

COVID-19 Plan Adopted by Session

By Rev. Dr. Fritz Ritsch

At its called meeting June 8th, the Session adopted a COVID-19 plan that lays out the way that St. Stephen is continuing to provide services now, and how those services will become more open to the public in the future. You will hear more about the plan next week, when it will also be posted to the website. The plan is comprehensive. Rather than lay out a timeline for a return to public worship in the sanctuary, it sets the conditions under which that will happen. It is a phased plan based on a steady decline in the rate of infection in Tarrant County. When the County has shown a steady rate of decline for two weeks or more, and if certain other conditions are met, we will return to public sanctuary worship. Even then, it won't be as we're used to it. There will be limited seating, masking and social distancing, and there will be no congregational singing, since singing has proven to spread the virus quite a bit more than talking. But other aspects of worship will remain the same. There will be music and even some choral and solo singing, liturgy and sermon. Communion will likely be taken using individualized communion packets. Childcare will be limited and we strongly discourage those who are over 65 or have underlying conditions to wait until a later date or check with their families and doctor before coming to public worship. Because of that, we will continue to have video worship throughout the entire period of the pandemic.

Since at this time we are in a situation of substantial infection in Tarrant County, for now we will not have indoor public worship. Weddings and funerals may take place indoors with up to twenty people, and there are also outdoor options. Likewise, the staff is looking at options for public worship and other events outside on the lawn. We will let you know more as plans are finalized.

I'm sure you're already aware of the many ways we are continuing our witness and ministry at St. Stephen. Every Sunday we post video worship on Facebook and on the webpage, www.ststephenpresbyterian.com. Session, adult Sunday school classes, Bible Study and committee meetings are taking place via Zoom. Thursday morning prayers continue to be posted on Facebook. Beth has made all sorts of arrangements for youth and children's activities, including an at-home Youth mission "trip" assisting various agencies in town doing outreach to people in need. The Mission Committee has created new outreach to the Presbyterian Night Shelter and the Center for Transforming Lives, while also continuing to provide meals for Samaritan House and support to the South Central Alliance of Churches. Our Deacons continue to reach out to people in need in our church family.

Thank you for your love, patience, prayers and support!



The Telephone Tree Keeps All of Us In Touch

"You matter to us!" -- is the message that our Telephone Tree committee is passing on to all members.

Formed in mid-March, the committee of 17 members

was charged by Rev. Ritsch to regularly call each member to personally check in each month to see how individuals and families are getting along during the Covid crisis. We want to know if there is anything you need.

Their most recent call to members inquired:

- ◆ Are you able to stay in touch with our church through email, Facebook or our webpage?
- ◆ Are you able to watch our services online?
- ◆ Do you have any questions for our church?
- ◆ What can we do to better reach and serve our members and our community?

Committee chair Peggy Kennedy, reports the committee made their most recent calls from June 5-15. "We actually talked with 110 households; left messages with 127; heard back from 8; and were unable to contact 26 households by phone or email." Peggy said.

The Telephone Tree committee needs to hear from you. Can you help us?

- ◆ If you did not get a phone message or email from us, please call Peggy Kennedy at (817) 292-8224 and leave a message with your name and correct telephone number and email address. We want to talk with you.
- ◆ When you get a call, and a message is left, please let your caller know you received the message. We want to know we are reaching and serving each of you.

Your church family cares about you! We look forward to talking with each of you again soon.

4th Friday Book Club Meets Online Via Zoom

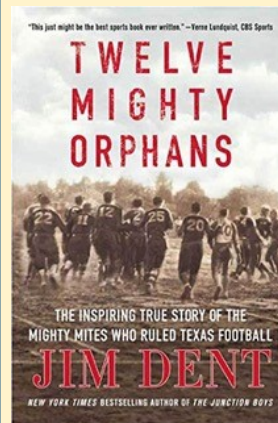
Join fellow reading enthusiasts for Peggy Bender's review of *Twelve Mighty Orphans: The inspiring True Story of the Mighty Mites Who Ruled Texas Football.*

Join the Zoom Meeting - Friday, June 26 @ Noon

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3911921367?pwd=MmtFYnNEODArDkZkZWdjhhWFAwZz09>

Meeting ID: 391 192 1367

Password: Peace



More than a century ago, a school was constructed in Fort Worth, Texas, for the purpose of housing and educating the orphans of Texas Freemasons. It was a humble project that for years existed quietly on a hillside east of town. Life at the Masonic Home was about to change, though, with the arrival of a lean, bespectacled coach by the name of Rusty Russell. Here was a man who could bring rain in the midst of a drought. Here was a man who, in virtually no time at all, brought the orphans' story into the homes of millions of Americans.

"No state has a roll call of legendary high school football stories like we do in Texas, and, admittedly, some of those stories have been 'expanded' over the years when it comes to the truth. But let Jim Dent tell you about the Mighty Mites of Masonic Home, the pride of Fort Worth in the dark days of the Depression. Read this book. You will think it's fiction. You will think it's a Hollywood script. But Twelve Mighty Orphans is the truth, and nothing but. It is powerful stuff. Some eighty years later, the Mighty Mites' story remains so sacred, not even a Texan would dare tamper with these facts. And Jim Dent tells it like it was."

-- Randy Galloway, columnist, Fort-Worth Star Telegram

Questions? Contact Sharon LeMond sharonlemond@me.com

A Thank You note from JPS Foundation for the donated items we provided to make activity kits for COVID-19 patients:

Thank you for your generous donation of 26 activity kits. Our patients in the COVID-19 unit were so grateful. Your kind gift brightened their day. Because of you, they had something to occupy their time as they cope with the isolation of quarantine.

Your support allowed our JPS healthcare heroes to care for their patients' mind, body and spirit as they work tirelessly in response to this extraordinary public health crisis. JPS Health Network is uplifted during this challenging chapter in healthcare by the genuine kindness of caring individuals like you.

Again, thank you so much for supporting JPS! We are so grateful.

*Teresa Yeargins,
Director of Development*

Help St. Stephen Provide Face Masks!

Through the efforts of the Kitting Guild and Presbyterian Women, St. Stephen has delivered **100+ cloth face masks to DRC** (Solutions to End Homelessness) for use by their staff, as well as homeless who are being sheltered in the downtown overflow emergency shelter. With the continued handwork of SSPC members and friends, we have also delivered **120+ masks to PNS** for use of their staff and guests.

With everyone asked to wear masks when in public, we assume that this will be an ongoing need among the homeless community, as well as those who are serving them.

HELP SEW FACE MASKS FOR THE HOMELESS:

St Stephen will be distributing kits (including fabric, elastic and instructions) to make 10 face masks per kit. These kits are available to be picked up (via safe social distancing from the passenger side of vehicle) at the church parking lot from 1:00-1:30pm on Tuesdays.

DO YOU NEED A CLOTH FACE MASK?

We have some that has been lovingly hand-made for you by some of our members! Come to the church parking lot 1:00-1:30 pm Tuesdays, where we will safely give them to you. Or contact Lynn Wilson lynnwilson2d@gmail.com and we will determine how we can get one delivered to you.

Masks will be required when we are able to return to the sanctuary for worship.

Questions? Mike Tyson mike_tyson@sbcglobal.net

**MISSION UPDATE
SACK LUNCH
for
PRESBYTERIAN
NIGHT SHELTER**



The numbers keep growing! Here's what St. Stephen has provided through **June 16:**

- ◆ **5,367** sack lunches! That's **500 sack lunches weekly!**
- ◆ **152** towels (new or gently used)
- ◆ **127** twin fitted sheets (new or gently used)

WE'RE EXPANDING THE PROGRAM TO FULFILL A GREAT NEED! On June 23, we will do a trial run of providing 500 breakfast bags, and plan to provide 500 breakfast bags in addition to 500 sack lunches each Tuesday during July and August!

