



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



***'LET US PRAY': That's our favorite pastor in the Florida Senate last Friday, leading the opening prayer. Sue Williams sent in this photo but credits Erin Kenney as the photographer. Part of Erin's job in the Senate Secretary's Office is to coordinate the clergy for the opening prayer each time the Senate is in session. Good choice, Erin.***

## A NOTE FROM JENNIFER

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Acting President until Val is able to resume her duties. Pastor Tom and I called an unscheduled meeting of the Council last night to address two sets of issues - modifications to our worship and fellowship practices due to the Corona virus outbreak, and exploration of options for repairing the sanctuary.

Regarding the virus, we decided to, for the foreseeable future:

1. Clear the baptismal font of water
2. Cancel all potlucks and other non-worship gatherings
3. Continue to refrain from handshakes and hand-holding during the Lord's Prayer.
4. Utilize wafers instead of a communal loaf during communion (common cup has been discontinued already)
5. Volunteers who count the offering will wear gloves, and members should stop sealing their envelopes.
6. The communion rail and other shared surfaces will be disinfected.
7. Altar Guild will meet and review all procedures to reduce the potential for contamination.
8. Pastor will continue his limited home-visitation schedule, instituting common-sense measures regarding touching, distance from parishioners, and increased hand-washing.
9. Manna procedures will be reviewed with our ministry partners.

Regarding renovations, all interested parties are meeting with the engineer who was contracted to study the problem and pose solutions on today at noon in the fellowship hall. Questions were generated that will help determine how we should proceed from there.

Praying that everyone stays safe and hopeful in this unsettled time,

Jennifer Buchanan

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- Abbey Funeral Home is sponsoring a March toy drive for the Shriners Hospital. If you have new or clean/gently used toys to donate, either take them to 4037 N. Monroe St. (850-562-1518) or, easier still, bring them to church by Sunday, March 29, and give them to Cassandra White – and she'll drop them off at Abbey. Bless you.
- HOPE Community desperately needs gently used sheets and bath towels. It has twin-size mattresses but will take sheets any size, both fitted and flat. Contact Marie Vandenberg, HOPE Community director, Big Bend Homeless Coalition, 850-792-9432, [mvandenberg@bigbendhc.org](mailto:mvandenberg@bigbendhc.org).



## THE LATEST ON THE VALS

By Pastor Tom

Keep the prayers and well wishes coming for our sister Val Sullivan. She is working more and more with physical and occupational therapy. Yesterday, she was able to switch the trachea tube to one without a cuff. This is encouraging her lungs to pull oxygen around the tube and will be a great step toward her ability to take food and drink by mouth and begin speech. Praise the Lord for this great news!

Val Kibler wishes to thank everyone for the get-well wishes. She shared them all with Sul. And when Sul read the one from the children of our congregation, she touched her heart.... God is great!.

## MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- PRESIDENT BUCHANAN:** As Pastor Tom announced by email Wednesday, Jennifer Buchanan is our new acting Church Council president. Jen, who has held numerous leadership roles at St. Stephen, is filling in for Val Sullivan, who's still on the mend in San Diego. We wish both Vals all the best during President Sullivan's slow but steady recovery. We thank Jen for accepting this new responsibility. And we thank God for all of our St. Stephen sisters and brothers who use their time and talents for the good of our church family.
- UP ON THE ROOF:** Many thanks to Steve Kunst for giving a bunch of us an after-the-liturgical update on the roof challenges facing our sanctuary. In case you missed it, there will be more such sessions, and there will be a congregational meeting once we get estimates on how much this repair job will cost.
- TALENT SHOW – THE MOVIE:** Remember we told you that Karl (aka Karla) Barton had captured our recent talent show on video, to show the Vals? Well, it's also available for the rest of us to watch. Here's the link (you will need to access the link from the one provided at the top of this email): [https://thomasu-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/kbarton\\_thomasu\\_edu/EbrOL-ng8dxPndCH7XbvVDYByBzGHMpoAHpmh9qzN\\_zftw?e=cbMiai](https://thomasu-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/kbarton_thomasu_edu/EbrOL-ng8dxPndCH7XbvVDYByBzGHMpoAHpmh9qzN_zftw?e=cbMiai)
- OWLS:** The next OWLs gathering will be this Tuesday, March 17 (St. Patty's Day) at 11:30 a.m. at the Tans Asian Café (2743 Capital Circle NE #110). RSVP by March 14 to Nathan at 850-523-4282
- SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL** will be off on March 15 and 22. See you back on March 29.
- CAMPERS, UNITE!** Don't forget that Mark Greeley and Colin Hackley are organizing our first post-Hurricane Michael church camping trip for April 17-19. The cost is a low, low \$5 per night per adult and \$1 per night per kid. If you're interested, talk to Mark or Colin so they can give you the details, add you to the email list and plan food accordingly.



## A SLICE OF LAST SUNDAY'S SERMON

"... If we are to learn anything from [Nicodemus], it is to be encouraged to come to Jesus in times of confusion and worry. To seek Christ in times of crisis and loneliness and to come to God in hope of learning how to live. And to come as a child comes, in hope of being taught something new, in order to be born from above by things unseen...."



## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

**Victor Muchuruza - 03/13**

**T'moi DeWindt - 03/16**

**Tenan DeWindt - 03/19**

**Nicholas Franklin - 03/19**

**Stephanie Leitch - 03/27**

## UPCOMING DATES

### **This Sunday:**

**8:45 a.m.** - Adult Study

**10 a.m.** - Worship, Second Sunday in Lent

### **Tuesday, March 17:**

**11:30 a.m.** - OWLs Gathering

### **Wednesday, March 18:**

**6 p.m.** - Church Vitality Prayer Group

**7 p.m.** - Choir practice

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY:

**Pastor Tom**, Presiding, Preaching; **Cheryl Stuart**, Assisting Minister; **Susan Warren**, Cup Minister; **Jonas Holdcraft**, Crucifer; **Colleen Holdcraft**, **Margaret Bowers & Rita Ford**, Greeters; **Sue Williams**, Lector; **Linda Eshleman & Eunice Muchuruza**, Altar Guild; **Audrey Post & Billie Reardon**, Counters; **Jennifer Buchanan**, Announcements



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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