



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

GET PREPPED FOR OUR FORUM

Last Sunday, we got our president back. This Sunday, we get our pastor back. All's right with our world. And not a moment too soon. Coming up fast is our congregational meeting/open forum. That's why we've been getting those homework assignments. If you've been putting them off, it's not too late. Pastor Tom, President Denise and our Church Council members would like us to answer the following questions.



1. What is the primary thing that inspired you to become a member of St. Stephen?
2. What do you dream about for the future of St. Stephen?
3. How would you rank the following considerations, from most important to least important, as they apply to your experience at St. Stephen?



- *Anyone can serve.*
- *Conflicts get resolved.*
- *Leaders are not controlling.*
- *No one is told how to vote.*
- *People belong to a community.*
- *People can be their true selves.*
- *People find Jesus.*
- *There's limited drama.*
- *There's passionate ministry.*

You may drop off your responses in the box in the narthex this Sunday, or email them to Lori in the church office. The open forum is scheduled for right after the liturgy July 30. We look forward to seeing you there.

STAND BY OUR TEACHERS

Thanks to Outreach Coordinator Sharon Simmons, we're devoting this month's Noisy Offering to the St. Stephen people who teach in our community. Along the way, just for fun, we've invited you to pay tribute to one of your own favorite teachers, and even to share a photo of how you looked when you were in that teacher's class. (See *below*.)

If you're not ready to dust off old photos, please don't let your camera-shyness prevent you from taking part in the Noisy Offering. Teaching has never been a career for the faint-hearted, but these days it's downright heroic. And our Noisy Offering contributions will help our teachers purchase the supplies they need to benefit their students. Here's a list of our blessed teachers (please holler if your name got left off by mistake):

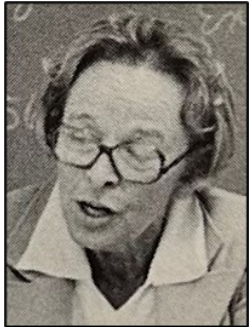


- Colleen Holdcraft, Killlearn Lakes Elementary
- Andrea Notley, DeSoto Trail Elementary
- Jen Reece, Gretchen Everhart School
- Donna Schiffer, Oak Ridge Elementary
- Terri Schmitt, Nims Middle

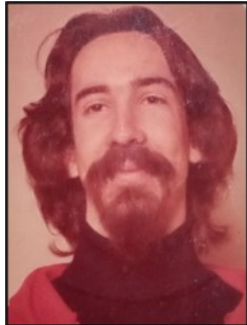
TEACHERS TO REMEMBER

Here are this week's tributes to memorable instructors from yesteryear.

Caroline Collins: “Sharon Simmons inspired me to recall my many favorite teachers and to share about the one who still comes to mind quite often, my 10th-grade English teacher, Mrs. Petty [1981, Arlington High School, Poughkeepsie, New York]. Mrs. Petty was unsmiling, demanding, intolerant (of fools), and old. She was probably about the age I am now. Everything I know about basic English grammar and composition, I owe to the uncompromising Mrs. Petty. On the other hand, she deserves no blame for any of my shortfalls. Like sentence fragments, dangling modifiers and comma faults. She instilled in me both a deep respect for the language and a snobbish disdain for sloppy writing. Tenth grade was the genesis of my strong feelings about writing. While I relish writing when it turns out well, I also get overly anxious about getting it just right. ‘What would Mrs. Petty think of this?’” [We peeked inside Caroline’s yearbook, and inside it Mrs. Petty wrote: “Best wishes to a charming young lady who is a delight in class.”]



Ron Hartung, shown here in 1975, a shaggy apartment cleaner with a bachelor’s in English but no job prospects, entering the two-year graduate program in



journalism at the University of Kansas: “One of my most influential teachers was John Bremner, renowned professor of editing at KU. He had the voice and the intimidation skills of Orson Welles. After I survived his intro class, I became his graduate assistant. The Bremner Experience changed my life. In addition to scaring the hell out of us, he taught us to treasure the language. He wrote in



the introduction to his book ‘Words on Words’: ‘I have tried to teach that one must know not only what a word signifies, how it is spelled, how it is pronounced and what part of speech it is, but especially why it is called what it is called.’ Thanks to him, I became a copy editor.”

COEXISTENCE

A poem Caroline Collins wrote for Mrs. Petty’s class

Millions of people on this earth, all of them different

Who are we to judge others?
Would you like to be judged
by others who never took the time to really
get to know you?

We are all
simply
unique

Everyone has faults
problems
quirks
bad habits

No one is perfect
That’s why we need
a God to believe in ...
hopes to strive for ...
dreams to fulfill ...

Life would be boring
if we were all the same

When we begin to
accept and understand others
only then can we begin to
accept and understand ourselves



BACKPACK DONORS, THIS IS FOR YOU



We still have a week and a half to drop off our ECHO backpacks. Remember? If you're one of the people who got a student's info from Andrea Notley, you agreed to buy a new backpack, stuff it with two new back-to-school outfits plus socks and undies, and bring it to church by July 23. Make sure to mark the backpack with your name OR the number of the unidentified child you adopted. See Andrea if you have questions. Your student will be so grateful.



STILL A GREEN THUMB

Didn't Emily Jennings say a while ago that she was hanging up her church-gardening tools? I thought so. But she's still at it, as she has been for decades. "People should know," Building & Grounds Coordinator Jake Hartung said, "that any flowers they see on the church grounds have been planted by Emily. The pots along the sidewalk into church have always been planted and watered by Emily. And she recently trimmed the azaleas along the Sunday School wing." Jake often runs into Emily when he shows up to trim bushes and pluck weeds. He'll frequently find her behind Pastor's office, in the area that has flowers and a bench. Somehow, in the dead of summer, it still looks so good. Thanks to all of our people who keep our grounds looking pretty and our buildings working the way they should.

MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- Thanks to Care & Hospitality Coordinator Margaret Bowers, we have an easy way to donate meals to Pastor Emeritus Emory Hingst and Ann. Here's the link: [Meals For Emory & Ann Hingst via Take Them A Meal](#). It tells you everything you need to know, including their food preferences. If you have any questions, see Margaret.



- A welcome tidal wave of bottled water has hit our fellowship hall. The water you've donated is for our friends at the Kearney Center, in response to Sharon's request. No doubt she'd love to see even more bottles there. You have until the end of the month.
- It's been a while since I've been served Holy Communion and thought, "Mmm. Good bread." But lately it's been happening a lot. I heard that Rita Ford was our new baker, so I asked her about it. "I am really happy baking the bread," she replied. "I feel I am giving something back to God and the church for all my blessings. We previously purchased bread from Publix, but our Altar Guild members were having problems getting the bread on time. I had been thinking awhile about baking bread for church, and it just so happened that God opened a way for me." If you'd like to bake, let Rita know. "But it really isn't necessary," she said. "I just enjoy doing it."
- Gotta love Katharine's preludes, right? Sunday after Sunday, they're gems.
- 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

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
Astrid van der Mark - 08/02
Doug Mann - 08/06
Sharon Simmons - 08/09
Caroline Collins - 08/14

IN THE WEEK AHEAD

This Sunday:

9 a.m. - Book study

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



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

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