



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



This photo from 1955 or 1956 shows our earliest members, gathered for worship at a “borrowed” church building. If you longtime members look very closely, you’ll spot Young Bill Taylor and the Skagfield family.

SEVENTY YEARS AGO

On Sept. 30, 1956, “St. Stephen’s United Lutheran Church,” a congregation of 104 members, was officially organized. Eighty-six people were present. The offering plate yielded \$295.70. Oh, and it had no building. That was 70 years ago. We’ve come a long way, but we owe those first members so much.

Back when their effort began, it was a different world. Women wore hats and gloves to church. Tallahassee’s population was not even 20,000. FSU had fewer than 5,000 students. The only Lutheran church in town was Epiphany, and it was Missouri Synod. A couple of ULCA (United Lutheran Church in America, which preceded the ELCA) Lutherans named Marion and Sue Riser didn’t want to drive 80 miles every Sunday just to worship with their brand of Lutherans. They thought about this for a year, then wrote to the Florida Synod of the ULCA and said, “Hey, can you help us out?” Reply: Sorry, but this territory belongs to another Lutheran body – the ALC (American Lutheran Church).

The Risers didn’t give up. They felt God calling them to do something, so they kept at it. In 1952, on vacation in North Carolina, they somehow talked to the chairman of the ULCA Board of American Missions. As it turned out, the ALC had no plans for Tallahassee. So the chairman said to the Risers: Tell you what – our board will help you start a congregation ... IF you can find at least 50 interested adults. How many do you think they found? Exactly 50.

Good news. But their work wasn’t over. They conducted that survey in September 1952; the anniversary we’re celebrating is September 1956. It took four years of step-by-step, inch-by-inch progress. That kind of journey takes commitment and patience. And because our charter members had that kind of gumption 70 years ago, we’ve inherited this feisty little congregation today.

In years past, this is where we would applaud the charter members still with us. Alas, they have all passed away. But we still worship with people who started identifying with St. Stephen Lutheran Church (notice how the name changed slightly) in those very early years – including Jan Harrison, Emily Jennings, Annelise Leysieffer, Martha Marky, Sandy Ness and Billie Reardon.

Some members have been here for decades. Others have been with us for only a few weeks. Most of us are somewhere in between. It’s that combination that keeps the St. Stephen flame burning. So on we go. God bless our congregation!

SMILE FOR THE CAMERA, AGAIN

With varying degrees of success, we try to take a congregational photo every year around the time of our church’s anniversary. This year, as you read above, we’re celebrating a big, round number: It’s our 70th anniversary! Please show up Sept. 27 so you can be included in this latest group photo.

Longtime member and ace photographer Colin Hackley will be out of the picture yet again ... because he’ll be *taking* the picture! That’ll be right after the liturgy, as soon as he can herd us into the right configuration. Maybe he can use a timer so he can sprint from behind the camera and be part of the picture....



ST. STEPHEN IS MOVING!

By Caroline Collins

Don’t worry, it’s just our Facebook page. The Tech Team is requesting that you find our new page and either “Follow” or “Add Friend” to expedite the transition from our current page. Facebook/Meta requires a page to attract 100 followers to prove it’s legitimate. Until then, we shall continue live-streaming our worship service from the original page.

To find the new page, type “StStephen ChurchTallahassee” in the search bar. There are many St. Stephens in Facebook Land, so we distinguished ours by omitting the usual period and the space between “St” and “Stephen.” We also omitted the space between “Church” and “Tallahassee.” (Apologies to Ron the Grammar Man.) A visual clue that you have found us is that our new profile picture features the church in the background and our beautiful blooming azalea hedge in the foreground.



As of early Thursday morning, we’re up to 76 followers. Pretty good since we only launched the new page a few days ago. Invite your friends! Who knows, maybe they’ll watch a livestream and decide to come worship with us in person.

A BOOKISH SATURDAY

By Ron Hartung

Many authors launch their books in bookstores, and that’s fine. But for me, St. Stephen is home. And it’s roomy. So when it came time to launch my book, “The Man in the Red Flannel Shirt,” I had asked Pastor Tom if we



could unveil it here, and he quickly agreed. The event was last Saturday, and it was just perfect. Dozens of people showed up. Many took



books home with them – books by me, by Ruth and by five Apalachee Press friends we had invited. The readings took place in the sanctuary, but the reception was in the packed fellowship hall. And it looked spectacular thanks to Margaret Bowers, Office Manager Rita Ford, Lawana Lamb-Daniels, Sandy Lamb-Daniels, Anita Sawh and Jennifer Slusarz. I had pictured a bare-bones reception with, say, crackers and chips to go along with the wine. But these women had much better ideas. In Margaret's photo above, you can see how magical the kitchen counter looked, thanks to their efforts.

In addition, there were tables covered with black tablecloths and name cards for all seven authors. Those writers felt truly welcome. "It was such a joy working together with the hospitality team," Rita said afterward. "We wanted Ron to know how proud we are of him, and we wanted visitors to see the warm hospitality of St. Stephen." And everyone, including the women doing all the work, seemed to be having fun. Many, many thanks to St. Stephen for so much support!

Didn't get to buy a book from Ruth or Ron? They have copies stashed away at church. So see them after the service. Ron's book sells for \$18.28 (including tax). Ruth's goes for \$12 hardback and \$8 paperback.



Thanks to photographer Bob O'Lary, who just showed up and started taking pictures. In the photo above, that's wine steward Jake Hartung. At left, Ruth Hartung signs a book while Cindy Suhrweir and Sandy Larson wait.



WANT A MEANINGFUL PART-TIME POSITION?

KidSafe (of Lutheran Social Services of North Florida) is seeking a passionate, community-minded individual to serve as Executive Director. This not-for-profit corporation works collaboratively with partner agencies to distribute new high-quality child safety seats to protect children living in families with low incomes.

Executive Director is a flexible, part-time position (20 hours per week). Salary range is \$18,000-\$22,000 without benefits. The Executive Director serves as the chief executive officer, providing inspired leadership to ensure the mission of KidSafe is carried out, works with the Board of Directors on setting the strategic direction and internal organizational policies, and is the organization's external spokesperson. The Executive Director has overall responsibility for the day-to-day operations of KidSafe; supervises volunteers; and oversees the advocacy, programmatic, financial and management operations.



A background in social work or nonprofit administration is preferred. Successful candidates also should possess:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university or equivalent experience.
- Strong written/oral communication and presentation skills.
- Experience in managing expenditures to budget, including budget preparation, analysis and reporting.
- Knowledge of fundraising strategies and donor relations within the nonprofit sector.

- Ability to engage with diverse clients, volunteers and donor groups.
- Demonstrated experience with Microsoft computer applications and social media platforms.

Candidates must have the ability to work remotely, be able to lift 25 pounds, and have access to reliable transportation sufficient to deliver safety seats. Apply by sending a cover letter and resumé to info@lssnf.org with subject line “Candidate” before Sept. 30.

Best wishes to Dottie Hinkle, who’s retiring. As LSSNF VP Lawana said: “She will be greatly missed.”

GREETINGS FROM BERLIN

By Stephanie Leitch

This fall Astrid and I are in Berlin, where I’m the Charles Haimhoff Fellow in German Studies at the American Academy in Berlin. Astrid and I are living in a gardener’s cottage next to the Hans Arnhold Center on the shores of the Wannsee. It is ridiculously beautiful here. I have been given a research carrel on the property, and Astrid is attending the John F. Kennedy School. We’re taking advantage of being in this metropole that continues to examine its conflicted history, but we are benefiting from the rich cultural offerings. I am able to do my project at the local print repository that houses a collection of woodblocks from the 16th century. I’m so excited to see what I will be able to find out! Astrid takes the S-Bahn to school every day like a pro and is getting chummy with the ex-pats. We miss you all and will see you in January.



