



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Here we see the beloved Valz (that is, Val Kibler on the left and Val Sullivan on the right), recently celebrating their 27th anniversary. Marking the occasion with them is their new kitten, Scout.

AFTER THE STORM

No doubt you've been donating your time and/or your dollars to the various organizations assisting Nature Coast communities that are recovering from Hurricane Idalia. In case you haven't yet, Lutheran Disaster Response is a go-to agency for many of us. (Visit <https://elca.org>. "Support Hurricane Relief" is plastered all over the webpage.) Also, the *Tallahassee Democrat* has been doing a good job of reporting on hurricane-struck communities – and recently included a list of agencies that could use our support. Among them were:



- Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. (Financial donations: Visit <https://www.redcross.org> or text RELIEF2023 to 41444. Volunteers: Call volunteer coordinator Dana McMillian at [850-491-2997](tel:850-491-2997) or sign up online for opportunities.)

- Second Harvest of the Big Bend. Visit <https://fightinghunger.org/> or call 850-562-3033.



- United Way of the Big Bend. Visit <https://uwbb.org/disaster-relief-fund>. It includes lots of ways to contact agencies in particular counties.

- American Kidney Fund. It has activated its Disaster Relief Program, the nation's only rapid-response system that provides emergency financial assistance to dialysis and recent transplant patients, for those impacted by Hurricane Idalia. It says 100% of donations will be used to assist kidney patients affected by natural disasters. Visit <https://www.kidneyfund.org>.



Of course, there are many others. Please help as you're able.

A CAPITAL CITY IS BORN

“We stumbled on the Tallahassee episode of ‘Florida Road Trip’ on WFSU tonight,” Caroline Collins wrote in an email Monday, “and what favorite Lutheran historian do you think they interviewed?” It was none other than our own Erik Robinson. “I did get a screenshot of Erik but, even better, found the whole episode (first aired two months ago) on the ‘Florida Road Trip’ channel on YouTube. So here is the link if you want to check it out and share with newsletter readers”: https://youtu.be/whrmBStR0fl?si=ecdaRyyUjTTn3_5H

Here’s a tasty excerpt from the interview with Erik: “Tallahassee was a planned and intentional city. It was planned to be a capital because of the trouble getting from place to place in early frontier Florida. The United States took over Florida in 1821 and had their first territorial legislative council in Pensacola the next year, in 1822. They decided that they would go to St. Augustine the year after, but because there was no land route to it, they decided that they needed a place that they could meet in the middle. So they sent a surveyor, and he went to approximately the middle between Pensacola and St. Augustine, and that was this place.”



During the liturgy Sunday, Pastor Tom presented study Bibles (roughly the size of the Tampa phonebook) to these members of the newest confirmation class: Astrid van der Mark, Graham Reece and Colton Allen (Will Allen not pictured). On the left is their veteran teacher, Dave Suhrweir. *(Photo by Colin Hackley)*

EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM’S ‘GET BEHIND ME, SATAN’ SERMON

... So, did Jesus overreact? I mean, he called Peter -- Satan. That’s not a good thing! :-)

Was the language too harsh? Maybe, but it was done in love and done because humans think too small. A joyful life is not only about ourselves. And while we call Jesus a personal Savior and we seek to have a personal relationship with the Son of Man, we don’t know everything God is up to. And then we find that our thinking might be too small like Peter’s thinking was, or we just picture God as an old man on a throne far away, angry all the time. And it is just too small....

God is neither male nor female. God is not far away and not always angry, and a joyful life is not only about ourselves. A joyful life is about pointing people to see God’s love for them. And it’s best done by taking up our cross and following him. That is, being of service to the other, the marginalized, to the least in our midst. This is our response because God came to us ... the marginalized and the least....

And God did something unbelievable. God loved us into belief. And then said, “Come, follow me.”

'I'M NOT AFRAID'

By Karen E. Olson (Excerpted from her column in the Nov. 22, 1987, Tallahassee Democrat)

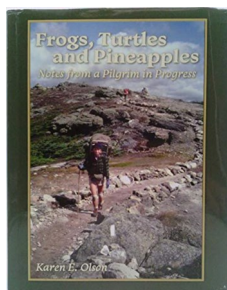
... Nancy Delilah White was not inclined to panic several years ago, when an intruder appeared shortly after midnight in her sprawling yellow Queen Anne-style rooming house, which looms over the intersection of Monroe Street and Thomasville Road.

White, who will turn 95 in April, has always assumed that her rights will be respected. She began taking in guests a year after she bought the imposing landmark in 1940 with her late husband, Ernest Lee White. And nobody has ever lifted a hand to harm her, although she has evicted plenty of drunks and check bouncers.

So when she saw the lights go on unexpectedly one night in the vacant bedroom next to her own, White started dictating orders.

"You'd better tell me what you want, because I'm getting pretty nervous," the widow commanded with the unflappable voice of a campus housemother. "You know the way you came in, so you know the way to go out."

After calling the police, the landlady stepped out to face the interloper – a tipsy 23-year-old man....



"He could have killed me with one hand, but I wasn't afraid of him," she said. "The Lord's got me covered with both hands, so I'm not afraid. I'm not even worried...."

*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 or from Karen.*

MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- Say a little prayer for your choir friends. They'll be singing an anthem Sunday for the first time in months.
- Some of us have been having fun taking meals to Ann and Pastor Emeritus Emory Hingst. Thanks to Care & Hospitality Coordinator Margaret Bowers, we have an easy way to do it. 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.



- 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.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Annette Claussen - 09/06
Martha Marky - 09/08
Sarah Rumph - 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
Laura Kimel - 09/28
Sue Williams - 09/28
Don Dowd - 09/30
Melody Duke - 09/30
Jeanette Sickel - 09/30



IN THE WEEK AHEAD

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

6 p.m. - Game Night (outside group)

This Sunday:

9 a.m. - Book study

9:30 a.m. - Choir practice

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

11:30 a.m. - Worship & Music meeting

Noon - Delta Kappa Gamma

4 p.m. - Congolese Church Group meets in FH



Monday, Sept. 11:

5 p.m. - TIMA (Tallahassee Martial Arts) meets in FH

7 p.m. - Compassionate Friends meet in Ruth Room

Wednesday, Sept. 13:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in FH

7 p.m. - Choir practice



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

Edited by Ron Hartung (alias Lex Lutheran). Designed by Lori Zengel, office manager, sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com.

Website: <http://www.ststephenlutherantally.com/>

To unsubscribe please reply with "UNSUBSCRIBE" as the subject line.