

The Courier



of Saint Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church — Wilmington, Delaware June 2008

From the Pastor..

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ-

In about a month's time of my writing this, Saint Stephen's will be represented at the DEMD Synod Assembly by our full complement of delegates (3). I am glad this year because we will be dealing with a topic that the Church needs to address.

I am not sure exactly what we will be doing, but I am reminded of a dictum that Charlie Barnhart, my instructor for First Responder training in Maryland used frequently, "*Doing something is better than doing nothing.*"

I was struck by language that two prominent and powerful Americans of African decent used recently to describe racism. One is a senator, who stands a good chance of being nominated as his party's choice for President. One is the Secretary of State. Senator Obama referred to racism as America's original sin. Secretary of State Rice referred to it as America's birth defect. In so far as we are talking about the enslavement of Africans and their descendants in this country, and its after effects, I believe they are right. But I will go even a step further and say that in some ways, Sen. Obama may have a better image.

Because ultimately, the cause of racism is sin. And while I never want to say anything that can be taken as mitigation for 300 years of slavery, I think we need to understand that racism exists in the hearts of every human being. I was surprised in my first parish to see up close and frequently, the horrible way Asians were treated by the Black community

in the village where Anne and I lived.

The Church can bring something to the dialogue on racism that no other group can. We can bring the Truth. We know that racism is ultimately not the disease, it is one of the more virulent symptoms. The disease is sin and there is no one unaffected. The problem with so many attempts to combat racism is they think by clever social engineering we can eradicate the problem. Any discussion on racism that does not take into consideration humanity's fallen nature is doomed

(Continued on page 2)



Habitat for Humanity: Moving Inside

By Dave and Ann Warner

Building Progress

We've raised the roof! This past month, the basic structural work on the two homes Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity is sponsoring was completed. Professional contractors installed the roof supports and covered the roof with shingles. The work has now moved inside. Wiring and plumbing is almost completed. Once the work has been inspected, we'll be putting up wallboards, putting down flooring, installing kitchen and bathroom fixtures and painting.

The homes are located at the corner of 14th and Claymont Streets, just two blocks from last year's Greenbridge development. New Castle is the only group in Thrivent's mid-Atlantic region (MD, VA, WV, DE) that is sponsoring two homes. One of the homes is a four-bedroom, and the other is a three-bedroom.

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Pastor, cont.

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to failure in the long run. Christianity is the only place where you will hear this: ***“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”***

The other truth we bring to this issue is found in the feast we just celebrated on Sunday — Pentecost. It is God’s calling for all humanity. The terrible separation of society that had been wrought in Babel is to be knit back into one through the work of the Holy Spirit. Soon after the gift of tongues, the miracle that undid the confusion of Babel, we have the story of Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch. The Church is called by God to go beyond any differences of language or color. This is what Saint Paul meant when he said to the Galatians, ***“for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.”***

We proclaim a Gospel that says that Jesus Christ came to this world in order to save humanity by taking on our human nature. Think about that. That means there is, ultimately, a oneness we all share, a common humanity, or else Christ could not do that for which he came. And if we acknowledge that truth, we can then see that racism is not only a sin, but it is stupid (*But hey — what are the smart sins anyway?*)

The Church of Christ and her disciples can speak to the world about racism in a way that needs to be heard because we have some bad news and some good news. The bad news is that as long as humans are sinners, they will be racists. The good news is that we follow a Savior who, as long as there are sinners, will be there to forgive, restore and renew. As we heard in the N.T. Wright DVD discussion this month, and as we will have that opportunity this summer, Saint Paul points out the hope that is ours in 2 Corinthians: ***So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!***

**In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Matt+**

**Please help us Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the
Wilmington Lutheran Volunteer Corps**

Saturday, June 21st, 2008

Picnic from 1:30 to 5 p.m. at YMCA Hanby Outdoor Center

Join with friends old and new to celebrate 25 years of LVC's work in our community. The cost for the picnic is \$5.00 for adults, children free. Swimming is an additional \$5.00 per person. Sandwiches and drinks will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share!

Habitat, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

Volunteer

Your help is needed for us to complete these homes by August. St. Stephen's next assigned build days are: Saturday, May 31 and Tuesday, July 15. There are many more opportunities in June and July. The following days are also Thrivent Build sponsored days for which we really would like your support:

Tuesday, May 27

Friday, May 30

Friday June 6 (This is actually a day without a “sponsoring” church, so this would be an ideal day to volunteer!)

Tuesday, June 10

Saturday, June 14.

Wednesday, June 18.

Contact David Warner at 302.762.2389 or <david.warner@comcast.net> to sign up.

Fund Raising

The column of blocks in the gathering area is growing nicely. Thank you to all who have donated so far. Over \$2,000 has been donated this year towards our goal of \$2,200. If you haven't donated yet, you can find envelopes in the gathering area. Just enclose a check made out per the instructions in the envelope, and place it in the offering plate.

Sunday, June 22nd, 2008

LVC Forum with Executive Director, Pastor Mike Wilker

Where: St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Time: 9:45 a.m. This will be followed by a service at 11 a.m., with Pastor Bob Holum (former LVC Executive Director) preaching.

For more information and to register, visit www.lvcwilmingtonreunion.myevent.com
For questions, call Melissa Heieie at (302) 792-2596.

We hope to see you there!

LVC Bowl-a-thon Raises over \$7000!

Thanks to all who participated in the Bowl-a-thon for the Lutheran Volunteer Corps, we were able to raise over \$7000, including \$1500 in matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. This exceeded our goal for the fundraiser and doubled our total from last year. Great job everyone!

It was exciting to have so many teams participate this year – nine in all. Tree of Life, St. Mark's, and Good Shepherd each sent one team, and St. Stephen's and Zion sent two. The current volunteers, the local support committee, and LVC staff filled out two additional teams. The top fundraising team was St. Mark's and the **top individual fundraiser was Betty Sperati of St. Stephen's**. Besides the funds raised by the bowlers, we were thankful for additional donations from St. Mark's and Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center in support of our event.

Top team average bowling score went to St. Mark's. Top individuals in bowling, St. Mark's. Bottom team bowling average went to Tree of Life. Top gutter bowl thrower went to Becky Sperati. St. Stephen's two teams were the Bowling Bombers — Betty and Becky Sperati and John Rodammer — and the Holy Rollers — Susan and Sarah Mack and her friend Katie, and Dave and Sharon Potter

Taking 1st place in pledges was St. Mark's, second place went to St. Stephen's, and third place went to the LVC King House.

The Local Support Committee for the Lutheran Volunteer Corps is planning another Bowl-a-thon for late April 2009 and they hope lots folks will join this fun event.

God's Peace,

**The Local Support Committee for the
Lutheran Volunteer Corps .**



Zion Pantry

All LCS pantries are experiencing heightened levels of activity, and the LIFE food pantry at Zion Lutheran Church on Lancaster Avenue in Wilmington is no exception. According to Pastor Greg Johnson, the pantry is “really hopping.” Eleanor Outten who is the volunteer leader of the pantry says that in the past year activity has almost doubled and that they are serving over 400 people a month. To accommodate the increased demand, Eleanor now needs three volunteers for each shift when two used to suffice. As a result of this staffing up, Zion pantry has some volunteer openings – and you don't have to be a Zion member to volunteer there! Call the church to volunteer at **658 5288**. The pantry is open Tuesday-Thursday 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Walk Run Supports the Hungry

The increased demand at LCS pantries is by and large the result of the darkening economic climate, as seen in the high cost of food, utilities and fuel. One way to help LCS feed the hungry is to support the annual Hunger 5K Walk Run – **Saturday September 20**. The LIFE (Lutherans Involved in Food Emergencies) program is the sole beneficiary of that fun event.

