



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



A TIME FOR REACHING OUT

Here’s an insightful passage from author Barbara Kingsolver, passed along by former member Ursula Morgan on Facebook, the day after Election Day.

Truth and love have been smacked down, so many more times in history before today. Truth, because it’s often inconvenient, and love because it is vulnerable.

But truth is like gravity and carbon, and the sun behind an eclipse: it’s still there. And love stays alive if you tend it like a flame. If you feel crushed by unkindness today, it’s a time for grieving, reaching out to loved ones, noticing one bright color somewhere in the day. Remembering what there is to love. Starting with the immediate, the place and people we can tend ourselves, and make safe. We can’t save everything all at once, but it’s still worth saving something. Because there are so many of us to do it.

And we are all still here today, exactly as we were yesterday. Like gravity, and carbon, and the sun behind an eclipse.

A POTLUCK AND A SPECIAL VISITOR



There’s a potluck after church this Sunday – and it’s combined with a reception for Anna Amundson, former member, Church Council president and all-around top-notch Lutheran. Anna (*shown here way back in 2010*) lives in Minneapolis these days, but she’s back in town for a wedding, and the potluck is a nice bonus. Margaret Bowers says the church will furnish drinks and cupcakes – so you know what that means, right? The rest of us need to furnish the rest. Please bring what you can to make this potluck a good one. If you have any questions, call Margaret or Lawana.

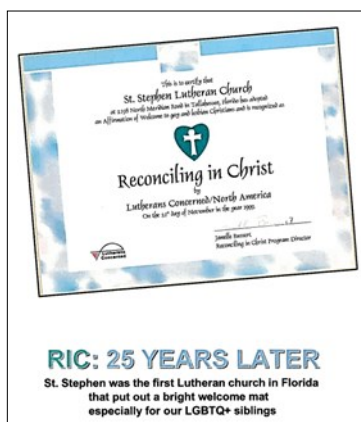
GRAB A BRUSH AND JOIN US IN THE PARKING LOT

Grounds Coordinator Rob Schiffer notes that Pastor Tom painted some of the lines in our parking lot recently, but there are lots more lines to go. Pastor and Rob anticipate working on this project over the next few Saturdays, while the weather is more cooperative. They could use some volunteers to help! Are you available? Starting this Saturday at noon? See you there?



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

“What impresses me is that so many of the speakers, aware of condemnation by many churches, are willing to speak at St. Stephen and become bowled over by our abundance of love and acceptance. Each year’s Ministry of Reconciliation Sunday reinforces my observation that when people open themselves to listen carefully to one another, to respect the dignity of others as children of God, we can feel the love, a bit of heaven on earth.”



That’s Dave Suhrweir speaking. He’s the man behind our annual Ministry of Reconciliation programs – and he’s just one of the St. Stephen people included in the new booklet celebrating our 25th year as a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Lori sent it out by email Monday.

This week has been so tumultuous that you might have missed it. But if you’re eager to hear some good news, to be heartened by the words and actions of St. Stephen people past and present, you’ll want to read it.

Along with a bit of important congregational history, you’ll find uplifting words from Pastor Tom, former Pastor Marda, former Vicar Robin, former member Paul Shepherd, Cheryl Stuart, Stephen Barton, Jennifer Dritt, Val Kibler, Audrey Post, Hector Quinones, Rudy & Susan Hehn, former member Austin Newberry, Sandy Lamb-Daniels and Sylvia Smith, in addition to Dave. As Sandy said: “We’re not really sure if we would be attending any church in person if we hadn’t found this one. We are truly blessed by God and are glad we have somewhere we feel we belong.”

