

The Courier



of Saint Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church — Wilmington, Delaware April 2010

Mueller's Musings

By Pastor David Mueller

I was struck by a comment made on one of the morning shows by one of the hosts regarding the recent time change. "It is a good thing that the time changes at 2:00 AM on Sunday because most of us can sleep in."

This comment was not made within a Jewish culture where Saturday is the Sabbath or a Moslem one where the holy day is Friday. While there are—and should be—debates about whether ours was ever a truly Christian culture, we sure seem to be headed for secularity now.

It is also being said these days that the American population is becoming more spiritual but less religious. I am never quite certain what this means. It is usually said to mean that people have spiritual interests, values, and practices of various kinds (sounds spooky to me!) but have no accompanying need to belong to or associate with formal religious institutions.

Finally, as these things tend to go, spirituality is a private thing. Who needs others anyway?

One passage of Scripture covers for me an appropriate reaction to all of the above: ***"Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*** (Hebrews 11:23-25)

On a related but separate matter, it has been said: "In heaven there will be no meetings; in purgatory there will be some meetings; and in hell there will be nothing but meetings." (anon)

Worship opportunities during the "Holy" season are frequent; meetings are held by the dozens all year around by churches of every kind; newsletter articles by the dozens and letters by the scores are published to remind people to come to church and bring their money with them.

Even as I type this present contribution to the pile stated above, I real-

(Continued on page 2)



Council Corner

By Lynn Splittorff

There are many opportunities right now at St. Stephen's.

One of the opportunities is Family Promise which we are helping to sponsor along with Westminster. Our commitment right now is to supply the evening meal at Westminster one night during the weeks they house the families. Currently there are three families in the program. This program has been very successful in other states to help homeless families. A lot of the families are single parent families so there are several children involved. Sharon Potter and I are lining up the workers and meals so if anyone is interested in helping with this mission please let one of us know.

Another opportunity at St. Stephen's is Adult Sunday School. Pastor Mueller is leading the class and it has been very informative and enjoyable. We have completed the book of Luke and the next book we will be discussing is Revelations.

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Musings, cont.

ize how patently out of touch I am these days. Shucks, let's meet together on Facebook; it sure solves the parking problem in the neighborhood. Let's close the church building; that would save some real resources, financial and other. Let's forget this staffing of the congregation with finite and imperfect pastors and others no more righteous than the rest of us. Gawsch, I may be on to something! This could mean the revolution of wedding ceremonies, which are far too costly anymore. Video tape weddings at home and send tapes to all your relatives and friends, some of whom did not really want to come to your public wedding anyway. Oh, and let's for sure skip this funeral fiasco, often with more flair and fluff than most deceased had when they were alive. Especially, let's have no more stadia or gymnasias, usually at tax payer expense. Make everyone watch their high school, college and professional sports on the video contraptions which now take up whole walls in homes. Kitchens and dining rooms have to go because we eat out so often anyway. Can you just feel the money being saved!

Just what is wrong with the picture I have drawn? Might it be that we need one another, still up close and personal and not on machines? Is it not that we are willing to absorb costs of various kinds of festivities, like weddings and funerals, because we need one another? Can we really get along without roaring and often obnoxious crowds at sporting and other events? And Church?

We need each other folks: To laugh and cry together or to just be together on Sundays and other occasions to praise God, to sing hymns, to plan genuinely caring gestures to a genuinely hurting humanity; to hold the confession of the Christ and to provoke one another to service! If you know of a better way, please let me know. I will bring it up at the next Synod assembly! SOLA DEI GLORIA!

Council, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

What a wonderful opportunity for us to meet at 9 AM on Sundays in the chapel and get to learn more about the Bible.

Women have the opportunity for the book study, using the book *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in our Busy Lives*. Gigi Mueller is leading the group and the time spent is well worth it. This group meets the fourth Monday of the month and you are invited to attend. Please contact Gigi, Sharon, or Lynn if you would like to join the group.

These are just a few of the opportunities available to you which have been added lately. It is important to nurture our faith as well as to serve others, and the last two opportunities I mentioned are very nurturing to our spiritual lives.

What a joy it is to be part of the missions and programs at St. Stephen's.

Bowlathon Sunday, April 18, 2010

Pleasant Hill Lanes (Stanton/Newport)

Registration 1:30 pm

Bowling 2:00 – 4:00

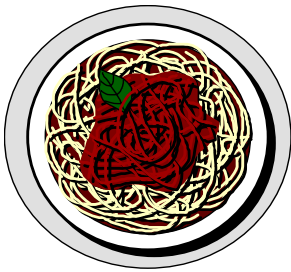
Start now with plans to form teams of five. Teams can be youth and adults in any combination. Individuals can also register.

- Five member teams: registration \$45 and at least \$125 in pledges (that is only \$25 each team member is asked to get in pledges)
- Individual: registration \$10 and \$25 in pledges

For more information? Contact Judy at jazahnow@verizon.net or 633-3355

Registration deadline: April 12, 2010 — Please plan to register early.





*****SPRING PROGRESSIVE DINNER*****

Welcome to ITALY...BUON APPETITE!

Saturday, May 1, 2010

First Course Begins at 5:00 PM

Please join your St. Stephen's congregation family as we progress between homes to enjoy a celebration of Family, Spring, and good food!

This year's theme will be Italian...mmmmm!

Everyone will gather at one home for appetizers and drinks, then we will divide into several smaller groups for a more intimate dinner setting at several other homes, and finally we will all gather again at still another home for desserts and after-dinner beverages.

Please sign up on the poster in the Gathering Area by Sunday April 18, and your assignment will be given to you on Sunday April 25.

Please let us know if you are interested in hosting any portion of the three-course dinner, i.e. appetizers, dinner, or dessert.

If you need more information, please talk with Sharon Potter
(302-239-3896)

If you've previously participated in this event, then you know how much fun we always have. If you have not participated, you should definitely join in this year! You don't want to miss this wonderful evening of fun and fellowship.

One other note, please - this dinner is for adults
so please leave children at home.



by Steve Tindall

Gimme Shelter Golf Tournament!

Larry Friday from St. Mark's stepped up again this year to be Tournament Director of the Gimme Shelter Golf Tournament. The tournament will be held at the Chesapeake Bay Country Club at North East, MD, on Monday May 17. Larry – who gets a whole lot of help from his wife Annette – promises outstanding FUN, PRIZES and friendly competition. The \$100 fee covers most everything – greens fees, carts, bag handling, Danish and coffee, and the awards luncheon following the tournament. As the name “Gimme Shelter” implies, the goal of the tournament (in addition to the fun) is to raise money for shelter. LCS has been selected to receive what's raised and will use it to prevent foreclosures, evictions and homelessness in our area. Call Larry for info at (302) 478-5824 or (302) 438-1290 or email him at fridayla@msn.com. New Castle County **Thrivent** Financial for Lutherans will provide funding support, but more sponsors are welcome!

Demand Is Up, Funding Follows

Housing help at LCS went up by 40% last year. And we helped over 1,000 more food clients than the year before. Facing the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, many low income people are tuning to LCS and its sister agencies for assistance. Luckily both new and traditional funding sources are helping us meet the need. In March LCMS World Relief and Human Care came thru with a \$7,500 grant, which will help hundreds of people in need. And for the first time in its 50-plus year history, LCS received TANF funding – *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families* – \$75,000 to help stabilize families with children. Program managers at LCS were thrilled to receive this new source of funds. New sources mean new criteria and reporting mechanisms for our staff, which can be challenging, but the support is crucially important.

Food Drives Help

In difficult times, food drives are more helpful than ever. Around Easter LCS receives a lot of wonderful food collected by schools, churches, and businesses. Curves in Tallyville, for instance, has made us the official recipient of their 2010 food drive. Call Heather for food drive info at 302 654 8886, x100. We also have a supply of recyclable bags to keep food drives going.

Leisure Lunch will meet at noon on Thursday, April 1. Ingrid La Porte has the program for April and her topic is "Sweden"