Books for Kids

Seventeen year old Johnathan Freida, of Hope Lutheran, is a young man with passion and vision. He's very involved in his church and concerned about ministering to the children of the many families who come to Hope's food distributions. As an active Thrivent member, he discovered that all members are eligible for free “member benefits” such as CDs, books and planning guides. All they have to do is ask. Johnathan found one of particular interest – a cool illustrated set of books called **Mouse Prints: Journey Through the Church Year** designed for kids 4 to 7. He successfully recruited about 20 Thrivent members to request the sets; then arranged for them to be given away to Hope food client families with kids in that age range. **Nice job Johnathan!**

Fund for Women

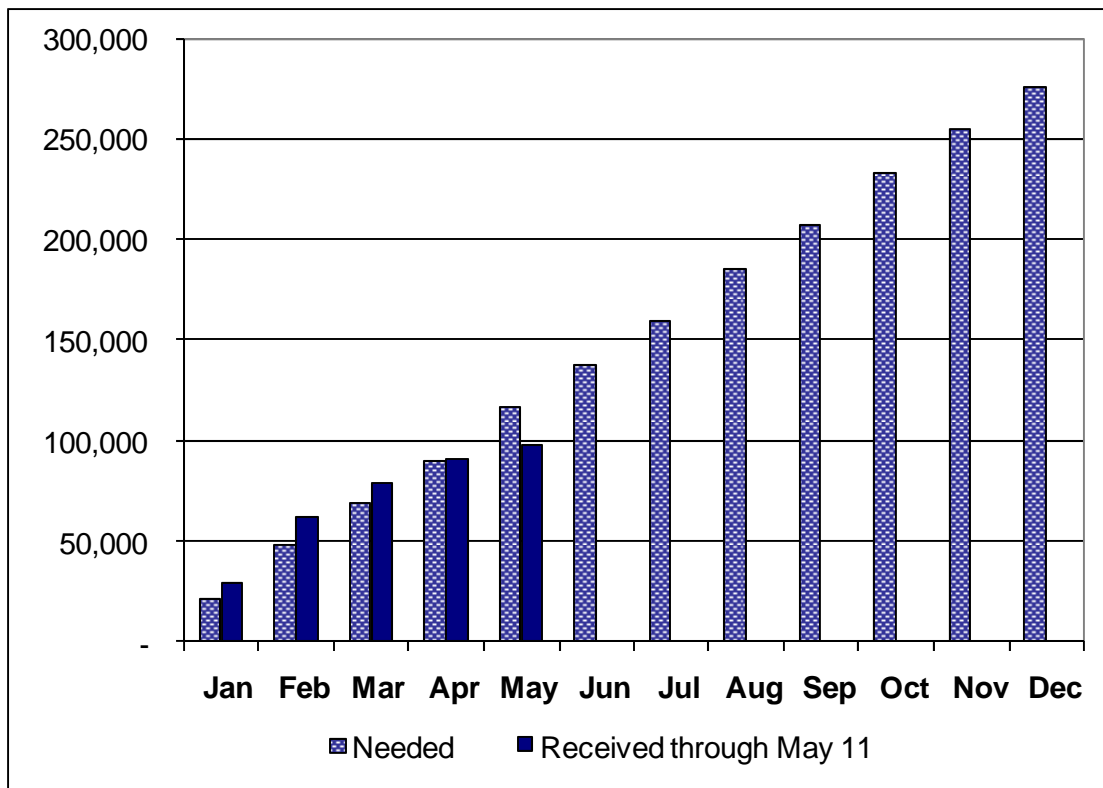
LCS received a \$10,000 grant from the Delaware Fund for Women for a new project to provide “Safety and Independence for Older Women.” The grant has three key components that will help it achieve that goal: 1/ Nutritional assistance, including partial funding for two grocery clubs at affordable senior housing complexes; 2/ Free or low-cost home repairs, including work on windows, locks, doors, steps, railings etc.; and 3/eviction prevention activities including grants for mortgage or rent in arrears. LCS is thrilled at the interest Fund for Women has shown, and we look forward to helping senior women in New Castle County with their support.

