



ST. STEPHEN'S
united methodist church

The Evangel

Sunday, May 13:

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day

Celebration Service
8:30 am

Sunday School
9:40 am

Traditional Worship
11:00 am

Sunday, May 20:

Pentecost Sunday

Celebration Service
8:30 am

Sunday School
9:40 am

Traditional Worship
11:00 am

Listen to sermons at:
<http://www.stsumc.org/listen/>

Nathan wants to meet you!
Give us a call at the office or set up an appointment for yourself at <https://calendly.com/revnaye>



OUR MISSION
is to make disciples
of Jesus Christ for
the transformation
of the world!

May 11, 2018
Volume 23, No. 10

A Message from the Pastor



This past weekend, I was reminded of what a blessing my job is. Sunday, I got to go with a group of our confirmation students to take communion to share with some of our homebound members. These past couple of months with our confirmation students has been a real joy; there's something so life-giving about being with young people as they start to dig deeply into the Christian faith and think about what they believe. And even more meaningful than the work in the classroom are chances to get out and learn, grow, and serve.

Sunday was particularly sacred because it was a good reminder of some of the incredible ways St. Stephens is uniquely equipped to be a blessing to the community and to all of us who are a part of it. St. Stephen's is a church full of people who love each other across generation and family and all sorts of other lines.

There are just not a lot of places where children and students willingly and happily spend time sitting with and talking to senior adults who are not their own grandparents. There also aren't a lot of places where senior adults willingly and happily open their homes and their lives to junior high students. In the weekend before Mother's Day, this got me thinking about the value of meaningful relationships, what they have to say about our church, and what they have to say about our God.

I've written and preached about how much I love our intergenerational relationship building as a church, and I'm going to keep doing it! I think it's one of the things about this church that is unique, meaningful, and exactly the sort of thing God wants us to be up to. Something I learned on my trip to Israel was just how intergenerational the community Jesus grew up in would have been like. Many towns with several hundred people had only a few houses, which were really more like apartment complexes for extended family units. Jesus likely grew up surrounded by great-aunts and uncles, third cousins once or twice removed, and all sorts of other members of a multi-generational community.

Can you see it? I see a community like that when I look at St. Stephens. And I'm thankful for it. We're at a point in our journey together where we'll be digging into our values and our vision as we set a course for a vibrant and exciting future. It's a future that includes all of us, and calls us toward God's hopes for our lives. Let's get there together.

Paz,
Nathan



2 Attendance and Contributions at St. Stephen's:

	<u>8:30 am</u>	<u>11:00 am</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Operating</u>	<u>Building Maintenance</u>	<u>Missions/ Communion</u>	<u>Other</u>
April 22	54	131	104	\$4,750.00	\$136.00	\$125.00	\$108.31
April 29	61	129	114	\$9,303.00	\$350.00	\$50.00	\$570.73

Milestones

It's a Boy! It's a Boy!



William (Liam) Echols, son of Will and Jami Graham Echols, arrived on April 18, 2018. His announcement appeared in the previous edition of *The Evangel*, and now we are happy to be able to share this precious photo of him, thanks to his proud grandmother, Sharon Graham!

Judson Hayes Hunt, son of Joseph and Blair Hunt, arrived April 25, 2018, weighing 6 pounds, 7 ounces, and measuring 20 inches long. Judson's proud grandparents are Jack and Gwen Hunt.



In Memory

We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family of **Olive Krick**, who passed away May 3, 2018, at the age of 97. Olive was a member of St. Stephen's for over 40 years before moving to Dripping Springs, Texas, in 2012. A graveside service was held for Olive at the Fitzhugh Baptist Church Cemetery in Dripping Springs on May 7.



Our sympathy and prayers are also extended to the family of **Margaret White**, who passed away March 23, 2018, in Bryan, Texas. Margaret was a member of St. Stephen's for several years before moving to the Bryan/College Station area to be near her daughter. She was 92 years old at the time of her death. A Celebration of Margaret's Life was held on March 28 at Forest Park Lawndale in Houston.

Vibrant Church Initiative One Board Workshop

Friends,

Be sure to mark your calendars and register for our One Board Workshop, which is a part of our VCI process. Rev. Mike Tyson, the conference director of the VCI program, will be leading us in a discussion and learning about what it means to move from our traditional committee structure to a single board model of church governance. The workshop will be at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 4. Childcare will be available for those who need it, and Nathan is going to provide dinner at 6:30 for anyone who is able to join us! To ensure we set up enough tables and have enough food, please register at bit.ly/StOneBoard or by calling the church office.

Paz,
Rev. Nathan Lonsdale Bledsoe
Senior Pastor, St. Stephen's UMC
512.771.2741
stsumc.org revnayte.org



vibrantchurch
I N I T I A T I V E

Evangel Deadlines

<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>News Deadline</u>
May 25	Noon, Monday, May 14*
June 8	Noon, Monday, June 4

*Please note early deadline for this edition.
Send articles to maryellen@stsumc.org.

THE EVANGEL Vol. 23 Issue 10, May 11, 2018 (USPS 019-947) is published bi-weekly free of charge to subscribers by St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 2003 West 43rd St., Houston, TX 77018-3009. Periodicals postage paid at Houston, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 2003 West 43rd St., Houston, TX 77018-3009.

Friday, May 11:

6:00 am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Denny's @ 34th & Hwy 290)

Saturday, May 12:

7:00 am—Garden Angels Dirt Diggers Workday (Work on church flowerbeds.)

11:30 am—Red Hats Luncheon (Lyndon's Barbeque, 5320 Hollister)

8:00 pm—Narcotics Anonymous Support Group (Scout House)

Sunday, May 13:

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

7:30 am—Sonrise (Celebration Service) Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

8:30 am—Celebration Service (Sanctuary)

9:40am—Sunday School for Children, Youth and Adults (Education Bldg)

9:45 am—Confirmation Class (Room 204)

11:00 am—Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, May 14:

10:00 am—The Gathering Place (Fellowship Hall)

*12:00 pm—Deadline to turn in articles for May 25 Evangel

(Send to maryellen@stsumc.org or call the office.)

12:00 pm—Narcotics Anonymous Support Group (Scout House)

6:30 pm—Delta Kappa Gamma Meeting (Church Library)

7:00 pm—Boy Scouts Troop 604 Meeting (Scout House)

8:00 pm—Narcotics Anonymous Support Group (Room 209)

*Please note deadline is 1 week early for this edition only.

Tuesday, May 15:

9:00 am—Johnson Memorial School Classes (Education Building)

9:30 am—Line Dancing Class (Fellowship Hall)

9:30 am—Ladies' Bible Study (Room 201)

12:30 pm—Office/Program Staff Meeting (Room 112)

1:00 pm—Johnson School Dance Class (Room 101)

1:00 pm—Johnson School Yoga Class (Room 106)

6:30 pm—GriefShare Grief Support Group Meeting (Room 201)

7:00 pm—Church Council Meeting (Room 101)

7:30 pm—Sea Scouts Meeting (Scout House)

Wednesday, May 16:

Johnson Memorial School Chapel Service and Pre-K Graduation

6:00 am—Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

9:00 am—Johnson Memorial School Classes (Education Building)

9:30 am—Senior Games (Fellowship Hall/Bring a sack lunch.)

9:30 am—Song Play (Room 101)

9:30 am—Hope Mission Group Meeting (Room 112)

11:00 am—Johnson School Chapel/Movin' On Ceremony (Sanctuary)

12:00 pm—Narcotics Anonymous Support Group (Scout House)

1:00 pm—Senior Games Afternoon Session (Room 112)

2:30 pm—Pastor's Bible Study (Room 101)

6:00 pm—Girl Scouts Juniors Meeting (Room 113)

7:00 pm—Worship Ministry Team Meeting (Sanctuary)

Thursday, May 17:

Johnson School Splash Day/Last Day for Students

9:00 am—Johnson School Splash Day Activities

10:00 am—Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting (Room 112)

1:00 pm—Johnson School Gymnastics (Fellowship Hall)

6:15 pm—Handbell Choir Practice (Room 101)

7:30 pm—Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Thursday, May 17 (cont.):

8:00 pm—Narcotics Anonymous Support Group (Room 209)

Friday, May 18:

