



ST. STEPHEN'S
united methodist church

The Evangel

Sunday, July 22:

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Celebration Service
8:30 am

Sunday School
9:40 am

Traditional Worship
11:00 am

**Potluck Dinner
and Conversation
with Missionaries**
6:00 pm

Sunday, July 29:

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

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!

July 20, 2018
Volume 23, No. 15

A Message from the Pastor



Friends, it's been a wonderful week at St. Stephen's in the middle of a wonderful Summer. Thursday, we wrapped up a great week of Fine Arts Camp, with 25 children learning about God's love through creativity and the arts. Sunday, about 60 people joined together at Live Oak Grill for lunch, fellowship, and to run around on a playground.

On Monday evening, about 70 people joined together for dinner and conversation about the future of St. Stephens and the broader United Methodist Church. The conversation about the denomination was meaningful and engaging, and we'll have more of them in coming months. But what I really want to share with you today in this newsletter article is our short church council meeting at the beginning of dinner.

In this meeting, our Vision Team, part of our Vibrant Church Initiative process, presented the fruits of several months of work, study and prayer: A vision statement and set of core values for our church. The vision statement, which undergirds our mission statement of "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" and will shape our ministry and life together, will be available on Sunday in the narthex, will be on the website soon, and will be the focus for a three week worship series starting on August 26. But I wanted to close this article by sharing the core values at the heart of the statement with you. They are:

- We are all, without exception, beloved children of God.
- The church does not belong to us.
- God is in our neighborhood, and not just in our building.
- Worship connects us with God and with each other.
- The stories of scripture transform our own stories.

These values are grounded in scripture, unique to St. Stephen's, and provide us a framework for our meaningful future together. I am so excited to live into them with you. I want to say a special thanks to our Vision team for their great work: Martha Hall, Donna Ebelt-Wilson, Steven Fisher, Ed Bradley, Rev. Lindsay Smith, and our team leader, Alisa Tackett. I hope when you see them, you'll share your gratitude too.

Let's make disciples and transform the world!

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



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>
July 1	39	136	80	\$10,880.28	\$180.00	\$275.00	\$261.70
July 8	53	121	79	\$8,972.65	\$310.00	\$430.00	\$1,114.03

New Financial System



July 1, we officially transitioned 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 Nathan are both happy to answer any questions you have about this process!

Milestones

Welcome, New Members!



Michael and Ashley Cavazos, with children, Juliana and Vincent, joined St. Stephen's on Sunday, July 8, 2018. Here is where you can send Michael and Ashley a personal welcome:

1568 Cheshire Lane, Houston, Texas 77018
 Michael: sozavac@gmail.com, 713-298-2587
 Ashley: acavazos018@gmail.com

Infant Baptism



Audrey Anne Edelblut, daughter of Stephen and Emily Edelblut, was baptized on Sunday, July 15, 2018, by Rev. Nathan Lonsdale Bledsoe.



In Memory



We extend our prayers and sympathy to Ed Abrahams and his family upon the death of his wife, Claytie, on July 4, 2018. Arrangements for a memorial service for Claytie are pending.



Ed and Claytie Abrahams

Evangel Deadlines

<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>News Deadline</u>
August 3	Noon, Monday, July 30
August 17	Noon, Monday, August 13

Send articles to maryellen@stsumc.org.

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I am so thankful for all the volunteers that helped make Fine Arts Camp a success. It is so good to be in ministry with people who are ready and willing to jump in and serve! After several intense weeks of camps and preparation for all of these camps, I'm feeling pretty worn out! I'm sure that is the case for many of you who have volunteered and continue to give of your time and talents this summer. It's time (or past time) for some Sabbath rest!

Sabbath rest can be sleep, or good old R & R, but Sabbath also contains a spiritual component. Spending more time in prayer is an important part of Sabbath. This week, I'm hoping to take a nature walk and observe the beauty of God's creation. Sometimes it is difficult to dedicate an entire day to Sabbath, but if we can, we definitely should. Sometimes the best we can do is an hour spread out in fifteen minute increments through the day, and that is certainly better than nothing.

When I'm worn out, it is so tempting to sit and mindlessly watch tv or play a silly game on my phone, but my time would be much better spent actually sleeping, praying, or reading scripture. If I would choose the better way, I would feel more rested. So, this is my goal for this week. I pray that we might all choose the better way and that God would restore us all through the practice of Sabbath rest.



New Worship Series



Sunday, July 22, we'll begin our second summer worship series, "The Faith We Sing".

Pastor's Wednesday Bible study will resume July 25 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 101. All are welcome to join us as we dig deeper into the Sunday sermon Scriptures.

Potluck Dinner and Conversation with Missionaries



Sunday, July 22, from 6:00-7:30 p.m., we'll have a potluck dinner and conversation with two missionaries helping to establish the United Methodist Church in Laos. Bring something to share and learn more about how we can be involved in this exciting ministry! Our own Elizabeth Jackson has helped to coordinate the visit of these missionaries to the Texas Conference, helping to transport them all over the place. We'll also hear about how her work supports the global witness of our United Methodist Church. It should be a wonderful and interesting evening!

Friday, July 20:

6:00 am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Denny's @ 34th & Hwy 290)
10:00 am—Solitaires Trip to Sistene Chapel Exhibit (Meet at church.)

Saturday, July 21:

7:00 am—Garden Angels Dirt Diggers Workday (Work on church flowerbeds.)
8:00 pm—Narcotics Anonymous Support Group (Scout House)

Sunday, July 22:**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

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)
11:00 am—Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
6:00 pm—Potluck Dinner with Missionaries (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, July 23:

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, July 24:

9:30 am—Line Dancing Class (Fellowship Hall)
12:30 pm—Office/Program Staff Meeting (Room 112)
7:30 pm—Sea Scouts Ship 24 Meeting (Scout House)

Wednesday, July 25:

6:00 am—Men's Bible Study (Room 112)
8:45 am—VIPs Trip to Bryan, Texas (Meet at church.)
9:15 am—SongPlay! (Room 101)
9:30 am—Senior Games (Fellowship Hall)
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—Sonrise Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
6:30 pm—Yoga Class (Room 101)

Thursday, July 26:

8:00 pm—Narcotics Anonymous (Room 209)

Friday, July 27:

6:00 am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Denny's @ 34th & 290)
11:30 pm—Solitaires Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, July 28:

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

Sunday, July 29:**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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, July 30:

12:00 pm—Deadline to turn in articles for August 3 *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)
7:00 pm—Trustees Board Meeting (Church Library)
8:00 pm—Narcotics Anonymous Support Group (Room 209)

Tuesday, July 31:

9:30 am—Line Dancing Class (Fellowship Hall)
7:30 pm—Sea Scouts Ship 24 Meeting (Scout House)

Wednesday, August 1:

6:00 am—Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
9:15 am—SongPlay! (Room 101)
9:30 am—Senior Activities Day Games & Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
12:00 pm—Narcotics Anonymous Support Group (Scout House)
1:00 pm—Senior Games Afternoon Session (Fellowship Hall)
2:30 pm—Pastor's Bible Study (Room 101)
6:30 pm—Yoga Class (Room 101)

Thursday, August 2:

10:00 am—Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting (Room 112)
6:15 pm—Handbell Choir Practice (Room 101)
7:30 pm—Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)
8:00 pm—Narcotics Anonymous Support Group (Room 209)

Friday, August 3:

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

Yoga Class Meeting Weekly

The Yoga class led by our member, Kendra Penry, is now meeting weekly on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Room 101. Open to all, the class features a slower and gentler style of yoga, so that each participant can truly relax. The cost is \$5 per class.

Sea Scouts Garage Sale Fundraiser

Sea Scouts Ship 24 will hold a garage sale Saturday, August 4, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Scout House, located across the street from St. Stephen's at the corner of West 43rd and Donna Bell. Donations of small working appliances, home decor, kitchen items, pots, pans, dish sets and small furniture, including patio furniture, will be accepted before 8:00 a.m. the day of the sale only. No clothing, please!

Thank you in advance for supporting Ship 24!

UMCOR School Kits



The month of August will be here soon, bringing the beginning of a new school year! The United Methodist Women are collecting supplies through Sunday, August 12, for school kits for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) as this year’s UMCOR Hands On Project. 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.

Women of all ages are welcome to join the Hope Mission Group and help assemble the school kits on Wednesday, August 15, beginning with refreshments at 9:30 a.m. in Room 112.

Mission Supply Drive



St. Stephen’s will be packing blessings bags for our homeless neighbors on Sunday, August 12, at 3:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We would love for you to join us, but there are ways to help even if you are not available on the day. You can support the project with your financial gifts by visiting <https://bit.ly/2KQ8Jl> or by texting a dollar amount and the word “bags” to 84321 for a one time donation.

We are also in need of supplies. Anything that could be helpful is welcome, but we are definitely looking for water bottles, gallon Ziploc bags, high protein canned goods, socks, travel sized toiletries, non-perishable snacks (crackers, etc.) and granola/cereal bars.

The Gathering Place



Our next meeting of The Gathering Place, a ministry for persons with Alzheimer’s and other types of memory loss, and their caregivers, will take place Monday, August 13, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall. At each Gathering, our guests enjoy fun activities including games, crafts, music, fitness and live entertainment. Lunch is also provided. Caregivers have the choice of staying with their care partners and participating in the activities, or using the time for a break. There is no charge to attend Gatherings. If you believe you and your care partner might benefit from this ministry, and you would like more information, please contact Monica Holiday with CarePartners at 713-682-5995, ext. 206. If you know someone who might benefit from this ministry, please let them know about The Gathering Place.

Prayer Concerns

Ed Abrahams & family upon the death of his wife, Claytie; Pat Anderson, John & Dorothy Artz, Chappie Ashburn, Ruth Austin, Betty Babin, Carolyn Belk, Anita Bishop and daughters, Robert Boehm, 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, Martha Hall, John Harlow, Dorothy Haschke, Darrel Hearn, Kathy and Steve Heath, Ryan Hegesfeld, Susan Henderson, Elizabeth & Glenn Hickerson, Ann Hill, Jack Hunt, Dorrie Jackson, Barbara Johnson, Cathy Johnson, Thelma Jones, Dennis Killian, Lee Kruse, Gary & Susan Lamb, 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, Donna Schmidt, Aaron Self, Stephanie Skinner, Barbara Smith, Lura Smith, Cindy St. Lawrence, Billy Stephens, Jen Stoker, Carol Stone, Ruth Stone, Terry Sullivan, 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 Our Prayers

In the Military

Allen Troth

In the Hospital

Kindred Heights—Joseph Balli

From the Family Ministries Director



My last few articles have been about summer camps and just to break the tradition, this article will be about:

A summer camp!

I'm blessed to be part of a church that is so passionate about providing the families in our neighborhood a place to bring their children in the summer. More importantly, we provide a safe, fun and educational setting for children to learn about the God who loves them. From a selfish point of view, having already established summer camps has also eased my transition into this new role as I have got to work with (and rely on) incredibly talented people all of the way. Gushing praise aside, let's talk Fine Arts Camp.



This is my third year being involved with Fine Arts Camp and I love it. I taught drama again and changed up the format this time and allowed the students to have greater creative control. I think it worked a treat. My four drama girls co-wrote, produced and starred in a very funny play that was well received by the audience on performance night.

Outside of my drama class I saw students flex their creative muscles in art class and music all the while developing interactive ways to learn about God. It's another reminder that church is much more than a Sunday morning and any opportunity can become every opportunity to spread the gospel.

Working in Family Ministries has been so refreshing to my faith. There is so little cynicism that you would normally come across in the adult world. The children are respectful, kind and eager to learn and whether they intend to or not, eager to teach. I have had more positive faith interactions since April 16th of this year than I think I may have had in my entire life before then.

In the same vein as feeling refreshed, at time of print/ mailing, I will be in Europe physically recovering from a heavy early summer schedule. When I come back, it'll be time to focus on another critical part of Family Ministries – our curriculum in Sunday school and beyond. Over the last few months I have been researching new curriculum and talking with other Youth and Children's Directors to select the best materials for our church. I will not go into the decisions now but come the Fall, we will have materials that will hopefully inspire our children in the same way all of our awesome summer camps have.

See you on the 6th!



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.



RE-AMPED
VBS REUNION
July 14 | Oak Forest Park
4 PM - 6 PM



FEAST





ST. STEPHEN'S
united methodist church

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St. Stephen's United Methodist Women
Young Energetic Adults



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Melissa Soto
Nursery Coordinator

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

Administrative Staff



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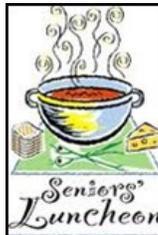
Solitaires Luncheon



The Solitaires are a support and fellowship group for any who have lost a spouse. We welcome you to join us for our next meeting on Friday, July 27, at 11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall at St. Stephen's. The cost is \$8 per person and includes a catered meal.

In addition to the monthly meetings at the church, the Solitaires plan four outings a year for lunch and visiting fun places of interest. For more information and to RSVP for the luncheon on July 27, please call Betty Brashear at 281-787-1403.

Senior Activities Day



After taking a break in July, Senior Activities Day will be back Wednesday, August 1, in the fellowship hall. Join us at 9:30 a.m. for domino games followed by a homemade soup-and-sandwich lunch at 11:45. Love offerings are encouraged to help cover the cost of lunch.

Seniors gather for domino games each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Lunch is served on the first Wednesday of the month.

VIPs Meeting



The VIPs, a fellowship group at St. Stephen's for adults age 50 and better, will meet Thursday, August 9, in the fellowship hall. Following a short business meeting at 11:00 a.m., our own Lindsay Smith will be providing the entertainment! A catered meal will be served at noon at a cost of \$10 per person. Please RSVP to Peggy Bickel at 713-957-9255.

Red Hats



Ladies of all ages are welcome to join the Red Hats for lunch on Saturday, August 11, at 11:30 a.m., at Barbeque Inn, 116 West Crosstimbers. Please RSVP to Kathy Bruns at 713-956-8925.

The Rambling Reds of St. Stephen's meet on the first or second Saturday of the month to support and encourage women in their pursuit of fun, friendship, freedom, fulfillment and fitness. Meeting locations vary from month to month. If you would like more information about the Red Hats, please contact Betty Patterson at 713-688-3681.