



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



‘TOGETHER’

Bishop Pedro and Deacon Aura Suárez brought joy to our bright red Reformation Sunday celebration. The bishop got things off to a rousing start by “sprinkling” us with holy water as he processed to the altar with Pastor Tom. (Pastor discovered that the brush in the bishop’s hand is called an aspergillum. In Colin’s photo, see how the people toward the back were smiling – because they could watch the surprised reaction of the suddenly sprinkled ones in front of them.)

In the pulpit, Bishop Suárez reminded us that we’re part of something much larger than St. Stephen. “You are part of this wonderful network that we call the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,” he said. “Together we are really accomplishing a lot. I know that you do a lot of stuff locally.... The offering that you collect every Sunday, most of it stays here for the ministry of St. Stephen.... But there’s a portion that you send to the office of the Synod. And almost half of it, we send to the churchwide [office]..... Here in Florida we have 168 congregations, more or less.... We have four missions that we’re supporting.... We have federal [military] chaplains, we have health-care chaplains, ... we have Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, we have Lutheran campus [ministries], ... we have retirement villages, ... we have Women in the ELCA.... More than 9,000 congregations across the United States.... And we have five global mission partners [etc.]. You are part of all that!”



Before the sermon, the kids – with the help of Rita Ford and Colleen Holdcraft, accompanied by Colton Allen on guitar – serenaded the Suárezes with “This Little Light of Mine.”

Pastor Tom got a break from preaching, but he still had a lot to do. He came in early to show Bishop Suárez the ropes here at St. Stephen; he sang with the choir; he chanted the beginning of the liturgy; he chanted the psalm; and he enchanted the kids with a magical children's sermon that involved folding one sheet of paper to create first a sailboat, then a building, an airplane, a rocket ship and, finally, a cross. Wow. (If you missed it, check out the video of our liturgy on our Facebook page. Start about at the 21:00 mark.)

Many thanks to our Reformation Sunday musicians: Katharine Gossman, Karl Barton and Tom Buchanan. Thanks to Margaret Bowers, Carol Santos and everyone who brought food, decorated, helped set up and/or helped clean up after the potluck. And thanks to the Buchanans, who hosted the Suárezes when we discovered that there was no room at any inn on a FAMU Homecoming weekend. Sheltering a bishop pretty much guarantees a reward in heaven, it would seem. Plus, we had at least one first-time visitor. She certainly picked the right day. *(Photos by Colin Hackley)*



TWO DAYS EARLIER...

About two dozen people gathered in the fellowship hall for Halloween fun. In these photos, we can see Rita Ford and Sharon Simmons as witches; Anita Sawh as Raggedy Andy; Terri Schmitt looking biblical; Audrey Post as a fortuneteller; and ... wait, who's the lovely little girl with Audrey?



"This is Scarlet," Rita explained. "Her family of six are refugees from Guatemala (mom, dad, three boys and Scarlet). Her dad works at Capital City Collision and is such a joy to work with. Also at our party was a Syrian refugee family of five (mom, dad and three boys). Their dad also works at Capital City

Collision [where Rita works] and is a fantastic worker. The Syrian dad used to be a lawyer before coming here. My cranky bosses have nothing negative to say about those guys. We all love having them."



Listening to Rita makes you think: We're spending a lot of time these days wondering how we can attract more people to St. Stephen. Sometimes we forget that the easiest way is just to invite people we know. Which is what Rita did for this party. Maybe we'll see them again? *(Photo of Terri by Sharon; the rest of the Halloween photos by Terri)*

SO LONG, DAYLIGHT TIME



Daylight time is ending! This Saturday night, before we jump into our jammies, all of us need to set our clocks back one hour. Otherwise we'll show up at church very, very early. Fall back!

A NOTE FROM ANN

Dear St. Stephen Friends:

Many, many thanks for all the delicious meals you have provided for Emory & me over the past several months! We have loved the food & have enjoyed seeing your happy faces & visiting with you a bit. Now that we have the wonderful help Greta Scavone provides, caretaking is much more manageable. I now have the energy to fix meals when I need to and have discovered takeout from Tastebudz & St. John's Lively Cafe (I recommend both!). All this is to say that we no longer need you to bring meals. We appreciate very much the kindness & generosity of our St. Stephen family!



Ann Hingst

JIM'S BACK

A few weeks ago, the newsletter brought you an update from former member Tracy Treanor in Minnesota. Among other things, she told us that her ex-husband, Jim, had moved back to Tallahassee. Well, one of the highlights of Sunday's uplifting worship service occurred when, during announcements, a gentleman in the back row stood up and said how wonderful it was to be at St. Stephen again after a dozen years away. Yes, it was Jim! We caught up with him the next day. "I moved back to Tally in February," he said. "The memories of the five of us [Jim, Tracy and daughters Grace, Isabel and Sophie, pictured here recently with her dad] sitting in the back row was so emotional, it took me a while to come visit by myself. I felt so welcome. It is such a loving church."



Jim is now the deputy chief investment officer at the Florida State Board of Administration. "We manage the Florida Pension Fund, among other pools of assets," he said. "I manage all the asset classes. Have about 70 people on my team and love being back. I know there are a number of people at St. Stephen that have retirement benefits. They will be taken care of!!" That's good to hear.

More good news on the Treanor front: "I asked Katharine if Sophie could sing at Christmas. She is in the choir at Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles, two choirs actually – top choir and a cappella group. She has a phenomenal voice and would love to sing at St. Stephen – she did so many moons ago."

So, we'll be seeing more of Jim? "Yes," he said, "I would like to become a regular again. Still will likely sit in the back row." Welcome back, brother.



OWLS GATHERING

The next OWLs lunch will be at The Getaway (2386 Allen Road) on **MONDAY**, Nov. 13, at 11:30 a.m. (It's not open on Tuesdays.) RSVP to Margaret at ambowersfl@gmail.com.

SOCKS, SOCKS AND MORE SOCKS

By Sharon Simmons, outreach coordinator



What does the number 356 mean to you? It means that through the generosity of members of St. Stephen and the Beta Phi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, 356 pairs of socks were delivered to our New Mt. Zion AME partners for use by clients at the Kearney Center. Heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to this worthy endeavor. Also...

NEWS FROM IRC: We're still collecting cleaning supplies and sanitary and hygiene supplies for the clients of the International Rescue Committee. Sixty new families arrived in October from foreign shores and are being served by IRC. Your donations of cleaning supplies, etc., will help these clients stretch their assistance dollars. IRC headquarters is moving to new office buildings. So they're not accepting furniture since they have no storage space available. The Ruth Room at church is full also. If you have furniture or housewares, please keep them at home until we receive the all-clear to collect and deliver them.



COOLER WEATHER IS CREEPING IN: If you have clean and gently used sweaters, coats, hats, gloves, socks, and men's or women's slacks/jeans to donate, see me. There's always a need for those items at the Seminole Neighborhood pantry. Also, if you're freshening up your work wardrobe and you have professional clothes to donate, contact the Professionole Clothing Closet in the Career Center at FSU. Email Heather Lazar at heather.lazar@fsu.edu or call 850-644-6493 to arrange a drop-off. Heather can give you the sizes and types of professional clothing they're accepting now.



MEETING TIME: The Outreach Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. Sunday in the fellowship hall.

EVERY MEAL'S A MIRACLE AT SOUP KITCHENS

By Karen E. Olson (Excerpt from the Oct. 24, 1991, edition of the Tallahassee Democrat)

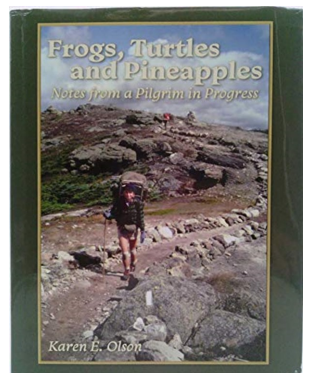
... Some of the most adventurous assignments fall to John Holley, 30, the live-in jack-of-all-trades [at the Haven of Rest]. He's spent most of the past five years scavenging leftovers from bakeries, parties and restaurants. You may catch him scaling 150 pounds of mullet, discarded by a harried fisherman who doesn't have time to deal with the mess. You may see him washing dishes at the Caldwell Building cafeteria, in exchange for leftover sandwiches.

Holley once turned down the cake from a Capitol reception, after finding that the frosting was spiked with Manischewitz wine. But friendly security guards got on the radio to track down a consolation prize – 25 pounds of barbecued chicken.

Holley's favorite story dates from a dry spell three years ago. "We were eating rice and beans, beans and rice," he recalled. "A group of us got together and started praying – 'God, if You're real, please send us some meat.' Within three hours, the phone rang. This lady called here, and said she had 30 pounds of ground beef. These guys like to had a fit."

Little miracles like that keep the soup flowing every day.

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

- Keep an eye out for Andrea Notley to kick off the Giving Tree season. Any day now....



- “Carousel” will be performed at Young Actors Theatre from this Friday through Nov. 12. Noted Lutheran actors Graham Reece, Elliot Reece and Will Allen are all in Cast B, and tickets are available now. Act fast!
<https://www.youngactorstheatre.com/>
- Violet and Ceilia Greeley remind us that every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m., they add their voices to the Chorister-led Evensong service at St. John’s Episcopal, 211 N. Monroe St. You’re invited.
- Next week, the newsletter hopes to provide a glimpse of the globetrotting Bartons and son Stephen’s spectacular wedding in South Korea.
- If you have an anniversary, birthday, special memory or special St. Stephen person or program you’d like to honor, celebrate by sponsoring the altar flowers for our service. Sign up on the flower chart in the narthex. Include the \$40 with your regular offering. And then take the flowers home!



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



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
Marda Messick - 11/20
Cindy Suhrweir - 11/21
Sue Canning - 11/25
Marley Bonfanti - 11/26
Emory Hingst - 11/26
Michael Bonfanti - 11/27
Phil Williams - 11/29
Graham Hackley - 11/30

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:

9:00 a.m. - Book study

9:30 a.m. - Choir practice

10 a.m. - Worship, All Saints Sunday

11:30 a.m. - Outreach Committee meeting

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



Monday, Nov. 6:

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

Wednesday, Nov. 7:

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