



St. Stephen's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

the shield

This Week in Worship

August 10, 2025

"What Does God Want?"
Isaiah 1:10-20

Rev. Jinx Barber

**New Shield coming
in September!**

**New Bulletin coming
in September!**

**Ministry Opportunity Guide
coming in
September!**

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 CON-

TINUE 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
August 3, 2025

We celebrate:

Becky LeClair and Holly Van Auken who are thankful for the rain. Corey LeBlanc raises up all those starting school this fall. Melissa Duncan's best friends' daughter is adopting a 16-year-old young girl. Velma and Ron house attended a funeral of a good friend of theirs in Topeka, Kansas but also and had a wonderful reunion with their old church friends. Kristen and Matthew Maupin celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary! Ash and Adrean Mendoza are celebrating their 9th wedding anniversary! David and Jen Wilson-Burns celebrated their 31st wedding anniversary! Neil and Peggy Risenhoover celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary! Stephanie Parks' daughter, Maddie, starts her new job Monday. Rita Pettit thanks Sally Melon for her wonderful donation of 5 large, beautiful plants to the church. Dale Wares book is now published. Tim Duncan is starting a new endeavor. He and his art will be at The Art Walk in Norman this Friday. Mary Moon is so very thankful for the outstanding Care Team at St. Stephens. They are diligent, compassionate and always there to help those in need at a moment's notice. Mary would also like to give a big shout out to Ron Ward for making the world a clearer place. Ron has been cleaning the windows in the loggia garden and is working on the front office windows. Sue Beards' grandson was baptized at McFarlin UMC last Sunday.

We pray with concern for:

Don MacGorman broke his ankle and is having surgery Wednesday, August 6th. Traveling mercies for the Chinn family who are on vacation this week. Robert H. Henry's wife, Synthia, is recovering from a brain aneurysm. Prayers for all our Food and Shelter families. Rick Sondag is having trouble sleeping while recovering from knee replacement surgery. Rick and Julie Sondag as they are facing the very difficult task of euthanizing their precious dog. Billy Drummond as he waits to hear about his acceptance to Culinary School. Traveling mercies for Bryan and Nora McDanel as they go to Houston for a concert. Rita Pettit as she has joint replacement in the near future. Mary and John lift up their brother-in-law, David Davis of Clinton, who was just diagnosed with leukemia.

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

Thursday, August 7th

6:30 Dinner & Discussion—Kendall's
7:00 DBSA—Room 6

Friday, August 8th

6:30 Living Room NA—Room 11

Saturday, August 9th

8:30 Solutions AA—Room 11

Sunday, August 10th

8:30 Worship Service—Sanctuary
9:40 Sunday School —Various
10:50 Worship Service—Sanctuary
3:00 Youth Swim Party—Wulfekotte's home

Monday, August 11th

6:00 Ad Council—Community Hall
6:30 NCRS Board of Directors—Room 11

Tuesday, August 12th

6:30 Living Group NA—Room 11

Wednesday, August 13th

1:30 Sacred Journey—Room 12
7:00 Choir—Sanctuary



**Lunch Bunch
will meet on
August 19.**

**(It's now on the
1st and 3rd Tuesday.)**

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



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

**GREAT EXPECTATIONS!
Save the Date!**

Did you enjoy last year's pledge kickoff potluck dinner? Then you won't want to miss this year's! Mark your calendar for September 28th at 4:00 pm for delicious food, musical entertainment, and Great Expectations for 2026.



Hello everyone!

Thank you to [Kay Antinoro](#) who last week wrapped up our series on spiritual practices. We set up the labyrinth in Community Hall and it was a wonderful experience to watch. They all raced through the first one and then we had some more conversation regarding how to do it and that is when the magic happened. If you want to truly see God, come hang out with St. Stephen's kids.

I am asking for some help! I need adults to commit to teaching ONE MONTH of Sunday School for our children. I will have a curriculum and just need someone to lead the class for ONE MONTH! Please reach out to me if you are willing to help.

Upcoming important dates:

August 10th is Blessing of the Backpacks
September 7th is Back to School Bash 4-6 pm

Have a blessed week!
Ms. Jenn

Thank You!!!!

Seekers Class thanks everyone for helping us replace the carpet in our classroom. Trustees, especially Karleene Smith, advised us and kept us focused on our goal. The congregation listened with empathy to our whining and donated money for our project. Oklahoma Discount Flooring gave us a good discount when asked to do so. Ron House and Sharon Ringrose took care of logistics for the installation. It was a team effort and we are grateful for everyone's involvement. We love the way folks at St. Stephens support the MANY projects which lift up our community. THANK YOU!

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.

Links to Jinx—an open door says a lot.



Candlelight Vigil for Immigrants

There will be a vigil on Thursday, September 4, 7:30—8:00 pm in the sanctuary. Much has changed in U.S. Immigration Control and Enforcement (ICE) practices. Treatment of immigrants has become harsh and in many cases there is little to no due process for them to plead their case. All NCRS families are documented and following immigration laws and established procedures.

The candlelight vigil is to offer the St. Stephen's community time for a moment of silence to grieve collectively for immigrants families. Some of us personally know families under threat of illegal detention. The entire immigration process has been thrown into chaos and immigrant families are living in fear.

The St. Stephen's volunteers of the NCRS invite you to join us in this vigil to grieve for our families on September 4.



The Music Box

I want to send a HUGE shout out to everyone who helped with the Book Sale Fundraiser to benefit the Little Free Pantry and the Music Ministries! With nearly 80 volunteer musicians participating in the music ministries in one way or another, the cost of music, supplies, equipment, upkeep, etc. adds up really quickly. I am extremely grateful to everyone who volunteered their time, donated books or purchased books at the sale. THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

Disciple Bible Study

Disciple Bible Study, a small group, 34-week study of the whole Bible will be offered by St. Stephen's beginning in early September. This study requires 30-45 minutes daily to read a focused selection of scriptures, along with information in the participant Study Manual. After 6 days of personal study, the group meets to discuss the week's scriptures, aided by a video by one of several Biblical scholars to enhance the group's understanding. The goal is to transform disciples through Bible study, not just to provide new knowledge of the Bible. This year, a discussion group plans to meet Sundays at 4-6 pm in room 11. For more information, come to an informational meeting at 4 pm on Sunday August 24 or contact Don MacGorman (phone: 405-820-6762; email: don.macgorman@cox.net).

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!

The J.D. McCarty Center

**celebrates the opening of their
Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Clinic
on August 8, 2025, at 10 am
Please join us!**

Youth Shenanigans!



Join us at 9:40am for Sunday School. We are going to jump back into Mini Revolutions and some Extraordinary

Leaders.

This week we will be having our welcoming swim party for incoming 6th grade students at the Wulfekotte's home. If you need their address please get with Alyssa. The party will be from 3-6pm. We are thankful to the Wulfekotte's for hosting us again this year and look forward to having a great time of fun and fellowship with them.

If you have a student who will be in grades 6-12 this year and they want to come hang out with the youth and you have questions, please feel free to reach out to Alyssa (youth@ststephensnorman.org).

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 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



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

