

June 15, 2023



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



SWEET GOODBYES

Caroline Collins captured St. Stephen well-wishers bestowing encouraging words and hugs (and a backpack full of gifts from the Outreach Committee) upon Erin Kenney, who's moving to Washington, D.C. Above, we see Erin with the Holdcraft family and with Patrick Kennell. There's also a photo of Erin and Andrea Notley, who writes: "Thank you so much to my backpack partner and Giving Tree shopper. Erin has been outstanding. When COVID changed the way everyone felt about going out shopping, she stepped up and helped me get the job done! I'm so proud of the amazing person she has become. She is moving on to bigger and better things. Thank you so much, Erin. May God continue to surround you and bless you during your new adventure."

LET'S DO BREAKFAST SUNDAY



It began as a Father's Day tribute. Organizer Margaret Bowers, who masterminded the Ladies' Tea Party on Mother's Day, wanted to do something similar for the dad-types. Heck, two dozen women had signed up for their breakfast in May. Big success! But, well, you know how guys are. No one RSVP'd for the manly breakfast. Too bashful, too distracted, who knows? So during announcements last Sunday, unsinkable Margaret stood up and said, in so many words: "We're having breakfast anyway, and you're all invited!" There you have it. This Sunday, starting at 9 a.m. in the fellowship hall, we're all honorary dads, and breakfast will be served. Many thanks to Margaret and her team!

ALL PATCHED UP

By Pastor Tom

You’ve noticed the scars in our parking lot? We had some major repairs done to our sewer pipes. There were two small leaks to repair (one of which was causing the ground to sink) and two large sections of cast iron pipe to replace. We were very pleased with the work of White’s Plumbing, which tackled the job in less than a week! Let us give thanks for these “underground” improvements and for the generous donation from an anonymous donor to make it happen quickly.



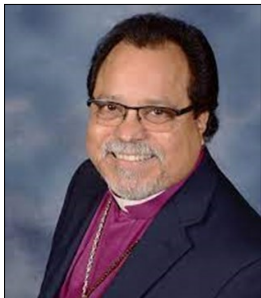
‘GREAT WORK!’

This year’s Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly service project benefited Harbor House of Central Florida. The nonprofit provides safe shelter, counseling and support services to those affected by domestic abuse. Assembly participants were asked to bring toiletries, sheets, clothing, household items and more. “Harbor House told us they were ‘floored’ by the number of donations,” Pastor Tom said. “They had begun planning a capital campaign to raise funds to restock their shelves. But now they don’t have to. Great work, St. Stephen and Florida-Bahamas Synod!”

STILL OUR BISHOP

By Pastor Tom

Speaking of the Assembly: Bishop Pedro Suarez was re-elected to a second term on the first round of ballots! We’re so pleased, and we’re looking forward to his visit to St. Stephen on Reformation Sunday!



‘HALLOWED BE THY NAME’



Tuesday evening, Ruth and I welcomed a slam-dunk “Jeopardy!” question that we figured all three contestants would know. It was worth only \$200 – as easy as they come on this challenging game show. All the contestants had to do was fill in the missing word: “Our Father, who art in heaven, [this] be thy name.” We waited. And we waited. Silence. No one rang in. Time ran out. The host, who must have been stunned, provided the word: “hallowed.” Sigh.

HERE'S WHERE OUR AED RESIDES

Many thanks to Margaret and her husband, Pete, for building a shelf and mounting our AED. Remember, that's the automated external defibrillator that many of us learned how to use in our recent tutorial with Dr. Rudy Hehn. It will come in handy if, God forbid, someone's heart stops at church. First thing to know will be: "Where's our AED?" It's right by the door that leads from the outdoor steps into the fellowship hall.



LAUGH IT UP, LEO

This is Leonora Jane Mastrangelo, the newest granddaughter of Susan and Mark Warren. Leo is the daughter of the Warrens' younger daughter, Perri, and her husband, Paolo, who live in Washington, D.C. (soon to be the home of Erin Kenney). Susan and Mark are heading up there July 1. And, yes, the family is calling her "Leo." "She's going to hate her parents for this," Susan joked. "I'm sure she will correct us all her life that her name is 'Leonora.'" So far, Leo looks pretty pleased.

GETTING READY FOR THE IRC 'RUMMAGE SALE'

A week from Saturday is when the International Rescue Committee is inviting the area's newest refugee-residents to select items to make their new homes more comfortable and welcoming. St. Stephen is helping – by donating "rummage sale" treasures such as housewares, linens (kitchen, bath, bedroom), dishes, pots and pans, blenders, toaster ovens, clock radios, glassware, cutlery, vases, sewing machines, fabric or lamps. **NO FURNITURE**, please. "Thank you to those who have already donated and stored sale items for the World Refugee Day event in the Ruth Room," said Sharon Simmons. "We also need help on June 24. First, we need to load up those items in the Ruth Room and drive them to ECHO at 548 E. Bradford Road, starting around 7:30 a.m. At ECHO, from 8 to 10 a.m., we need 4-6 people who can help set out items on designated tables. At the end of the day, we need help packing up any remaining items and taking them to Goodwill. If you can help with any of those activities, for any amount of time, please let me know as soon as possible: 850-445-1888 or sharonteacher49@yahoo.com."



A PRAYER

By J. Robin Whitley



Holy Healer of the world, prayer is oftentimes intimidating. The great need of the world is sad and frightening. My own personal need seems petty, yet, still a need. We need a Holy Presence to enter into the abyss of pain, suffering, and loneliness in order to begin healing or give us the strength to take up our mat and walk. G-d, I believe, help my unbelief. Open my eyes to see YOU in our midst.

Robin Whitley was our vicar in 1992-93. This prayer is included in "For the Brokenhearted: Poems, Prayers and Essays," which Robin compiled and published last year. Google it. Buy it!

A TRIP TO AVIGNON

Sue and Mark Canning recently returned from a river cruise on the Rhone. As a big-time student of history, Sue sent this photo and a fascinating tidbit of papal lore: "In 1309 Pope Clement V, who was French, felt unsafe in Rome, so he moved the papacy to Avignon, France. The papacy bought Avignon, where the Pope's palace, which you can tour today, was built. The papacy resided there for almost a century. In 1378, however, the Italians demanded their own pope back in Rome. For 25 years, there were two popes: one in Avignon and one in Rome. They often excommunicated each other. The papacy officially moved back to Rome in 1403."



Those nutty popes! Or, as Sue put it: "A quirky bit of Christian church history brought to you by the congregational nerd." If you're heading out on vacation, please imitate Sue – and send us a photo and caption to give everyone a vicarious vacation moment.

MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- About a dozen St. Stephen people showed up Tuesday evening to enjoy the Big Band music at Lake Ella's American Legion Hall. Field-trip organizer Margaret Bowers sent this photo of Terri Schmitt, Rita Ford (who did a lot of dancing, of course) and Gordon Fleischer.
- No newsletter next week!
- 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

Tim Larson - 06/16
Martin Guttenplan - 06/19
Ruth Hartung - 06/23
Steve Kunst - 06/23
Sandy Davis - 06/28
Sarah Barton - 07/03
Lorraine Sundberg - 07/03
Karl Barton - 07/04
Tom Buchanan - 07/13
Jonas Holdcraft - 07/15



IN THE WEEK AHEAD

This Sunday:

9 a.m. - Father's Day Breakfast

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

**Lori will be out of the office from June 19 - 23.*



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