



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



Audrey “Ms. Grow-It-All®” Post did a special butterfly garden seminar at Esposito’s last week, and among those who showed up was Vivian Halvorson (seen here with Audrey), along with mom Elizabeth Halvorson.

BABY STEPS TOWARD A NEW NORMAL

By Audrey Post (aka Ms. Grow-It-All®)

Esposito Garden Center transitioned to virtual seminars last year to protect the health and safety of customers and staff alike. With Mother’s Day approaching, management decided it wanted to try its first on-site event in more than a year – with strict safety protocols in place.

“Plant a Butterfly Garden for Mom with Ms. Grow-It-All®” was designed, redesigned, tweaked and ultimately adapted on the fly. But it worked. Over the course of two days, eight seminar sessions were conducted. Each was limited to 20 children; parental escorts were mandatory, with masks and social distancing required. Following a brief explanation of why pollinators are important (yes, bees are your friends), a description of the life cycle of butterflies and what foods caterpillars and butterflies need, everyone dug in and got their hands dirty.



St. Stephen was well-represented. The Bookwalter-Greeley twins, Violet and Ceilia (pictured at right), and Vivian Halvorson created beautiful potted arrangements with a little help from their moms.

Esposito’s isn’t quite ready to resume on-site Saturday-morning seminars, but Ms. Grow-It-All® will continue to present them virtually via Zoom at 10 a.m. They’re free, but registration is required. Go to Esposito’s Facebook page and click on “Events” or the website and click on “Free Seminars” to register. The topic this Saturday, May 15, is “Annuals That Can Take Our Summer Heat and Humidity.”

UPDATE ON SANCTUARY PROJECT

By Pastor Tom

The Building Design Team is hard at work while we wait for the engineer's updated drawings. We've inquired about an acoustical analysis with JJ the architect to determine the audio requirements for a variety of flooring options.



The interior design sub-team is working on lighting options and requested that the replacement doors to the main sanctuary entrance match the glass door to the fellowship hall.

Next step is to physically meet with the interior expert from MLD Architects to select paint colors and see some flooring varieties. Thank you for your financial support, prayers and patience.

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.

GOD BLESS OUR GRADS

Last week, we listed a few of the latest St. Stephen graduates we knew about – and we invited you to send in more names. Here are a few more, beginning with a detailed look at all three Barton graduates.

- Sarah Barton graduated May 1 from Point Park University with a BFA in dance. She's remaining in Pittsburgh (at least for a few months) while exploring next steps.
- Stephen Barton will graduate May 22 from Carnegie Mellon University with a Master's in Music (flute performance). He'll be working with Capital One as a software developer beginning in September – it's remote work until January, at which time he'll move to Richmond, Virginia.
- Isabel Barton (whom we mentioned briefly last week) will graduate June 12 from Leon High School and will attend Duquesne University in the fall. She'll major in music therapy (and possibly double-major in vocal performance) after spending the summer rehearsing and performing in the Leon Summer Musical of "Anastasia."
- Tristin Liam Riley Sullivan, grandson of Jack and Barbara Sullivan, is graduating from Leon High next month and thinking about the military (he's in ROTC).



Do you know of more St. Stephen grads this year? Please let us know ASAP.

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:

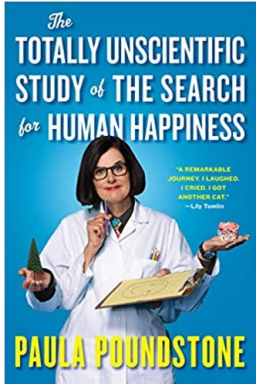
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A TOTALLY UNSCIENTIFIC BOOK RECOMMENDATION

By Caroline Collins

We asked for your favorite books, shows or other pursuits. Caroline heartily recommends “The Totally Unscientific Study of the Search for Human Happiness.”

I enjoy listening to audiobooks when I’m driving. My current library audiobook is by Paula Poundstone, a comedian and frequent panelist on my favorite Saturday NPR program, “Wait, Wait, Don’t Tell Me.”



Her sense of humor and approach to living her best life are uniquely inscrutable. How did she come up with that perspective, idea or snappy retort? From the radio program, I knew I’d like the book, especially as it’s read in her own voice, which is enough to amuse me all by itself.

We can all relate to the search for happiness. It reminded me of my friend Kathleen, who’d try something new every day of the month and consider whether it was something she wanted to keep in her life. The next month, she’d start a new experiment, while perhaps keeping some part of the previous new habit(s). One month she tried out kickboxing, Zumba and weight-lifting. Another month she carried a \$10 bill in her pocket every day, looking for an opportunity to give it away. She enjoyed the recipients’ surprised reactions.

This is Paula’s second book, so now I need to find her first. Warning: This one contains some salty language.

CALLING ALL CAMPERS

By Mark Greeley

With the recent success of the SSLC 2021 camping trip, it’s time to look forward to 2022! This trip usually involves 20-30 people for two nights in a mix of campers and tents – with some communal meals and some on your own, beach and nature activities throughout the day, capped off with a worship service on Saturday night. The sites we want to reserve are in the main camping loop (not the group site that we previously were going to use in April 2020). These sites have power, water, bath houses, and walking to both the bay and the gulf.



Seem like we’re jumping the gun? Well, you can reserve sites 11 months in advance for Florida state parks. And for weekends in the spring, it’s actually critical to do so (at 8 a.m., no less), especially if you want to have a lot of sites.

Our traditional date of the weekend after Easter puts us at the St. George Island State Park on April 22-24, 2022. Since reservations for campsites open 11 months in advance, that means we can book these sites on Saturday, May 22.

For those interested in going camping next April 22-24, we’re going to have to be organized on Saturday morning, May 22, to get our sites. There are some technical details to go over, so if you’re interested in booking a site, please contact me (markhoffmangreeley@gmail.com) or Colin (colin@colinhackley.com) so we can brief you on how to get a site. Of course, if you’re comfortable with the system and have used Reserve America to book state park sites previously, then go ahead and get your reservation. Just let us know what site you end up with.

Feel free to email or call with questions. Looking forward to seeing everyone face-to-face again and sharing many great experiences in the coming year!

MISC.

- 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 or call 850-385-2728.



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

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), Seventh Sunday of Easter

11:30 a.m. - Council meeting

Wednesday, May 19:

Noon - Bible study



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>.

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