Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

The Evangel

ST. STEPHEN'S
united methodist church

We are all, without exception, beloved children of God

Milestones

Welcome, New Members!

We welcomed several new families who joined St. Stephen's on our Fall Kick Off Celebration Sunday, September 1!

Nathan and Anabel Burr, Ethan and Anyssa

Mark and Angelica Sullivan, Cecilia and Levi

Brianna Matheis and Aaron May

Juan and Kourtnei Ramirez, Langston and Everett

Birthday Milestone

Elizabeth Dennard celebrated her 101st birthday on August 29!

David Turilli and Sandra Pushkin

Please submit dates, pictures and information for the November Evangel by October 28, 2019, to info@stsumc.org.

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The church does not belong to us

Children, Youth and Family News

Mini Golf Classic - New for this year (and hopefully several more years to come) is our first annual Mini Golf Classic. This event will take place on the same day as the Bill Hardwick Memorial Golf Classic but will begin later in the afternoon. Our Family Ministries Director Steven Fisher will be at Speedys on Hempstead Road from 12-3:30 PM. Children, youth and their families can come play a round of mini golf any time during those hours to record a score. All children will receive a trophy for taking part while our youth will have the opportunity to be crowned the first Mini Golf Classic Champion. The cost is $6 per player which is to cover a round of mini golf and the awards. If you take part in the Bill Hardwick Memorial Golf Classic as a player or a volunteer, children and youth in your family can take part in the Mini Golf Classic for free. For more information email steven@stsumc.org

Messy Church - Save the date for our next Messy Church on Tuesday, October 22nd at 5:30. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page and in our Sunday bulletins for the theme which will be announced soon.

Children's Christmas Musical - October 20th at 12:30 our Children's Christmas Musical rehearsals will begin! We invite any of our children and youth who love to sing and act to join us as we put on a beautiful Lessons and Carols service with the Adult Choir and Handbell Choir on December 15th at 11:00. Register here: https://stsumc.churchcenter.com/registrations

Exciting New Changes in the Box Tops for Education Program! - No more clipping. No more sending Box Tops to school. All you need is your phone. Download the all new Box Tops app, shop as you normally would, them simply scan your store receipts to find participating products. The app will automatically credit your school's Box Tops earnings online. You can choose any of the local schools who participate, including Oak Forest Elementary, Stevens Elementary and Garden Oaks Montessori. Traditional Box Top clips are being phased out of production, but may continue to be found on many products. You can still clip and send those to school.

Trunk or Treat-Our annual 'Trunk or Treat' event will be held on Sunday, October 27th, from 3-5 PM. There will be decorated cars, a bounce house, and more candy than is recommended by the American Association of Dental Professionals. Would you like to decorate your trunk? Register at https://stsumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/304897 Can't take part but still want to bring the family? We'd love to see you there! The event is free and open to the community and everyone is encouraged to come in costume.

Johnson Memorial School - JMS returned for its 52nd school year on Thursday, September 5. We have 57 students this year and 13 staff members! Our first Bible theme is generosity this month which Pastor Nathan explained to the kids during our first chapel time on Thursday. Steven Fisher joined us during lunch in each class to conduct Blessing of the Lunchboxes and handed out bag tags to everyone.

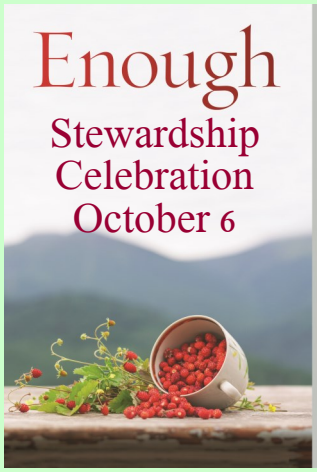
JMS students were stranded at school during Tropical Storm Imelda for an extra 3.5 hours after the school's usual 1pm dismissal time. Most parents were not able to navigate out of their own neighborhoods to make it to school for pick-up due to flood water around their homes. Our entire staff stayed put to keep our students calm, entertained and well-fed. We are grateful for so many friends who took care of our own kids during this stressful ordeal! We also want to give a special shout-out to Pastor Nathan for coming up with and making enough pancakes to feed 60 students and 13 staff members – we appreciate you!

