



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



This Sunday is Palm Sunday. So when you arrive for the liturgy, stay outside, grab a palm frond from the ushers and get ready to sing “All Glory, Laud and Honor” as we process inside. *(Photo by young Colin Hackley, 2014)*

WE NEED YOU THIS SUNDAY FOR AN IMPORTANT DECISION

If last Sunday’s after-church review of our roof situation is any indication, this Sunday’s congregational vote should be a breeze. And soon, if the majority of us vote in favor, we should be far more prepared for any number of building issues that could arise in years to come.

But your first step, a crucial one, is to make sure to **ATTEND** this Sunday’s meeting, right after the liturgy. We need a quorum. For a variety of reasons, this roof vote is urgent. The clock is ticking. Our property insurance depends on the outcome. And if we don’t act fast, we’ll jeopardize substantial savings that are available right now.

Earlier this week, you should have received a detailed email summary from the Finance Committee and Building Committee, along with answers to some of the most frequently asked questions. (If you didn’t get one, you may pick one up Sunday before the meeting.) The committees, along with the people who attended last Sunday’s meeting, have sorted through a lot of information and reached consensus on what kind of roof to get, how much to spend and even which roofer to hire. In fact, thanks to four anonymous donors, we

already have enough pledges to cover much of the cost of the new roof. Thank God.

So that buys us time to look ahead to a long-held dream at St. Stephen: to stash away enough money to handle other building-related expenses that we’ll confront before too long, such as a new heating-and-air-conditioning system and a rejuvenated fellowship hall. Look forward to hearing more



about our upcoming capital campaign.

Many, many thanks to the Finance and Building Committees -- and to Rudy Hehn, finance chair, who has taken this roof rescue by the horns, explained it calmly and clearly, and led the discussion with humor and hope. With both a spiritual retreat and a new roof right around the corner, and a spirit of contagious generosity, things are looking up at our favorite church.

BEFORE THERE WAS A ROOF...

The photo below is a reminder that, once upon a time, the building that now needs a new roof didn't even exist. This picture was taken in the 1990s, on a Sunday shortly before construction of the new sanctuary was scheduled to begin. Standing with his back to the camera is the late, great Pastor Emory Hingst.



SUNDAY'S NOISY OFFERING WILL BE FOR...

... Grace Mission, the Frenchtown ministry that was portrayed so vividly two Sundays ago by our guest speaker, Mother Rachel Hill. As she told us: "I would like to ask you please to keep us in your prayers. We are dealing with people who are so, so broken, and it's a hard ministry. So we need prayers ... for the people coming, that they would find that Grace is a place where they find God's love, that their hearts would be softened. And we see that day after day. Many of them will tell you Grace is their safe space; they say, 'We find God's peace here.'" And we can help. To find out more, visit www.gracemission.net.



RETREAT UPDATE

By Caroline Collins

This week the news is even better than last week's: The registration extension brought four additional precious people aboard for a final total of 50! Hurray for us! If you're among those 50, please note:



- Watch your email inbox and this newsletter for further information.
 - Printed directions available as needed.
 - Sign-in and breakfast begin at 8:45 a.m.
 - Carpooling is encouraged, as parking will be limited.
 - Plant sale same day; bring cash if you wish to shop.
- Parking assistance will be available.

SPICE IT UP, ST. STEPHEN

By Sharon Simmons, outreach coordinator

This Sunday is SPICE IT UP SUNDAY at St. Stephen. The Outreach Committee is asking members of the congregation to bring a container of any spice (salt, pepper, garlic salt/powder, onion powder, actually any spice you like) and leave it in the designated tub in Hingst Hall. The spices will be taken to the Seminole Manor neighborhood for folks who make use of the free pantry. Everyone needs spices for a favorite recipe, so let's make it a spicy Sunday. We will only collect on this one Sunday but may have another collection in the future. Dollar Tree has loads of different spices at \$1.25.



PASTOR TOM'S WELCOME FROM LAST SUNDAY

We are struck, once again, with the Gospel today. Not because it's another long one, but because amidst the tragedy of loss and grief Jesus asked Mary – the sister of Lazarus, the one who died – “Do you believe?” What a difficult ask in her state of grief. The story continues to the moment when Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb and commands the people there to unbind him.

How many in our community and nation are stuck in “tombs”? By addiction, illness, hiding from ICE or incarceration, living amidst war – there are many. As followers of Jesus, how are we called to unbind them? How are we called to unbind ourselves? Even small actions of love have the power to unbind. These small actions have the power to heal.

BEFORE YOU GO...

- This is the last Sunday we'll be collecting diapers and wipes. Diapers of any size are needed and welcome.
- Next week, of course, is Holy Week. We'll have worship services at 6 p.m. on both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- If you have any questions about the upcoming church camping trip April 17-19, see Mark Greeley or Colin Hackley.
- 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 St. Stephen Newsletter Editor's Classic Car of the Week. It's a 1957 Plymouth Suburban station wagon. Just imagine if we could all climb into it and carpool to Goodwood for the spiritual retreat. Lord, watch over us as we drive through life.

An advertisement for the 1957 Plymouth Suburban station wagon. The top part shows a side view of the car with four people inside and one person standing by the open rear hatch. Below this is a smaller side view of the car. The text includes the slogan "from the Observation Seat of your BIG, NEW PLYMOUTH SUBURBAN" and "see how far behind the 'other two' are". There are also several lines of small text describing the car's features and performance.

NEW OBSERVATION SEAT available in 9 passenger Plymouth Sport and Custom Suburbans. More legroom. Folds back into floor for extra cargo space.

from the Observation Seat of your
BIG, NEW PLYMOUTH SUBURBAN
see how far behind the "other two" are

Here's a dazzling new kind of station wagon... the big Plymouth Suburban! 3 full years ahead! With exciting new features you can't get on any other station wagon in the field!

Just a few of the many important advances are shown on the opposite page. You enjoy them in the biggest... longest... widest... roomiest station wagon in the lineup! 3.

In fact, you can't buy bigger at any price! 12 exciting models, 2-door and 4-door. New, higher-power six and terrific new FURY V-8 engine—superpowered up to 290 hp!

SERVING THIS WEEK

Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Preaching and Presiding; **Jen Dritt**, Assisting Minister; **Susan Warren**, Cup Minister; **Rudy Hehn and other Palm Sunday readers**, Lector; **Loraine Sundberg and Cindy Suhrweir**, Tech Team; **Anita Sawh and Rita Ford**, Altar Guild; **Rob Schiffer and Kirsten Ebbesen**, Counters; **Simone Schuster**, 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 Saturday

10 a.m. - Altar Guild sprucing up of the sanctuary

This Sunday:

9 a.m. - Bible study

9:30 a.m. - Choir rehearsal

10 a.m. - Worship, Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

11:30 a.m. - Congregation meeting

Monday, March 30:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

Tuesday, March 31:

5 p.m. - NA meets in HH

5:30 p.m. - Chair yoga

Wednesday, April 1:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

7 p.m. - Choir rehearsal

Thursday, April 2:

10 a.m. - Bible study

6 p.m. - Worship, Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 3:

6 p.m. - Worship, Good Friday

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



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

Donna Schiffer - 4/13

Erik Robinson - 4/14

Elizabeth Halvorson - 4/15

Cassandra White - 4/16

Sandy Lamb-Daniels - 4/17

Terri Schmitt - 4/17



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