



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



### BUMPY BUILDING

Not the most attractive view of our building, is it? But it's an important view, because it highlights a problem we're getting ready to tackle – with your help.

“We have an estimate to replace 40 feet of flashing on the side of our Sunday School building [the side that faces the sanctuary door] for \$1,650,” Pastor Tom said. “During some heavy rains, water is getting inside the building. If you're able to assist in helping to pay for this expense, please write ‘SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING’ on the memo line of your check. If we can collect more than the amount required for the repair, the excess will be used for other building-and-grounds needs. Thank you in advance for your generosity, St. Stephen!”

### THE GIFT OF A QUILT

*By Pastor Tom*

The Sew for Hope quilters who use our fellowship hall a couple of times a month told me a few months ago they wanted to make a quilt for St. Stephen to give away to someone. I thought of this as a graduation gift from St. Stephen to Blake Simmons (standing behind the quilt). Sharon Simmons, her grandmother, was charged with giving us Blake's favorite colors. What a nice surprise for her!



### OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Two Sundays ago, Carol Santos (left) and Anita Sawh became members of St. Stephen. They're already regular worshipers, but having them join us as members is even better! Welcome! Pastor Tom says that the Stover family also will be joining ... next month. Watch for bios of all our new members soon.

# BACK TO THE BACKPACK BUSINESS

By Andrea Notley



I know it seems early, but it always sneaks up on us. I have officially started the ECHO backpack drive. In case you don't know what this is: I get a list of Leon County students in need from the social worker at ECHO. Every student will receive a new backpack filled with socks, underwear and two outfits.

If you're interested in participating, let me know and I'll send the information sheet with your

student's sizes and other information needed. Then you'll shop for the items and bring the backpack to church by July 21.



Also, if you're thinking "This is a great program but I don't like to shop," have no fear. I'll shop for you, or my new sidekick Cindy Suhrweir will be happy to shop for you. Please put your donation in the offering plate, or you may use Venmo with "ECHO backpack drive" in the memo line. My contact info is 850-443-5293.

Thank you so much for making my passion happen!

# BEHIND THE SCENES AT MANNA ON MERIDIAN

*Manna is the food pantry that St. Stephen is part of, along with other congregations (both "on Meridian" and elsewhere). Cassandra White is our Manna rep. These are excerpts from a note that coordinator Carolyn Pardue sent out to interested parties.*

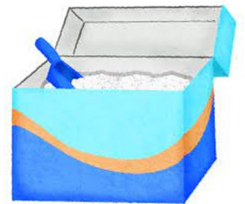


[Last Saturday was] Another Great Manna Distribution Day: 310 households served (approx. 1,100 people). How many volunteers does it take to run a smooth and successful Distribution Day? Today 37 volunteers signed in, logging a cumulative total of 99.5 hours (between 5 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.).... Another great Manna morning.

Remember to check your calendar for times the week before the third Saturday (in July that will be week of July 15) and pencil Manna in on that Wed. and Friday. There are always opportunities to help....

A couple of things that are very popular on the free table and choice table (note: these are in addition to your continued financial contributions and contributions of food items):

- Disposable underwear/Depends for men and women. (There are families that receive/purchase these when a loved one is ill and have no idea what to do with them when they are no longer needed. Manna serves quite a few people who are older and/or who care for older parents. When we have them, they go quickly.)
- Laundry detergent. (Usually on sale at Walgreens in the 28- to 30-washload size. Unscented is best (for allergies when we store it in Manna building).)
- Bath soap and deodorant (especially in summer).



Manna is blessed to have a donor who provides approx. 100 rolls of toilet paper each month and a donor who provides toothbrushes, and, of course, Blue Tavern has provided funds for toothpaste for the past year. Manna willingly accepts additions to these, but other items above are needed more right now.

If food is what you want to provide, right now the most difficult things for Manna to get at a reasonable price (remember that Manna has to purchase 300 of everything a month):



- Black beans.
- One-pound bags of rice.
- Regular-size boxes of cereal.
- Canned pasta sauce.

