



ST. STEPHEN'S
united methodist church

The Evangel

Sunday, October 15:

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Celebration Service
8:30 am

Sunday School
9:40 am

Traditional Worship
11:00 am

Sunday, October 22:

Twentieth 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/>



OUR MISSION
is to know God and
make God known!

October 13, 2017
Volume 22, No. 20

A Message from the Pastor



St. Stephen's UMC Loves All God's Children

Friends,

In his 2017 episcopal address, our bishop made clear that his vision for the churches of the Texas Annual Conference was to be truly committed to the work of "loving all the children." He has since focused that vision a bit and changed the language a bit, and is now saying, "The Texas Annual Conference loves all God's children." Friends, we are a church that is very well positioned to live into this vision well! Between the long-time work being done in the Johnson School — who will celebrate their 50th anniversary of ministry this year — to our commitment to children and youth, we are a church who has taken this seriously for many, many years.

I don't have to tell you that we are doing ministry in a changing world. Families look different every day, and the place of the church in society is simply different than it was even 20 years ago. Seeking God's wisdom and guidance in the midst of a changing world is exciting! I want to take a little bit of space to talk to you about two different things we are up to as we attempt to faithfully love all God's children, and especially the ones right here in our neighborhood.

Family Ministries News

First of all, we're hiring! St. Stephen's is seeking a Director of Family Ministries. Let me explain a little bit about what that means, and also about how we decided to go this direction. A subcommittee from the SPRC and myself started interviewing families within the church, conducted an online survey, looked at neighborhood demographics, looking at what was working (and what wasn't) at other churches around Houston and the country, and praying for direction. Special thanks to Tom Leffler for heading up this effort. Here are three key things we found:

- There are a lot of families moving into the neighborhoods around the church! Most of them have younger children, some have middle school aged children, but not many have high school aged children.
- Building programs and hoping they attract children or youth just doesn't work anymore. This was how good youth ministry was done for several generations, but that's no longer the case. The most successful ministries reach out and make connections with children, youth, and their families.
- Entire families need love and support, and to know the Good News. For many years, a heavy focus was put on bringing people "back to church." Well, a lot of those folks never "came back," and their children and grandchildren are parents now. This means that educating and supporting children and youth also includes educating, supporting, and reaching their parents.

In this spirit and looking at effective ministries happening at a few churches of our size, we discerned that more than a youth director or a children's ministry director, we needed a Director of Family Ministries. This person will spend most of their time training, discipling, and equipping parents and church members to build strong and faithful relationships with children and youth. Providing parents, and all of us who care about the youngest Christians with the resources necessary to do good ministry is a big job! This will equip all of us to live into God's call and our bishop's charge to love all God's children. We have posted this job to the conference website and some other job search places. If you know someone who might have the right gifts for this kind of ministry, have them contact me!

New Logo

A week ago when we were working on the website, I learned that we did not have any copies of our old logo in the digital formats that allow it to be used most effectively. If you speak technical language, we had no vector file, meaning we couldn't blow the logo up for posters or signage or ensure that it wasn't distorted when used in print or online. This effectively meant, to me, that we didn't have a logo!

(cont. on p. 2)

(cont. from p. 1) I worked with Steven Fisher, who manages our website, and Lindsay on figuring out how we could fix this problem quickly. Lindsay believes that a good logo is one that can be drawn by a child. Taking that into account and thinking about our beautiful sanctuary and its distinctive architecture, we came up with the logo you see on this newsletter! The typeface is actually a font that was extremely popular in 1962 when the sanctuary was built; it is also the font that was used on the plaque that the astronauts from the Apollo 11 mission left on the moon.

As we get closer to the end of our worship series in Exodus, I can't help but think about how much the world around the Israelites was changing. The world around our church is changing, too! You know what? I am so thankful to be following God with this group of people, who so faithfully and earnestly seek after God's call for St. Stephen's Church today, tomorrow, and forever. Thanks be to God!

Paz,
Nathan

VCI Update

In early 2017, St. Stephen's voted to enter into the Vibrant Church Initiative process with the conference. This means we're willing to allow some experts to help us take a good look at ourselves so we can get closer to being as vibrant and Gospel-oriented as we can possibly be! As part of this process, the office staff and several volunteers are working to collect information about our church and our neighborhood in anticipation of a large celebration and consultation weekend in early 2018. We'd love for you to help us! Here's what we need:

- **Prayer:** Please hold our church in prayer that we can best discern God's will for our church through this exciting work.
- **Ask:** It's great to ask questions! We are learning everything we can about the history of the church, the state of the neighborhood. Ask us about what we're learning.
- **Serve:** We are looking for people to talk to their neighbors, to compile information, and to do some other kinds of research. If you would like to be a part of our VCI team, contact Nathan!

