



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

LAWANA HOPES THAT YOU CAN LEND A HAND

Think about the activities in our congregation that revolve around marking passages such as births, baptisms, confirmations, weddings and funerals; serving food; preparing for guests; cleaning up after guests; and more. Think about the times you were, or your family was, the guest of honor, and how grateful you were to the St. Stephen people who worked so hard and so lovingly to get every detail right. They make these activities – and the others that are part of our Care & Hospitality ministry -- look so easy. It’s tempting to think that everything just happens automatically.



But it doesn’t. It takes many, many hands to get everything just so. Lawana Lamb-Daniels is the current C&H coordinator, and she and her team are doing a great job. But they could use some reinforcements. They hope you can lend a hand.

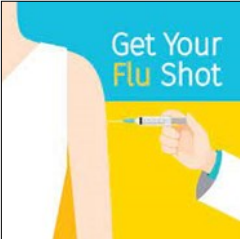
“I can use help in all avenues,” Lawana says. “Sending cards to those who are ill – and perhaps a plant. Reaching out to those who are unable to attend church and need communion. Volunteers who are willing to help serve and clean up during and after functions.” And on and on.

It’s not hard labor! Most of the tasks are pretty fun. Plus you usually get to perform them with delightful Lutherans – and you get to know them

better along the way. What do you think? Does this sound like a meaningful way for you to serve St. Stephen? Have any questions? Check with Lawana, at 850-508-7205 or lawana.washington1961@gmail.com.

WANT SHOTS? TURN IN YOUR FORM

This Sunday is the last day for you to give Lawana your form – if you’re planning to get your flu shot a week from Sunday at church. Staff members of the Publix Pharmacy will be at St. Stephen at 9 a.m. Sept. 29 to vaccinate those who filled out the forms for flu shots or other inoculations. “If you need new forms, I will hand them out and you can fill them out and give them back to me,” Lawana says. “Thanks to everyone who participated!”



HINGST HALL?

Excerpted from the latest Church Council minutes

In the wake of Pastor Emeritus Emory A. Hingst’s passing, several ideas were floated to permanently remember and honor him. Graham Reece suggested naming the fellowship hall in his honor. Sharon [Simmons] and Rita [Ford] suggested planting a fruit tree in his honor. Audrey [Post] suggested a fig tree, as they are hardy, don’t require regular pruning and can feed not only people but birds, butterflies and other of God’s creatures. Rob Schiffer moved and Sandy Lamb-Daniels seconded the motion that Council approve the renaming of the fellowship hall. The motion was approved and will be proposed to the congregation for a vote at the January meeting. Rob will coordinate with Audrey, Mark Warren and Jake Hartung to locate a suitable place, and tree.



OUTREACH UPDATES

By Sharon Simmons, outreach coordinator

YARD SALE FOR A GOOD CAUSE: Thanks to Pastor Tom and Jayci (a local social worker, community activist and St. Stephen visitor), the Outreach Committee is alerting St. Stephen members about an opportunity to support a joint effort between The Tallahassee Dissenters and Common Ground Books. A yard sale will be held from 12:30 to 6 p.m. Saturday at Common Ground, 128 N. Bronough St. If you have items to donate, you can contact them, and they will arrange pickup (850-999-1386). All proceeds from this event will be used to support displaced families in Gaza.



THE JOY OF SOCKS: “Sock It for the Homeless” begins Oct. 6. Bring new socks for men or women to be given to homeless clients at Kearney Center. This is one of three initiatives that St. Stephen participates in with New Mt. Zion AME Church. Find the sock tub in the fellowship hall.

MINISTRY MINUTE: Ministry Minute resumed Sunday with Master Russell Wider, a 5th-degree Shaolin Kenpo Karate Master from Tallahassee Integrated Martial Arts. Master Wider expressed his thanks to St. Stephen for making the fellowship hall available to them to provide discounted class rates to those with financial challenges, teachers, nurses, first responders and veterans. TIMA offers programs to help in situational awareness, confidence and assisting others as they move through life. Don’t forget that this Sunday, our Noisy Offering will be designated for TiMA to help in its important work. *(Photo by Sharon)*



NO MORE 9-TO-5

At the top of this newsletter, we spoke about milestones. Well, Susan and Mark Warren recently reached a big one. They both retired. If you’ve ever walked down the halls of Tallahassee Memorial with Susan, or strolled among the perennials at Esposito’s with Mark, you saw how much their co-workers loved them. Imagine how many tearful farewell parties were thrown in their honor. We found this photo from one of them. Best wishes to Susan and Mark, two of St. Stephen’s best goodwill ambassadors.

How about you? Any recent milestones you’d care to share with newsletter readers? If so, please let Office Manager Lori know.

‘WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS?’: EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM’S SERMON

... Today, we note that what Jesus said to his disciples, and to Peter and to the crowd, was not supposed to be understood by them. How could they have known God’s plan? And the truth of the matter is that we shouldn’t be expected to “get” Jesus right away, either.

But see how Jesus took the time to teach Peter and walk alongside him during his growth. The good teacher, through and through.

So, if you are weary and in need of sustenance, know that this same Spirit walks alongside you. If you are facing a challenge, let this community sustain you with prayer and partnership. Know that you follow a Savior who will do what is necessary to demonstrate the kind of love God has for you.

Jesus didn’t wish for death, and I’m coming to learn that it wasn’t even that he “had to die.” The loving Parent wouldn’t “make” the Child die. But it’s inevitable for people like Jesus to be killed because that’s the way human power often operates in the world.

We grow into the mindfulness that our walk is NOT one that makes us decide what we will die for, but what we will live for. Who do you say Jesus is? Let’s not be ashamed to say who he is and follow him to life.

BEFORE YOU GO...

- **Be on the lookout for new St. Stephen T-shirts ... coming soon!**
- **Watch for a budget update in an upcoming newsletter.**
- **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



Ceilia Greeley - 09/23
Violet Greeley - 09/23
Kirsten Matthis - 09/23
Sue Williams - 09/28
Jeanette Sickel - 09/30
Vivian Halvorson - 10/02
Emery Oates - 10/08
Isabel Barton - 10/19
Val Kibler - 10/20
Dave Suhrweir - 10/21
Jim Sampson - 10/22
Audrey Post - 10/24
Barbara Ehlmann - 10/25
Graham Reece - 10/26
Bern Mustian - 10/30

COMING UP

Today:

Noon - Al-Anon meets in fellowship hall (FH)

7 p.m. - AA meets in FH

This Friday:

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

This Saturday:

10 a.m. - Sew for Hope meets in FH

This Sunday:

9 a.m. - Book study

10 a.m. - Worship, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

4 p.m. - Congolese Christian worship in FH



Monday, September 23:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in FH

7 p.m. - TIMA meets in FH

Tuesday, September 24:

5 p.m. - Redhills Community Cemetery meets in FH

Wednesday, September 25:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in FH

7 p.m. - Choir practice



If you have news or photos to share,
please send them to Lori at

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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