2010 Budget Picture Through February

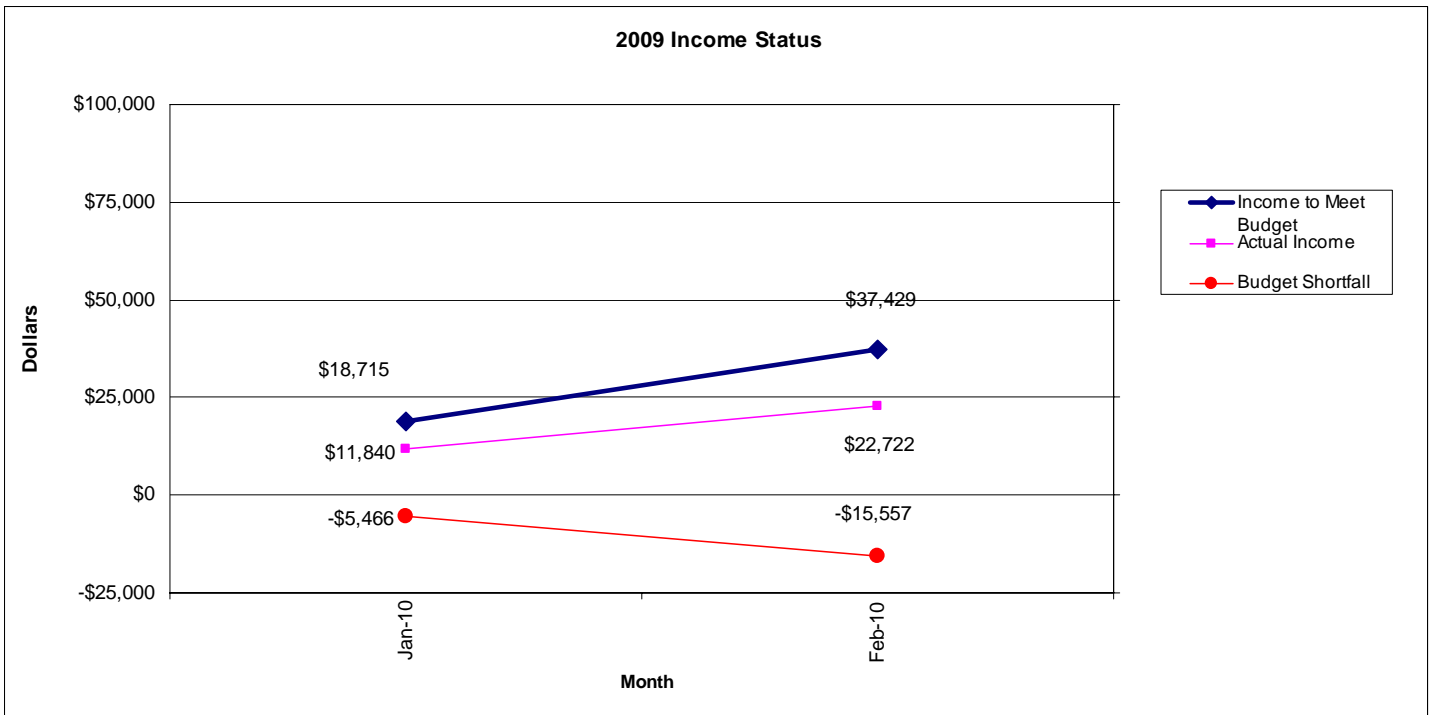
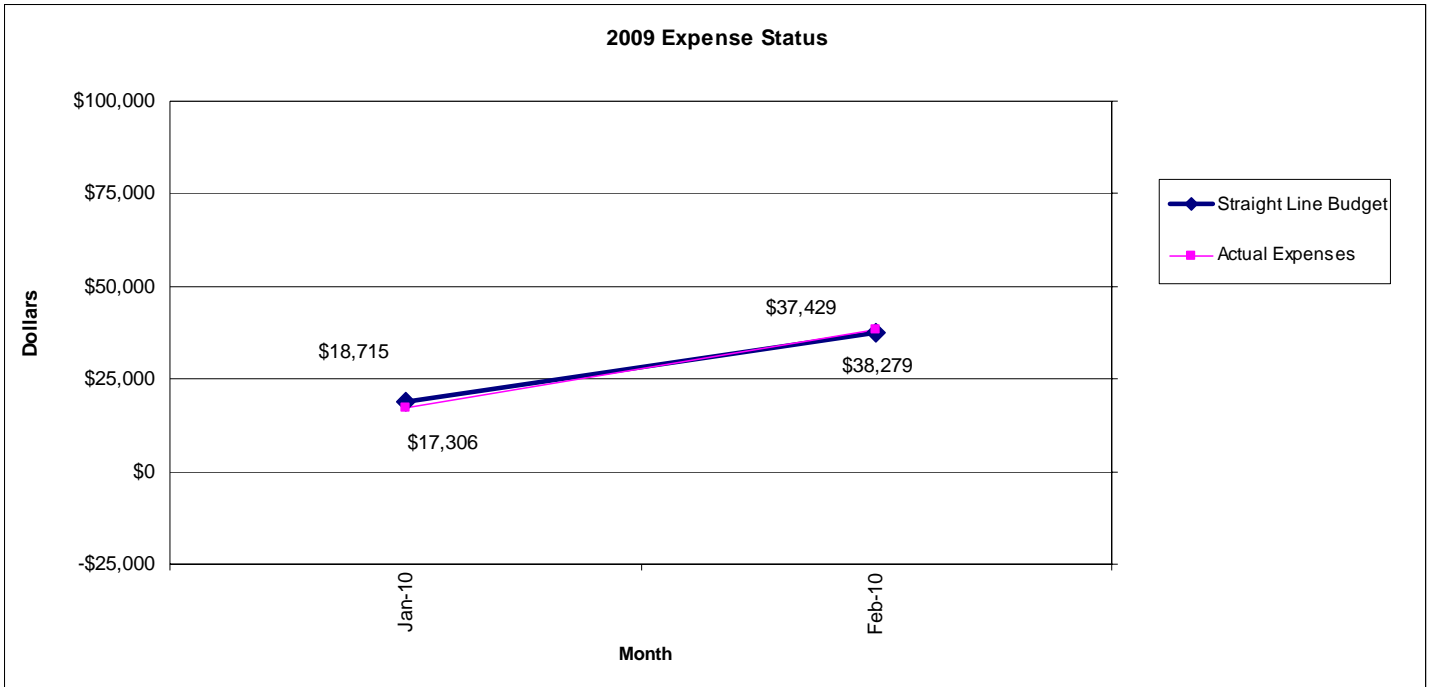
These two graphs summarize the final budget results for last year. The upper graph views our situation from an income perspective, and the bottom one does the same from the expense perspective.

