



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



This is one of our favorite Colin Hackley photos from years past. His pictures have helped tell the St. Stephen story for, what, 25 years or more? What a blessing.

ADVENTURES IN RENEWAL: ACT 1

By Pastor Tom

Our first Adventures in Renewal meeting went well! We began with a reading from Acts 16:6-15 about Paul’s travels to Macedonia to meet Lydia. This text is the group’s central focus for Adventures in Renewal. It is based on God’s call to believers to meet people and listen to the ways God is working in their lives, discovering new ways of sharing God’s grace and love that don’t need to be earned. There were 17 people in attendance, including me and a visitor from Grace Lutheran. We plan to meet again next month, but the date has not been set yet. *[Stay tuned for further updates. See Pastor Tom if you have questions.]*



GET YOUR SHOTS RIGHT HERE

People from Publix Pharmacy will be at St. Stephen from 9:30 to 10 a.m. Sept. 14 for immunization shots. They’ll have the newest COVID and flu vaccine available. Please fill out the appropriate form the Sunday before, on Sept. 7. Then, on the 14th, a table will be set up in the office lobby for vaccinations.



THE WOMEN BEHIND THE MASKS

Some members have been asking for an update on Ann Hingst’s health, so here’s a note from Ann herself. She’s pictured here with caregiver/companion Greta Scavone.

My recent doctor’s visit showed that my blood markers are still low. Full remission probably isn’t likely. I learned that it isn’t expected in “elderly Acute Myeloid Leukemia.”

The goal now is for me to have a good quality of life for as long as possible. That means I probably won’t travel far or be in public without a mask, but I can still have visits from friends, do errands, go out to lunch occasionally, come to church on occasion — especially when there are special events, etc. I just have to be very careful in crowds, as I can’t be touched due to the risk of infection.

In addition to having in-person visits, I have lots of friends who communicate regularly by text or phone, & Greta is great company. Life is good, and I am grateful!



‘HELP US SERVE THE POOREST OF THE POOR’

Sunday, guest preacher Pastor Bob Berger talked about his connection with Food For The Poor, and he invited us to learn more. Here’s an excerpt from www.foodforthe poor.org:



Food For The Poor began in 1982 in Jamaica. Today, our interdenominational Christian ministry serves the poor in primarily 15 countries throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. Thanks to our faithful donors, we are able to provide food, housing, healthcare, education, fresh water, emergency relief, micro-enterprise solutions and much more.

We are proud to have fed millions of people and provided more than 15.7 billion dollars in aid. Our faith inspires us to be an organization built on compassion, and motivated by love. Our mission is to bring relief to the poorest of the poor in the countries where we serve.

We strive to reflect God’s unconditional love. It’s a sacrificial love that embraces all people regardless of race or religion. We believe that we can show His love by serving the “least of these” on this earth as Christ challenged us to do in [Matthew 25](#). We pray that by God’s grace, and with your support, we can continue to bring relief to the suffering and hope to the hopeless.

Please note: This Sunday’s Noisy Offering will go directly to Food For The Poor.

‘LET GO’: PASTOR TOM’S WELCOME FROM LAST SUNDAY

One doesn’t need to look far these days to see that there’s a vicious anger in our world. One group is angry at another, while the other is equally angry at their opposites. We’re angry at injustice and evil, which we ought to be. We’re angry at people’s selfishness and immaturity, which is necessary.

Yet this anger, *this anger*, takes us away from equity and freedom sometimes. It leads us instead to an impatience in us. It leads us instead to need to humiliate our opponents at times, and when our anger gets like that, then we enter that vicious cycle of hurt and hate. If left unchecked, that anger is going to cripple you. It’s going to cripple me. Just like the woman in the Gospel who was doubled over, our fury can double us over, bend our backs. It will possess us like a demon if we let it.

So today, beloved, let’s let go of the ego inside us that leads us to one-up our oppressors. Let us let go of that ego and cycle of anger that is so easy to fall into, where violence and hatred become the norm. Instead, let us stand in the Presence, letting Jesus heal us, so that we can stand upright.

BEFORE YOU GO...

- Apparently some St. Stephenites are having difficulty receiving church emails. That means (gasp!) that some of you aren’t getting this newsletter! And if you’re thinking, “What newsletter? We have a newsletter?” – well, apparently you’re part of that unfortunate group. If in doubt, call Rita at the church office, 850-385-2728. She might need to call up an email exorcist.
- Please remember that you can look up past sermons or newsletters that you missed. Visit our website: <http://stephenlutherantally.com/>.
- If you don’t already have St. Stephen’s digital directory, check with Rita in the church office.
- 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!





UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Annette Claussen - 09/06
Martha Marky - 09/08
Greta Langley - 09/09
Bryon Ehlmann - 09/11
Aaron Halvorson - 09/14
Ron Hartung - 09/14
Ceilia Greeley - 09/23
Violet Greeley - 09/23
Kirsten Matthis - 09/23

SERVING THIS WEEK

Pastor Tom, Preaching and Presiding; **Colleen Holdcraft**, Assisting Minister; **Kirsten Ebbesen**, Cup Minister; **Jennifer Buchanan**, Lector; **Audrey Post**, Tech Team; **Linda Eshleman and Barbara Sullivan**, Altar Guild; **Margaret Bowers and Patricia Handschy**, Counters; **Rudy Hehn**, 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 Sunday:

9 a.m. - Book study

10 a.m. - Worship: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Monday, September 1:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

Tuesday, September 2:

5 p.m. - NA meets in HH

5:30 p.m. - Chair yoga in sanctuary

Wednesday, September 3:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH



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>.

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The Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor