



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



*We have the life cycle of petunias represented above. An old-timer that's a bit wrinkled, a mature bloom still going strong, a youngster just beginning to bloom, plus a baby ready to greet the world. It's the same kind of diversity that keeps St. Stephen vital. Me, I'm wrinkled (but not yet purple). How about you?*

## WEEDERS, SEE YOU THIS SATURDAY

*By David Butler, building and grounds coordinator*

Once again it's time to get the azalea bed along Meridian Road as weed-free as possible. With the azaleas trimmed back, it will be very easy to get the job done. We need as many hands as possible. So please mark your calendars for 8-10 a.m. Saturday. Please bring gloves and a pair of regular hand pruners. If you have a kneeling pad, that might help. Coffee, juice and doughnuts provided. RSVP at 850-510-2994, text or phone



## HAITI OUTREACH UPDATE

*By Sharon Simmons, Outreach Committee coordinator*

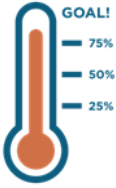
Pastor Tom and members of the Outreach team recently visited the local Haitian church and its pastor and architectural engineer. In addition to collecting cash donations to build housing units in Haiti, the church is asking for bar soap, toothpaste (any size), toothbrushes and tarps (12x24) that can be used as a covering. We'll place a box in the fellowship hall marked "Haiti," and you're welcome to place your donations there.



By the way, here's the mission statement our committee has crafted: "Our mission is to provide opportunities for St. Stephen to serve the needy, connect with other organizations, and advocate for justice by sharing the Gospel through financial gifts and good works."

## PROJECT UPDATE

Pastor Tom passed along these updated figures for the Capital Campaign:



Total cost – \$196,999  
Money in hand – \$152,409  
Money pledged – \$22,144  
**Money still needed – \$22,446**

## AFTER THE GONG

“I can’t tell you how joyful it is to hear the chattering before worship,” Pastor Tom said as he welcomed everyone to worship last Sunday. “When you’ve gone so many months without hearing a group of people, when you hear that quiet conversation going on, it’s such a blessing.”



## SNIPPET FROM THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“... There are some tough teachings from Jesus in the message today.... Words change over the years, just as our understanding and openness change as we grow and mature. That’s what we’re going to be focusing on today. And we always want to remember that if we’re confused about what God is trying to communicate to us, we always have Jesus to go to and to look at and to understand. Because sometimes Jesus will say some tough words that will challenge us, make us scratch our heads sometimes, but it’s always put forth in the presence of love. Jesus’ words and teachings are NEVER put forth in the presence of pain or hurt among those who are listening.... Jesus has our best interests at heart....”



## EMILY, BILLIE & MARTHA

Last week’s newsletter listed 15 people who’ve been part of St. Stephen for at least 40 years. Your editor realized too late that there should’ve been 16 names. Please add Billie Reardon to your list.

So who’s been around the longest? If we’re counting only people who are still in Tallahassee, it appears the top three are Emily Jennings, Billie Reardon and Martha Marky. Emily says she joined in 1964. So did Billie, although she and her husband had started visiting in fall 1963, right after they moved from San Antonio.

Martha’s math is a bit more complicated. She attended when she was a Florida State student. According to church records, she actually had her membership transferred to St. Stephen in 1957. But the way Martha remembers it, she didn’t become an active member until 1966: “I moved to Gainesville when my husband, Ray, was in law school, and then to Lakeland, and then back to Tally.”

Altar Guild is Martha’s claim to fame. Emily is best-known for her decades-long care of our grounds, but she recalls serving in a different way early on: “Martha and I taught Sunday school together for several years. I sat – Martha taught!” Billie admires Emily’s heat-withstanding stamina but appreciates that her own counting, columbarium and Altar Guild work allows her to stay cool inside.

Martha, Emily and Billie have been role models of quiet, steadfast, invaluable service. We thank God for them.

# HAIKU CORNER

By Lex Lutheran

## TOUGH AS NAILS

Judi looks as if  
a strong wind could knock her down.  
The wind wouldn't dare.



## MASKED SMILES

What's it like, Pastor,  
to look out from the pulpit  
and see just our eyes?

## LOOKING FOR OUR NEW CAR IN THE PARKING LOT

Black car, gray, white, white,  
gray, gray, white, black, gray, gray, gray.  
Ah, there she is. **Red!**



## BIBLE STUDY DOESN'T FIT YOUR SCHEDULE?

For those who'd like to take part in the weekly Bible study but have a schedule conflict, here's a link to the recorded meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Fu5p0F\\_4pOgk5DFC8SK-A74YxgJ8yTmyFxFxTueKfl\\_hYsYMO6jZzf178MKGiX-9hx.hAmjXd\\_alwSj9i8v](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Fu5p0F_4pOgk5DFC8SK-A74YxgJ8yTmyFxFxTueKfl_hYsYMO6jZzf178MKGiX-9hx.hAmjXd_alwSj9i8v)

## MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- 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 2021 Flower Chart in the narthex. The cost is \$35, which you can place in the offering plate.
- Have anything to add to a future newsletter? Email Lori at [sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com](mailto:sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com) or call 850-385-2728.



## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Emery Oates - 10/08  
Janet Lovins - 10/09  
Jackson Sullivan - 10/09  
Zach Bagnall - 10/17  
Isabel Barton - 10/19  
Val Kibler - 10/20  
Katie Black - 10/21  
Dave Suhrweir - 10/21

## UPCOMING DATES

### This Saturday:

8 a.m. - Yard clean-up day

### This Sunday:

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

### Wednesday, October 13:

Noon - Bible study (online)



If you have news or photos to share,  
please send them to Lori at  
[sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com](mailto:sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com).

Don't forget our Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/ststephentallahassee>.

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The Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor