



ST. STEPHEN THIS WEEK

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Newsletter

A SUNDAY TO REMEMBER

Many thanks to Dave Suhrweir for once again organizing a thoughtful and inspiring Ministry of Reconciliation Sunday program. The crowd was large, the lasagna was tasty (and diverse!) and the discussion of legal issues concerning the LGBT community was informative ... and sometimes sobering. Not just the program but the entire liturgy, including Pastor Mary's sermon and Katharine Gossman's music, brought home the message of welcome and inclusiveness. One of the highlights every year is Cheryl Stuart's children's sermon – in which she demonstrates to the younger children that families come in all kinds of wonderful varieties, and reminds the older kids that God loves us regardless of who we are, whom we love or what some bully might be saying at school. In the fellowship hall, Dave called everyone's attention to the variety of quotes that Ruth Hartung had woven into her design. One example: "Isn't it amazing that we are all made in God's image, yet there is so much diversity among us," from the Rev. Desmond Tutu. Thanks to all who made our celebration of diversity so memorable.



HEAR OUR VOICE

Did you march on D.C. at the Women's March on Washington? Did you march with the sister solidarity march in Tallahassee? Did you want to march but couldn't and/or want to do something more than march? If so, join us, the Tallahassee/Panhandle Women's March on Washington Team, as we host our first community-centered movement officially as the Women's March on Florida. On Saturday, we will officially become a nonprofit, and will be hosting our first PLANNING MEETING on at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church. Women and their allies all around Florida will be meeting on Saturday and we need you to join us.



We could not make D.C. happen without you and we cannot succeed in the next four years without your engagement. Right now, principles of xenophobia, hatred, structural hierarchies of racism, sexism, homophobia, Islamophobia, as well as careless destruction of Mother Earth, stand at the center of debate in our corporate

and political spheres. But the power of love is always greater than the power of hate. We are pro-woman, pro-community, pro-sustainability, pro-love, and pro-diversity, and we are continuing the movement. You can find more information on the [Facebook Event Page](#), and please invite other members of your congregation and friends. Please join us at:

Holy Comforter Episcopal Church
2015 Fleischmann Road
Tallahassee FL, 32308
4:00pm Saturday

FEB. 26: TALENT SHOW!

It's almost Mardi Gras time, people, and you know what that means. Singing, Zinging and lots of laughs. Our annual talent show is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 26. After the liturgy we'll have a light lunch, immediately followed by showtime. If you're planning to perform, please let Lex Lutheran (alias Ron Hartung) know (rrhartung1@gmail.com). If you're not planning to perform but would be willing to help pull the lunch together (Publix sandwiches, chips, drinks), please let Lex know ASAP. On with the show!

EMAIL CHANGE

Please remember, Pastor Mary is using her own email address: pastormnesmith@gmail.com. Any email sent to Pastor Marda's former email account (pastorststephens@embarqmail.com) will not get to anyone.

A QUESTION FROM THIS WEEK'S "A-TISKET-A-TASKET"...OUR TRANSITION PROCESS BASKET!

"When Will We Elect a Committee?"

A Call Committee of six voting members is elected by the Congregational Council, per the St. Stephen Constitution (Chapter 13 of CONGREGATION COMMITTEES, C13.02). Members will be given the opportunity to share their own interest in serving or to pass on possible names to the Council. The actual Call Committee formation happens in Step 4 of the Flow Chart (see below).

Beginning at the March Council meeting, Pastor Mary will be working with Council to begin some of the specific tasks requested by the Office of the Bishop.



Florida-Bahamas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Step 1:
Current pastor resigns or retires... A celebration of ministry together

Step 12:
Evaluation of the process

Step 2:
Congregation receives a transition pastor or interim.

Step 11:
Installation

Steps in the Calling of a New Pastor

Your pastor has resigned or retired...

What happens next?

Step 3:
A Ministry assessment & discernment process occurs

Step 10:
Congregation votes to extend a call; pastor accepts or declines call

These steps illustrate the process your congregation will experience.

(Introduction, Resource B)

Step 4:
The call process begins... call committee is formed

Step 9:
Congregation meets primary candidate

Step 5:
Congregational Ministry Site Profile is created

Step 8:
Primary candidate identified & interviewed by congregation council

Step 6:
A Call List is formed

Step 7:
Interview of candidates

WANT TO JOIN US?

This note is for those of you who've been worshipping with us and have been thinking about taking the next step: becoming a member of St. Stephen. Pastor Mary would like to receive new members during worship on Feb. 12. Does that interest you? Have you been feeling a divine nudge to become more involved in the life of the congregation? If so, Pastor Mary wants to meet with you soon, either individually or as part of a group. You may get in touch with her at pastormnesmith@gmail.com or [561-602-8425](tel:561-602-8425).

ADULT STUDY

Please join us in Adult Education each Sunday at 9 am in the Matthew Room. We are working our way through the Small Catechism. This Sunday we will finish up the Ten Commandments, specifically the 9th and 10th Commandment, and some closing thoughts about them. Which Commandment most uplifts you and which Commandment is most challenging for you? The following week, we'll look at the Apostles' Creed. All are welcome to join the conversation.



MORE MIDWEEK UPDATES

- End-of-the-year statements for 2016 are available in the narthex.
- The next OWLs gathering will be on Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 11:30 a.m. Stay tuned for the location.
- Remember: Place any transition questions you have for Pastor Mary in the "A-Ticket, A-Tasket" Transition Basket in the back of the sanctuary.



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

Gabbi Oates - 02/02
Barb ODonnell - 02/05

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

This Sunday:

9 a.m. - Sunday Church School
Adult study

10 a.m. - Worship, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Wednesday, Feb. 8:

7 p.m. - Choir rehearsal

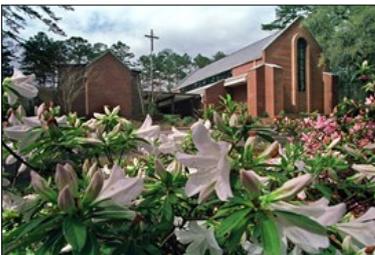
COMING UP

Feb. 15, 11:30 a.m.: OWLs gathering

Feb. 26, 11:30 a.m.: St. Stephen Annual
Talent Show

SERVING SUNDAY:

Pastor Mary Nesmith, Presiding, Preaching; **Jennifer Dritt**, Assisting Minister; **Jennifer LaVia**, Cup Minister; **Jan Harrison**, Visitation; **Tim Larson**, Walkways; **Jan Harrison**, Greeter; **Anna Amundson**, Lector; **Susan Warren & Gladys Kane**, Altar Guild; **Sandy Davis & Janet Barber**, Counters; **Sandy Davis**, Bread; **Anna Amundson**, Announcements.



If you have news or photos to share,
please send them to Lori at
ststephentallahassee@embarqmail.com.

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

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Designed by Lori Zengel, office manager, ststephentallahassee@embarqmail.com.

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