

THE EVANGEL

— ST. STEPHEN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH —

August 27, 2010

Volume 15, No. 34

August 29, 2010

Scripture:
Philippians 3:4b-9

Sermon:
"Only Room for
One Savior"

Doug Horton

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Contemporary Worship
8:30 am—9:30 am

Sunday School for all Ages
9:30 am—10:40 am

Traditional Worship
11:00 am—12:00 pm

How to reach us:
(713) 686-8241
<http://stsumc.org>

Senior Pastor
cramer@stsumc.org

Intern Associate Pastor
doug@stsumc.org

Administrative Secretary
maryellen@stsumc.org

Financial Secretary
mary@stsumc.org

**Membership Secretary/
Evangel Articles**
kara@stsumc.org

**Prayer Chain or
Hospital Notification**
cindy@stsumc.org

THE QUESTION, "WHY?"



I recently was asked by a funeral home to do a Christian memorial service for a family that did not have a church home. I checked my calendar and asked Cramer if the date of the service wasn't going to interfere with anything on our calendar. Once we were all on the same page I called the funeral home back and accepted.

However, right before I hung up the phone the funeral home director told me that it was going to be a service for a stillborn child. After the initial wave of panic washed over me I began to do some research on funeral services that care for such a loss. Time and time again in my research I encountered the suggestion to address the question, "Why?" "Why did this have to happen?" "Why did God allow this?" "Why?"

Cramer gave me a book that helped a lot. It talked about how even if we knew the answer to that question, that if God came out of eternity and descended from heaven and explained the answer to that question it would not help at all. Would it make the pain go away if you knew why? Would it ease in any way the ache that death leaves you with? The answer to that is no. Even if you knew why God did what He did it would not help coping with life.

We may never know why God does what He does. How many of us ask God that question every day? I know I do. I usually get very upset with God when asking Him "why."

During the preparation and delivery of the funeral message, I concluded that it is not my job to ask God "why", but rather to ask Him "how?" "How do I get through this?" "How do you want me to cope with loss, pain, frustration, or life?" I believe that is a better way to deal with what life throws at you and so I have decided to exchange my "whys" with "hows" I hope that you can give that a try this week.

Blessings,
Doug



**Heights Specialty
Select**

Bill Curtiss

Memorial NW

Margaret McConnell



Remember Those
in the Military

- Geoffrey Adleman
- Patrick Allen
- Douglas Ashburn
- Joe Herter
- Cullen Houck
- Joshua Hunt
- Brian Jackson
- Andy Lindsey
- Joseph Myers
- Keri Myers
- Zach Odom
- Chris Stadler
- Allen Troth
- Raymond Troth



Our Job Seekers

- Wendy Balli
- Cynda Burger
- Bert Hensley
- Amanda Jackson
- Steven Jackson
- Sandra Scott



- Jane Anderson
- Lloyd Anderson
- Carolyn Belk
- Peggy Bickel
- Kathy Bruns
- Gene Caldwell
- Gay Clark
- Gloria Collins
- Margaret Crider
- R.B. Davis
- Gerald Dupree
- Tom Edwards
- Elizabeth Evans
- Lindy & Avis Marie Garrett
- Ruby Gerhart
- Lawrence & Juanita Gillingham
- Alma Green
- O.P. and Ann Hill
- Mary Janocsko
- Jack Johnson
- Thelma Jones
- Taylor Lankford
- Sally McCoy
- E.P. Neveu
- George Pekema
- Joycelyn Richards
- Betty Roberts
- Homer Roff
- Ken & Kathleen Saathoff
- Ray Sager
- Mareta Shadle
- Barbara Smith
- Mickey Spencer
- Velma Thomason
- Janet Tittle
- Laura Troth
- Cary Winkel

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, August 27:

- 6:00 am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Denny's)
- 3:30 pm—Solitaires (Fellowship Center)

Saturday, August 28:

- VIPs Trip to Galveston

Sunday, August 29:

- 8:30 am—Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)**
- 9:30 am—Sunday School (Education Building)
- 11:00 am—Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)**
- 5:00 pm—UMYF (Youth Activities Room)

Monday, August 30:

- 6:00 pm—Delta Kappa Gamma (Room 201)
- 7:30 pm—Boy Scouts Troop 604 (Scout House)

Tuesday, August 31:

- 7:30 pm—Sea Scouts (Scout House)

Wednesday, September 1:

- 6:30 am—Men's Bible Study (Room 201)
- 9:00 am—Senior Activities Day (Scout House)
- 9:00 am—UMW Executive Committee (Rm 112)
- 9:30 am—UMW General Meeting (Fellowship Ctr)
- 6:30 pm—Sonrise Choir (Sanctuary)

Thursday, September 2:

- 10:00 am—Elder Law Seminar (Fellowship Ctr)
- 10:30 am—Prayer Shawl Ministry (Room 112)
- 7:00 pm—Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

Friday, September 3:

- 6:00 am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Denny's)



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Fax: (713) 686-8427



LETTERS FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY

“Thank you from the Lankford family for all the prayers and support everyone has given our family during this journey with Taylor. Your loving hearts have meant the world to us... we are grateful beyond words!!”

