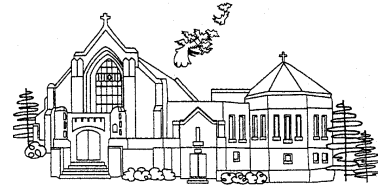


The Courier



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

September 2010

Mueller's Musings

By Pastor David Mueller

What on earth is "CMEP?"

I have recently become involved with the Delaware expression of the National Organization: Churches for Middle East Peace. Several of my previous colleagues in the community are involved. Knowing that I carry a passion for peace, especially in that part of the world, I was asked to join up and participate. After all, in Psalm 122: 6-9, David wrote: *"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers. For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say: 'Peace be within you.' For the sake of the Lord our God, I will seek your good."*

Jerusalem is on my mind especially because on August 26, we depart for there yet again. On Friday, August 28, at the Augusta Victoria Hospital Chapel, Andrew Younan and Natalie will become husband and wife.

Back in early 2001, I was studying at St. Georges College, an Anglican school in East Jerusalem. I had previously met Bishop Munib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) while on a Jewish-Christian pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Now in February of 2001, he and I were having coffee at Notre Dame Hotel, across the street from the Damascus Gate of the Olde City.

Upon hearing anew about the plight of Palestinian Christians, I could not help but ask: "what can I do?" His answer was a personal one.

"Our son is due to graduate from High School and there is neither money nor place for him to attend college." Without batting an eye or giving it the slightest thought, I simply said, "It is done!"

A half hour later I was in an internet café in Olde city, with dead goats hanging outside the door, emailing Dr. Alan Harre, the President of Valparaiso University, my own undergraduate alma mater. Andrew received the largest foreign student scholarship of one-half of all his expenses. The Muellers and eighteen other households from

(Continued on page 2)



The Konbit Shelter Project in Haiti

The **Konbit Shelter** Project, organized by artists Swoon and **Ben Wolf (grandson of Clarice and Dale)** to build sustainable housing in Haiti, was started about 3 weeks ago and several houses are now complete.

Konbit Shelter is a sustainable building project with the objective of sharing knowledge and resources through the creation of homes and community spaces in post earthquake Haiti. The organizers are a group of artists, builders, architects, and engineers, who, after the January 2010 earthquake, asked themselves how they could use their skills and resources to directly assist another community in a time of crisis.

The organizers' hope is to link creative passion as artists and training as architects and engineers with the broad knowledge and skills of local artisans, builders, and farmers. They envision collaboratively creating structures of beauty and joy which utilize the advantages of earth bag

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Musings, cont.

Concordia congregation forked out the other half. He graduated with honors in 2006.

Since then, he has received his Masters at the Technion in Haifa in northern Israel and is now working in his field of computer engineering. Natalie is a school teacher in Haifa and comes from Eastern Rite Catholic background. The Muellers would not miss this wedding for anything.

While in the States, we were Andrew's "American Mom and Dad." I promised his Palestinian father that I would do everything I could to encourage Andrew to go back home after college. So many Palestinian Christians have left their homeland. With the establishment of Israel in 1948, the Christian population was between 17 and 20%; it is now down to less than 2%.

Think for a moment, even if you have no inclinations to travel there, what it would be like if there were no Christians left in the land of our Lord! What if all that was left was deteriorating shrinkage? These questions plague me. They plague me most because of the people issues. Bishop Younan gets a kick out of those who ask him when his family converted to Christianity. He answers honestly, "*Oh, about 2000 years ago!*"

By the way, Bishop Younan was just elected President of the Lutheran World Federation. Lutherans have been in Israel/Palestine since the Kaiser. "Augusta Victoria" Hospital, where Andrew and Natalie's marriage ceremony will take place is named after the Kaiser's wife. That hospital sits on the side of the Mount of Olives overlooking Olde City Jerusalem.

Back to praying for the peace of Jerusalem, I would offer simply (realizing this is as complicated as it gets) that a Two-State solution is utterly essential not just for the preservation of the Palestinian Christians, and, for that matter, Moslems, but for the preservation of the State of Israel as a Jewish State as well.

Andrew and Natalie are Israeli Arabs, citizens of the State of Israel. Most Palestinians are not, but given birth rates and related issues, Arabs will one day outnumber Jews in Israel. Israel, we Americans are quick to point out, is a Democracy. It is clearly different with its political coalitions rather than our two-party system, but a democracy nonetheless. What if there were more Arab voters than Jews?

