

St. Stephen United Church of Christ

Worshiping God Loving People Making a Difference

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A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Barbara Brown Taylor is an Episcopal priest and prolific author. Some years ago, she wrote an article in which she told of her granddaughter Madeline's experience of the death of a friend and her parents' divorce.

Things came to a head on Madeline's birthday, when it was time for her to blow out the candles. Her grandfather told her to make a wish and she balked. She had already wished for her friend to live and the friend died. She wished for her parents to get back together, but knew that they wouldn't. Why bother? Nobody had much of an answer. I can just imagine how quiet it got around that birthday table.

But it did set Barbara to thinking. The subject had been **wishes** rather than **prayer**, but the two aren't that far apart—at least in the mind of a child. Barbara began to consider how to encourage Madeline to pray, even though she could not always expect her prayers to be answered as asked. After a good deal of thought, she wrote this article. I think that you will find it helpful. She said:

"What I want Madeline to know is that the best thing about prayer is the relationship itself. Whether or not she gets what she asks for, I want her to keep asking. I want her to pester God the same way she pesters her mother, thinking of 12 different ways to plead her case. I want her to long for God the same way she longs for her father, holding fast to him even when his chair is empty."

She concluded the article this way:

"One day, when Madeline asks me outright whether prayer really works, I am going to say, 'Oh, sweetie, of course it does.' It keeps our hearts chasing after God's heart. It's how we bother God, and how God bothers us back. There's nothing that works any better than that."

Prayer is a lot of things and one thing it is, is God's vehicle for blessing. Let us be a people of prayer so that we might also be a people of blessing.

Waiting, longing, and praying for Lent!

Rev. Jim Harper III

February 2016

Published January 22, 2016

The
Builder

THE BUILDER - February 2016

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Schedule

8:45 AM Adult Faith Development Classes
10:00 AM Worship
11:15 AM All Ages Faith Development Classes



Sunday, February 7, 2016

Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration

Astounding Glory

Exodus 34: 29-35 • Psalm 99 •
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 • Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

Sunday, February 14, 2016

First Sunday in Lent

Wilderness Companions

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 • Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 •
Romans 10:8-13 • Luke 4:1-13

Sunday, February 21, 2016

Second Sunday in Lent

Strong and Tender

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 • Psalm 27 •
Philippians 3:17-4:1 • Luke 13:31-35

Sunday, February 28, 2016

Third Sunday in Lent

Open Invitation

Isaiah 55:1-9 • Psalm 63:1-8 •
1 Corinthians 10:1-13 • Luke 13:1-9

MUSIC NEWS

***From Janet Storm
Music Director***



Choir rehearsals have resumed after a two week break during the holidays. We will be singing on February 14 during worship and several times before the end of May. Please consider joining us. You don't have to sing well, just enjoy singing. I hope to see you on Sunday mornings after worship in the choir room.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SCHEDULE

Wednesday Evenings
February 10 - March 16, 2016

6:15 PM Family Dinner
7:00 PM Worship Experience

FIVE GIRLS OF MATTHEW ONE... SPIRITUALITY, SCRIPTURE, SOCIETAL ISSUES, SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION

February 10, 2016

***Ash Wednesday Worship
"Put A New Spirit Within Me"***



February 17, 2016

TAMAR - Matthew One:Three

Mother of Perez and Zerah is groomed into sex by her Father-in-Law. She is a victim of Domestic Violence. We will welcome a speaker from the ***Center for Women and Children***.

February 24, 2016

RAHAB - Matthew One:Five

An Amorite Prostitute who hid the spies of Israel as they surveyed Jericho. We will welcome a speaker from a recovery program from the Sex Industry called ***Scarlet's Hope and Scarlet's Bakery***.

March 2, 2016

RUTH - Matthew One:Five & Six

A Moabite women who found hope from Naomi and Boaz who were of a different nationality and culture. We will talk about Immigrant/Refugee issues in Louisville and we will welcome a speaker from ***Kentucky Refugee Ministries***.

March 9, 2016

BATHSHEBA - Matthew One:Six

King David and his wife heartbreakingly loose a child to death. We will welcome Chaplin Adam Ruiz, a ***Pastoral Care Specialist from a Norton Hospital NeoNatal Unit***.

March 16, 2016

MARY - Matthew One:Sixteen

Mary, mother of Jesus, is so loved, revered, and worshipped as much by Muslims, as she is by Christians. We will welcome Martin Brooks ***with Peace Catalyst International (Midwest Region)***, as he shares the background of Mary and the Islamic Faith.

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 12, 2016

- ◆ The 2016 Budget will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 17. Dinner will be served following the worship service with the meeting to follow the dinner.
- ◆ Feed the Hungry Packing Event will be held on February 28. We need volunteers and donations. An announcement will be made with more details. *[See announcement below.]*
- ◆ The Family Life Center always needs volunteers. Please contact Gary Leitner if you are able to help.
- ◆ Proceeds from this year's Lenten Denial Folders will go to Holy Joe's Café which provides a safe, informal place where chaplains invite military personnel to receive spiritual care and good coffee.
- ◆ Services for Ash Wednesday and Holy Week will be celebrated traditionally. There will be no sunrise service on Easter, but we will have a breakfast/brunch Easter morning at 9:00 AM.
- ◆ The Spaghetti dinner is February 5. *[See announcement to the right.]*

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Hoback
Recording Secretary

Kids Against Hunger.

**The Second Annual
Feed the Hungry Event
Sunday, February 28, 2016**

The Kentuckiana Association is planning a second food packing event on February 28. St. Stephen would like to sponsor two teams of 12 persons. We need to raise \$500 per team. **Money and team member names are due January 31.**



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2016

We will collect a free will offering after worship on February 7, for the Souper Bowl of Caring. Funds will go to Shively Area Ministries.



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015

4:00 - 7:00 PM

Tickets on Sale Now!

Adults: \$8.00 ~ Children Under 12: \$3.00
Family Plan (Parents & all Children Under 12): \$20.00

Includes Salad, Bread, and Drinks
Dessert \$1.00 Extra

Baked Goods Booth Items Priced as Marked

Carryouts Available

**Invite your friends and family!
All are welcome**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Holiday Soiree was a success! We sold 102 tickets, the largest crowd we've had in several years. We had a catered

dinner, a sing-a-long, entertainment, and games. Everyone walked out with candy, an ornament, or a poinsettia. Thank you to everyone who helped set up before and take down after this event. A big thank you goes to everyone who attended. We can't do this without you.

The Mitten Tree provided 21 hats/ear warmers, 8 scarves, and 58 pairs of gloves to Shively Area Ministries. Thank you to Barbara Perry for delivering these items for us and to everyone who brought in items.

Christmas caroling was a little confusing this year. We were told we could not carol due to a virus at Summerfield. When the gifts were taken over after worship, we were told the quarantine had been lifted and they were expecting us. Since it was several minutes after worship had ended, we gathered up the choir and anyone else who was still at church and caroled. There were about 15 -20 people and the residents and workers really enjoyed it.

We hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and this year will bring blessings to all of you.

If you have any suggestions for us to try in the future, please see someone on the committee or leave the suggestion in the office. We are always willing to discuss new opportunities for outreach.

THE BUILDER - February 2016



FEBRUARY

Feb. 2	Rev. Gary Tatum
Feb. 3	Kennedy Ward
Feb. 4	Todd Jennings
Feb. 6	Bradley Dwyer, Kaitlin Glasscock, Sarah Goble, Ellen Goble, Sean Thixton
Feb. 7	Jennifer Moskowitz, Frank Medeiros
Feb. 8	Karen Reeser, Robert Glasscock
Feb. 9	Jacob Key, Brady Keehn, Sharon Mueller
Feb. 10	Earl Wieting
Feb. 11	Pat Panter, Crystal Shanks
Feb. 12	Linda Leanhart
Feb. 15	Pamela Reeser
Feb. 16	Codie Mudd
Feb. 17	Bethany Hill
Feb. 21	Lindsey Jennings
Feb. 22	Anya Rene Bijlani, Jeremy Mudd
Feb. 23	Jeannie Raderer
Feb. 25	John Tellman, Suzy Storm, Tina Toole-Harper, Bailey Fullen
Feb. 26	Brooke Eisenback
Feb. 28	Nikki Gregory



DARTBALL SCHEDULE MONDAYS - 7:00 PM

02/01 - Home - Ormsby Heights B
 02/08 - @ Northside Christian
 (Played at St. Stephen)
 02/15 - Home - Chapel Hill UCC
 02/22 - @ Shively Baptist
 02/29 - Playoffs if Needed
 03/07 - Jamboree @ Shively Christian
 03/21 - Banquet

From the Church Office



If you have a change of mailing address, email address, or phone number please let the church office know. We are updating our records and we still have really old information on some members and friends!

ststephe_@bellsouth.net 502-448-2544

CHILDREN'S CHURCH / NURSERY WORKERS

February

07 - Anne Goble
 14 - Kathy Bauer
 21 - Tina Harper
 28 - Frankie Williams

March

06 - Linda Jennings
 13 - Lisa Nolley
 20 - Madison Harper
 27 - Karen Haines



HEAD USHERS

February

Nancy Skinner

March

Sam Raderer



PERFECT ATTENDANCE

FAITH DEVELOPMENT CLASSES

Men's Class

Jim Harper III
 Bill Kroeckel
 Herbert Raderer
 Sam Raderer

New Generations Class

Jeannie Raderer
 Donna Schneider
 Marsha Vowels

QUILTERS GROUP

NO QUILTERS GROUP IN FEBRUARY

AL-ANON Meetings

Every Tuesday morning at 10:30 AM in the Hope Room of the Family Life Center (Rm 107-108). Anyone is welcome to attend.

CHURCH PUBLICATION DUE DATES

Builder Items - These are due to the office Friday morning following Church Council Meetings which are on the second Tuesday of the month. **The next Builder will be the March 2016 issue therefore articles are due February 12.**

Bulletin Items - These are due to the office by Wednesday morning each week.

In Special Need of Prayers

PFC Peyton Nolley, USMC
Fort Leonard Wood, MO



In the Hospital or Rehab

No one at this time.

At Home

Jack Bensing, Angie Lowen,
Jerry Mosier, Charles Baxter

Care Facilities

Virginia Cahill - Essex Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
9600 Lamborne Blvd. 40272

From the Women in Recovery of Diersen House

Thanking St. Stephen for the handmade, quilted cosmetic bags and the joyful worship service with the Rascals of Ragtyme. They are very grateful for our support of Diersen House.

Brooke Barnes, Norton Cancer Institute

Thanking St. Stephen for our gift card donations to their patents.

Earleen Tudor, Norton Cancer Institute Patient

Thanking St. Stephen for the holiday gift card donation.



THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED

From the Staff - Janet Storm, Janet Manzo, Eva Morse, Leroy Malone, and Rev. Jim Harper III

Dear St. Stephen Friends and Family,
We wish to extend our thanks and gratitude to the congregation of St. Stephen UCC for your very generous Christmas gifts to us. We appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness. It is a privilege to serve such loving and kind people. We wish you a Happy and Blessed 2016!

From Uspiritus

Thanking St. Stephen for our recent benevolent donation which provides care to children and families in need throughout western and central Kentucky.

From Lauren P. Claypool, Family Resource Coordinator, Cane Run Elementary School

Thanking St. Stephen for our donation of food baskets for their families. They are deeply grateful because our continued support provides much needed assistance during the holiday season.

From Shively Area Ministries

Thanking St. Stephen for our donation of mittens and hats.

From Signature at Summerfield, Vickie Buckley, Quality of Life Director

Thanking St. Stephen for Christmas caroling and the Kleenex favors.

From Rev. Dean Bucalos, Diersen House

Thanking St. Stephen for an evening of joyful worship with the Rascals of Ragtyme on December 15, at Diersen House. Also Rev. Bucalos thanked us for our gifts to the women of handmade, quilted cosmetic bags with toiletries.



A MEMORIAL GIFT WAS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF DOROTHY A. MORRIS BY VICTOR MORRIS.

A MEMORIAL GIFT WAS GIVEN BY CAROL & NORMAN HAMPTON IN MEMORY OF DORIS A. BAUER.

A MEMORIAL GIFT WAS GIVEN BY RUTH LANE IN MEMORY OF JAMES WILLIAM MONTGOMERY.

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIPS

Sunday, December 27, 2015

The Bulletin was sponsored in remembrance of Helen Thompson's birthday by her daughter Blanche Baxter.

Sunday, January 10, 2016

The Bulletin was sponsored in remembrance of Tammy Wisehart's birthday by her mother, Frankie Williams

Sunday, January 17, 2015

The Bulletin was sponsored by C. J. Wieting in memory of Mary Weiting.



Condolences are offered to **Krystal Cox Gramlich** and family on the death of her uncle **John M. Davis**, on December 26, 2015. Funeral service was held on Wednesday at Arch L. Heady Russman and Sons, East Oak Street. Burial was at Cave Hill Cemetery.

Condolences are offered to **Rita Augenstein, Margaret Casper** and family on the death of **Jean Slusher** on January 6, 2016. Funeral Mass was held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on January 16.

Condolences are offered to **Irma Waller** on the death of her great-nephew **Marty Burton** who died on January, 4, 2016. A memorial service was held January 9, in Norcross, GA. Marty was also the grandson of **Al Vogel**.

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THE BUILDER - February 2016


ST. STEPHEN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TREASURER'S REPORT - December 31, 2015

	GENERAL FUND	BENEVOLENCES		CHRISTIAN ED FUND	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	PIPE ORGAN FUND	MEMORIAL FUND	TOTALS
		REGULAR	GOOD SAMARITAN					
BALANCE 11/30/15	41,688.33	8,814.13	1,372.80	4,458.60	8,799.40	364.27	3,000.00	68,278.53
RECEIPTS	20,534.49	1,947.86	11.00	47.00	0.00	0.00	3,485.00	26,025.15
FUND TRANSFER	(2,115.33)	1,939.05	176.28				(3,485.00)	
FUND TRANSFER	3,485.00							
TOTALS	63,572.49	12,500.84	1,560.08	4,506.60	8,799.40	364.27	3,000.00	94,303.68
DISBURSEMENTS	24,218.90	6,643.90	810.06	140.16	0.00	0.00	16.50	31,829.52
BALANCE 12/31/15	39,353.59	5,856.94	750.02	4,366.44	8,799.40	364.27	2,983.50	62,474.16

NOTE: SAVINGS ACCOUNT BREAKDO

SCHOLARSHIP FUND	5,686.69
MISSIONS COMM. FUND	914.10
YOUTH FUND	313.20
NOTE: FLC - RENTALS:	525.00
FLC - WALKERS	210.00

NOTE 1: KROGER COMMUNITY AWARDS NETTED
ST. STEPHEN DURING Dec 2015 \$223.15


TREASURER
December 31, 2015

RECAPITULATION OF DEPOSITORIES AS OF =====>

	11/30/2015
CHECKING ACCOUNTS:	
PNC CHECKING	4,559.32
PNC GAMING ACCT.	76.13
SAVINGS A/C - PNC - BEGIN	62,833.93
INTEREST EARNED	4.78
TRANSFER TO SAVINGS FROM CHECKING	0.00
SERVICE CHARGE	0.00
TRANSFER TO CK FROM SAVINGS	(5,000.00)
TOTAL PNC SAVINGS ACCOUNT	12/31/2015 57,838.71
SUB TOTAL 12/31/2015	62,474.16
LESS 4TH QTR TAXES	0.00
GRAND TOTAL AS OF =====>	12/31/2015 62,474.16



HELP! WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

During the last couple of years we have lost some of our very faithful volunteers.

Will you please consider volunteering for any of these much needed tasks that are a very important part of our ministry?

- **FLC Workers** - We need volunteers Monday-Thursday evenings from 6:00-8:00 PM for our ministry to the walkers. We also need weekend FLC workers for our numerous rentals.
- **Recycling Help**- We recycle paper and aluminum cans. We could recycle much more if we had help bringing these items to the recycling center. This would be a monthly job, but initially there is quite a load to go.
- **Church Pew Pockets** - We need someone to make sure the pew pockets have offering envelopes, any special envelopes and sharpened pencils. This would be a monthly task.
- **Bulletin Stuffers** - This is a weekly task stuffing the bulletins with announcements and inserts.

Please call the office if you have questions about these tasks or if you would like to volunteer!

THANK YOU!

CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY OF...

(Continued From Page 5)

James William (Bill) Montgomery died on Sunday, January 10, 2016. We extend our condolences to his sister **Julia Dalton**. Arrangements were private.

We hold these families closely in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. May God's peace, comfort and grace surround them.

**LIVE
JUSTLY.
LOVE
ABUNDANTLY.
WALK
HUMBLY.**

**ST. STEPHEN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1875 FARNSLEY ROAD
LOUISVILLE, KY 40216-4701**

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 725
LOUISVILLE, KY

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor:

Rev. Jim Harper III

SUNDAY SERVICES:

**Faith Development Classes -
8:45 AM & After Worship
Worship - 10:00 AM**

**OFFICE HOURS: Mon - Fri 9 :30 AM - 2:30 PM
PHONE: 502-448-2544
FAX: 502-448-2526
E-MAIL: ststephe_@bellsouth.net
WEBSITE: www.ststephenucc.net**

**The BUILDER is published once a month by
St. Stephen UCC for members and friends.**

In order to comply with postal regulations, it is here stated that the enclosures in this newsletter are clearly presenting material that is an extension of the life and ministry of St. Stephen United Church of Christ.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....Rev. Jim Harper III
Music Director.....Janet Storm
Vocalist.....Eva Morse
Office Secretary.....Janet Manzo

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

June McNally and Ruth Lane

ST. STEPHEN UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Lisa Nolley, President
Donna Schneider, Vice President
Carol Hoback, Recording Secretary
Nancy Skinner, Treasurer
Cliff Ellis, Financial Secretary

Members at Large:

Krystal Cox Gramlich, Madison Harper, Richard Storm

Elders:

Carol Hoback, Lisa Nolley, Donna Schneider

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