



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

### UPDATE ON SANCTUARY RENOVATIONS & REPAIRS

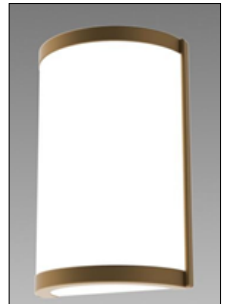
By Pastor Tom

We waited until today to begin our calls to the variety of general contractors that are experienced in our type of repair and renovation. The reason was to verify with the architect that the original work order includes our desire to replace the plate glass in the sanctuary upper windows and save the metal frames for reuse. MLD Architects verified that this was the case and that it's common practice for the general contractor to offer better, or more prudent, ways to complete the project and have the updates approved by the engineer.

I thought the latter point was important because once work gets underway, other issues may need to be resolved. The general contractor selected will verify the project and necessary supports before rods and brackets are ordered. I hope you're as excited as I am to see this next phase begin!



Meanwhile, the Interior Design Team has ordered the new lights. The lighting engineer recommended 14 hanging pendant lights (seven on each side) for the sanctuary and four sconces (*pictured right*) for the narthex. These lights will work off dimmable switches that will be run near the current sound booth. The products are coming to us from Church Outlet Inc. and take about six weeks to build and ship. The pendant lights (*pictured left*) will hang on approximately 10 feet of matching, heavy chain.



Thanks to Ann, David, Denise and Jim for their work in selecting and ordering.

### ISABEL HONORED

On June 1, Isabel Barton received the STAR Award at the Leon High School Choral Department awards ceremony. The scholarship is given each year in memory of Dale Pullen, a former Leon High Chorus member, whom many of you may remember from the "Buckle Up for Dale" campaign after he tragically lost his life in an automobile crash in 2000. The STAR Award is presented to the senior choral student who shares Dale's passion for music, has been judged an outstanding talent and has demonstrated a willingness to serve others. Isabel was selected from a large pool of worthy applicants, and the choral department was extremely proud of how she used her talents in her school and community.

You're all invited to witness Isabel's graduation virtually at 8 p.m. Saturday (or anytime thereafter) through the Leon County Schools YouTube page (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZbizCI-jDp1yf-vuKlxNOA>) and to celebrate in person this Sunday anytime from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Bartons' home, 2308 Orleans Drive, in the Lafayette Oaks neighborhood. Call or text Karl at 850-294-5234 for additional details and the gate code. The entire Barton clan, including Stephen, Sarah and Karl's mother, Marilyn, will be at church and at the party this Sunday. Congratulations, Isabel!



## SPEAKING OF ISABEL...

Dear Pastor Holdcraft,

I wanted to thank you & tell you how much it has meant to my husband and me to hear Isabel sing [as our cantor] every Sunday. It has been especially rewarding because we have not seen her in person since Thanksgiving 2019. Missing grandchild hugs was one of the worst parts of the pandemic & she is our youngest! We have enjoyed St. Stephen services every Sunday!

*Ken & Gloria Unger (AKA Isabel's grandpa & grandma)*

## FROM ATHENS WITH LOVE

By Eric McClanahan

First of all, we've been doing well here in Athens, Georgia. Work has been going well, and I'm working on a couple of new projects. Erin has been working part time as a bartender with the Homewood Suites by Hilton in downtown Athens, and she has found a job as a music teacher with Oglethorpe Avenue Elementary School in Athens, Georgia. She'll be starting her new job in the fall.



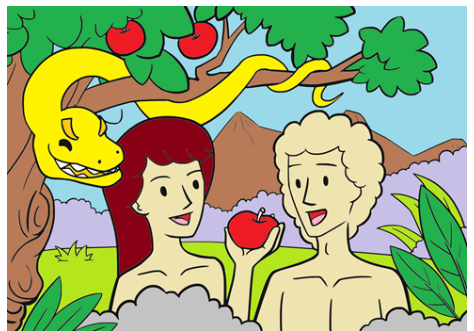
Avery and Brennan have also been doing well. They celebrated their first birthday March 26 and are currently 14 months old!

Finally, good news about our faith life: This Sunday, we're becoming members of Oconee Street United Methodist Church, a Reconciling Ministries church in Athens.

## THE BLAME GAME: EXCERPT FROM SUNDAY'S SERMON

"... The point of this story [about Adam, Eve, the serpent and the apple] is that the world and the humans need a Savior, not another demigod. Putting all our faith in human leaders will cause more problems.

"I wish I could think of an example of a hurtful cult of personality in contemporary times. :-)



"These demigods divide and lead people to distrust and attack one another. Men, in particular, are infamous for thinking and acting smarter and stronger than we really are. Men, by majority, have caused hate crimes, incited violence, uplifted white supremacy and discriminated against people of different genders and sexual orientations. All the while using Scripture like this as ammunition to point blame.

"All beginning with Adam blaming Eve...."

## 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/nCDgkleOB5aSzq\\_AvSO-tmIMsXHqB8am\\_tPwKD4yhDPNw3A5cs8nloxbEh8szh4C.EIUPID8spw2xHpFW](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/nCDgkleOB5aSzq_AvSO-tmIMsXHqB8am_tPwKD4yhDPNw3A5cs8nloxbEh8szh4C.EIUPID8spw2xHpFW)

## MISC.

- “Our daughter is having twins – a boy and a girl,” writes Margaret Bowers. “So happy we moved to Tallahassee [to be near them]!” That’s their photo to the right: mom Annika, dad Gabe and soon-to-be-brother Mateo, who’s holding one pink sneaker and one blue sneaker for the upcoming newborns.
- No newsletter next week, while invaluable Office Manager Lori is away.
- 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 2021 Flower Chart in the narthex. The cost is \$35, which you can place in the offering plate.
- 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

- Billy Oates - 06/14
- Tim Larson - 06/16
- Ann DelRossi - 06/19
- Martin Guttenplan - 06/19
- Ruth Hartung - 06/23
- Steve Kunst - 06/23
- Stephanie Barber - 06/26
- Sandy Davis - 06/28

## UPCOMING DATES

### This Sunday:

10 a.m. - Worship, Third Sunday after Pentecost

### Wednesday, June 16:

NO Bible study

### Sunday, June 20:

10 a.m. - Worship with communion, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

*Lori will be on vacation from 6/14-18.*



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