



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

### ‘REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST’

Ash Wednesday is next week! And so we prepare for another Lenten journey.



As always, Pastor Tom and the worship team are figuring out how best to observe each new season in the time of COVID. And they’re being creative. Pastor Tom plans to be at church next Wednesday between noon and 1 p.m., with mask on and ashes in hand, ready to impose those ashes on any masked member or friend who drives through the parking lot.

For those who can’t make it, he’s offering an alternative: “If you wish to participate at home with ashes, please stop by the church ahead of time to pick them up. They will be available starting tomorrow (Friday) in a basket outside by the office entry door. I will keep them stocked until Wednesday.”

Of course, there will also be an Ash Wednesday liturgy, live-streamed the same as on Sunday mornings – beginning at 6 p.m. No, it won’t be the same as our traditional in-person services. But in a way it’s even more special, because it’s custom-designed to meet our needs in this unprecedented time. It’s a reminder of the ways in which God seeks us out wherever we are, whatever we’re going through.

### ‘UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN, MOM’

By Betty Wilder

With a broken heart I'm sad to say that my beautiful, loving and spunky mom, Cootie Rhodes, passed away Jan. 26. A graveside service will be held in Jacksonville at a later date.



I'm sure going to miss that wonderful mom of mine. She loved going to church at St. Stephen and made so many friends. I have to be happy and smile – because not only our Lord and Savior but many family members and friends were waiting at Heaven’s Gate to welcome her home. Until we meet again, “my Mom,” love you always.

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

By Pastor Tom



**GOAL!** Following the collection and count on Sunday, we have increased our in-hand donations for the sanctuary repair and proposed renovations. We have approximately \$107,000 in hand, plus \$25,000 in pledges, for a total of \$132,000 toward our goal of \$175,000. God is great!

If you’re considering a financial gift to St. Stephen for this project, please be sure to designate the Capital Campaign for Sanctuary Project. Thank you for your gift of any amount.

## PROUD GRANDMA SANDY NEARS RETIREMENT

*When we asked longtime member Sandy Davis for an update, she provided lots of news ... and a terrific photo with her three smiling grandchildren.*

I've been able to work from home since last March. I'm planning on retiring this year, maybe by June, so I may not have to return to the office at all.

For the first several months of the pandemic, I couldn't spend time with my daughter Jennie and her family. We did talk often, though, and had "driveway visits." Eventually we've been able to be together safely.

I haven't been able to visit any of my family in the Atlanta area, but we connected by Zoom on Christmas Eve.



Of course, my grandchildren are growing older quickly (and so I am!). Baylie is in her junior year at the University of Florida, Christian is a senior at Leon High and Caden is a sophomore. 2021 is the year of birthday milestones for all three of them: Baylie turned 21, Christian will be 18 next week and Caden will be 16 this summer.

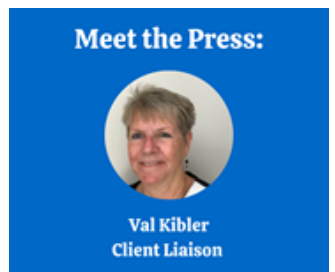
I'm so fortunate to have a daughter and son-in-law who are always there for me. Hopefully, you have family and/or friends for support and love as well.

Miss seeing all of you. May 2021 allow us to be together again physically in worship.