Expense Data: The lines in the top graph provide a glimpse of our budget situation from the expense perspective. The Straight Line Budget, heavy line, is our approved 2010 budget of our actual expenses through February.

Income Data: The lines in the bottom graph provide a glimpse of our budget situation from the income perspective. The Income to Meet Budget, heavy line, is the same as the “Straight Line Budget” in the Expense Data graph. The Actual Income line is the thin line with squares, and the bottom line is the difference between the two lines. The difference represents the Budget Shortfall, which as of the end of February stood at \$15,552.

Note that the Straight Line Budget/Income to Meet Expenses line may differ from that reported in the Treasurer's Report because that accounts for anticipated monthly variations in spending.





People With Important Dates in April and May

April Birthdays

- 3 Ann Ammerman, Joy Weber
 4 Stefan Haroldsson
 5 Jennifer Graham, Kristian Graves,
 Virginia Johnson
 7 Jessie Eastburn, Ryan Heiss,
 Brandon White
 8 Lily Sartin
 9 Justin Hall
 10 Michael Detwiler
 12 Kathryn Baker, Barbara
 Macklem
 14 Jay Jones, Lydia Turner
 19 James Cook, Linnea Krahn,
 Elizabeth Metzner
 20 Caitlin Graves, April Sherwood
 24 Jerome Herlihy, Christopher
 Linderman
 25 Aiden Autry, Joyce Bukovsky,
 Julie Hazuda
 26 Alexander Gordon
 27 Sean Fillingame, Betty Gooden
 28 Sandra Knauer, Heather Sprague
 28 Christine Collins

April Anniversaries

- 6 Jane & James Conlon
 15 Ann & George Watson
 19 Mike & Nancy Graves
 Michael & Yvonne Lehm
 20 Errol & Carolyn Hartmann
 23 Timothy & Linda Wilson
 27 Ralph & Susan Heiss

April Volunteers

April Greeters

- 4 Potter Family
 11 Sharon & Woody Mutschler
 18 Fred Altergott
 25 Betsy Zimny

April Gathering Time Hosts

- 4 Lynn Splittorff
 11 Dale & Clarice Wolf
 18 Helen Cripe
 25 Sue & Gary Gooden

April Ushers

We are in need of additional people to fill in the usher ranks. If you

**are interested, please contact
 Ann Warner**

April Flower Delivery

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

April Altar Guild

- All Saturdays — Joyce Bukovsky
 4 Lydia Turner & Fran McKewen
 11 Lydia Turner & Fran McKewen
 18 Lydia Turner & Betsy Zimny
 25 Lydia Turner & Betsy Zimny

April Food Pantry Packers

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

April Lectors

- 4 Helen Cripe
 11 Ann Wagner
 18 Ralph Heiss
 25 Ann Warner

April Acolytes

- 4 Abby Jones
 11 Tyler Heiss
 18 Kyle Heiss
 225 Ann Warner

April Chalice Bearers

- 4 Bob Linderman & John
 Rodammer
 11 Carol Lay & Lynn Splittorff
 18 James Cook & Sharon Potter
 25 Fred Altergott & Sue Culley

May Volunteers

May Greeters

TBA

May Gathering Time Hosts

- 2 Lila Hall
 9 Carol Lay
 16 Sharon Mutschler
 23 Sharon Potter
 30 Bill Sperati

May Ushers

**We are in need of additional people to fill in the usher ranks. If you are interested, please contact
 Ann Warner**

May Flower Delivery

- 2 Lydia Turner
 9 Ann Wagner
 16 Clarice & Dale Wolf
 23 Jane & Chick Baddorf
 30 Lou Jackson

May Altar Guild

- All Saturdays — Joyce Bukovsky
 2 Carol Lay &
 9 Sally Dudderar & ?
 16 Sally Dudderar & Sharon Potter
 23 Sally Dudderar & Sharon Potter
 30 Carol Lay & ?

