

## St. Stephen’s Welcomes New Members DD & Tom Dawson

Thomas J. Dawson was born in Somerville, NJ. He graduated from Turner Ashby High School in Dayton, VA. He has three children and two grandchildren. He has been married to Denise (DD) Dawson for 13 years.

Tom serves as President of Valley Building Supply, Inc. a company that has operations in Harrisonburg, Mt. Jackson, and Staunton. He has been with that company (formerly Valley Blox) for 30 years.

Tom is active in several organizations. He is past president of the Keezletown Ruritan Club and a past exalted ruler of the Harrisonburg Elks’ Lodge. He is an active member in that lodge, the Rockingham Union #27, and the Scottish Rite and the Valley Shrine. He is also a member of the Shenandoah Valley Builders Association and has recently joined the Board of Cats’ Cradle.

DD Dawson was born in Harrisonburg and also graduated from Turner Ashby HS, and from JMU. She taught high school in Rockingham County for 10 years and has served as the director of finance for Harrisonburg City Public Schools for the past 13

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## News from the Pews.....

**Allison Bland** celebrated her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on April 20.

**Annaliese Leckrone** celebrated her 1<sup>st</sup> birthday recently.

**Audrey Lily Summers** will celebrate her 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday May 6, and in June, if all goes well, she will have an adopted **little sister**.

Tommy Newberry and Tresa celebrated **Sue Menefee’s** birthday with her. We also visited **Polly Edwards** in Port.

**Melinda Loeblich** did a great job planning the Spring Association Meeting which was held at Bethel UCC on Sunday.

**Lindsay McHone** recently graduated from UVA with a MBA degree. Congrats!

Welcome to **Shelley Duffus** (pronounced duff us) who has been a frequent visitor to St. Stephen’s. Shelley drives from Quicksburg to worship with us. She is in the real estate business and has traveled extensively in her life, as her father was with the State Department. And she has a (rescued) dog!

**Kristin, Maddie and Rob** are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their new daughter.

Currently, **Happy** is doing real well, gaining weight, and enjoys long walks at Purcell Park in the early morning when it’s cool.

**James Quinn** recently had house guests from Connecticut.

On May 20, professors and staff from Bridgewater College will spend a **“day of caring” at the Will House** working and sprucing up.

**Caroline and Rusty Wilkins** have been having some health problems. Caroline will have cataract surgery on May 22.

The **“Blessing of the Animals”** is May 16 from 10:00 AM to Noon. Come anytime between these hours. Warn the pastor if your animal bites; I will do a “hands off” blessing.

St. Stephen’s was well represented at the **Spring**

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Audrey's Inspiration  
By Melinda Summers

May 6, 2007 was a happy life-altering day in the Summers household. Not only did Christopher & I celebrate our 12<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, but we welcomed our first child, Audrey Lily into the world! The troubles from the pregnancy were forgotten the moment we looked into those big brown eyes. Our hearts overflowed with love, joy and pride. Ahhh. Are you reminiscing about your own children yet?

Now shuffle forward three days later when we brought Audrey home. No matter what we read to prepare for the big day as well as those to come, we learned trial-by-error. After all, she was getting used to us just like we were of her. The biggest challenge for me was learning to differentiate the various cries. Is it a dirty diaper cry? Is she hungry? Does she have a fever? Is she sleepy? Is she colicky? Please don't let her cry a whole year like me! And on top of all of it all, you are still a bit sleep deprived. While I was able to go through my mental checklist of possible causes for the cries with a level head and a pained heart, my mind wandered (when I figured out what was wrong) to other new parents and what they may be going through, too. Then horror spread in an instant.

If you have read the newspaper or turned on the evening news, you have heard heart-breaking stories about parents or caregivers who "snap" and do harm to babies and young children when the constant cries become unbearable. I looked into Audrey's angelic face and an idea sprung to mind. How about giving people a gentle reminder that loving hands create happy babies. What better way to get the word out than through RCMA? Audrey and all the beautiful little babies and children inspired the "onesies" project through Rockingham County Medical Alliance's Community Health Committee.

Every parent who participates in RMH's parenting class receives a wonderfully hand decorated onesie with pink and blue handprints. Attached to the garment is a card that reads:

"A "Handy" Reminder from the  
Rockingham County Medical Alliance  
**Take a Break & Don't Shake**  
*Gentle Hands Create Loving Touches*  
*Few Seconds of Shaking*  
*Can Hurt Your Baby for Life*  
**Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) can**  
**lead to death, vegetative state,**  
**permanent brain damage, partial**  
**or total blindness, hearing loss and**  
**speech & eating difficulties.**

*For more information,*  
*e-mail [rcma.save@comcast.net](mailto:rcma.save@comcast.net)*

We have received very positive feedback on the program from RMH as well as the class participants. It is our hope and desire that this reminder opens up a dialogue among parents and caregivers about the frustrations of parenting and how to deal with them in a positive manner.

If you would like to help stamp or iron set onesies for future classes, e-mail me at

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### ST. STEPHEN'S MISSION OUTREACH

Members of Rockingham County Medical Alliance and St. Stephen's came together for fun, laughter and a good cause—stamping 100 onesies to remind new parents to "take a break and don't shake" their babies. St. Stephen's Mission Outreach donated \$500 toward the purchase of the onesies and supplies for the stamping.

Many thanks to the ladies for coming out and supporting this cause.



**Tommy Newberry**



**St. Stephen's ladies hard at work!**



**Melanie Woodard cheerfully stamps handprints on a shirt.**



**Melinda Summers, "Creator" of the 'Onesie' project.**

## **Pentecost Sunday...A Special Sunday**

Usually on Memorial Day weekend, we light candles in memory of loved ones, but since that is the last Sunday in Easter, we will do that on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, when we plan to have a big celebration. On that Sunday, May 31, we will celebrate Heritage Sunday, which will be a day of commemorating, dedicating, remembering and honoring.

During the worship service we will celebrate communion using the old communion set, and we will use the old offering plates and read from the old Bibles. We will also dedicate 4 new banners: The Advent, Easter and Pentecost banners will be given in memory of C.J. Diehl by the Diehl family, and the Christmas banner will be given in memory of Andy Newberry and Eddie Edwards by Tommy Newberry. Also, the American and Christian flags donated by George Baker will be dedicated.

At 4:00 in the afternoon, there will be a special musical program presented by Kathy Gardner, voice teacher. It will feature her students' spring recital, which is open to the public and to us. Several of her students have sung at our worship this year.

Tfq

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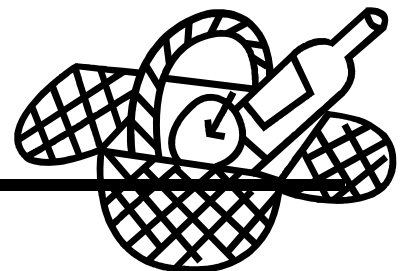
## **KITCHEN TO BE RENOVATED**

The church kitchen is soon going to be renovated somewhat. One of the refrigerators and the stove were in the fire, and have not been functional since. Currently, the oven does not work at all and only the inside of the burners on top work. If we are going to continue having meals after the Annual Meeting and at other times, the renovation has to happen. Also, Mission Outreach plans to have the lasagna meal again as soon as the kitchen is ready and all proceeds will be donated to this project. This time around, we will have the meal carry out or eat-in; no delivery.

With the nice dishes that were donated to us last year, we can use them, and wash them with the dishwasher that we plan to install. It may include some other features as funds allow.

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## **CHURCH PICNIC: FUN FOR EVERYONE!**



**Pastor Tresa and Adair invite everybody to an old-fashioned Church Picnic.**

**Sunday August 1<sup>st</sup>, right after church service.**

**At Purcell Park: Left off of South Main Street just past SonRise Brethren Church. Go to the park's second entrance, and then turn right and park somewhere near "Shelter #3," which we will use: it's near the parking lot.**



**If you want to play games, bring the stuff. We will provide the meat and you bring salads, veggies, cold dishes, desserts, and or drinks. We'll have paper plates/napkins, etc.**

**Of course, some folks will enjoy just sittin' around and having those long conversations we don't have time for, at church.**



**There's plenty of table & bench space to sit down, but if you have a favorite lawn chair; haul it along.**

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## THE ASCENSION

Many Christian churches will celebrate Ascension Day on (or near) May 21, which is 40 days after Easter. Theologian Friedemann Hebart explained Christ's Ascension this way: "When Jesus' work on Earth was done, he took leave of his disciples and went to his Father. A time for sad farewells, one might think. Yet the church celebrates the Ascension with special joy. What is the reason for joy when Jesus leaves his people?"

"The Ascension is not the end of Jesus' work, but a new beginning! How could Jesus ever leave us alone? Because he has gone to be Lord of the universe, He can continue

His work of life and love—among us, too. His work was not just a short episode in Galilee. In the person of the Holy Spirit, the same Lord is present among us, still revealing the Father’s loving heart, so that we, too, can believe—and sing songs of joy.”

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## **ST. STEPHEN’S GETS A BIG THANK YOU FROM BASRA, IRAQ**

7 of 13 boxes that were shipped to our troops arrived. The mechanics were so excited to get the MO-JO hand cleaner which was in one of the boxes. When the news got around that the big box of snacks came, they lined up to get them. I hope there were enough to go around, but there are 200 in the unit.

They are now appealing for Sunblock 75, fly traps, or anything that will kill flies (that is NOT in an aerosol can), and chapsticks with a high SPF are priorities this time and, of course, more snacks!

Let’s get busy and help out our men and women in Basra. (Basra is near the Persian Gulf and Baghdad.)

See attached list for complete details.

### **SOLDIER CARE GROUP**

Mission Project

Coffee, creamer, sugar

Flea Collars

Fly swatters, fly traps

Blank CD’s

Deodorant (men’s and women’s)

Gold Bond foot powder

Baby wipes (alcohol and scent free)

Eyeglass cleaning kits

Visine

AA and AAA batteries

Phone cards

Magazines (Sports Illustrated, Field & Stream, Southern Living, Family Circle, Nascar,

Crossword Puzzle books)

Newspapers and books

Snacks (100 calorie boxes, granola bars, Cheez-its, Rice Krispie Treats, snack items that easy to carry in pants pockets)

**NO GO-JO NEEDED AT THIS TIME**

Postage – It cost approximately \$1.00a lb. to mail these boxes. The items collected at St. Stephen's took 13 boxes at a cost of \$270.

Notes from Kathie:

The soldiers now have an American phone system in place and running, which means that phone cards can now be used.

It's getting hotter every day and socks need to be changed 6-7 times a day.....so foot powder is essential. If the soldiers develop foot problems or a fungus they can get into trouble with the Commanding Officer.

Notes of thanks and encouragement can also be written and will be sent along with collected items.

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Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.

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If the church wants a better preacher, it only needs to pray for the one it has!!



I SAID A MOTHER'S PRAYER FOR YOU

I said a Mother's Day prayer for you  
to thank the Lord above  
for blessing me with a lifetime  
of your tenderhearted love.

I thanked God for the caring  
you've shown me through the years,  
for the closeness we've enjoyed  
in time of laughter and of tears.

And so, I thank you from the heart  
for all you've done for me  
and I bless the Lord for giving me  
the best mother there could be!

~Author Unknown~

