

# The Evangel

St. Stephen's United Methodist Church

April 1, 2016

Volume 21, No. 7

## Sunday, April 3:

Second Sunday of Easter  
Communion Sunday

### Contemporary Worship

8:30 am

### Sunday School

9:40 am

### Traditional Worship

11:00 am

## Sunday, April 10:

Third Sunday of Easter  
Food Pantry Sunday  
JMS Sunday  
Fellowship Spud Lunch

### Contemporary Worship

8:30 am

### Sunday School

9:40 am

### Traditional Worship

11:00 am

## A Message from the Pastor

### I Have Seen the Lord!



"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.

Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying?' 'They have taken my Lord away,' she said, 'and I don't know where they have put him.' At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?' Thinking he was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary.'

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said, 'Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: 'I have seen the Lord!' And she told them that he had said these things to her." (John 20:1-18)

**Where have you seen the Lord recently?** In the eyes of a child listening to a Bible story? In the reading of God's Word? In the face of a homeless man needing food? In the singing of a hymn or praise song with others? In the circle of your family praying at mealtime? In the giving and receiving of Holy Communion? In sharing joys and concerns with faithful friends? In hearing God's Word proclaimed in word and song? In planting and digging in the flowerbeds? **Jesus spoke Mary's name and she recognized Him. He is calling your name, too. Listen!**

Yours in Christ,

*Kevin*

## Easter Sunday at St. Stephen's



Left: Children's Moment  
Above: Sunday School  
Right: Flowering of the Cross



**OUR MISSION  
is to know God and  
make God known!**

**Attendance and Contributions at St. Stephen's:**

	<u>7:00 am</u>	<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>
March 20 Palm Sunday		49	149	118	\$6,303.50	\$650.50	\$70.00	—
March 27 Easter Sunday	27	91	233	82	\$8,329.00	\$765.00	\$110.00	\$328.58
March 24 Maundy Thursday	<u>7 pm</u> 56				\$270.00			
March 25 Good Friday	<u>7 pm</u> 113							

**From the St. Stephen's Foundation Committee****Stretching Your Charitable Dollars**

Feeling charitable? Many of us understand the importance of supporting the church financially, but want to be sure we make the most of our charitable dollars. A gift to the church endowment fund is a great way to support the church now and in the future, making your gift one that will keep on giving. Endowment funds are invested and the income may be used to support special church projects and initiatives for decades to come. If you have a passion for a particular ministry, consider either contributing to its endowment if one exists or setting up a fund specifically designated to support that ministry. For more information about endowment giving, contact our financial partner, Heartspring Methodist Foundation, at 713-533-3780, 1-800-521-9617 or [office@heartspringmethodist.org](mailto:office@heartspringmethodist.org).

**Milestones****It's a Boy!**

Congratulations to John and Alisa Tackett upon the birth of their son, **Thomas Joel Tackett!** Thomas arrived March 16 weighing 5 pounds, 14 ounces, and at 18 inches long. Brenda Paulk is his proud grandmother and Lola Hensley is his proud great-grandmother. Big brothers, Ian and Finley are mighty proud, too!

Jonathan and Alison Luikens have a new addition to their family! **Harrison Max Luikens** arrived March 25 at 19 1/2 inches and weighing 7 1/2 pounds. Tom and Susan Luikens are Harrison's proud grandparents.

**It's a Girl!**

Kim and Jean Woods have a new baby girl, **Isla Mackenzie Woods**, born March 26 weighing 8 pounds, 6 ounces, and at 20 1/2 inches long. Isla is the great-granddaughter of the late Elsie Kessler, who served as St. Stephen's church secretary for many years. She was born one day before Elsie's birthday.

**In Memory**

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Margaret Demuth and her family upon the death of her husband, **Henry Demuth**, on March 18. A memorial service will be held for Henry on Saturday, April 2, at 3:00 p.m. at American Heritage Funeral Home, 10710 Veterans Memorial Drive, in Houston.