Grace and Peace,
The Lankford family

“Please accept my sincere thanks for all the prayers, calls, cards and food given to our family during my illness. It has been much appreciated.”

Kathy Bruns

“Many thanks for your prayers, beautiful cards, flowers, phone calls and every act of kindness you have done for me and continue to do for me. My deep appreciation for the transportation that you wonderful ladies have provided. May God’s blessings be with you and St. Stephen’s.”

Margaret McConnell

“Thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness for Jessie. She always enjoyed being a member of St. Stephen’s. She had many years of happy memories with y’all.”

*Sam, Sue and Minnie Thompson
(Family of Jessie Thompson)*

Do you have time to volunteer?

The office is looking for volunteers to label and seal the Evangel every week. Labelers usually volunteer once a month on a Tuesday afternoon. Substitute labelers are needed, as well, to volunteer from time to time.

If you think you could help, please give Cindy a call at (713) 686-8241.



VOLUNTEER MISSION OPPORTUNITY

St. Stephen’s will have an opportunity to bless the ministry of Spirit Key on Saturday, September 18th. Spirit Key is a Christian re-entry program and community for ex-offenders located in NW Houston. As our pastor recently shared after experiencing firsthand the ministry of Spirit Key, God is at work there.

On the 18th St. Stephen’s, along with a couple of other churches, will be providing volunteers to help with housing repairs etc. on the grounds. There will also be opportunities to support the Spirit Key ministry through donated food items and any woodworking tools no longer being used. An important part of the ministry is providing life skills along with job training, and woodworking is one of their major focuses.

More information about the 18th will be following in the coming weeks.

UMCOR SUPPLIES NEEDED

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) needs Birthing Kit supplies. The United Methodist Women ask all of our church family to help fill the box in the Narthex with the following items:



- Hotel-size bar of soap (to clean the birth attendant’s hands before delivery, and the mother after delivery)
- Latex gloves (for attendant)
- Single-use razor blade (for cutting the umbilical cord)
- Square yard of clear plastic sheeting (to provide a clean surface for delivery)
- Flannelette receiving blankets (one to dry and one to swaddle baby)

Thank you for helping with this mission project.

JEANNETTE CLIFT GEORGE TO SPEAK

St. Stephen’s members are invited to hear Jeannette Clift George, founder of A. D. Players, speak at 7:00 p.m. on August 29 in the sanctuary of Grace UMC, 1245 Heights Blvd.

St. Stephen's United Methodist Church



2003 West 43rd Street
Houston, Texas 77018
Phone: (713) 686-8241
Fax: (713) 686-8427

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICAL
PAID
HOUSTON, TX

OUR MISSION
is to worship and serve
Jesus Christ
and to bring others
to Him



Elder Law Seminar
Thursday, September 2
at 10:00 am
in the Fellowship Center
Presented by Wright Abshire Attorneys
Sponsored by Senior Adult Council (SAC)

Topics will include estate planning, Medicaid planning, special needs trusts and guardianships. You will find more information about these and other topics at WrightAbshire.com.

The seminar is free for all ages. A light lunch will be served; please call Cindy in church office at (713) 686-8241 to reserve your place.

St. Stephen's staff:

Cramer Johnson
Senior Pastor

Doug Horton
Intern Associate Pastor

Brenda Paulk
Music Director

Chuck Kent
Organist

Frank Chambers
Youth Director

Kara Hagen
Mary Jessie
Mary Ellen King
Cindy Tindol
Office Staff

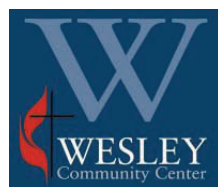
Laverne Plaster
Nursery Coordinator

Hazel Swearingen
Lydia Soto

Melissa Soto
Nursery Staff

William Sutherland
Building and Grounds

Wesley Community Center Luncheon coming September 16



Each year the United Methodist Women in the Houston area get together for a luncheon to benefit the Wesley Community Center. This year there are several facilities hosting luncheons on September 16. Guests will bring a dish to share and a \$10 donation.

Everyone is invited to enjoy home cooking and help a wonderful Methodist mission. For more information about locations and times, please contact Milly Spencer at (713) 849-5773 or Carolyn Belk at (713) 686-3910.

The Wesley Community Center serves women, children and youth through its many programs. It receives funding from the Houston Methodist Board of Missions.

Last Sunday we did a lesson on "What God can do for us" and tried to beat Stephen in Banana. [NO one did.] We will have UMYF at regular time Sunday.



Thought for the week:

"I can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13

Frank Chambers