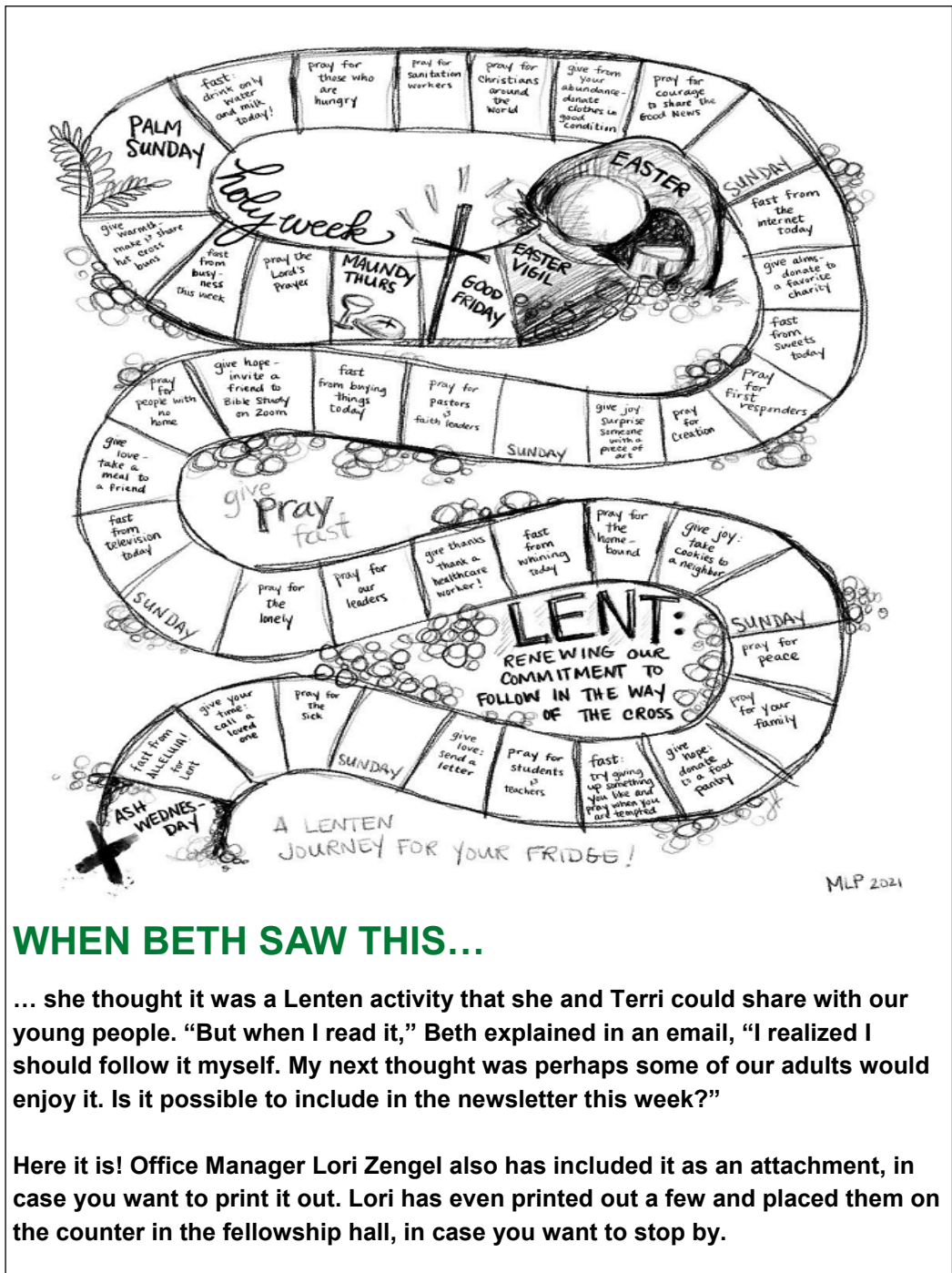
## MORE ST. STEPHEN GLIMPSES

It's always fun when suddenly you run across a familiar face from church. For example:

- On one of my infrequent trips through Facebook last week, I saw that Rapid Press had posted a tribute to one of our favorite Vals. Here's what it said: "There are so many wonderful employees at Rapid Press, and we want you to get to know them! ... First up, meet our Client Liaison, Val Kibler! Val enjoys collecting vintage cameras, movie cameras, projectors, and even alarm clocks! Outside of work, you can find her volunteering in the Tallahassee community. Among others, she has volunteered at Habitat for Humanity, Guardian ad Litem, American Cancer Society, and the Special Olympics. She also enjoys the beach along the tranquil Emerald Coast, as well as listening to some mid-century modern, French Jazz, or classical music. We are very grateful to have Val, as she is a hard worker and a great team member!"



- Last Saturday morning, I just happened to catch Audrey Post on WCTV's morning show. Dressed in her Esposito's shirt, she was expertly discussing the do's and don'ts of pruning your crape myrtles. As you might imagine, she looked right at home.
- Probably you have St. Steve sightings of your own. If you pass them along, we'll find a place for them in the newsletter.



### WHEN BETH SAW THIS...

... she thought it was a Lenten activity that she and Terri could share with our young people. "But when I read it," Beth explained in an email, "I realized I should follow it myself. My next thought was perhaps some of our adults would enjoy it. Is it possible to include in the newsletter this week?"

Here it is! Office Manager Lori Zengel also has included it as an attachment, in case you want to print it out. Lori has even printed out a few and placed them on the counter in the fellowship hall, in case you want to stop by.

### BIBLE STUDY DOESN'T FIT YOUR SCHEDULE?

For those who'd like to take part in the weekly Bible study but have a schedule conflict, here's a link to the recorded meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/b6sJCxD-sO\\_kwUYMkGnTaqk0McgMbkwgYxhi3mGjaTBGssFqo\\_CCeJmiEeKQeRT\\_I.s10uxGqCUzt22NtG](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/b6sJCxD-sO_kwUYMkGnTaqk0McgMbkwgYxhi3mGjaTBGssFqo_CCeJmiEeKQeRT_I.s10uxGqCUzt22NtG)

The access code is 8%t8d&+\*

### MISC.

- New to the Church Council: Sharon Simmons! She has offered to be the liaison between the Council and the newly forming Outreach Committee. Sharon, another longtime St. Stephen member, has agreed to write something for the newsletter as soon as this fledgling group has its first meeting. Thank you for serving, Sharon.
- New to the Altar Guild: Caroline Collins!
- Lori has sent out the 2020 statements. Watch for yours in your mailbox.
- If this were an ordinary year, we'd be preparing for the Mardi Gras Talent Show this Sunday. Sigh. No Amazing Zing! No rock-n-roll from Judi Duffy. No silliness from Karl Barton and Chris Reece. Maybe next year, eh? Meantime, in a nod to the show and to the congregational spirit that it celebrates, we'll sing a special song during Sunday's liturgy. See you there.



- **Want to provide altar flowers? For a donation of \$35, you'll also get an invitation to be among the handful of people who worship in person with Pastor Tom in the sanctuary. Afterward, the flowers are yours to keep. See Lori's contact information below.**
- **Have anything to add to a future newsletter? Email Lori at [sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com](mailto:sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com) or call 850-385-2728.**



## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

**Michele Hartson - 02/11**  
**Chris Reece - 02/15**  
**Patrick Kennell - 02/18**  
**Jennifer Ault - 02/22**  
**Jackie Mustian - 02/25**  
**Lisa Medley - 02/25**  
**Judi Duffy - 02/27**  
**Rob Schiffer - 02/28**  
**Jerry Rumph - 02/28**

## UPCOMING DATES

### **This Sunday:**

**10 a.m. -** Worship, Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday

### **Wednesday, Feb. 17:**

**Noon -** NO Bible study

**Noon to 1 p.m. -** Imposition of Ashes

**6 p.m. -** Worship, Ash Wednesday



If you have news or photos to share, please send them to Lori at [ststephentallahassee@embarqmail.com](mailto:ststephentallahassee@embarqmail.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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