.
- Speaking of time zones: Daylight time begins March 9 – a week from this Sunday.
- Debbie Hudson from Grace Lutheran is planning to attend the Panhandle Conference WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Spring Gathering on March 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> and would like to see if anyone is interested in going and carpooling. The event is hosted by Holy Trinity WELCA, Fort Walton Beach, FL. Friday evening (28 Mar) includes a soup supper social meeting at 6pm. Saturday (29 Mar) will begin at 9am with registration and a business meeting. The theme is “He's Got the Whole World in His Hands,” and the program will include a Bible Study on creation and a presentation by Pastor Beth Bateson. The color is green, so feel free to wear something green for the day. Feel free to contact Debbie if you are interested in going or for more information at 517-290-8506.
- 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 nametags, or ask Lori to sign you up. Include the \$40 with your regular offering. And then take the flowers home!







## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Judi Duffy - 02/27  
Rob Schiffer - 02/28  
Jan Harrison - 03/02  
Jim Christianson - 03/03  
Chris Gossman - 03/19  
Stephanie Leitch - 03/27

## COMING UP

### Today:

**Noon** - Al-Anon meets in Pastor Emory Hingst Memorial Fellowship Hall (PEHMFH)  
**7 p.m.** - AA meets in PEHMFH  
**8 p.m.** - Mickee Faust meets in PEHMFH

### This Friday:

**10 a.m.** - TOPS meets in PEHMFH

### This Saturday:

**10 a.m.** - Sew for Hope meets in PEHMFH

### This Sunday:

**9 a.m.** - Book study  
**9:30 a.m.** - Choir practice  
**10 a.m.** - Worship, Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday  
**11:15 a.m.** - Catered lunch in PEHMFH  
**12:30 p.m.** - Mardi Gras Talent Show in sanctuary  
**4 p.m.** - Congolese Christian worship in PEHMFH



### Monday, March 3:

**5 p.m.** - TIMA meets in PEHMFH  
**7 p.m.** - TIMA meets in PEHMFH

### Tuesday, February 25:

**5 p.m.** - NA meets in PEHMFH

### Wednesday, February 19:

**5 p.m.** - TIMA meets in PEHMFH  
**6 p.m.** - Worship, Ash Wednesday  
**7 p.m.** - Choir practice



If you have news or photos to share,  
please send them to Lori at  
[sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com](mailto:sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com).

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

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The Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor

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