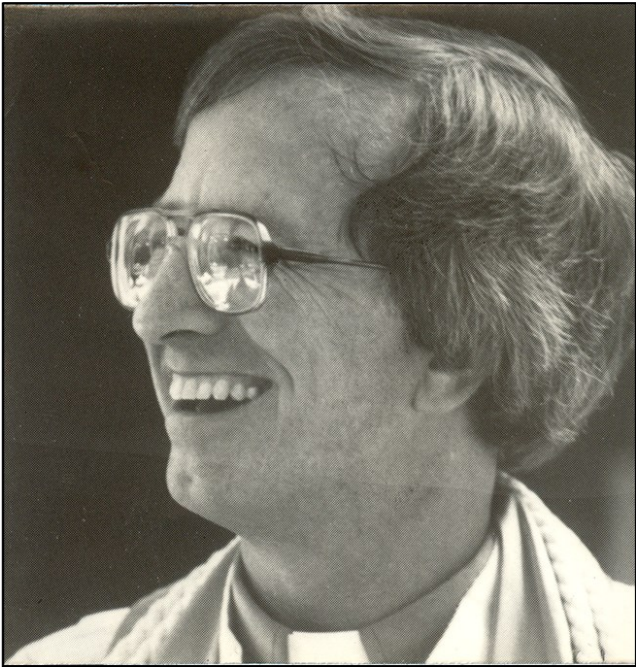




ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

EMORY HINGST, 1934-2024



Dear St. Stephen,

It is with a heavy heart that I pass on to you the news that Pastor Emory Hingst died this morning [Monday, Aug. 26]. Ann was at his side. Family and his caregiver surrounded him. We give thanks to God for Pastor Emory's ministry and his witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed. He now sings and dances in resurrected form with the Saints in Heaven. Well done, good and faithful servant! Well done.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tom



THE MEMORIAL SERVICE

By Pastor Tom

Our beloved Pastor Emeritus Emory Hingst touched so many lives while he pursued Jesus' path of justice and care for the marginalized in Tallahassee and beyond. For this, we give thanks to God for his life and ministry. We also recognize that his (and Ann's) home church, St. Stephen, would not be able to accommodate the number of people who wish to honor his memory and celebrate his life. We are thankful that First Presbyterian Church at 110 N. Adams St. has opened its space for us to gather for worship and a meal reception to follow. The service is at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7. I encourage you to plan to arrive early and carpool as much as possible. Additional parking is available at the public library.

GIVING THANKS FOR THIS MAN OF GOD

You'll be reading Emory's official obituary in the newspaper. Here in the newsletter, we're sharing the bio that we inserted in the program of 1999's Food & Shelter Concert, which St. Stephen organized when Emory retired after 23 years here. We invited the whole community to honor our pastor and friend.

"Soli Deo gloria." To God alone be the glory. Those are the words Johann Sebastian Bach used to write at the end of his works, and the words Emory Hingst often writes in messages to his congregation. If Mr. Hingst is less familiar to you than Mr. Bach, that may be one reason why: Though he has not been shy about following through on his convictions, he has never sought attention for himself. Tonight, although it will cause him great discomfort, we members of his congregation are seeking a bit of attention for him. Our hope is that, in doing so, we might indirectly glorify the God who has guided his way.

Emory grew up in Vernon, Texas, and boasts about his home state at every



opportunity. He attended Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, had his first experience as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Churches in Clinton and Creighton, Missouri, and came to Tallahassee in 1967 to become campus minister at FSU's University Lutheran Center. He continued in that role until 1975. Remember, these were turbulent times: He was a draft counselor and an adviser at a drug crisis center, among other things. In 1972, he also became assistant chaplain at FSU, and from 1974 to '76 he was chaplain. At the tail end of 1975, after St. Stephen Lutheran Church's pastor resigned, he started filling in. In 1976, he was called to be pastor there.

