



The Evangel

Sunday, June 10:

Third Sunday after Pentecost
Communion Sunday

Celebration Service

8:30 am

Sunday School

9:40 am

Traditional Worship

11:00 am

Sunday, June 17:

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Father's Day

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/revnayte>



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

June 8, 2018

Volume 23, No. 12

A Message from the Pastor



The Kingdom of God Is at Hand

One of Jesus's most remarkable skills was connecting his teaching to his actions and the community around him. When he preached, he used familiar images and metaphors, described activities his audiences would know well, and, most importantly, he illustrated his points actively. Through miracles like healing, and through society-changing gatherings of people from all walks of life and all sorts of circumstance, Jesus showed people what this strange "Kingdom of God" he kept talking about could actually look like.

Friends, this past Sunday, we got to experience the Kingdom of God in our worship services. I have had more conversations with people about how joyful and wonderful a day we had! We welcomed the incomparable Ken Medema to lead us musically, and at 8:30 we had a service of new beginnings and communion. Brenda Paulk, Ron Bruns, and Olivia Lowe each told stories of new beginnings in their lives, and Ken improvised musical responses to each of them. They were incredible! We are working on getting the videos of them uploaded to our Facebook page for everyone to see and share.

In our 11 o'clock service we confirmed eight students who completed our ten-week confirmation class. Two of those students were also baptized. A larger-than-average group of people joined us in worship: lots of brand new faces, lots of regular attenders, and some old friends we hadn't seen in awhile.

We were young, middle aged, and older. We were people from around town and around the corner.

We looked like our future.

Friends, we are building a beautiful and exciting Kingdom of God outpost here at St. Stephen's. A place with a rich and wonderful past, an exciting present, and a bright and beautiful future. And it takes all of us! Doing meaningful and intergenerational ministry in 2018 is hard work, and it takes all hands on deck. That's why celebrating days like this past Sunday are so important. Getting a taste of what's coming helps to sustain us for our work.

There is nowhere in the world I would rather be than here, building this church with each and every one of you. It's important for us to talk about it, pray about it, learn about it, and work on it. But it's also important for us to experience it.

Come and see, for the Kingdom of God is at hand at St. Stephen's!

Paz,
Nathan

Last week, Dan Barcus, Steven Fisher, David Massey, Lindsay Smith and I spent Sunday-Wednesday as delegates at the annual meeting of the Texas Annual Conference. We got to participate in incredible worship — which Lindsay helped lead and organize — meaningful and important business discussions, connecting with colleagues and friends new and old, and lots of learning. It is an interesting time in the life of our United Methodist Church, one in which we are having significant discussions about how we move forward in ministry together. Later this



summer, when all of our summer travel schedules allow, we would like to bring a report to St. Stephen's of our impressions from conference and to start a conversation. Be on the lookout for a date and time, likely in the first half of July. I mentioned this on Sunday in my sermon, and I mean it: there is nobody in the world I would rather navigate the future of our church with than all of you!

Welcome, New Confirmands!



On Sunday, June 3, 2018, we celebrated the confirmation of eight young people! Pictured above on the top row, from left to right, are Rev. Nathan Lonsdale Bledsoe, Senior Pastor; Ken Medema, our special guest musician and worship leader; Landon Croker, Madison Schlageter and Jessica Durkot, confirmands; Steven Fisher, Family Ministries Director; and Rev. Lindsay Smith, Pastor of Music and Worship. Pictured on the front row, from left to right, are confirmands, Dianna Piercefield, Hanna Carlsson, Garrett Holcombe, Brody Leffler and Larneisha Piercefield. We are so happy to welcome all our new confirmands as full members of St. Stephen's!



Talented singer and songwriter, Ken Medema, our guest worship leader for both services, composed and sang a special song for the confirmands following their confirmation service.



Dianna and Larneisha Piercefield were baptized on June 3 by Nathan, assisted by Lindsay.

Evangel Deadlines

Publication Date	News Deadline
June 22	Noon, Monday, June 18
July 6	Noon, Monday, July 2

Send articles to maryellen@stsumc.org.