October 2019 Highlights

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Worship Times **Celebration Service—** **Sunday, 8:30 am, Sanctuary** **Sunday School—** **Sunday, 9:40 am, Education Bldg** **Traditional Service—** **Sunday, 11:00 am, Sanctuary**			**For a more detailed calendar or to learn more about our church visit stsumc.org or call the church office.** **<u>For a list of recurring events, please see the next page.</u>** ***Register for events at stsumc.churchcenter.com.** **FH=Fellowship Hall Sanc=Sanctuary**			
 Stop by the table in the Narthex (sanctuary foyer) for information on how you can help fight for a cure!		**1**	**2** 9:30am—Senior Activities Day Games & Lunch-FH 	**3** 10am—Prayer Shawl Ministry-112 	**4**	**5** 7am—Garden Angels Dirt Diggers Work Day
6 Stewardship Celebration Communion 12pm—Celebration Luncheon-FH 5pm—UMYF 5:15pm—1st Sunday Bible Study	**7**	**8**	**9** HISD/JMS Fall Holiday 10am—Homebound Visitation-101 	**10** 11am—VIPs Luncheon-FH 	**11**	**12** 11:30am—Red Hats Luncheon-Lyndon's BBQ
13 Food Pantry Sunday 10am—Citgo 6 March-Candlelight Park (see pg 6)	**14** 10am—The Gathering Place-FH	**15**	**16** 9:30am—Hope Mission Group-112 	**17** 10am—Prayer Shawl Ministry-112 	**18**	**19** 7am-Noon—Golf Tournament-Jersey Meadow Golf Course
20 12:30pm—Children's Musical Rehearsals Begin (see pg 3) 5:00pm—UMYF (combined) 5:15pm—Third Sunday Bible Study	**21**	**22** 5:30pm—Messy Church-FH 	**23**	**24**	**25** 11:30am—Solitaires Luncheon-FH 	**26**
27 3-5pm—Trunk or Treat-Education Bldg Parking Lot 	**28** Evangel News Deadline 	**29**	**30**	**31 Halloween** JMS Parade/Class Parties 		

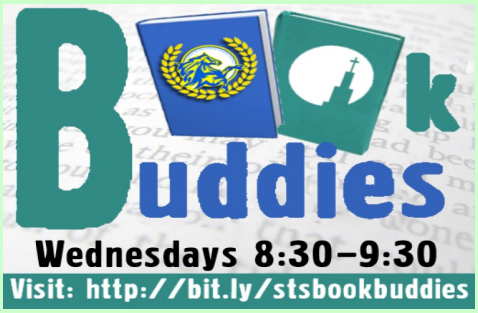
God is in our neighborhood and not just in our building

Get Involved



Stewardship Celebration Sunday

On October 6, we will conclude our stewardship emphasis, and we will have the opportunity to make personal commitments of our offerings to God through our church in the coming year. We'll consecrate these commitments in the worship services, and follow that with a potluck luncheon and celebration. Bring "Enough" of your favorite dish to share; we'll provide the main course.



Book Buddies - There's an exciting new opportunity for community outreach from St. Stephens! We will be participating in the "Book Buddies" Reading Program at Stevens Elementary, close by our church. It happens every Wednesday from 8:30 - 9:30 AM. Volunteers will read with two different children each session to enrich and improve their reading skills. To sign up to help with this ministry, visit http://bit.ly/stsbookbuddies

2019 Outstanding Mature and Young Adult Awards - It's time to begin thinking about a young and a mature member of St. Stephen's (individual or couple) whom you believe has provided outstanding service to the church in 2019. Nomination forms and collection boxes will be available in the Narthex beginning October 13. Award recipients will be announced at the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on Sunday, November 10.

Summer Reading Program

"Read and Grow" was the theme for the 2019 Summer Reading Program. Sunday, September 15 we celebrated the completion of the program with lemonade and flower cookies! Congratulations to all who participated this year. They include: Wade Boehm, Alyssa Burr, Ethan Burr, Julianna Cardner, Paige Cardner, Charli Eddy, Daniel Hernandez, Caroline Leffler, Olivia Lowe, Violet Lowe, Carol Luce, Falynn Menke, Brenda Paulk, Abigale Smith, Levi Sullivan, Finley Tackett, Ian Tackett and Susan Barcus. Special thanks to Barbara Lowe for her help in the Library year round and to Sharon Hayes for her help when Barbara and I are both unavailable!

Just because the summer program is over doesn't me@n you should stop reading. Stop by Sunday's, check out a book or two or some study materials for your discipleship pathway advancement and continue to grow by reading.

