



The  
**pirit**  
June 2010

*St Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

65 E. Street Road  
Feasterville, Pa. 19053



“**Jacuzzi Jesus**” was the title of an article in “Homiletics”, a clergy journal on preaching. The catchy title caught my attention. The author of the article was making the point that the last thing some people want from their worship experience is a disruption in their style of living life or a challenge to grow in Faith where Jesus truly makes a difference. “What many really want is a “Jacuzzi Jesus” - an experience that will leave them relaxed, warm, and bubbly, at the same time, feeling fit and trim when they get out—like they’ve gotten in shape.”

Donald J. Shelby quotes an unnamed writer who expressed this desire for a Jacuzzi Jesus; “I would like to buy only \$3.00 worth of God, please. Not enough to explode my soul or disturb my sleep, but just enough to equal a cup of warm milk or a snooze in the sunshine. I don’t want enough of God to make me love a foreigner, or pick fruit with a migrant farm worker. I want the warmth of the womb, not a new birth. I want a pound of the eternal in a paper sack. I would like to buy \$3.00 worth of God, please.”

Baptism is not a Jacuzzi experience that simply warms you for the moment. Baptism is not a bubbly bath that gives the aching muscles of life a momentary reprieve. Baptism is rebirth. It is an entire new life that radically changes our relationship with God. In baptism we are reborn in Christ. Therefore, we are either fully alive in Him or we are dead!

There is absolutely no such thing as “\$3.00 worth of God” no such thing as a faith that touches one part of life but not another. That would be like trying to say that someone is only a “little pregnant”. Either she is or she is not. There is no in between. Faith is a total commitment and there is no in between.

Martin Luther knew the danger of a comfortable faith that didn’t expect any commitment or faithfulness to God’s call upon a person’s life. Of this kind of Jacuzzi Jesus, Luther wrote in a sermon delivered on September 21, 1538; “...faith must be true and not false. For there are many who do confess these two points that Christ is true God and Savior; but their confession remains mere froth on the tongue. For this reason St. John (John 3: 19) insists that faith be genuine and active in good works and that it be seen through works... for faith is so serious a matter that it does not remain with good works.”

The good works which reflects a living faith that Luther spoke of are the works of a faithful worship, of stewardship of time, talent and resources, of prayer. In very practical terms it means; you worship every Sunday (or Saturday), you tithe your income, you look for ways to nurture and encourage and spread the saving faith of Jesus Christ who is the Son of God. Anything short of striving to live such a faith is a Jacuzzi Jesus.

*Pastor John*



## Music in the Lutheran Church

Our use of music in worship, especially singing Psalms, goes back to our Jewish heritage. The Bible tells us that at the Last Supper Jesus and his disciples sang a hymn before going into the Garden of Gethsemane. Now, that style of singing was probably different than ours, but they sang. One of the changes that Luther made to worship was to give the people more participation in the service. One way they participated was to sing hymns, some written by Luther, himself, and some by other composers of the time. "The only true medium of communication, Luther thought, is shared experience". "He liked to say of the Bible that we understand it only in that moment when we feel from within what we hear from without, so that we are constrained to sigh, 'Ah, verily, that is the way it is'". ["Luther" by Haile, p.52]

Many other denominations sing many different hymns and spiritual songs in today's church. We have music all down through history as well as all the "new songs" that are being written in our time. If you don't like one particular hymn, you will like another if you come to church regularly.

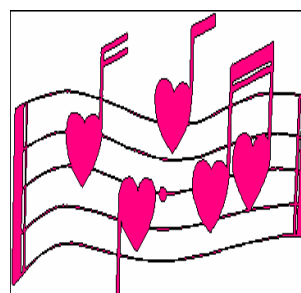
We are blessed to have choirs who sing special anthems for us each Sunday. This tradition came from the church before Luther when only the monks, priests and choirs sang and the people just listened. Choirs are to lead us in our singing and help with the "hard notes" in a hymn, as well as to present an anthem. Of course, there are other instruments, like trumpets and hand-bells which can add so much festivity to worship as well.

We should take this opportunity to thank all those who play or sing at church in any capacity. These people give of their time and talent for worship to God and for our enjoyment. Thank them when you get a chance, especially the organist and choir director. Can you imagine how boring church would be without any music?

If God gave you a talent in music, (or any other talent, actually) did you ever think that maybe He wants you to use it in church? Offer yourself, to add to our worship experience.

*Pastor Peggy*

Being a church musician improves



**your Heart  
and your  
ART**

**Trish Conover**

**M**usic has always been a huge part of my life. I knew by the time I was 6 years old that I wanted to spend the rest of my life making music. Throughout my life as a performer, conductor and teacher, I have collected many quotes about the importance and power of music. Here are a few that I believe you will enjoy:

**"We get nearer to the Lord through music than perhaps through any other thing except prayer." –Anonymous**

**"I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving." - Psalm 69:30**

**"Music is truly the universal language, and when it is excellently expressed how deeply it moves our souls." - Unknown**

*[Look for pink boxes throughout the newsletter for more of Trish's favorites.]*

I have been very fortunate to have performed with many wonderful musicians over the years...some of my musical highlights have been singing with the Westminster Choir at Carnegie Hall with Luciano Pavarotti, performing on the opera stage in Spoleto, Italy with Gian Carlo Menotti as the musical director, singing under the direction of Riccardo Muti, Robert Shaw and Joseph Flummerfelt; performing at the Musical Memorial Service for Leonard Bernstein, and most recently, playing for Broadway great, Timothy Shew (Les Mis) at Alice Tully Hall in New York City. All of these experiences have shaped my "musical life" and I am truly grateful for all of them.

**"Music speaks what cannot be expressed, soothes the mind and gives it rest, heals the heart and makes it whole, flows from heaven to the soul." -**

**Anonymous**



## Bell-B-Q - June 6th



Plan to attend the annual Bell-B-Q. Luncheon will be served immediately after the 10:00 Service and then enjoy a concert by the bell choir. Ticket price of \$8.00 will be used toward purchase of a new bell in memory of Dennis Martin. Don't miss this annual favorite event!

## Music Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup>

Please come on Music Sunday, June 13 to St. Stephens and celebrate the wonderful music of the church. The Youth Choir will be featured in meaningful, dramatic sketches accompanied by musical selections sung with the Adult Choir. The program for the 8:30 am and 10 am services will be identical.



## Music in My Life

By Joan Bowman

What does music mean to you? Why is it important in your life? What does music add to your life?

Music has always been an integral part of my life. As a child I took piano lessons for 8 years. I sang in school choirs, and as an adult I learned to play guitar.

My oldest son, David, was a member of the Philadelphia Boys Choir for 4 years, and he played in Neshaminy's Marching Band and sang in Neshaminy's Concert Choir. At Peabody Conservatory and Temple University he majored in music education, and he taught public school music for 12 years.

I have been fortunate to be a member of St. Stephen's Bell Choir for the past 8 years under the direction of talented Trish Conover. She always challenges us and inspires us to reach new heights in music.

To me a day without music is like a day without sunshine. Music lifts me up and calms me.

*"Music is truly the universal language, and when it is excellently expressed how deeply it moves our souls."  
-Robert Shaw*

## ST. STEPHEN'S LUNCH BUNCH THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2010

The meeting will be in Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m. and entertainment will follow. We will then have our picnic catered by Personal Touch Caterers.

### PLEASE BRING DESSERTS



Send your check in the sum of \$9.00 made out to St. Stephen's Lunch Bunch to: Ann Stellwagen, 432 Walnut Ave., Trevoese, PA 19053 by June 11th.

## St. Stephen's Travelers *A little travelin' music, please!*

A trip is planned for **Tuesday, July 13**, I have not planned exactly to where we will be going, but it will be around water, as we usually do in the summer.

**September 13, 14, and 15** will be to Ocean City, MD. Plans are finalized for this trip.



**December 7th** will be our Mystery Trip. Two buses have been reserved. I promise, honestly, there will be very limited walking - only fun, fun and more fun.

Everyone will receive a flyer on these trips as soon as they are completed. Mark your calendars and be ready to travel.

**Your friend, Sharon**

## Don't come to church on June 20<sup>th</sup> At your regular time, that is.

St. Stephen's Summer Schedule Begins on June 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be one service at 9:30 AM every Sunday through August.

## Harpsichord at St. Stephen's Notes from Pastor Peggy



St. Stephen's is unusual in that it owns its own harpsichord. In the history of the church in America, many churches owned organs and pianos, and handbells and lately, many instruments like guitars and drums, but not harpsichords. I was intrigued when I came here and found out we had one. I'm not sure when it was purchased, but I got some information from a recital program from 2001 that gave this about it: A variety of special woods were used including spruce, cedar, and ebony. The strings are made of bronze, steel and brass. The strings are plucked rather than hit as in a piano. The harpsichord is a very delicate instrument and has a smaller degree of loud and soft tones. The composer uses more notes in the chord to make it sound louder. At one point, we thought we wanted to sell it because it wasn't being used very often, but then Holly started playing it for us and it adds a special music sound for our worship. Because it is frail, it has to be tuned very often, more like a violin than a piano. Tuning takes time so therefore it isn't used as much today as in a time when life was at a slower pace. Be sure to listen to that distinctive sound the next time it is played.

## GIVE BLOOD ON JUNE 18TH

Every minute of every day, someone needs blood. That blood can only come from a volunteer donor, a person like you who makes the choice to donate. There is no substitute for your donation.



