



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

LUNCH BUNCH

It's been two years or so since St. Stephen's Older Wiser Lutherans (aka OWLs) gathered for lunch. Thanks to Margaret Bowers' organizational skills, 14 OWLs flocked to Little Italy on Tuesday for a noisy and tasty good time. Also thanks to Margaret, we have this photo to prove it. Look – actual faces! No masks! From left: Judi Duffy, Linda & Bob Eshleman, Mark & Sue Canning, Emily Ruddell, Sharon Simmons, Billie Reardon, Gladys Kane, Emily Jennings, Pastor Tom, and Ron & Ruth Hartung.



HELP SUPPORT 'WOMEN BUILD 2022'

By Caroline Collins

Big Bend Habitat for Humanity has designated its next home as Women Build 2022, completely sponsored by and built by women, for a woman with a family in need of affordable housing. I learned about it at a recent program hosted by Women Wednesdays. I'm not very handy with the tools of building, but this



project called out to me, so I impulsively agreed to co-lead a team with my friend Gina Hogan Edwards. We're calling ourselves "The Fixie Chicks" because ... well, whimsical

musical metaphors and cute logos make everything better.

Perhaps St. Stephen would want to create a team? Or perhaps you'd like to boost the Women Build 2022 effort by supporting our team. We don't have our build day(s) set yet because Habitat needs us to raise the majority of the funds before groundbreaking can be scheduled.

You can help us in any of three ways:

1. Financial contributions: Just click on the link below, go to the DONATE button and enter the amount, then designate WOMEN WEDNESDAYS FIXIE CHICKS as your team! Here's the link: <https://bit.ly/FixieChicks>.
2. Join us onsite when we pick up our hammers and build!
3. On our build day(s), bring us food to support our sweaty work.

If you're interested in Option 2 or 3, please let me know at pinkandgreen850@gmail.com or 850-566-9990. Thank you!

THANK YOU, ST. STEPHEN

By Pastor Tom

Thank you for your donations to boost the Justice and Mercy Fund! We now have a balance of \$1,550 in the account for people in need. I appreciate having a balance of funds in reserve – so “Thank you” to everyone who contributes to this ministry.

Wait – I’ve got more thanks! You might recall that the total cost for new chairs in the sanctuary is \$8,054. As of Sunday, we’ve collected \$3,375. Close to halfway there! Thank you for your continued generosity as we make necessary upgrades to our worship space.



‘CHRIST IS AT WORK WITHIN US’: EXCERPT FROM SUNDAY’S SERMON

“One needs to know what it is they want out of life because there are forces in the world that distract, disturb and make us fearful. There is a persistent ploy to bring our attentions away from God and back to money, possessions, power, popularity – and [the notion that] if we just vote for this one or that one, it can all be yours. Equally disturbing is the persistent ploy to bring our attentions to threats, dangers, disasters and all the scary things that will all disappear IF we just vote for this one or that one. But they won’t. They don’t have that power.

“Now, it’s not that I’m saying, ‘Don’t vote.’ Please vote. It matters. What I am saying is that there are distractions that draw us away from ‘standing firm in the



Lord.’ Distractions that lead us away from naming the fear and finding hope. Persistent voices that make promises that cannot be kept. But Paul writes that ‘we are unfolding expressions, embodiments, of the extent to which Christ is at work within us. And Christ works most powerfully within us when we understand that our bodies belong to both us and God.’ Discerning Christ, in what you

want out of life, is the best way to get the most out of our lives. It is the only way, in my opinion, to be incorruptible. Set on Jesus.”

HAIKU CORNER

By Lex Lutheran

CHOIR DIRECTOR’S WISDOM

You mustn’t sing “joy” exactly the same way you sing the word “sorrow.”

Lyrics have meaning.
Let your voice tell the story
with each rise and fall.

Sing the words as if
you really mean them, and not
as if you’re asleep.



(Photo by Colin Hackley. Front row from left: Rita Ford, Colleen Holdcraft, Vicki Guttenplan, Melissa Barton. Back row: Mark Canning, Jake Hartung, Ron Hartung, Pastor Tom, Martin Guttenplan, Karl Barton.)

MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- **Happy St. Patrick's Day, St. Stephen!**
- Thank you for your donations toward the work that Lutheran Disaster Response and Lutheran World Relief are doing for people in Ukraine and elsewhere. Their work, sad to say, is never finished. Please consider further donations if you're able. God bless our war-torn world.
- **Reminder:** The annual camping trip is coming up fast – April 22-24 at St. George Island State Park. If you have any questions, get in touch with Mark Greeley (markhoffmangreeley@gmail.com) or Colin Hackley (colin@typestyle.net).



- We will be using Easter lilies to adorn the chancel area for Easter. Would you like to dedicate one or more? The cost is \$10 each and we'll have the dedication in the Easter bulletin. Look for the form in Sunday's bulletin. The deadline is April 10.

- All the cool Lutherans we know are talking about Coffee Talk. Want to join them? Show up at 9:15 Sunday morning, grab a coffee and a treat in the fellowship hall, and hang out with some of your churchmates.
- Do you have any classified ads you'd like to place in the newsletter, free of charge? You know – items you'd like to give away or sell, items you'd like to acquire, that sort of thing. If so, send them in to Lori. Her contact information is below.
- **Editor's note:** Editors aren't supposed to put pictures of themselves in their publications. My photo appears twice in this newsletter. I could be impeached for this.
- Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you'd like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service. Sign up on the 2022 Flower Chart in the narthex. The cost is \$35, which you can place in the offering plate.
- Have anything to add to a future newsletter? Email Lori at sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com or call 850-385-2728.



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Chris Gossman - 03/19
Stephanie Leitch - 03/27
Davis Holdcraft - 04/01
Gordon Fleischer - 04/06
Colin Hackley - 04/06
Vicki Guttenplan - 04/07
Beth Alexander - 04/11
Elizabeth Halvorson - 04/15

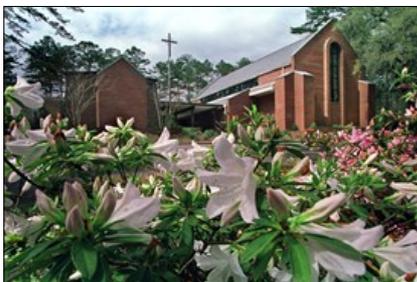
UPCOMING DATES

This Sunday:

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

Wednesday, March 23:

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