



A HUGE Thank You
to all the people who came to the potluck
to welcome Jinx and Jena Barber.
It was wonderful to see everyone,
We look forward to having many more
opportunities to get together and share a meal
and sacred time together.

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 won-
derful 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.

The Wesley Kickoff Event
Wednesday, August 20, 7– 10 pm



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



FALL FANFARE IS IN THE SUMMER THIS YEAR!!

Fall Fanfare 2025

August 16, 2025
8:45 - 2:30

CLASSES

- Technique Classes
- Reading Sessions
- Spring Ring Preview
- Summit Preview
- Rookie Ringers Track
- "Ask Me Anything"
- Lunch Included

FEE

- Before August 1st – \$35
- August 1st and after – \$50
- 6 or more from the same 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
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visit area9.handbellmusicians.org for more information

Needs of the NCRS:
(Contact Brent Smith for more info at bsmith103@cox.net)
Ongoing Needs:

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



Volume 82 Issue 63

July 27, 2025

the shield

This Week in Worship
July 27, 2025

"Approach God and Speak Out"
Luke 11:1-13

Rev. Jinx Barber

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 or 405-613-7903.

Help Us Provide Back-to-School Clothes for Our Food and Shelter Family
As part of our ministry to Food and Shelter, St. Stephen's adopts a family in one of the cottages and supports them in meeting special needs.
We are providing back-to-school clothes and shoes for 4 children – ages 4, 5, 7 and 16. To do this we will provide gift cards so the family can choose clothing that best fits their sizes and styles. Our goal is to raise at least \$1,000 to split among the kids.
If you would like to donate, please make a check out to St. Stephen's and designate **Food and Shelter Cottage** in the memo line or through your online gift to the church, with Food and Shelter Cottage in the Notes section.
We are also excited to share that the family will soon be transitioning into an apartment – some time in August. When that happens, we will be reaching for help to collect used furnishings and other household goods to prepare the cottage for a new family.
If you have questions, please call cottage ministry coordinators Brenda Wheelock at 405-620-1305 or Nanci Barthel at 405-323-0703.

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:

Velma House had her birthday! Thanks to Mary Moon for her efforts putting together the Potluck welcoming Jinx and Jena. Ashlie Mendoza during her journey of self-discovery, changing her preferred pronouns to they/ them and would like to go by Ash. Melissa Duncan is back at home from "baby care" for her newest grandchild. Jenn McDanel is happy to announce we are now fully staffed with two new nursery workers! Len Thomas and Sharon Ringrose are celebrating their 31st anniversary! Rod Murrow was happy to see the balloons in the ceiling again. Peggy Risenhoover is working on a garden to help sustain those in need of food in the Bethany area. Becki Seay is glad her grandchildren are back from summer camp. Erin and Lucas Moore celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary! Erin Moore returned from a great experience as a chaperone on the Youth Mission Trip. Cheryl and Roger Frech were happy to have their girls and their spouses in worship with us. Jackie Farley was glad that Susan's family visited for 10 years as her brother Steve continues to battle cancer.

We pray with concern for:

Ash Mendoza as they pray about being accepted. Rod Murrow struggles with not being able to hear joys and concerns. Becki Seay as her grandchild jammed their finger at camp and are now headed to Europe. Amber Mathis' father had triple bypass surgery. Carol Mason asking for prayers for the Pantalone family. Dale Wares shared that Ben Southerland has passed. Brent Smith as he continues to pray for the refugees.

Links to Jinx—another group of items in his office. Gotta be a story behind this!



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

This Week at St. Stephen's

Thursday, July 24th

7:00 DBSA—Room 6

Friday, July 25th

6:30 Living Room NA—Room 11

Saturday, July 26th

8:30 Solutions AA—Room 11

Sunday, July 27th

8:30 Worship Service—Sanctuary

9:40 Sunday School —Various

10:50 Worship Service—Sanctuary

4:00 Youth—Lyle Hall

Monday, July 28th

7:00 Finance Committee—Room 12

Tuesday, July 29th

6:30 Living Group NA—Room 11

Wednesday, July 30th

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!



Hello everyone!

I am happy to announce that our nursery is now fully staffed! This week we welcomed Kennady Aikman, a junior at Norman North High School as a member of the childcare staff. We are so excited to have her and the kids are already charming her! Please make sure you stop by and welcome her to St. Stephens.

This week we made our first cereal and milk donation to the food pantry from our June Cereal drive. Our kids wanted to put all 52 boxes in at the same time but we decided it was better to space it out. They grudgingly agreed.

Sunday July 27th we will have the final lesson on labyrinths. [Kay Antinoro](#) will be our guest teacher and I am looking forward to having a bunch of kids to learn this wonderful way to connect with God.

Have a blessed week.

Ms. Jenn



The Music Box

It's almost time to start back to regular Wednesday choir rehearsals and I can hardly wait! It's been a super busy July, but I'm eager to see all my favorite choir people and start making music again! We start back to regular Wednesday rehearsals on Wednesday, August 6th at 7:00 pm and we'll resume regular Sunday anthems on Sunday, August 10th. Now is the PERFECT time to come and give choir a try! And, as an added bonus, we'll begin work on all of our awesome Advent/Christmas music in September. Let me know if you're interested in joining or just show up at a Wednesday rehearsal and we'll welcome you right into the group. You can email me at music@ststephensnorman.org or you can catch me at the church on Sunday.



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.

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 2nd 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