

St. Stephen United Church of Christ

Worshiping God Loving People Making a Difference

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A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

REV. JIM HARPER III

In our Faith Development Class[es], we have been reading selections from Philip Gulley's book entitled: *If the Church Were Christian*. In the first chapter he makes a startling statement. A statement that has a personal indictment for me, and perhaps for so many in the church universally today. He makes the distinction between believing in orthodoxy and actually living good conduct. He purposes that there are many people in life that believe in all the right stuff and they actually attend all the meetings of the church, but they fail miserably when it comes to living a good life or living a life that would be considered 'Christ-like'.

I then ran across a personal story that speaks to this idea of conduct of one's life speaking louder than orthodoxy in a sermon writers resource that I subscribe to. I would like to share the powerful story with you:

In his book, *Lift High the Cross*, Robert Morgan tells the story of Frieda Hannah, a Palestinian Christian who had a small gift shop on the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem. She did beautiful embroidery and cross stitch work, and specialized in Bible markers, clergy stoles and altar hangings. (NOTE: Via Dolorosa means "The Way of Grief" and is the route that Jesus took on the way to the cross.)

One day, the shop was crowded when a group of American tourists, Bibles under their arms and crosses around their necks, pushed in and demanded quick service. Several Palestinian children followed them into the store, asking for money. The American Christians demanded, "Get these dirty kids out of here."

After the Americans departed, another customer--also an American--apologized for their behavior. Frieda responded, "Oh, that's all right. I learned a long time ago that many of those who take the Bible literally don't take it seriously."

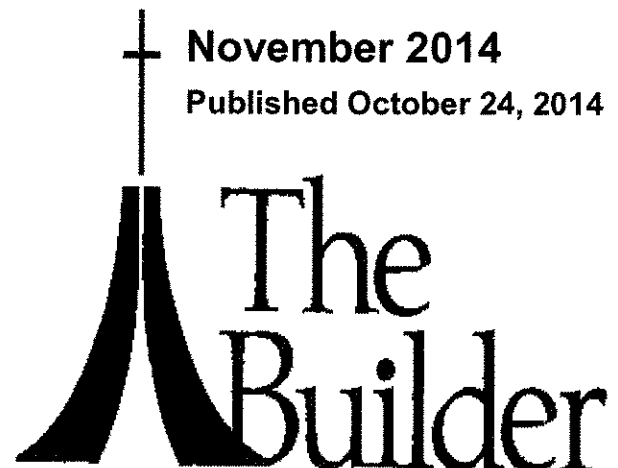
Frieda took her faith seriously. Over the years, she helped more than a thousand Palestinian youngsters get an education. She helped support several medical clinics. She started two orphanages. When asked how she did so much, she responded,

"God did not place me in this world just to take up space. It is not enough just to go along. God wants me to make a difference in the lives of others where I am."

(Continued on Next Page) 1

November 2014

Published October 24, 2014



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

(Continued From Cover)

Perhaps we could describe Frieda as a woman who has decided to live a life that reflects Christ's compassion — kindness — humility — meekness — and patience.

All of us would like to be like Frieda — with her life of Godly service. None of us want to be like the rude tourists. Christ makes it possible to become like Christ. All we have to do is to wrap ourselves in Christ, and Christ will do the rest.

How about if we ask ourselves a question: "Do I put more importance on knowing what to believe, instead of living a life that is full of compassion — kindness — humility — meekness — and patience?"

If we ever have the chance, I hope we all choose 'Christ-like' conduct over orthodoxy any day.

See you in Worship and in Faith Development!

Rev. Jim Harper III

ARE YOU READY TO TALK ABOUT MONEY IN [OUR] CHURCH? PART FOUR
It is a simple quiz! (Continued from last issue.)

Question #10

When [our] preacher begins a sermon on stewardship, your first thought is...

- A. "Did I leave the oven on?"
- B. "I'm so glad my shallow, materialistic neighbor is here to hear this."
- C. "I wonder what God might have to say to me today about my own finances?"
- D. Okay, hit me with your best shot, hot stuff."

Question #11

People with healthy attitudes toward money...

- A. Never talk about it.
- B. Never stop talking about it.
- C. Talk naturally about money as an integral part of discipleship.
- D. Are soooo glad this quiz is over.

If [we] answered "C" to any of these questions, [we] may be ready to talk about money in [our] church.

If [we] answered "A", "B" or "D", [we] are caught up in the gross materialism and depravity of our consumer culture, but [the folks that are leading this Stewardship moment] would [still] like to talk to you about your pledge anyway.

Because remember — 'NO matter who you are and where you are on life's journey, you and your money are welcome here!'

God is still giving,

This is adapted from a resource that is produced by the United Church of Christ and written by Lillian Daniel and Martian B. Copenhaver. It is a part of the God is still speaking campaign



NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Schedule

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

Sunday, November 2, 2014

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
Communion
Partners in Service
Matthew 23:1-12

Sunday, November 9, 2014

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tending God's Light
Matthew 25:1-13

Sunday, November 16, 2014

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Extravagant Opportunity
Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday, November 23, 2014

Reign of Christ – Totenfest Sunday
Reigning Compassion
Exodus 17: 1-7

Sunday, November 30, 2014

First Sunday of Advent
Where are you God?
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

**From Janet Storm
Music Director**

CHOIR NEWS



Choir is in full swing in the choir room. We meet each Sunday morning at 9:15. and currently have 8-10 people. New music was ordered and will be used in worship on November 9.

Please feel free to join us. We make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

The Louisville Dulcimer Society joined us for worship on October 12. Their special musical gifts enhanced our worship service with music we do not hear very often. Thank you to the Dulcimer Society for sharing their special musical gifts with us.

We also enjoyed Dixieland Music from The Rascals of Ragtime on October 26, also another special musical experience for us during worship.



THANKSGIVING BASKETS

It is that time of year to begin preparing for the benevolent work of preparing for holiday assistance. Let us be thankful for all that we have been granted in spiritual and material goods and pass on our abundance to those who are struggling.



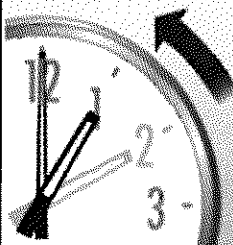
Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Again this year we are asking for your generous gifts to support this ministry of assistance. **Envelopes are included in this Builder**

The baskets will be distributed on Sunday, November 23. All contributions should be in no later than Sunday, November 9.

We will also need volunteers on Sunday, November 23 to help pack and deliver some of the baskets. Please consider sharing your time and treasure in this worthwhile and important ministry.

Time to fall back



Turn your clocks back one hour to standard time at 2 a.m. Sunday.

Daylight Saving Time Ends at 2:00 AM on Sunday, November 2nd.

THE BUILDER - November 2014

Church Council



September 16, 2014 Highlights

- ◆ The current asking price for the old parsonage is \$80,000. We have no offers on the table at this time.
- ◆ The council looked into the possibility of an online donation system but it was not cost effective.
- ◆ We had a good turnout for our service at Diersen House. Everyone is encouraged to join us the next time we conduct a service.
- ◆ We hope to have special music performed during the worship services in the month of October. More information will be available when the plans are finalized.
- ◆ Third Sunday Conversation will be September 21 after the worship service. Pizza and a vegetable tray will be available.
- ◆ The Missions Committee will be taking donations of cake mixes and frosting for SAM. The Quilters are making Christmas gift bags for Diersen House. Missions will fill them with treats.
- ◆ Trivia Night - Sunday, October 5 at 5:00pm
- ◆ Church Work Day – October 25 at 8:30am
- ◆ Congregational Meeting – Sunday, October 26 after church
- ◆ Chilifest – Sat., Nov. 1 – 4:00-8:00pm. The yard sale starts at 8:00am

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Hoback

October 14, 2014 Highlights

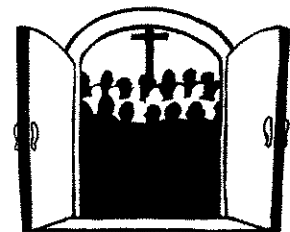
- ◆ President Jenny Elmore reported that an inspection was done on the old parsonage on Monday. There are three items that need attention. The real estate agent will be meeting with the prospective buyer on Thursday to discuss these findings.
- ◆ The Church Council has been reviewing the "Employee Policies" document. Proposed changes were discussed and made. These revised changes will be reviewed and voted on at the November 2014 Meeting.
- ◆ Nominees for the upcoming election for the Church Council and Christian Education Committee were discussed. All Council Members were encouraged to assist in finding members of the Church willing to serve on either the Church Council or Christian Education Committee. The Congregational Meeting will be held on October 26, 2014.
- ◆ The silver refrigerator in the old choir room has not been functioning for the last three weeks but is now repaired.
- ◆ Council Members were encouraged to attend the third Sunday Conversation Session on Sunday, October 19, 2014.
- ◆ Rev. Harper reported that Rev. John Vertigan has resigned his position as Conference Minister. He will be moving to the Florida Conference pending approval.
- ◆ The Finance Committee is now working on a new budget for the year 2015.
- ◆ Don Bauer reported that he had done some drainage work around the outside door leading to the FLC. Hopefully that will take care of the water problem that has been occurring in that area.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Schneider
Acting Recording Secretary

Congregational Meetings **Sunday, October 26, 2014** **11:15 AM**

There will be two Congregational Meetings on October 26th:

1. Election of Church Council Members and Christian Education Committee Members.
2. Church Parsonage - Update, discussion, and possible action needed by congregation to assist in selling of the church parsonage.



**Congregational
MEETING**

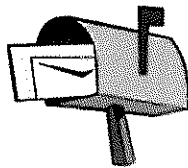
Christian Education

The Holiday Soiree will be held on December 7th immediately following worship. We will be finalizing the menu and entertainment at the next meeting. Watch your bulletin and The Builder for updates. If you have ideas for entertainment and/or caterers, please see someone on the committee.

As a committee, we have also decided to try something new for the Children's Church time. Each Sunday, there will be scripture and/or a story to read and coloring sheets. Please feel free to elaborate on these as necessary. This activity will be in the room across from the nursery, by the restroom. Hopefully by January, we will have curriculum to email each month. We realize that the lesson may not always be used: no children, wide age range, unhappy child, etc. Please do not worry if the lesson is not used. All we ask is you do your best to help enrich each child's faith development.

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.

Notes



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

The Builder is mailed to you by the United States Post Office non-profit bulk mail rate. USPS sends us forwarding addresses for those Builders that are not deliverable. This service is at a cost to the church. We pay postage due on every address USPS sends us.

For each incorrect address the cost is actually more than double what it costs to mail you The Builder. We have no problem with the number of Builders we mail out because we need that number for the very low non-profit bulk mail rate. We only ask that you please inform the church office if you change your address.

Our contact information is on the back cover of this issue of The Builder. We appreciate it! Thank you!

Thank You

Chilifest

November 1, 2014

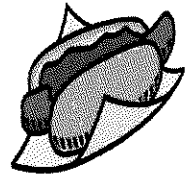


The Chilifest is a week away! We need your help for the big event.

Don't forget to bring in your items for the yard sale. We are collecting items for UK and U of L baskets for the silent auction - donation boxes are on a table in the Fellowship Hall. Be preparing your basket or an item that you can donate for the auction table. You can see Carleen Leitner for help and suggestions.

GOODIES BOOTH

There will also be a Goodies Booth at the Yard Sale and Chilifest. Donations of bread, cookies, cakes, pies, candy, or anything else you would like to bring would be appreciated. Please come early in the morning and mark prices on your items. Contact Ruth Lane or June McNally for more information.



CAPITAL PRIZE TICKETS

get
TICKET
your ticket

We will be selling tickets for a chance to win the \$500.00 Capital Prize. Tickets are \$1.00 each. The drawing will be held at 8:00 PM on the night of the Chilifest.

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET

There will a sign-up on the table in the Fellowship Hall right outside the Sanctuary for volunteers. We need a lot of volunteers to help this event run smoothly!



We especially need help unboxing and pricing yard sale treasures on Thursday, October 30 and Friday, October 31!!

Please see Jenny Elmore if you can help or if you have any questions

Trivia Night Report October 5, 2014

CREDITS	EXPENSES	STARTUP	NET PROFIT
\$847.50	(\$235.00)	(\$100.00)	\$512.50



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 3 Janet Storm
 Nov. 5 Glen Craven, Judy Drouant,
 Barbara Perry
 Nov. 6 Gabriel Riggs
 Nov. 7 Bailey Flaherty
 Nov. 10 Ashley Bauer
 Nov. 13 Sarah Waller
 Nov. 18 Bethany McAllister, Melody Bauer
 Nov. 19 Carleen Leitner
 Nov. 20 Kayleigh Mills
 Nov. 26 Brandon Ferren, Alicia Storm,
 Kelli Storm
 Nov. 27 Delores Dale
 Nov. 28 Alexandria Cecil
 Nov. 29 Emma Altman
 Nov. 30 Kim Spencer, Kelly Parkinson

CHILDREN'S CHURCH / NURSERY WORKERS

November	December
02 - Anne Goble	07 - Linda Jennings
09 - Kathy Bauer	14 - Lisa Nolley
16 - Tina Harper	21 - Madison Harper
28 - Frankie Williams	28 - Karen Haines
30 - Becky Flaherty	



HEAD USHERS

November	December
To be Announced	Gary Morris



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER SCHEDULE

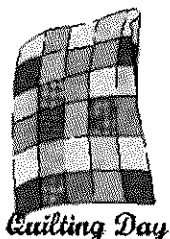
11/3 - Lynnhurst
 11/10 - Gars Lane UMC
 11/17 - @ Valley View
 11/24 - Mosiac UMC
 12/1 - @ St. James
 12/8 - Bye
 12/15 - @ First Nazarene
 12/22 - Christmas Holiday
 12/29 - New Year's Holiday

AL-ANON Meetings

St. Stephen UCC is hosting 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.

Quilters Group

The Quilters Group will meet November 13 (second Thursday) from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The group meets in the Fellowship Hall. You are most welcome to join this group and bring your lunch with you. Contact Debbie Cahill for more information. 502-935-9606



**FAITH DEVELOPMENT CLASSES
 PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

September 2014

High School
 Camryn Harper

Men
 Jack Bensing
 Jim Harper III
 Bill Kroeckel

New Generation
 Madison Harper
 Tina Harper
 Carleen Leitner
 Gary Leitner



Donna Schneider
 Janet Storm
 Richard Storm

**The December Builder deadline will be
 November 14, 2014.
 Early submissions are appreciated!**



**Here at St. Stephen UCC
Saturday, November 8, 2014
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM**

St. Stephen United Church of Christ is pleased to offer this preventive health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on 11/8/2014.

Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis.

The screening tests are performed by experienced professional sonographers using Doppler ultrasound technology. A board certified physician reviews all the results before they are sent to individual screening participants in approximately 21 days.

Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

You must register and make an appointment for these screenings.

In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.

Flyer are available on the table outside the Sanctuary.

Below is a link to a three-minute video about Life Line Screening.
<http://www.lifelinescreeningblog.com/introduction/>



**Kroger Plus Card
Community Rewards
Program**

**Use Your Kroger Plus Card &
Help Us Grow!**

Kroger Card Community Rewards program has changed. St. Stephen UCC will accrue rewards just by scanning your Kroger Plus Card. The Kroger re-loadable cards will no longer be used. No more purchasing, reloading, or reordering gift cards.

The only card you will need is your Kroger Plus Card, but you must connect your Kroger Plus Card to St. Stephen UCC to accrue rewards for our church.

You can either do this online or by phone.

To connect your Kroger Plus Card to St. Stephen UCC online:

- Visit www.kroger.com/communityrewards
- Scroll down to find your location and click "Enroll Now."
- Sign in to your online account or create a new account if you do not have a current account.
- Find and select St. Stephen UCC #10154 and click "Save."
- Note that you have to re-enroll every August.

If you do not use a computer you can call Kroger at 1-800-KROGERS. Choose Option #3 and have your Kroger Plus Card and St. Stephen's number ready #10154 when the customer service representative answers.

Please call the church office if you need help.

**Help us start
accruing rewards
now!!**

Thank you!!



THE BUILDER - November 2014

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

*William Montgomery, Jerry Mosier,
Stewart Williams, Dave Wright*

Home

Ralph Gosling, Emma Jean Mosier, Jerry Mosier,
Victor Morris, William Montgomery,
Jean Slusher, Stewart Williams

Care Facilities

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

Thelma Goss - Emeritus at Stonecreek Lodge
9251 Stonestreet Road #114 40272

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of Dorothy A. Morris by Vic Morris

In memory of Jim Johnson by Thomas and Beverly Johnson

In memory of Mary Elizabeth Schneider Musick by

- ✠ Russ & Penny Kline
- ✠ William Kroeckel
- ✠ Angie Lowen
- ✠ Barbara Perry
- ✠ Lillilu & Tony Tabler
- ✠ Frankie Williams

In memory of Hubert C. Slusher, Sr. by

- ✠ Angie Lowen
- ✠ William Kroeckel
- ✠ Russ & Penny Kline

In memory of Charles C. Waller by

- ✠ Russ & Penny Kline
- ✠ William Kroeckel
- ✠ George Baker and Family

FLOWER AND BULLETIN SPONSORSHIPS

Sunday, September 25 - Bulletin sponsored by Jack Bensing and Jenny Shanks in memory of Cindy Bensing's death anniversary of September 22, 2004.

Sunday, October 5 - Flowers on the altar were from the funeral of Mary Elizabeth Schneider Musick given by Donna Schneider. Mary passed away on October 4, 2014

Sunday, October 12 - Flowers on the altar were given by Rital Augenstein in memory of Hubert C. Slusher, Sr. who passed away on Saturday, October 4, 2014



Condolences are offered to Donna Schneider on the passing of her mother **Mary Musick** on October 1st. Mary's funeral and burial were held on Saturday, October 4 in Evansville.

Condolences are offered to Jean Slusher, Rita Augenstein, and the family of **Hubert C. Slusher, Sr.** Hubert passed away on Saturday, October 4, 2014. His funeral and burial were held on Tuesday, October 7, at Resthaven Funeral Home.

Condolences are offered to Irma Waller, Dr. Charles Waller, Jr., and the family of **Charles L. Waller, Sr.** Charles passed away on Sunday, October 5. His funeral was held on October 10 at Heady-Hardy Funeral Home, with burial at Louisville Memorial Gardens.

Our thoughts and prayers for comfort and peace are with all of these families during this difficult time.

THANK YOU NOTES

The following thank you notes were received for our benevolence contributions since the last Builder:

- ◆ Wayside Christian Mission
- ◆ Uspiritus
- ◆ Summerfield Nursing Home (For the use of our chairs for their Fall Festival)

From Donna Schneider and Family

Losing someone in death is never easy and while it left me saddened, I was so comforted by the calls, prayers, thoughts, cards, and visits that so many of you sent my way. I was especially blessed to have the presence of Rev. Harper guiding me every step of the way. Rev. Harper, your gift of words, whether prayed or spoken, deeply touched my family and myself. Thank you Rev. Harper and the congregation for your heartfelt care and concern.

In Christian Love,

Donna Schneider and the Family of
Mary Musick

From the Hubert C. Slusher, Sr. Family

Thanks to Rev. Harper for being a part of our celebration of our Dad's life. Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers. Also, thank you for the food.
Rita, Beth, Margaret, Bud

From Frankie Williams

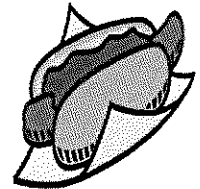
Thank you to my Church Family for all the cards, visits, thoughts, and prayers sent my way on the passing of my sister.

Frankie Williams

ST. STEPHEN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1875 FARNSELY ROAD
LOUISVILLE, KY 40216
(502) 448-2544
www.ststephenucc.net

CHILIFEST 2014

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1st
FESTIVAL 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Indoor Yard Sale - 8 a.m. until 8 p.m.



FOOD ITEMS

CHILI, CHILI DOGS, HOT DOGS WITH CHIPS
TURKEY SANDWICHES WITH CHIPS
VARIETY OF PIES
COFFEE, TEA, OR LEMONADE

CARRY OUT SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE

ACTIVITIES

INFLATABALE FOR THE KIDS
FACE PAINTING
BAKED GOODS BOOTH
CAKE/FLOWER WALK
RAFFLE
INDOOR YARD SALE
SILENT AUCTION BASKETS/GIFT CERTIFICATES



CAPITAL PRIZE



\$500



November 2014



St. Stephen United Church of Christ

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Chilifest 4:00-8:00 PM Festival 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM Indoor Yard Sale
2 THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 8:45 AM Adult Faith Development Class 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM Faith Development Classes	3 7:00 Dartball - Lynnhurst/Home	4 ELECTION DAY 8:00 AM Ministerium Bible Study 10:30 AM AL-ANON 6:00 Ghost Dancers Square Dance Group				8 8:30 AM -5:00 PM LIFE LINE SCREENINGS 3:00-6:00 PM
9 THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 8:45 AM Adult Faith Development Class 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM Third Sunday Conversation - (A Week Early)	10 10:30 AM Uspiritus Auxiliary 7:00 PM Dartball - Garris Lane UMC/ Home	11 8:00 AM Ministerium Bible Study 10:30 AM AL-ANON 6:30 PM Finance Committee 7:30 PM Church Council		13 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Quilters Group		15 4:30 PM - 8:30 PM RENTAL-Fellowship Hall
16 THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 8:45 AM Adult Faith Development Class 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM WORSHIP 3:00 PM KYA Fall Meeting	17 7:00 PM Dartball - @ Valley View	18 8:00 AM Ministerium Bible Study 10:30 AM AL-ANON 6:00 Ghost Dancers Square Dance Group			21 Assemble Thanksgiving Baskets	22 Assemble Thanksgiving Baskets
23 REIGN OF CHRIST TOTENFEST SUNDAY 8:45 AM Adult Faith Development Class 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM Faith Development Classes Assemble Thanksgiving Baskets	24 7:00 Dartball - Mosaic UMC/Home	25 8:00 AM Ministerium Bible Study 10:30 AM AL-ANON 7:00 PM Christian Education				29 RENTAL-FLC
30 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:45 AM Adult Faith Development Class 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM Faith Development Classes						

The August 31, 2014 Treasurer's
Report is available in the Church
Office for viewing.

ST. STEPHEN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TREASURER'S REPORT - September 30, 2014

	GENERAL FUND		BENEVOLENCES			CHRISTIAN ED FUND	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	PIPE ORGAN FUND	MEMORIAL FUND	TOTALS
	REGULAR	SAMARITAN	GOOD	REACH FOR	TOMORROW					
BALANCE 08/31/14	(2,152.26)	7,714.09	784.17	0.00	0.00	3,228.80	8,799.40	964.27	3,118.00	22,456.47
RECEIPTS	15,426.70	182.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	55.00	0.00	0.00	90.00	15,753.70
FUND TRANSFER	(1,849.48)	1,695.36	154.12							
NON CASH DONATIONS										
TOTALS	11,424.96	9,591.45	938.29	0.00	0.00	3,283.80	8,799.40	964.27	3,208.00	38,210.17
DISBURSEMENTS	21,924.99	2,779.33	431.54	0.00	0.00	114.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,250.04
BALANCE 09/30/14	(10,500.03)	6,812.12	506.75	0.00	0.00	3,169.62	8,799.40	964.27	3,208.00	12,960.13

NOTE: SAVINGS ACCOUNT BREAKDO

SCHOLARSHIP FUND	3,186.69
MISSIONS COMM. FUND	1,010.39
YOUTH FUND	313.20

NOTE: FLC - RENTALS: 380.00
FLC - WALKERS 44.00

NOTE 1: SALES OF KROGER CERTIFICATES NETTED
ST. STEPHEN DURING Sep 2014 \$64.80

Stephen Bauer
TREASURER
September 30, 2014

RECAPITULATION OF DEPOSITORIES AS OF ----->

CHECKING ACCOUNTS:	08/31/2014	
PNC CHECKING	4,779.42	
PNC GAMING ACCOUNT	90.13	
SAVINGS AC. - PNC - BEGIN	14,733.91	
INTEREST EARNED	0.31	
TRANSFER TO SAVINGS FROM CD	0.00	
SERVICE CHARGE	0.00	
TRANSFER TO CK FROM SAVINGS	0.00	
TOTAL PNC SAVINGS ACCOUNT	(5,900.00)	
	09/30/2014	8,834.22
SUB TOTAL 09/30/2014		13,703.77
LESS 3RD QTR. TAXES		(743.64)
GRAND TOTAL AS OF ----->	09/30/2014	12,960.13

THIRD SUNDAY CONVERSATION WRAP-UP

September 21, 2014

23 present/light-lunch was served

Please see the Conversation Wrap-Up notes which detail the discussion held among the 23 attendees. The discussion was very heartfelt and open, and is what we need right now to help vitalize our church. Your church council and staff want to know the ideas and thoughts of everyone who sits in our pews, and this is the ideal opportunity to come together as a group to plan, dream, and implement new things for the future of St. Stephen. What do you think about the topics from this session? Do you have an opinion one way or the other? If so, please let your church council know and also plan to attend the next Third Sunday Conversation on Sunday, 10/19, after the worship service where other topics will be explored. Lunch will be provided, and you can chime in with your thoughts and opinions. Hope to see you there!

Jenny Elmore

Wrap-Up Notes...

Which special services (if any) should we eliminate?
What types of services or gatherings should we consider adding?

Continuing our Special Services: Lenten Services, Sunrise Worship and the Prayer Wheel; also are More Brunch or Alternative Worship Services desired.
INVENTORY TIME... Handout was provided with the past 8 years of attendance at special services.

2007-20014 Average Attendance for Special Services

• Ash Wednesday – 66 average	2013-59	2014-59
• Lent Wednesday 2 – 55 average	2013-30	2014-49
• Lent Wednesday 3 – 57 average	2013-49	2014-44
• Lent Wednesday 4 – 54 average	2013-41	2014-40
• Lent Wednesday 5 – 57 average	2013-45	2014-42
• Lent Wednesday 6 – 49 average	2013-41	2014-52
• Maundy Thursday – 39 average	2013-34	2014-37
• Good Friday Shut-In (2:00 PM) – 37 average	2013-42	2014-43
• Good Friday Worship (7:00 PM) – 52 average	2013-49	2014-41
• Easter Sunrise Worship (7:00 AM) – 53 average	2013-45	2014-28
• Christmas Eve Worship (11:00 PM) – 87 average	2012-70	2013-96

What is your feedback about the future of these special worship services?

Yellow Pads were on each table. Each table was asked to record items discussed or items they would like discussed. Below is the collective items from the Yellow Pads...

- Don't really want to get rid of any of the special services...
- Maundy Thursday, discontinue...
- Christmas Eve, keep...
- Easter Sunrise Service can be eliminated...
- Essential services are all of Lenten Mid-Week...
- Less essential service is Easter Sunrise...
- Eliminate Sunrise Easter Worship...
- Eliminate Sunrise Easter Worship...
- Eliminate none of the services, but make some changes...
- The Lenten Journey is important to us...
- What about a Mid-Week (Wednesday night) Worship service and a meal?
- What about a Mid-Week (Wednesday night) Worship service to prepare for Advent, like we have to prepare for Easter and like Lent, let's have a meal?
- Should we have a service every Wednesday night with a meal?
- We could have prayer warriors or prayer teams to pray for each member of the Congregation on a certain day or have several names printed to pray for in each service...
- Maybe we should have a special series of services to learn how to pray?
- Eating together on Wednesday nights is vital to our community and Church's future...
- A recently new member said, "Eating around the table on Wednesday nights made my family feel more of a part of the congregation."
- Every special service we have is important to me...

Other comments on the Yellow Pads...

- Why can't we have alcohol on our campus?
- Rev. Harper talked about starting an off-site gathering at a bar called either, "Saloon Spirituality" or Beer, Bourbon and the Bible!"

THIRD SUNDAY CONVERSATION WRAP-UP

October 19, 2014

15 present/light-lunch was served

Wrap-Up Notes...

Where should we go on our Mission Trips? Is there more our church could do for those in need in our area (clothes closet, meals, AIDS testing, etc.)?

WE WATCHED A VIDEO FROM A UCC CHURCH IN EVANSVILLE, WHO HAVE BEEN AND WILL BE RETURNING TO BACK BAY MISSION IN BILOXI, MS.

Spinning the globe and dreaming of far off lands is fun, and it can also be hard. The group that gathered was divided into two smaller groups and given the assignment to dream up a three year plan to do hands on mission (Mission Trip) on the scale of 3 day, 5 day and 7 day. Their ideas followed these calendar bench marks —

- 2015 the church offers a 3 day Mission Trip to some place in Kentucky or in adjacent states.
- 2016 the church offers a 5 day Mission Trip to some place at least further out in the continental United States.
- 2017 the church offers a 7 day Mission Trip to an extreme US location or to a place outside the continental United States.

Possible locations to look at that were shared:

- Back Bay Mission, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Camden (NJ), Appalachia, IKC Work Camps, Arizona, New Mexico, Dominican Republic, California, Hawaii, Nepal, Louisiana

Other things discussed -

- Helping the Scouting for Food efforts in Shively.
- Writing a business plan for our Mission Trip efforts that included monies to be raised, grants that might be available, what type of work would be performed on site, fundraising ideas, and a time line for accomplishing our goal.
- It is important to experience a culture and people that are different than us in our mission efforts in order to expand our view of God and the world.

What should our response be if Kentucky starts offering same sex marriage licenses?

Great topic and great conversation with the folks who shared in this discussion. We defined Biblical definition of marriage. We discussed traditional definition of marriage. We talked about same-sex marriage in our culture and in the church today. 32 states recognize same-sex marriage. Kentucky is waiting for the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals to rule on a piece of legislation that will determine if the Commonwealth will recognize same-sex marriage or if they will have to wait for a more universal ruling from SCOTUS (Supreme Court of the United States).

We discussed this topic with grace and maturity. We found that there were people in the conversation who had opposite views. We took the time to listen to each other and we acknowledged that more conversation is needed. We talked about how many or how few churches in the South/South West end of Louisville would offer same-sex marriages for couples looking to get married. We wished that the whole fellowship hall was full of St. Stephen folks to pray and discuss and wrestle with this topic.

The question was also raised, "If same-sex marriage comes to Kentucky and the church has not made a policy, how would you feel about your Pastor performing marriages for same-sex couples outside the walls of St. Stephen?" Most felt that there was a separation between what happens inside the sanctuary and what happens outside.

Our next Third Sunday Conversation will be on November 9 (yes, it is the second Sunday). We hope everyone will make an effort to be a part of these conversations that articulate our faith and shape our community of faith.

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Rev. Jim Harper III

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

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In order to comply with postal regulations, it is here stated
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St. Stephen United Church of Christ.

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