May Food Pantry Packers

- 2 Dick Parker
 9 Dale & Clarice Wolf
 16 Sue Heiss
 23 Sue Gooden
 30 Dick Parker

May Lectors

- 2 Lynn Splittorff
 9 Gary Gooden
 16 John Gordon
 23 Helen Cripe
 30 Ann Wagner

May Acolytes

- 2 Abby Jones
 9 Tyler Heiss
 16 Ann Warner
 23 Kyle Heiss
 30 Abby Jones

May Chalice Bearers

- 2 Jane Baddorf & John Gordon
 9 Chick Baddorf & Betty Sperati
 16 Sue & Ralph Heiss
 23 Lydia Turner & John Rodammer
 30 Bob Linderman & Carol Lay

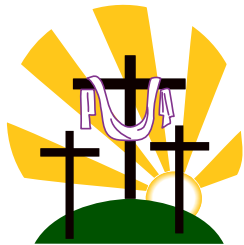
Our Monthly Schedule of Bible Study Groups

First Tuesday at 7:00 PM

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

**Second Tuesday and Fourth
Thursday at Noon**

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



Courier Deadlines for 2010

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

May 2010 issue — due date is April 17

June 2010 issue — due date is May 15

July/August 2010 issue — due date is June 19

September 2010 issue — due date is August 21

October 2010 issue — due date is September 18

November 2010 issue — due date is October 16

December 2010 issue — due date is November 20

January 2011 issue — due date is December 18

Stephen Minister Meeting Dates for 2010

March 18
April 29
May 20
June 17
July 15

August 19
September 16
October 21
November 18
December 16

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

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday

March 28

Worship 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday

April 1

Worship 10:30 am

Worship 7:30 pm

Good Friday

April 2

Worship noon

Worship 7:30 pm

Easter Vigil

April 3

Worship 7:30 pm

Easter Morning

April 4

Pot-luck Breakfast, 9 am

Worship 10:30 am

Treasurer's Report — January 31, 2010

	Budget (February)	Actual (February)	Budget (Year to Date)	Actual (Year to Date)
Income	\$28,682.47	\$10,882.36	\$42,800.35	\$22,722.47
Expenses	\$23,122.47	\$20,972.78	\$43,146.85	\$38,278.94

Due date for copy for the **May 2010 Courier** will be **April 17th at midnight**. Please email your *Courier* items as Microsoft Word or Publisher attachments to the editor at **helen.cripe@itrtechservices.com** or **cripehl@itrcorporation.com**, or fax to **302-425-4646**.

Thank you!



Midnight Sun

The Courier

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage
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Address Correction Requested

Sunday Morning Schedule

- + 9:00 AM Christian Education
- + 10:30 AM Worship Service

Who Does What at St. Stephen's

Staff

David E. Mueller, Interim Pastor Cell (302)-545-3065
Daniel Howe, Director of Music e-mail dirmusic@ststeph.org
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

Ralph Heiss Council President 798-5355
Betty Sperati Council Vice-President 994-6049
Debbie Nicholson Treasurer 652-8758
Woody Mutschler Financial Secretary 410-398-0446
Dave Warner Secretary 762-2389

Council Liaisons

Christian Education Sally Dudderar 234-1676
Outreach Gary Gooden 234-1417
Finance and Audit Dave Warner 762-2389
Nominating Ralph Heiss 798-5355
Nurture Sharon Potter 239-3896
Personnel Ralph Heiss 798-5355
Property John Rodammer 454-5858

Staff Support Betty Sperati 994-6049
Stewardship Carol Lay 657-0742
Worship and Music Lynn Splittorff 239-7457

Mission Teams

Sunday School Jane Conlon 764-2910
..... Sally Dudderar 234-1676
..... Sue Heiss 798-5355
Courier Editor Helen Cripe 652-1895
Fellowship Sharon Potter 239-3896
Outreach—Evangelism John Gordon 832-7054
Finance Dave Potter 239-3896
Personnel Dave Splittorff 239-7457
Property Lou Jackson 479-0226
..... Forrest Boettcher 378-3553
Social Ministry
Staff Support Betty Sperati 994-6049
Stewardship
Worship and Music Ann Wagner 494-8416
Altar Guild
..... Sonia Brode 836-4907
Ushers

Please email the Editor with any corrections or omissions.