



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

### YOUR FIXIECHICKS NOISY OFFERING

This Sunday, when our kids gallop toward you with shiny silver buckets, think back to last Sunday. Remember when Caroline Collins updated us on the progress that her FixieChicks team and other volunteer builders are making on the WomenBuild house.

Remember when she introduced us to Bernice Sherman, whose family will be living in that house. Remember when Caroline said: "This is my first Habitat build, and I got to learn how to cut and install soffits. With all the build experience Ms. Bernice has racked up in the two years since her application was accepted, she could probably build a house from scratch by now."

Remember how Caroline put WomenBuild in context: "This is one way to address

the crisis in affordable housing, one family home at a time."



And remember when she told us that – even though the response from St. Stephen and others has been heartening – "the building process has been longer than expected with lags in fundraising as well as difficulty getting subcontractors in a timely manner. Construction costs soar." Ideally, we would've paused right after Caroline's talk to whip out our checkbooks. Instead, that checkbook moment arrives this Sunday, during the Noisy Offering. Actually, maybe that moment is right now, as you're reading this, before your mind and your checkbook wander off.



Caroline gave us four ways to help the Sherman family move in by Christmas:

1. Contribute to this Sunday's Noisy Offering.
2. Make a donation at this link: [Bit.ly/FixieChicks](https://bit.ly/FixieChicks)
3. Mail a check to Habitat for Humanity, c/o WomenBuild, 2921 Roberts Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32310 (please note "Fixie Chicks").
4. "Start your own team! You can count on St. Stephen's support."

As Pastor Tom reminds us, your Noisy Offering doesn't have to be literally noisy. Or small.

Questions? Talk to Caroline on Sunday. Also, her contact info is in our digital directory.

## PICNIC-PERFECT WEATHER



For those of you who spend the sermon time pondering where to eat lunch, this Sunday will be a liberating experience. No pondering necessary. Just stumble out the door and, bingo, lunch will be served. This Sunday is St. Stephen's BBQ Picnic. Food (including vegetarian options), drinks, chairs, tables, games – all will be provided. See you there.

## THE GIVING TREE IS ON ITS WAY

Every year about this time, a tiny tree magically appears in the narthex. It bears the names of kids who, if not for this tree, might not have much of a Christmas. This year, Andrea Notley plans to have the tree in place by Nov. 6. Her fondest wish is that once again the people of St. Stephen will pick one or more of those names and buy the items each child is hoping for. If you're not much of a shopper, she'll even arrange to have someone else pick out the items you're paying for. Help put her mind at ease right now by letting her know you'll participate this year. Speak to her Sunday or send her a voice or email message.



*Andrea's contact info, like every other member's, is in our digital directory.*

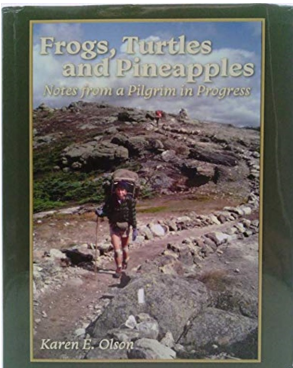
## LEARNING TO MINISTER TO AIDS PATIENTS

*By Karen E. Olson (Excerpt from the Jan. 28, 1990, edition of the Tallahassee Democrat)*

... In overcoming his own fears of contagion, [St. Stephen Pastor Emory] Hingst drew strength from the example of other caregivers. He admits to twinges of anxiety the first time he touched the doorknob, or shooed away a bloodthirsty mosquito. He had to squelch a nagging little voice that kept asking, "Is all the information accurate? Are they going to turn the page the next day and say, 'Oh, we made a mistake'?"

Hingst offered this advice for would-be caregivers:

- Relate to the patient primarily as a human being, rather than as a person with AIDS.
- Confront any fears in your own life regarding death or sexual orientation, so that you can convey an attitude of acceptance.
- Get the medical facts, which indicate that you won't catch AIDS by caring for its victims.
- Finally, accept that the Christian calling involves some risky challenges.



"The church should go where no one else will go," Hingst said. "Decide it's a risk you're going to take. If you're a Christian, that's where you're supposed to be anyway, and don't worry about it."

*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.*

## REMINDERS

By Sharon Simmons, outreach coordinator

- Don't forget to save plastic cutlery from your take-out dinners and give it to Karen Olson for use by homeless residents who are fed in her neighborhood.
- For the teenage clients of CCYS-Going Places, consider donating backpack-ready snacks, sanitary supplies and toiletries, long-sleeve shirts, sweatshirts, heavy jackets, twin-size sheets (for their residential program), sleeping bags, blankets, reusable water bottles and laundry detergent. Or send a check to CCYS-Going Places, 2407 Roberts Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32310, ATTN: Justin Barfield.
- Our sock drive with New Mount Zion AME Church will run through Oct. 30.
- For Manna on Meridian, bring in clean T-shirts (medium or larger) to be made into reusable grocery bags.



## 'THE SILENCE OF THE UNSPEAKABLE': EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM'S SERMON

... It was about 10 years ago. I stood at the door following worship to greet people on their way out of church. An usher tapped me on the shoulder and said there was an urgent phone call for me.... The call was from the emergency department at Bay Medical. A family had requested they call me to come and meet them in a room.... "How can I help?" I asked. There had been an accidental death of a child by gunshot. The words still ring in my ears. "What can I do?" "What will I say?" Questions ran through my head on the way to the hospital....

The room was silent. The dad was there, and his mom and dad were there, as well as a boy of 2 or 3. The child made the only sound in the room as he played with his cars on the table. The dad never took his eyes off his boy while the grandparents explained to me what had happened. While brother and sister were playing in a separate room, the dad (who was in training to be a police officer) was cleaning his firearm. The gun went off. The bullet went through a wall and hit his 6-year-old daughter and killed her instantly.

The desire to minister to the survivors of this tragedy was strong, but ... there was no way to right the wrong, no way to inspire a "Chin up" response, no way to lift the burden that was felt by the father and the family and about to hit the surrounding community. It was a time of complete helplessness. With nothing to say or do, we simply remained in the room together and shared the silence of the unspeakable and unthinkable.



But there was one thing that helped allow me to keep silent and stay, and that one thing was constant prayer. Nothing out loud, but it was the only answer in the present moment ... constant prayer ... nothing else would do.

Anyone who has lived a life of relationship, everyone who has loved knows an experience of anguish, loss or regret. You may even be recalling something similar in your own life when you felt helpless, speechless ... nothing in the toolbox to solve the situation. Only the dependence on prayer.

# HAIKU CORNER

By Lex Lutheran

## AH, WHEN 65 IS THE HIGH TEMP

Blue and cloud-free skies.  
Air cries, "Open your windows!"  
Octoberific.



## 'I NEED YOU NOW MORE THAN EVER'

Such lovely words in  
the email subject line. Sigh.  
Just a campaign ad.

## NOT SURE HOW TO SHARE THE PEACE



Handshakes vanished. Then?  
Fist bumps, elbow-hellos. Now?  
Handshakes sneaking back?



## MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- **Reminder from Pastor Tom:** "The fourth Sunday is usually Communion, but we've pushed it to be on the fifth Sunday this month because Reformation Sunday is that day."
- **Coming up Nov. 6 is All Saints Day** -- when, in worship, we name our loved ones who've passed away in the past year. Office Manager Lori is now accepting those names. Please email or call her by Wednesday, Nov. 2.
- **In case you're wondering:** Nov. 6 is also the day when daylight saving time ends. Spring forward, fall back. That's two weeks from this Sunday.
- **No newsletter next week!**
- **Two Grace Lutheran members with St. Stephen connections passed away recently.** Ed Vertuno, one of our best lectors ever, died Oct. 4 at age 89. He and wife Bev were St. Stephen members for many years. One week after Ed, Adele Dewar died just shy of age 75. Her St. Stephen connection: She was the daughter of our beloved Harriet Temanson. May the Holy Spirit comfort their extended families.
- **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](mailto:sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com) or call 850-385-2728.

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



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  
Jen Reece - 11/02  
Paul van der Mark - 11/06  
Hector Quinones - 11/07  
Barbara Sullivan - 11/07  
Daniel Martinez - 11/10  
Mark Warren - 11/13  
Elliot Reece - 11/14  
Cheryl Stuart - 11/14

## UPCOMING DATES

### Tonight:

7 p.m. - Choir practice

### This Sunday, Oct. 23:

9 a.m. - Bible talk

9:30 a.m. - Choir practice

10 a.m. - Worship, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Noisy offering

11:30 a.m. - BBQ Picnic



### Wednesday, Oct. 26:

7 p.m. - Choir practice

### Sunday, Oct. 30:

9 a.m. - Bible talk

9:30 a.m. - Choir practice

10 a.m. - Worship with communion, Reformation Sunday

*\*Lori will be out of the office until Nov. 1.*



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

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

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