CMEP takes no sides either with Jews or Palestinians and remains committed to a Two-State solution and a shared Jerusalem. Much could be made here about Jewish Settlements, Security Walls, rockets launched from Gaza at Israeli targets, and Israeli jets decimating Hamas strongholds. It is all complicated, dangerous (for those who live there), and riddled with hate and hostility. Perhaps this is why it is a Biblical mandate for us to pray for Jerusalem. I am grateful in the extreme to know folks over there on both sides of the borders, to travel there frequently and show pilgrims present reality as well as past history, to go there now for something as beautifully mundane as a marriage, and for a heart burning with desire to see peace there.

Please do not pray for me; pray with me! Sola Dei Gloria!

Konbit Shelter, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

and dome architecture as adapted to the climate and conditions of the specific locale.

The super-adobe technique of earth bag architecture is an extraordinary building design for its ability to create earthquake, hurricane, flood, and fire resistant structures, using inexpensive and locally available resources. The approach specifically addresses the world wide need for adequate housing. This system of building provides an easily replicable model, which can be built without using specialized construction machinery and participated in by the men, women and children of any community. Utilizing 90% earth, and only 10% cement, these structures are stronger than the now common cinder block and concrete slab construction. The technique also uses little to no wood, an invaluable asset in timber depleted Haiti.

Konbit Shelter is partnering with the Mango Grower's Association of Leogane in the village of Barrier Jeudi to create the first community center this July and August. By sourcing all materials within Haiti, and raising money to hire a crew of builders from the community to train in the construction style, the project intends to bring the kind of assistance that promotes the local economy, creates jobs, and builds valuable skill sets.

The definition of Konbit in Creole is a traditional form of cooperative communal labor in Haiti, whereby the able-bodied folk of a locality help each other prepare their fields. It is a time for solidarity and cooperation in the face of adversity. The Konbit Shelter Project is referencing the word with a global interpretation, people coming together to work cooperatively across national boundaries.

2010 Contribution Statements

Your contribution statement mailing schedule:

- January – July 2010: mailed end of August
- August – October 2010: mailed first week December to provide contribution status prior to end of year and an opportunity to catch-up contributions for 2010.
- Final full year 2010 statements will be mailed by mid-January 2011.

At any time during the year, a statement can be requested for your review and records. Please contact the St. Stephen's office and leave a message for Carol Lay.

Emmanuel Dining Room needs contributions to fulfill our commitment to them for the rest of the year. It costs about \$125 per month to maintain this service. Please make checks to St. Stephen's, but specify EDR on the "For" line.

The church office is updating the church directory and would like to be sure we have your correct current information. If you have moved, please check to see that we have your correct address and phone number. If you would like your email address and cell phone number included in addition to your address and land line number, please give this information to the office. If you prefer not to have your email address and cell phone number in the directory, the office will respect your privacy and not include them.

Council Corner

By Carol Lay

Summer has gone by so quickly. Council historically doesn't meet during August. Our last meeting was July 13 and our next meeting which would normally be held the second Tuesday of the month, has been moved up to September 8.

Devotions: The July meeting began with John Rodammer leading devotions.

Minutes and Correspondence: Minutes from June were approved. Notification was received from Maureen Ogden that she had found a full time job and was leaving June 15th. We really appreciated Maureen's short time with us; she stepped in to the role of office administrator seamlessly and was so well organized and helpful to Pastor. With Maureen's leaving, another door opened and Babs Babineaux reached out to St. Stephen's, letting us know she would like to return. We were very fortunate in her return. She is now in place in the office, so please take a moment to welcome her back when you have a chance.

Finance Team report: Finance will be presenting a congregational letter during August summarizing our financial status. Your contribution statements will be included in this mailing. The financial health letter will be sent out on a quarterly basis. Access to financial information is always available to the congregation. If a financial statement is wanted, please contact the office and leave a message for the Finance Team.

Pastor's report: Pastor and the SCIM Steering Committee met during July. They are ready to move into the next phase of "Envisioning" in which plans are made for our future – short and long range. There are also plans for a renewed stewardship program which will include our vision process.

Pastor has sent his 6 month Interim Report to the Synod office and will be seeking to engage our new Bishop once he has a chance to move into his new position.

Pastor and several volunteers have reviewed the congregation membership roll. It is very important in our interim process to know who our active membership is. This review will be completed by the end of August, with a list having been given to the Financial Secretary who will advise simply whether or not the individuals have been active over the last 2-1/2 years.

Computer update: Good news regarding our computer problems. The Office Administrator's computer has been replaced and is working well. We want to thank the generosity of everyone who has contributed to the Computer Replacement Fund. We have an extra \$410 in the fund now towards the replacement of the Volunteer's computer. This computer is also approximately 10 years old and is where the membership, contribution and Financial Secretary information is maintained. We hope to be able to replace this computer by early 2011.

Offering Envelopes: Revised offering envelopes have been ordered. Debt Reduction on the weekly offering envelope is being removed and four quarterly Special Offering envelopes will be included. The order was placed early August locking in 2010 pricing for 2011 and 2012.



by Steve Tindall

Get Ready for the Hunger Walk Run

September is Hunger Action Month and our annual Hunger Walk Run on **September 18** in Rockford Park is one way you can get involved. LCS food programs helped over 55,000 people in 2009 and the demand for help is even stronger this year. The Hunger Walk Run is the single largest piece of funding for our emergency food programs and therefore critically important to keeping our pantries open. Here are some exciting things about this year's event:

- 18 & Under Competitive Run – Anyone age 18 or less can enter the competitive 5k race portion of the Hunger Walk Run. They'll get a free t-shirt (for the \$15 registration fee), special prizes, and medals for the top finishers.
- 1 Mile Walk and Talk – For anyone not up to the full 5K event. Eligible for all prizes.
- Food Drive – Remember the Walk Run is a food drive too! Bring cans and boxes.

Get a registration form from your church, at www.lcsde.org, or via email: info@lcsde.org.

Bank of America and Gilliam Grants

To help meet the expenses for the food and all the other help for low income families that we provide, two local foundations have provided us with generous grants. Bank of America Foundation awarded us \$15,000 for operating expenses. The Gilliam Foundation awarded us \$5,000 to help with food distributions at Shiloh Baptist and New Cavalry Baptist. Thank you!

St. Mark's and Good Shepherd Contest

For the second year in a row, Good Shepherd and St. Marks have challenged each other and teamed up to attain a joint goal of a total of 150 run/walkers! They are also recruiting a Green Team – people who are willing to have their hair/heads green if they reach their goal of 150. Other churches might want to consider similar challenges. If the St. Mark's-Good Shepherd experience is a fair indicator, competition works to increase participation.



Lutheran Volunteer Corps

Working for Social Justice
Living in Intentional Community
Exploring Simplified
Sustainable Living

By Judy Zahnow

Please join the LVC support committee in thanking the LVC Volunteers for their year of service in Wilmington. They will end their year of service on August 11th.

A new group of individuals will begin a year of service in LVC on August 15th.

The New Lutheran Volunteers are arriving in Delaware August 22nd and 23rd to live together in two houses in the city.

We are looking for local **Host Individuals/Families** for the volunteers. Host Individuals/Families serve as an additional source of support for the volunteer during the year.

Agencies being served: NCC Habitat for Humanity (3); Ministry of Caring (3); Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center; Lutheran Community Services; and, Connections.

Brief articles about each of these volunteers and their work experiences will be shared with you in the coming months.

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

www.heidilynnette@hotmail.com

September 2010

				1		2	3	4 6:05 PM Night at the Blue Rocks
5 10:00 AM Traditional Service	6	7 7:00 PM Mission Team Meetings	8	9	10	11		
12 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Service 12:00 PM Worship	13	14 12:00 PM Downtown Bible Study 7:00 PM Congregation Council	15	16	17 11:59 PM Courier Deadline	18		
19 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Service	20	21 10:30 AM Courier folding 5:30 PM Stephen Ministers	22	23	24	25 11:45 Emmanuel Dining Room		
26 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Service	27	28 12:00 PM Downtown Bible Study	29	30	31			

People With Important Dates in July and August

September Birthdays

- 1 Peter Conlon
- 4 Kristin Haroldsdottir
- 5 David Krahn
- 6 Mark Detwiler, Dale Wolf
- 11 Paige Detwiler, George Watson
- 15 Patricia Swanson
- 17 Nicholas Emerick, Peter Krahn
- 18 Lauren DeSantis, Amanda Lehm
- 19 Dan Hall
- 21 Susan Gooden, Brian Mutschler
- 22 Errol Hartmann, C. Robert Sperati
- 25 Debbie Nicholson
- 26 Phyllis Wilkes
- 27 Ralph Fillingame, Jr., Mark Lehm
- 28 Erica Linderman
- 29 Thomas Herlihy

September Anniversaries

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

September Volunteers

September Greeters

- 5 Lydia Turner
- 12 Potter Family
- 19 Betty Metzner
- 26 Jane & Chick Baddorf

September Gathering Time Hosts

- 5 Sally Dudderar
- 12 Gary & Sue Gooden
- 19 Lila Hall
- 26 Carol Lay

September Flower Delivery

- 5 Lou Jackson
- 12 Carol Lay
- 19 Potter Family
- 26 Lydia Turner

September Altar Guild

All month — Sharon Potter and Fran McKewen

September Food Pantry Packers

- 5 Sue Gooden
- 12 Clarice & Dale Wolf
- 19 Dick Parker
- 26 Sue Heiss

September Lectors

- 5 Lynn Splittorff
 - 12 Ann Warner
 - 19 Gary Gooden
 - 26 John Gordon
- ### September Chalice Bearers
- 5 John Rodammer
 - 12 Sue Culley & John Gordon
 - 19 Jane Baddorf & Fred Altergott
 - 26 Chick Baddorf & Betty Sperati

