



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter



## PENTECOST PYROTECHNICS

OK, so Pastor Tom couldn't produce actual tongues of flame to adorn all the heads gathered for Sunday's children's message, but he certainly produced memorable visual effects – thanks to a fan and some fiery-looking crepe paper. (Photo by Colin Hackley)

# MANNA UNVEILS IMPACT REPORT AND CELEBRATES COMMUNITY


By Caroline Collins

On May 16, the deacons of Faith Presbyterian Church hosted a tasty and informative brunch for Manna on Meridian volunteers and partners. Pastor Tom, Stephanie Leitch and I represented St. Stephen.

The graphic below illustrates the magnitude of efforts and resources invested in serving the community's food needs throughout 2025, and summarizing the impact on our neighbors. Almost 7,700 hungry households were served through 115 distributions. The blue bar near the top describes how the individuals in those households are represented demographically.

A wealth of information is contained in this single image. Volunteer hours tallied nearly 4,700 by 329 individuals, whose freely given time and toil is valued at \$162,410.

Monetary donations approached \$84,000, while the value of food donated by grocery stores is estimated at over \$99,000. That doesn't count the over




## 2025 Impact Report

Faith Presbyterian Church  
2200 North Meridian Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32312


Monthly Drive Through 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month (8:00 – 9:30 AM)  
Weekly Walk-up/Choice Pantry (Sundays, 12:00 – 1:00 PM)  
Mobile Monday, Select Partners

Distribution	Households	Individuals	Children	Seniors	Black	Other	White	Ethnicity not Determined
115	7,646	21,670	34%	20%	47.5%	16%	37%	11.14%



**VOLUNTEERS**


329 Unique Individuals  
Volunteered a total of 4656.25 hours. Dollar value of in-kind volunteer hours \$162,410




**DONATE**

Thank you for your monetary donations \$83,835.12


\*Walmart, new donor added 2026



Weight of food donated:  
**Publix:** 12,388 #  
**Trader Joe's:** 37,889 #  
**Value \$99,045.69** (per Second Harvest)




Dollar value of food donations from individuals, food drives, local organizations and churches: **\$26,000 +++**



Monetary value of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday bag of groceries:

- Dry Goods
- Produce
- Meat

**\$51.50+++**



Monday overflow of giving to Second Harvest partners such as The Kearney Center, Sable Palm, Grace Mission, etc...

*Thank you to our many volunteers, supporters, and donors*

**\$26,000 in the value of food donated by individuals, food drives, churches and other local organizations.**

**As you can see, it takes a village to feed a village! I'm pleased to play my small part in the Manna on Meridian Ministry, in which St. Stephen Lutheran Church has played an instrumental role over the years. I invite you to consider coming aboard this well-oiled machine.**

**Reach out to volunteer coordinator Carolyn Pardue to be added to the communications list: email [pardue2@comcast.net](mailto:pardue2@comcast.net) or call/text 850-443-7807 to find out how you can help.**

## **DEADLINE TIME FOR THIS MONTH'S COLLECTION**

**Sunday is the final day that Sharon Simmons and the Outreach Committee are collecting items donated for the HOPE Partnership, in connection with the annual Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly. Here's a reminder of what they're looking for:**

- Washcloths
- Men's and women's travel-size deodorant
- Travel-size conditioner
- Travel-size lotion
- Travel-size shaving cream
- Sports bras (S-XXL)
- Tampons, pads and panty liners
- Men's boxer briefs (S-XXL)
- Men's T-shirts (black, gray, navy, other dark colors) (S-XXL)
- Women's T-shirts (black, gray, navy, other dark colors) (S-XXL)
- Athletic gym shorts with drawstring (M-XXL)
- Razors
- Q-tips
- Plastic cups



## **GOD BLESS OUR GRADS**

**Marilyn Larson's grandson Seth graduated summa cum laude from Chiles High School, was inducted into the National Honor Society, and received the AP Scholar with Distinction award. He will attend the University of Central Florida in the fall. Says Marilyn: "This grandmother couldn't be prouder."**

**Sandy Davis' grandson Christian Alvis graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in sports journalism.**

**Any more grads out there with a St. Stephen connection? Please let Office Manager Rita know.**





## BREATH OF NEW LIFE: EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM'S SERMON

In the midst of worry and grief, we too may find a familiar voice saying, "Peace I leave you; my peace I give to you." This familiar refrain from the lips of Jesus was present in the baptism of Zoe today. (*That's Zoe Catherine Zerbe in the Colin Hackley photo above, with her parents Bennett and Courtney.*) As Zoe cried and cooed, the vibrations of her breath gave and carried the physical reality that breath is not empty.

Author and pastor Cody Sanders writes, "Made of air, breath is not empty; it is laden with molecules, moisture, and ... the breath of other creatures. Pumped by lungs, breathing is muscular and emotional."

We recall our baptisms, too, even if we cannot remember them. We recall God's desire to be intimate with creation, and we know there were times when God went the way of violent wind and loud noise. Both manifestations of the Spirit are true.

Which do you need today? A strong jolt or gentle touch? A quiet whisper or a loud shout? Whatever you need, today is the day to allow the imagination of the familiar awe and wonder of Pentecost in Acts, and to attend to the intimacy of John's scene: breath of new life breathed upon those huddled in the shadows of death; the Spirit received, then and today, into bodies tensed in fear and worry, now releasing us into possibility and hope.

## BEFORE YOU GO...

- Thank you for remembering your regular offerings to St. Stephen, especially as we tiptoe into the always-suspenseful summer season!
- If you have an anniversary, birthday, special memory or special St.

Dollar for Dollar  
You Can't Beat a  
**PONTIAC**

Does so much . . . costs so little!

The Pontiac Station Wagon shows above carries the same fundamental appeal you'll find in every 1954 Pontiac model: It's big, smart, beautiful and expertly well-built . . . yet it costs you just a few dollars more than the next lowest in price!

When you drive your favorite model Pontiac, you'll discover that despite its low cost, it ranks with the very finest in what you expect of a car. Its big powerful, high-compression engine is unsurpassed for six-cylinder performance. It's asked to be at home in the smartest company. It's built to stand out where the going is rough. It handles easily. It's roomy, comfortable, and outstandingly luxurious. And its reputation for dependability and economy is worldwide.

So why not make your next new car a Pontiac? You'll be mighty proud and happy if you do.

The new car in this Pontiac advertisement is shown in green and is available with many other colors. Ask your dealer for complete facts and color plates with all your questions.

SALES BY SALES G. GIBSON AT ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH - 1954 • PONTIAC MOTOR DIVISION OF GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION

Stephen person or program you'd like to honor, celebrate by sponsoring the altar flowers for our service. Sign up on the flower chart, out by the name tags, or ask Office Manager Rita to sign you up. Include the \$40 with your regular offering. And then take the flowers home!

- And pictured here is the newsletter editor's latest suggestion, in case the Church Council votes to provide him with a company car. It's a '54 Pontiac. The text in the ad could just as easily apply to St. Stephen. "Does so much ... costs so little!" And "built to stand out where the going is rough." But "outstandingly luxurious"? Well, maybe that's not us. God, watch over us as we drive through life.

## COMING UP

### Today:

Noon - Al-Anon meets in Pastor Emory Hingst Memorial Fellowship Hall,  
aka Hingst Hall (HH)

7 p.m. - AA meets in HH

### This Friday:

9:30 a.m. - TOPS meets in HH

### This Sunday:

9:00 a.m. - Bible study

10 a.m. - Worship, The Holy Trinity

### Monday, June 1:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

### Tuesday, June 2:

5 p.m. - NA meets in HH

### Wednesday, June 3:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

### Thursday, June 4:

10 a.m. - Bible study

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY

**Pastor Tom Holdcraft**, Preaching and Presiding; **Jen Dritt**, Assisting Minister; **Susan Warren**, Cup Minister; **Erik Robinson**, Lector; **Colin Hackley and Mark Greeley**, Tech Team; **Anita Sawh and Rita Ford**, Altar Guild; **Margaret Bowers and Patricia Handschy**, Counters; **Bob Eshleman and Patrick Kennell**, Ushers; **Denise Bookwalter**, Announcements

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



TJ Oliveri - 5/28  
Lawana Lamb-Daniels - 5/30  
Bevin Reardon - 6/3  
Billie Reardon - 6/3  
Lydia Bush - 6/4  
Simone Schuster - 6/4  
Susan Hehn - 6/11  
Billy Oates - 6/14  
Andrew Stover - 6/16  
Tim Larson - 6/16  
Ann DelRossi - 6/19  
Martin Guttenplan - 6/19



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

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

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, ELCA