



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

**HAPPY FATHERS DAY**

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Invites ALL to join us for

**Coffee & Donuts**

To honor all of the men of St. Stephen

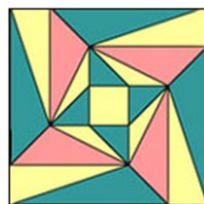
Sunday, June 15, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

## ‘THOSE LOVELY PEOPLE’: THAT’S YOU!

*Here’s a note that Sandra Tate, of the Sew for Hope group that meets in our fellowship hall, sent to her colleagues recently. In it, she says quite nice things about our congregation. It’s sweet.*

“Several weeks ago St. Stephen church invited me to share about Sew for Hope during one of their services. They have many groups that use their facility, and they like a group member to tell their congregation about what they do. I was delighted and described our community involvement, and how awesome it is to work with you sewing sisters. It was a wonderful opportunity to thank them for allowing us to use their fellowship hall and for the fabulous closet space. This is such a blessing, and I was sincerely gushing with praise, as they’ve been so amazing to us. They were welcoming and gracious, and a couple of their members may appear at some of our play days. Be on the lookout for them.

“And if that wasn’t enough, their members donated \$426 to Sew for Hope! Friends, this is enough to make over 22 quilts with enough left over to buy new blades for our rotary cutters. I have to tell you I teared up when we received the check. The generosity of those lovely people is amazing.”



## BACK-TO-SCHOOL BACKPACK DRIVE? NOW?

*By Andrea Notley*

The Backpack Drive is coming soon! It seems early, but it’ll be here before you know it! I’ll have students available June 15. Please let me know if you’re interested in adopting a student. If you are, there are two options. You can shop – which means buying a backpack, socks, underwear and two outfits for your adopted student. Or, if you don’t want to shop, you may donate – by placing \$ in the offering plate or using Venmo, with “Backpack Drive” on the memo line. Your student’s backpack will be due at church by July 20, with the student’s # on it.



Thank you!

# TYLER NOTLEY, MARRIED MAN

*Andrea also passed along this heart-warming note about her younger son, Tyler.*

Tyler got married in Navarre Beach two Saturdays ago, May 24, to Hannah Sipe. He met her when she was here earning her master’s degree in social work, and she worked part time at Tallahassee Orthopedic Clinic. Tyler worked there, too, and they instantly hit it off.

Hannah moved back home to Columbus, Indiana, in 2023. Tyler quit his job a month later to move by her. He’s now a part-time firefighter and an EMT in Columbus. Hannah is a social worker for a company called Firefly, working with young children and families.

Tyler is very happy, and his dad and I couldn’t be happier with the new addition to the family.



## OUR NEXT OFFICE MANAGER IS ...

... in the process of being selected. Sorry, no announcement yet. But there has been excellent progress. One candidate has stepped forward. That person is a St. Stephen member, but we’re not going to divulge the name until the Church Council has seen all of the committee reports and votes.

“I interviewed the candidate and asked the Mutual Ministry Committee members to conduct a second interview,” Pastor Tom said. “Jennifer Buchanan and Jim Sampson did so on May 28. In the meantime, the Finance Committee has developed a compensation package that it will recommend to the Council for a vote.”

Lori will be here until the end of July, so the clock is ticking. “The decision to hire our next office manager will go to the Council before June 15,” Pastor said. “Thank you for your prayers and offers to volunteer in the office if necessary. I am pleased with our committees’ work. It has been a work of the Spirit to be at this point.” Pray for all involved in this important process.

## BLESS YOU, CHOIR

Hasn’t this been a spectacular choir season? Just in the past two weeks, the choir has received two spontaneous, nearly uproarious ovations. And no wonder. Last Sunday, for example, we even had a bit of percussion. Whether she’s dusting off old favorites or digging around for new anthems, Music Director Katharine Gossman always chooses something memorable. And the quality, number and enthusiasm of her singers is outstanding. In some years, the number of voices dwindles as spring approaches summer. This year, the number has *grown*. What a sound! Many, many thanks to these singers who’ve contributed during the past year: Jordi Banitt (the newest voice), Karl Barton, Melissa Barton, Mark Canning, Kirsten Ebbesen, Rita Ford, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Olivia James, Lawana Lamb-Daniels, Sandy Ness, Simone Schuster, Dave Suhrweir and Cassandra White.



# SUMMER CAMP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

By Caroline Collins

I learned about Sowing Seeds Sewing Comfort Ministry (SSSCM) through the Manna on Meridian volunteer email list. Manna and SSSCM are longtime ministry partners. Founded in 2006 by Elder Charlotta Ivy, SSSCM lives up to its



name: “sowing seeds” by tending to the iGrow youth farm, and “sewing comfort” through sewing classes, regular food distributions and year-round support for the community. Through their partnership with the Tallahassee Food Network, which owns the iGrow farm and handles registration, Elder Charlotta and her husband, Elder Archie Ivy, host a summer camp for 50

children and teens (ages 8-17), running this year from June 16 to July 18. Manna supports the camp by contributing food and by spreading the word – and that’s where you come in.

