



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

### THANKS, CHOIR: SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER

Let us stand and applaud the members of the mighty St. Stephen choir. Last Sunday marked the finale of the choir season. Music Director Katharine Gossman, who leads our singers with grit and wit, invites us to watch for their return in early September. Sopranos, altos, tenors and basses, we salute you! Here are the names of this year's choir members, including some (such as the newsletter editor) who dropped out along the way: Karl Barton, Melissa Barton, Mark Canning, Judi Duffy, Kirsten Ebbesen, Rita Ford, Martin Guttenplan, Vicki Guttenplan, Jake Hartung, Ron Hartung, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Sandy Ness, Hector Quinones, Dave Suhrweir and Cassandra White.



### SUMMER HYMNS

Saddened though you may be by the choir's hiatus, here's news to buoy your musical spirits: Katharine is resuming the tradition of inviting the congregation to request favorite hymns during the summer. All you need to do is email your hymn title to Office Manager Lori at [sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com](mailto:sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com). When your requested hymn is scheduled, Katharine will let you know by email.



### KEVIN'S BENCH

A while ago, wilderness wanderer Jake Hartung got a pleasant surprise at Alford Greenway and passed along this photo. The bench commemorates the late Kevin O'Donnell, a much-missed member of St. Stephen immortalized on the bench as "Father Husband Friend Lawyer." "I figured some people would like to go see it and even sit down for a bit," Jake said. We asked Barb O'Donnell to tell the story behind Kevin's bench.

"His law school buddies arranged for that – so fitting for him," Barb said. "That particular section of the greenway takes a little bit to hike to, and it looks out over a field, and they felt it was just the right spot. I think so, too. It's a good place to sit a spell. Info on the county's program is available on their website: [Leon County Parks and Recreation Park Amenity Memorial Program \(leoncountyfl.gov\)](http://leoncountyfl.gov). I understand the city has a similar program but I've not checked it out. We really do have a gem of a trail system in this town."



*Barb or Jake can give you exact directions to Kevin's bench.*

## BARB'S TAXATION VOCATION

Actually, it was months ago that I sent Barb an email asking about Kevin's bench. To be honest, I'd forgotten about it – until her reply arrived yesterday. Just hearing from her was great, but even better was learning more about what she's been up to.

"I think [the email about Kevin's bench] came in the middle of tax-prep season, and I read it and wasn't able to reply at the time – and then it got lost in the shuffle," wrote Barb, who over the years has done much to oversee St. Stephen's finances. "I prepare returns for VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance), which is the program sponsored by the IRS. Their local partner is the United Way of the Big Bend. Training is provided along with the software and backup support. Most important, clients so appreciate the help. We could really use more volunteers – recruitment will start next fall, and no prior experience is necessary."



For more information about VITA, contact Samantha Sager at [samantha@uwbb.org](mailto:samantha@uwbb.org) or 850-414-0856.

## CALL IT A TRIPLE BIRTHDAY

June 3 is coming up Saturday, and it's always been a big day in Billie Reardon's life. When she was growing up, it was a birthday that she and her dad, Bill, shared. Then along came her daughter, Bevin – who was ALSO born on you-know-when. "Billie, Bevin and Bill," Billie said when she dusted off this photo and sent it to us. "Dad's been in heaven since 1981. This is our 1st birthday together, in 1969. Always a special time!"



## TALES OF THE BARTONS

*Former all-star cantor Isabel Barton has been worshipping with us recently, so we asked paterfamilias Karl to catch us up on the latest details for all three of the kids. Sorry – no photo of Isabel.*

Stephen got engaged to Crystal Kim on Jan. 1, and they will be married Oct. 17 at the Glass House on Jeju Island in South Korea (Google it!). They met at Carnegie Mellon University while earning their master's degrees in flute performance and are currently living in Washington, D.C. Stephen is a software engineer at Amazon Web Services, and Crystal is an academic advisor in the medical department at Georgetown University while she also pursues a career as a flutist. Crystal was born in South Korea but is from Dallas, where she won the Texas Flute Society's Myrna W. Brown Artist Competition last year and just performed as the winner over Memorial Day weekend during a festival where she also taught a master class and served as a competition judge.



Sarah is currently living with some Point Park University dance classmates in New York City, where she is studying to become a certified Pilates instructor and works part time at a Club Pilates. Sarah was also recently promoted to the position of server at the Michelin-starred Gramercy Tavern, although she plans to transition and focus on teaching Pilates after she completes her certification. She is enjoying life in the big city as she keeps an eye out for opportunities in dance and the arts.



