

The Courier



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

From the Pastor..

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I know that many pastors use their column in the newsletter to talk about programmatic matters — what's coming up and all that cool stuff. And that is important, but I figure that Ann as Communications Coordinator and all the other folks pulling together do a great job with that already. It's that once a month I have an opportunity to start a dialogue with you regarding issues that affect us and our lives as disciples of the crucified and risen Christ.

I would like to talk about mistakes. I would like that because talk of mistakes has been in the news recently. Talk such as "I have made a mistake by doing x." I understand mistakes. I know all about them from first hand experience.

What does a mistake look like? It's like the time my dad was in Heathrow waiting for the flight home and thought that using the ground facilities might be easier than those in the air. A group of Japanese business men saw someone who knew what he was doing and followed in his wake. Dad did not have his glasses on and was not paying close attention to the symbology — and so he and the Japanese business men walked into a Ladies' Room at Heathrow. *That* was a mistake.

When I was about 11 years old and out with my father getting wood for the fire place, and running around in my brand new Converse All Stars (red!), I was on top of a huge sand pile. There I spotted a little below me and about 10 feet away what appeared

to be a smaller but still substantial sand pile. How cool would it be, in my brand new sneakers, to run along the ridge of the pile I was on and launch myself out into the air and land on the smaller pile? I did and I soared in a lovely ballistic arc. I hit the second pile only to find it was clay and I was sunk in up to my thighs. In extricating myself from the clay, I lost one of sneakers. *That* was a mistake.

But there are other actions we commit, and they are called sins. Sins are not mistakes, though it is a mistake to commit a sin. So how do we define a sin? The Westminster

(Continued on page 2)



Stephen Ministry: September 2008

By Bob Linderman

Caregivers and the Autism Spectrum

Stephen Ministry is a four year old program of outreach to members of our congregation who are experiencing a crisis in their lives. St. Stephen's now has eight trained Stephen Ministers who are in active service as caregivers to others. In addition to the initial 40 plus hours of training that Stephen Ministers receive, all continue to develop and expand their skills through an ongoing program of continuing education and peer-to-peer supervision and support.

On Thursday, September 18, our continuing education program will feature Theda Ellis, Executive Director of The Autism Society of Delaware, who will speak on the topic of "Caregivers and the Autism Spectrum." All members and friends of our congregation are welcome to attend

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Pastor, cont.

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Catechism says a sin is “*any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.*” The Baltimore Catechism says sin is “*any willful thought, word, deed, or omission contrary to the law of God.*” So we see now the difference between a sin and a mistake. As Lutherans, as theologians of the Cross, we are called, in Luther’s own words, to call a thing what it is. So when we commit adultery or fornication, it is not a mistake. It is a sin. Likewise when we steal, or slander or harm others (up to and including taking their lives.).

What bothers me when we have a public figure who has been caught out in a transgression is that they label it a “mistake.” Sexual sins are no more grave than any other. But they can wound people so gravely because of the nature of intimacy and the damage wrought when it is broken.

We need, as Church in the public square, to recover the language of sin and naming actions as such. To name an action as sin is not to pillory or exile an individual. We can all recount the words of our Lord when confronting the crowd who had the woman taken in adultery: “*Let the one without sin cast the first stone.*” But to name something for what it really is is the first step in healing. We can only seek forgiveness for sins we have committed. We can only forgive those who sinned against us. Forgiveness and repentance are the twin tasks that Christ has called us to again and again and again. We can only do the work of Christ when we are dealing with sin properly named.

This leads me to another concern. I read recently about another public leader who was asked if he believed in sin. The answer was “Yes.” (So far, so good...) But then this person was asked to define sin and the response was “*Being out of alignment with my values.*” I think I know what the person meant. But what is meant is not the same as what is said. Sin, instead of being fundamentally an objective reality, has become a subjective measure. Instead of God being the one offended, and the one who judges, it becomes all about “me.”

Now there may be some folks who get worried that the Church talking in this public language about sin can lead to an unhealthy fixation. After all, should we not focus on the good? But the Church should focus on sin in the same way a physician focuses on illness. We do not want our doctors to ignore or prevaricate. A doctor’s “fixation” on sickness is so that the patient may know wellness. In the end, that is what the Church is called to do — to help sinners (that would mean people like us) know wholeness and healing that comes from Jesus Christ. That wholeness and healing comes when we ourselves repent and when we forgive others. And that can occur only when we name sin as sin.

**In Christ’s Peace,
Pastor Matt+**

Council, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

this program which will be held from 6:45 to 7:30 pm in Classroom 6 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, our partner in Stephen Ministry.

Please plan to attend if you are interested. No reservation is required. If you have any questions or if you or someone you know might benefit from having a Stephen Minister, please contact either:

Bob Linderman (302.239.7650,
rclinder@umich.edu), or
Pastor Matt (302.652.7623,
pastormatt@ststeph.org).

St. Stephen’s History Corner

Last month’s question, with this month’s answer:

Guess What Couple Have Walked 3120 Miles to Saint Stephen’s Over the Years???

Why did they do all that walking! Because they have been involved with their children, Luther League, Women’s groups, men’s groups, cooking, sewing, polishing, weddings, baptisms, shoveling snow, counting money, Food Pantry, Boy Scouts, funerals, music festivals, church services, altar guild and making long time friends.

All these activities and friends at St.Stephen’s have added much to their diamond anniversary of their marriage.

They are still walking!!

Well, did anybody guess?

The folks who have walked 3120 miles to St. Stephen’s over the years are:

Jane and Chick Baddorf!



Lutheran Volunteer Corps

Working for Social Justice
Living in Intentional Community
Exploring Simplified Sustainable
Living
By Judy Zahnaw

Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC), a national volunteer service program, partners with full-time volunteers and over 100 social justice organizations and ministries in twelve cities in the United States. 105 individuals will begin a year of service in LVC on August 10th.

The New Wilmington Lutheran Volunteers are arriving in Delaware August 16th

The new volunteers and their placements are:

- Steven Hays: *Lutheran Community Services*
- Alyse Sutton: *Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center*
- Krista Lucas: *Guardian Angel Child Care Center*
- Kartrina Mayer: *New Castle County Habitat for Humanity*
- Paul Johnson: *Samaritan Outreach*
- Erin Faehling: *Ministry of Caring*

If you are interested in being involved with LVC or the local support committee please contact Heidi Beck at 731-8034.

Music Update for the Season of 2008-2009

Vespers Concerts

Vespers, or Evening Prayer, marks the start of the new day ("There was evening and there was morning, the first day." *Genesis 1:5*)

Evening prayer is characterized by inner peace and repose. It is a service done as a community act, rather than presided over by a minister.

Each month, St. Stephen's will host a Vesper Concert. The traditional Evening Prayer service will be a part of the program, but there will also be an expanded musical component, to allow each participant the opportunity to reflect while enjoying music.

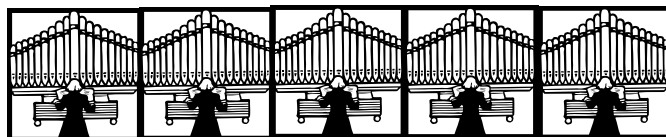
- September 21, 2008 — TBD
- November 2, 2008, All Saints Sunday — Jonathan Sills, Baritone, American Spirituals
- December 7, 2008, Season of Advent — The Choirs of St. Stephen's
- February 15, 2009, Season of Epiphany — Adrienne Bishop, Lyric Mezzo Soprano, music of Mahler and Schubert
- March 15, 2009, Season of Lent — Marisol Rampolla, Classical Guitar, Music of Spain and Puerto Rico
- April 7, 2009, Season of Easter — Choral Concert

Saturday Seminars

Saturday Seminars offer a cost-effective day of musical instruction. These programs are open to anyone high school age and over. Previous experience is not necessary.

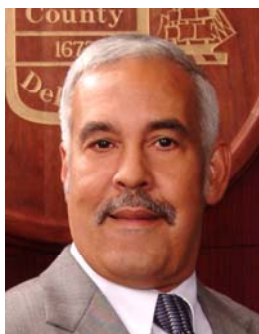
- Vocal Techniques: Kate Mallon-Day, Instructor — October 11, 2008, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM. Cost \$30
- Handbell Techniques: Kathleen Ebeling-Thorne, Instructor — January 17, 2009, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM. Cost \$35

Advance registration is required for Saturday Seminars. To register, or for additional information, contact St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 302-652-7623. programs@ststeph.org www.saintstephenslutheranchurch.org/programs.php



Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center First Annual Dinner October 24, 2008

By Eric Mease



The Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center has been serving the people of Wilmington's Hilltop area for over 40 years. This year, we honor the man who has served as the center's Executive Director for over half of those forty years, Mr. Jea Street.

For the last 25 years Jea has been at the helm of the center, successfully guiding it through some very rough waters. This summer the Center Board of Directors decided to honor Jea for his efforts at its first *Annual Dinner*. The formal affair will honor Jea, with all proceeds going to program operations including support for the evening Teen Program at the Hilltop Center which is urgently needed in our community. The dinner will be held at the Minquadale Ladies Auxiliary at 129 East Haueldell Avenue in Wilmington on Friday October 24th between 6 and 10 p.m.

Featured at the buffet dinner will be testimonials from several young students whose lives were changed for the better through their Hilltop Center experience. There will also be a guest speaker and DJ dancing.

Tickets for this first annual event are \$50 per person. Tables for 8 persons may also be purchased for \$400. Tickets may be purchased by contacting *Ramona* at the Center at 656-3224.

Help the children of Hilltop and know that you are a part of a greater community effort. Support and attend this First Annual Hilltop Center Dinner.

Thank you.

The Board of Directors
Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center

Lutheran Campus Ministry

By Shirley Glines

Welcome Back University of Delaware Students!

The Lutheran Student Association at the University of Delaware will be busy this fall semester. The group is starting the new year with a Leadership Retreat on September 6 2008. A Beginning of Semester Cook-Out will be held at Paul's Chapel for new and returning students on September 9th. A social event is planned for the evening of September 12th and a Welcome Back Coffee Fellowship at St. Paul's will follow the 10:45 service on Sunday September 14th.

Lutheran Campus Ministry has been busy over the summer months preparing the porch area to become shared office space for Ann Warner, Administrative Assistant to Pastor Bruce and Lutheran Student Association President Jason Day and Peer Ministers Kate Hartman and Amelia Blenderman. The Office Hour Schedule for Fall 2008 will be available by calling 368-3078. Painting has been going on in the Bonhoeffer house in preparation for the new tenants for the 2008-09 year.

Exciting news about the upcoming "We Are Called" fundraising dinner at St. Paul's on October 25, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. Bishop Graham of the Metro DC Synod will be the keynote speaker. LSA President, Jason Day will speak about how the mission of campus ministry has affected his life through four years at the University of Delaware. Please mark the date on your calendar. Come and enjoy good food, great fellowship and support Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware. There are always fantastic silent auction baskets! Proceeds from the evening will benefit Mission Development/Building Campaign at the University of Delaware with 10% being donated to Mission Development Churches in the Synod.

Lutheran Campus Ministry is in need of Tuesday evening dinners for the students. This would be a wonderful service project for a youth group, confirmation class or ladies group. If you or your group is willing to help please call Pastor Bruce at 368-3078.

The mission of Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware is to express our faith in God through fellowship, outreach and service.

Praying-Caring-Thinking-Daring in the name of Jesus
Shirley Glines
LCM Secretary



By Steve Tindall

Sign Up for the Walk Run and Help LCS Help the Hungry

Hunger Walk Run – 9 a.m., Sat. 9/20, Rockford Park, Wilmington – Pre-registration: \$15. The Walk Run is the biggest source of support for the LCS emergency food pantry system known as LIFE – Lutherans Involved in Food Emergencies. It's also a lot of fun! Given the increasing demand for our food services, the rising cost of food, and economic forecasts, the Walk Run is going to be more important than ever. Our goal is to raise \$50,000. To help us meet our goal, the local chapter of **Thrivent** has pledged \$6,000 to Walk Run teams.

Registration forms are available at www.lcsde.org or from your church. Virtually all Lutheran churches in the area – and some non-Lutheran churches – participate in the Walk Run. Challenge each other! Prizes include gift certificates from restaurants, stores, and local attractions. All youth get free T-shirts with registration and free registration if they raise \$25. Adults who raise \$50 will receive a free T-shirt and free registration. And we guarantee refreshments, healthy out-door fun and good feelings. This is our 17th Walk Run; we are looking for 300 people to join us.

It's a **food drive** too! We will also have a van on hand to accept food donations at the Walk Run. More and more, we are relying on donations of canned goods and perishables to meet the need.

3rd Annual High School Hunger Classic

But if you are a young runner, consider the **Third Annual Delaware High School Hunger Classic**. This is a competitive race and fun to watch. Funds also go to LIFE. It will be run at the same time as the Hunger Walk Run on Saturday September 20. Individuals as well as schools and teams are encouraged. The only requirement is 18 and under. There will be medals for the top finishers, special prize drawings, and a trophy. Check our website for info and to download a registration form for the Walk Run and the High School Classic: www.lcsde.org. All participants get a free t-shirt, and it's only \$15 to register.

United Way Campaign Gearing Up – Our Number is 0719

The United Way is gearing up for its 2009 Campaign and employers will soon be rolling out their campaigns to encourage giving. LCS is an Affiliate Member, which means that we only receive donations specifically designated to us. To designate LCS, United Way donors need to use our agency number – 0719.

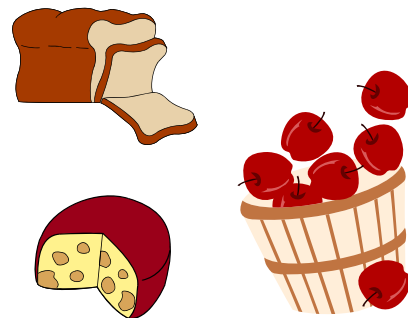
Contact stindall@lcsde.org or 654 8886 x 105 for information.

Many Ways to Give

As part of her Girl Scouts Gold Star Award, teenager Samantha Keulmann decided she wanted to help LCS. Her mom is a volunteer at St. Stephen's pantry, so that's where Samantha decided to direct her energy. She has a great deal of enthusiasm, and she took on a formidable task there. First, she cleaned the fridge and freezer, then moved on to the whole pantry. Next, she painted it, shampooed the carpets, and even came up with some food items and storage containers. All this was done with donated materials. The results were outstanding and much appreciated by all. There are indeed many ways to give. Thank you Sam.

Client Nutrition Update

St. Philip's is starting a pilot nutrition program for its produce distributions and grocery club in partnership with the Food Bank/University of Delaware. There will be five one-hour sessions in October-November providing important information about diet and healthy eating habits. Clients who complete all sessions will receive additional produce and nutrition packed food at the end as an incentive to participate. These sessions will be presented in both English and Spanish. The need for nutrition counseling like this is critically important to our clients in a world where the easiest (but not best) solution to hunger is the \$1 menu at a fast food joint.



People With Important Dates in September & October

September Birthdays

- 1 Peter Conlon, Carleton Sperati
- 4 Kristin Haroldsdottir
- 5 David Krahn
- 6 Dale Wolf
- 10 Rose Drexel
- 11 Paige Detwiler, George Watson
- 12 Lauren Fritschel
- 18 Lauren DeSantis, Amanda Lehm
- 19 Dan Hall
- 21 Susan Gooden, Brian Mutschler
- 22 Errol Hartmann, C. Robert Sperati
- 24 Georgia Hanby
- 25 Debbie Nicholson
- 26 Phyllis Wilkes
- 27 Ralph Fillingame Jr., Mark Lehm
- 28 Erica Linderman
- 29 Thomas Herlihy

September Anniversaries

- 7 Robert, Sr. & Jane Volkman
- 12 Gary & Susan Gooden
Kimberly & Jeffrey Rollins
- 15 Charles & Frances McKewen
- 18 James & Ann Ropp
- 25 Forrest & Virginia Boettcher

September Volunteers

September Greeters

- 7 Joyce Bukovsky
- 14 Carol Lay
- 21 Sally Dudderar
- 26 Ursula Kroll

September Gathering Time Hosts

- 7 Dave Culley
- 14 Gary & Sue Gooden
- 21 Lila Hall
- 26 Anne Hummel

September Ushers

- 7 Team 1, Mike Hazuda, Capt.
- 14 Team 5, Fred Altergott, Capt.
- 21 Team 3, Dave Culley, Capt.
- 26 Team 2, Dave Potter, Capt.

September Sound System

Operators

- 7 John Gordon
- 14 Lou Jackson
- 21 [New SSO Needed — see Lou]
- 26 John Gordon

September Flower Delivery

- 7 Potter Family
- 14 Lydia Turner
- 21 Ann Wagner
- 26 Clarice & Dale Wolf

September Altar Guild

- 7 Carol Lay & Debra Helman
- 14 Sharon Potter & Debra Helman
- 21 Sharon Potter & Debra Helman
- 26 Sharon Potter & Debra Helman

September Food Pantry Packers

- 7 Susan Mack
- 14 Sue Gooden
- 21 Clarice & Dale Wolf
- 26 Dick Parker

September Lectors

- 7 Ann Warner
- 14 James Cook
- 21 John Gordon
- 26 Helen Cripe

September Cantors

- 7 Lynn Splittorff
- 14 TBA
- 21 TBA
- 26 TBA

September Acolytes

- 7 Ryan Heiss
- 14 Tyler Heiss
- 21 Charles Hummel
- 26 Sarah Mack

September Chalice Bearers

- 7 Marvin Stouffer & Dave Warner
- 14 Lydia Turner & Sue Culley
- 21 Chick & Jane Baddorf
- 26 Fred Altergott & Betty Sperati

September 8:15 Assistants

- 7 Gary Gooden
- 14 John Rodammer
- 21 Dick Parker
- 26 Ann Warner

October Volunteers

October Greeters

TBA

October Gathering Time Hosts

- 5 Carol Lay
- 12 Sharon Mutschler
- 19 Sharon Potter
- 26 Bill Sperati

October Ushers

- 5 Team 1, Mike Hazuda, Capt
- 12 Team 5, Fred Altergott, Capt
- 19 Team 3, Dave Culley, Capt.
- 26 Team 2, Dave Potter, Capt

October Sound System Operators

- 5 Lou Jackson
- 12 John Gordon
- 19 [New SSO Needed — see Lou]
- 26 Lou Jackson

October Flower Delivery

- 5 Jane & Chick Baddorf
- 12 Lila Hall
- 19 Lou Jackson
- 26 Carol Lay

October Altar Guild

- 5 Carol Lay & Ann Ammerman
- 12 Carol Lay & Ann Ammerman
- 19 Carol Lay & Ann Ammerman
- 26 Carol Lay & Ann Ammerman

October Food Pantry Packers

- 5 Cynthia & Marvin Stouffer
- 12 Sue Heiss
- 19 Susan Mack
- 26 Sue Gooden

October Lectors

- 5 Dave Culley
- 12 Ralph Heiss
- 19 Ann Warner
- 26 James Cook

October Cantors

TBA

October Acolytes

- 5 Abby Jones
- 12 Ryan Heiss
- 19 Tyler Heiss
- 26 Charles Hummel

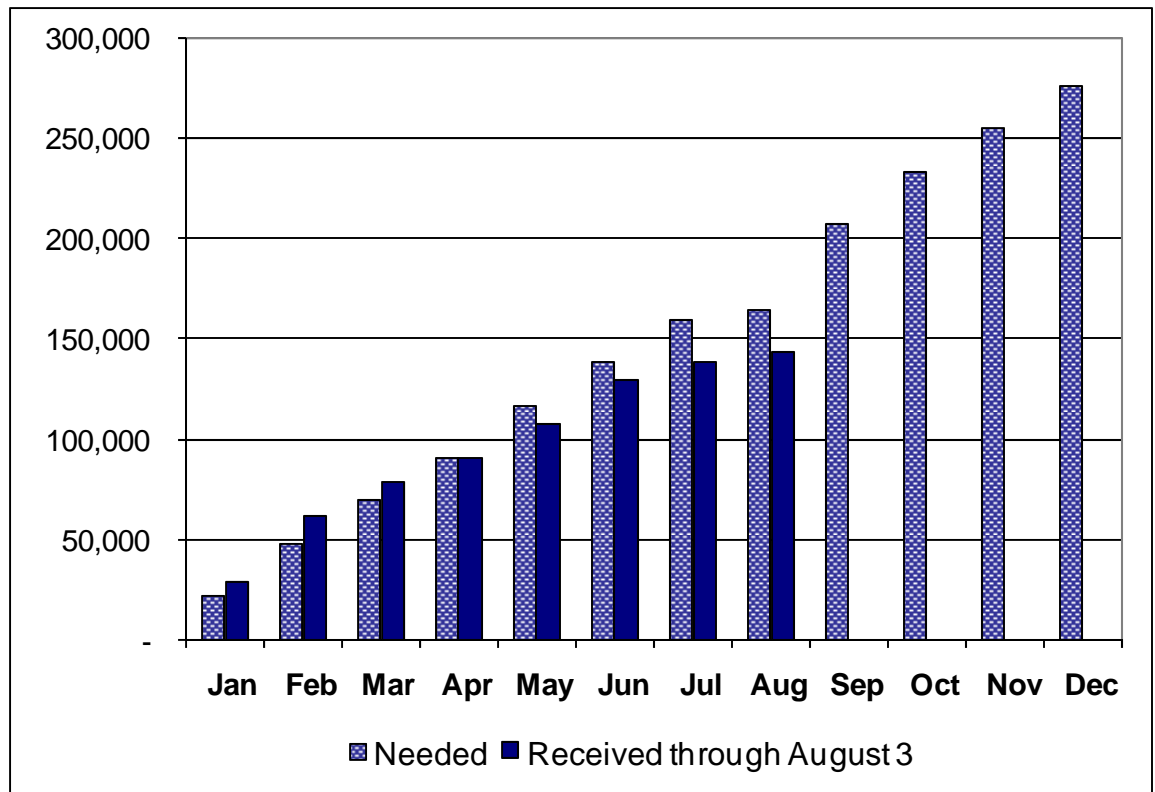
October Chalice Bearers

- 5 John Rodammer & Ann Wagner
- 12 Bob Linderman & James Cook
- 19 Sue & Ralph Heiss
- 26 Dave & Lynn Splittorff

October 8:15 Assistants

- 5 Gary Gooden
- 12 TBA
- 19 Dick Parker
- 26 Ann Warner

2008 Contribution Status: Year To Date Through August 3rd				
	Cash Received	Cash Needed: Budget	Ahead/ (Behind)	Cash Received as % of Cash Needed
Operating	\$143,366.29	\$164,263.63	(\$20,897.34)	87.3%
Debt Reduction	\$20.00			
Memorials	\$820.00			
	Cash Received	Cash Expected	Ahead/ (Behind)	
Operating	\$143,366.29	\$140,870.64	\$2,495.45	



Courier Deadlines for 2008
 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

Due date for copy for the **October 2008 Courier** will be **September 19 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

Matthew M. Hummel, Senior Pastor 683-0776
..... 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
Kevin L. Krick, Sexton
St. Stephen's Phone (302) 652-7623
St. Stephen's FAX (302) 652-7646
St. Stephen's e-mail office@ststeph.org
St. Stephen's Web Site www.saintstephenslutheranchurch.org

Officers

Betty Sperati Council President..... 994-6049
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