

March 23, 2023



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

### AS OUR PIANO FINDS ITS VOICE

*By Pastor Tom*

I cannot express enough how wonderful the grand piano sounds in the hands of Katharine! It has recently been tuned and will be “voiced” soon.

Donations for the new piano in the sanctuary are up to \$7,745! We’re about \$5,000 away from our goal.

The piano cost \$11,000. The professional movers cost \$700. Tuning and voicing will cost \$300. Placing the piano permanently on a high-quality piano dolly for longevity will cost about \$1,000.



Thank you for the gifts that keep coming in the offering plate and on Venmo for this beautiful instrument and lively sound at worship.

### SO WHAT IS ‘VOICING’?

*From Total-Piano-Care.com*

Piano voicing improves the quality of your piano’s tone. Also known as “tone regulating,” voicing is accomplished by softening or hardening hammer felt to achieve a desired tonal personality within your piano. Every individual piano possesses its own distinct sound or “voice,” and can be modified by your piano technician or piano rebuilder.

The process of piano hammer voicing includes:



1. Aligning the actual hammers with the strings.
2. Reshaping hammers by sanding/filing a layer of felt off to eliminate grooves.
3. Ironing hammer felt or treating it with lacquer to harden hammers as needed.
4. Pricking hammer felt with needles to soften the felt and, by extension, your piano's tone.

### LILIES FOR EASTER

Will you help us fill the altar area with Easter lilies? 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 2.





## DENISE'S LIFE IS AN OPEN BOOK

*We gather at church on Sunday mornings, but there's so much we don't know about each other and how we live our lives. Recently Caroline Collins showed me a feature story in the Democrat that mentioned a work by FSU art professor Denise Bookwalter. Yes, we've mentioned Denise's artwork before in the newsletter, but there's so much more to learn. How about that photo above? That's an example of what Denise has in mind when she talks about creating a book. In fact, that's the book on display now at City Hall. Here's the official description of it:*

*"Fashioning is the second book collaboration between Denise Bookwalter and Lee Emma Running. Their first artist book, **Lining**, investigates the intimate relationship of textiles next to the skin. In **Fashioning** the artists continue their work with their intimate relationship with clothing. Clothing retains the story of the wearer. In **Fashioning** the artists capture their relationship with clothing by making rubbings of embellishments found on personally significant garments. The drawings directly capture a moment in the life of the textile. The textile contains its own evidence of the hands that made it and the bodies that wore it. Each of the rubbings were transferred to letterpress printing plates, printed in white, resit dyed, and waxed to create a book structure that becomes a book the reader wears. **Fashioning** is a tactile experience embedded in cloth and paper."*

*If you search around online, you'll find out more about Denise and her art. Here are excerpts from a 2017 profile of her by the Council on Culture & Arts, also printed in the Democrat.*

Attending Northwestern University in Chicago, Bookwalter was first a geology major.... She added art as a major and by the end of her degree had a balance of the arts and sciences.... "Studying geology, I loved figuring out the world and how things work. I'm interested in things that allow you to understand the world in a different way and I approach subject matter like a scientist, investigating something or looking at it more in depth."

... When teaching, Bookwalter hopes to empower her students to come up with their own ideas and figure out how that can be turned to art. In her bookbinding and printmaking classes, she often has students in awe of the translation between digital art on a computer screen versus the ink on their fingers and laborious processes on letterpress equipment—setting up, rolling paper through, and mixing colors, versus pushing 'print' with a mouse click.



"I tell my students that they have to design something that people can touch, and is strong and sturdy enough that people can look through it, otherwise it defeats the purpose of making it.... A book is something you're supposed to touch, look through, and experience. If it has to sit on a shelf, it defeats the whole idea of the medium."

*The display titled "**WEFT/Women Empowering Fiber Traditions**" continues through April 2 at the City Hall Galleries, 300 S. Adams St. It's free. For more information, visit <https://www.tallahasseearts.org>.*

## WOODPECKERS, SAPSUCKERS AND YOU

Our monthly Ministry Minutes – which introduce us to a variety of good works taking place in the community, with the assistance of St. Stephen members and friends – have covered a lot of ground. Last Sunday, the latest one got downright wild. Terri Schmitt, our well-known friend to animals, filled us in on the Florida Wild Mammal Association. She's done a bit of everything there.

"I have helped upgrade animal habitats...; fed baby birds; given medication...; cleaned habitats, big and small; prepared animal diets; washed, dried and folded mountains of laundry....

"Since 2015, I have been a permitted off-site volunteer. This means that I provide housing and daily care for a permanent resident who is a wildlife ambassador." Judi Duffy and others got to meet Moonlight, the great horned owl who lives with Terri, in the fellowship hall after worship. *(Photo by Denise Bookwalter)*



Mostly, Terri said, she has served as an educator. "I teach people the value of native animals and plants and how people can positively or negatively impact them...," she said. "Species that I have been exposed to during my time at FWMA include swallow-tailed kites, brown pelicans, gopher tortoises, red-bellied woodpeckers, yellow-bellied sapsuckers and a domestic skunk....



"In 2022 FWMA provided care for 1,508 wildlife patients. That's a lot of mouths to feed and a lot of poop to clean up!"

How can people help support FWMA? Terri said volunteers can help manage the website, make brochures, organize fundraising events, put carpentry skills to use, rake the grounds, transport patients, assist with bookkeeping and foster baby squirrels.

Or, of course, you can make a financial donation. One way is to visit <https://fwma.org>. A much easier way, though, is to remember Terri and the Florida Wild Mammal Association this Sunday during our Noisy Offering. Every cent the kids collect in their shiny buckets will go toward the FWMA. No doubt Terri hopes you'll think bigger than a handful of quarters and dimes. Think multiple dollars!

## COMING UP



- April 2: Palm Sunday
- April 6: Maundy Thursday healing service, 7 p.m.
- April 7: Good Friday, 7 p.m.
- April 9: Easter! Pancake breakfast! Easter egg hunt!
- April 21: Camping trip!
- July 30: Congregational meeting
- Oct. 29: Bishop Suarez visits us on Reformation Sunday



## EXCERPT FROM PASTOR'S SERMON

... and no one could hear  
the words from Jesus ...  
God's love is already inside  
of you and of me,  
burning to be let out....

## MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- Martha Marky called to let us know that former member, and choir member, Rosalyn Olsen had passed away Saturday. An Olsen Family Memorial is being planned for a yet-undetermined date, with in-person and online ways to participate. Details will be announced in the *Tallahassee Democrat*.
- For February our expenses totaled \$19,694 and our regular giving was \$18,059, leaving us \$1,635 in the **red**. The good news is that we had a surplus in January and year-to-date we are \$6,299 in the black.
- We received a thank-you note from the ELCA for our church's mission support totaling \$20,637.50 during 2022.



- 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 flower chart in the narthex. The cost is \$35, which you can place in the offering plate.
- Have any questions for our Church Council members? They're listed on our website, <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/about-us>.
- 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

Stephanie Leitch - 03/27  
Davis Holdcraft - 04/01  
Gordon Fleischer - 04/02  
Colin Hackley - 04/02  
Vicki Guttenplan - 04/07  
Beth Alexander - 04/11  
Erik Robinson - 04/14  
Elizabeth Halvorson - 04/15

## IN THE WEEK AHEAD

**Sunday, March 26:**

**9 a.m.** - Book study

**9:30 a.m.** - Choir practice

**10 a.m.** - Worship, Fifth Sunday in Lent—Noisy offering

**Wednesday, March 29:**

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



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

Don't forget our Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/ststephentallahassee>.

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