**Letters of Thanks**

March 10, 2016

Dear Pastor Otto,

Because the YMCA changes lives and builds people every day, each year we count on people like you to make our programs and services available to those who need them most.

Thank you for your pledge from your congregation's Communion offerings of \$983.00 to the Harriet and Joe Foster Family YMCA 2016 Annual Campaign. Your generosity will have an impact on the lives of many children and families in our community.

While your contribution is important, we also appreciate the relationship between you and the YMCA. Thank you for playing such an important role in the YMCA's ability to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Lengefeld, Community Executive Director



March 17, 2016

Dear Friends,

Kindness and thoughtfulness comes from the heart. This has been expressed to us so many times during the past weeks. Thank you for your prayers, cards, calls and food. We are so fortunate to be a part of St. Stephen's family.

Blessings,

*Ray and Carolyn Belk*

**Evangel Deadlines**

Publication Date

April 15

April 29

News Deadline

Noon, Monday, April 11

Noon, Monday, April 25

Send articles to [maryellen@stsumc.org](mailto:maryellen@stsumc.org) or call the church office.

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## Friday, April 1:

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

## Saturday, April 2:

8:00 am—Garden Angels Dirt Diggers Workday (Work on flowerbeds.)  
11:00 am—Cruisin' for Christ Car Show (Education Bldg Parking Lot)  
8:00 pm—Narcotics Anonymous Support Group (Scout House)

## Sunday, April 3:

### Second Sunday of Easter

#### Communion Sunday

8:30 am—Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)  
9:40am—Sunday School for Children, Youth & Adults (Education Bldg)  
11:00 am—Children's Worship Service (Room 101)  
11:00 am—Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)  
12:00 pm—Radical Hospitality Ministry Team Meeting (Church Library)  
12:15 pm—Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group Meeting (Youth Room 205)  
4:00 pm—Christian Believer Study (Church Library)

## Monday, April 4:

10:00 am—Senior Adult Council Meeting (Room 201)  
11:40 am—Staff Prayer (Sanctuary)  
7:00 pm—Finance Ministry Team Meeting (Room 101)  
7:00 pm—Boy Scout Troop 604 Committee Meeting (Scout House)

## Tuesday, April 5:

9:00 am—Johnson Memorial School Classes (Education Building)  
9:30 am—COVENANT Women's Bible Study (Room 201)  
1:00 pm—Johnson School Dance Class (Room 101)  
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, April 6:

6:00 am—Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)  
9:00 am—Johnson Memorial School Classes (Education Building)  
9:30 am—Senior Activities Day Games & Lunch (Fellowship Hall)  
1:00 pm—Johnson School Stay-N-Play (Church Library & Fellowship Hall)  
6:00 pm—Sonrise (Contemporary Worship) Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

## Thursday, April 7:

9:00 am—Johnson Memorial School Classes (Education Bldg)  
10:00 am—Prayer Shawl Ministry (Room 112)  
1:00 pm—Johnson School Gymnastics (Fellowship Hall)  
1:15 pm—Office/Program Staff Meeting (Room 101)  
6:15 pm—Handbell Choir Practice (Room 101)  
6:30 pm—Girl Scouts Brownies Meeting (Room 108)  
6:30 pm—Girl Scouts Brownies/Jr.'s Meeting (Room 113)  
7:30 pm—Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

## Friday, April 8:

### Boy Scouts Troop 604 Campout

6:00 am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Denny's @ West 34th & 290)  
8:00 am—Child Car Seat Safety Event (Glebe/West 43rd St. Parking Lot)  
5:00 pm—Cobler Wedding Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

## Saturday, April 9:

### Boy Scouts Troop 604 Campout

11:30 am—Red Hats Luncheon (Yank Sing Chinese Buffet, 2005 Mangum)  
4:00 pm—Cobler Wedding (Sanctuary)  
8:00 pm—Narcotics Anonymous Support Group (Scout House)