U of H Wesley Board Retreat

6:00 am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Denny's @ 34th & 290)

5:30 pm—Wesley Board Retreat (Room 101)

Saturday, May 19:

Spring Artisan Market

U of H Wesley Board Retreat

9:00 am-4:00 pm—Artisan Market (West Sanctuary Parking Lot)

9:00 am—Wesley Board Retreat (Room 101)

8:00 pm—Narcotics Anonymous Support Group (Scout House)

Sunday, May 20:

Pentecost Sunday

7:30 am—Sonrise Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

8:30 am—Celebration Service (Sanctuary)

9:40 am—Sunday School for Children, Youth and Adults (Education Bldg)

9:45 am—Confirmation Class (Room 205)

11:00 am—Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

12:00 pm—Adult Bible Class Lunch Trip

1:00 pm—Disciple III Bible Study (Room 201)

5:00 pm—VBS Volunteer Training (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, May 21:

11:30 am—Fun4Seniors Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

12:00 pm—Narcotics Anonymous Support Group (Scout House)

7:00 pm—Trustees Board Meeting (Church Library)

7:00 pm—Boy Scouts Troop 604 Meeting (Scout House)

8:00 pm—Narcotics Anonymous Support Group (Room 209)

Tuesday, May 22:

9:00 am—Johnson School Parent/Teacher Conferences (Education Bldg)

9:30 am—Line Dancing Class (Fellowship Hall)

9:30 am—Ladies' Bible Study (Room 201)

12:30 pm—Office/Program Staff Meeting (Room 112)

6:30 pm—GriefShare Grief Support Meeting (Room 201)

7:30 pm—Sea Scouts Meeting (Scout House)

Wednesday, May 23:

6:30 am—Men's Bible Study (Room 112)

9:30 am—Senior Games (Fellowship Hall/Bring a sack lunch.)

9:30 am—Song Play (Room 101)

12:00 pm—Narcotics Anonymous Support Group (Scout House)

1:00 pm—Senior Games Afternoon Session (Room 112)

2:30 pm—Pastor's Bible Study (Room 101)

5:00 pm—Messy Church Pentecost (Fellowship Hall)

6:00 pm—Girl Scouts Juniors Meeting (Room 113)

6:30 pm—Sonrise Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

Thursday, May 24:

6:15 pm—Handbell Choir Practice (Room 101)

7:30 pm—Chancel Choir Practice

8:00 pm—Narcotics Anonymous Support Group (Room 209)

Friday, May 25:

6:00 am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Denny's @ 34th & 290)



Red Hats Luncheon

The Red Hats welcome ladies of all ages to join us for our monthly luncheon this Saturday, May 12, at 11:30 a.m. at Lyndon's Barbeque, 5320 Hollister. Please RSVP to Cindy Tindol at ctindol@comcast.net or 713-682-1277.

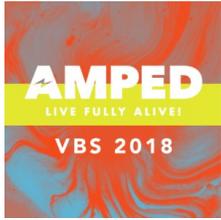
The "Ramblin' Reds" of St. Stephen's meet each month on the first or second Saturday to support and encourage women in their pursuit of fun, friendship, freedom, fulfillment and fitness! Please contact Betty Patterson at 713-688-3681 if you would like more information.

VIPs Trip to Chinese Community Center Postponed

The VIPs day trip to the Asian Houston Community that was scheduled for May 25 has been postponed. We'll announce the new date for the trip as soon as arrangements have been finalized. For more information, please contact Brenda Paulk at 713-686-8000 or bhp2460@me.com.



Vacation Bible School Needs You!



We're AMPED for VBS! We have over 120 children registered so far, and we need more volunteers to make more spaces available to the children of our church and community. We especially need preschool teachers to teach our young children. We also need a minimum of eight teens who have completed the 7th grade and above to serve as classroom helpers. If you are interested in volunteering to work with preschool age children, please contact Amy Mingle at amingle@sbcglobal.net. Volunteers interested in working with school age children may contact Christie Fisher at christiealford@gmail.com. Volunteer registration is available online at stsumc.org/summercamps. Paper copies of the form for those without Internet access are available through the church office.