As pastor, he has reminded congregation members that their God-given talents are needed out in the community, not just within the walls of the worship area. His resume speaks the same message: He was a longtime board member of Florida IMPACT. He was president of Tallahassee Habitat for Humanity for five years. He was co-chairperson of the MLK City-County Celebration for three years and has been treasurer since 1987. What's more, just this past January he received the Martin Luther King Jr. Award for his decades of service to the struggle for social justice in Tallahassee. He was a member of statewide church committees on social ministry for 15 years and chaplain of Big Bend Hospice for eight years, and he's now president of Rainbow Rehab.

He has quietly but steadfastly demonstrated against the death penalty and for Jesus' style of nonjudgmental love in the church and the world. He has been a longtime supporter of diversity and frequently reminds those in the St. Stephen majority what they can learn from people who are black, Jewish, gay, poor or otherwise different from them. He and Ann built their home in a planned community set within a lower-income neighborhood. In other words, the man tries to practice what he preaches.

Mostly, he welcomes people. He laughs easily. He sings beautifully. He embodies the message that we are here for each other, not just for ourselves. He embarrasses easily, so this page will mortify him. He doesn't take himself seriously. On his bio sheet for the church directory last year, he closed with this important announcement: "I like Big Red Soda Pop from Waco, Texas."



Make no mistake about it, though: His retirement at the end of November will leave a huge hole not just in one congregation on Meridian Road but also in the hearts of all those who prize social justice and the message of the Sermon on the Mount.

He used to tell his confirmation students and his Church Council members, "If I see you on the street 20 years from now and ask you what Acts 2:42 is, I want you to be able to say: 'They devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers.'" He has devoted himself to the same. We have been blessed by God to be his congregation.

OUR MEMBERS REMEMBER

“Farewell, dear Friend. We will miss you, but we have wonderful memories to cherish. Since the first week we arrived in Tallahassee in August 1986, you and St. Stephen have been central to my girls’ and my lives. You confirmed the girls, focused on youth during your ministry, and played important roles in our lives. You led by example, revealing a deep faith through action within and outside the church walls. I can still hear your voice leading the liturgy and participating in community services, particularly those rallying for decent treatment and respect for all. It is a blessing to have known you, humble servant.” *(Janet Barber, in Seattle)*

“I remember Pastor Hingst as a kind, thoughtful and gentle person with the most calming personality one could have.” *(Anna Barber, in Portugal)*

“Emory had a great voice. Loved it when he cantored. I always looked forward to his yearly sermon when he told the ‘coconut macaroon’ story!” *(Jan Harrison)*

“Each of us can quickly pull out a stereotype of elementary-aged boys’ church behavior – fidgety, unable to concentrate, antsy. Our three boys (Thomas, Jay and Michael) defied those stereotypes during a phase in which they took up imitating Pastor Emory conducting the Great Thanksgiving portion of the communion rite. So sometimes, when Emory turned to face the congregation, he saw three boys with serious expressions imitating his every move. When one of those now-very-grown men was asked about this recently, he replied, ‘I think we were




responding to the power of his presence up there, never making fun. Had fun, though!’ None of them became pastors. But as parents, we know that the image of a loving God full of grace was imprinted on them by Emory. Thanks be to God!” *(The Buchanan and Williams families. Sue wrote in a P.S. to Jennifer: “Remember how they used to race him to the back of the church at the end of service? Thomas said last night, ‘So should I show up at the memorial service so I can race him out at the end?’ So sweet.”)*

“My younger son, Scott, has always been VERY active. He was 4 when we joined St. Stephen. Pastor Emory never seemed bothered by his outbursts during a sermon or children’s time. Pastor even arranged for one of his sons to watch Scott during an evening service. At its conclusion the fellowship hall was still standing, and both boys were ‘reading.’” *(Sharon Simmons)*

“As someone who has made his career teaching international students from various religious backgrounds (or no background at all), I learned from Emory an incredible lesson about God and his relationship with his children on Earth. To answer those Christians who said, ‘You must believe in Jesus Christ in order to enter heaven,’ he told me that he had wrestled with that question when he had a very close Muslim friend during campus ministry. He was able to break it down like this: ‘Who is Jesus...but God made flesh? And what is God? I believe that God’s essence is Unconditional Love.’ Therefore, he said, if one is open to the love of one’s fellow human, then that is the way to heaven, no matter what beliefs one might hold. With the love that Emory expressed to everyone he met, he is definitely in heaven right now!” *(Patrick Kennell)*

