

# The Flame

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

April 2013

*Our Mission Graced by the love of God through Word and Sacrament to be a caring community of believers, the fellowship of St. Stephen's is called to support one another in growth in faith, to share in the mission of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to reach out in witness and in service to the communities to which we belong, as one in the body of Christ.*

## Pastor's Letter

Dear Co-Workers in the Gospel,

I want to thank everyone who took part in whatever way in the meal served at New Visions Ministry in Camden on March 23<sup>rd</sup>! It was such an awesome occasion, with plenty of delicious food for everyone who came—with more for seconds. At first we were told that only about 20 people might show up, however we were thrilled when the room (and tables) were filled to capacity, with 100 people served. It really has to be tough living on the streets of Camden, and one could ascertain that by looking at the folks who were our guests (at their place.) This is really what we are all about as church, as disciples of Jesus Christ; sharing His love in very tangible ways. We do this

of course at the Food Pantry by sharing food with folks trying to stretch their resources.

That day in Camden, one of our guests mentioned to me that “word was out on the street about your Jambalaya!” So people came and kept coming!

So . . . 2 things: as a congregation, let us continue to serve meals at New Visions (perhaps another team could organize and go in between the time the current team of about 50 serves); secondly, let us - all of us, get the word out on the “street” about God's love in Jesus Christ, which is for **ALL** people. A challenge and a reminder about who we are, disciples of the Risen, Jesus Christ.

*Peace,  
Pastor Christine Regan*

## WORSHIP WITH US April 2013

**Sunday, April 7<sup>nd</sup>, 2013**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

**9am** Holy Communion

**10:45am** Holy

Communion, Baptism

**10:45am** Sunday School

**Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

**9am** Holy Communion

**10:45am** Holy Communion

**10:45am** Sunday School

**Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**9am** Holy Communion

**10:45am** Holy Communion

**10:45am** Sunday School

**Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**9am** Holy Communion

**10:45am** Holy Communion

**10:45am** Sunday School

## SCHOOL SUNDAY, BIBLE STUDIES, GROUPS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

**Still need** a Sunday School teacher for the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade, can be weekly or bi-weekly. Also if anyone is interested in helping out as a teacher, aide or substitute for the rest of 2013 please contact Judy Hunter at 856-468-9798.

**New Members** will be received into the fellowship of St. Stephen's on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. A welcoming brunch is planned between services. If you worship at 10:45 come early and welcome our newest friends!

**BIBLE STUDY**

Monday's at 10:30 am. We are currently studying the book of Exodus. We are especially relating it to our Christian faith today. Please join our group for coffee and conversation.

**CONFIRMATION**

April 7, 5 -7 pm  
April 21, 5 - 7 pm

**SHARE THE WORD**

Members of the council are collecting Bibles to be given to prison inmates requesting them. When Rev. Carl Browne was with us he mentioned the need for such in the prison where he serves as chaplain. You may bring in used bibles or new ones and place them in the designated box in the narthex.

**SOCIAL MINISTRIES**

**New Visions:** We had a very successful day serving a noon meal at New Visions. There were over 50 people involved in cooking, donation money and serving food. Over 100 people were served. We also were able to offer seconds. Thank you all! *Our next outreach to New Visions will be Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mark your calendar!*

**Yard Sale:** Social Ministries and WELCA are again teaming up to sponsor a spring yard sale on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Table rentals are \$15 (proceeds to go to Summer

Lunch Box program) and are on a first come first serve. Sale is from 7:30 am till 11:30 am. We are looking for "strong" volunteers to set up at 7 and take them down at 11:30. Also WELCA would love your "junk" (another man's treasure), for their tables. You can donate these items the week of May 5<sup>th</sup> and WELCA will store them in the closet. For more information see Lenore Cronlund at the Social Ministries table.

**HELP** Anyone interested in serving on any of our Social Ministry subcommittees please see Louise Tucker or Lenore Cronlund. The subcommittees include: *Blood Drive, Lunch Box Fund Raising, Jeannette's Closet, GWCM Food Pantry, Servv International Fair and New Visions.* Our immediate need is for a committee to help set up for the Spring Yard Sale!

**STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

"Share your food with the hungry and provide the poor wander with shelter-- when you see the naked, clothe him, and turn not away from your own flesh and blood. Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then

your right-eousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard."

*Isaiah 58: 6-8*

*Submitted by the Stewardship Committee*

**WELCA NEWS**

**WELCA ANNUAL BLANKET BLITZ**

Once again WELCA is holding a Blanket Blitz in order to receive funds from Thrivent. The date is Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 9—12. Everyone is invited to take part in helping us assemble quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We especially need Thrivent Members to take part if only for a short time. Once again you do not have to be handy with a sewing machine. We have many other small jobs that need to be done before the actual assembling of the quilts. Refreshments will be served. Please come and help out!

