



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

YOO HOO! YOUR CLOCK IS CALLING

Raking the leaves. Counting the azalea bushes. Running laps around the parking lot. All of those are activities you might consider Sunday morning IF you forget to set your clocks back Saturday night and arrive at church an hour early. But you won't forget, will you? As it is written somewhere in the sacred texts: "Spring forward, fall back." Here we go again!



ST. STEPHEN ROCKS THE SOCKS

By Sharon Simmons, outreach coordinator



We delivered 207 pairs of men's and women's socks to our New Mt. Zion AME outreach partners for delivery to the Kearney Center. Thanks so much to each of you who brought socks to help the clients there. You ROCK!

Our next initiative with New Mt. Zion will be January's TNT (Toiletries 'n' Toilet Paper). Then in March we'll collect diapers. More information will be coming.

Oh, one more thing: The Outreach Committee will meet in the fellowship hall Sunday immediately after the service.

NEW LIFE FOR YOUR FORGOTTEN FORMAL DUDS

St. Stephen received this thank-you letter from Heather Lazar at FSU's Clothing Closet. They have an upcoming drive to help music students secure clothing suitable for performances, recitals and other events. If you can help, call Heather at 850-644-6493 to arrange drop-off. All donations must be received before Nov. 13.



Thank you for your donations this past year to the FSU Clothing Closet. Since Jan. 1 we've seen over 2,500 students seeking business professional clothing for interviews, career fairs and first days on the job. We were able to help them because of your donations.

Next, we'll host a special event for our College of Music students who have a slightly different need. It's our first Clothing Closet Black-Out Event, which will feature formal wear (of any color), tuxes, black clothing, etc. We're especially seeking long formal dresses and tuxes of any size. If you have any such gently worn items you'd like to donate, please let me know.

‘WE MUST LISTEN’: EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM’S SERMON

... Bartimaeus knew he needed rescue, he’d heard about Jesus and cried out to him, begging for mercy. What we ask today is, “Do we?” Do we know we need Jesus to rescue us? Are we able to call out to God and beg for it?

A holy teacher put it this way: “We must listen to what is supporting us. We must listen to what is encouraging us. We must listen to what is alive in us.”

These are the trustworthy voices. Voices that shame, harm or diminish ourselves or other people are not the voices of God. They are the ego voices. The ladder-climbing, know-it-all facades we think we must use to get by. And over our history, these are the voices we’ve listened to and used for ourselves.

Yet, God’s Spirit persists and reforms. The voice of God tells us over and over again, “All have sinned and all fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). The prophets we need to listen to say, “God writes new covenants upon our hearts so that all shall know God, from the least to the greatest” (Jeremiah 3:34).

Jesus called Martin Luther. Jesus called Bartimaeus. Children of God, Jesus calls you, too....

BEFORE YOU GO...

- **HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**
- **God bless us all as we tiptoe toward Election Day.**
- **Even for those of us watching from afar, via Facebook days later, Sunday’s Reformation service was a visual feast of red and a musical celebration. Katharine on that mighty organ, Karl on flute, Tom on trumpet – it doesn’t get much better than that. Jan Harrison was just one of many members who wanted to make sure the newsletter thanked our musicians.**
- **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, out by the nametags, or ask Lori to sign you up. 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 - 11/07**
- 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**
- Michael Bonfanti - 11/27**
- Phil Williams - 11/29**

COMING UP

Today:

Noon - Al-Anon meets in fellowship hall (FH)

6:30 p.m. - FSU Film School will shoot in the sanctuary

7 p.m. - AA meets in FH

This Friday:

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

6:30 p.m. - FSU Film School will shoot in the sanctuary

This Saturday:

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

6:30 p.m. - FSU Film School will shoot in the sanctuary

This Sunday:

9 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 Christian worship in FH

Monday, November 4:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in FH

7 p.m. - TIMA meets in FH

Tuesday, November 5:

Election Day—Go vote!

Wednesday, November 6:

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

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