What's on at St. Stephen's

WEEKLY EVENTS

Parkinson's Yoga Class—Mon., 11:00 am, 101
Line Dancing—Tues., 9:30 am, FH
GriefShare Support Group, Tues., 6:30pm, 201
Men's Bible Study—Wed., 6 am, 112
Senior Games—Wed., 9:30 am & 1 pm, Café
Pastor's Bible Study—Wed., 2:30pm, 112
Handbell Choir Practice—Wed., 6:15 pm, 101
Chancel Choir Practice—Wed., 7:30pm, Choir Room
SongPlay—Thurs., 9:15am, Room 101
Sewing 101—Thurs., 4 pm, Room 202
Beginner sewing class for youth & parents
"Finding Your Inner Resiliency" Counseling Group—Thurs., 6:30 pm, Café
Men's Prayer Breakfast—Fri., 6 am, Denny's Restaurant @ 34th & 290

MONTHLY EVENTS

Food Pantry Sunday—2nd Sunday, Bring non-perishable food for MANNA
The Gathering Place—2nd Monday, 10:00 am, FH
Senior Activities Day Luncheon—1st Wed., 9:30 am, FH
Homebound Visitation—2nd Wednesday, 10 am, Choir Room
Hope Mission Group—3rd Wednesday, 9:30 am, Rm 112
Sonrise Choir Practice—Last Wednesday, 6 pm, Sanctuary
VIPs Luncheon—2nd Thurs., 11 am, FH
Next Meeting: October 10
RSVP to Peggy Bickel at 713-957-0255
Solitaires Luncheon—Last Fri., 11:30 am, FH
Red Hats Luncheon—1st or 2nd Sat., 11:30 am, (Location varies) Next mtg: October 12 at Lyndon's BBQ, 290 & Hollister
RSVP to Betty Brashear at 281-787-1403.

BI-MONTHLY EVENTS

Bible Study & Sermon Discussion—1st & 3rd Sunday, 5:15 pm, Great Heights Brewing Company, 938 Wakefield Dr.
Youth Fellowship—1st Sun. at St. Stephen's, 3rd Sun. combined with another church
Prayer Shawl Ministry—1st & 3rd Thurs., 10 am, Rm 112 (This group knits & crochets items given to comfort the sick & grieving.)

OTHER RECURRING EVENTS

Garden Angels Dirt Diggers Workday—Every other Sat., 7 am (DST), 8 am (ST)
Next workday: October 5, 7am
Fun4Seniors Luncheon—on a Monday of every other month (varies), 11:30, FH
RSVP to Fun4Seniors at 713-274-4050.
Next luncheon: November 4

FH=Fellowship Hall SH=Scout House
For more information, visit stsumc.org.

Worship connects us with God and with each other

A Message from the Senior Pastor

We hope you'll join us in diving into the book of Romans during our next worship series! In my bible study, we will be looking at insights's from Karl Barth's "Epistle to the Romans," as well as from this wonderful epistle itself. Additionally, we'll be sending out weekly devotional guides throughout this series that include weekly suggested readings and a reflection on the week's text. If that's something that you would like to receive and you haven't yet signed up for our devotional emails, fill out the form at http://bit.ly/stsdevo.

Many of you know that on Friday, September 20, our friends at St. Mark's UMC in the Heights suffered a fire that destroyed most of their education building and left almost their entire facility temporarily uninhabitable due to smoke damage. The people of St. Stephen's know a little bit about rebuilding after a fire, and many of you have asked how we can help. One big way that we're helping is through the Bill Hardwick Memorial Golf Tournament. This year, we've opened the tournament up to participants from St. Mark's and Westbury, the two churches we partner with on monthly youth events and youth summer activities. All proceeds from this year's tournament will benefit St. Mark's as they work to rebuild from the fire. If you would like to register to play, visit stsumc.churchcenter.com and find the golf tournament registration. Additionally, head to that page if you would like to sponsor a hole or simply make a donation to help St. Mark's in this challenging time.

As many of you learned after worship on Sunday Sept. 22, six men, five of them U.S citizens, have been held without trial or charges in the basement of a Venezuelan prison since November of 2017. Among them are the father and uncle of one of our church members, Alexandra Forseth. On the morning of October 13 in Candelight Park, she and others are organizing a march to raise awareness and try and help these men be freed. For more information or to join the walk, visit citgo6coalition.org.

Paz,
Nathan

October Communion Offering: Houston Area Women's Center

Third-graders, Cody St. Lawrence, Ian Tackett and Haven Earl, received Bibles on Sunday, September 8, during the 11:00 worship service. Logan Devilbiss (not pictured) also received a Bible.

