



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



### THREE CROSSES

*Now there's one more area of visual interest on the grounds of St. Stephen. This copper art piece was donated by Marilyn Larson, and David Butler has incorporated it in a new succulent garden tucked between the sanctuary entrance and the stairs leading to the fellowship hall. The artwork, which Marilyn calls "Tri-Cross," belonged to the late Fleet Pride, her life partner and an enthusiastic participant in many St. Stephen programs. It had been hanging in her home since the late 1980s. "Fleet's ashes are in the columbarium," Marilyn said, "and now the art piece that originally belonged to him is nearby." She recalls that the artist was Gay Drennon. We're trying to track down whether Gay is still alive and still living in this area, perhaps with a different last name.*

*No doubt she'd love to see this new setting for her creation.*

*Thank you for the gift, Marilyn. (Photo by Lori Zengel)*

## A WEEK FROM SUNDAY: IT'S MEETING TIME



We'll have our semiannual congregational meeting at noon Sunday, July 18. You may attend in person or via Zoom (Lori will send out the Zoom invitations next week).

Look for an agenda in next week's newsletter. Generally speaking, says President Val Sullivan, we'll be discussing the sanctuary renovation plans and how we'll worship in the fellowship hall during those renovations. There's a lot going on, so you'll want to be part of this meeting. See you there.

## PLAN TO WORSHIP HERE? PLEASE LET US KNOW

Last Sunday, one of our online worshippers asked: "So is [in-person] worship now completely open? Or are we still using the signup online?" Good question, Nancy. This is an opportunity to remind everyone of our procedure.

"The question 'Are we completely open?' is complex," Pastor Tom says in reply. "We are keeping the number at 50 since that is all the seating we currently have in the church [since we removed chairs for the upcoming construction]. It is not a magic number and can increase ... BUT we need to know so we can bring in more chairs. This is why we're encouraging people to sign up online."

Here's where you go to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c45a4a62ea7fbc16-sunday>



## THANKS FROM JUDI

Though many of us didn't even know, because we were worshipping from home, the usually energetic Judi Duffy went through quite a rough patch earlier this year. She didn't know it at first, but it turns out she had diverticulitis, complete with an abscess and a perforation of the bowel. She was in the hospital for six days, and her weight dropped to 94 pounds. "I was really sick," she said the other day. "It was awful for two months."



But the reason she called was to say that she's back! She's worshipping in person and taking part in Bible study again. "I want to thank everyone who sent get-well cards and took time to call me," she said. "I will never forget it."

## A NEW LOOK FOR TERRI



Heads turned last Sunday when Terri Schmitt walked into the sanctuary. Short hair! Very, very, very short! And it looks terrific, don't you think? She even let us take her picture for the newsletter.

Someone asked Terri whether she had donated her liberated hair to a group such as Locks for Love. She said that whole process had gotten much too complicated ... so, instead, she took it outside and let the wind take it, so the birds could use it to build their nests. Sounds like something that nature-loving Terri would do, doesn't it? *(Photo by Susan Warren)*

## SENT THAT PICTURE YET?

Reminder: We're putting together a new, online, easily updated names-and-faces directory of St. Stephen people. Office Manager Lori Zengel wants you to send her a recent photo of yourself or your family. So far, she has received only eight pix. Don't be camera-shy, please! A photo directory is a Godsend for new people ... as well as those of us older folks who sometimes have a hard time connecting names and faces. Lori's contact info is at the bottom of this newsletter. Thank you.



# CHOOSING BACK-TO-SCHOOL OUTFITS

Soon school will begin again, after a long and disruptive COVID year. This year, as in years past, we St. Stephen people have a chance to help provide backpacks and new school clothes for kids who otherwise might not have them.

It's the ECHO Back-to-School Clothing Drive, and the St. Stephen coordinators are Andrea Notley and Erin Kenney. As most of you know, you can "adopt" one of the students that ECHO has included in this year's drive – which means you'll get the specifics of the student's age, grade and clothing sizes. So you buy a backpack and fill it with two school outfits, socks and underwear. (You don't get the student's name – just a number. Please be sure to put that number on a sticky note and attach it to the backpack when you bring it to church.) Deadline: July 25.



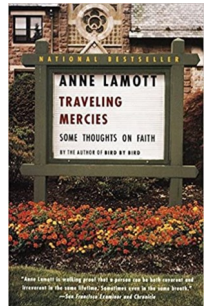
If you can't go out shopping, or if you're not good at picking out young people's clothes, you can still participate by making a donation. Just include it in your church offering, designating it for "ECHO backpacks." (Those of you who use Venmo can donate, too.)

Want more information? Contact Andrea at [Notley90@comcast.net](mailto:Notley90@comcast.net) or 850-443-5293. Contact Erin at [erinkenney8@gmail.com](mailto:erinkenney8@gmail.com) or 850-459-7744.



## MISC.

- Several members have received a text or email from someone claiming to be Pastor Tom asking for financial help. Pastor Tom says: *Please don't reply – it's a scam.* If he ever DID send out a request for financial assistance of any kind, he'd do it through the newsletter, during worship service or via the church's email account. If you ever receive such a request by text or email, check with the office before you respond.
- Don't forget that Beth Alexander is looking for more worship assistants, particularly cup ministers.
- After seeing someone else's book recommendation in the newsletter ... Vicki Guttenplan wrote in to say that she enjoys pretty much everything that author Anne Lamott has written. Give her a try.



- The church office is running low on the gas cards and Walmart cards we hand out to visitors who need assistance. If you're able, please help us out by donating some. Probably the \$10 cards are the best. Thanks.

- 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



Tom Buchanan - 07/13  
Jonas Holdcraft - 07/15  
Margaret Bowers - 07/19  
Corine Brathwaite - 07/19  
Emily Ruddell - 07/20  
Kirsten Ebbesen - 07/26  
Ian Medley - 07/27  
Benjamin Claussen - 07/29

## UPCOMING DATES

### **This Sunday:**

**10 a.m.** - Worship, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

**Noon** - Council meeting

### **Wednesday, July 14:**

**Noon** - Bible study (online)

### **Sunday, July 18:**

**10 a.m.** - Worship, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

**Noon** - Congregational meeting



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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