FORGIVENESS: AN EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM’S SERMON

Forgiveness without ceasing doesn’t mean we become someone’s doormat, or punching bag (literal or metaphorical), nor does the practice of ceaseless forgiving make us powerless in any way. It’s the opposite, really. One can forgive the other and still keep them at arm’s length, or farther if necessary. The “heart of the matter” of forgiveness is to not despise the wrongdoer, nor seek vengeance upon them....

BEFORE YOU GO...

- The Muchuruzas were in town last weekend and participated in our book fair. This week on Facebook, Eunice saluted soccer-star daughter Viv for being named the ACC Player of the Week!
- Reminder: Lutheran Disaster Response shares God’s hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the U.S. and around the world. If you’re able to give, visit www.elca.org. Or call 800-638-3522.
- And pictured here is the newsletter editor’s latest suggestion, in case the Church Council votes to provide him with a company car. It’s a 1957 Chevrolet. As the ad states: “It’s sweet to look at, smooth to ride in, sassy to drive.” God, watch over us as we drive through life.



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. - 4 p.m. - Advocacy Training at Grace Lutheran Church

This Sunday:

9:00 a.m. - Bible study
9:30 a.m. - Choir rehearsal
10 a.m. - Worship, Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
11:30 a.m. - Church council meeting

Monday, September 21:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

Tuesday, September 22:

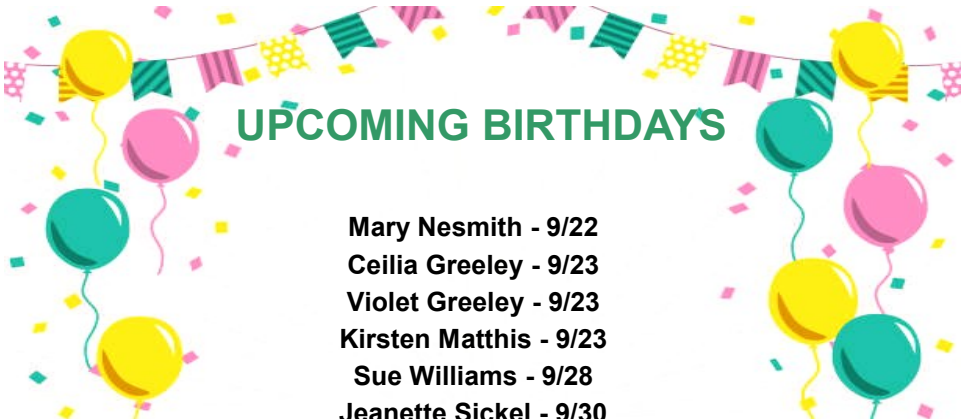
6 p.m. - NA meets in HH

Wednesday, September 23:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH
6 p.m. - Confirmation for adults
7 p.m. - Choir rehearsal

Thursday, September 24:

10 a.m. - Bible study



Mary Nesmith - 9/22
Ceilia Greeley - 9/23
Violet Greeley - 9/23
Kirsten Matthis - 9/23
Sue Williams - 9/28
Jeanette Sickel - 9/30
Melody Duke - 9/30
Vivian Halvorson - 10/2
Emery Oates - 10/8
Myrna Hoover-Green - 10/13
Isabel Barton - 10/19

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Preaching and Presiding; **Colleen Holdcraft**, Assisting Minister; **Jen Dritt**, Cup Minister; **Andrew Stover**, Lector; **Simone Schuster**, Cantor; **Caroline Collins and Emery Oates**, Tech Team; **Lawana Lamb-Daniels and Sandy Lamb-Daniels**, Altar Guild; **Margaret Bowers and Patricia Handschy**, Counters; **Bob Eshleman and Colin Hackley**, Ushers; **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