



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



*Look! There was life again on St. Stephen's lawn! Here's a scene from Margaret Bowers' scavenger hunt with the children Sunday at the church picnic. How many of these people do you recognize?  
(Photo by Elizabeth Halvorson)*

## ST. STEPHEN'S REAWAKENING

Sunday, about 40 Lutherans took a giant step toward reestablishing St. Stephen's face-to-face connections. After a year's worth of COVID-related isolation and mostly long-distance worship, they attended a church picnic organized by Margaret Bowers. They brought their own food, chairs and blankets and settled down in the carefully distanced circles on the church lawn. As part of the picnic, Margaret led a scavenger hunt for the children.



**“The kids seemed to have a lot of fun and picked up right where they left off,” said Elizabeth Halvorson, who even made a video of the scavenger hunt. (See it on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/jdUYpYTeneo>.)**



**The hunt included Bible verses with hints. “I read the clues to them,” Margaret explained. “The hunt was all over the church area and property. We had water, lemonade and chips as an extra treat.”**

**A bunch of us St. Stephen people still weren’t quite ready to unmask and unwind, even in a socially distanced outdoor setting. Still, Margaret and Pastor Tom were thrilled with the turnout (which included the Reeces, page 1, and Beth Alexander and Billie Reardon, at left).**

**“I think the next one outside would be in the fall,” Margaret said. “It’s getting too hot now, unless we do something in the fellowship hall.”**

**She also said that David Butler had been “a fabulous helper.”**

**Well done, Margaret. Nicely played, brave picnickers! What good role models you are.**

***Caroline Collins and Terri Schmitt were sharing a circle and taking turns visiting other people when Bob Eshleman came over and joked about getting in their “inner circle.” So Caroline challenged him and Linda to squeeze into the little circle on the lawn. See it?***



***Occupying this circle are Rita Ford, her sister Anita Sawh, Colleen Holdcraft and her son Jonas. If you look closely at Colleen’s hair, you’ll see that it’s a new look. “I am indeed growing my pixie haircut out,” Colleen said in an exclusive interview with the newsletter’s fashion editor. “My initial motivation was***

***Davis and Lily’s wedding. That deadline has passed. Now I’m telling myself to persist until I can pull it up in a ponytail. So far, the joy of trying something different feels invigorating and transforming. Just what my psyche needs to endure a GLOBAL PANDEMIC.” Behind this circle, you can see the Hingsts and the Schiffers. (Photos by Margaret Bowers)***

## GOD BLESS OUR GRADS

*Each year, we celebrate St. Stephen's graduates. Keep sending us names! So far, we have three on our list.*

Graham Hackley will graduate from Leon High School on June 12. This August he'll attend the University of Missouri-Kansas City to pursue a degree in urban planning and design.

Isabel Barton is graduating from Leon High School this semester.

Erin Kenney proudly announced: "My brother, Nathan Kenney (also a member, pictured here), graduated from Columbia University last week with his Master of Business Administration."



## MORE MILESTONES

In February, Jay Buchanan, son of Jennifer and Tom and a "born-and-baptized-in" former member of St. Stephen, was promoted to partner at Egan Nelson LLP, a boutique corporate law firm that represents high-growth startup companies. Jay lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife, Maggie Jo Buchanan, and 3-year-old daughter, Rosie. Maggie Jo serves as the director of legal progress at the Center for American Progress, and Rosie is preparing for a career as either an actor in future Broadway adaptations of the *Frozen* franchise or a firefighter. The northern Buchanan clan is in the process of relocating to Ellicott City, Maryland, and is looking forward to traveling back to Tallahassee and stopping by St. Stephen when safety permits.



## MARGARET: PICNIC PLANNER AND NOTARY PUBLIC

Caroline wishes to gratefully acknowledge Margaret Bowers for graciously meeting a family member at the church to notarize some legal documents, as well as to thank Lori for willingly serving as witness. May this note serve as a reminder of Margaret's generous offer to share her notary powers. Consider whether your own planning documents (such as living will, durable power of attorney, last will and testament) are up-to-date.



## 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/IY-vUGLMJ7dcj2ws8qleviyFaP55KvCR3id9Th57-vAc8UyynAG-2vj\\_NtjynLqk.Y8bUxmLuCWPJjHLn](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/IY-vUGLMJ7dcj2ws8qleviyFaP55KvCR3id9Th57-vAc8UyynAG-2vj_NtjynLqk.Y8bUxmLuCWPJjHLn)

## 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

Emily Jennings - 05/07  
Eva Mustian - 05/08  
Claire Claussen - 05/09  
Kamari Young - 05/11  
Mark Bertolami - 05/16  
Eunice Muchuruza - 05/16  
David Butler - 05/18  
Jennifer Dritt - 05/21  
Paxton Oates - 05/23  
Sandy Larson - 05/24  
Jake Hartung - 05/25  
Nicholas Oliveri - 05/25  
Blake Simmons - 05/25  
TJ Oliveri - 05/28  
Pepper Stewart - 05/29



## UPCOMING DATES

### This Sunday:

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

### Wednesday, May 12:

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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