



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



GOD BLESS OUR GRADS

Wesley Holdcraft graduated this semester from Troy University in Alabama with a master's degree in secondary mathematics education. Wesley has decided to *continue* his schooling and will pursue a Ph.D. in mathematical biology at The University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Mom and Dad are thrilled with his achievements and his decision to continue his education. They'll be able to spend some time with Wesley this summer before he moves in July. *(In the photo above, Wesley is second from the left. He's with his mom, his dad and brother Jonas.)*

Blake Simmons graduated from Lincoln High School on May 25. Faithful readers of this newsletter know that she has been accepted to West Virginia University in Morgantown. She'll be majoring in theatre arts with a concentration in puppetry. Here she's shown at the Lincoln High convocation, where she received this certificate as one of the graduating class's Dreamers and Doers.



Izzy Treanor graduated from St. Olaf College (a Lutheran Norwegian school in Northfield, Minnesota) on May 25. She'll be taking organic chemistry this summer and applying for a physician-assistant program. Sister Grace Treanor is graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy on May 30. (That's today!) She'll be doing cybersecurity for the Air Force while stationed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, after traveling through Europe and beyond for two months. "Mr. Nathan was their Sunday School teacher," says dad Jim Treanor. "He did a fabulous job helping raise two wonderful women." (One more Treanor update: Miss Sophie will be studying in London this fall as a junior in college.)

DO THE COUNTERS A FAVOR

How enormously grateful we are to our members and friends who reach into their pockets and donate money for our ministries. If you use offering envelopes, here's a gentle reminder you might have heard before: PLEASE do not tape the envelope shut. Two reasons. First, when the counters tear off the tape, the tape might remove key information that was written on the envelope. Second, wrestling with tape, glue, staples or anything else takes time – and our counters' time is valuable. So save yourself some time, please, and don't seal that envelope shut. Many thanks.



OUTREACH UPDATES

By Sharon Simmons, outreach coordinator

EXTRA TIME: The KidSafe fundraiser has been extended until June 2. Place your orders on the form on the outreach bulletin board in the fellowship hall.



FOREIGN EXCHANGE: Lo Starke, our Ministry Minute speaker several months ago, has followed up to see if anyone would like a summer foreign exchange student. She sent three profiles, posted on the outreach bulletin board. If you're interested, contact Lo at lo.starke@ef.com/.

STILL COLLECTING: We continue to collect cleaning supplies for the International Rescue Committee, as well as new makeup, shoes, belts, jewelry and scarves for the Common Ground Book Store pantry.



UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY: St. Stephen was represented at the recent Unity in the Community event. Pastor Tom and Colleen were repeat attendees, but Judi Duffy attended for the first time and reported that she loved it. The event raised more than \$4,000 for scholarships for local students who want to attend FAMU, FSU or TCC. St. Stephen's Noisy Offering donations will help a local student achieve their education goals.

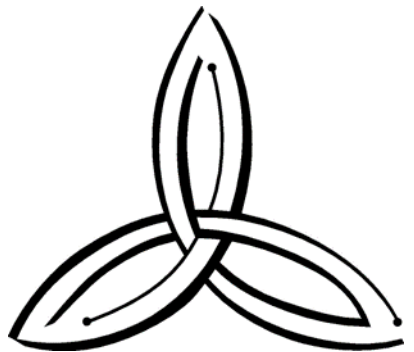
THIS JUST IN: A new outreach request comes to us from Sylvia Smith. Sylvia is part of our worship community. She's also the COO of Big Bend Cares – which is in desperate need of tote bags, gently used backpacks and/or plastic grocery bags for its homeless HIV+ clients. Please bring them to church and give them to Sylvia or me during June.



'WE STRUGGLE TO BELIEVE': EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM'S SERMON

... As a called and ordained pastor I have encouraged people to trust, believe and have faith. But today reminds us that it is not as simple as that. We need to know that we don't know everything. In many ways it is still night and we walk in the dark.

We still struggle to believe, but the heart of the Gospel is this: We aren't saved by what we know. There won't be a test with St. Peter for you and me to define the three tenets of the mystery of the Trinity. We simply won't know or understand everything there is about God. The Godhead is unknowable, majestic AND relational while still being knowable, terrifying AND holy.



I think that's why Jesus spoke to Nicodemus about the way the wind blows – that we hear it but don't know from where it came or to where it will go. With God we are always left with more questions than answers, but we do know something that is essential. It is that action that Jesus took, allowed to happen and spoke openly about, even when it's clear he prayed for it to be taken from him. He went and died and then rose again for you and for me and for the rest of the world....

BEFORE YOU GO...

- Did we omit your favorite graduate from the list above? Please send the information to Office Manager Lori, whose info is below.
- Am I the only one who doesn't know what "mathematical biology" is?
- 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 name-tags, or ask Lori to sign you up. Include the \$40 with your regular offering. And then take the flowers home!



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Bevin Reardon - 06/03
Billie Reardon - 06/03
Susan Hehn - 06/11
Billie Oates - 06/14
Tim Larson - 06/16
Martin Guttenplan - 06/19
Ruth Hartung - 06/23
Steve Kunst - 06/23
Sandy Davis - 06/28

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 Sunday:

9 a.m. - Book study
10 a.m. - Worship, Second Sunday after Pentecost
4 p.m. - Congolese Christian worship in FH

Monday, June 3:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in FH
7 p.m. - TIMA meets in FH

Wednesday, June 5:

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>.

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The Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor