



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

# the shield

## This Week in Worship

July 20, 2025

**"No Wrong Way"**  
Luke 10:38-42

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 20, 2025*

**We celebrate:**

Surgery was successful for Rachel, who is Valerie Adair's sister. Mark and Valerie Adair are celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Lesley Noble's son, Eli, is in job training for a part-time job this summer. The Youth today return from their mission trip to Detroit. Venita MacGorman's granddaughter, Linden, received a painting by a baby elephant and she got to meet the "artist". Ron and Velma House enjoyed time with their grandkids this past week. Brent Smith is celebrating Kim's birthday today! Kevin Hochman's sister-in-law is visiting. Rick Sondag's knee replacement surgery went well and he is recovering nicely. Becki Seay's grandchildren are attending summer camp this week. Lucas Moore celebrates having Linden and Venita home from Friendship Camp in Little Rock. Lucas's mother is back in her residence and doing much better. Mary Moon is so happy seeing most everyone wearing their name tags! David Wilson-Burns reports that Jennifer's heart ablation procedure was successful and she continues to recover. Dale Wares and the Men's Group enjoyed their outing to the Oklahoma City baseball game.

**We pray with concern for:**

April Greenlee's uncle Cliff is having health problems. Chris Suit has sold their home on Symmes and has moved into a temporary home and will eventually be moving with Sally to their home in Connecticut. Mike O'Donnell, a former Bridgeview member, has been put on the heart transplant list.



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

**From the Pastor:**

Jesus often calls us to places we aren't always ready to go, challenging our comfort zones and inviting us into deeper transformation. This can feel unsettling, especially when the path ahead seems unclear or demands more of us than we feel capable of giving.

From a United Methodist perspective, this "calling" isn't about rigid adherence to ancient doctrines or a narrow interpretation of holiness. Instead, it's an ongoing invitation to grow in love, justice, and compassion, both individually and collectively. It's a call to embrace discomfort as growth, live into radical inclusivity, and engage in ongoing transformation.

So, when Jesus calls us to a place we're not quite ready for, lean into the discomfort, knowing that God's Spirit is guiding us toward a more expansive and just expression of faith.

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

***Thursday, July 17th***

2:00 Coffee and Conversation—  
Not Your Average Joe  
7:00 DBSA—Room 6

***Friday, July 18th***

6:30 Living Room NA—Room 11

***Saturday, July 19th***

8:30 Solutions AA—Room 11  
6:30 Jinx Barber Welcome Potluck—  
Community Hall

***Sunday, July 20th***

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

***Monday, July 21st***

6:30 Red Dirt Collective—Room 11  
6:30 WIAA—Community Hall

***Tuesday, July 22nd***

6:30 Living Group NA—Room 11  
7:00 Fiction Club—Room 12

***Wednesday, July 23rd***

1:30 Sacred Journey—Room 12

**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 17th**

**2:00pm @ Not Your Average  
Joe**



Hello everyone!

We had another great Sunday this week and had THREE visitors! Kids made their own labyrinths and while it was a bit messy, everyone seemed to have a good time! We will finish them up next week and wrap up conversation about ways to get closer to God as we prepare for walking the labyrinth on the 27th!

A couple upcoming dates to remember:

August 10: Blessing of the Backpacks

September 7, 4-6 pm: Back to School Bash

October 19: Children's Sabbath and CROP Walk (Children will be encouraged to attend)

Have a blessed week.

Ms. Jenn

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.

## 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.

**THANK YOU!**

**Thank you ALL!**

The Seekers will be getting new carpet soon. We are humbled by the response of so many of you to help us replace an extremely worn and rippled carpet. And thanks to the trustees for the guidance. Your generosity is affirming.

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

**Links to Jinx—another objet d'art in his office. Gotta be a story behind this!**







## Youth Shenanigans!

. Join us at 9:40am in Lyle Hall.  
The youth will NOT have even-  
ing youth again until July 27th.

We are taking a little time off after returning from our mission trip.

Thank you again to everyone who helped with our trip through donations and prayers. We had a wonderful time serving the people of Detroit. We painted houses, removed flooding debris, weeded gardens, harvested garlic bulbs, installed stair rails, and so much more. We worked hard and got to enjoy some of the fun things around town as well. We will have our stockholder dinner soon, but the date is still to be determined.



Another installment that explains the work of folks who keep the church working toward compassion, peace, and justice.

**FBI, POTUS. FDIC, ASAP, IDK, CEO, etc. SPRC, What in the World is SPRC?**

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is responsible for the hiring and management of all church staff. The work of the committee is confidential. The role and function of SPRC is similar to that of Human Resources (HR) in other organizations.

FALL FANFARE IS IN THE SUMMER THIS YEAR!!



August 16, 2025  
8:45 - 2:30

**C** Technique Classes  
**L** Reading Sessions  
**A** Spring Ring Preview  
**S** Summit Preview  
**S** Rookie Ringers Track  
**E** "Ask Me Anything"  
**S** Lunch Included

**F** Before August 1st – \$35  
**E** August 1st and after – \$50  
**E** 6 or more from the same  
**S** organization – \$25 each  
Deadline - 5 p.m. on  
Friday, August 8

### LOCATIONS IN OKLAHOMA AND TEXAS

Norman, OK  
St. Stephen's United Methodist Church  
1801 W Brooks  
Norman, OK 73069

Austin, TX  
First Presbyterian Church  
8001 Mesa Drive  
Austin, TX 78731

visit [area9.handbellmusicians.org](http://area9.handbellmusicians.org) for more information

## Needs of the NCRS:

(Contact Brent Smith for more info at [bsmith103@cox.net](mailto: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



St. Stephen's United Methodist Church  
405-321-4988  
1801 W. Brooks, Norman OK 73069  
[www.ststephensnorman.org](http://www.ststephensnorman.org)  
[office@ststephensnorman.org](mailto:office@ststephensnorman.org)  
Church services Sunday Morning 8:30 am  
and 10:50 am Sunday School at 9:40 am

