

The Courier



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

Mueller's Musings

By Pastor David Mueller

I cannot help but recall a May happening a while back.

It was about 5:30 PM on a Monday. Mrs. Mueller and our first daughter, Kristin, had spent the afternoon with the congregation's Music Director on the west side of town. I was not sure I could get to them or get them home, but I was driven to try.

Absolutely no other vehicles were moving except the military ones or the police. Both sides of the street were lined with hundreds of police a top the two story business buildings. Their rifles were aimed down toward the street on which we drove anxious and alone. Helicopters flew overhead. We drove past an elementary school parking lot with over a hundred ambulances in the ready. Mrs. Mueller and little Kristin were stuffed on the floor of the car under the dashboard.

In the mere mile or so drive, we stopped at five checkpoints. I had gotten special permission to drive through town with my family. At one of those stops, I noticed the police officer's badge; he was from a city well over a hundred miles away.

It had all started on the previous Friday night. Norm Sandvoss, a young attorney from the congregation I was serving, had invited me to a "Law Day" banquet. By the time we drove home, West Main Street had been severely damaged. "JB's" was a popular "3.2 teen bar" with entertainment. Eighteen-year-olds from neighboring States would come into town and join local students in Friday night partying, usually fairly benign.

The bouncer from JB's removed a half dozen young men who had become unruly.

The six went outside and threw a beer bottle at a passing police car. Respectively, the two policemen in that car should have stopped it right then and there, but, instead, called for backup. By the time two police cars drove by, the crowd had grown to 50 or so. More backup was called in and there were now hundreds in the streets.

On Saturday night, the ROTC building was burned down and the National Guard had wedged the mass

(Continued on page 2)



Council Corner

By Betty Sperati

Your church council continues to be busy working on opportunities for our St Stephen's congregation.

First, if you are in the office or calling the office please welcome and introduce yourself to our new Office Coordinator, Maureen Ogden. She has already started working and is a great addition to our St. Stephen's staff.

Also, starting June 6th through September 5th we will begin our summer worship schedule. Our service time will be moving to 10am. Please mark this on your calendars.

Pastor Mueller is looking into conducting summer sessions of Bible study that will encompass several topics. None will be longer than 4 weeks in length. This will give everyone options on their various interests and journeys in Bible study. Look for upcoming info with topics, dates and times..

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Musings, cont.

of students back onto the campus. Sunday was fairly quiet, but tense. On Monday, after morning classes let out, several thousand students gathered on the commons to taunt the National Guard troops, many of whom had just spent several weeks on highway overpasses guarding passing traffic underneath from militant truckers during a nasty strike. Within an hour or so, four students were dead and seven others injured.

This was Kent, Ohio and Kent State University, May 1-4, 1970, an unbelievable 40 years ago. My internship (“Vicarage”) was to minister to the 1300 or so Lutheran students there that year.

Ironically, JB’s, where the ruckus had started, was owned by Joe Bujak, a Hungarian immigrant and member of Faith Lutheran Church at which the campus ministry was housed. He sold a restaurant-tavern further out on West Main Street because of problems with motorcycle gangs. And he got this?

The next week or so was pretty dicey. I could share more, but not now. Just remember, if you can—and will—that the same kind of National Guardsmen who are now serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, shot and killed several of our own young citizens right on American soil, protesting a war of then. That was a mere generation (40 years in Biblical numerology) ago.

Violence has shifted but not abated. President Nixon’s bombing of Cambodia was what seemingly fed unrest on American college campuses. Now, members of State and National government are being threatened. Certain violent crimes have been reduced, but domestic abuse continues in homes. Auto accident deaths have miraculously declined somewhat even as road rage and complete selfish rudeness prevails on our roadways. And there are other wars, just as far away, killing far fewer than the over 50,000 Americans in that other war; let us rejoice and be glad in that???????

Political positions and statements aside, we live in a volatile and violent world. Weather patterns, in recent years radically changing, no matter how understood, seem to be the least of our problems. Home and workplace “wars” would appear to be rising. We simply are no longer safe anywhere.

At the same time, what a pregnant time for spiritual peace to be birthed anew! What a time for Christian communities like St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church to be renewed in the Spirit and equipped to offer the community, country and world something other than conflict, tension, strife, terror, and hate.

Spring is exploding with beauty and fragrance (I am sure sneezing and wheezing) and I pray that it will explode for SSELG with power and promise. Together, for a while yet, we can hope and work for a future for the congregation you need and community which desperately needs us and the Savior we know!

Sola Dei Gloria!

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the Sunday School lesson was about.