“In 1974, FSU student Cindy attended Luther House, where Emory was pastor. I came to FSU in 1976, met Cindy and got to know Emory. In 1978, Cindy and I got married at St. Stephen with Pastor Hingst presiding. He baptized our two children. Through the years, Emory has been our gentle mentor and guide toward inclusive love. He set the example to follow as expressed in Micah 6:8: ‘What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.’ We are forever grateful for the blessings of Emory and his epiphany of God’s love.” *(Dave Suhrweir)*

“I remember:

- “Talking Texas and Texas Lutheran College...
 - “Bringing him certain foods and drinks from our trips ‘home’ (to Texas) because they weren’t sold here yet...
- 
- “Cooking occasional meals for him or cooking ‘extra’ of ours to share...
 - “Being responsible for the Altar Guild’s part in setting up our outdoor service for his and Ann’s wedding (& all the things I hauled from home-- tables, trays, glassware)...
 - “Doing things outside my comfort zone because he asked...
 - “His constant support, understanding & encouragement through some pretty tough times...
 - “The happy, fun times, and the laughter...
 - “He has reached his goal! May we all! God has truly blessed him...” *(Billie Reardon)*

“His example and loving mentoring set the tone for the next 30 years of ministry. We will forever be grateful for our Tallahassee experience. Our love to Ann and the entire St Stephen family.” *(Pastor David and Con Berg in California; he was “Vicar David” in 1991-92)*

“Pastor, teacher, worship leader, welcomer, good sport, joker, brother, neighbor, friend. Emory was the best.” *(Ron Hartung)*

KEEPING THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE

When he was our pastor, Emory had ambitious dreams about various ways in which we could use our buildings and land to benefit the community. In the 1990s, we had a series of congregational meetings on whether to sell some of our property. He wanted to keep it. In the end, the congregation voted otherwise. Rather than sulk, though, Emory demonstrated how to respond with grace. Here’s what he wrote for the newsletter in March 1996.

For several years our Council has discussed whether to keep or sell the land behind our playground and shed. This issue was discussed in our planning of a new worship center. In 1995 the congregation decided to sell it, reaffirmed the decision and was more specific this January, and accepted a financial offer Sunday.

I have spoken and voted against selling each time, including Sunday. I accept the decision of the majority.

So much more important than a piece of land or \$259,000 is God’s Loving you and me and all the world forever and ever and our being Loving persons.... The sale of the 2.54 acres and paying off the mortgage means we need not be distracted but open to God’s Spirit to lead us to do God’s will. Hopefully, we will renew our sense of mission to be empowered to let our God’s reign be evident in us as we serve others with Good News.



THINKING OF ANN

In case you wish to write a note or send a card to Ann, here is her address:

Ann Hingst
1523 Payne St.
Tallahassee, FL 32303

GRETA'S MINISTRY

In the obituary she wrote, Ann specifically thanks member Greta Scavone. Greta arrived at St. Stephen exactly when Ann was seeking a trusted caregiver for Emory, and she's been an extraordinary blessing.

BEFORE YOU GO...

- Thank you to Colin Hackley and unknown photographers from the past for the pictures in today's newsletter.
- 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

Annette Claussen - 09/06
Martha Marky - 09/08
Greta Langley - 09/09
Bryon Ehlmann - 09/11
Aaron Halvorson - 09/14
Ron Hartung - 09/14
Ceilia Greeley - 09/23
Violet Greeley - 09/23
Kirsten Matthis - 09/23
Sue Williams - 09/28
Jeanette Sickel - 09/30



COMING UP

Today:

Noon - Al-Anon meets in fellowship hall (FH)
7 p.m. - AA meets in FH

This Friday:

9:30 a.m. - TOPS meets in FH

This Sunday:

9 a.m. - Book study
10 a.m. - Worship, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
4 p.m. - Congolese Christian worship in FH



Monday, September 2:

Church office is closed for Labor Day

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

Wednesday, September 4:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in FH



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>.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, ELCA
2198 N. Meridian Road | Tallahassee, FL 32303

The Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor