

ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Most of us have had this moment. The moment when we turned around, faced the congregation after promising to “strive for justice and peace in all the earth,” heard everyone vow to support us in our life in Christ, and smiled as they applauded. Sunday, it was Lawana and Sandy Lamb-Daniels’ turn. They became our newest members. After the liturgy, thanks to the hospitality team, we gathered in the fellowship hall for light refreshments. Thank you for joining St. Stephen, Sandy and Lawana. (Photo by Colin Hackley)

TEAMWORK

As President Denise reminded us during Sunday announcements, we have several opportunities now to become part of a St. Stephen team. For example:

- We have a Prayer Team. “St. Stephen currently has 12 people on the Prayer Team,” Pastor Tom said Wednesday. “We communicate via texting, and we share prayer requests for people in times of lament, sorrow, illness, and in times of praise and thanksgiving. What began as a small in-person group has grown.” If you’re interested in joining this team, please see Pastor Tom for details and responsibilities.



- We’re forming a Blowing Team – as in blowing off the sidewalks, and sometimes even the parking lots, after the winds of fall lay a carpet of leaves and pine needles. About half a dozen people have indicated an interest so far. If you’d like to join them, tell Pastor Tom or Building-and-Grounds guy Jake Hartung.



- At our upcoming congregational Open Forum, we’ll be splitting into two teams. One will ponder: “How can we attract new members – particularly youngish members – and encourage them to stay?” The other will discuss: “How can we build relations with the wider community – and build diversity?” Between now and Oct. 15, when we meet in the fellowship hall after the service, be thinking of which question you’d like to tackle.



RECOGNIZE THIS SWEET FACE?

Former member Tracy Treanor sent us this all-smiles photo of daughter Grace.



You longtime members who remember the very young Treador girls (*see photo from 2014 below*) will find this hard to believe: “She’s a senior at the United States Air Force Academy and will be working in cybersecurity operations for the Air Force next year when she graduates,” Tracy told us. Congratulations, Grace.

We asked Tracy for updates on the rest of the family. “Jim and I divorced in 2018, and my partner is Missy,” she wrote. “We have a house in Plymouth [Minnesota] with our dog, Warrior, a three-legged wonder. Jim has moved back to Tallahassee. You know about Grace. Izzy is a senior at St. Olaf

majoring in kinesiology. She has won many awards for her diving (including going to nationals) and works as a caregiver in nursing homes on her time away from school. Sophie is majoring in psychology at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) in LA. She has continued to sing and is part of Notorious, an a cappella singing group in LMU, as well as choir.”

Tracy added: “Miss my church crowd!”



EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM’S SERMON

... When we ask ourselves the question “What does it mean to wrestle with a God who loves you this much?,” it means that little by little, bit by bit, a new society springs forth and new hearts and new spirits come into view. Not only for ourselves but for everyone.

And here’s the litmus test to know if the Lord is leading and guiding you to change your mind. Ask yourself, “Does this action, decision, thought, conversation lead to life or does it lead to something else? Not only life for you, but life for everyone.” If the answer is “yes,” then you’ll know if you need to change your mind or not....

MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- The OWLs are gathering for an outdoor lunch at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at Café de Martin, near Esposito’s. RSVP to Margaret at ambowersfl@gmail.com.
- The Noisy Offering total for KidSafe was \$425! Says Pastor Tom: “Thank you for the generous donations to help people protect their children while driving.”
- Excerpt from Pastor’s words of welcome Sunday: “Mature faith reveals we do not need to leave the secular to be in the sacred. They exist together. All the world is supernatural. Light and dark exist together, the one needs the other, and God is present in both.”



- During children’s time, Pastor talked about changing your mind, as outlined in Sunday’s Gospel lesson. Listening intently, young Armand confessed that he once had changed his allegiance – from chicken to macaroni. St. Paul couldn’t have said it any better.
- Sign up to take a meal to the delightful Ann and Pastor Emeritus Emory Hingst. This link, [Meals For Emory & Ann Hingst via Take Them A Meal](#), tells you everything you need to know, including their food preferences.
- PLEASE NOTE: The cost of altar flowers has risen to \$40, up from \$35. If you have an anniversary, birthday, special memory or special St. Stephen person or program you’d like to honor, celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service. Sign up on the flower chart in the narthex. Include the \$40 with your regular offering. Bonus: You get to take the flowers home!



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Emery Oates - 10/08
Janet Lovins - 10/09
Fred Allen - 10/19
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

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

This Saturday:

10 a.m. - Sew for Hope meets in FH

This Sunday:

9 a.m. - Book study
9:30 a.m. - Choir practice
10 a.m. - Worship, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
4 p.m. - Congolese Church Group meets in FH



Monday, Oct. 9:

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

Tuesday, Oct. 10:

11:30 a.m. - OWLs Lunch at Café de Martin



Wednesday, Oct. 11:

10 a.m. - Friendship Star Quilt Group meets in FH
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>.

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The Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor