

The Courier



of Saint Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church — Wilmington, Delaware October 2009

From Pastor Andy Ballentine...

St. Stephen's: A Community On The Pilgrimage of Faith

Several months ago, Helen Cripe asked if I would contribute a column to *The Courier*. I have struggled with the request, because of all my feelings about the past seven years of your life together.

I have been saddened over the past years to hear from those who have contacted me. I have despaired. I have been angry. (Jeremiah 23:1 comes to mind.)

I repent from my despair and anger, though, because that is not how God the Holy Spirit calls us to live, as followers of Jesus. I pray to be open to the Spirit's continual formation, as God leads me on the journey of faith.

In his remarkable book, *The Life You Save May Be Your Own: An American Pilgrimage*, Paul Elie writes this: "A pilgrimage is a journey undertaken in the light of a story. A great event has happened; the pilgrim hears the reports and goes in search of the evidence, aspiring to be an eyewitness. The pilgrim seeks not only to confirm the experience of others firsthand but to be changed by the experience."

"To be changed by the experience."

Isn't that the point of our lives of faith?

Your pilgrimage of faith happens in community with other pilgrims – in other words, in your congregation named for St. Stephen. You are on the faith pilgrimage together, encouraging each other; stirring and stimulating

and provoking each other; even carrying each other. (At times, surely, that is necessary).

On pilgrimage in this community, as you hear the reports and go in search of the evidence of Jesus' resurrection, as you worship and study together, you are formed by the Spirit in the virtues and practices of God's reign. That reign *has begun* in the resurrection. And, open to the Spirit, you can be changed by the experience!

Do you know how to tell that you are being changed by the experience? You can see the change as you grow in: Love. Joy. Peace. Patience. Kindness. Generosity. Gentleness.

(Continued on page 2)



Council Corner

By Carol Lay

We are St. Stephen's and We Rejoice in the Lord

I've thought a lot about this article that I wanted to write on stewardship. I have talked to individuals to see what their perspective is on stewardship. I've looked up stewardship on the internet. I've looked up the concept of stewardship in reference materials. And through all this, I've turned to the Bible for God's Word on stewardship. Here is the result of my investigation and some conclusions to which I've come.

A member of St. Stephen's told me, "Stewardship is the three T's: Time, Talent and Treasure." Time is indeed a treasure and I find myself apologizing often to God that I am not investing more of my time in studying His Word.

A friend that attends Aldersgate told me her understanding was that stewardship was more than tithing;

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Pastor Ballentine, cont.

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Hospitality to strangers. Inclusion. Perseverance in prayer. Self-control. Compassion. Humility. Meekness (which means courageous resistance against the impulse to respond to violence with violence). Forgiveness. Thankfulness. Offering blessings rather than curses. Sharing in others' joys and sufferings. Associating with the lowly. Loving and feeding your enemies. Responding to evil with goodness. (Where do I get this list? See Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 12:2, 9-21; Colossians 3:12-17)

Is it easy to live according to these practices as citizens of God's reign? No, it isn't! That is why regular, weekly worship is necessary for the pilgrimage. In worship, you are constantly confessing because you fall short; and you are repeatedly receiving forgiveness, because God's love is unending. You are receiving God's presence in the bread and wine. You are being formed by God's Word given to you through Scripture and preaching and bread and wine and water.

Out of worship, daily faith practices arise. You are drawn into prayer, and meditating on the daily Bible lectionary, and acting in compassion.

Conversion is a life-long pilgrimage, in community, as the Spirit works through each one of you, on the faith pilgrimage together, as you guide each other in the life of faith.

In the process, God transforms your lives!

You are changed by the experience!

You witness to the world a better way to live!

It's exciting stuff!

I pray daily for St. Stephen's: a community on the pilgrimage of faith.

Pastor Andy Ballentine

Art Loop



The next Art Loop at St. Stephen's will be on Friday, October 2, 2009, 5:00 to 8:00 PM, and will feature Elizabeth Metzner ("Betty") showing large and small landscape scenes and still life paintings in acrylic, watercolor, and oil. Betty studied with artists in England, Delaware and Pennsylvania. Refreshments will be served, the Sanctuary will be open, and the event will be accompanied by an organ music background. Please let Fred Altergott know whether or not you or any of your friends will be available to serve as hosts or hostesses at any time during the show, as well as the picture hanging Wednesday evening, September 30, 2009, at approximately 7:30 - 9:00 PM. The new gallery hangers make this a pleasant chore! Fred can be reached at (302) 655-6034 (home); or (302) 984-6026 (office).

Council, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

stewardship encompassed how we manage what we have for the glory of God.

The Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary states that, "Stewardship is a responsibility to manage all the resources of life for the glory of God, acknowledging God as provider."

I found an author, Rita Cartwright, during my internet research; her internet article is marked "free to share." So, I felt free to quote her and intersperse what she wrote with my own comments.

Stewardship is watching over possessions and property that do not belong to us. A biblical verse that illustrates this is Psalm 24:1, *The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;* (NRSV). Of course! Our Lord shares with us. We give Him thanks for what we have. And we share what we can with others who are not as fortunate as us.

Rita goes on to write that there are five principles of biblical stewardship.

Persistence: Scripture teaches that faithfulness is a necessary quality to possess as a steward. Her biblical reference is, "*Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful*" (I Corinthians 4:2 KJV). Being persistent and trustworthy is viewed as faithfulness. Our new Lutheran Study Bible translation is, "*Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.*" (NRSV) These words persistent and trustworthy support the concept of stewardship. God entrusts his possessions with us and expects us to be persistent and trustworthy in watching over them.

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Planning: *God wants everything to be done peacefully and in order (I Corinthians 14:33 CEV)* Rita's article is about five principles of biblical stewardship in managing a small business. Interesting – we are about God's business aren't we? It is up to us to assist with executing plans to support and strengthen our church – peacefully, orderly, with forethought and prayer.

Proportionate: *If God has been generous with you, he will expect you to serve him well. But if he has been more than generous, he will expect you to serve him even better (I Corinthians 16:2 CEV).* God blesses us with the proportion of talents, time, and treasures that we need to be good stewards. The Lutheran Study Bible has a different translation of I Corinthians 16:2, *“On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come. (NRSV)”* The marginal note is that this is Paul's commitment to collecting the offerings for the Church in Jerusalem. What comes to mind is early planning and organization for supporting the young church.

Pleasantness: *“Each of you must make up your own mind about how much to give. But don't feel sorry that you must give and don't feel that you are forced to give. God loves people who love to give” (II Corinthians 9:7 CEV).* Our Lutheran Study Bible has, *“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (NRSV)”* To paraphrase Rita, we must be pleasant in our business and personal dealings with others. I conclude that we must do the best we can for others. We don't need to read the above verses and think about donations, we can read these verses and think about giving our pleasantness freely and not artificially. We are stewards of our relationship to others around us and we must set ourselves an example of faithful, joyous Christians. We are stewards of our faith and we have hope that our actions, as guided by the Holy Spirit, will move individuals to join our congregation. When I first started to come to St. Stephen's, I clearly remember those who first embraced me and made me feel so welcome.

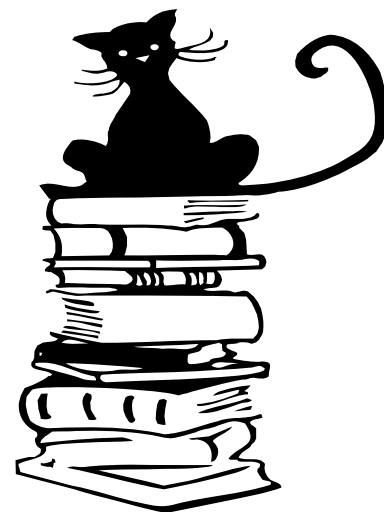
Purposeful: *When you eat or drink or do anything else, always do it to honor God (I Corinthians 10:31 CEV).* Our Lutheran Study Bible, *“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. (NRSV)”* Rita's perspective in her article is biblical stewardship in relation to operating a business. We are stewards over God's business at St. Stephen's and in our community. As a congregation, we are welcoming Family Promises to St. Stephen's. We are honoring Him by helping others, and in this, we help ourselves and St. Stephen's.

My conclusions: Biblical stewardship deals with much more than the use of our money; it deals with how we live our lives. Let us periodically review our five principles of stewardship to see if we are “on plan” for meeting our objectives – to be strong, loving and faithful Christians. This is our biblical business plan. Going back to what Rita wrote in her summary, “and just as we would do in our work life, we need to refer back to our biblical business plan to make sure we are on track as God has entrusted his business to us by appointing us as stewards to manage it. The more God blesses your (His) business, the more He wants you to bless individuals, the community and the world at large. This style of stewardship will bring honor and glory to His name. It is also a manner of serving God.”

Rita Cartwright, July 31, 2009 <http://www.faithwriters.com/article-details.php?id=102158>

We belong to St. Stephen's and this is a gift of ourselves. We continue to come to our beautiful Church on Sunday mornings and are present with our St. Stephen's family. This is a gift we give to ourselves and each other. This is a gift from our Savior. We are St. Stephen's and we rejoice in the Lord.

In closing, we pray for members we have not seen for some time. We pray they are able to join us once again in our worship. We miss you and invite you to return to us during this time of our transition. We look forward to our future that includes your voices joining ours in praise to Christ our Savior.





By Steve Tindall

Hope Nutrition Seminar

LCS and Hope Lutheran in New Castle have just finished a successful 5-part nutrition seminar for low income food clients at Hope. The average attendance at the Hope seminars was about 75, which is outstanding for this kind of event. Presenters were from the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program of the University of Delaware. Topics included healthy recipes, cooking for people with medical conditions, food groups, portion sizes, shopping on a budget and taking control of your health. Graduates each received a certificate beneficial for clients looking for jobs in the food service industry as well as at child care centers. The Hope seminars were part of an ongoing LCS focus on nutrition, funded in part by the Speer Trust. In addition to the seminars, the program has included information tables and literature distribution about the benefits of healthy eating for healthy families.

New Lutheran Volunteer Corps Volunteer

Each year, LCS and other charitable organizations in our area are blessed with a Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC) person. This year's LCS "LVCer" is Lisa Schilansky., who joined us in August and will stay until next August. We are thrilled to have Lisa as she has already turned into a valuable and enthusiastic staff member. Of the organizations she considered, LCS was her first choice. She wanted to come here because she recognized the huge need of small northeastern cities like Wilmington. Lisa also wanted to come to LCS because, unlike some of the positions, the LCS Food and Shelter assistant job involves a lot of client interaction. Lisa is from Catskill, New York, near Albany. She is a graduate of Denison University in Granville, Ohio, where she received a BA degree in history, with a concentration in playwriting and a minor in vocal performance. There are two LVC houses in Wilmington this year – one in the Hilltop neighborhood, and the ML King House, where Lisa stays.

Help Wanted — LCS

Lutheran Community Services needs a part-time assistant program director to help families in crisis with food, housing and utility assistance at our LCS FAITH Center location, 3rd and Walnut Streets, Wilmington. We are seeking a caring individual with a degree in a human service field and/or social service experience. Bi-lingual a plus. Send resume and cover letter by 10/31 to LCS, 1304 N Rodney St. Wilmington, DE 19806 or email info@lcsde.org

Stephen Ministry Today God is the Cure-Giver

By Bob Linderman

Dr. Kenneth Haugk, founder of Stephen Ministry, calls God the "Curegiver." He writes that Stephen Ministers are like farmers. They prepare the care receiver for God to bring the cure, as farmers prepare the ground for crops. What the cure is or will be, is known only to God and the care receiver.

Jesus Christ, as the Son of God, cured many people. Matthew describes (15:29) how when Jesus sat down, crowds would come to him, bringing their sick. The people were amazed as they saw the mute speaking, the crippled walking and the blind seeing (v. 31). Matthew reports that all who touched even Jesus' cloak were healed (14:36). They came to Him in complete faith.

Faith in God as Curegiver is an important part of Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministers pray for care receivers and for each other. Their faith is that God brings the right healing solution at the right time. He answers prayer in His own way, often through dedicated Christ servers and health professionals.

Look to God for healing in your life. You can request a Stephen Minister to help you through a crisis. He or she will support you as you turn to the One who brings comfort, consolation, rest and peace in the midst of difficulty.

In this interim period between senior pastors, please call Bob Linderman, Stephen Ministry Leader, (302-239-7650) to talk confidentially about a Stephen Minister for you.





Lutheran Volunteer Corps

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

The following new Wilmington Lutheran Volunteers arrived August 22 and began work at their placements August 26:

Lisa Schilansky: Lutheran Community Services
 Johnna Kimmel: Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center
 Chris Hanley: Guardian Angel Child Care Center
 Ben Cherland: New Castle County Habitat for Humanity
 Chris Schei: New Castle County Habitat for Humanity
 Jill Laney: Samaritan Outreach
 Jenny Anderson: Ministry of Caring child care center
 Matthew Johnson: Ministry of Caring – Grant writer

This year the volunteers hope to visit as many churches as possible and would like the opportunity to share the story of LVC.

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



Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware:

Our mission is to show our Faith in God through fellowship, outreach and service

We Are Called to the Fourth Annual Fundraising Dinner of the Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware, October 24, 2009, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 701 South College Ave. Newark, DE. Proceeds from the dinner will support the FISH program which provides supplemental food supplies to families in the Newark area. Our guest speaker will be Rev. John Ranney, Lutheran Office of Public Policy-DE. Silent auction items will be available along with good food and wonderful Fellowship. Please join the fun!

In these difficult financial times many agencies that depend on donations are struggling to continue to provide services to the community. There is an easy way to support Lutheran Campus Ministry on iGive. The iGive Toolbar makes it so simple for every search (a penny a search) and every online purchase to raise money for the LCM organization. The new iGive toolbar works with Windows XP & Windows Vista; Internet Explorer 6.0-8.0 & Firefox 1.5-3.0. Visit iGive.com for details on how to sign up and support LCM with your computer searches and purchases.

Every Tuesday evening the students worship at the Chapel and share a meal. We are in need of meals for Tuesdays. The U of D students are thankful to have home cooked meals following worship. Also, a monetary donation helps us plan for pizza nights. For details call Pastor Bruce at 368-3078. You can check out our LCM website at www.lutheransatud.org.

The Board is pleased to welcome Pastor Greg Eidell to our campus ministry.

Shirley Glines LCM Secretary
Praying+Caring+Thinking+Daring+in the Name of Jesus



People With Important Dates in October & November

October Birthdays

- 2 Christina Mantyla, Richard Parker
- 3 Autumn Apsley
- 4 David Hazuda, Conrad Rechsteiner, III
- 9 Charlotte Gimbutas, Susan Mack
- 10 Betsy Fritschel, Anna Hall
- 12 Frederick Altermott, Jacob Gordon
- 13 Dennis Schmidt, Kenneth Thompson
- 15 Rebecca Bradley, Carl Fritschel, Jeffrey Rollins, Jr.
- 17 Stacie Mutschler, Lyric Shirk, Alexander Wilson
- 24 Matthew Warner
- 25 Ursula Kroll
- 27 Zachary Gordon
- 29 Thelma Jackson
- 31 Susan Culley

October Anniversaries

- 2 Michael Jr. & Julie Hazuda,
- 7 James & Gailmarie Cook
- 8 Carl & Kristine LaPorte
- 10 Thomas & Pamela Brenneman
- 15 Timothy & Kristen Detwiler
- 17 Ralph Jr. & Deidre Fillingame, William & Audrey Schlegel
- 19 Meghan & Sean Sullivan

October Volunteers

October Greeters

- 4 Ann Ammerman
- 11 Ursula Kroll
- 18 Dorothy Davis
- 25 Frances McKewen

October Gathering Time Hosts

- 4 Helen Cripe
- 11 Dave Culley
- 18 Gary & Sue Good
- 25 Lila Hall

October Ushers

- 4 Team 4, Woody Mutschler, Capt.
- 11 Team 3, Fred Altermott, Capt.
- 18 Team 3, Fred Altermott, Capt.
- 25 Team 4, Woody Mutschler, Capt.

October Flower Delivery

- 4 Jane & Chick Baddorf
- 11 Lou Jackson
- 18 Carol Lay
- 25 Potter Family

October Altar Guild

- 4 Jane Baddorf & Debra Helman
- 11 Jane Baddorf & Debra Helman
- 18 Jane Baddorf & Ursula Kroll
- 25 Jane Baddorf & Ursula Kroll

October Food Pantry Packers

- 4 Sue Gooden
- 11 Clarice & Dale Wolf
- 18 Dick Parker
- 25 Sue Heiss

October Lectors

- 4 John Gordon
- 11 Helen Cripe
- 18 Ann Wagner
- 25 Dave Culley

October Acolytes

- 4 Ann Warner
- 11 Dave Culley
- 18 Keira Culley
- 25 Kyle Heiss

October Chalice Bearers

- 4 Bob Linderman & Dave Warner
- 11 Lydia Turner & Dave Culley
- 18 Sharon Mutschler & John Rodammer
- 25 Carol Lay & Lynn Splittorff

November Volunteers

November Greeters

TBA

November Gathering Time Hosts

- 1 Carol Lay
- 8 Sharon Mutschler
- 15 Sharon Potter
- 22 Bill Sperati
- 29 Lynn Splittorff

November Ushers

- 1 Team 2, Dave Culley, Capt.

- 8 Team 3, Fred Altermott, Capt.
- 15 Team 4, Woody Mutschler, Capt.
- 22 Team 2, Dave Culley, Capt.
- 29 Team 3, Fred Altermott, Capt.

November Flower Delivery

- 1 Lydia Turnet
- 8 Ann Wagner
- 15 Dale & Clarice Wolf
- 22 Jane & Chick Baddorf
- 29 Lou Jackson

November Altar Guild

TBA

November Food Pantry Packers

- 1 Sue Gooden
- 8 Clarice & Dale Wolf
- 15 Dick Parker
- 22 Sue Heiss
- 29 Sue Gooden

November Lectors

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



Leisure Luncheon Group will meet October 1 in the gathering area at 12 o'clock.

Topic-What did you DO this summer.??

Bring a sandwich and a friend.

Altar Guild meeting.

October 18th in the Chapel at 10:00 AM.

Please come if possible.

Church Communications:

Every week there is an email sent out with activities about the upcoming week. We also occasionally send out blast emails to advertise special activities coming up, or to alert you to special news. If you are not getting these communications, and would like to, please make sure the Communications Coordinator has your preferred email address.

communications@ststeph.org

Courier Deadlines for 2009

(Subject to change, depending on what's happening — please note that the deadline is not always the 3rd Friday)

November 2009 issue — due date is October 16

December 2009 issue — due date is November 20

January 2010 issue — due date is December 18

Our Monthly Schedule of Bible Study Groups

First Tuesday at 7:00 PM

Betty Gooden
138 Melodic Drive
Newark DE 19702
302-737-0148

Third Thursday at 1:30 PM

Ann Ammerman
315 W. Summit Ave.
Wilmington, DE 19804
(302) 994-1602

Second Tuesday at Noon

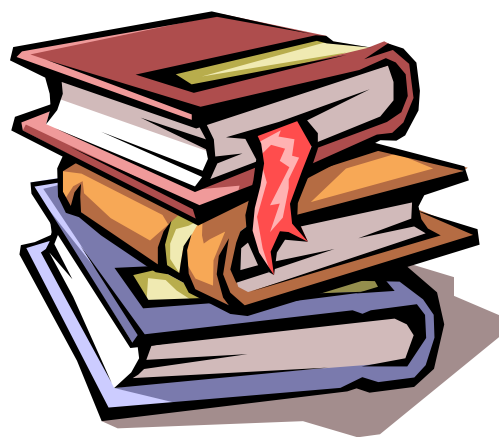
YMCA Conference Room
11th Floor
Community Service Building
10th & Orange
Wilmington DE
302-652-7623

Fourth Tuesday at Noon

YMCA Conference Room
11th Floor
Community Service Building
10th & Orange
Wilmington DE
302-652-7623

Third Tuesday at 7:00 P<

Richard & Paula Anderson
2204 West 11th Street.
Wilmington, DE 19806
(302) 655-9256



Due date for copy for the November 2009 Courier will be **October 16 at midnight**. Please email your Courier items to the editor at helen.cripe@itrtechservices.com, cripehl@itrcorporation.com, or fax to 302-425-4646. Thank you!



Neroon

The Courier

St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Church Office
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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

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David L. Blackwelder, Pastor Emeritus.....
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Ann Warner, Communications Coordinator.....
..... Office 652-7623, communications@ststeph.org
Kevin L. Krick, Sexton
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St. Stephen's FAX (302) 652-7646
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St. Stephen's Web Site www.saintstephenslutheranchurch.org

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Lynn Splittorff..... Council President..... 239-7457
Ralph Heiss..... Council Vice-President..... 798-5355
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 Gary Gooden 234-1417
Finance and Audit..... Dave Warner..... 762-2389
Nominating..... Betty Sperati..... 994-6049
Nurture Sharon Potter 239-3896
Personnel Lynn Splittorff..... 239-7457
Property

Social Ministry.....
Staff Support Ralph Heiss239-7457
Stewardship..... Carol Lay657-0742
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..... Sally Dudderar234-1676
..... Sue Heiss.....798-5355
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Fellowship..... Sharon Potter.....239-3896
Outreach—Evangelism John Gordon..... 8327054
Finance Dave Potter.....239-3896
Personnel..... Dave Splittorff239-7457
Property..... Lou Jackson479-0226
..... Forrest Boettcher.....378-3553
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Staff Support Betty Sperati.....994-6049
Stewardship.....
Worship and Music Ann Wagner494-8416
Altar Guild
..... Sonia Brode.....836-4907
Ushers

Please email the Editor with any corrections or omissions.