As always, thank you for your continued support of this important program.

## EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM'S SERMON

... All of the visitors and voting members of the Florida-Bahamas Synod descended on Orlando to meet as a voting body to fellowship and do the work of the church. The keynote speaker was the amazing Rev. Dr. Rafael Malpica Padilla. At one part of his presentation, he asked for us in the large group to raise our hand if we "believe that the Church of Jesus Christ has a mission." It was a no-brainer, right?!? I raised my hand like probably half of the assembly did; the others were just afraid to be bold, I thought. Maybe they were, or maybe they knew something I didn't realize – because the Rev. Dr. Rafael said, "We don't want to believe that the Church of Jesus Christ has a mission. We want to believe that the mission of Jesus Christ has a church!"

You see the difference? The first way puts the entity of the church first, instead of the mission of Jesus Christ. We are a healthy church when we put the mission of Jesus Christ first because that is what makes us God's church and not a club, or a philanthropic entity, or only a meeting place. Putting the mission of Jesus first means that whatever we do, in accordance with that mission, is the will of God. If we put the church first, or (God forbid) the pastor first, then you and I will be looking for the will of God in discouraging places....

## A TRUMPET-LESS BLAST FROM A CHURCH IN HAITI

*In 1989, Karen E. Olson accompanied a team of medical missionaries on a trip to Haiti. This excerpt from the Tallahassee Democrat (Nov. 12, 1989) describes a cross-cultural church service.*

An angel appeared to 21-year-old Noe Joseph one night in a dream, and promised him a special talent to be used for the church. In his vision, Joseph received a shining trumpet. In the clear light of day, he woke to find no such instrument – and no way to get one in his isolated corner of Haiti. This is a country, after all, where the voodoo drums far outnumber the hymnbooks.

That never stopped Joseph. Every Sunday, he purses his lips before the battery-operated microphone at Dumay's Bethel Church and unleashes a resounding imitation of the horn he has never seen. This modest blue concrete building, 30 by 60 feet, rocks with enough concertina music to demolish a new accordion every year. The ceiling is decked with crepe paper, a beach ball hanging in the middle like a chandelier. The pulpit is draped like a tablecloth bearing a printed fruit design.

"It's hard to come and tell these people something..." laments Jeff Fredrick, the Tallahassee founder of Adopt-a-Village-Missions. "To see people in church service, thanking God for nothing – it's awesome. It gets you right in the heart and makes you feel like a worm."



He goes forward just long enough to thank the people for their songs, urge them to spread the faith and tell them the church in America needs their prayers. There is nothing more to say.

*You'll find this and more of Karen's stories in the book "Frogs, Turtles and Pineapples: Notes from a Pilgrim in Progress," available at church.*

*Another blast from the past: Here's a glimpse of Karen on a different mission from the 1980s. She's in Costa Rica cradling a baby paca.*

## BEFORE YOU GO...

- 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 nametags, or ask Lori to sign you up. Include the \$40 with your regular offering. And then take the flowers home!



## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Ruth Hartung - 06/23  
Steve Kunst - 06/23  
Sandy Davis - 06/28  
Sarah Barton - 07/03  
Loraine Sundberg - 07/03  
Karl Barton - 07/04  
Tom Buchanan - 07/13  
Jonas Holdcraft - 07/15  
Margaret Bowers - 07/19  
Corine Brathwaite - 07/19  
Emily Ruddell - 07/20  
Michael Robinson - 07/25  
Bert Sundberg - 07/25  
Kirsten Ebbesen - 07/26  
Ben Claussen - 07/29

## COMING UP

### Today:

9 a.m. - J. Dritt Workshop in FH  
Noon - Al-Anon meets in sanctuary  
7 p.m. - AA meets in FH

### This Friday:

9 a.m. - J. Dritt Workshop in FH

### This Sunday:

9 a.m. - Book study  
10 a.m. - Worship, Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
1:30 p.m. - On Purpose Women meets in FH  
4 p.m. - Congolese Christian worship in FH

### Monday, June 24:

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

### Wednesday, June 26:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in FH



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