June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 LIFE Sunday 8:15 AM Early Service 9:15 AM Altar Guild Meeting 10:30 AM Traditional Service	2	3 7:30 PM Mission Team Meetings	4 7:00 PM Evening Prayer Service	5	6	7
8 8:15 AM Early Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 2:00 PM Sunrise	9	10 12:00 PM Down- town Bible Study 7:00 PM Church Council	11 7:00 PM Evening Prayer Service	12	13	14
15 8:15 AM Early Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service	16	17	18 7:00 PM Evening Prayer Service	19 4:30 PM Stephen Ministers	20 11:59 PM Courier Deadline	21
22 8:15 AM Early Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service	23	24 9:30 AM Courier folding 12:00 PM Down- town Bible Study	25 11:45 AM Emmanuel Dining Room 7:00 PM Evening Prayer Service 7:30 PM Intercessory	26	27 7:00 PM Lu- theran Nights at the Blue Rocks	28
29 8:15 AM Early Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service	30					

2008 Contribution Status: Year To Date Through May 11th				
	Cash Received	Cash Needed: Budget	Ahead/ (Behind)	Cash Received as % of Cash Needed
Operating	\$97,599.35	\$100,677.71	(\$3,078.36)	96.9%
Debt Reduction	\$20.00			
Memorials	\$820.00			
	Cash Received	Cash Expected	Ahead/ (Behind)	
Operating	\$97,599.35	\$94,937.29	\$2,662.06	

At the April Council meeting, Church Council voted to request that members of the congregation, on a voluntary basis, tithe 10% of their Economic Stimulus rebate from the IRS. The monies collected would be contributed directly for building maintenance and repair only.



People With Important Dates in June & July

June Birthdays

- 1 Charlotte Hanby, John Rodammer,
- 2 Thaddeus Potter
- 5 Carl Langkammerer, Marguerite Prueitt, Morgan Rollins
- 6 Jacob Sperati
- 8 Calista LaPorte, David Potter
- 9 Marjorie Bro
- 10 Seleste Mutschler
- 12 Jacob Dougherty
- 19 Charles Baddorf, Ernestine Jones
- 22 Grace Hamilton
- 23 Daniel DeSantis, Susan Gooden
- 24 Babirette Babineaux, John Krill
- 26 Virginia Boettcher

June Anniversaries

- 4 John & Donna Gooden
- 5 Louis & Thelma Jackson
- 12 Doug & Jennifer Charlton
- 14 David & Ann Warner
- 18 David & Linnea Krahn

June Volunteers

June Greeters

- 1 Millie Howell
- 8 Chick & Jane Baddorf
- 15 Clarice & Dale Wolf
- 22 Joyce Bukovsky
- 29 Carol Lay

June Ushers

- 1 Team 3, Dave Culley, Capt
- 8 Team 2, Dave Potter, Capt.
- 15 Team 1, Mike Hazuda, Capt.
- 22 Team 5, Fred Altergott, Capt
- 29 Team 3, Dave Culley, Capt

June Sound System Operators

- 1 Lou Jackson
- 8 Tom Brenneman
- 15 John Gordon
- 22 Lou Jackson
- 29 John Gordon

June Flower Delivery

- 1 Ann Wagner
- 8 Jane & Chick Baddorf
- 15 Lila Hall
- 22 Lou Jackson

29 Carol Lay

June Nursery Caregivers

TBA

June Gathering Time Hosts

- 1 Lisa Campbell
- 8 Helen Cripe
- 15 Dave Culley
- 22 Gary & Sue Gooden
- 29 Lila Hall

June Altar Guild

- 1 Sue Heiss & Fran McKewen
- 8 Sue Heiss & Fran McKewen
- 15 Sue Heiss & Fran McKewen
- 22 Sue Heiss & Fran McKewen
- 29 Sue Heiss & Fran McKewen