Please consider donating the items used to prepare these meals:

- ◆ Peanut butter, any size
- ◆ Granola/ trail mix bars, any variety (left in original packaging, unopened, as purchased in store)
- ◆ Cookies (e.g., Nabisco, Keebler, etc., not homemade— left in original packaging, unopened, as purchased in store)
- ◆ Potato chips (or Doritos, Cheetos, or similar) in individual packages of approx. 1 oz.
- ◆ **Monetary donations can also help cover the costs** of these lunches, which is approximately **\$1.65 per lunch, or \$700 each week.** Your donation should be designated for PNS Lunches on your check or online. Donations can also be made directly to PNS to help them cover their added costs during the COVID-19 crisis.
- ◆ **We accept your donations at the church every Tuesday, from 1:00 to 1:30pm, in the church parking lot from the passenger side of your vehicle.**

Questions? **Mike Tyson** (mike_tyson@sbcglobal.net) or **Matt Loynachan** (matt.loynachan@tx.rr.com)

Donations to Center for Transforming Lives

To assist in its mission of empowering women and children to emerge from poverty, the Center for Transforming Lives is in need of the following items:

- ◆ **Cleaning supplies to sanitize childcare centers**
- ◆ **Canned foods - soup, vegetables, fruit, chicken & tuna**
- ◆ **Pastas, rice, grains, cereals, granola bars**



Donations can be brought to the church office M-F, 10 am-2 pm, **OR** drop off in the church parking lot on Tuesdays from 1:00-1:30 pm, where they will be safely retrieved from the passenger side of your vehicle. Many thanks to everyone participating in this project!

Thinking of Ways for Young Families Fellowship in July and August

The staff of St. Stephen is investigating ways to have having a Fellowship Night for families on the lawn of St. Stephen. We are researching ways to apply social distancing and still have fun. Could we arrange to get a food truck or snow cone truck? How many people can roam safely on the lawn? How can we play games with masks? We need your ideas. Let's think out our strategies for a safe place to gather and play.



If you are interested in assisting with these decisions, please email Beth Fultz beth.fultz@ststephenpresbyterian.com. We'd love to have a few summer nights of fun planned with safe practices for families in July and August.

Masks will be required! Social distancing will be required! Fun will be a prerequisite!

Church Office Hours Expanded

Although the Education Bldg. is still closed, we've expanded our office hours to continue to be available to you.

We're open Monday-Friday, 9am - 3pm. Please call during these hours or email any pastoral or other concerns to Anne Barrett admin@ststephenpresbyterian.com.



The office will be closed on Friday, July 3 for the holiday.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Current Needs

Clyde Hadsall	Member
Art Schmidt	Member
Marilyn Jones	Member
Barbara Urquhart	Member
Kirsten Adams	Member
Pegie Frazier	Member
John Carroll	Friend of Jody Wasson
Archie Hogan	Uncle of Sheila Randolph
Steve Bates	Nephew of JoAnn Henderson

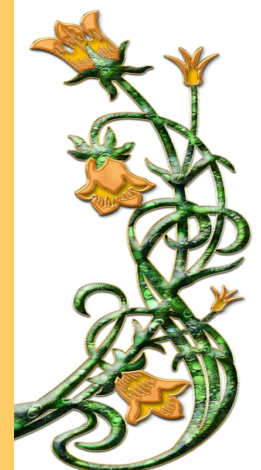
Members with Long-Term Needs

Beezie Cooper	Henry Hash	Dale Henderson
Barbara Rinker	Natalie Hubbard	Jim Mallory
Ethel Sanderson		

Family & Friends with Long-Term Needs

Sandra Wheeler	Sister of Darlene Myatt
Bobby Mullins	Cousin of DeBe Wilson
Christine Rosenberg	Sister of Cherie Wheeler
S. L. Harris	Father of Ann Mills
Sherri Galvan	Friend of Teke Walters
Vicki Archer	Sister of Barbara Clinkscales
Madison King	Grandson of Booty Jones
Ray Harris	Brother of Kay Hubbard and Judy Staser

The sympathy and prayers of the congregation are extended to the family of Willie Martinez on the death of his mother, Janie Reyes Martinez, on March 17 in Texas City. Mrs. Martinez was 88. Mrs. Martinez is survived by her husband and 8 children.





**Outdoor Stay-At-Home
Youth Mission Trip is ON!!**
HEAT and ALL!
July 20—24, 2020

Through Lars Berg, friend of Rev. (and lawyer) Brooks Harrington, we will be partnered with Methodist Justice Ministry this summer, a service of First Methodist Church, Fort Worth. Thank you, Lars!

“The ongoing services that Methodist Justice Ministry offers through our Safe Home Program is paramount in helping women break the generational cycle of abuse and go on to live a life of independence and stability for themselves and their children...”

We are going to provide several of these ideas for two Fort Worth households: exterior painting, providing used furniture and re-purposing each piece; building a playground; creating a crafts area; or maybe a little interior painting—only for those with permission to go inside - or outdoor lawn care.

Youth and Sponsors interested **are FREE** (no funds required) to participate **July 20—24, M-F, 9 a.m.—4 p.m.** We need some painters, creative thinkers, carpenters, outdoor lawn keepers, and helpers.

Those who volunteer will:

- • Provide their own transportation to/from locations.
- • Wear Masks.
- • Provide themselves camping chairs to rest.
- • Provide their own lunch.
- • Fill out a Medical Release Form.

SSPC will provide:

- • Original Tee Shirt for Stay-at-Home Trip.
- • Bottled Water.
- • Sanitizer or equivalent.
- • Soap and Towels.
- • Toiletries for Restrooms.
- • Friday Night Celebratory Meal at Participants preferred Outdoor Venue.
- • Supplies for Paint, mowing, playground, etc.

At St. Stephen, Mission is paramount to the Youth Experience. I hope that you'll wish to participate during our **OUTDOOR Stay at Home Youth Mission Trip!**

Church members and friends **may support the youth by making donations to our Mission projects or purchasing our Tie Dye Masks or Aprons that we created.** This in turn helps us then provide for these families!

Tie Dye Masks are Ready for Viewing

In the Eastminster Room.

Batch #2 is designed in dye and is ready for sewing.

Batch #2 will be on display soon.

Cost \$10 per Adult mask;

Children's—2 for \$15;

\$20 for Aprons.



**All proceeds benefit our Outdoor
Stay-at-Home Youth Mission Trip 2020.**

Sidewalk Faith Talks Growing!



Would you like to meet on a Sidewalk at your home or at the church? How about a pool, a porch, a backyard picnic table? I come with camping chair, a mask, my own iced tea, conversation, fellowship, and / or a Bible Story and chalk and a

cross for the youngest ones. **Available to all ages**, to anyone with a need for a chat, for anyone wanting to hear a Bible Story. Hope you'll sign up. No distance is too far. Schedule on Tuesdays—Fridays!

Have had lots of great visits and hope

**Youth Fellowship
A Mix of Mission & Fun—
OUTDOORS**



We had our fill of Youthful Zoom Meetings in the middle of the Pandemic. So we switched tactics to honoring our seniors with confetti and fellowship; and we've made two batches of tie dye. This summer will be a mix of simple mission and simple fun on the lawn of St. Stephen. It's hard to break our style and our habits to new ones, but that is what we are attempting to do: Fellowship at a short distance away, wearing masks, and helping someone in the process. I hope your youth will find a way to participate and join on Sunday evenings, 5—7 p.m. Help us think outside of our box to new adventures—safely!

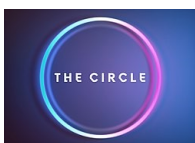
Adult Sunday School Classes



Go Digital—ONLINE for All!

Searchers Adult Class is now online using the application called **"GotoMeeting"**. **Class begins at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday.** This Sunday and next Sunday **Dr. Patricia Duncan will be speaking to us about "Women in the Pauline and Post Pauline Christianity"**. "A bit of a hint when you click the link in the email...the screen comes up with two dialog boxes. Cancel the top option and a box will come up on the lower left-hand corner of your screen. Click it to run the app and you should show up on the meeting screen." (Charlotte Ray, coordinator)

Trinity Adult Sunday School Class has been online the longest as the Class has explored the dysfunction of the families in Genesis. They are begging for more classes and though they are almost through Joseph and his brothers in Egypt. Teacher Angela Springfield is seeking a new biblical topic for exploration. **They meet online Sundays at 9:45 am.** Email Angela Springfield to be added to the class - aspringf@gmail.com.



Open Circle Adult Sunday School Class

is being hosted by Rev. Fritz Ritsch. "I would like to host a Zoom Open Circle class while we're on pandemic lock-down. Open Circle is a Sunday School/Activity group that is open to all but is largely composed of younger adults..." They have chosen contemporary issues to study like Black Lives Matter movement. It began last Sunday. **They meet at 10 am on Zoom.** "If there's anyone I've left off this list please feel free to forward. Also, let me know so I can be sure to add them. Look forward to seeing "virtually" everybody!" --Rev. Fritz Ritsch.

Marion's Sharing and Caring Library

Many of us are taking our solace during the Pandemic era by reading books and enjoying the escape and intrigue of a good story. However, there are a few in our congregation, including Marion Baptiste, who are excluded from reading due to lack of mobility, lack of resources, and other income issues.

I've promised to help Marion and the her friends in her apartment complex by bringing reading materials to them. Would you have a few good books or magazines to share? Marion likes novels and action stories. But I'm sure that she and her friends would be thrilled with a variety of books including any on the best seller lists.



Marion will be thrilled by your generosity as will her apartment mates. Let's share and care for those with the issues named above and encourage diversion from the pandemic and replace the blues with literacy and excitement.

Thank you for your help! --Beth

Parents, We Need Your Child/Youth Voices!

Many compliments have been received praising our efforts to seek voices from our Children and Youth reading scripture lessons on Facebook, and Maris updating us on her tadpole transformation. We'd love to invite those same kids to participate more.



Would your child or youth read for us? Sing for us? Or conduct a science experiment and report on it?

It's time to share again to the community our spiritually impressive voices of Children and Youth.

Please contact Beth Fultz to participate.

June 21 - July 11, 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>21</p> <p>9:45 am - Searchers Adult Bible Study with Dr. Patricia Duncan via Zoom</p> <p>9:45 am - Trinity Adult Class via Zoom</p> <p>10:00 am - Open Circle via Zoom</p> <p>11:00 am Sunday Worship View on Facebook or SSPC website</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1:00-1:30 pm Drop off donations for PNS & Center for Transforming Lives Parking Lot</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Noon Bible Study with Rev. Ritsch via Zoom</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00 am Morning Prayers View on Facebook or website</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Noon 4th Friday Book Club via Zoom</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>Support our Youth Stay-At-Home Mission Trip by purchasing a cloth face mask (\$10) or chef apron. (\$20).</p> <p>Contact Beth Fultz (817) 875-9704.</p>						
<p>28</p> <p>9:45 am - Searchers Adult Bible Study with Dr. Patricia Duncan via Zoom</p> <p>9:45 am - Trinity Adult Class</p> <p>10:00 am via Zoom</p> <p>10:00 am - Open Circle via Zoom</p> <p>11:00 am Sunday Worship View on Facebook or SSPC website</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>1:00-1:30 pm Drop off donations for PNS & Center for Transforming Lives Parking Lot</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Noon Bible Study with Rev. Ritsch via Zoom</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 am Morning Prayers View on Facebook or website</p>	<p>3</p> <p>HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Independence Day</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>4TH OF JULY</p> </div>
<p>5</p> <p>9:45 am - Searchers Adult Bible Study via Zoom</p> <p>9:45 am - Trinity Adult Class via Zoom</p> <p>10:00 am - Open Circle via Zoom</p> <p>11:00 am Sunday Worship View on Facebook or SSPC website</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1:00-1:30 pm Drop off donations for PNS & Center for Transforming Lives Parking Lot</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Noon Bible Study with Rev. Ritsch via Zoom</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 am Morning Prayers View on Facebook or website</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>



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DUE TO COVID-19 AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
WORSHIP SERVICES: POSTED ONLINE AND FACEBOOK
EACH THURSDAY AND SUNDAY
OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9 AM - 3 PM
TELEPHONE: (817) 927- 8411