## Sunday, April 10:

### Third Sunday of Easter

#### Food Pantry Sunday

#### Johnson Memorial School Sunday

#### Troop 604 Returns from Campout

8:30 am—Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)  
9:40 am—Sunday School for Children, Youth & Adults (Education Bldg)  
9:45 am—JMS Parent's Brunch (Fellowship Hall)  
11:00 am—Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)  
12:00 pm—Fellowship Spud Lunch (Fellowship Hall)  
1:00 pm—United Methodist Women Meeting (Fellowship Hall)  
4:00 pm—Christian Believer Study (Church Library)

## Monday, April 11:

10:00 am—The Gathering Place (Fellowship Hall)  
11:40 am—Staff Prayer (Sanctuary)  
12:00 pm—Deadline to turn in articles for April 15 Evangel (Send to [maryellen@stsumc.org](mailto:maryellen@stsumc.org) or call the church office.)  
7:00 pm—Boy Scout Troop 604 Meeting (Scout House)

## Tuesday, April 12:

9:00 am—Johnson Memorial School Classes (Education Building)  
9:30 am—COVENANT Women's Bible Study (Room 209)  
1:00 pm—Johnson School Dance Class (Fellowship Hall)  
1:00 pm—Johnson School Teacher Meeting (Church Library)  
6:15 pm—Girl Scouts Cadettes Meeting (Rooms 112 & 113)  
6:30 pm—GriefShare Grief Support Group (Room 101)  
7:30 pm—Sea Scouts Ship 24 Meeting (Scout House)

## Wednesday, April 13:

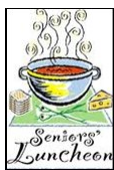
6:00 am—Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)  
9:00 am—Johnson Memorial School Classes (Education Building)  
9:30 am—Senior Games (Fellowship Hall/Bring a sack lunch.)  
10:15 am—Homebound Visitation Team Meeting (Room 101)  
1:00 pm—Johnson School Stay-N-Play (Library & Fellowship Hall)  
6:00 pm—Sonrise (Contemporary Worship) Choir Practice (Sanctuary)  
7:00 pm—Missions Ministry Team Meeting (Church Library)

## Thursday, April 14:

9:00 am—Johnson Memorial School Classes (Education Building)  
11:00 am—VIPs Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)  
1:00 pm—Johnson School Gymnastics (Fellowship Hall)  
6:15 pm—Handbell Choir Practice (Room 101)  
7:30 pm—Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

## Friday, April 15:

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



### Senior Activities Day

All adults age 50+ are welcome to join us for our monthly Senior Activities Day, Wednesday, April 6, in the fellowship hall. Games begin at 9:30 a.m. followed by a soup and sandwich lunch at 11:45 a.m. Love offerings are encouraged to help cover the cost of lunch.



### Child Car Seat Safety Event

St. Stephen's will host free child car seat safety inspections, sponsored by Harris County Precinct 1 Constable Alan Rosen's Office, on Friday, April 8, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in our parking lot at the corner of Glebe and West 43rd Streets. Certified technicians will check each seat for recall/expiration and proper working parts; and teach parents correct usage and installation techniques. Drive-ins are welcome, but appointments will have priority. To schedule an appointment, please call 713-755-7677.

### Red Hats Luncheon



Ladies of all ages, including newcomers, you are invited to join the Red Hats for our monthly luncheon Saturday, April 9, at 11:30 a.m. at Yank Sing Chinese Buffet (which also serves American food), 2005 Mangum. Please RSVP to Cindy Tindol at 713-686-8241 or [cindy@stsumc.org](mailto:cindy@stsumc.org).

### United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women will meet Sunday, April 10, following the Fellowship Spud Lunch. Our Youth will be serving spuds with all the fixings and salad, so you won't need to bring a lunch this month!

Ladies of all ages are welcome to join us. For more information, please contact Marsha Hickerson, UMW President, at 281-797-6234.







### Communion Offering for April

Our Communion offering for the month of April will go to Wesley Community Center. Located at 1410 Lee Street, Wesley Community Center provides comprehensive services to children, youth, adults and seniors. Wesley Center programs provide children with a safe and nurturing learning environment, and redirect youth away from delinquent behavior to mold them into productive adults. The Center's programs also provide adults and seniors with meals and food assistance, social opportunities, health education and spiritual enrichment. Please support Wesley Community Center with your prayers and generous contributions.

### Food Pantry Sunday

Sunday, April 10, is Food Pantry Sunday. Please bring donations of non-perishable food to the basket in the Narthex (sanctuary foyer) marked MANNA (Ministry Assistance of the Near Northwest Alliance). The food will be delivered to the MANNA Food Pantry to be given to needy families in our area.



### Welcome

Pastor Kevin needs volunteers to help him greet our guests and regular attenders at worship services. We want everyone to feel welcome at St. Stephen's. We also want to follow up when we haven't seen someone in awhile to let them know we have been missing them. If you would like to be a greeter for one of our worship services on Sunday mornings, please contact the church office.

### Help Greet Our Guests

### Baby Brigade

We are starting a caring ministry group of volunteers interested in bringing food to families that have just had a new baby. The food can be homemade, store-bought or even a gift card to a local restaurant. If you would like to help families that have recently expanded, please contact Mary Gossett, our Director of Student Ministries. Mary will let you know when we have a new family so that you can help when you are available.



### Walk to Emmaus

I want to thank my sponsor and all who prayed for me before, during and after my attending the Walk to Emmaus #90. I am renewed and my commitment to Jesus Christ has been strengthened and re-energized. Though I may appear quiet and reserved, the fire inside me with the love of Jesus Christ has been fueled to a bon-fire. Reading my Bible and daily devotional fuels this fire, and sharing God's love in all that I do is my life commitment wherever I go.

Are you ready for a challenge? Are you on fire for Jesus? Are you in need of a renewed re-commitment to Jesus Christ that will transform you inside out? The Emmaus Walk is a three day retreat that facilitates this transformation. To inquire further, contact Pastor Kevin Otto at 713-686-8241, or ask anyone who has been on an Emmaus Walk.



Sincerely, *Elizabeth Jackson*  
Walk to Emmaus #90, Table of Sarah

## Notes from the Minister of Music



What a beautiful Holy Week and Easter it was this year! Many thanks to all who sang, played, and worshipped through it all! The Holy Spirit certainly spoke to me, and I pray that you were moved as well through our times of worship together.

Now it is Eastertide, and this is a celebratory time of year as we live into the joy of the Resurrection. For me, the joy of resurrection is found in my daughters' laughter when tears were present just moments before, blooming flowers on a bush that was once barren, afternoons at the park when the birds sing and the butterflies flutter past and the weather is not too cold or too hot. I find the joy of resurrection in new songs of faith, as another generation puts words to their love for God as the generations before us have done. I experience the joy of resurrection in worship as I confess my sins, receive God's forgiveness, and give myself to God again to be shaped and molded into Christ's image. Where do you find the joy of the resurrection in your life?

### Prayer Concerns

#### In Our Prayers

Ed and Claytie Abrahams, Akin Ajose, Jane Anderson, John Artz, Chappie Ashburn, Ruth Austin, Brooklyn Barner & family; Carolyn Belk, Dorette Benjamin and family, Anita Bishop, Doris Birdsong, Paula Brady, Akin & Edris Cloud, Chappie Collins, Gloria Collins, Lonnie Coursey, Dorothy Cox, the family of Henry Demuth, Elizabeth Dennard, Charlotte Dorton, Sammi Douglas, Gerald Dupree, Rev. Tom & Jan Edwards, Cameron Elliott, the Emerson family, Jack Ford, Penny Gadmer, Bill & Mildred Gandin, Rev. Charles Greene, Dorothy Haschke; Ryan, Melissa & Nathan Harrison; Virginia Head, Darrel & Kathleen Hearn, Mike Henke, Tripp Hensley, Robert & Monica Hicks, Ann Hill, Elizabeth Huebner, Wanzel Jessie, Sr. & family; Thelma Jones, Kairos Outside Weekend #33, Angus & Virginia Lewis, Bob Luikens, Ross M., Tristian Maddison, Marsha Massey, Frances Mayberry, Mary McClanahan, Ed Mills, Mary Nelle Moore, Daniel Niederhofer, Pastor Kevin Otto, Dian Parker, Margie Perron, Milton & Noni Ray, Bill & Caroline Reaves, Betty Reilly, Kate Robertson, Kathleen Saathoff, Josephine & Brayan Sanders and family; Dianna Shinall, Barbara Smith, Lura Smith, Jean & Vance Sorrells, Melissa Soto, the family of Donald Southward, Billy & Jean Stephens, Elizabeth Sutherland, Danny Thomason, Hazel Thompson, Rosalie Turner, Christopher Valerie, David and Carolyn Williamson, Charles Zimmermann

#### In the Military

Dirk Ray Jr., Allen Troth

#### In the Hospital

Colonial Oaks Westchase—Anna Ruth Putnam (hospice)



### A Message from the Director of Student Ministries

#### Easter Activities

On Saturday, March 26, we had an Easter Egg Hunt at Candlelight Park. The weather was perfect, the eggs were plentiful, and several families came out to celebrate with us. Mary Gossett told the Easter story using stickers, and each child received a sticker set to take home and retell the story. We released three butterflies and talked about how they remind us of the Resurrection. We set up a little area for families to take pictures of their children with giant eggs and an Easter cross. Thank you to everyone that packed eggs, and all of our volunteers who came out early to hide the eggs. The children enjoyed it!

On Easter Sunday, the children heard the Easter Story, and then they posed around the "empty tomb" that Ms. Mary created for the JMS Easter Chapel. The children enjoyed climbing in the tomb to announce that Jesus was not here, he is risen! The children then went to find a whole bunch of eggs on the playground.

On Easter, the entire congregation was invited to put flowers on our flowering cross. It is a colorful reminder of the new life that we find in Jesus.

#### Youth at the Movies

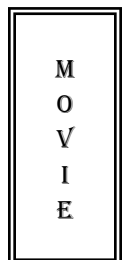
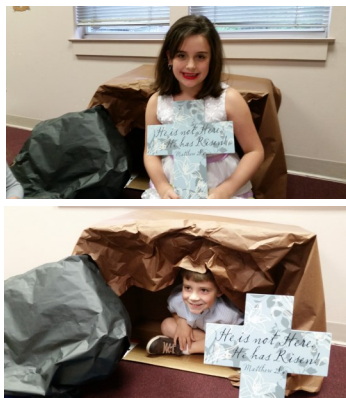
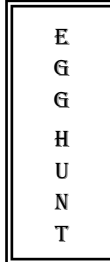
The youth and their families went to see "Miracles from Heaven" on March 20. Everyone cried. It was a nice movie that touched on struggles of faith in the midst of suffering. Everyone enjoyed the movie and the family time together.

#### Spud Lunch

Our next Spud Lunch is Sunday, April 10. Mark your calendars! Any donations collected will go toward funding youth mission and summer camps.

#### JMS Sunday

The families of Johnson Memorial School students have been invited to join us in worship on Sunday, April 10. We have invited them to share a scripture, sing a song, and share their artwork. We are excited to recognize all that they do in our community.



#### Johnson Memorial School

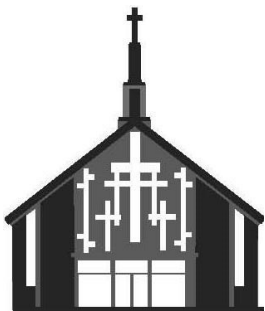


#### Johnson Memorial School News

For those of you who may have missed the announcement in the February 5, 2016, issue of the *Evangel*, Amy Mingle, who has served as Director of the Johnson Memorial School for the past 4 years, is retiring in May of this year. We will miss her greatly, as she served for 8 years as a JMS teacher before becoming the director of the school. Candice Croker, who has served as a helping teacher at the Johnson School, will serve as Director beginning in the fall of 2016.

The Johnson Memorial School is now registering students for the 2016-2017 school year. Classes are available for children who will be 3 years old as of September 1, 2016, and those who are 4. For more information, contact Amy Mingle at 713-686-8241 or [jms@stsumc.org](mailto:jms@stsumc.org).





## St. Stephen's United Methodist Church

2003 West 43rd Street  
Houston, Texas 77018  
(713) 686-8241

[www.stsumc.org](http://www.stsumc.org)



**Rev. Kevin Otto**  
*Senior Pastor*  
[kevin@stsumc.org](mailto:kevin@stsumc.org)

### Program Staff



**Rev. Lindsay Smith**  
*Minister of Music*  
[music@stsumc.org](mailto:music@stsumc.org)



**Mary Gossett**  
*Director of Student Ministries*  
[youth@stsumc.org](mailto:youth@stsumc.org)



**Juyeon Kim**  
*Organist*



**Amy Mingle**  
*Director,  
Johnson Memorial School*  
[jms@stsumc.org](mailto:jms@stsumc.org)



**Melissa Soto**  
*Nursery Coordinator*

**Anita Cabrera, Lydia Soto,  
Jo Ann Spivey**  
*Nursery Staff*

### Administrative Staff



**Mary Jessie**  
*Accounting Manager*  
[mary@stsumc.org](mailto:mary@stsumc.org)



**Mary Ellen King**  
*Executive Secretary*  
[maryellen@stsumc.org](mailto:maryellen@stsumc.org)



**Cindy Tindol**  
*Receptionist*  
[cindy@stsumc.org](mailto:cindy@stsumc.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICAL  
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HOUSTON, TX

### 2016 Cruisin' for Christ Car Show

Don't miss St. Stephen's 2016 Car Show this Saturday, April 2, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Education Building parking lot! Pastor Kevin Otto will bless the cars and drivers at 12:00 p.m. Awards will be announced at 1:30 p.m. In addition to the vehicle show, there will be door prizes, special activities for kids in the fellowship hall and Boy Scouts Troop 604 will be selling lunches. There is no charge to have fun checking out all the vehicles, so plan to bring the family and invite your neighbors, too. A special White Glove Tour will be available for those who are visually or hearing impaired.

It's not too late to register a vehicle for the show. All types of vehicles are welcome: classic, hot rod, muscle, lead sled and more! Registration forms are available at [www.stsumc.org](http://www.stsumc.org) and through the church office. Pre-registration is \$10 per vehicle; registration the day of the show is \$20 per vehicle. Registration at the door will take place from 8:30-10:30 a.m. on April 2. All who register a vehicle in the show will receive a free lunch provided by Troop 604, plus a free goodie bag and T-shirt. All profits will benefit the Youth Ministry at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church and the World Service Fund.

*Car Show*



### Johnson Memorial School Sunday



#### JMS Sunday

The families of Johnson Memorial School Students have been invited to join us for a special JMS Sunday on April 10, when we will honor and recognize the work that the Johnson School has done in the life of our church and community. On this Sunday, we will recognize the JMS teachers and directors, and the children will bless the congregation in both services by sharing songs and scriptures. The parents of JMS students will be served breakfast at 9:45 a.m. and their children are welcome to attend Sunday School while their parents enjoy their meal.

Everyone, including our JMS families, is welcome to stay for a Fellowship Spud Lunch, hosted by our Youth, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Love offerings from the lunch will help fund youth missions and camps this summer.



### Save the Date for the Golf Tournament!



Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 7, for our annual golf tournament, to be held at Jersey Meadow Golf Course, 8502 Rio Grande Street, in Jersey Village. Watch future issues of *The Evangel*, the website, our Facebook page and the worship bulletins, or see Dixie Hardwick, for more information.