June Food Pantry Packers

- 1 Dick Parker
- 8 Marvin & Cynthia Stouffer
- 15 Sue Heiss
- 22 TBA
- 29 Sue Gooden

June Lectors

- 1 Helen Cripe
- 8 Dave Culley
- 15 Ralph Heiss
- 22 John Gordon
- 29 Ann Warner

June Cantors

TBA

June Acolytes

- 1 Sarah Mack & Abby Jones
- 8 TJ Potter & Charles Hummel
- 15 Ryan & Tyler Heiss
- 22 Jessamy & Charles Hummel
- 29 TJ Potter & Abby Jones

June Chalice Bearers

- 1 John Rodammer & Ann Wagner
- 8 Sue Culley & Betty Sperati
- 15 Ralph & Sue Heiss
- 22 Bob Linderman & James Cook
- 29 Dave & Lynn Splittorff

June 8:15 Assistants

- 1 Gary Gooden
- 8 Ann Warner

- 15 Dick Parker
- 22 John Rodammer
- 29 Gary Gooden

July Volunteers

July Greeters

TBA

July Ushers

- 6 Team 2, Dave Potter, Capt.
- 13 Team 1, Mike Hazuda, Capt.
- 22 Team 5, Fred Altergott, Capt
- 27 Team 3, Dave Culley, Capt

July Sound System Operators

TBA

July Flower Delivery

- 6 Susan Mack
- 13 Potter Family
- 20 Lydia Turner
- 27 Ann Wagner

July Nursery Caregivers

TBA

July Altar Guild

- 6 Lisa Campbell & Jane Baddorf
- 13 Lisa Campbell & Lydia Turner
- 20 Lisa Campbell & Susan Mack
- 27 Lisa Campbell & Susan Mack

July Food Pantry Packers

- 6 Dick Parker
- 13 Marvin & Cynthia Stouffer
- 20 Sue Heiss
- 27 Susan Mack

July Lectors

- 6 Helen Cripe
- 13 Dave Culley
- 20 Ralph Heiss
- 27 Ann Warner

July Cantors

TBA

July Acolytes

- 6 Tyler Heiss
- 13 Jessamy Hummel
- 20 TJ Potter
- 27 Abby Jones

July Chalice Bearers

- 6 Dave Culley & Marvin Stouffer
- 13 Dave Warner & Lydia Turner
- 20 Sue Culley & John Rodammer
- 27 Jane & Chick Baddorf

July 8:15 Assistants

- 6 Ann Warner
- 13 Gary Gooden
- 20 Ann Warner
- 27 John Rodammer

St. Stephen's History Corner

Last month we mentioned the **two pedestals** in the front of our sanctuary. Jane Baddorf told us that they were given to the church in 1908 by the St. Stephen's League.

On the underside of the pedestals is a note saying that they were refinished by John Stracker in 1968. Betty Sperati says that John Stracker was the husband of Phyllis Stracker and brother of Norbert Stracker. Phyllis taught nursery school for years and years Her class in Rodney Street Bldg was what is now the downstairs office. She died in the 1980s. She lived in Luther Towers. and was a good friend of Mary Wharton.

Courier Deadlines for 2008

- July-August 2008 issue — due date is June 20**
- September 2008 issue — due date is August 15**
- October 2008 issue — due date is September 19**
- November 2008 issue — due date is October 17**
- December 2008 issue — due date is November 14**
- January 2009 issue — due date is December 19**

Nursery Volunteers!

I am currently looking for volunteers in the nursery. All are welcome to sign up. I volunteered to coordinate the nursery to benefit the church. Without a nursery, the younger generation will not join our church. We need to keep the church going for years to come. So anyone who would like to volunteer, please email me at tenderheart572@aol.com or call me at 234-1862. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered already!

