



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



‘CHEEEEEEEEEEESE!’

Here’s a snapshot of St. Stephen Lutheran Church on Sept. 25. It doesn’t include all of our members, but quite a few of them – as well as some dear friends and relatives. Many, many thanks to intrepid photographer Colin Hackley.

You’re thinking: “Nice, but the faces are so small.” When Office Manager Lori sends out this email, she includes attachments that allow you to read the newsletter on our website, where you can do things like enlarge the photos. Lori also has posted a copy of this photo in the fellowship hall. If all else fails, she can send you a digital copy of Colin’s picture.

See whether you can spot Kirsten Ebbesen, who filled in on piano. She looks pretty relieved that the service is over, don’t you think? So does cantor Susan Hehn, who led our sometimes a *cappella* singing and (as one member put it) encouraged people by saying that the strong voices of St. Stephen can sing better than we sometimes think.

Now, about Colin (climbing the official photo ladder): We had lined him up last month to take this church-anniversary photo, but for a while it looked as if Mother Nature had other plans. Colin is a freelance photographer, and he got a call Saturday from a power company saying that they’d be hiring him in connection with the oncoming hurricane ... but they didn’t know exactly when. True to form, Colin immediately notified everyone at church who might be affected by his absence – and sketched out a detailed plan. Yet there he was, at church Sunday morning earlier than usual, preparing as much as possible for the after-liturgY photo and still waiting for the call, while also advising the ushers. As it turned out, he had just enough time to take the picture, pack up his equipment and run.



NEW GUY

See the man sort of in the center of the photo, wearing a bowtie?

That's Erik Robinson, who became a member of St. Stephen on Sunday. Watch for a bit of his bio soon.



MASKS AND MORE

By Pastor Tom

- How glorious to see full faces in the assembly Sunday! We will continue to encourage people to wear masks, but they're no longer mandatory for worship services. Please remember that if you feel sick, it's best for you to stay home and watch the service online. Let's continue to be wise and use safe distancing practices that limit hugging and close contact.



- What a joy to see St. Stephen rally around worship last Sunday as two important members of the worship team were too sick to attend. I'm very proud of everyone who stayed positive and kept faith in our abilities to sing and livestream.
- Because Hurricane Ian disrupted travel for family from South Florida, the graveside memorial service for Jackson Sullivan has been changed to 2 p.m. Oct. 7 at the Tallahassee National Cemetery.

ANYONE FOR LUNCH?

The OWLs lunch bunch is back – and heading back to Café De Martin at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11. Park in the Esposito's parking lot. The restaurant, at 2743 Capital Circle NE, has outdoor seating. Let Margaret know whether you'll be there.



THANKING TWO CHECKBOOK MENTORS

By Sue Canning

I had lunch with Ann Hingst recently. As we were getting caught up, she mentioned that the other day, out of the blue, Emory said to her, "We need to give away more money." She described how they went over the budget and found a way to do just that. A few days after lunch with Ann, I got a card in the mail from one of my favorite local charities thanking me for my past contributions. I thought, "Is Someone trying to tell me something?" Yes, I got out the checkbook. Everything I know about stewardship I learned from Emory and Ol' Bill at St. Stephen.



'THIS IS MY CHURCH'

By Debee Meyer

(Debee recently moved back to Tallahassee and is getting reacquainted with the community – and with St. Stephen.)

I wanted to pass along my gratitude for the lovely worship experience I had Sunday, watching the service from home. As I sang “This Is My Church” along with the congregation, I felt touched by how closely the words matched my feelings about “our church.” I had the privilege of serving St. Stephen with my teenage sons in the 1990s through singing in the choir, serving on Church Council and participating in activities like Habitat. On Sunday, I experienced again the peace and loving welcome that I’ve received over the years, through some of the most difficult and most wonderful times of my life. My life has changed immensely, but I remain deeply grateful for my church!



Since my return to Tallahassee after my husband Steve’s death last August, I’ve been worshipping online after brunching with the family at daughter-in-law Jessica’s parents’ home each Sunday. I treasure these times where we all get to “love on” our twin 6-year-old grandchildren, so I’m not sure when I’ll be attending worship services in person. I’m grateful for the technology and people who make it possible for this “dinosaur” to participate from home and make my offerings through Venmo.

I’ve signed up to become a St. Stephen counter. In addition, I’m gradually reconnecting with the community. I’m serving as treasurer of Lutheran Social Services of North Florida, I’m starting to serve as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels and I’m attending Bible Study Fellowship at Thomasville Road Baptist Church, which I did for many years in the past. In my grieving process, I’ve become aware of the importance of support for those suffering loss. I’m so grateful to those who were there for me. When I finish the six-week Grief Support Group I’ve joined at Big Bend Hospice, I plan to explore how I might be able to provide support to others who are grieving.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

By Sharon Simmons, outreach coordinator

- Sock It to the Homeless collection continues, but the collection tub has been moved to the lobby. It’ll be there this Sunday only and then move back to its regular space in the fellowship hall. (Reminder: The lobby is the area outside of Lori’s office, formerly called the lounge.)



- If you have any reusable water bottles, please bring them in for CCYS-Going Places. Many of their clients who are on the street can’t keep themselves hydrated. Don’t forget to include snacks and sanitary supplies, too. The CCYS-Going Places tub will also be in the lobby this Sunday only.

- Cassandra White is spearheading a collection for Manna on Meridian, our interdenominational food pantry. She’s asking for clean T-shirts, sizes medium and larger. Manna will be making cloth grocery bags out of them. “We need about 250 every month to make this goal,” Cassandra said. That’s a whole bunch of T-shirts. She’ll have a box set up in the lobby.



‘INDIFFERENCE’: EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM’S SERMON

... [Jesus] takes on the mantle of the prophets and the true spirit of the Law which continually asks you and me: What is the purpose of your life? What is the purpose of my life?

It’s not about what life will be after death ... it’s about life right now!

We cannot ignore the reality noted a few verses earlier in Luke where we were told that the Pharisees were lovers of money and they began ridiculing Jesus. It’s not hard to consider their response, because it plays out in our minds every time we pass by someone with a sign asking for spare change. We tell ourselves, “They’ll just use the money for drugs.” Thinking that “if they can stand there all day, why can’t they get a job?” Then we avoid eye contact... We can’t even affirm their presence.

Jesus’ parable tells us that such behavior, the behavior of complacency and indifference, ... is the sin of omission....

CUTE, HUH?

If you’d love to welcome a couple of spunky guinea pigs into your family, check with Margaret Bowers. Her daughter’s family can’t care for these pets anymore. Margaret and her husband have been filling in but don’t really have room for them. “I really want someone special to have them,” she said of Zuma and Skye. “They’re both girls, and they’re super sweet.” The little rascals come with a large cage, water bottle, food and timothy hay – absolutely free. Check with Margaret at church, or find her in the church directory. There could be guinea pigs in your future.

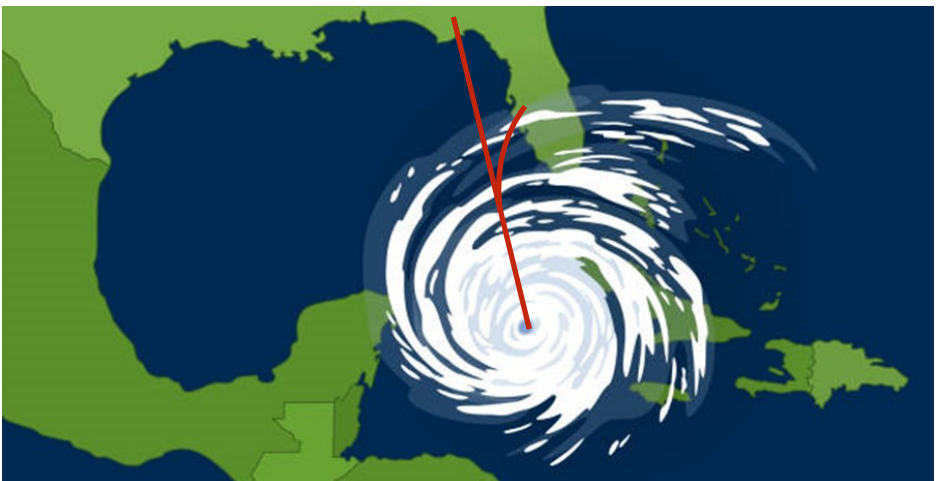


HAIKU CORNER

By Lex Lutheran

TO GOD, AFTER THE STORM CHANGED COURSE

You spared us! Thank you!
Still, the storm bullied millions
who, like us, had prayed.



MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- Dave Suhrweir reports that Beam With PRIDE, a mixed-media exhibit that celebrates LGBTQ+ History Month, has been rescheduled for 5-7:30 p.m. next Tuesday at LeMoyne Arts, 125 N. Gadsden St.
- Got a drawer full of plastic cutlery that you didn't really want when you ordered fast food? Karen Olson will happily take it off your hands. A ministry in her neighborhood uses them.
- Have any questions for our Church Council members? They're listed on our website, <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/about-us>.
- Have anything to add to a future newsletter? Email Lori at sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com or call 850-385-2728.



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Don Dowd - 09/30
Melody Duke - 09/30
Jeanette Sickel - 09/30
Vivian Halvorson - 10/02
Emery Oates - 10/08
Janet Lovins - 10/09
Zach Bagnall - 10/17
Isabel Barton - 10/19
Val Kibler - 10/20
Dave Suhrweir - 10/21
Jim Sampson - 10/22
Audrey Post - 10/24
Barbara Ehlmann - 10/25
Graham Reece - 10/26
Bern Mustian - 10/30

UPCOMING DATES

This Sunday, Oct. 2:

9 a.m. - Bible talk

9:30 a.m. - Choir rehearsal

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

Wednesday, Oct. 5:

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>.

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