



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



ALLELUIA!

It was another beautiful, meaningful Easter morning for St. Stephen. The service included a celebratory sermon and special children's message from Pastor Tom and joyful music from Katharine Gossman, Karl Barton, Tom Buchanan and the choir.

These photos from Colin Hackley illustrate how Rita Ford and Colleen Holdcraft danced to accompaniment by Chris and Jen Reece, and how the morning buzzed with a breakfast buffet and Easter-egg-induced fervor.

Margaret Bowers thanks "all who helped us stuff the eggs for the hunt and wonderful youth helpers Jonas, Astrid and Blake for doing a great job of hiding the eggs. Super special thanks to Carol for decorating the fellowship hall on Saturday with her neighbor friend."



'LIKE EASTER': EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM'S SERMON

... My grandfather and my grandmother are buried right up the road at Roselawn Cemetery. I knew they were laid to rest there, but I didn't know the exact location until a couple years ago, when my dad gave me directions over the phone to find them. When I went, I didn't expect to find anything but death. I went to show respect and perform an act of love.

A few weeks later I went back, with cleaning supplies (and our sons), to give the headstones a good scrubbing. We didn't go there thinking we'd find anything except death, but we went with a purpose, and we carried things and we showed respect, and when we were finished there ... I took a picture of their headstones and I sent it to my dad. Most of you know my father died in December of 2022. And I'm so glad I did that because he replied how important and how moving that action was for him. Something so little (at the time) became for me something really, really big.

We didn't go expecting to see anything but death. We just went to perform a service. The result was like Easter....

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT FOR MARCH

By Pastor Tom



Regular offerings for the month totaled \$31,155, and expenses were \$24,676. So our income exceeded our expenses by \$6,479. That means our year-to-date deficit is \$2,259. Yes, we're still in the red, but during March we saw a substantial improvement in non-designated giving! At the end of February we were in the hole for the year by \$8,737. In short, we're heading in the right direction, St. Stephen. Thanks be to God for your generosity!

ANOTHER FINANCIAL UPDATE

From the March 17 Church Council minutes

A discussion was held on the three possible candidates to provide financial consultation to the Council and congregation. QuickBooks has already been purchased, and Lori will begin learning the inner workings of the program.



The Council recognizes the need for financial consultation on an as-needed basis going forward, following Synod guidelines of every two years. Future budgets will reflect this as a line item. Pastor, President, Treasurer and Office Manager will continue the information-gathering phase of the process. The Council is working to

have the consultation completed for the July congregational meeting.

A VERY NOISY OFFERING

The group benefiting from March's Noisy Offering, you might recall, was HOME (Homeless Outreach Medicine and Education) Street Medicine, and our guest speaker was Allison Justice, faculty member in the FSU College of Medicine's PA program. How much did we contribute to HOME Street Medicine's ministry? A total of \$580!



FUN ACTIVITIES COMING UP THIS MONTH



- Tuesday, April 9: OWLs luncheon, 11:30 a.m., St. John's Lively Café, 211 N. Monroe St. (St. John's Episcopal Church). They prefer credit cards, not cash, for lunch. Parking on the back side of the building, on North Calhoun Street. Must RSVP by this Sunday, April 7.
- Friday, April 19-Sunday, April 21: St. Stephen/St. George camping trip. For details, ask Colin Hackley (colin@colinhackley.com) or Mark Greeley (markhoffmangreeley@gmail.com).
- Tuesday, April 23: Tallahassee Swing Band Tuesday Night Dance, 7:30 p.m., American Legion on Lake Ella.
- Saturday, April 27: Potluck luncheon at Nathan Basford's house, 11:30 a.m. "The great outdoors lunch!" More details to come.
- Sunday, April 28: Potluck after church, celebrating Earth Day and April birthdays.



A FAMILY-FUN WEEKEND

Escape to Luther Springs this Labor Day for a weekend of family fun and adventure including swimming, canoeing/kayaking, archery and other fun interactive games. The programming is designed for families to spend time together, some time in age-specific activities, and to enjoy family free time. Housing is on a first-come, first-served basis. Families of all shapes and sizes are welcome. Dates: Aug. 31-Sept. 2. (Families may also stay Aug. 30. Please call 828-209-6302 to arrange this additional night.) Cost: Youth (4-13 years), \$60. (Children 3 and younger are free.) Adult (cabin-style lodging), \$80. Adult (motel-style lodging), \$120. Register at <https://luthersprings.campbrainregistration.com/>.



WE'RE INVITED

By Brenda Christie, New Mt. Zion AME Church, forwarded by Sharon Simmons

I am extending an invitation for you to attend our 4th annual Unity in the Community program. It is planned for Sunday, May 26, at 3 p.m. at Allen Temple CME Church. Money raised will go toward an educational scholarship set up in honor of my mom, Mercedes Hall Thomas, who passed away several years ago. The recipients may attend Florida A&M University, Florida State University or Tallahassee Community College. We have blessed several students in our community with scholarships, and all are doing exceedingly well!



Please let me know if you will be in attendance no later than April 15 so that we can plan accordingly. A sit-down homestyle meal will be served immediately after the service. If you have any questions, contact me at (850) 599-1948.

BEFORE YOU GO...



- Here's how the gorgeous Muchuruza family looked on Easter Sunday, down in Winter Garden. From left: Vince, Vivien, Eunice and Victor. We miss them!
- The St. Stephen choir is taking a break for the next two Sundays. Watch for its return April 21.

- "Finding Nemo Jr." at Young Actors Theatre runs through April 14. Tickets are on sale at www.youngactorstheatre.com. "There is a special sensory-friendly show scheduled for Sunday, April 7, if anyone knows of families with young children or those with autism or other disabilities who may need some special accommodations," says Jen Reece. "Please reach out to Tammi or me if you have any questions or want the specific shows that Graham and Will are in. Thanks for all the wonderful St. Stephen support!"
- Wondering who got to keep that lovely quilt that KidSafe raffled off recently? It was Jan Harrison. Here she is, all smiles.
- If you have an anniversary, birthday, special memory or special St. Stephen person or program you'd like to honor, celebrate by sponsoring the altar flowers for our service. Sign up on the flower chart, out by the nametags, or ask Lori to sign you up. Include the \$40 with your regular offering. And then take the flowers home!



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Gordon Fleischer - 04/06
Colin Hackley - 04/06
Vicki Guttenplan - 04/07
Beth Alexander - 04/11
Rudy Hehn - 04/12
Donna Schiffer - 04/13
Erik Robinson - 04/14
Elizabeth Halvorson - 04/15
Cassandra White - 04/16
Colton Allen - 04/17
Terri Schmitt - 04/17
Tyler Notley - 04/18
Russell Reardon - 04/26
Colleen Holdcraft - 04/29

COMING UP

Today:

Noon - Al-Anon meets in fellowship hall (FH)

7 p.m. - AA meets in FH

This Friday:

9:30 a.m. - TOPS meets in FH

This Saturday:

10 a.m. - Sew for Hope meets in FH

This Sunday:

9 a.m. - Book study

10 a.m. - Worship, Second Sunday of Easter

4 p.m. - Congolese Christian worship in FH

Monday, April 8:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in FH

7 p.m. - TIMA meets in FH

7 p.m. - Compassionate Friends meet in Ruth Room

Tuesday, April 9:

11:30 a.m. - OWLs lunch at St. John's Lively Cafe

Wednesday, April 10:

10 a.m. - Friendship Star Quilting meets in FH

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in FH



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>.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, ELCA
2198 N. Meridian Road | Tallahassee, FL 32303

The Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor