

Joys and Concerns

12.7.25

We celebrate with...

Becki Seay enjoyed getting to visit her family in Iowa. Julie Sondag is thankful to be back home after she and Rick got snowed in in Missouri. She is also thankful Rick does NOT have a blood clot in his leg, it is a hematoma. Julie is also thankful to Rod Murrow for stepping in to be the pianist when she was snowed in! Julie also raises up Women in Action and all the amazing work they have done and are still doing. Julie let us know that this upcoming Tuesday, December 9th at 6:30pm our own Rhonda Stock and Crystal Cruz will be receiving The Human Rights Award. Ash Mendoza is thankful her brother walked away from a roll over car accident in Montana. Marty Marks announced his wife, Melissa Marks, received the Oklahoma Music Education Association's Exemplary Music Teacher Award. Marty and Melissa Marks' son, Isaac Marks, has made ALL STATE BAND for 3 years in a row. Barb Drommond thanks everyone for your prayers as she was sick last week. Barb also reported that Laundry Love served 60 families with the gift of clean laundry and fed 130 hungry individuals. Laundry Love will be in Norman and NW OKC December 13th and always welcome any volunteers. Laundry Love has been serving others for 9 years! Dan Snell, Chris Suit, Dale Wares and others were thankful for 30 years of The Men's Group and they had their annual Wild Game Dinner Saturday evening. Becky LeClair attended the Mutual Aid Fair, sponsored by The Red Dirt Collective. She said it was an amazing event. Marci Corey was so thankful that last week's Cookies and Crafts Event was so very successful! Jane Osborn reported that she and Jim had a wonderful time together with their daughter and son-in-law in Hochatown. Jim Osborn celebrated his 80th birthday! Amy Prince was happy to have friends and family with her in worship. Jonah Schmidgall celebrated his 15th birthday! Charlie Barnes was back in worship. Mary Gann and Debbie Boatman have welcomed a new baby into their lives! Gracie weighs 1.9 lbs and is a precious toy poodle! Crystal Cruz's nephew has successfully completed rehab and is moving forward with his life. He is transitioning with sobriety and is moving into a sober living facility. Annie Campbell is continuing to have amazing success in nursing school. Alyssa Miller and Marci Corey and 3 youth members attended the United Methodist District Youth Rally's Ice Skating event and had a great time. David and Jen Wilson-Burn's son, Chris, celebrated his 26th birthday! Barbara Holtzclaw's home is officially SOLD!

We pray for...

Ron Ward as he is having hernia surgery Monday morning. Lucas Moore and his mother who is needing to move to skilled nursing. Debbie Boatman is having a procedure

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The (Weekly) Shield

The Weekly Newsletter

Sunday - December 14, 2025

**Lunch Bunch
will meet on
December 16th.
(It's now on the
1st and 3rd Tuesdays.)**

**Please turn in
your pledge cards!**

Hear our children sing Dec. 14th!

Our children have been working on a Christmas anthem during their music time on Sunday mornings. They will get a chance to sing for the congregation at our Service of Lessons and Carols on December 14th at the second service. I hope you'll join us on the 14th! The kids have been working hard and they sound beautiful!



Needs of the NCRS:

1. Housing Chair & Housing Assistants
2. Prayers for the NCRS refugee families and volunteers
3. Family Liaisons
4. Drivers (dr. appts, etc.)

Contact Brent for more info at
bsmith103@cox.net.

ST STEPHEN'S UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE *Services*

Join us this Christmas as we celebrate the true reason for the season. Our services will have something for every age, including candlelight, beautiful music and communion.

Dec. 24th at 5:00 pm
Family Christmas Eve
Service

Dec. 24th at 7:00 pm
Candlelight Christmas
Eve Service

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www.ststephensnorman.org

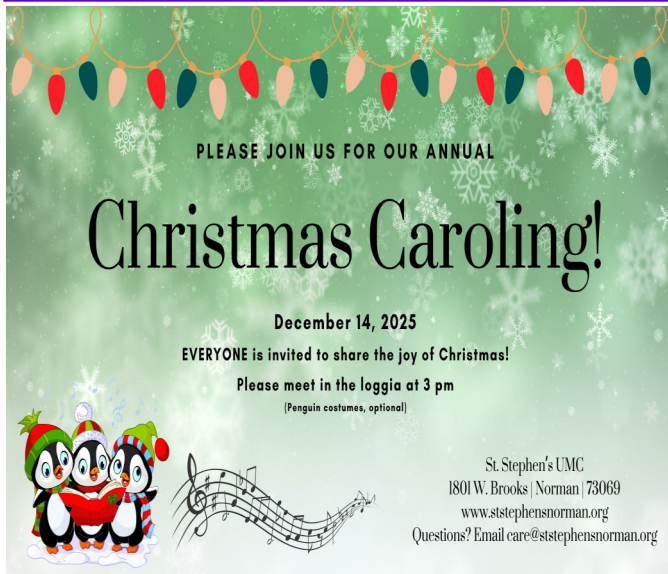


Help Provide Christmas Gifts For Our Food and Shelter Family

We are collecting Christmas gifts for a mom and two daughters, ages 8 and 9, who live in the cottage St. Stephen's sponsors at Food and Shelter. If you would like to contribute, please sign up online at <https://mealtrain.com/4g445m> or by scanning this QR code.



Please deliver your items (unwrapped) by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, to Jinx's office at St. Stephen's or to Brenda Wheelock, 2501 Butler Drive. Please include a gift receipt, if possible. If you have questions, call Brenda at (405) 620-1305 or Nanci Barthel at (405) 323-0703.



Scan to Donate to
St Stephen's UMC



Jays and Concerns (Continued)

Monday morning. Traveling mercies for Amber Mathis as she travels to New York this week for work. Becki Seay lifts up the ongoing academic situation at OU. Marilyn Nicely lifts up both Joan Hines and Phyliss Dawson. Neither are physically doing well. Cheryl Frech reported that her son-in-law, Sergio, had surgery and it appears to have been successful. Don MacGorman had eye surgery and there is a chance it wasn't successful. He is going to a follow up appointment to see if he needs an additional surgery. Michelle Carr's friend, 18 year old Nicole, passed. Prayers for her and her mother Priscilla.

Dear St. Stephen's Family and Friends,

Each church in the conference is asked to remember our District Superintendent, Dr. James Kim, and his administrative assistant, Chanel Burdex, with a Christmas gift contribution. Dr. Kim and Chanel do a lot of work to help us succeed as a congregation. If you are able, please make a contribution by check or via the church website to thank Dr. Kim and Chanel. Deadline for this gift: December 15.

Several of today's anthems were purchased and donated to the choir in memory or honor of someone special to the donor:

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Donated by Sally Mellon for Paul & Dorothy Hyatt who are singing with the angels

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Donated by Sue Beard in honor of Marci Corey and her music ministry at St. Stephen's

People, Look East

Donated by Cheryl Frech in memory of her parents, Roger and Evalyn Baldwin

All Praise to Thee

Donated by Marla Weigant in memory of Harry & Joann Potts and Carolyn Fischer

Dear St. Stephen's Friends and Family,

At this time each year, we invite you to make a financial contribution so that our hard-working St. Stephen's staff can receive a Christmas bonus. You can leave a check with "Staff Bonus" in the memo line in the plate or in the Church Office, or give one to any SPRC member. You can also make an online gift and note the Staff Bonus in the "Note" section under "Donate" on the ststephensnorman.org website. Our staff include:

Jinx Barber, Senior Pastor Jenn McDanel, Children's Ministry

Mary Moon, Care Ministries Sharon Ringrose, Office Manager

Marci Corey, Music Ministries Alyssa Miller, Youth Ministries

Grace Valentine, Youth Assistant Mykhail Rybakov, Facilities Manager

Julie Sondag, Pianist & Choir Accompanist

Thank you for thanking our staff in a meaningful way this holiday season. Please make your gift by Dec. 15 at the latest. SPRC Members: Valerie Underwood, Ron Mullan, Jackie Farley, David Wilson-Burns, Stephanie Parks, Martha Ogilvie, Robby Greenlee, Mary Gann, Cheryl Frech