



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

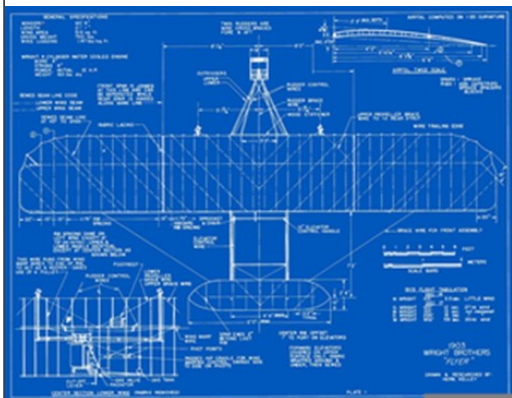
How does Tallahassee know when springtime has tiptoed in? The pollen on the hood of your car is one pretty good clue. But here's a more delightful sign: a vibrant Carolina yellow jessamine at Lafayette Park. Just another treat that You-Know-Who cooked up for us. Nicely done, Supreme Being. (Photo by Jake Hartung)



BEFORE WE PICK A CONTRACTOR...

By Pastor Tom

The Building Design Team is requesting updated blueprints for the sanctuary renovation. We've spoken with the engineer and architect about alternative ways to complete the project without shoring up the entire roof – which could decrease the cost significantly.



We're also seeking clarification about the 24 windows in the upper north and south sides of the building. Initially, we understood that we'd need to replace the entire window and frame units. In conversations with a window company, though, we've learned that perhaps we can replace only the plate glass and leave the existing metal frames. After we complete a cost-savings analysis, we'll make a decision about the windows before we hire a contractor.

Finally, with the carpet up in parts of the sanctuary, we want the architect to come look at the concrete slab. The team's hope is that the brick pavers in the floor can be easily removed, the void can be filled with concrete and the few cracks can be smoothed out. If so, then we'll have a variety of flooring options to choose from.

Once these items are clarified and completed, then the Building Design Team will call on contractors to bid on the project.

Many thanks to Pastor Tom, the Building Design Team and the Church Council for their careful attention to every detail of this project.

OUR NEW LIBRARY IS FREE ... AND LITTLE

By Margaret Bowers

St. Stephen, we now have our very own Little Free Library. Braden Bonney of Troop 114 Eagle Scouts installed it with his parents Sunday. We're so excited about getting books out there for the public.

Haven't heard of Little Free Libraries? More than 100,000 of them are registered around the world. Here's how the website explains it: "A Little Free Library is a 'take a book, return a book' free book exchange.... Anyone may take a book or bring a book to share.... There is an understanding that real people are sharing their favorite books with their community."

We're still working on some final details. If you'd like to donate books toward the Little Free

Library, you're welcome to. We need to control what goes in there, so please bring any books to the fellowship hall and place them in the bin marked "Library donations." If you need me to pick up any books, please just text me at 407-921-8671. *(In the photo, from left: Pastor Tom, Margaret, Braden and David Butler)*



TWO NEW MEMBERS

It's always a special blessing to have new members join the congregation on Easter Sunday – and it's happening again this year. Chris Gossman and Greta Langley plan to officially join on April 4.

In case you haven't met them, here's a little information about them:

- Greta is a self-employed insurance and investments expert. Chris, who's semi-retired, works with Greta.
- Some of Greta's favorite things to do are gardening, outdoor activities, fishing and water sports. Chris' list includes playing games and cards, playing golf and hiking.
- This is one of the things they really like about St. Stephen: "We are accepted and welcomed to worship and take communion."

Thank you, Chris and Greta, for taking this leap of faith into our congregation.

HAVE YOU GIVEN TO THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN YET?



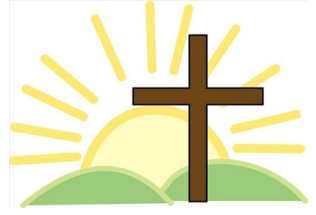
GOAL! Since last week's newsletter, we've received a bit more toward our Capital Campaign for the Sanctuary Project goal of \$175,000. Now we have more than \$144,000: that is, \$120,118 received, plus \$24,000 pledged.

25% Thank you for your continued financial support. If you can make a gift of any amount, please be sure to designate it to the Capital Campaign for the Sanctuary Project.

'IF WE WAKE UP': EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM'S SUNDAY SERMON

"[In the Gospel lesson about Jesus overturning the money tables in the temple] Jesus is not validating violence against anyone but calling us to wake up and notice what and who we are giving our attention to. In John, our attention is about glorification that comes through the crucifixion and death of Jesus and also His resurrection.

"It is what we focus on today. That God, recognized in the body and spirit of Jesus, gets our attention by going to the cross and doing the most foolish thing. Dying for what is right. Dying for what is just. Dying for what is ethical. Dying for you and for me and for the enemy because what Christ has done ... is still doing ... is simply Amazing Grace. The resurrection truth searching, shaping and meeting us now. In the church, outside of the church, wherever we are, if we wake up ... we will see God."



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/wFnLAXSaVRAZQpkwxX5ECREIn-BBcsf5VBxVIgKt45fooe6hJ8MUCgtN3eQImXMbH.fOfIwV1im8s_e_p

The access code is **LY%6F932**

MISC.

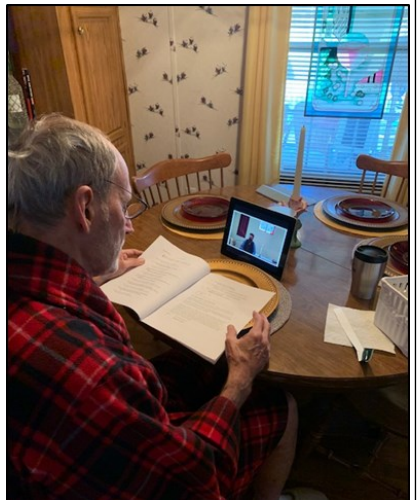
- These days, with so many alternative ways to send in our financial gifts, not all of us rely on offering envelopes. But some people do. And some of those people haven't been able to swing by the church yet to pick up their 2021 envelopes. So one of our members has offered an easy fix: If you haven't picked up your envelopes but you'd really like to have them, call or email Office Manager Lori Zengel (her contact information is below). She'll notify this good-hearted member, and you'll have your envelopes before you know it.

- Did you notice something different about Pastor Tom last Sunday? When he read the Gospel, he got a little help from a pair of glasses. "Yes, I've needed to go to the 'readers' more and more," Pastor Tom explained when your newsletter inquired. "Not-very-stylish Dollar Tree variety, but effective." On him, of course, they do indeed look stylish. And of course he bought them at Dollar Tree. Gosh, have we really gone a whole year without a pastoral mention of his favorite store? Hardly seems possible.



- Nathan Basford sent this photo that he called a glimpse of Don Dowd's faith in action. "Don enjoys the online services each Sunday," Nathan said.

- Here in Lent, our flower people are already looking ahead to Easter, when we'll be decorating the chancel area with Easter lilies. Would you like to dedicate one or more? The cost is \$10 each, and we'll have the dedication list in the Easter bulletin. Email or call Lori to be included. The deadline is Sunday, March 28. Speaking of flowers...



- 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 or call 850-385-2728.



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Victor Muchuruza - 03/13
T'moi DeWindt - 03/16
Tenan DeWindt - 03/19
Nicholas Franklin - 03/19
Chris Gossman - 3/19
Stephanie Leitch - 03/27

UPCOMING DATES

This Sunday:

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

11:30 a.m. - Council meeting

Wednesday, March 17:

Noon - Bible study



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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