



**St. Stephen's**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# the shield

## This Week in Worship

July 13, 2025

**"Love Your Damned Neighbor"**  
Luke 10:25-37

Rev. Jinx Barber



Church-Wide Potluck

To

Welcome

Rev. Jinx & Jena

Saturday, July 19th

6:30 pm

Community Hall

## Book Recycling Coming Soon

Are your bookshelves groaning and overstacked? Are you looking for some new titles for these long summer days? Here's what you can do:

Clean out your bookshelves to make room for new books. Then come to St Stephen's Book Sale, July 26 and 27.

Here's how it works: Starting Monday, July 21, you can bring books to be recycled to the Community Hall. On Friday, July 25, volunteers (this could be you!) will sort the books into general categories on tables in the loggia and down the halls. The sale will be open to the public on Saturday, July 26 from 9-2 pm. The books will remain out on Sunday, July 27, and then will be boxed up and donated. Proceeds from the book sale will be split between the Little Free Pantry and the SSUMC Music Programs.

What to bring: paperbacks, hardbacks, coffee table books, children's books, audiobooks. Textbooks generally do not sell, so consider donating them elsewhere. Please do NOT bring VHS tapes.

A sign-up sheet will be posted in July for volunteers to set up and work the book sale. Friday evening volunteers also get first crack at choosing books! If you are so inclined, baked goods donated on Saturday can also be sold to shoppers.

Questions? See Cheryl Frech, [cfrech@cox.net](mailto:cfrech@cox.net) or 405-613-7903.



## WHO ARE YOU?

Rev. Jinx started on Sunday,

July 6. LET'S CONTINUE

WEARING OUR NAME TAGS so it becomes a habit again!! If you need a new name tag, there is a sign up sheet in the loggia. We'll print them up and have them ready for you next week.

*Life Happenings*  
*July 6, 2025*

**We celebrate:**

Ron Mullan's birthday is Monday! Kevin Hochman's cancer treatments are successful, and they will continue. Brent Smith attended his family reunion. Barb Drummond and Laundry Love served Shawnee, Midwest City and Norman. Over 300 were blessed at all sites. Velma and Ron House's grandkids are visiting all week. Susan Arn's brother is coming to visit. Rod Murrow's son Randy is visiting. Dale Ware's celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and he also finished his memoir. Tim and Melissa Duncan's grandson was born and all are doing well. Venita and Linden are in Little Rock, Arkansas at their Interfaith Camp. Rhonda Ramos celebrated their 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**We pray with concern for:**

Rick Sondag as his surgery was postponed until this Tuesday. Betty Robbins is struggling with losses from the Texas floods. Joan Hines prays for all those affected by the Texas floods. Cheryl Frech's father passed away. Jenn McDanel prayed for all on the mission trip. Vickie Wood also prays for those on the mission trip. Amber Mathis also prays for those on the mission trip. Ashlie Mendoza's father, David, has skin cancer. Rita Pettitt' daughter Gwynn and her girlfriend are needing a 3<sup>rd</sup> roommate. David Wilson-Burns praying for Jenn's heart ablation procedure tomorrow. Nanci Barthel's husband's health concerns are not serious. Tim Duncan's mother is in the hospital. Brent Smith is praying for all refugees.

***This Week at  
St. Stephen's***

***Thursday, July 10th***

- 2:00 Coffee and Conversation—  
Beanstalk Coffee
- 6:30 Girl Scout Service Unit—  
Community Hall
- 7:00 DBSA—Room 6

***Friday, July 11th***

- 6:30 Living Room NA—Room 11

***Saturday, July 12th***

- 8:30 Solutions AA—Room 11

***Sunday, July 13th***

- 8:30 Worship Service—Sanctuary
- 9:40 Sunday School —Various
- 10:50 Worship Service—Sanctuary

***Monday, July 14th***

***Tuesday, July 15th***

- 6:30 Living Group NA—Room 11

***Wednesday, July 16th***

- 12:30 Adult Ed Meeting—Room 11
- 1:30 Sacred Journey—Room 12

**Welcome Jinx & Jena!**

St. Stephen's UMC is pleased to officially welcome Jinx and Jena Barber to the SSUMC family! Pastor Jinx will be leading our worship services starting on Sunday, July 6th and we hope that everyone will plan to be at one of the services (or join us online) to welcome him and Jena.

To make the transition easier we want to really encourage everyone to wear your name badges. If you need a new one, we'll have a sign up sheet on the table across from the church office.

Also, be sure to mark July 19th on your calendar and plan to attend the welcome potluck! If you've already had a chance to meet and visit with Jinx and Jena then you know what lovely people they are - we are going to have a great time getting to know them and discovering all of the ways that we can continue the work of God through our ministry together.

**Scripture Readers Needed!**

We are looking for scripture readers for our first and second services! Please sign up on the sign up sheets found on the table across from the office. Thanks!



**Coffee And Conversation  
meets on**

**Thursday, July 10th**

**2:00pm @ Beanstalk Coffee**

**207 East Main Street**



Hello everyone!

This week in Sunday school we continued our study of types of prayer with a focus on labyrinths. Sunday, July 13, we will begin making our own labyrinths so I told the kids to plan on getting a bit messy!

Sunday, July 27th will be a very special week as we will have a guest teacher and children will have the chance to walk the labyrinth in Community Hall. I hope everyone can join us.

Mark your calendars for September 7 for our Back to School Bash, more information to come!

I want to send a huge thank you to my friend Helen Flowers. There are many tasks that need to be completed in order for ShineKids to run smoothly and Ms. Helen spent a large number of hours this week volunteering her time to help me with those tasks. Lots of sorting and organizing so that I could focus on planning for the rest of the year. If you see Ms. Helen, please tell her **THANK YOU!!!**

Have a blessed week.

Ms. Jenn

## Help Needed for Shine Kids' Library

Shine Kids library needs your help! We need our children's library catalogued and categorized! If this is a talent you have please let Ms. Jenn know so you can get started!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

# Baby Shower Diaper Drive

HONORING  
**Casey Collins**  
for the  
**Infant Crisis Center**

August 3, 2025 | 12:30 pm  
in Loggia after 2<sup>nd</sup> service

Items Needed:

- Diapers (any size or brand)
- Wipes (any size or brand)
- Gerber Good Start Gentle formula
- Soy formula (any brand)
- New baby bottles
- New sippy cups
- Baby wash & baby shampoo
- Gas cards, bus passes & gift cards

Donations may be placed in the box at the altar at any time or brought to the shower

## The Music Box

Once again this year, St. Stephen's is hosting the Handbell Musicians of America Area 9 Fall Fanfare event! The event will be held on Saturday, August 16th and runs from 8:30 am - 2:30 pm. It includes a full day session option for learning the basics of handbell ringing! This will take you from how to hold a handbell and make noise with it, all the way through to ringing some basic pieces as a group. If you have been thinking about joining a handbell group at St. Stephen's, this event is for you!! Let me know if you're interested and I can provide you with more information and help you get registered. If you're not a beginner, there are sessions for you as well! So if any of our current ringers would like to attend, let me know and we'll get you registered.

Seen on Jinx's desk; there's gotta be a story behind this.





## From the Pastor

Thank you all so very much for the warm welcomes that Jena and I have received upon arriving at St. Stephens. I wholeheartedly enjoyed our first Sunday together and I look forward to next Sunday (and many more).

These first few weeks may feel a bit disjointed as we get into a new rhythm and I begin to learn names (please be patient). I am enjoying learning about your history, and might even brave a trip to the archives soon. I have been impressed with the level of dedication your staff have for their respective ministry areas, they have many creative ideas to share; I have enjoyed listening to their excitement. We have started making some plans for the fall already!

I look forward to getting to know you all better so I can understand the history and context that we share at St. Stephens. Feel free to reach out to Sharon if you would like to schedule some time with me for you, your family or your group.

I am enjoying this time and look forward to a long and fruitful season with you all.



## Welcome Jinx & Jena!

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO WELCOME REV. JINX BY YOUR OUTWARD AND **VISIBLE** SIGN!!!

We are looking for volunteers to paint the Pastor's office!!! If this is in your wheelhouse and you have time available please see Ron House and he will work with you to set up a time.

## BE A ST. STEPHEN'S STAR!!!

This is a TAKE HOME project that will be displayed in Community Hall for Rev. Jinx and Jena's POTLUCK Dinner on Saturday July 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

1. Take a star home with you.
2. Attach a picture of you and your family.
3. Write your names above the picture.
4. Bring it back to the church and leave it on Mary Moon's desk in the church offices.

Helpful Hint...Walgreens can print 4x4 pictures for only .44 cents!



**Please help  
St. Stephen's  
keep our  
little food  
pantry stocked.  
Thank you!**

## Needs of the NCRS:

(Contact Brent Smith for more info at bsmith103@cox.net)

Immediate Needs::

1. One twin bed
2. One dining table

Ongoing Needs:

1. Housing Chair—coordinate housing searches, etc.
2. Drivers—take family member to Dr. appts, etc.
3. Employment coach—guide job changes



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Church services Sunday Morning 8:30 am  
and 10:50 am Sunday School at 9:40 am