## THE NEED:

Volunteers are needed to teach or lead morning activities from 9 to 11 a.m., Monday through Friday. Most activities take place at the iGrow youth farm at 611 Dent St.; in case of rain, camp is moved indoors to the Florida People’s Advocacy Center at 603 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

The children come from lower-income households, and one of the goals of this camp is to ensure they have access to nutritious meals and meaningful enrichment during the summer. After morning activities and lunch, the group heads to FSU for afternoon programming.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

If you have a talent, hobby or area of knowledge you’d enjoy sharing with young people, this is a great opportunity to make a difference. Whether you’re available once, weekly or more often, your contribution will be welcomed. Activity ideas include:

- Sewing or simple crafts
- Cooking (Note: The kitchen has only a two-eye stove)
- Jewelry making
- Bird watching
- Games and outdoor play (badminton, relay games, etc.)
- Any skill or interest you feel called to share

## THE DETAILS:

- You can volunteer for a one-time class or on a weekly basis.
- Morning sessions run 9-11 a.m., or any portion you can manage.
- Volunteers provide their own materials.
- This is a volunteer opportunity (no payment).

*Interested? Please reach out to Elder Charlotta Ivy by text at 850-345-7535.*

*Or visit <https://sowingseedsministry.org> or <https://www.tallahasseefoodnetwork.com/igrow>.*

*Thank you for considering this invitation to serve – and to sow a few seeds of your own.*

## ‘ME? A COUNTER?’

Office Manager Lori announces: We really need some more counters. Our current roster is really getting spread thin, especially during summer. They are good sports – but they could use our help. Here are the people you’d be working with: Janet Barber, Margaret Bowers, Kirsten Ebbesen, Patricia Handschy, Billie Reardon, Rob Schiffer, Loraine Sundberg and Susan Warren. Let Pastor or Lori know if you’re interested.



## THAT CREAKING SOUND

The chairs in our sanctuary are as comfortable and well-behaved as can be.



Well, most of them. All but one of them, actually. Maybe you've encountered that one. Let's say you're standing in front of the altar, facing the back wall. Walk down the center aisle to the fourth row on your right, then walk to the fourth chair in that row. Have a seat. If you're sitting perfectly still, you're fine. But if you shift your weight the tiniest bit, the chair creaks or squeaks. Maybe it's the sound of chair arthritis – wood on wood, aching joints. Whatever the cause, it can put a damper on a Lutheran's worship routine. Particularly if the worshipper is inclined toward athletic prayer positions, or swaying to the sounds of the choir's anthem. Perhaps one of our woodworking members could correct that creak. Or we could schedule an exorcism....

## UNDIES, PLEASE

Here's what we're collecting for Pastor Tom to take with him to the upcoming Synod Assembly:

- Body wipes
- Travel-size lotions
- Deodorant (men's & women's)
- Bug spray
- Sunscreen
- Razors (men's & women's)
- Men's boxer briefs (M/LG/XL)
- Women's underwear (L/XL,2X)
- Unisex T-shirts (L/XL)



A tub is available in the Hingst Fellowship Hall for your donations. Deadline is this Sunday.

## BEFORE YOU GO...



- Delightful former member Ann Del Rossi (who's been revisiting St. Stephen lately) was honored last week for 30 years of sustained service to Florida State University. Ann is a program manager in the Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences under graduate program at the FSU College of Medicine. She's on the right in this photo, with Dean Alma Littles.

- The OWLs will meet at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Kool Beanz Café (921 Thomasville Road). RSVP by

Sunday to Barbara Sullivan, [babsullivan7076@gmail.com](mailto:babsullivan7076@gmail.com).

- St. Stephen will host the Interfaith Pride Service at 7 p.m. June 18. Please come for the celebration and support of the LGBTQIA+ community and local interfaith clergy partners. There will be light refreshments available after the service.
- What if the word "homosexual" was never meant to be in the Bible? The Mickee Faust Club, in partnership with the Tallahassee Film Society, is showing "1946: The Mistranslation That Shaped Culture" at the Challenger Learning Center IMAX Theatre. Time is 3 p.m. June 28. More information is available at <https://www.1946themovie.com>.
- Check out the poster on the next page for other upcoming Mickee Faust adventures.
- 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 name tags, or ask Lori to sign you up. Include the \$40 with your regular offering. And then take the flowers home!





## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Susan Hehn - 06/11  
 Billy Oates - 06/14  
 Tim Larson - 06/16  
 Ruth Hartung - 06/23  
 Steve Kunst - 06/23  
 Sandy Davis - 06/28

*\*If you have an upcoming birthday not listed above, let the church office know.*

## 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:

10 a.m. - TOPS meets in HH

### This Saturday:

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

### This Sunday:

9:00 a.m. - Book study this week  
 9:30 a.m. - Choir practice  
 10 a.m. - Worship: Seventh Sunday of Easter



### Monday, June 9:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH  
 7 p.m. - Compassionate Friends meet in Ruth room

### Tuesday, June 10:

5 p.m. - NA meets in HH

### Wednesday, June 11:

10 a.m. - Friendship Star Quilting Group meets in HH  
 5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH  
 7 p.m. - Choir practice



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