The daughter answered, “Don’t be scared, you’ll get your quilt.”

Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning’s Sunday school lesson was about.

He said, “Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming.”

Council, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

You may have noticed that our old “lemonade” tree removal has been completed. The tree was in a very serious condition of decay and sadly needed to come down before it fell on other buildings or individuals. (See John Rodammer’s article on page 7.)

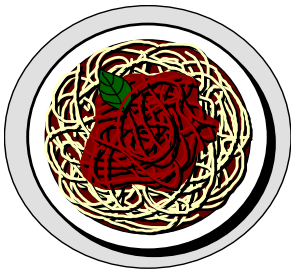
Dave Warner has presented the Wonder of the Windows plaque. Look for it to be on permanent display in the church.

In June, Ralph Heiss and Betty Sperati will be attending the Synod assemble meeting as delegates. Our new DE/MD Synod Bishop will be elected at this assembly. Please keep them in your prayers as they vote on this important decision.

And, as we continue to keep busy and journey through our interim period at St. Stephen’s looking towards our future, please pray for your church leaders. We are nearing the next phase of our interim journey.



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*****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

Many Hands Sharing God's Blessings

The LCS annual free fundraising Room at the Table Breakfast will be held on May 5 at the DuPont Country Club. Table captains have been busily filling the tables and organizers expect over 300 people to attend. If you would like to attend, and have not already accepted an invitation, please give us a call and as long as there is still room we will fit you in. The theme this year is "Many Hands Sharing God's Blessings." Our presentations will try to explain how the hands involved in both giving and receiving are blessed.

Collaboration and Partnership Are What We Do

In the face of the recent economic slowdown, nonprofits are being told that they need to work smart. One specific recommendation that comes up again and again is that nonprofits ought to partner with other nonprofits. To LCS that idea is anything but new. As a matter of fact, partnering is key to almost everything we do. At our food pantries for instance, which served almost 36,000 people last year, we only serve clients who have been referred by another nonprofit. We try to leave the interviews and eligibility to other churches or agencies, who then refer their clients to us. In our housing programs, we also work with other social service agencies, especially when what we can give a landlord for back rent or a security deposit, is less than what the client needs. Likewise, while we do give each housing client a 30 minute "financial education session," we refer them to other established providers of financial literacy assistance. In these ways, we work with literally hundreds of different partners!

It's Nice to Be Appreciated

LCS Program Manager Sandy Betley recently got a letter that lifted the spirits of all of us – "Awhile back I visited your office for help. Honestly you were by far the nicest person I had ever met especially for being in the kind of business you are in. In the end my family received the help we needed. Thank you Thank you so much! Everyone there was so nice and professional. Words are not enough" In difficult times, it's nice to know we are having an impact.

Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware:

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

The spring clean-up was held on a beautiful March Saturday morning. We pulled weeds, picked up branches, planted spring flowers and spread mulch. It was a great day with a great group of people working together to care for God's creation and to work together supporting Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware.

The Lutheran student group will be participating in the Relay for Life on May 1st.

Our meetings have been focused on creating ways to meet our operating expenses for the coming year. Donations are down from individuals and from Lutheran churches in the county. With God's guidance and help we will continue to fund all of our programs.

Pastor Bruce sends word telling us he has spent some time writing, visited the National Gallery of Art and has given a reading at Wesley. We miss you Pastor Bruce and look forward to reading some of your work when you return from your Sabbatical.

We Need You! Lutheran Campus Ministry is looking for members from New Castle County Lutheran Churches to serve on the Board of Directors. Meetings are held four Sunday evenings during the academic year and two meetings are held on our Saturday morning clean-up days, one in the fall and one in the spring. Requirements are few: Be willing to share your talents with a group of people interested in showing faith thru service to the Lutheran students at the U of D. The LCM Annual Business Meeting/Election will be held on Sunday, June 6, 7 p.m.

Each Lutheran Congregation in New Castle County is encouraged to support LCM at the University of Delaware by planning a youth group fundraiser to benefit the FISH program, recruit people to provide a meal for a Tuesday evening in May, give financial support whenever possible, and collect can tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. Please call Chris Ebert or Ann Warner at 368-3078 to volunteer, to schedule a meal or with questions about serving on the Board. Do you know the LCM calendar is a public Google calendar and can be accessed through the LCM website, www.lutheransatud.org ?