October Volunteers

October Greeters

TBA

October Gathering Time Hosts

- 3 Sharon Mutschler
- 10 Sharon Potter
- 17 Bill Sperati
- 24 Lynn Splittorff
- 31 Dale & Clarice Wolf

October Flower Delivery

- 3 Ann Wagner
- 10 Clarice & Dale Wolf
- 17 Jane & Chick Baddorf
- 24 Lou Jackson
- 31 Carol Lay

October Altar Guild

- 3 Jane Baddorf & Ursula Kroll
- 10 Jane Baddorf & Ursula Kroll
- 17 Jane Baddorf & Ursula Kroll
- 24 Jane Baddorf & Ingrid LaPorte
- 31 Jane Baddorf & Ingrid Laporte

October Food Pantry Packers

- 3 Sue Gooden
- 10 Clarice & Dale Wolf
- 17 Dick Parker
- 24 Sue Heiss
- 31 Sue Gooden

October Lectors

- 3 Helen Cripe
- 10 Ann Wagner
- 17 Ralph Heiss
- 24 Lynn Splittorff
- 31 Ann Warner

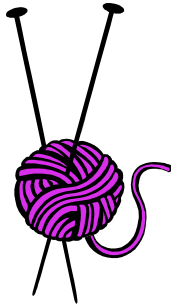
October Chalice Bearers

- 3 Sue & Ralph Heiss
- 10 Lydia Turner & John Rodammer
- 17 Carol Lay & Lynn Splittorff
- 24 Lynn Splittorff & Sharon Potter
- 31 John Gordon & Jane Baddorf

Welcome back, Babs!

We are happy to have Babs Babineaux back in the church office, and she is enjoying being back. She is in the office 3 mornings a week, usually Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, but these days may change occasionally to accommodate certain things that need to be done, or previous scheduling commitments. Feel free to stop in and say hello when you have a chance..

Watch for news about the November 5th Art Loop at St. Stephen's! We will host Kit Mounger of east Tennessee, an artist in fabrics. She will bring her original designs, one-of-a-kind items such as wall hangings, tote bags, pillows, etc. Some will feature cats, as she is a former breeder of Maine Coons. She will also bring some of the books she has written. She is looking forward to this event!



Evelyn Smith is still in great need of yarn for RSVP, the organization she belongs to that knits for charity. In fact, unless their stock is replenished they may have to cancel future meetings. The contact at RSVP is Susan Fox, 255-9690. You may also leave bags and boxes of yarn in the library section of the Gathering Area and the *Courier* editor will notify Evelyn that there is yarn at St. Stephen's to be picked up.



Courier Deadlines for 2010

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

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

Do You Need a Stephen Minister?

The Stephen Ministers ministry at St. Stephen's offers a person experiencing a crisis the opportunity to have a one-on-one confidential relationship with a trained Stephen Minister who will meet regularly with the person as he/she deals with his/her crisis. If you, or someone you know, is in crisis or is hurting from a loss or just needs someone to talk to, please contact Pastor Mueller or Bob Linderman, 302.239.7650. Both male and female Stephen Ministers are available for immediate assignment. If you need more information, please review the Stephen Ministry information cards in the pew holders or speak to Pastor Mueller or Bob Linderman.

Stephen Ministry

The date for the monthly Stephen Ministry meetings has been changed to the third Tuesday of the month starting in August. The dates for the remainder of 2010 are: **September 21; October 19; November 16; and December 21.** Meetings will continue to be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Peer supervision will start at 5:30, BYO supper and devotions will start at 7:00, and continuing education will be held from 7:30 to 8:30.

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

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

Due date for copy for the **October 2010 Courier** will be **September 18th at midnight.** Please email your *Courier* items, as text in the email format or 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

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Sunday Morning Schedule

- + 9:00 AM Christian Education
- + 10:00 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
Maureen Ogden, 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

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Ralph Heiss Council President798-5355
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 Gooden234-1417
Finance and Audit Dave Warner.....762-2389
Nominating..... Ralph Heiss.....798-5355
Nurture Sharon Potter239-3896
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

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..... Sally Dudderar..... 234-1676
..... Sue Heiss 798-5355
Courier Editor Helen Cripe..... 652-1895
Fellowship Sharon Potter 239-3896
Outreach—Evangelism John Gordon 8327054
Finance Dave Potter 239-3896
Personnel..... Dave Splittorff..... 239-7457
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..... 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.