Our VBS Safe Sanctuary Training, required for VBS volunteers of all ages, including youth, will be held Sunday, May 20, at 5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The nursery will be available by reservation. Please call the church office at 713-686-8241 if you will need the nursery for the training on May 20.

New Date for Spring Artisan Market



Saturday, May 19, is the new date set for the Spring Artisan Market, to be held in the west sanctuary parking lot from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This outdoor market will feature over 50 vendors selling a variety of mostly handmade items, food trucks, live music and plenty of fun! The market will benefit the Animal Justice League, a non-profit animal rescue organization focusing on Oak Forest and surrounding neighborhoods.

Here is the link to the Animal Justice League's Amazon wish list if you would like to make a donation: <https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/13OMRUBEWTTBX/> We are also collecting bottled water to give to vendors and the public, as well as new dog and cat toys, and new, unopened food. You may bring these items to Steven Fisher in the church office.



Homebound Visitation

Our Visitation Team needs a few more volunteers, especially those who are able to drive, to visit our homebound members. No experience is necessary, just a desire to bring a little sunshine to those who are no longer able to get out on their own. We meet once a month on the second Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the choir room. After prayer, we divide into small teams to make the visits. If you are interested in joining our team, please contact Peggy Aldredge at peggy.aldredge@hotmail.com or 713-688-8201.

Perhaps you have a desire to minister to the homebound, but are unable to visit during the daytime on a weekday due to work or another reason. If so, please contact David Massey at massey@marshaanddavid.com or 713-819-3981.



Prayer Concerns

Ed & Claytie Abrahams, Pat Anderson, John & Dorothy Artz, Chappie Ashburn, Ruth Austin, Ray & Carolyn Belk, Anita Bishop and daughters, Sandy Bonnin, Phyllis Briggs, Kathy Bruns, Effygene Bull, Julie Burks, David Burnette, Patrick Burns, Jr., John Butler, Sr., Chappie Collins, Earl & Gloria Collins, Katreena Collins, Marilyn Compton, Shereka Curtis, Elizabeth Dennard, Kelly Dickinson, Tana Dionne, Charlotte Dorton, Gerald Dupree, Jennifer Dylan, Angela Earl, Allen Ebel, Walter Ebel, Cameron Elliott, the Emerson family, Earl & Irene Fallen, Jon Fallen, Jackie Finch, Gene Freeman, Penny Gadmer, Bill and Mildred Gandin, Louise Glaze, Betty Gleason, Laura Green, John Harlow, Dorothy Haschke, Kathy and Steve Heath, Ryan Hegefeld, Susan Henderson, Elizabeth Hickerson, Edison Hicks, Ann Hill, Jack Hunt, Dorrie Jackson, Barbara Johnson, Cathy Johnson, Thelma Jones, Dennis Killian, Lee Kruse, Walter Kunz, Angus & Virginia Lewis, Lavon Mahon, Bonnie Maple, Marsha Massey, Michelle Maurizi, Frances Mayberry, Will Mayer, Janet McGowan, Henry and Sara McKinley, Ed Mills, Dia Morales, Fred Orrell, John Parent, Gary & Dian Parker, Jody Parker, Jean Parks, Doris Parr, Jim Piersall, Gloria Powell, Ky and Anna Ruth Putnam, Milton & Noni Ray, Caroline Reaves, Betty Roberts, Rogers & Jane Roberts, Gail Roth, Kathleen Saathoff, Aaron Self, Stephanie Skinner, Donna Schmidt, Barbara Smith, Lura Smith, Toni Smith, Billy Stephens, Jen Stoker, Carol Stone, Ruth Stone, Hazel Swearingen & family, Danny Thomason, Hazel Thompson, Pamela Thompson, Pete Trevino, Marisha Turner, Rosalie Turner, Ronnie Vance, Carmen S. Velez, Bitsy Vilven, Martha Wachel, Geary Ward, Virginia Wells, Gwen West, Paul Wieting, the Wilson family, George Wood, Gay Woods, Layton Woods, Julia Woodhull, Barbara Wright, Carol Yip Choy

THE PRAYER CONNECTION is a ministry that is at the heart of the church - caring for each other in sorrow and in joy. Please help us minister and reach out to you and our faith community more effectively. Please let us know when and how God answers.

In Our Prayers

Allen Troth

In the Military

Methodist-Texas Medical Center—Nancy Buck



From the Family Ministries Director

To misquote George R. R. Martin, “summer is coming” and it is looking like an important one for our Family Ministries.

Our church will be involved in no less than four summer camps and a Messy church between May 23rd and July 12th. This is an incredible opportunity for us to connect to our neighborhood and commit to our mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

At Vacation Bible School for example, we have just under 120 children signed up (not including teen volunteers). This means that there are approximately 70-80 families we have a chance to meet with, a chance to offer our hospitality to, and a chance to share the love that makes us not just a congregation, but a family.

If you’ve ever wondered how to get more young families in the door – here they come. If we get enough volunteers we can open up our registration and welcome even more children and young families into our home. We need your help to ensure a great lasting impression so that we are no longer known as “the church by Mytiburger” but as St. Stephen’s UMC.

You can sign up for any of our summer camps by visiting www.stsumc.org/summercamps

Lakeview Summer Camp: June 10-15

U. M. ARMY: June 24-30

VBS: June 18-22

Fine Arts Camp: July 8-12



Messy Church Pentecost!

Mark your calendars for the next Messy Church on Wednesday, May 23. We’ll begin with dinner for the whole family at 5:00 p.m., followed by games, crafts, worship and fun. While we’re having fun and fellowship, we’ll be learning about Pentecost, the day on which the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles and others with them in Jerusalem, and the day that marks the beginning of the Christian church. We hope you and your family will be able to join us!



2018 Confirmation Class



Our Confirmation Class visited the ISCKON Hare Krishna Hindu Temple located in our neighborhood on West 34th Street.

Eagle Scouts



Congratulations to **Dylan Emerson** of Boy Scout Troop 604 upon receiving his Eagle Scout Award! Dylan's Court of Honor was held at St. Stephen's on Saturday, April 28.



Special thanks to **Nick Kramer** of Boy Scout Troop 30 and Sea Scout Ship 24, who power washed and painted the flower beds in front of the sanctuary and the playground fence as his Eagle Scout Project.

Johnson Memorial School News



Teacher Appreciation Week was enjoyed by the JMS staff last week! Tuesday involved chair massages for each staff member in the library along with a refreshment station and breakfast tacos, Wednesday involved a cute breakfast cart with muffins and scones, and Thursday was our favorite elegant staff luncheon hosted by parents. You may have seen the post-it notes of appreciation surrounding our workroom door, also. Our five classroom teachers, six Helping Teachers and our fabulous Music Teacher are beloved by JMS families – this past week was a memorable way for them to express that appreciation! We are so grateful for the staff's creativity, patience and hard work with our students.

The last day of class is scheduled for Thursday, May 17. We will return after the summer break for our first day on September 6, 2018.



Big, exciting news!!! Renowned composer and musician, Ken Medema, is leading worship on Confirmation Sunday, June 3rd! Mark your calendars! Look for Ken's bio below. You may want to attend worship in both services that day. Ken will sing several songs in the 8:30 service, and we will have communion as well. Then at 11:00, we will celebrate confirmation, and Ken will sing a song written for them to encourage them on their journey with Christ. Don't miss it!

In fact, each Sunday this month will be special in it's own way. On Mother's day, our children's choir will sing. The following week is Pentecost, when we celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit and birth of the Church. And on May 27th, our youth are planning a wonderful service!

It is such a joy to worship God with you all! See you Sunday!



Ken Medema Singing Our Stories, Inspiring Hearts

For four decades, Ken Medema has inspired people through storytelling and music. Though blind from birth, Ken sees and hears with heart and mind. His ability to capture spirit in word and song is unparalleled.

One of the most creative and authentic artists performing today, Ken custom designs every musical moment of his performance with brilliant improvisation that defies description. Ken's vocal and piano artistry and imagination have reached audiences of 50 to 50,000 people in 49 United States and in more than 15 countries on four continents.

Music early became a major component of Medema's life. "I started banging on the piano when I was five years old," he says, "making up crazy little fantasies on my mom's piano. When I was eight years old my parents got me a wonderful teacher who taught me the classics with Braille music and taught me to play by ear." His teacher also taught him to improvise. "Every time I learned a piece my teacher would tell me, 'Now, you improvise in that style.' So music became a second language."

After graduating from high school Medema studied music therapy at Michigan State University in Lansing, where he concentrated heavily on performance skills in piano and voice. He worked as a music therapist in Fort Wayne, Indiana, returned to Michigan State for a master's degree (1969), then worked for four years as a music therapist at Essex County Hospital in New Jersey. It was while employed there that he began writing and performing his own songs.

In 1973, Medema left his work as a therapist and began a career as a performing and recording artist. He recorded albums for Word and Shawnee Press; then, in 1985 founded Brier Patch Music. Brier Patch is an independent recording, publishing, and performance-booking company. Brier Patch creates musical expressions that celebrate all aspects of the human experience, with an emphasis on spirituality and such universal concerns as peace, justice, and the environment.

Today, Medema performs in a widely variety of venues, from local congregations to charity fund-raisers, to high school and university campuses, to denominational youth gatherings, to universally televised religious programs, to corporate conventions, to annual assemblies of national organizations. He is co-founder of Interlude Retreat Corporation, which gifts retreat experiences for music directors, runs conferences and workshops and visits small but mighty churches to explore the musical possibilities for that congregation. He has recorded over 40 albums and his latest, **Nothing Like the Rain** has just been released in CD and USB format.

Ken Medema and his wife, Jane, have been married since 1965 and live in the San Francisco Bay area of California. They have two grown married children and four grandchildren, Aaron and Sonya Medema (Charlotte and Henry) and Rachel and Dennis Gilchrist (Logan James and Fiona Lee).



ST. STEPHEN'S united methodist church

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St. Stephen's United Methodist Women
Young Energetic Adults



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Pastor of Music and Worship
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Melissa Soto
Nursery Coordinator

Ariel Burton, Anita Cabrera, Brittany Hietpas, Karen Meier, Adriana Montes, Rachel Montes — *Nursery Staff*

Administrative Staff



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Mary Ellen King
Executive Secretary
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICAL
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HOUSTON, TX

Mother's Day



This Sunday, May 13, we'll celebrate Mother's Day by beginning a two-week series on the Holy Spirit! If you'd like to read ahead, read Proverbs 8. We'll also be discussing Proverbs 8 at Nathan's weekly Wednesday Bible study at 2:30. All are welcome!

Youth Sunday at St. Stephen's will be May 27. We'll have our regular Praise Celebration Service at 8:30 a.m., and our youth will lead worship in the 11:00 service.

United Methodist Women



In honor of our mothers and the mother figures in our lives, the United Methodist Women will take a break in May. Our next meeting will be Sunday, June 10, following the 11:00 service. Please plan to bring a sack lunch on that day. For more information about the UMW, please contact Marsha Hickerson, St. Stephen's UMW president, at 281-797-6234 or mahickerson@comcast.net.

The Gathering Place



Our monthly meeting of The Gathering Place, a ministry for persons with Alzheimer's and other types of memory loss, will be Monday, May 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Our dedicated team of volunteers lead our guests in fun, memory-stimulating activities including games, crafts, music and fitness, and serve lunch, so that their caregivers can take a break. There is no charge to attend Gatherings. If you would like more information about this ministry, please contact Gwen Hunt at ghunt226@gmail.com or 713-686-1202, or Gary Mingle at garymin14@gmail.com or 713-702-1265.

Hope Mission Group



Dedicated to the support of missions at St. Stephen's, the Hope Mission Group welcomes all women to join us for our monthly meeting Wednesday, May 16. We gather in Room 112 at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments, followed by our meeting at 10:00. We hope you will be able to join us!

Fun4Seniors Luncheon



Get "antsy" for a picnic luncheon sponsored by Harris County Precinct 4, Monday, May 21! The fun begins in the fellowship hall at 11:30 a.m. with live entertainment followed by a meal catered by Ben's Chuck Wagon. The menu will include barbeque chicken, brisket and sausage, baked beans, potato salad, homemade bread, dessert and iced tea. The cost is \$10 per person payable to Fun4Seniors. Register by calling Precinct 4 at 281-893-3726 or visit www.hcp4.net/sap/events.