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

May 2010

								1 5:00 PM Progressive Dinner
2 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Service	3		4 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Mission Team Meetings	5	6 12:00 PM Leisure Lunch 7:30 PM Chancel	7		8
9 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Service	10		11 12:00 PM Downtown Bible Study 7:00 PM Congregation Council	12	13 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	14 11:59 PM Courier Deadline		15
16 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Service	17		18 9:30 AM Courier Folding	19	20 5:30 PM Stephen Ministers 7:30 PM Chancel	21		22
23 PENTECOST CONFIRMATION 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Service	24 7:00 PM Women's Book Study		25 11:45 AM Emmanuel Dining Room 12:00 PM Downtown Bible Study	26	27 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	28		29
30 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Service								

People With Important Dates in May and June

May Birthdays

- 3 John Swanson
- 4 Sue Linderman, William Taylor, Jr.
- 5 James Ropp
- 6 Carol Faedtke, Toomas Wilson
- 7 Robert Linderman
- 10 Carolyn Hartmann
- 12 Kyle Nance
- 16 Gigi Mueller
- 17 Carol Lay
- 20 Catherine Herlihy
- 21 John Gooden
- 22 Timothy Detwiler
- 23 Russell Wagner
- 25 Jayden Biesenbach
- 26 Linda Anderson
- 29 Marilyn Knodel, Jean Marcali
- 30 Christine Eastburn
- 31 Coon Mountain Midnight Sun

May Anniversaries

- 21 Kristal & Brian Hall
- 26 Susan & Michael Mack

May Volunteers

May Greeters

- 2 Carol Lay
- 9 Sally Dudderar
- 16 Fran & Charles McKewen
- 23 Heiss Family
- 30 Lydia Turner

May Gathering Time Hosts

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

May Ushers

**We need more people to be ushers.
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 & Sonia Apsley
- 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

June Volunteers

June Greeters

TBA

June Gathering Time Hosts

- 6 Lynn Splittorff
- 13 Dale & Clarice Wolf
- 20 Helen Cripe
- 27 Gary & Sue Gooden

June Ushers

**We need more people to be ushers. If
you are interested, please
contact Ann Warner**

June Flower Delivery

- 6 Carol Lay
- 13 Potter Family
- 20 Lydia Turner
- 27 Ann Wagner

June Altar Guild

- All Saturdays — Joyce Bukovsky
- 6 Jane Baddorf & Ingrid LaPorte
- 13 Jane Baddorf & Ingrid LaPorte
- 20 Jane Baddorf & Ursula Kroll
- 27 Jane Baddorf & Ursula Kroll

June Food Pantry Packers

- 6 Sue Heiss
- 13 Sue Gooden
- 20 Dick Parker
- 27 Dale & Clarice Wolf

June Lectors

- 6 Ralph Heiss
- 13 Lynn Splittorff
- 20 Gary Gooden
- 27 John Gordon

June Acolytes

- 6 Tyler Heiss
- 13 Kyle Heiss
- 20
- 27

June Chalice Bearers

- 6 Lynn Splittorff & Sharon Potter
- 13 James Cook & Jane Baddorf
- 20 John Gordon & Chick Baddorf
- 27 Betty Sperati & Lydia Turner



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)

**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

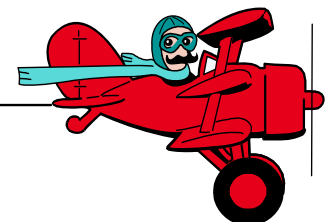
Copper Beech Tree

One of St. Stephen's land marks disappeared on April 14. The large Copper Beech tree next to the Chapel was removed as decay in the bottom "Y" made the tree susceptible to toppling during a storm.

Many of us remember the enjoyment it provided as shading for lemonade after church service or a place to linger on a hot summer day. It had 86 rings and spent about 80 years at St. Stephen's. It was most likely planted shortly after the new church was built in 1927. The Copper Beech tree was cultivated in Switzerland and was a favorite of European settlers. Thomas Jefferson planted several at Monticello, one survived to 1950 and the other to 1970.

The tree removal crew had one tree climber and two helpers. They filled three trucks with chips and 3 trucks with 2 foot trunk sections. The tree climber acted like a skilled surgeon as he cut branches away from the bottom to the top, tied off with a safety rope anchored near the top of the 60 foot tree. Once the branches had been removed, 10 foot sections of the two trunks were cut, which shook the ground when they landed.

Remember!
Sunday Services at 10:00 AM
June 6-Sept 5



Due date for copy for the **June 2010 Courier** will be **May 15th at midnight**. Please email your *Courier* items as Microsoft Word or Publisher attachments to the editor at **helen.cripe@itrtechservices.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
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Wilmington, DE
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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 494-8406
Altar Guild
..... Sonia Brode 836-4907
Ushers

Please email the Editor with any corrections or omissions.