When you make a blood donation, you join a very select group. Currently only 3 out of every 100 people in America donate blood. St. Stephens Church will host our quarterly Red Cross Blood drive on **Friday, June 18, 2010** in fellowship hall from 2:00 pm to 7:15 pm Call Charlie Baun at 215-914-0661 and reserve a donation time or just let us know you're coming.

## ONE RINGY-DINGY



The church office has introduced a new answering service. In the event that church services are cancelled, members of the congregation need only call the church office phone (215-357-8138) and listen to the announcement. The cancellation announcement will be available on the office phone as soon as the decision is made to cancel services. Any questions should be directed to Charlie Baun.

Due to this newly enhanced automated church phone answering service there is no need for church closing callers. Charlie would like to thank all those goodhearted members who volunteered to make church closing calls to the congregation.

*"We are in a position, as musicians, to touch the souls of those who listen."  
- Joseph Flummerfelt*



## Make Today Your 'Someday'!

On **June 6<sup>th</sup>** the Lutheran Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Leader will visit with us in the Narthex after each of the church services. Together with Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County, Thrivent and 19 regional Lutheran Churches, St Stephens is looking for volunteers to assist in the building of a house for a needy family. This year's house is currently being built in Levittown. We are looking for volunteers of all ages who are willing to assist with this endeavor. No expertise in skilled labor is needed. Help In placing drywall is needed for June 29<sup>th</sup> and help with painting and landscaping is needed for July 9<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in "signing up" should see Lynn Billingham or Kim Coleman. And of course monetary donations are gladly accepted. We need your help in order for this family of five to begin their new journey in their new home

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, fourteen young men and women were confirmed at St. Stephen's. With pride and joy, the congregation sends congratulations to Jim Badler, Nicky Blessing, Matt Gladu, Erich Hansen, Shannon Kelly, Sam Myers, Gina Nickel, Hubert Pinkerton, Jaime Renman, Ellie Schenk, Tim Schwartzer, Tim Walter, Brett West and Spencer Yeingst.

WE  YOU!

## An Open Letter to the Confirmand Class

Congratulations to the 14 young people who affirmed their baptism on May 16th. I'm sure there was a time back in the dark, cold winter when you thought the classes would never end and you would never see May 16! But, you all "hung in there" and now you are adult members of St. Stephen's.

With your membership to church come some obligations. We are all so happy that you want to be part of our church, so please use your membership to the fullest. Come regularly to worship, take part in the work of this church with your time and talents, and bring your gifts of money to help this church do its work throughout the world. You are also encouraged to take part in any and all congregational meetings that we hold.

More than this, keep a close relationship to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ through daily Bible reading, prayer, and weekly worship. Keep God in your life and you will always have a Comforter any time of day or night. God be with and bless each one of you.

*Pastor Peggy*

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our **GRADUATES!**  
We're so proud of you! Graduating from Neshaminy High School are James Walter and Kristine Dougherty. James plans to attend Bucks County Community College in the fall and Kristine will be studying at Rider College. Andrew Cassidy is graduating from Archbishop Wood High School. Andrew will be going to Temple University majoring in Art Education. We wish you all the very best!

**CONGRATULATIONS**

## BILLINGHAM NAMED VP

St. Stephen's Church congratulates Ken Billingham who was made First Vice President of the Past Matrons and Past Patrons Association of New Jersey Order of The Eastern Star. This is a philanthropic Organization which helps families who have experienced a recent tragedy. We're proud of you, Ken, for the good work you do.

## NOT THE VON TRAPPS....BUT

In my house are many mansions disguised as blessings; one such is music. In this particular mansion there are five pianists, three of whom are accomplished and well beyond the scope of "chop sticks", and two of those 'sing and ring' for Patricia.

One son-in-law has made a dulcimer, drum, and two violins, and has played gigs in Irish pubs on St. Pat's Day – when he was younger.

Another son-in-law currently plays a recorder, clarinet and three saxes, and is a member of several bands (Tri-County is one).

Not to be outdone by the elders, the "grand" generation, still maturing and practicing, has an instrument list as follows: a sax, guitar, drum, cello, piano, viola, and harp.



Music is truly a blessing, enjoyed by all of us. Thank you, Lord, for sprinkling some love, interest, and talent upon my house...my mansion.

*Joyce Veith*

**WOW!**

**WE THINK YOU'RE  
PRETTY SPECIAL!**

Congratulations to Gina Nickels who is in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Poquessing Middle School and has been chosen for the Junior National Honor Society. Good work Gina!

Sunday June 20<sup>th</sup>

To all the wonderful Fathers of St. Stephen's congregation...

## HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

### What Makes a Dad

God took the strength of a mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of a quiet sea,  
The generous soul of nature,  
The comforting arm of night,  
The wisdom of the ages,  
The power of the eagle's flight,  
The joy of a morning in spring,  
The faith of a mustard seed,  
The patience of eternity,  
The depth of a family need,  
Then God combined these qualities,  
When there was nothing more to add,  
He knew His masterpiece was complete,  
And so, He called it ... Dad

Author Unknown

*"I am comforted by the assurance that there will be beautiful music in heaven, and for that I am most grateful." -Leonard Bernstein*

*A friend of the Library suggests: "Those who purchased books in our recent book sale, hold onto them after you have read them. Sooner or later we will have another book sale." Hmm, wonder how many times we can sell you the same books. It's the gift that keeps giving!*

### PLEASE NOTE-



*June 17<sup>th</sup> is National Eat your Vegetables Day*



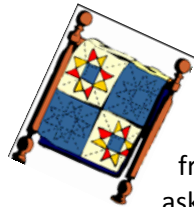
*Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcome Wesley Sebastian Gunn into the kingdom of God and into our fellowship.*

## COME MEET YOUR HERO

**Welcome all!** Children! Parents! Grandparents! Friends! Neighbors! **St. Stephen's Vacation Bible School** promises fun for everyone. We'll have Games, crafts and refreshments and Pastor Peggy will bring to life your favorite hero (or heroine) from the bible. Meet Jacob and Joseph; Ruth; Stephen; Dorcas and Priscilla. Our theme is "Helping Others".

Save the dates: **July 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15th, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**, join in every Thursday night in July, 6:30-8:00 PM.

## WANTED QUILTERS



For our VBS craft project we will be making 2 quilts or blankets for charity. One will require sewing; the other is kid friendly with no sewing involved. We are asking for donations of **cotton scrap materials** we could use for the one quilt. And we're hoping to find some quilters in the congregation that will come and help. Lynn Billingham is leading the quilting group and she is planning on the "Jacob's Ladder Design." The finished blankets, after being displayed, will be donated to the Food Bank to be given to a needy family.

*If you don't know where you are going to, you will end up somewhere else.*

- Lewis Carroll

*Make a plan today!  
The Endowment Fund Board*

# Community Events

## Dance Del Bello performs At BCC June 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>

A non-profit, ballet and modern dance company in residence at the Pennsylvania Dance Institute, Dance Del Bello will perform ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** at Bucks County Community College, Gateway Theatre. The company is a spirited troupe of adult dancers and, by invitation only, PDI students. Dancing with them will be our own **Krista Pinkerton**. Krista has been performing with the group for several years. Performances are Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm and Saturday June 19<sup>th</sup> 3:00 pm. Adults \$20, Students/Seniors \$16, Children \$8.

*"The most effective preaching of the gospel is when it is accompanied by beautiful, appropriate music." -Anonymous*

## A FATHERS' DAY MESSAGE FROM GOD TO YOU.

### My Child...

**You may not know me, but I know everything about you.** *Psalm 139:1* For you were made in my image. *Genesis 1:27* In me you live and move and have your being. *Acts 17:28* For you are my offspring. *Acts 17:28* it is my desire to lavish my love on you. *1 John 3:1* Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. *1 John 3:1* Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. *James 1:17* For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. *Matthew 6:31-33*

**My plan for your future has always been filled with hope.** *Jeremiah 29:11* Because I love you with an everlasting love. *Jeremiah 31:3* I rejoice over you with singing. *Zephaniah 3:17* I will never stop doing good to you. *Jeremiah 32:40* For you are my treasured possession. *Exodus 19:5* If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me. *Deuteronomy 4:29* Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart. *Psalm 37:4* For it is I who gave you those desires. *Philippians 2:13* For I am your greatest encourager. *2 Thessalonians 2:16-17*

**I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles.** *2 Corinthians 1:3-4* One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. *Revelation 21:3-4* And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. *Revelation 21:3-4* I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. *John 17:23* For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. *John 17:26* If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. *1 John 2:23* And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. *Romans 8:38-39*

**My question is Will you be my child?** *John 1:12* I am waiting for you. *Luke 15:11-32*

Love, Your Father **ALMIGHTY GOD**

## Free Concert

The Delaware Valley Philharmonic Orchestra will be having their annual free concert on June 16<sup>th</sup> at the TD Bank Amphitheater in Bensalem Municipal Complex at 2400 Byberry Road. The concert starts at 7 PM but come early with your family and bring a picnic, chairs and blanket. For more information, call 215-943-9320.

## Donate an Instrument \* Change a Life

Every child should have the opportunity to play an instrument. It makes children smarter and happier. Unfortunately, many families can't afford instruments. **Musicopia**, a music education nonprofit organization, takes old instruments, repairs them and delivers them to schools where the music teachers begin to unlock the music waiting inside their students. So, unearth your old trumpet, violin, sax, drum set, music stand (or other supplies) and donate whatever you have! Visit [www.musicopia.net](http://www.musicopia.net) for drop-off locations or to make a donation online.