August Generosity Report

Ministry and Operation	Facility Projects	Missions	Other
$42,292.10	$461.50	$1,255.00	$5,740.48

Moody Grant: $20,000 (accessibility for all abilities)

Worship Attendance

	8:30 am	11:00 am	Sunday School
September 1	65	150	102
September 8	54	146	75
September 15	48	125	97
September 22	48	120	83

The stories of scripture transform our own stories

A Message from the Music and Worship Pastor

Beloved St. Stephen's,

After much prayer and discernment, I have accepted a position as Minister of Music at Strawbridge UMC in Kingwood. I will be with you all through Advent and Christmas, and start at Strawbridge in January. This was not a decision I made lightly or easily. God is doing wonderful things at St. Stephen's and I have loved being a part of it. In the last couple of years I have felt like I've been on a ministry dream team! It has been an absolute joy to work with Nathan, Steven, Mary Ellen, Mary Jessie, Candice, and Andreea. I know that God will continue to bless St. Stephen's. The work you all are doing in Oak Forest is guided by the Holy Spirit, and I can't wait to see how you all continue to be a blessing to the neighborhood.

As many of you know, my family has lived in Kingwood for ten years, and this is an opportunity to be in ministry in my own neighborhood, nearer to my children and parents. Strawbridge is a church whose vision is not to be the best church *in* the neighborhood, but the best church *for* the neighborhood. Much like St. Stephen's, they focus on loving God and loving their neighbors, with a mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

You all have shown me and my family such great love and care for almost five years. St. Stephen's has been a home for my family, and for me. JMS has helped my children develop a love of learning and a strong foundation for the rest of their school years. You all have been there for me through the birth of a child, family health issues, and most recently through pneumonia and a minor flood in my house! I have always felt loved and valued by this congregation, and I am so thankful for the growth and opportunity you all have provided for me in my first years as an ordained pastor.

I am so thankful for the gift of leading our wonderful choir members in both services, our band and our bell choir. We have prayed for each other, laughed with one another, cried with one another, and pushed one another toward excellence. Your partnership in ministry has brought so much joy into my life!

t has been such a joy to sing with our children these last years, and watch them grow and blossom! Whether it was through our musicals, Sunday School singing, Fine Arts Camp, or a combination of all of those, I have been blessed by each of you and your families, and I know God is going to continue to do amazing things through all of you!

I have been so blessed by all those who have participated in the women's bible study through the years. We also have shared laughter and tears, our fears and our joys. You all have been a source of strength for me in some very difficult moments. Thank you for your openness and love.

We still have a few more months together, and I will cherish every moment. You all have been a gift from God in my life. I hope you will join me in singing praises to our God, who brought us together, and who will never forsake us! I trust that through the love of Jesus the best is yet to come for all of us! I will never stop loving you all, or thanking God for the gift of being one of your pastors.

With Love in Christ,
Pastor Lindsay

Prayer Concerns

Troy Albert and family, Dorothy Artz, Ruth Austin, Lloyd Barenscheer, Wendy Balli, Brianna Beaulieu, Carolyn Belk, Rhonda Boehm, Sandra Bonnin, Debbie Bradley, Cris Bustos, Arlene Caler, Gloria Collins, Janet Cummins, Allen Ebelt, Walter Ebelt, Ed & Pam Dickson & family, Earl Fallen, John Ford, Carolyn Geno, GriefShare participants, Kathleen Heath, the Hensley and Holcomb families upon the death of Florence Holcomb; Charm Hernandez, Elizabeth Hickerson, Leif Hoijer, Vanessa Huse, Dorrie Jackson, Dwayne Johnson, Howard & Cathy Klaire, the family of Virginia Lewis, Penny Loy, Evelyn Luce, Bobbie Luedke, Wayne Meyenberg, Tracy Miller, Danny Niederhofer, Brenda Paulk, Kyndall Rollins, Sherry Snook, Ned Speers, Billy Stephens, Preston Taylor, Kevin Thompson, Sam & Gwen Wachel, Kenneth Walker, Todd Wilson, Linda Wren

In the Military

Allen Clutter, Keanna Piercefield

We believe that prayer works, and we seek to be a congregation that prays regularly. To help us to direct our prayers, we will be updating our prayer list weekly. To be added to the prayer list, please fill out a prayer card in the sanctuary or send an email to info@stsumc.org. Please let us know when and how God answers.

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The Evangel

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Fun Fact

If you went to all of the Family Ministries mission trips this summer, you would've traveled over 10,562 miles!

Our Vision

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

Readings

If you'd like to read along with the Scriptures we'll use in worship during the month of October, follow this reading guide!

10/6: Stewardship Celebration
Matthew 22:35-40, Psalm 13:5-6

10/13: Romans 1, 2

10/20: Romans 3, 4

10/27: Romans 5, 6

These are also the Scriptures we'll talk about at Pastor's Wednesday Bible Study (2:30 pm in Room 112); and at the First and Third Sunday Evening Bible Study and Sermon Conversation at 5:15pm at Great Heights Brewing Co., 938 Wakefield Dr.