Isabel recently completed her sophomore year at Duquesne University as a music therapy major and is thriving as a music student. Some of you may have noticed her boyfriend, sophomore jazz baritone saxophone major Tate Hanlon, in church the past couple of weeks, since he has been in Tallahassee visiting. The two of them packed up their dorm rooms at the end of the semester and went to see some friends in Philadelphia, where Isabel also saw Taylor Swift in concert. Isabel and Tate also took a train to NYC, where they visited Sarah, had lunch at Gramercy Tavern and saw the musical “Hadestown” before heading south.

## THIS SUNDAY IS THE LAST DAY TO ...

... bring diapers, baby wash, baby wipes or strollers to the church before the St. Stephen delegation heads to Synod Assembly on June 8. Let’s load them up for the Harbor House of Central Florida.



## HOUSEHOLD ITEMS THEY COULD USE

*By Sharon Simmons, outreach coordinator*

The International Rescue Committee has invited St. Stephen to join in an annual rummage-sale-and-more event honoring and celebrating the new Tallahassee residents they serve. The event will take place June 24 at ECHO, 548 E. Bradford Road, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. IRC clients can “shop” for items to make their



homes more personable and comfortable. If you can, please donate lamps, dishes, cutlery, pots and pans, pictures, children’s games, knickknacks and linens (bedroom, bath, kitchen). Sorry, but NO furniture. The IRC people also hope to have activities for children, such as drawing/painting and cornhole. Additionally, they’d like donated food items: snacks, drinks, easy lunch items – but

**NO PORK PRODUCTS.** Plus, they need volunteers to help staff the event.

If you’re interested in supporting or attending this event in any capacity, let me know ([sharonteacher49@yahoo.com](mailto:sharonteacher49@yahoo.com)). The IRC will be sending out a Sign-up Genius form, and you’ll be added to that list. If you can’t attend but have items to donate, place them in boxes small enough to fit in a compact car, then put the boxes in the Ruth room at church.

## PUTTING THE UNITY IN ‘COMMUNITY’

St. Stephen was well represented at Sunday’s annual Unity in the Community event. Pastor Tom and Colleen Holdcraft, Caroline Collins and Sharon Simmons were among those at Allen Temple CME Church. In addition to cross-sections of the religious community, members of the City Commission, TPD and LCSO also attended. The music was vibrant and uplifting. The inspirational message was provided by the Rev. James Williams and based on Joshua 24:14-15, encouraging all to serve the Lord in faithfulness. A freewill offering was collected in memory of Brenda Christie’s mom, community activist Mercedes Hall Thomas, to fund a scholarship for a graduating Rickards High senior attending FAMU, FSU or TCC.

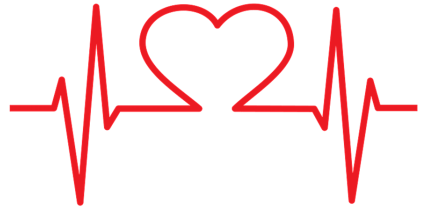


## EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM'S SERMON

... No matter where we are or to whom we are speaking or to whom we are listening, we are always surprised by the Spirit showing through. Some saw Her at the AED and CPR training last week.

The instance for me was when we practiced with the AED machine ... in the event someone has a cardiac arrest. We learned to turn on the machine and follow the directions of the voice speaking calmly and reassuringly, directions to place the pads as shown on the diagram. One pad can go here, right breast, and the other here, lower left rib cage. The important thing here is to “sandwich the heart” so the jolt of electricity targets the right place.

Now, it was probably just the dorky pastor that noticed it, but that “sandwiching of the heart” struck me as a revealed God presence. Of course, we were just practicing on a paper cutout of a human being, but practicing the act of potentially saving a person’s life still makes you nervous. The voice was reassuring, the directions were sound: “Surround the heart and stand clear.” God was revealed....



## COMING UP



- June 13: Live music at Lake Ella, 7:30 p.m., a St. Stephen evening outing!
- June 18: Father’s Day.
- June 24: IRC “rummage sale” event.
- July 30: Congregational meeting and Open Forum.
- Oct. 29: Bishop Suarez visits us on **Reformation** Sunday.

## MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- Here at newsletter headquarters, we love telling stories like the ones above – about Billie, about Barb, about the Bartons. We’re betting that you, too, have stories to share with your St. Stephen friends. If so, email Lori at [sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com](mailto:sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com) or call 850-385-2728.
- Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you’d like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service. Sign up on the flower chart in the narthex. The cost is \$35, which you can place in the offering plate.
- Have any questions for our Church Council members? They’re listed on our website, <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/about-us>.



## 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



## IN THE WEEK AHEAD

### This Sunday:

**9 a.m.** - Book study

**10 a.m.** - Worship, The Holy Trinity



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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