



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



*This is what sunrise looks like from the Hartungs' front porch. God lives in those spring-green leaves, that Spanish moss, that tangle of live-oak limbs. Here's to the God who's waiting outside your front door, too.*

## UPDATES FROM CHURCH AND HOME

*We asked Val Sullivan, congregational president, to update us on Church Council activities and on her own health.*

- We're trying to discern a safe, gradual way for us all to worship together again. Unfortunately, with the April showers, we were unable to hold our socially distanced picnic, but we've rescheduled it for 11:30 a.m. on May 2.
- If you'd like to worship in the sanctuary on an upcoming Sunday, simply call Lori during office hours. We always need to know how many folks to expect so we can space them out appropriately. And, of course, you need to wear your mask.
- We still need an education steward (or stewards) for Church Council. Outgoing education coordinator Terri Schmitt can work with you to get you up to speed until our youth reconvene.

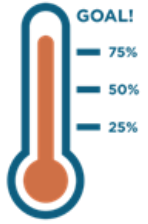


- If you haven't had the chance, please stop by the church grounds. David Butler and Emily Jennings have put in many, many hours of work, and this is a fantastic time of year to enjoy the flowers, new seating areas and other features.
- As for Val and me, both of us are back at work full time. I'm back in the hospital daily but staying primarily in the administrative suite and using oxygen for exertion as needed. I'm just happy to be back on the other side of the hospital bed. Kib, along with her "day job" in marketing and sales, is also managing various home projects we have going on – including the construction of a small pool where I'll be able to exercise when the heat is unbearable, as well as some painting at the beach cottage. Our 17-year-old cat, Thor, the ruler of our home, keeps us on our toes.

# KEEPING UP WITH THE SANCTUARY PROJECT

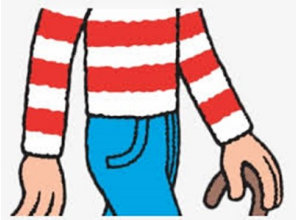
By Pastor Tom and Val Sullivan

- The Building and Design Committee is hard at work, ironing out details to present to general contractors.
- An architect fee of \$11,000 has been paid. The remaining \$9,000 will be paid upon completion of the architect's work.
- Financial gifts contributed toward the sanctuary repair and other renovations now total \$130,900. On top of that, \$14,850 has been pledged.
- If you haven't had an opportunity to make a gift or pledge yet, please prayerfully consider doing so – and be sure to designate it to the Capital Campaign for the Sanctuary Project.



## HEY ... WHERE WAS PASTOR TOM?

If you missed church last Sunday but don't want Pastor Tom to know, don't try to butter him up by mentioning how much you loved his sermon. He wasn't there! The whole family was in Tyler, Texas, for the wedding of his son Davis. *(More about that in a moment.)*



Church Council members Beth Alexander and Jen Dritt kept the liturgy running smoothly. The guest preacher was Byron Greene, a member of St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church who's considering ordained ministry. Pastor Tom has gotten to know him through work on social justice issues in the community.

"We're both on the Community Remembrance Project (CRP)," Pastor Tom said. In fact, Byron is now the CRP chair. They're both also involved with the newly forming Capital Area Justice Ministry. "We hit it off right away and further worked together in advocacy doing Zoom meetings with City Manager Reese Goad and presenting before the mayor and at City Commission meetings," Pastor said.

It's possible that St. Stephen will be seeing more of Byron – and his sisters and brothers at St. Michael. "The potential of bringing our churches together for fellowship or ministry was lifted up between each of us, after COVID restrictions are lifted," Pastor Tom said. "I hoped that our invitation to preach may help him with his calling to ordained ministry. He appreciates prayers during this time."

## NOW, ABOUT THAT WEDDING...

Let's also say a few prayers for Davis and Lily Holdcraft, the newlyweds who live in Port Orange. Davis teaches flying at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where Lily works remotely as a graphic design professional. You might recall they were supposed to be married in October before COVID worries intervened. Last Saturday's wedding was in an outdoor chapel with about 40 people attending. Pastor Tom officiated, Wesley was his brother's best man and little brother Jonas was a groomsman.



"It was a whirlwind weekend, but we were all in awe of their love," Pastor Tom said. "Mom and Dad were able to soak up the moments. Tears of joy and tears about letting go were shed when Wesley gave the toast at the reception, and the Holdcraft family was in full participation on the dance floor."

When St. Stephen called this pastor, we got a big, beautiful, active family as a bonus. God bless the newlyweds.

# IT'S CAMPING WEEKEND

By Mark Greeley

We have an open campsite for this weekend's trip to St George Island! That would be Site 37 for those of you who are familiar with the campground at SGI. It's handicapped-accessible and close to the bathroom. In addition, you get to hang out with the rest of the St. Stephen camping crew for two days. And did I mention that we have a meal plan covering food except Saturday lunch?!?

The trip is this Friday to this Sunday. If you're interested, contact me ([markhoffmangreeley@gmail.com](mailto:markhoffmangreeley@gmail.com), 513-328-0966) or Colin Hackley ([colin@colinhackley.com](mailto:colin@colinhackley.com), 850-294-3442).

## 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/alLu\\_Y7XJ50jl1itkFhqbXe37X2McnpzlZoz2tFDxTKDqluuyB8o9J2jiuTIOBrm.MrlgPG7jP-yKed85](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/alLu_Y7XJ50jl1itkFhqbXe37X2McnpzlZoz2tFDxTKDqluuyB8o9J2jiuTIOBrm.MrlgPG7jP-yKed85)

## MISC.

- Graham Hackley and his Leon High tennis teammates are district champs!
- Terri Schmitt read last week's newsletter with surprise and great pleasure. A number of St. Stepheners, especially the young ones, had written sweet birthday messages. "My St. Stephen family really made my birthday special," Terri said. "There were so many ways that I couldn't name them all. I just want everyone to know that every message was dear to me."
- 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](mailto:sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com) or call 850-385-2728



## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

- Colleen Holdcraft - 04/29
- Sarah Bacani - 04/29
- Julia Bonfanti - 05/03
- Emily Jennings - 05/07
- Eva Mustian - 05/08
- Claire Claussen - 05/09
- Kamari Young - 05/11

## UPCOMING DATES

**This Sunday:**

10 a.m. - Worship with communion (online), Fourth Sunday of Easter

**Wednesday, April 28:**

Noon - Bible study



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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The Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor