

# *The Evangel*

**St. Stephen's United Methodist Church**  
**May 13, 2016** **Volume 21, No. 10**

**Sunday, May 15:**

Day of Pentecost  
 Confirmation Sunday

**Contemporary Worship**  
 8:30 am

**Sunday School**  
 9:40 am

**Traditional Worship**  
 11:00 am

**Sunday, May 22:**

First Sunday after Pentecost  
 Trinity Sunday

**Contemporary Worship**  
 8:30 am

**Sunday School**  
 9:40 am

**Traditional Worship**  
 11:00 am



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

**Mother's Day and Youth-Led Worship—May 8, 2016**



**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>Repairs</u>
May 1	48	177	127	\$15,312.50	\$598.50	—	\$35.11	—
May 8 Mother's Day	46	162	88	\$5,871.92	—	—	\$4.38	—

**From the St. Stephen's Foundation Committee****Connectional Resources for TAC**

Texas Annual Conference, which meets this year May 29-June 1, celebrates the connectional aspect of our denomination and provides invaluable networking opportunities for our leadership. It is also a great time to learn of and celebrate the agencies within our conference that provide you and our church with helpful tools and resources. For instance, Heartspring Methodist Foundation, financial partner to the Texas Conference, is a nonprofit agency established to provide financial and stewardship services to Texas Conference churches and members, like you. If you are interested in supporting the church or your favorite ministry, contact Heartspring at 713-533-3780, 1-800-521-9617 or office@heartspringmethodist.org to learn about your options.

**Milestones****Welcome, New Member!**

**Elaine Rosenbaum** joined St. Stephen's United Methodist Church by transfer of membership from First Methodist Houston on Sunday, May 8. Here is Elaine's contact information so that you can welcome her personally:

**5005 Georgi Lane #198  
Houston, Texas 77092  
(713) 682-5599 (home)  
(713) 858-8012 (cell)**

**In Memory**

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Amy Millar and her family upon the death of her father, **Huntly Millar**, on April 11. Funeral services were held for Huntly on April 23 at Forest Park Lawndale in Houston.

Our sympathy and prayers are also extended to Roy Dean and Pam Leighton, and their family, upon the death of Roy Dean's father, **Roy Dean Leighton, Sr.**, on April 29. A memorial service is being planned for Saturday, May 28, in Clayton, New Mexico.

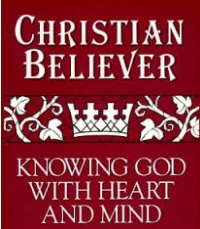
Please lift up Carl and Sharon Graham, and their family, in prayer. Carl's brother, **Jimmy Graham**, passed away suddenly on May 5. A memorial service was held for Jimmy in Atlanta, Georgia.

Please pray for Donna Schmidt and her family. Donna's husband, **Werner Schmidt**, passed away Tuesday, May 10. A memorial service will be held at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 21.

**Address Update**

**Elizabeth Jackson** made a move recently. Please make note of her new address:

**214 Oyster Creek Dr.  
Lake Jackson, Texas 77566**

**Congratulations to Christian Believer Graduates**

Congratulations to the following people who completed the thirty-week Christian Believer Bible Study: Julie Elaine Burks, Patricia Creed, Christie Fisher, Steven Fisher, Nancy S. Gibbins, Amy Elizabeth Millar, Daniel Niederhofer, Mamie Niederhofer, William F. Webb III and Donna Ebelt-Wilson.

Thank you, Pastor Kevin Otto, for your support and for coming to serve Holy Communion at our closing service on May 1, 2016. Another thank you to Jeanette Klemola for calligraphy on the certificates. They are beautiful! And finally, a big heartfelt thank you to the class members for their love, kindness, support and many gifts of love both at our final class and throughout the past year. You have a special place in my heart and I love you all!

*Susan Barcus*  
Class Facilitator

*(We will recognize these individuals who completed the Christian Believer Study during the 11:00 a.m. worship service this Sunday, May 15.)*

**Evangel Deadlines**

<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>News Deadline</u>
May 27	Noon, Monday, May 23
June 10	Noon, Monday, June 6

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

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## Friday, May 13:

### Boy Scout Troop 604 Campout

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

8:15 am—Bus leaves church for VIPs Trip to Washington-on-the-Brazos

## Saturday, May 14:

### Troop 604 Campout

8:00 am—Garden Angels Dirt Diggers Workday (Work on flowerbeds.)

11:30 am—Red Hats Luncheon (Ty Seafood Kitchen, 11011 NW Frwy)

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

## Sunday, May 15:

### Day of Pentecost

### Confirmation Sunday

### Troop 604 Returns from Campout

8:30 am—Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)

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

11:00 am—Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

12:15 pm—Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group Meeting (Youth Room 205)

4:00 pm—Bible Village Volunteer Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

4:00 pm—St. Stephen's Softball Game (Candlelight Fields, 6500 Rena)

## Monday, May 16:

11:40 am—Staff Prayer (Sanctuary)

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

## Tuesday, May 17:

9:00 am—Johnson Memorial School Field Trip

9:30 am—COVENANT Women's Bible Study (Room 201)

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

1:00 pm—Johnson School Teacher Meeting (Church Library)

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

7:30 pm—Sea Scouts Ship 24 Meeting (Scout House)

## Wednesday, May 18:

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

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

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

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

11:00 am—Johnson School Chapel Service (Sanctuary)

6:00 pm—Sonrise (Contemporary Worship) Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

7:00 pm—Education Ministry Team Meeting (Room 112)

## Thursday, May 19

### Last Day of Classes for Johnson Memorial School

### Johnson School Splash Day

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)

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

## Friday, May 20:

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

6:30 pm—Family Fun Night (Fellowship Hall)

## Saturday, May 21:

### Armed Forces Day

11:00 am—Memorial Service for Werner Schmidt (Sanctuary)

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

## Sunday, May 22:

### First Sunday after Pentecost

### Trinity Sunday

8:30 am—Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)

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

11:00 am—Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

12:00 pm—Armed Forces Appreciation Fellowship Lunch (Fellowship Hall)

1:00 pm—Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group Meeting (Youth Room 205)

2:00 pm—St. Stephen's Softball Game (Candlelight Fields)

6:00 pm—Young Energetic Adults Pot Luck (Fellowship Hall)

## Monday, May 23:

11:30 am—Fun4Seniors Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

11:40 am—Staff Prayer (Sanctuary)

12:00 pm—Deadline to turn in articles for May 27 *Evangel* Newsletter (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, May 24:

9:00 am—Johnson School Parent Conferences (Education Building)

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

7:00 pm—Oak Forest Citizen Patrol Meeting (Room 209)

7:30 pm—Sea Scouts Ship 24 Meeting (Scout House)

## Wednesday, May 25:

### Last Day of Classes for HISD Students

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

9:00 am—Johnson Memorial School Teacher Workday (Education Bldg)

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

6:00 pm—Sonrise (Contemporary Worship) Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

## Thursday, May 26:

1:15 pm—Office/Program Staff Meeting (Room 101)

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

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

## Friday, May 27:

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

11:30 am—Solitaires Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

### Red Hats Luncheon



Ladies of all ages are invited to join the Red Hats for our monthly luncheon on Saturday, May 14, at 11:30 a.m. at Ty Seafood Kitchen, 11011 Northwest Freeway. Please RSVP to hostess, Ruth Cook, at [ruthc1010@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthc1010@yahoo.com).

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

### Bible Village Volunteer Meeting



A meeting for all Bible Village volunteers will be held this Sunday, May 15, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We want to get forms signed, assign houses, get supply lists and costumes, etc., so that we can just come to the VBS Breakfast and Safe Sanctuary Training on June 11 and not have to worry about doing Bible Village "stuff" at that time. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Barcus at 713-937-9087 or [sjbarcus@comcast.net](mailto:sjbarcus@comcast.net).

### Family Fun Night



Round up the entire family and join us for Family Fun Night, hosted by our Education Ministry Team, on Friday, May 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We'll be playing "giant" games - Jenga, Tiddlywinks and Tic Tac Toe Toss. Don't miss this night of "big" family fun, and be sure to invite your neighbors, too!

### Armed Forces Appreciation Fellowship Lunch



Saturday, May 21, is Armed Forces Day, a day to pay tribute to men and women who serve the United States' armed forces. We will pay tribute to these men and women at an Armed Forces Appreciation Fellowship Lunch, hosted by our Radical Hospitality Ministry Team, on Sunday, May 22, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The menu will be All-American, featuring hot dogs and frito pies with all the fixings, and even a vegetarian option. Everyone is welcome!

The Young Energetic Adults will gather later that day (May 22) at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a pot luck dinner. All young adults, married and single, are welcome to join us. Please contact Steven Fisher to find out what to bring at [f15h3r@hotmail.com](mailto:f15h3r@hotmail.com).



### UMCOR Church-Wide Project

The UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Church-Wide Project for 2016 is layette kits. Please pick up a list of needed items for the kits in the Narthex (sanctuary foyer) and bring one or more items to the basket in the Narthex marked "UMCOR". The United Methodist Women are the coordinators for this project.



### "Walk to Emmaus" Alumni Gathering

If you have ever participated in a "Walk to Emmaus", you are invited to attend a reunion gathering of Emmaus alumni on Saturday, June 4, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We'll begin with an informal meet-and-greet and light refreshments. If your last name begins with an A-M, please bring a salty snack. If your last name begins with an N-Z, bring something sweet. From 6:30-7:30, we'll have an open discussion regarding the past, present and going forward.

Please RSVP to the church office at 713-686-8241 by Thursday, May 26. If you have questions, please contact Elizabeth Jackson at 281-788-6924 or et.jackson@yahoo.com. This reunion gathering is for people who have already been on a "Walk to Emmaus"; therefore, it will not include an introduction to the Emmaus Walk. If you would like to know more about the Walk to Emmaus experience, please visit [emmaus.upperroom.org](http://emmaus.upperroom.org).



### Casting Call for Mystery Dinner Theater

St. Stephen's is looking for actors and actresses for this year's Mystery Dinner Theater. Performances are scheduled for Saturday, August 13, and Sunday, August 14. If you are interested in an acting part for the Mystery Dinner Theater, please contact Steven Fisher at 713-724-8397 or f15h3r@hotmail.com.

### Vacation Bible School



We need lots of volunteers each year to make our Vacation Bible School a successful outreach to the children and families of St. Stephen's and our community. Adults and youth who will complete the eighth grade this school year are welcome to volunteer in the VBS classrooms or our Bible Village, where children get to experience life as it was in Bible days. (Youth who have completed the fifth through the seventh grades are eligible to volunteer in the Bible Village only.) **There will be a meeting for all Bible Village volunteers this Sunday, May 15, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** We will get forms signed, assign houses, and get supply lists and costumes before the Safe Sanctuary Training on June 11.

This year, children age 3 (and potty-trained) through those who will be entering the fifth grade next school year are invited to join us June 27-July 1 at "The Surf Shack" where they can "Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love"! If you are interested in volunteering for VBS, please contact Mary Gossett, our Director of Student Ministries at 713-686-8241 or [youth@stsumc.org](mailto:youth@stsumc.org).

## Notes from the Minister of Music



Pentecost! The fire of the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus' followers and the Church is born! This is one of my favorite holy days. This Sunday we celebrate the Third Person of the Trinity, who lives and dwells within us as baptized believers in Jesus Christ. So often the Holy Spirit is the overlooked member of the God-head, yet it is by the power of the Holy Spirit that the Church was born. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can begin to understand who God is, though we can never understand God completely. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that we are drawn deeper into relationship with God. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that we are united with Christ and with each other in the act of sharing Holy Communion. The Holy Spirit has given us gifts, and enables us to use them rightly. The Holy Spirit transforms our lives by the love and grace of God. The Holy Spirit was given to us as a gift from the Father and Son; this is a gift of God's very own self coming to reside in us! Come and celebrate this amazing gift that we have been given this Sunday of Pentecost! Come, Holy Spirit!

### Prayer Concerns

Ed and Claytie Abrahams, Edith Armstrong, John Artz, the family of Jane Anderson, Chappie Ashburn, Ruth Austin, Carolyn Belk, Dorette & Kyle Benjamin, Anita Bishop, Doris Birdsong, Gwen & Robert Boucher, Paula Brady, Chappie Collins, Lonnie Coursey, Dorothy Cox, Elizabeth Dennard, Ed Dickson, Charlotte Dorton, Sammi Douglas, Gerald Dupree, Stephen & Brenda Edrozo, Rev. Tom & Jan Edwards, Cameron Elliott, Kathy Ellison, the Emerson family, Jack Ford, Penny Gadmer, Bill & Mildred Gandin, Carl Graham and family upon the death of his brother, James; Milton Green, Sr.; Daniel Griffith, Beverly Harlow, Dorothy Haschke, Virginia Head, Darrel & Kathleen Hearn, Mike Henke, Tripp Hensley, Elizabeth Huebner, Lee Hughs, Wanzel Jessie, Sr. & family; Thelma Jones, Lee & LaNell Kruse, Nelda Lane & family upon the death of her husband, Bobby Lane; Jim & Dianne Latham & family; the Leighton family upon the death of Roy Dean's father, Roy Dean Leighton, Sr.; Jose Lewis, Carol Luce, Peter Lucht, Bobbie Luedke, Tom Luikens & family upon the death of his brother, Bob Luikens; Lavon Mahon & family, Marsha Massey, Frances Mayberry, Mary McClanahan, Ed Mills, Mary Nelle Moore, Virginia McVicker Meyer, Daniel Niederhofer, Pastor Kevin Otto, Dian Parker, Margie Perron, Candace & Jonah Ramirez upon the death of their newborn baby, Milton & Noni Ray, Bill & Caroline Reaves, Betty Reilly, Rogers & Jane Roberts, Kate Robertson, Kathleen Saathoff, James Sackett & family upon the death of his mother, Sarah Sackett; Susan Scheck, Donna Schmidt and family upon the death of Werner Schmidt, Dianna Shinall, Barbara Smith, Lura Smith, Vance & Jean Sorrells, Milly Spencer, Billy Stephens, Elizabeth Sutherland, Hazel Swearingen, Danny Thomason, Hazel Thompson, Bob Weinberg, David and Carolyn Williamson, Charles Zimmermann; victims of Southeast Texas floods

### In Our Prayers

Dirk Ray Jr., Allen Troth

### In the Military

### In the Hospital

Colonial Oaks Westchase—Anna Ruth Putnam (hospice)  
Cornerstone Rehab Hospital—Gloria Collins

The Cottage at Spring Branch—Angus Lewis  
Memorial Hermann-Greater Heights—Virginia Lewis





### A Message from the Director of Student Ministries

#### Muffins with Mom

We had a wonderful brunch with our mothers this past Sunday. The children and moms made handprint butterflies together that they could hang on the fridge. We had muffins, fruit, milk, and juice so that the moms and children could enjoy their time together. Thank you to the volunteers for bringing up the breakfast for all to enjoy!



#### Youth Led Worship

The youth led a wonderful worship service on Mother's Day. They had a hand in planning everything including picking the hymns, the skit, the puppets, the scripture, and so on, all based around the theme of "I am a child of God." The theme reminded all of us that mothers, and all parents, can reflect God's love to us. Thank you to all the moms (and grandmas and dads) who sacrificed parts of your weekend so that we could practice and lead an excellent service.

#### Confirmation Class of 2016

Please be in prayer for Camdyn and Elena as they prepare to join the church as full members on Pentecost Sunday, May 15. They have been studying for several months, learning more about their faith and what our church teaches. We are excited to welcome them as professing members.



#### Family Fun Night

The education ministry team is excited to host our first Family Fun Night on Friday, May 20, starting at 6:30pm. We will have big games in the Fellowship Hall, like Angry Birds, Jenga, and even a large felt Mr. Potato Head. We will provide lemonade and popcorn to snack on. All are welcome!

#### Fine Arts Camp

The Children's Ministry and Music Ministry Departments are proud to announce that we are hosting a Fine Arts Camp in the evenings of July 24-28. We will start the program at 5pm with dinner, and then finish each evening at 7:30pm. The younger children will take classes in art, dance, and music, and the older children will take art, drama, and music. Those entering into kindergarten through the 6<sup>th</sup> grade for the upcoming school year are welcome to sign up. The cost for the week is \$100 for the first child, \$75 for the second, with a family cap of \$250. Volunteers receive a discount on tuition. For more information, please talk to Mary Gossett or Rev. Lindsay Smith.

#### Vacation Bible School

Don't forget to sign up to volunteer for Vacation Bible School! We are still in need of volunteers, and there is still plenty of room to register your child or grandchild or neighbor's child to go to VBS. There is a Bible Village meeting on Sunday, May 15 at 4pm.

### Johnson Memorial School News



Teachers and parents at the Johnson School hosted a Goodbye Party on May 3 for Amy Mingle, who is retiring as the preschool's director at the end of May. Amy is pictured in the middle. Pictured on the left is Candice Croker, the school's new director, and on the right is Ginger Garwood, former director.



St. Stephen's has a brand new playground, thanks to funding from the Johnson Memorial School. Students watch as Mrs. Mingle cuts the ribbon at the grand opening for the playground on April 28.

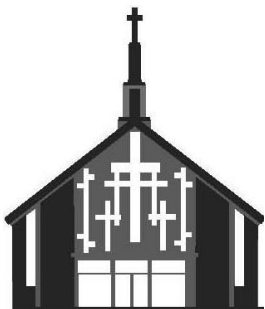


**Johnson Memorial School**



#### Registration Open for Johnson Memorial School

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 (and potty-trained) 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)

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### Notes of Thanks



The Bill Hardwick Memorial Golf Classic Committee would like to thank the St. Stephen's office staff, donors, hole sponsors and the golfers who made this year's tournament a wonderful success. It was a perfect day for golf and fellowship. We received donations of all kinds, including gift cards, golf balls and a fabulous stone cutting board in the shape of Texas. Our usual hole sponsors stepped up again and we added two new hole sponsors. We had many returning golfers and new ones added to the group this year. We plan to continue to grow this tournament as an outreach and fundraising event.

The Hardwick family would like to especially thank committee members, Ken Aldredge and Colleen Green, for all of their work and dedication to this event. It could not have happened without both of you. We thank you all for continuing to honor the memory of our sweet Bill by participating, donating and working to keep this tournament going and growing.

*Dixie Hardwick*

I deeply appreciate your thoughtful expressions of sympathy shown at the death of my brother-in-law, Bobby Lane. Your comfort and warm thoughts make the world a little brighter.

Thank you,  
*Betty Lane*



### Prayer Room



If you haven't checked out the Prayer Room lately, you need to stop by soon. The newest addition is this beautiful furniture hand-crafted by Tommy Bickel from wood removed from the sanctuary during the remodeling last year. Next on the agenda is repainting the walls, which should be completed soon. The Prayer Room is located upstairs in the Education Building at the end of the hallway next to the elevator.

### It's O-Fish-ally Summer!



St. Stephen's will host another Fun4Seniors Luncheon, sponsored by Harris County Precinct 4's Senior Adult Program, on Monday, May 23, 11:30 a.m. All adults age 50+ are welcome to join us for live, musical entertainment and an all-you-can-eat buffet of fried catfish, shrimp, French fries, hush puppies, coleslaw, beans and dessert. Please RSVP to Precinct 4's Senior Adult Program at 281-893-3726. A suggested donation of \$12 per person should be made payable to Fun4Seniors and mailed to Precinct 4's Senior Adult Program at 1731 Hugh Rd, Houston, Texas, 77067. Reel in some fun—don't let this be the one that got away! For more information about Precinct 4's Senior Adult Program and other Fun4Seniors events, please visit [www.hcp4.net](http://www.hcp4.net).