Paz,

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



let's meet

Nathan wants to meet you!

Give us a call at the office or set up an appointment for yourself at <https://calendly.com/revnayte>

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</u>	<u>Missions/ Communion</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Fundraiser</u>
September 10	62	171	113					
September 17	53	162	119					
September 24	57	144	119					
September 10-24				\$20,142.09	\$742.50	\$3,721.00	\$3,221.68	—
October 1	62	143	99	\$13,566.60	\$492.50	\$770.00	—	—

Milestones

<p>Welcome, New Preparatory Member!</p> <p>John Colby Bonnin, son of John and Patti Bonnin, was baptized at St. Stephen's on Sunday, October 8, by Rev. Nathan Lonsdale Bledsoe.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In Memory</p> <p>We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family of Betty Parks, who passed away October 4. A funeral service was held for Betty on October 9 at Brookside Funeral Home in Houston, Texas.</p> <p>Our sympathy and prayers are also extended to Colleen Green and her family upon the death of her brother, Damian Janacek, on October 8. A memorial service will be held Saturday, October 14, at 10:00 a.m. at St. John the Baptist Church in Ammannsville, 7850 Mensik Rd, La Grange, Texas, 78945, with a reception following at Schulenburg Civic Center, 1107 Hillje Ave, Schulenburg, Texas (Catered meal will be furnished.). Memorial contributions may be made to Brazos Valley Hospice, 1048 N. Jefferson, La Grange, Texas, 78945; The Texas Ramp Project, P.O. Box 832065, Richardson, Texas, 75083; or the charity of your choice.</p>
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Evangel Deadlines

<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>News Deadline</u>
October 27	Noon-Monday, October 23
November 10	Noon-Monday, November 6

Send articles to maryellen@stsumc.org or call the church office.

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Friday, October 13:

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

Saturday, October 14:

7:00 am—Garden Angels Dirt Diggers Workday (Work on flowerbeds.)
8:00 am—GriefShare Leaders Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
11:30 am—Red Hats Luncheon (BBQ Inn, 116 W Crosstimbers @Yale)
8:00 pm—Narcotics Anonymous Support Group (Scout House)

Sunday, October 15:**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

7:30 am—Sonrise (Celebration Service) Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
8:30 am—Celebration Service (Sanctuary)
9:40 am—Sunday School for Children, Youth & Adults (Education Bldg)
11:00 am—Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
12:15 pm—Radical Hospitality Ministry Team Meeting (Room 101)

Monday, October 16:

7:00 pm—Heights Young Life Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 pm—Boy Scouts Troop 604 Meeting (Scout House)

Tuesday, October 17:

9:00 am—Johnson Memorial School Classes (Education Building)
9:30 am—Line Dancing Class (Fellowship Hall)
9:30 am—Women's 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 (Room 201)
7:00 pm—Church Council Meeting (Room 101)
7:30 pm—Sea Scouts Ship 24 Meeting (Scout House)

Wednesday, October 18:

6:00 am—Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
9:00 am—Johnson Memorial School Classes (Education Building)
9:00 am—Johnson School Portraits (Church Library)
9:30 am—Senior Games (Fellowship Hall/Bring a sack lunch.)
9:30 am—Hope Mission Group Meeting (Room 112)
1:00 pm—Johnson School Stay-N-Play (Library & Fellowship Hall)
1:00 pm—Senior Games Afternoon Session (Fellowship Hall)
2:30 pm—Adult Bible Study (Room 101)
5:00 pm—Fellowship (Fellowship Hall/Bring dinner for your family.)
6:30 pm—Adult Bible Study (Room 101)
6:30 pm—Children's Choir Practice (Room 106)

Thursday, October 19:

9:00 am—Johnson Memorial School Classes (Education Building)
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 am—Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Friday, October 20:

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

Saturday, October 21:

8:00 am—Bill Hardwick Memorial Golf Classic (Jersey Meadow Golf Course, 8502 Rio Grande, Jersey Village, TX)
9:00 am—Holiday Artisan Market (West Sanctuary Parking Lot)
8:00 pm—Narcotics Anonymous Support Group (Scout House)

Sunday, October 22:**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

7:30 am—Sonrise (Celebration Service) Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
8:30 am—Celebration Service (Sanctuary)
9:40 am—Sunday School for Children, Youth & Adults (Education Bldg)
11:00 am—Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
4:00 pm—Trunk or Treat (Education Building Parking Lot)

Monday, October 23:

12:00 pm—Deadline to turn in articles for October 27 *Evangel*
(Send to marvellen@stsumc.org or call the church office.)
5:30 pm—Women's Self Defense Course (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 pm—Nominations Committee Meeting (Room 101)
7:00 pm—Boy Scouts Troop 604 Meeting (Scout House)

Tuesday, October 24:**Special Camp for Special People at Lakeview**

9:00 am—Johnson Memorial School Classes (Education Building)
9:30 am—Line Dancing Class (Fellowship Hall)
9:30 am—Women's 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)
5:30 pm—Women's Self Defense Course (Fellowship Hall)
6:30 pm—Medicare Information Seminar (Room 200)
6:30 pm—Griefshare Grief Support Group (Room 201)
7:30 pm—Sea Scouts Ship 24 Meeting (Scout House)

Wednesday, October 25:**Special Camp for Special People**

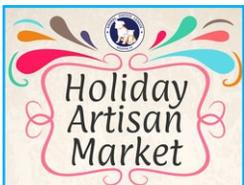
6:00 am—Men's Bible Study (Room 112)
9:00 am—Johnson Memorial School Classes (Education Building)
9:30 am—Senior Games (Fellowship Hall/Bring a sack lunch.)
11:00 am—Johnson School Chapel Service (Sanctuary)
1:00 pm—Senior Games Afternoon Session (Fellowship Hall)
1:00 pm—Johnson School Stay-N-Play (Library & Fellowship Hall)
2:30 pm—Adult Bible Study (Room 101)
5:00 pm—Fellowship (Fellowship Hall/Bring dinner for your family.)
5:30 pm—Women's Self Defense Course (Room 209)
6:30 pm—Adult Bible Study (Room 101)
6:30 pm—Children's Choir Practice (Room 106)

Thursday, October 26:**Special Camp for Special People**

9:00 am—Johnson Memorial School Classes (Education Building)
1:00 pm—Johnson School Gymnastics (Fellowship Hall)
5:30 pm—Women's Self Defense Course (Fellowship Hall)
6:15 pm—Handbell Choir Practice (Room 101)
7:00 pm—Dominion Estates II HOA Meeting (Room 201)
7:30 pm—Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Friday, October 27:

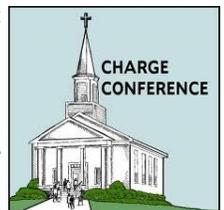
6:00 am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Denny's @ 34th & 290)
11:30 am—Solitaires Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

Holiday Artisan Market

Get a headstart on your Christmas shopping at the Holiday Artisan Market. St. Stephen's will host this outdoor market, benefiting the Animal Justice League, on Saturday, October 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the west sanctuary parking lot. The Animal Justice League is a 501(c)3 tax exempt dog and cat rescue organization with a focus on the Oak Forest and surrounding neighborhoods of Houston. The market will feature vendors selling a variety of gift items as well as food trucks. If you are interested in participating as a vendor, please contact Kim Antley at redlipdesigns@gmail.com.

Save the Date for Charge Conference

Our Annual Charge Conference, where we elect our church leaders for the new year, will be held Thursday, November 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. This year, our Charge Conference will be held in a cluster, a group of congregations that provides an opportunity to come together for worship, encouragement, support and celebration. Mark your calendars and plan to join us on November 16.





October is a wonderfully busy month, and I have a few more items you may want to consider adding to your schedule! October 25th from 5:00 to 7:00pm, we will be holding come and go auditions for the children's Christmas musical, "Out Standing in Their Field." Rehearsals for the musical will begin the following Sunday, Oct. 29th from 2:00 to 3:00pm. We will rehearse each Sunday until our performance on Sunday, December 24th at a special combined worship service at 10:30! We have speaking parts for seven awesome angels, six funny shepherds, and Mary and Joseph. All school aged children are welcome to join us for this funny and touching Christmas musical! If you (or your child) are interested in participating, please contact me at lindsay@stsumc.org.

Another wonderful worship opportunity is coming at the end of the month. Our choir will be joining forces with St. Matthews UMC, St. Marks UMC, and Grace UMC for an All Saints service on Saturday November 4th at 6:00pm here at St. Stephen's. In this service, we will be focusing in on hope in the midst of grief. All of us have been or will be in a place filled with grief, whether it is from the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, or the destruction of a hurricane. So come, all ye who are weary and heavy laden. Find rest and comfort as we worship God together with our sister congregations.

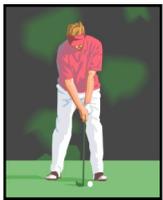
Lindsay Smith

Mission and Volunteer Opportunities

Trunk or Treat



Volunteers needed!! We need your car, truck or SUV for the Trunk or Treat at the church on October 22 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Volunteers will be parking in front of the church and handing out candy to kids trick or treating. Decorations of your car, as well as costumes, are encouraged! Can't make it on the 22nd? We are also accepting individually wrapped candy donations. If you have any questions please call or email Justin St. Lawrence at 832-202-7600 or jwstlawrence@gmail.com.



Golfers Needed for Annual Fundraiser Tournament

The Bill Hardwick Memorial Golf Classic is scheduled for Saturday, October 21, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at Jersey Meadow Golf Course. It is a shotgun start, best ball, unlimited mulligans kind of tournament. This is a great fundraising event benefiting the ministries at our church and is also lots of fun! We are in need of good, bad or beginning golfers, hole sponsors and door prizes. Please begin to sign up for threesomes and foursomes. For more information, please contact Dixie Hardwick at ddixon0126@aol.com or Ken Aldredge at k.paldredge@sbcglobal.net.

Homebound Ministry Needs Volunteers



Each month on the second Wednesday, St. Stephen's Visitation Team visits our homebound members. We could use a few more volunteers to join our dedicated team. It is so rewarding to encourage the homebound, listen to their concerns and assure them that they are still part of our church family even if they are unable to attend worship services. After meeting at 10:00 a.m. in Room 101 for prayer and to prepare small flower bouquets (if flowers are available), we divide into small teams and head out to make the visits. If you are interested in volunteering for our ministry to the homebound, please contact Peggy Aldredge at 713-688-8201.

Prayer Concerns

Ed & Claytie Abrahams, Ken Aldredge, John & Dorothy Artz, Chappie Ashburn, Ruth Austin, Robert Baldwin, Earl Banks, Ray & Carolyn Belk, Anita Bishop, Marie Bolding, Sandy Bonnin, Paula Brady, Phyllis Briggs, Nancy Buck, Effygene Bull, John Butler, Sr., Chappie Collins,

Earl & Gloria Collins, Dorothy Cox, the family of Nancie Craft, Shereka Curtis, Elizabeth Dennard, Kelly Dickinson, Charlotte Dorton, Gerald Dupree, Allen Ebel, Cameron Elliott, the Emerson family, Earl & Irene Fallen, Penny Gadmer, Bill & Mildred Gandin, Louise Glaze, Betty Gleason, Laura Green, John Harlow, Dorothy Haschke, Ann Hill, Elizabeth Huebner, Nancy Hunt, Colleen Green and family upon the death of her brother, Damian Janacek; Thelma Jones, Lee Kruse, Walter Kunz, Angus & Virginia Lewis, Lavon Mahon, Bonnie Maple, Michelle Maurizi, Frances Mayberry, Henry and Sara McKinley, Ed Mills, Michael Niederhofer, John Parent, Gary & Dian Parker, Jody Parker, the family of Betty Parks, Jean Parks, Brenda Paulk, Margie Perron, Gloria Powell, Ky and Anna Ruth Putnam, Milton & Noni Ray, Caroline Reaves, Betty Roberts, Rogers & Jane Roberts, John Robinson, Kathleen Saathoff, Stephanie Skinner, Donna Schmidt, Barbara Smith, Lura Smith, Billy Stephens, Carol Stone, Terry Sullivan, Hazel Swearingen & family, the Swint family, Danny Thomason, Hazel Thompson, Pete Trevino, Rosalie Turner, Ronnie Vance, Bitsy Vilven, Martha Wachel, Virginia Wells, Gwen West, Margaret White (hospice), Paul Wieting, the Wilson family, George Wood, Gay Woods, Julia Woodhull

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

In Our Prayers

Dirk Ray Jr., Allen Troth

In the Hospital

[Kindred-Texas Medical Center](#)—Nancy Hunt



Fall Bible Studies

It's time to sign up for your fall Bible study! LaNell Kruse will be facilitating Disciple III, about the prophets and Paul. David Massey will be facilitating four 6-week studies starting with a study entitled "When Did God Become a Christian?" Contact LaNell at 713-409-6688, or David at 713-819-3981, if you are interested in joining their classes. If you interested in a different study, stop by the library for other opportunities!

Summer Reading Program Party

Congratulations to all who participated in St. Stephen's 2017 Summer Reading Program: Rhonda Boehm, Wade Boehm, Sandy Bonnin, Caleb Filip, Noah Filip, Loryn Hicks, Monica Hicks, Paula Hicks, Robert Hicks, Renee Ledbetter, Nayeon Lee, Caroline Leffler, Barbara Lowe, Jonathan Lowe, Olivia Lowe, Violet Lowe, Bobbie Luedke, Sara McKinley, Amy Mingle, Joel Ruiz, Abigale Smith, Adelynn Smith, Justin Smith, Lindsay Smith and Susan Barcus. A party for the participants was held in the church library on Sunday, October 1.



Johnson Memorial School News

JMS students are studying Science & Safety throughout the month of October. Our first special guest speaker was Ms. Pearl, a beloved crossing guard in Garden Oaks who discussed the important tools in her job and how she helps protect everyone in our community. Pastor Nathan blessed our students' stuffed animals during a sweet Blessing of the Animals ceremony on Tuesday. We will continue learning about how God brings special helpers into our lives to protect and comfort us; Thursday will bring the Precinct One Constable and their K9 unit to JMS, a German shepherd named Quelle. K9 Quelle is an ambassador for K9s4KIDS and K9s4COPS. She represents all of our law enforcement dogs K9s4KIDS and K9s4COPS place in schools and on the streets. She is used as our community ambassador dog for all social and community events, and has been in numerous schools and around hundreds of children.



Thanks to returning JMS mom Kate Mills, our class gardens are coming along so well, also. Be sure to check out the many herbs, veggies and flowers growing in the playground area.



Questions about JMS? Contact Candice Croker, Director at jms@stsumc.org



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2003 West 43rd Street
Houston, Texas 77018
Phone: (713) 686-8241
Fax: (713) 686-8427
www.stsumc.org

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St. Stephen's United Methodist Women
Young Energetic Adults

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICAL
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HOUSTON, TX



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



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

Program Staff



Andrea Mut
Organist



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



Melissa Soto
Nursery Coordinator

**Anita Cabrera, Brittany Hietpas,
Adriana Montes, Rachel Montes**
Nursery Staff

Administrative Staff



Mary Jessie
Accounting Manager
mary@stsumc.org



Mary Ellen King
Executive Secretary
maryellen@stsumc.org

Breast Cancer Awareness



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Each week, we'll have different brochures available with information about how you can help fight for a cure. Stop by the Narthex (sanctuary foyer) on Sundays to learn more.

Wednesday Nights this Fall



If you haven't yet checked out Wednesday nights at St. Stephens, we encourage you to join in the fun this week! Bring dinner for your family and join us for fellowship from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We provide drinks, tables, and paper goods. From 6:30-7:30, Nathan leads a Bible study, and Lindsay will lead children's choir practice through October 18. The nursery is available by request for your little ones. We hope to see you and your family this Wednesday night!

Nathan also leads a daytime Bible Study for adults Wednesdays at 2:30.

RAD Self Defense Course for Women



St. Stephen's will host a *free* RAD self-defense course for women, sponsored by Harris County Precinct 1 Constable Alan Rosen's Office, Monday-Thursday, October 23-26, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. The Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) System is a program of realistic, self-defense tactics and techniques. It is a comprehensive course for women that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance, while progressing on to the basics of hands-on defense training.

RAD is not a martial arts program. Courses are taught by certified RAD instructors and provide you with a workbook/reference manual. This manual outlines the entire physical defense program for reference and continuous personal growth. The RAD Systems is dedicated to teaching women defensive concepts and techniques against various types of assault, by utilizing easy, effective and proven self-defense tactics. Our system of realistic defense will provide a woman with the knowledge to make an educated decision about resistance.

Reservations are required for all who plan to attend. Please contact Deputy Dallas Norman at 713-755-7677 or Dallas.Norman@cn1.hctx.net.

Medicare Information Seminar



Enrolling in Medicare can be confusing. Sifting through the mind-boggling array of Medicare plans and supplemental plans can be difficult, and can be even more challenging as you age. If you are thinking about enrolling in Medicare and need information, a *free* seminar will be held at St. Stephen's on Tuesday, October 24, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 200. Our member, Lang Eng, a licensed insurance agent and registered financial adviser, will lead the seminar. Please RSVP to Lang at 832-607-6580.