



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



*Welcome to sunrise on St. George Island last Sunday. So much for those dire weather forecasts. Among the St. Stephen campers were Denise Bookwalter, Mark Greeley, their daughters Ceilia and Violet (seen in Colin Hackley's photo below), Paul van der Mark, his daughter Astrid, Beth Alexander, Colin, his son Graham, and Kirsten Ebbesen and Patrick Kennell. (Photo by Colin)*

## GOOD FOOD, GOOD FOLKS, GOD'S GREAT LANDSCAPE

By Mark Greeley

A brave and hearty group of congregants threw caution and the weather forecast to the wind last weekend and pitched their tents at St. George Island State Park. The event had a rolling start sometime between Thursday and Saturday morning, depending on when people could get away. Over the next two days we laughed, ate, explored and were happy to be together. And the weather, for all the doom-and-gloom forecast, held off on Saturday and delivered a picture-perfect Sunday.

Experiences over the weekend:

- Sunshine.
- Shell-seeking.
- Good food.
- Calming breezes.
- Breezes that were more troubling than calming.
- Very hungry birds and small mammals.
- Hiking.
- Biking.
- Rustic auto repair.
- French '80s pop music.
- Bacon a la Gordon Fleischer (who couldn't attend this year), as interpreted by Colin.
- A wonderful worship service on the shore of the bay.
- And plenty of fun, enjoying the company of people we hadn't seen in too long!



Mark your calendars for next year's trip, 4/22/22. That may seem a long way away, but we'll need to get reservations in three weeks to make it happen. So if you want to be on the camper list, contact Colin or me: [markhoffmangreeley@gmail.com](mailto:markhoffmangreeley@gmail.com), 513-328-0966, or [colin@colinhackley.com](mailto:colin@colinhackley.com), 850-294-3442.



*Colin provides historical context for this trip: "Sometimes it takes three years to go camping. At least it does when you're part of the intrepid St. Stephen camping crew – and Hurricane Michael rearranges your beloved Cape San Blas campground in 2018, and then COVID-19 rearranges the world in 2020. But our campers are not easily dissuaded from being outdoors together (and socially distanced). So last weekend the semiannual church camping trip came back to life at St. George. Thanks to patient and persistent engineering from Mark Greeley (who most likely just followed Denise Bookwalter's instructions), after several weeks of trying, the group booked campsites in the thick of the 2020 pandemic.... All day Saturday we enjoyed unexpected sunshine and a steady 20-plus-mph wind, which gave each of us a bit of a wind-burned glow." (Photo by Colin)*

## 'IT'S BEEN A CRAZY YEAR'

By Zach Bagnall

*Some of us haven't seen Zach and Douglas Bagnall since last March. So here at newsletter headquarters we asked Zach to give us the latest details on their life together. You'll enjoy reading them.*

Hey, y'all! Who would've thought over a year later that we'd be where we are today? COVID has brought about some much-needed changes globally and personally for so many of us. Doug and I took the found time at the beginning of COVID to focus on our physical and mental health and make some lifestyle changes.

We also, like so many others, faced trials with unemployment and all the uncertainty that came with a global pandemic. Remaining present and leaning on each other is what brought us through.

It's been a crazy year for me in real estate in the best way possible, and I'm grateful for all the opportunities that have presented themselves over the past year and a half. Doug will have some big news coming soon, so stay tuned!

We miss you all and wish you all health and prosperity!



## CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC

*It's an old-fashioned picnic*

**"COVID STYLE"**

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Lawn  
On Sunday, May 2, at 11:30 a.m.



There is plenty of space for all to spread out for social distancing and still enjoy each other's company.

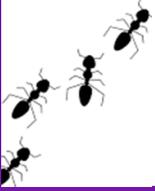
Everyone will bring their own food, drinks, blankets, chairs, masks and friends!

All are invited! Join us for distanced fellowship and loads of fun!

**RSVP to Margaret:**

407-921-8671 or

[ambowersfl@gmail.com](mailto:ambowersfl@gmail.com)



## MISC.

- If you haven't had an opportunity to make a gift or pledge yet toward the improvements in our worship space, please prayerfully consider doing so – and be sure to designate it to the Capital Campaign for the Sanctuary Project.
- 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

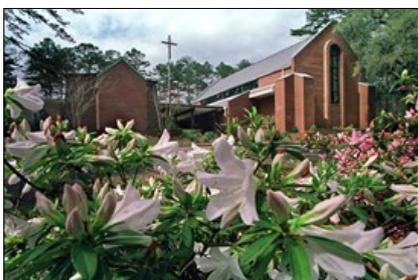
**This Sunday:**

10 a.m. - Worship (online), Fifth Sunday of Easter

11:30 a.m. - Congregational picnic

**Wednesday, May 5:**

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

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