Kristine LaPorte

Lutheran Night at the Blue Rocks

Friday, June 27, at 7:05 PM

Frawley Stadium, Wilmington DE

Ticket price — \$10.00 per ticket

Deadline for purchasing tickets is May 25th

Christian Band "Sum of One" Concert following the game
Lutheran Night at the Blue Rocks is sponsored by KenCrest and Mosaic, Lutheran social ministries serving people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities.

KenCrest contact: Jeanne Lee

Email: jlee@kencrest.org

Phone: 610-825-9360 x 277

Celebrate July 4th by attending Winterthur Museum Free!

Ann Wagner's exhibition, Silversmiths to the Nation, will open at 10:00 a.m. with free admission for everyone. She would love to see anyone from St. Stephen's who wants to visit.

Hooray, Hooray, Let there be Light!

Thanks to Joyce Bukovsky for finding out about the wick problem with the candelabras! We now have the beautiful candles burning brightly — have you noticed??

Downtown Bible Study

Join us twice a month at noon for Downtown Bible Study in the YMCA Conference Room on the 11th floor in the Community Services Building, 10th & Orange Streets. We invite anyone who works and/or lives in downtown Wilmington to come and participate. We examine a Bible lesson each session in terms of its Biblical context and relation to current life. June meeting dates are on the calendar and in the Sunday bulletins.

Due date for copy for the **July-August 2008 Courier** will be **June 20 at midnight**. Please email your *Courier* items to the editor at cripehl@itrcorporation.com, me@hlcripe.com, helen.cripe@itrtechservices.com, fax to 302-425-4646, or leave them in the newsletter's box in the church office. Thank you!



Neroon

The Courier

St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Church Office
1304 North Rodney Street
Wilmington, DE 19806

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Address Correction Requested

Sunday Morning Schedule

- + 8:15 AM Early Service
- + 9:00 AM Christian Education
- + 10:30 AM Primary Worship

Who Does What at St. Stephen's

Staff

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..... e-mail pastormatt@ststeph.org
David L. Blackwelder, Pastor Emeritus.....
Daniel Howe, Director of Music e-mail dirmusic@ststeph.org
Jo-Ann Eatmon, Office Coordinator (302) 652-7623
Ann Warner, Communications Coordinator
..... Office 652-7623, communications@ststeph.org
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St. Stephen's Phone (302) 652-7623
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St. Stephen's e-mail office@ststeph.org
St. Stephen's Web Site www.saintstephenslutheranchurch.org

Officers

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Lynn Splittorff..... Council Vice-President..... 239-7457
Debbie Nicholson Treasurer..... 652-8758
Woody Mutschler Financial Secretary 410-398-0446
Dave Warner..... Secretary 762-2389

Council Liaisons

Christian Education Sharon Mutschler..... 410-398-0446
Evangelism Ann Wagner 494-8406
Finance and Audit..... Dave Warner..... 762-2389
Nominating John Rodammer..... 454-5858
Nurture Sharon Mutschler..... 410-398-0446

Personnel..... Betty Sperati.....994-6049
Property..... Lydia Turner655-5493
Social Ministry..... John Rodammer454-5858
Staff Support Lynn Splittorff239-7457
Stewardship..... Ralph Heiss798-5355
Worship and Music Lynn Splittorff239-7457

Mission Teams

Sunday School Jane Conlon.....764-2910
..... Sally Dudderar234-1676
..... Sue Heiss.....798-5355
Courier Editor Helen Cripe652-1895
Fellowship..... Sharon Potter.....239-3896
Outreach—Evangelism John Gordon.....8327054
Finance..... Dave Potter.....239-3896
Personnel..... Dave Splittorff239-7457
Property..... Errol Hartmann762-9648
..... Lou Jackson479-0226
..... Forrest Boettcher.....378-3553
Social Ministry.....
Staff Support Marvin Stouffer.....239-7457
Stewardship.....
Worship and Music Julie Hazuda.....239-5221
Altar Guild
..... Sonia Brode.....836-4907
Ushers