

St. Stephen United Church of Christ

Worshiping God Loving People Making a Difference

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Insert: Strengthen the Church Envelope & Letter

"As sure as ever God puts his children in the furnace he will be in the furnace with them." - Charles H. Spurgeon

As I read, pray and study for preaching and writing, I often find too much to share on a traditional Sunday morning; so I save things and share them later. This concept and ideology spoke to me the first time I read it; I hope it does the same for you as you read it today.

Most of us have experienced--or will experience--our world coming apart at the seams. We have experienced--or will experience--devastating blows that threaten to undo us.

Some of those devastating blows come in the form of natural disasters--floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, and the like.

Some of those devastating experiences come in the form of sickness or the death of a loved one.

Some of those devastating experiences come in the form of a financial setback--the loss of a job--the loss of a home--the prospect of outliving one's money.

When that kind of thing happens to us, we quickly learn what we are made of--and what's really important to us.

Fred Craddock might be a name that is unfamiliar to you, but he was a great preacher and teacher of preachers. He told the story of a hospital visit he made when he was the pastor of a small Oklahoma church. The hospital patient--a woman--called asking Craddock to visit because she was due to have surgery the next morning. There was panic in her voice. Craddock remembered the woman, but realized that he hadn't seen her in church for quite a while.

When he got to her hospital room, Craddock noticed that there was no Bible on the night stand. What he saw were junk magazines--magazines about movie stars and that sort of thing--not a spiritual calorie in the whole "cotton-pickin' bunch." And the woman wondered why she was panic-stricken. She wondered why she had no resources to deal with the storms of life.

Happily, most of us preachers have experienced the exact opposite. Admittedly, the people we visit in the hospital are sometimes worried--sometimes scared--but more often than not they are also sustained by their faith that God is with them and will help them.

How will we respond when our time comes--when the doctor says "Cancer"--or when our husband or wife is dying--or when we find ourselves suddenly broke?

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Continued from Front Page

That's hard to say. Soldiers tell us that it's impossible to predict who will be the heroes and who will be the goats--until they come under fire. Some big, burly men break and run--or cower behind a rock. Some very ordinary men and women turn out to be heroes in the mix of battle.

But I will say that I have often had the opportunity to work with people struggling with disaster--and I have often been impressed by their strength and resilience.

And I have come away from those encounters convinced that it is possible to prepare for disaster--not just by storing food and water, but also by doing some soul strengthening. Most of the people with whom I have been privileged to work have been people of faith--people who believed that God was with them and would help them. I have come away from my encounters with those people thanking God for their faith--and for their strength in the face of adversity.

The very best way to prepare for anything and everything that tomorrow will bring is to spend today with God. God is our foundation in the past, in the present and for every moment of our future.

Please Join Us
For a Graduation Party!



For: Suzy Storm
Date: May 11, 2013
Time: 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Place: St. Stephen United Church of Christ
RSVP: 502.449.0257

UPCOMING SERMON THEMES

April 21, 2013
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Live-giving Acts
Acts 9:36-43



April 28, 2013
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Imagine
Rev 21:1-6

May 5, 2013
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Disciples Together
Acts 16:9-15

May 12, 2013
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Breaking Chains
Acts 16:16-34

May 19, 2013
Pentecost Sunday—Communion
Gathered and Scattered
Acts 2:1-21

May 26, 2013
Trinity Sunday
Wisdom Calls
Prov 8:1-4, 22-31

Council Highlights

April 9, 2013

- The gym floor in the Family Life Center will be refinished the weekend of April 27, 2013. The contract for this service includes the cleaning, stripping, waxing and buffing of the gym floor and regular maintenance for a year.
- Recent vandalism to the old parsonage and garage prompted a police report to be filed. Nothing was stolen but several windows in both structures were broken.
- Repairs to our driveway sign will begin soon.
- We are having a Movie Night and Ice Cream Social on June 2nd. The movie is "Saving Grace" (PG). Bring a half gallon of your favorite ice cream and the church will supply several toppings and flavors.
- The Christian Ed. Committee will have a salad bar after services on April 21st with the proceeds going to offset the cost of our youth going to camp this year. They will also provide 'to-go' boxes. Several other fundraising suggestions were made at the meeting to help our campers. We'll have more information coming up.

Continued on page 5

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MAY BIRTHDAYS



- May 1 - Penny Kline
 May 3 - Emma Anne Goble
 May 4 - Ivy Vowels
 May 7 - Ellie Simpson
 May 11 - Daryl McNally,
 Gregory Schmidt
 May 13 - Hope Gregory
 May 14 - Wayne Skinner,
 Clifford Ellis
 May 20 - Samantha Sheehan,
 Matthew Sheehan,
 Cindy Morrison, Cameron Keehn
 May 22 - Michael Roney
 May 24 - Steven Key
 May 27 - Amanda Tharp
 May 30 - Jeffrey Tatum
 May 31 - Tony Glasscock, Russ Kline,
 David Wright

CHILDREN'S CHURCH/NURSERY WORKERS

MAY

- 5 - Jordan Nolley
 12 - Kathy Bauer
 19 - Tina Harper
 26 - Frankie Williams

JUNE

- 2 - Linda Jennings
 9 - Lisa Nolley
 16 - Madison Harper
 23 - Karen Haines
 30 - Becky Flaherty

FLC Closing

Due to floor maintenance, the Family Life Center will close on Friday, April 26th at 2p and will not reopen until Monday morning, April 28th. All foot traffic is prohibited in the FLC during this time. Thank you!

St. Stephen UCC Annual Yard Sale

Be sure to mark your calendars for the St. Stephen UCC Yard Sale set for Saturday, June 15th. As you begin your spring cleaning this year, remember to bring your discarded "treasures" to the church to be placed in our yard sale!



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS



Starting on June 1st and lasting until September 1st the Church Office will be on the following schedule:

Monday - Thursday: 8am - 2pm
 Friday: Closed

Rev. Harper can be reached by cell phone on Fridays.

AL-ANON Meetings

St. Stephen UCC is now hosting AL-ANON meetings every Tuesday morning at 10:30am in the Hope Room of the Family Life Center (Rm 107-108). Anyone is welcome to attend.

HEAD USHERS

MONTH OF APRIL:

George Rogers

MONTH OF MAY:

Peggy & Irv Schmidt



PERFECT ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL MONTH OF MARCH

Men's Class: Jim Harper III & Bill Kroeckel

New Generation: Tina Harper

Middle School: Camryn Harper

High School:



The next Builder will be sent out May 15th. The last day to submit articles will be May 12th.
Early submissions are appreciated!

Newsletter
 Deadline

Christian Education

Summer Camp will be here before we know it. Camp dates for Merom will be June 17-22. Children going in to the third grade through graduating this year are eligible to attend. The cost is \$320, with church paying half of the cost. Registration needs to be in no later than May 15, or a late fee will be assessed. If you have any questions or if your child is interested in attending, please see Lisa Nolley for further details. We will be having a salad bar fundraiser on April 21st to help with the cost of camp.

The dates for Vacation Bible School have been set, but the times and themes are still being discussed. Vacation Bible School will be held on June 29, July 20 and August 17. Please watch the bulletin and builder for further details.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Christian Education Committee.

LET'S ALL GO OUT TO THE BALL GAME

"Kentuckiana Association Night at the Bats": Sunday, June 9th at 6:05PM. Folks from ALL the UCC churches in our Kentuckiana area are invited to root for the Bats together! There will be fireworks after the game for all to enjoy! Our name will be on the scoreboard! Don't miss this "grand slam" evening of fun! Tickets are \$6 per person. *Checks can be made payable to Immanuel UCC.*

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

CHURCH: _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS NEEDED: _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED (\$6/TICKET): _____

RETURN TO IMMANUEL UCC BY MAY 19TH

Ice Cream & A Movie

Please mark your calendars and save the date for Sunday, June 2nd when St. Stephen UCC will host an evening with ice cream and a movie! The gathering will begin at 5p and the movie that will be shown is called "Saving Grace." Bring a half gallon of your favorite flavor to share and we will have some selections and plenty of toppings to add. Everyone is invited to bring a soccer chair and a friend.



"Saving Grace" is about a down-to-earth Pope who tries to balance the bureaucratic duties of his position with the secular world. Being frustrated with his lack of freedom, he flees to the Italian countryside to get in touch with real people and get back to helping them out one-on-one. The movie is rated PG.

Come enjoy a great movie and delicious ice cream! We hope to see many of you there!



**50 Great Days
Mission 4/1 Earth
Planting trees,
earth care, and
environmental advocacy**



Bulletin Sponsors

The Bulletins on April 7th were sponsored by Blanche and Charles Baxter in memory of Blanche's parents, Helen and Albert Thompson.



Congratulations to Amy & Tim Weathers on the birth of their baby girl, Chyann Kaylee, on Thursday, March 28th. Chyann weighed in at 8lbs, 2ozs and was 20" long. We would also like to congratulate the proud grandparents, Sandy & Melvin Trusty on this precious new addition to their family!



BUILDER - APRIL 17, 2013

Thank you notes received this month from:

- A group from the University of Chicago who stayed at St. Stephen on their way to work on a Habitat for Humanity House in Alabama. Thanking St. Stephen and Rev. Harper for the hospitality and kindness shown to them during their stay.

Council Highlights continued from page 2

- Our Church Secretary, Beth Tanner, has a really good idea for promoting our involvement in "50 Great Days: Mission 4/1 Earth." More detailed information will be forthcoming but her idea is basically a Wildflower Seed Packet giveaway to residents in the surrounding neighborhood. The packets will include a pack of wildflower seeds, information about the church, upcoming events, times of the services, etc.
- The date for the Chili Fest is October 5, 2013. It's never too early to start planning!
- Plans are in the early stages for a "Trivia Night" fundraiser at the church. More information to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Hoback

Friends on our Prayer List who have been hospitalized since our last issue...

Karen Haines

Please remember those who are at home or at a care-giver facility...

Thelma Goss, Magdaline Kuchenbrod, Mary Musick, Virginia Cahill, Hubert & Jean Slusher, Michael Roney, Mildred Schaefflein, Larry McAllister, Bill Montgomery, Charles Waller Sr., Charles Baxter, Emma Jean Mosier, Jerry Mosier, Hazel Carroll, Leslie Schmidt



A memorial gift was given by Ethel Voll in memory of Stuart Bauer.

A memorial gift was given by Victor Morris in memory of Dorothy A. Morris

A memorial gift was given by Ruth Shartzter in memory of Perry and Edna Knies.

A memorial gift was given by Scott & Heather Jennings in memory of Stuart Bauer.

A memorial gift was given by Victor Morris in memory of Dorothy A. Morris

A memorial gift was given by James and Patti Durbin in memory of Arnie Braun.

A memorial gift was given by Jenny Elmore in memory of Frances Joyce Elmore.



The following are updated addresses submitted to the Church Office:

Jim & Joni Lyman
1449 S. Reed Street
Lakewood, CO 80232-5524

Chris & Patricia Stoff
4730 Lynn Lea Road
Louisville, KY 40216-2841

Benjamin & Amy Blandford
P.O. Box 4007
Midway, KY 40347-4007



St. Stephen UCC Golf Scramble

The Annual St Stephen UCC Golf Scramble is schedule for May 18th at Seneca Golf

Course. Your help with door prizes, hole sponsors, or donations would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to participate or have any questions please see Richard Storm or call him at 449-0257.



Condolences are offered to Linda and Dennis Jennings and family on the passing of Dennis' brother-in-law, Louis DeWitt on Sunday, March 24th. A memorial was held on Wednesday, March 27th in South Carolina.

Condolences are offered to Bob and Dee Dale and family on the loss of Bob's brother, Curtis Dale on Wednesday, March 27th. His funeral was held Saturday, March 30th in Nashville, Tennessee.

Our thoughts and prayers are with both of these families during this difficult time.

ST. STEPHEN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 TREASURER'S REPORT - March 31, 2013

	BENEVOLENCES						TOTALS
	GENERAL FUND	REGULAR	GOOD SAMARITAN	REACH FOR TOMORROW	CHRISTIAN ED FUND	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	
BALANCE 02/28/13	(5,686.72)	2,289.31	(565.76)	2,663.79	3,685.23	8,789.40	15,869.52
RECEIPTS	24,228.75	957.50	0.00	0.00	77.50	0.00	26,243.75
FUND TRANSFER	(2,720.28)	2,493.59	226.69				
FUND TRANSFER							
TOTALS	15,821.75	5,740.40	(339.07)	2,663.79	3,762.73	8,789.40	42,113.27
DISBURSEMENTS	22,480.48	1,788.00	283.31	0.00	477.49	0.00	25,051.53
BALANCE 03/31/13	(6,658.73)	3,952.40	(622.38)	2,663.79	3,285.24	8,789.40	17,061.74

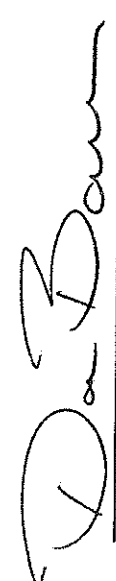
RECAPITULATION OF DEPOSITORIES AS OF 02/28/2013

CHECKING ACCOUNTS:	
PNC CHECKING	9,225.68
5/3 GAMING ACCT.	119.13
PNC GAMING ACCT.	100.00
SAVINGS A/C - PNC - BEGIN	0.00
INTEREST EARNED	0.00
TRANSFER TO SAVINGS FROM CHECKING	2,500.00
SERVICE CHARGE	0.00
TRANSFER TO CK FROM SAVINGS	0.00
TOTAL PNC SAVINGS ACCOUNT	2,500.00
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT-FIFTH THIRD BK	5,116.87
	03/31/2013
SUB TOTAL 03/31/2013	17,061.68
LESS 1ST QTR TAXES	0.06
GRAND TOTAL AS OF 03/31/2013	17,061.74

NOTE: SAVINGS ACCOUNT BREAKDO
 SCHOLARSHIP FUND 4,126.69
 MISSIONS COMM. FUND 1,167.23
 YOUTH FUND 313.20


NOTE: FLC - RENTALS : 870.00
 FLC - WALKERS 50.00

NOTE 1: SALES OF KROGER CERTIFICATES NETTED
 ST. STEPHEN DURING MARCH \$0.00


 TREASURER
 March 31, 2013

May 2013

ST. STEPHEN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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ST. STEPHEN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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LOUISVILLE, KY

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor:

Rev. Jim Harper III

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Church School - 8:45 a.m. & After Worship
Divine Worship - 10:00 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
OFFICE PHONE: 448-2544 FAX: 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.....
Office Secretary.....Beth A. Tanner

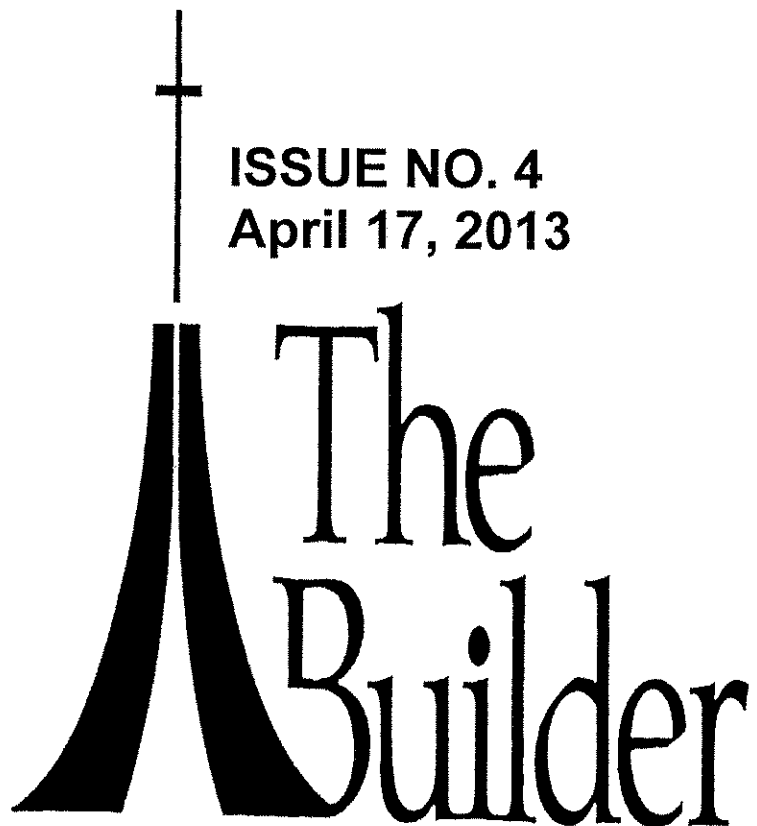
OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Jack Bensing.....June McNally.....Ruth Lane

ST. STEPHEN UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Sam Raderer, President
Jenny Elmore, Vice President
Carol Hoback, Recording Secretary
Don Bauer, Treasurer
Gary Leitner, Financial Secretary
Members at Large:
Kathy Bauer....Lisa Nolley....Herb Raderer
Elders: Kathy Bauer....Sam Raderer....Herb Raderer

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April 17, 2013



St. Stephen United Church of Christ