Here’s a link to “RIC: 25 Years Later” on our website:

[RIC anniversary publication.pdf](#)

O GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree is coming soon! As always, Andrea Notley (seen here in 2023) is in charge. And as always, she’ll have a list of families who could use our help to make Christmas brighter. Andrea will have the names of those “adoptable” families – and some of their Christmas wishes – starting Sunday, Nov. 24. You’ll need to bring your adopted family’s gifts to church by Dec. 15. Of course, if you’re not a skilled or enthusiastic shopper, or you just don’t have the time, Andrea can arrange for someone else to shop for your adopted family – if you make a donation and put “Giving Tree” on the memo line of your check. Questions? Ask Andrea, at notley90@comcast.net or 850-443-5293.



‘WALK WITH A DOC’

Forwarded by Beth Alexander

Saturday morning from 9 to 10, at Cascades Park, we older folks can get a bit of exercise and learn a thing or two about keeping ourselves healthy. “Walk With a Doc,” sponsored by Capital Health Plan, will feature FSU College of Medicine M.D. alumna Amy Neal and focus on fall prevention. There will be a 10-minute talk, then a roughly 45-minute walk – but you can walk at your own pace and distance. A waiver form is required for first-time participants in the program and should include group number 17436.

EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM’S SERMON ON ALL SAINTS DAY

... Today is that day we set aside as a community of faith, to allow ourselves to cry with one another. Today is that day we set aside to remember our community, and say the names of those who have died the past year and light candles in their honor and in memory of others.



Today is an opportunity to attend to our grief in a ritual of remembrance. The traditional hymns, the candles, the tears are like what happens at a funeral. There’s really no need for a long sermon when everything else is so powerful.

Yet, that question keeps coming up, doesn’t it? Where has the time gone? When will the pain cease? Why do I keep crying?...

BEFORE YOU GO...


- This is from Stephanie Leitch (we missed yesterday’s presentation, but today’s discussion is with Stephanie in FSU’s William Johnston Building):

FSU | ART HISTORY

2024 Visiting Scholar

Larry Silver

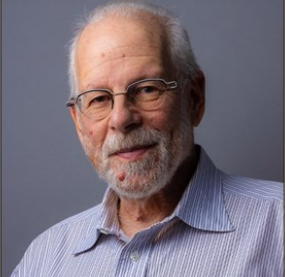
Farquhar Professor of Art History, Emeritus
University of Pennsylvania



WEDNESDAY NOV 6

“Princes and Prince Bishops: Elite Patrons in Early Sixteenth-Century Germany”

4:30PM
WJB 2041



THURSDAY NOV 7

A Conversation with Stephanie Leitch,
Author of *Early Modern Print Media and the Art of Observation: Training the Literate Eye*

4:30PM
WJB G40

arthistory.fsu.edu/ls

- “I have two NEW ‘everydrop’ refrigerator ice and water filters (Number 4) for anyone who can use them,” Linda Eshleman says. “They are for Whirlpool, Maytag, Amanda, Jennair or KitchenAid refrigerators! I had to purchase a new refrigerator and, of course, these No. 4’s don’t work in my new one. Give me a call at 850-556-9431 or see me at church.”

- Reminder: FSU’s Clothing Closet is having a drive to help music students secure clothing suitable for performances, recitals and other events. They’re specifically looking for gently worn formal wear (of any color), black clothing – especially long formal dresses and tuxes of any size. If you can help, call Heather Lazar at 850-644-6493 to arrange drop-off. All donations must be received before next Wednesday.

- 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



Hector Quinones - 11/07
Barbara Sullivan - 11/07
Daniel Martinez - 11/07
Mark Warren - 11/13
Elliot Reece - 11/14
Cheryl Stuart - 11/14
Marda Messick - 11/20
Cindy Suhrweir - 11/21
Sue Canning - 11/25
Marley Bonfanti - 11/26
Michael Bonfanti - 11/27
Phil Williams - 11/29

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:

Noon - Painting the parking lot

This Sunday:

9 a.m. - Book study
9:30 a.m. - Choir practice
10 a.m. - Worship, Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
4 p.m. - Congolese Christian worship in FH

Monday, November 11:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in FH
7 p.m. - TIMA meets in FH

Wednesday, November 13:

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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