



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



WHAT A SHOW!

Songs were performed, a rabbit was pulled out of a hat, stars were born, our music director pretended to walk out when confronted by “Karla” Barton – and, in a first for St. Stephen, our pastor (in the role of a menacing bad guy) was pretend-pummeled by a Sunday School teacher transformed into a black-belt dynamo. Sunday’s annual talent show was loads of fun, mixing silliness with occasional heartfelt performances and, yes, karate. Check out these photos by Jake Hartung (and the group photo by Steve Kunst).



History will record that the following performers lit up the stage:

- Sandy Larson, filling in for an ailing Nathan Basford to kick off a song about the blessings of St. Stephen.
- Susan Warren, using every ounce of her considerable singing/acting ability to persuade us that she was ... an introvert. Honest!
- Pastor Tom, first singing an ode to the Dollar Store (with excellent accompaniment from violinist Jonas Holdcraft), then leading us in a camp song with Colleen and Jonas demonstrating various poses for the audience to imitate.
- Terri Albrecht-Schmitt, a Tallahassee Integrated Martial Arts 1st-Degree Black Belt Kenpo, showing the rigorous routines required of a black belt – and inviting poor Pastor Tom (always a good sport) to help her illustrate how mightily she could defend herself if necessary.



- Karl (Karla) Barton, in curly wig and time-honored falsetto, energetically performing “I Can’t Say No” from “Oklahoma!”
- Eric McClanahan, playing a couple of patriotic tunes on trombone and showing off his throat-singing skills.
- Hector Quinones, singing in Spanish, bringing tears to our eyes with a warm musical tribute to his old San Juan.
- Jan Harrison, effortlessly lip-synching the fun 1950s song “Tan Shoes and Pink Shoelaces.”
- Jen and Chris Reece, beautifully singing “The Ballad of Love and Hate” by the Avett Brothers. (When we asked about the song, Chris sent this link to the original version: <https://youtu.be/6Pre7bINBps> It’s a terrific song ... but see if you don’t agree that the Reeces sounded better....) *The active link to the song is at the top of this email.*
- The Mighty St. Stephen Tabernacle Choir, reaching for the Alka-Seltzer while performing “Second Thoughts After [Chili] Potluck.”
- Dave Suhrweir, expanding his Amazing Zing! repertoire by introducing spunky Randy Rabbit, who stood up for his rights with the help of cameo defense lawyer Cheryl Stuart.



- Kirsten Ebbesen, who aced the first verse of “My St. Stephen Friends,” which has become the show’s traditional closing act and everyone joins in.



Katharine Gossman did us the honor of accompanying the performers on piano, and the appreciative audience was kind, engaged and just delightful.

Missing from the audience were Our Vals, who are out in California living a medical drama. God bless them! Thanks to Karl/Karla, who raced home after the liturgy to get his video camera, the Vals will be able to watch the show when the time is right. As the closing song stated: “When the world is dark and frightful, when my heart is sad, I simply remember my St. Stephen friends, and then I don’t feel so bad”!

SPEAKING OF THE VALS...

Pastor Tom says that Val Kibler will be at the Residence Inn-Sorento Mesa for two more weeks. If you wish to send a get-well card of encouragement to Val Sullivan, please send it to:

Residence Inn
5995 Pacific Mesa Ct.
San Diego, CA 92121
(Guest) Val Kibler



CALLING ALL ST. STEPHEN CAMPERS

By Colin Hackley

Plans are afoot for a 2020 church camping trip. Ever since Hurricane Michael destroyed our beloved campground at Cape San Blas in 2018, St. Stephen campers have been adrift. Thankfully, Mark Greeley stepped forward this year and has booked the group campsite at St. George Island State Park for us starting Friday, April 17, and ending Sunday, April 19.



Truth in advertising: This campsite is not as plush as the Cape San Blas accommodations and only allows tent camping (RV camping is not permitted). While there are campground bathrooms in the nearby parking lot, there is not electricity at the site, and the shower house features refreshing cold water only.

Still reading? The good news is that the site is right on the bayside (the group site is closer to the front gate of the park and should not be confused with the other campground farther to the east), and there will be opportunities for canoeing, bay wading and fishing near camp. The only Gulfside beach pavilion with restrooms is a bicycle or car ride away. Stargazing at the site should be top-notch, as that area has some of the darkest skies in the Panhandle. Less-adventurous souls who only want to join us for a day at the beach are welcome for as long as they can join us on Saturday.

Camping payments are made as you arrive: \$5 per night per adult and \$1 per night per kid. Please contact Mark or me so we can add you to the email list and plan food accordingly.

REST IN PEACE, MARILYN HUFF

Back when Emory Hingst was our pastor, and before Lori Zengel stole our hearts as office manager, a lovely woman named Marilyn Huff occupied that office. We found out this week that Marilyn died Feb. 7 up in Pennsylvania. She was 82.

Her obituary in the *Tallahassee Democrat* described her as a beloved wife, a devoted mother of three, a proud grandmother of six and, best of all, a “spunky mother-in-law.”

She had been a church secretary at Parkway Baptist as well as St. Stephen. And her life “centered around serving her church family – first at Parkway Baptist Church, and then at Immanuel Baptist Church.”



A memorial service is set for 1 p.m. Saturday, March 14, at Culley's MeadowWood Funeral Chapel-Timberlane Road. The family requests donations to the Alzheimer's charity of your choice.

A SLICE OF LAST SUNDAY'S SERMON

“... Our first house wasn't much, but I could go back to that small room: the one with baby blue walls and white chair rail all around. Below the rail we put up blue and yellow diamond wallpaper with a teddy bear border. Sparsely furnished with a small dresser, crib and glider rocker. The room is so clear in my memory, just like the eyes of the little guys in my arms. Treasured time of gliding and singing with eyes watching and ears listening. Tiny hands reaching up to touch my chin: Yeah, I'd go back there, that is someplace I'd rather be....”

“Think about those places and times in your life. The moments you would like to go back to if you could. Do you remember the mountaintop experience you had with God?”

“... On the mountaintop, clocks and time do not matter. On the mountaintop, marriages never change and relationships with our children remain the same. But coming down to the ‘real world’ is not so bad either. Because we come down changed, not just changed but changed for the better. It is always in the hard times that we grow. It is always in the times of struggle where we grow closer together and we grow closer to God....”

MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- **TICKETS:** Help support LSSNF by attending the Young Actors Theatre's production of "Matilda" at 7 p.m. March 29. See Marilyn Larson, Hilary Dennis or Barbara Ehlmann for tickets and more information. Or call the office at (850) 575-4309.
- **TRICYCLE:** Last week, Sue Williams reminded us of the effort to buy a special trike for one of our favorite former vicars, Robin Whitley. Up in North Carolina, Sue



said, Robin lives on disability income and budgets carefully for her condo payment, medical bills and other living expenses. When the choice came down to medicine or the upkeep of a vehicle, she reluctantly gave up her vehicle. Now, in an effort to restore mobility, she has worked with a cycle shop in Charlotte and found a motorized tricycle that will work for her (and her beloved companion dog, Birdie). Sue started a Go Fund Me campaign

months ago to raise the \$3,000 needed. Since last week, the fund has increased by \$300, but it's still about \$900 short of the goal.

Can you make a donation? [Here's the link.](#) (If reading the newsletter from your email, the active link is at the top of the email).

- **HAND-SANITIZER SEASON:** "Sharing the Peace and holding hands during the Lord's Prayer are special times in the life of our worship community," Pastor Tom said. "Please remember that if you're feeling ill or particularly protective of your own health, you may touch elbows, fist-bump or simply bow as you extend the 'Peace of Christ' to one another. Your neighbor will appreciate your willingness to keep our community healthy. It's also a good idea to use hand sanitizer after shaking hands. I do!"



- **STOP BY:** Pastor Tom pointed out that the adult class now is meeting in the fellowship hall on Sundays. He wants to encourage interest from people who may only wish to sit in for a few minutes and be comfortable coming and going as needed. The fellowship hall offers more room to use the projector for videos and documentaries. "Come grab a cup of coffee," he said, "and sit in to see what's happening!"
- **EAT THIS BREAD:** A woman who participated in our lovely, well-attended Ash Wednesday service observed this lovely scene: "After everyone had communed, Pastor took the small piece of pita bread that remained, left the altar and gave it to the father of two young children. The father promptly broke off pieces for the girls to eat. It was a simple act but such a thoughtful one."

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:



Judi Duffy - 02/27
Rob Schiffer - 02/28
Jan Harrison - 03/02
Jennifer LaVia - 03/02
Jim Christianson - 03/03
Robin Oliveri - 03/05

UPCOMING DATES

This Sunday:

8:45 a.m. - Sunday Church School and Adult Study

10 a.m. - Worship, First Sunday in Lent

11:30 a.m. - Council meeting

Wednesday, March 4:

6 p.m. - Church Vitality Prayer Group

7 p.m. - Choir practice

SERVING THIS SUNDAY:

Pastor Tom, Presiding, Preaching; **Colleen Holdcraft**, Assisting Minister; **Barb ODonnell**, Cup Minister; **Nathan Basford**, Welcoming; **Tim Larson**, Walkways; **Jan Harrison & Karen Olson**, Greeter; **Ron Hartung**, Lector; **Beth Alexander & Judi Duffy**, Altar Guild; **Hector Quinones & Susan Warren**, Counters; **Pastor Tom**, Announcements



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