THE EVANGEL Vol. 23 Issue 12, June 8, 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.



WOW! What wonderful worship experiences we have had in the last several weeks! I hope you have enjoyed every moment as much as I have! I thank God for the leadership of our youth and Ken Medema. I hope and pray you have been touched through these last weeks, and that the Holy Spirit is moving in your life.

This week, I'm away at choir camp and having more fun with Ken Medema! I will be back on Sunday, rejuvenated and inspired for all the wonderful worship opportunities that are coming this summer. Thank you for entrusting me with the joy and privilege of leading in our congregation in worship! We are indeed "Bound for Greater Things!"



More Milestones

Welcome, New Member!



Alexandra Forseth joined St. Stephen's by profession of faith on Sunday, May 27, 2018. Here is contact information for Alexandra so that you can welcome her personally:

2102 Nina Lee Lane
Houston, Texas 77018
azambrano92@gmail.com

In Memory



We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family of **Helen Sanders**, who passed away May 23, 2018. Helen was an active member of St. Stephen's from 1959 to 1988. Following her retirement, she moved to the Dallas area where she lived until moving back to Houston a few years ago.

A graveside service will be held for Helen on Friday, June 8, at 2:00 p.m. at Memorial Oaks Cemetery, 13001 Katy Freeway, Houston, Texas. In lieu of flowers, her family is suggesting memorial contributions be made to missions projects of St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 2003 West 43rd Street, Houston, Texas, 77018.

Our sympathy and prayers are also extended to the family of **Nancy Buck**, who passed away May 28, 2018. Funeral services were held for Nancy on May 31 at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church. A graveside service was held following the funeral at Earthman Resthaven Cemetery, 13102 North Freeway, in Houston. After the graveside service, family and friends returned to St. Stephen's for a luncheon reception.



Friday, June 8:

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

Saturday, June 9:

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

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

Sunday, June 10:

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Communion Sunday

Summer Camp at Lakeview

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

8:30 am—Celebration Service (Sanctuary)

9:40 am—VCI Windshield Survey (see page 7 for details)

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

11:00 am—Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

12:00 pm—Fellowship Lunch (Fellowship Hall)

1:00 pm—United Methodist Women Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

1:00 pm—Radical Hospitality Ministry Team Meeting (Room 112)

Monday, June 11:

Summer Camp at Lakeview

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

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

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

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

Tuesday, June 12:

Summer Camp at Lakeview

Fellowship Hall Reserved for Bible Village Set Up

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

*6:00 pm—Finance Committee Meeting (Room 101)

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

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

*Change in time for this meeting only.

**Date change for this meeting only.

Wednesday, June 13:

Summer Camp at Lakeview

Fellowship Hall Reserved for Bible Village Set Up

6:00 am—Men's Bible Study (Room 112))

9:30 am—Senior Games (Room 112/Bring a sack lunch.)

10:00 am—Homebound Visitation (Choir Room)

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)

Thursday, June 14:

Summer Camp at Lakeview

Fellowship Hall Reserved for Bible Village Set Up

7:00 pm—Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

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

Friday, June 15:

Fellowship Hall Reserved for Bible Village Set Up

Summer Camp at Lakeview

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

Saturday, June 16:

Fellowship Hall Reserved for Bible Village Set Up

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

Sunday, June 17:

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Father's Day

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)

11:00 am—Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, June 18:

Vacation Bible School Week

8:30 am-Noon—VBS (Sanctuary, Education Bldg, Fellowship Hall)

12:00 pm—Deadline to turn in articles for June 22 Evangel

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

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

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

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

Tuesday, June 19:

Vacation Bible School Week

8:30 am-Noon—VBS (Sanctuary, Education Bldg, Fellowship Hall)

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

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

Wednesday, June 20:

Vacation Bible School Week

6:30 am—Men's Bible Study (Room 201)

8:30 am—Noon—VBS (Sanctuary, Education Bldg, Fellowship Hall)

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

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

6:30 pm—Yoga Class (Room 101)

Thursday, June 21:

Vacation Bible School Week

First Day of Summer

8:30 am-Noon—VBS (Sanctuary, Education Bldg, Fellowship Hall)

7:00 pm—Chancel Choir Practice

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

Friday, June 22:

Vacation Bible School Week

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

8:30 am-Noon—VBS (Sanctuary, Education Bldg, Fellowship Hall)

**New Yoga Class!**

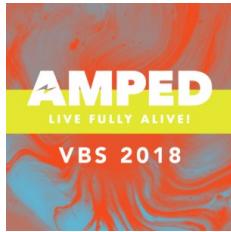
A new Yoga class, open to all, meets the first and third Wednesday of the month in Room 101. The class is led by our member, Kendra Penry, and meets at 6:30 p.m. in Room 101. The cost is \$5 per class. If you would like more information, please contact Kendra at kendra.penry@gmail.com.



Communion Offering for June

Our Communion offering throughout the month of June will go to Spirit Key, a non-profit organization which has been making a difference in Texas since 2005. Spirit Key assists an average of 1,500 people a year with housing, family assistance, intervention and Christian counseling. Chaplains work in Texas prisons and jails, on the streets of Harris County and at Spirit Key. Spirit Key is a crisis center for the homeless, some of which are mentally and/or physically challenged. It is a safe haven, giving direction for those that have lost their way. Spirit Key is all about helping veterans, former inmates and the homeless successfully transition into the work force. Please support Spirit Key with your prayers and generous contributions.

Volunteer for Vacation Bible School



We're excited about our AMPED VBS to be held June 18-22! We'll have an "electrifyingly" good time learning and teaching kids about how God wants us to live FULLY ALIVE because we can believe that what He says is true!

It's not too late to volunteer for VBS. 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. Teens who have completed the 7th grade and above are eligible to volunteer as classroom helpers. Students who have completed the 5th through the 6th grade may serve as Bible Village helpers. 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.

UMCOR School Kits



In some countries, children have no books or school supplies. Many have no schoolrooms; or attend classes held in inadequate buildings, tents or even in open air. School kits may be these children's only educational resources.

The United Methodist Women are collecting supplies for school kits for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) as their UMCOR Hands-On Project for this year. Complete lists of the supplies needed, as well as collection baskets, are located in the Narthex (sanctuary foyer). Please consider donating items from this list for children who might not otherwise have school supplies.



Prayer Concerns

In Our Prayers Ed & Claytie Abrahams, Pat Anderson, John & Dorothy Artz, Chappie Ashburn, Ruth Austin, Carolyn Belk, Anita Bishop and daughters, Robert Boehm, Sandy Bonnin, Betty Brashear, Phyllis Briggs, Kathy Bruns, the family of Nancy Buck, 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, the family of James Dyer, Jennifer Dylan, Angela Earl, Allen Ebelt, Walter Ebelt, 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, Darrel Hearn, Kathy and Steve Heath, Ryan Hegesfeld, Susan Henderson, Elizabeth Hickerson, Ann Hill, Jack Hunt, Dorrie Jackson, Barbara Johnson, Cathy Johnson, Thelma Jones, Dennis Killian, Lee Kruse, Lavon Mahon, Bonnie Maple, Michelle Maurizi, Frances Mayberry, Will Mayer, Janet McGowan, Henry and Sara McKinley, Ed Mills, Dia Morales, Fred Orrell, 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, the family of Helen Sanders, Aaron Self, Stephanie Skinner, Donna Schmidt, Barbara Smith, Lura Smith, Toni Smith, Marylee Spears and family, Billy Stephens, Jen Stoker, Carol Stone, Ruth Stone, Hazel Swearingen, Danny Thomason, Hazel Thompson, Pamela Thompson, Lloyd Tittle IV, Pete Trevino, Marisha Turner, Rosalie Turner, Ronnie Vance, Carmen S. Velez, Bitsy Vilven, Martha Wachel, Gary & Zelda 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 the Military

Allen Troth

In the Hospital

Marsha Massey



From the Family Ministries Director

I was honored this past week to be a part of our Confirmation Sunday. Our nine confirmands (Lance Collins will be confirmed later) have shown me the great potential there is in our church. I can't claim to know them all as well as I'd like, yet. My time has been split between the Confirmation Class and Children's Sunday school, but I look forward to working with them all as they discover what it means to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ.

Many of our Confirmands will be taking part in our Summer Camps which are approaching at startling speed. Our Lakeview roster is complete and we will be taking eight children and youth up to Palestine, Texas for what promises to be a memorable week.

Hot on the heels of Lakeview is our biggest Vacation Bible School for many years. Registration is now closed and our final total is one hundred and twenty five children! What a blessing to be able to interact with so many young minds. I want to thank all of our selfless volunteers for giving up their time to be a part of VBS. That said, we can always use more, so if you feel led to help out for the whole week or even just part of it, don't hesitate to contact me.

Completing my three weeks of chaos will be my first with UM ARMY to Porter, Texas. UM ARMY is a mission project that I have always been interested in but never did quite sign up for. We have eight mixed age youth coming so far and there is still room for more. UM ARMY is a fantastic team building opportunity, a chance to make lifelong memories and best of all, a time to really understand what being the hands and feet on the body of Christ means.

Also, UM ARMY falls during my anniversary on June 25th. See Christie, I didn't forget!

If that's not enough, our registration is open for Fine Arts Camp. This evening time camp runs for five days from July 8-12 and attendees will learn how they are part of the arts! Dinner will be served for all of the family before our children and youth go off to classes on Music, Art and an elective choice of drama, dance, or ukulele. For Fine Arts Camp registration, or more information on any of our summer camps, you can visit: stsumc.org/summercamps

Finally, don't forget to sign up for our One Room Schoolhouse this summer. As it is summer break, we'd like to give our children's Sunday school teachers a few weeks off. Therefore, if you and someone from your Sunday school class (or your entire Sunday school class – we'll make it work) wants to take one Sunday of this summer to share the good news with the children at the church, I want to hear from you. Lesson plans and materials will be provided, just bring your winning personality (and hand sanitizer).

Stay tuned for more exciting opportunities in Family Ministry this summer!

Love and Logic Parenting Workshop

Parenting the Love and Logic Way

There will be a new Love and Logic Parenting Workshop starting at St. Stephen's in the Fall. Love and Logic is dedicated to making parenting and teaching fun and rewarding, instead of stressful and chaotic. They provide practical tools and techniques that help adults achieve respectful, healthy relationships with their children. The class is a six week course that will run from September 17th to October 22nd.

The cost for the workshop is \$150 for an individual (\$125 for a church member) or \$250 for a couple (\$200 for church members). The nursery will be available for each class for a small fee. Dinner for all the family is included in the cost.

For more information about the course and how to register, visit stsumc.org/loveandlogic or come by the church office where we have paper registration forms on hand.

Children and Youth in Worship



Nathan and Lindsay shared a special message about baptism with our youngest worshippers on Confirmation Sunday.



Members of our Confirmation Class led worship in the 11:00 service on Youth Sunday, May 27.

Attendance and Contributions at St. Stephen's:

7

	<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>
May 6	49	147	115	13,702.00	185.00	734.00	2,243.60
May 13	54	129	108	7,208.25	350.00	75.00	574.52
May 20	52	127	111	4,382.00	—	25.00	250.89
May 27	50	137	85	5,852.26	85.00	60.00	800.14
		End of month giving:		3,645.00	225.00	—	100.00
		May totals:		34,789.51	845.00	894.00	3,969.15

New Financial System Coming Soon!

July 1, we will officially transition to our new financial system. What does this mean to you? Well, if you already give by bank transfer/EBT, you will need to switch over to the new system. If you're tech savvy, you will now be able to manage your bank draft or credit card giving on your own! Simply go to stsumc.churchcenter.com/giving, and set up your account. Once you do this, please send an email to mary@stsumc.org so we can make sure not to have any double charges during the changeover. If you'd like to keep giving automatically but don't feel comfortable with the computer, call Mary Jessie at the church office and she'll help you get everything underway.

We are confident that the new system is user-friendly, extremely safe and secure, and up to the highest privacy standards. We're also confident that making it easier for people to give and to track their own giving will be beneficial to our ministry. Mary and I are both happy to answer any questions you have about this process!

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

**VCI Windshield Survey and Luncheon this Sunday**

This Sunday, June 10, we are looking to put together several teams of church members to tour around and pray for our local neighborhoods during the Sunday School hour. This is a great opportunity for everyone to better understand the people we can serve, and also spot opportunities and needs in our local area.

There are three ways you can volunteer for this event:

- Driver - Anyone who feels led can sign up, but a solid knowledge of the neighborhood would be very helpful.
- Passenger - If you are unable to drive or don't have a deep knowledge of the area.
- No Preference - If you are willing to drive or be a passenger.

Please register at <https://bit.ly/2ItYCnK> or call the church office, and don't forget to indicate if you plan to attend the luncheon following the 11:00 service.

New Summer Worship Series

We'll start our first worship series of the summer, "Making Our Mark", this Sunday. We'll be following along with the teachings and actions of Jesus through the book of Mark throughout June and the first three Sundays of July. If you would like to read ahead, Nathan will be preaching on **Mark 3:20-35**. You are also welcome to attend Nathan's Wednesday Bible Study at 2:30 p.m. in Room 101, where we dig more deeply into the Scriptures from the Sunday sermons.



ST. STEPHEN'S
united methodist church

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St. Stephen's United Methodist Women
Young Energetic Adults



Rev. Nathan Lonsdale Bledsoe
Senior Pastor
nathan@stsumc.org



Rev. Lindsay Smith
Pastor of Music and Worship
lindsay@stsumc.org

Program Staff



Steven Fisher
Family Ministries Director
steven@stsumc.org



Andrea Mut
Organist



Candice Croker
Director,
Johnson Memorial School
jms@stsumc.org



Melissa Soto
Nursery Coordinator

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

Administrative Staff



Mary Jessie
Accounting Manager
mary@stsumc.org



Mary Ellen King
Executive Secretary
maryellen@stsumc.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**PERIODICAL
PAID
HOUSTON, TX**

Women's Fellowship Groups



The United Methodist Women will meet this Sunday, June 10, following the luncheon in the fellowship hall. Women of all ages are welcome! If you would like more information about the UMW, please contact Marsha Hickerson, St. Stephen's UMW President, at 281-797-6234 or mahickerson@comcast.net.



The Hope Mission Group will not meet this month due to the Vacation Bible School schedule. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, July 18, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 112. Dedicated to the support of Missions at St. Stephen's, we welcome women of all ages.

The Gathering Place



Our monthly ministry for persons with Alzheimer's and other types of memory loss, and their caregivers, will meet this Monday, June 11. From 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., our dedicated team of Gathering Place volunteers lead our guests in fun activities, including music, games, crafts and fitness. We also provide live entertainment and serve lunch, so that their caregivers can take a much-needed break. There is no charge to attend Gatherings. If you believe you and your carepartner might benefit from this ministry, or if you know someone who might benefit, please contact one of our Gathering Place Coordinators: Gwen Hunt at 713-686-1202 or ghunt226@gmail.com; or Gary Mingle at 713-702-1265 or garymin14@gmail.com.

VIPs Day Trip



The VIPs are a fellowship group at St. Stephen's for men and women age 50 and better. A day trip to the Chinese Community Center has been planned for Wednesday, July 25th. We will be given a guided tour of the Asian Community of Houston, which will include a cultural demonstration of jujitsu or dance, and lunch. The cost will be \$35 per person. We will leave the church at 9:15 a.m. and return around 3:15. Please come join us for a glimpse into Houston's rich Asian culture. To sign up, please contact Brenda Paulk at 713-686-8000. The deadline to sign up and pay is Friday, July 13th.

The Palm Leaf Newsletter Discontinued

The Senior Adult Council of St. Stephen's voted recently to suspend publication of its newsletter, *The Palm Leaf*. If you received *The Palm Leaf* and are not currently on the mailing list for *The Evangel*, but would like to be, please contact the church office. You can sign up to receive *The Evangel* by email by visiting our website: www.stsumc.org.