**ANNUAL GATHERING FOR WOMEN AT THE SEMINARY**

"Women at the Wheel" is the theme of the 2013 gathering at the Philadelphia Seminary, Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9—4. This day will use the "Wholeness Wheel" as its basis, inviting

women to renew, reconnect and refresh physically, emotionally and spiritually in a day of fellowship and gathering. The cost is \$40.00, which includes lunch. You can register by calling Kathie Afflerback at 215-248-6324 or let Nancy MacMaster know. We will be car pooling to the seminary.

**EVANGELISM**

The Evangelism committee is updating our Congregational Birthday list. Please fill out the card at the end of the pew.

**We are also collecting** any unwanted religious Christmas cards. We will be using them for a future project. If you have any cards you would like to donate, please leave them in the basket designated in the narthex. Thanks!

**LETTERS**

Dear St. Stephen's Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries, we would like to thank you for your generous gift of \$1500.00 that we plan on using for our Summer Lunch Box Program. Your

commitment to helping the food pantry in our community is sincerely appreciated. Generous gifts from donors like you provide the financial and moral support needed to continue our mission.

Each year, the GWCM continues to advance its mission to feed those in need. Your donation and those of your friends and neighbors are what make this possible. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and continued support of the food pantry as we strive to make the lives of those less fortunate a little bit easier.

We thank you again for your generosity and for remembering the Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries in your prayers.

Peace and blessings to you,

GWCM

Hello Pastor Chris,

This came a few days late for Girl Scout Sunday, but wanted to share some exciting news! Corinne has been awarded her Girl Scout Silver Award (approval letter attached). She earned the Girl Scout Bronze Award a few years back, now earning the Silver, and eventually she hopes to

earn the Gold Award, which is the highest award that Girl Scouts of America offers. The Gold Award is as difficult and as challenging to obtain and is equivalent to the Eagle Scout in Boy Scouts. Corinne earned this award with her fellow scout and best friend Emma Kelly. Their Silver Award project was called *Making Memories for Parents in the N.I.C.U.* It was their goal to raise funds and get donations that would provide a craft space storage cabinet and scrapbooking materials for parents of infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (N.I.C.U.) of the A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children. It was their hope that a central scrapbooking center would provide ongoing emotional support and social interaction among parents and families that have a critically ill baby in the N.I.C.U.

Thank you for allowing her to leave confirmation class a bit early on February 24th. That evening Corinne and Emma presented the beautiful cabinet they worked so hard to obtain to the N.I.C.U. at the A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children. I've attached a few pictures of the presentation.

Suzanne LaGrange

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March 12, 2013

Corinne Noelle LaGrange

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867 Marian Road  
West Deptford, NJ 08066  
Troop 64007  
RE: Girl Scout Silver Award  
Congratulations

Dear Corinne,

The Girl Scouts of Central & Southern NJ (GSCSNJ) congratulates you on earning your Girl Scout Silver Award. You are now a member of a group of girls who have persevered through challenges to achieve their goals and make the world around them a better place. By being a Girl Scout and earning your Girl Scout Silver Award you are a true example of excellence in Girl Scouting.

The GSCSNJ Girl Recognition Committee acknowledges the time and effort that you put into your Community Service Project: "*Making Memories for the NICU*". Through the completion of your project you have shown initiative by taking on an issue in your community and develop your leadership skills through working with others to provide service.

By continuing to live the Girl Scout Promise and Law, you set an example for all of the younger girls in your community. Your Silver award accomplishments entitle you to a special place in the Girl Scout family. We intend

to host a recognition event in May 2013 and we will provide further information at a later date. Yours in Girl Scouting,

Partner Agency

Mary E. Connell, CEO  
Rona Whitehead, GSLE  
Specialist, Series &  
Events Pathways

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To the St. Stephen's  
Lutheran Family,

Food for the Poor wishes to thank you for the welcome you extended to Pastor Mentor on his recent visit to your parish.

On behalf of our less fortunate brothers and sisters of Latin America and the Caribbean, we thank you for having shared in their lives. They, and you are blessed by your generosity.

In Christ,

Food For the Poor Family

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Easter 2013

Dear Friend in Christ,

Alleluia, Christ is risen! -  
Chris is risen indeed,  
alleluia!

Thanks be to God! Our faith - our living, daring confidence in God's grace - springs from the good news of Jesus Christ, on Easter Day and all year

long. We live in the freedom and the courage to boldly participate in what God is up to in the world. One of the ways that our church participates together in that holy work is through ELCA World Hunger.

The vision of ELCA World Hunger is a simple one' to end hunger in this world. Through bringing together relief, education, advocacy and development, families and communities in more than 50 countries around the world including the US are linked with the resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty for good. Thanks to the generous support of congregations like yours throughout our church, this vision is coming ever closer to reality - step by step, family by family, village by village.

I've enclosed a photo for you of someone whose life changed by your support of ELCA World Hunger. This is Outh Sa, gathering water lilies in her family's pond in the village of Dong in Cambodia. With the help of our local partner's education and advocacy work, the people of her community have been able to claim their rights to land. Now, using the innovative and sustainable agricultural techniques introduced by our partner's integrated rural development program, Outh Sa and her neighbors are farming their own fields in peace.

The faithfulness of congregations like yours gives me confidence that Jesus' promised "good news for the poor" is becoming reality. Thank you for your support, for your prayers and for your participation. You really do make a difference in people's lives. Thank you!

Together in service to the risen Christ,

The Rev. Daniel Rift,  
Director

ELCA World Hunger and  
Disaster Appeal



Outh Sa and her neighbors in the village of Dong in northern Cambodia were able to claim their rights to agricultural land with the help of our local partner. Now they are farming their own fields in peace, thanks to your generous support of ELCA World Hunger.

Photo: Paul Jeffrey/ACT



## BULLETIN BOARD

### Memorial Garden Addition

The newest gifts to St. Stephen's are the 2 granite benches that enhance the beauty of the Memorial Garden. They are gifts from

Bette Birk and Aldelaide Hetrick. Thank you!

### Memorial

**Garden/Columbarium** We are looking for a person that would like to help in the upkeep of these areas of our church. If you are interested please contact Lou Decina at 856-415-1920.

### COLUMBARIUM NICHE -

Permit for Single Inurnment \$2,250; Permit for Double Inurnment \$2500. A \$500 discount for church members till Dec. 2012. Please contact Lou Decina or Herb Budd with any questions.

## VOLUNTEER/JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### The Annual Conference on Congregational Ministries

is set for Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at Steinert High School. Please go to the Synod website and explore under "CCM" to find workshops related to your ministry. This is always a worthwhile, educational event!

**If you are interested** in a disaster response mission trip in the future (not immediate) please speak to Pastor Chris. This will now be a cluster project.

**If anyone** would like to join a Mission Team (committee) please speak with Pastor Chris or one of the Council members.

**Handy Helpers** is a program to help senior citizens and disabled persons with small jobs around the home. Volunteers meet on the second Saturday of each month, September through June, working from 8:30 am till Noon. For further info call 856-845-1244.

**SAFETY** For security reasons, if you have church business, PLEASE use the office door located in the front of the church (facing Evergreen Ave.), and you will be buzzed in (even if you have a key). Please stop in the office, sign in, so we know who is in the building with us. Also please exit through the same door. Thanks for your cooperation!

**The German American group** is offering free German lessons on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays from 7-8:30

pm. Meets at the church in the choir room.

**Synod Companion Trip** to Namibia, July 2013 . . . details to follow. Approximate travel cost is \$4000. Speak to Pastor for more info.

**HELP US go green** . . . by signing up for receiving your Flame via email. Sign up in the narthex! Even if you are not interested please give us your email so we can alert you about special times, funerals, etc. . . THANKS

**Check us out:**  
[www.ststephenselca.org](http://www.ststephenselca.org) or contact us via email at [saintstephens@verizon.net](mailto:saintstephens@verizon.net)

**Celebration Dinner** to honor the Ministry of Bishop E. Roy Riley, Jr., Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Cocktail reception at 4pm; Dinner at 5:15 pm — Program 7-8pm, at Princeton Manor, 661 US Hwy. 33, Hamilton, NJ. The cost is \$60 per person / 4 dinner choices. If you are interested in going please speak with Pastor Chris for a reservation form. Checks should be made payable to NJ Synod ELCA.

**DARE Living Associates, Inc.** Is now accepting applications for employment. For a listing please check out the bulletin board by the coat room.

**TOURS WITH AT DIFFERENCE** "Out from Jerusalem", October 28 - November 11, 2013. Total cost is \$3999.00. For more info see the flyer on the bulletin board.

**Voice recognition** I was preaching on the fourth Sunday of Easter, when many churches hear the gospel about Jesus as the Good Shepherd. I explained how Middle Eastern shepherds, of old and today, call their sheep from a commingled flock; across the hillside in various tones is heard: "Manah! Manah!" — Arabic for "Follow me!"

I imitated this call throughout my sermon, pointing out that Jesus also calls us in a distinct voice. Suddenly, from the back of the sanctuary, my 16-month-old son unexpectedly helped make my point. He answered my fourth or fifth "Manah!" with his own little "Manah!" and the congregation — and preacher — burst into laughter.

My son recognized his mommy's voice from the pulpit, and I, without a doubt, knew the response came from *my* child, not another. Likewise, Jesus knows us individually. We learn his voice by listening to it daily, and there is true delight each time Shepherd and sheep come together.

—Heidi Mann



Our sincerest apologies to Gavin Hunter and Louise Tucker whose Easter Devotionals inadvertently got omitted from the "Easter Devotional". A revised copy is available in the Narthex.

**UPCOMING**

**The Cluster Retreat** will be on May 4<sup>th</sup> from 9—1 at St. James in Pitman.

**CROP Walk**—May 5<sup>th</sup>

