



# ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

### RITA FORD, OUR NEXT OFFICE MANAGER

Starting Aug. 1, our longtime St. Stephen sister, teacher, dancer, singer and comedienne Rita Ford will also be our office manager. She's succeeding Lori Zengel, who's moving to North Carolina. Rita is, understandably, a bit anxious about her new assignment.

"I am excited and a bit nervous to walk in Lori's shoes," she said. "The job is different from what I currently do. With Lori's patience and guidance, I will do my best to handle the daily tasks she does so well."

Rita will be working 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. Stephen and 1:30-5 at Capital City Collision, where she has worked full time for years. Lori assures us that, even after she moves away, she'll be available for consultation – but she and Pastor Tom don't think it'll be necessary.

"Rita has quietly been working with Lori to learn the ins and outs of the position," Pastor Tom says. "Rita comes to the position with experience in bookkeeping and Excel. She's becoming adept at Publisher, the software used for bulletins and the newsletter. Rita does not need training in service and compassion, especially in feeding the hungry and building community."

"The role of office manager is a vital part of the mission and ministry of St. Stephen. I am blessed to have Rita join me in this new calling. Join me, St. Stephen, in welcoming Rita's spirit of kindness, professionalism and dedication to the mission of Jesus Christ."



*In the newsletter next week or the week after, we'll publish a tribute to Lori and her 13 years of seamless service. And in August we'll publish a more detailed look at Rita as she eases into her new role. If you have words of praise and encouragement for either or both, and you'd like them published in the newsletter, please email them to [rrhartung1@gmail.com](mailto:rrhartung1@gmail.com).*

### EXCERPT FROM PASTOR TOM'S LATEST SERMON

... [T]hey saw the once demented and deranged person now calm, clothed and in their right mind, sitting at the feet of Jesus. We might ask ourselves, "In what ways did this person's insanity provide something useful to the people? Were they comfortable in putting their fears, hatred and prejudices upon him in order to feel better about themselves? Was he their convenient scapegoat?"

We don't need to go far to think of the town idiot, the scorned adulterer, the drug addict, the oddball we find hard to be around. The people Jesus might have gotten to without our understanding why or how. The next thing we know is it's our turn to hear what they have to tell and teach....

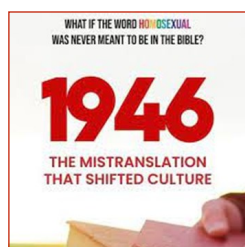
The outcome of the story is a proclamation of new life that comes when a person is touched by Jesus. This once outcast and dangerous man becomes a beacon of hope to the community that cast him out. If they listen, then even their present situation is not the end of the story. Just as our present situation is not the end of ours.

## BEFORE YOU GO...

- This is the last Sunday to bring in bottled water and add it to the collection already begun in the fellowship hall. Outreach Coordinator Sharon Simmons says they'll be taken to the thirsty people at the Kearney Center on July 2.



- OWLs: The next OWLs gathering will be on Tuesday, July 8 at 11 a.m. at the Lively Café at St. John's Episcopal Church. RSVP to Barbara Sullivan if you plan to attend.
- Sometime this summer, we'll be gaining three new members! Stay tuned for further details.
- Pastor Tom and the fam are on vacation. We wish them well!
- You can tell summer has arrived when your AC hardly ever shuts off, your glasses fog up when you exit the grocery store, and the financial offerings at church take a nosedive. Please bear in mind that our church expenses never take a vacation, even when we do. God bless you for your continuing generosity.
- Our midyear congregational meeting is scheduled for Aug. 3, after the liturgy.
- 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. Saturday. More information is available at <https://www.1946themovie.com>.
- 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



Sandy Davis - 06/28  
Sarah Barton - 07/03  
Loraine Sundberg - 07/03  
Karl Barton - 07/04  
Tom Buchanan - 07/13  
Jonas Holdcraft - 07/15  
Margaret Bowers - 07/19  
Corine Brathwaite - 07/19  
Emily Ruddell - 07/20  
Michael Robinson - 07/25  
Bertil Sundberg - 07/25  
Ian Medley-Miller - 07/27  
Ben Claussen—07/29

*\*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 Sunday:

10 a.m. - Worship: Third Sunday after Pentecost

### Monday, June 30:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH

### Tuesday, July 01:

5 p.m. - NA meets in HH

### Wednesday, July 02:

5 p.m. - TIMA meets in HH



## SERVING THIS WEEK

**Pr. Matt Frease**, Preaching and Presiding; **Kirsten Ebbesen**, Assisting Minister; **Rob Schiffer**, Cup Minister; **Erik Robinson**, Lector; **Sylvia Smith and Cindy Suhrweir**, Tech Team; **Jan Harrison and Patrick Kennell**, Ushers; **Beth Alexander**, Altar Guild; **Lorraine Sundberg and Susan Warren**, Counters; **Denise Bookwalter**, Announcements



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>.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, ELCA  
2198 N. Meridian Road | Tallahassee, FL 32303

The Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor

*Edited by Ron Hartung (alias Lex Lutheran). Designed by Lori Zengel, office manager, [sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com](mailto:sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com).  
Website: <http://www.ststephenlutherantally.com/>*

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