

SENTINEL

Bi-Weekly Parish
Communication

Volume 40 Number 5

www.ststephenpresbyterian.com

March 1, 2024

"I AM the Resurrection and the Life"

***Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."***

John 11:25-26

After 40 days wandering in the Lenten wilderness, we arrive at Holy Week. Where will our footsteps lead?

March 24: Palm / Passion Sunday is a glorious opportunity to worship God, exuberantly processing into the sanctuary waving palms, with donkeys striding among us, and singing joyfully in celebration that the Savior of the world has arrived in the City of God to bring the kingdom of God to earth. It is also a Sunday to acknowledge the cost that God bore to save the world through Jesus Christ – especially for those who may not attend the weekday services. We skip the essential truth of this all-important journey if we jump from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday without going through the "god forsakenness" of the grave. Yes, our God provides new life that is no longer subject to the powers of death. However, as the Apostle Paul says, we must die to the old life so that we may receive the new one. That is, we must come to the cross, die, and be buried with Jesus Christ in order also to be raised with him in newness of life. The middle portion of this service invites us into this sacred place. Then, we will end with the triumphant cries: "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD!"

March 28: Maundy Thursday takes us, perhaps, on an uncomfortably intimate part of our Lenten journey. We are invited to feast with Jesus at his table, having received his commandment to "Love one another as I have loved you." We also are invited to remove our shoes and let someone else (an elder, me!) wash our feet, then change places to wash another's feet as well. This is truly one of the most remarkable experiences, humbling one-self before another, willingly; seeking not only to serve but to be served as well. Most of us are fairly comfortable serving others. Where we draw the line is when each of us, individually, is asked to risk being vulnerable before another. Kneeling before a beloved child of God and then having someone kneel before you, each looking the other in the eyes as we wash one another's feet, creates such a tender, personal connection that few other rituals commanded by Jesus realize. If you are not ready for this, that is okay; just watch and pray as we follow Jesus' lead. Maybe next year you will be ready. As the darkness of Jesus' imminent betrayal and death looms, the chancel is stripped of all adornment. We depart in silence.

March 29: Good Friday marks our continuing journey with Jesus all the way to the cross. We relive how we all have abandoned Jesus, the Son of God, first crying out, "Hosanna!" but now, "Crucify him!" We acknowledge our part in putting our Savior to death. Candles, successively extinguished, mark the growing darkness, gloom, and despair as "the hour" of Jesus' death arrives. We depart in silence.

March 31: Resurrection of the LORD / Easter Sunday declares to all of creation that new life has begun! It is life -after death or life never subject to eternal death again. It is a new gift from God because of all that Jesus endured on behalf of the world. We are offered a brand new chance at life in loving relationship with God through the beloved Son and empowered by the Holy Spirit of life and love. Worship will be glorious as we celebrate the gracious omnipotence of God to overcome everything that diminishes or destroys creaturely life and that transforms divine love into self-destructive evil. We experience God's life-giving power that reigns eternally and Jesus Christ's obedient love that brings new life to all creation, even us!

May we arrive together at our destination this Lenten season: encountering the God who makes possible our journey, each step of Holy Week, from death to resurrection life and gracious love.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Elizabeth



Break out Grandma's China (or the Paper Plates!)

The Membership Committee is again sponsoring a great St. Stephen tradition – Dinner for 8!

You may sign up to be a host, a guest or both. This is a wonderful way to renew old friendships as well as meet newer members of our church family.

A sign-up table will be in the Narthex on March 10 and 17. You may also call the church office (817) 927-8411 or email Roger Davis jrdavis384@gmail.com. Sign-up through March 31.

We'll have guest lists ready by early April for purposes of planning and invitations. Realizing that everybody is busy with a wide variety of activities, we should try to complete our dinner events by the end of May.

If you would like to host a group, but are unsure of all that entails, we'll have additional information at the sign-up table, or you may email Roger. Bon Appetit!



Sunday, March 24 **Palm Sunday - 8:30 & 11:00 am**
Donkey Procession **10:45 am - Front Lawn**

Monday, March 25 *Lenten Lunch - Narthex - Noon*

Tuesday, March 26 *Lenten Lunch - Narthex - Noon*

Wednesday, March 27 *Lenten Lunch - Narthex - Noon*

Thursday, March 28 **Maundy Thursday - 7:00 pm***

Friday, March 29 **Good Friday - 7:00 pm***

Sunday, March 31 **Easter Sunday - 11:00 am**
One service only

*Rides can be provided to the evening services with advance notice and reservation. Call the church office before March 27 - (817) 927-8411.

4th Friday Book Group Meets Friday, March 22, 2024 12:00 pm

at

Keith House

Keith Skyspace by artist James Turrell

4814 Edwards Ranch Rd.

Fort Worth, TX 76109

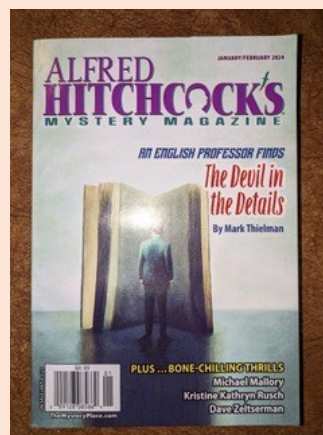
Ride the van from SSPC -- leaves the lot at 11:45 am.

RSVP to ride: Sharon LeMond (817-253-0990)

NO LUNCH will be served.

Mystery Short Story: **Death in the Details**

Author and Reviewer: **Mark Thielman**



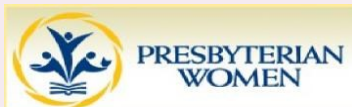
In "The Devil in the Details," an English professor finds inspiration for his misdeeds in the words of Paradise Lost.

Join us and listen to the ever entertaining Mark Thielman as he tells about his writings, his award winners, and the adventures Betty and he have had in this fascinating world of mystery writing.

Mark Thielman is a criminal magistrate working in Tarrant County. Formerly, he spent 27 years as a prosecutor for the Tarrant and Dallas County District Attorney's Offices. Mark has a law degree from the University of Texas in Austin as well as a Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Liberal Arts degrees from Texas Christian University.

Mark's published short fiction includes a Black Orchid Award-winning novella."





**ALL WOMEN OF SSPC
ARE INVITED TO JOIN US!**

Tuesday, March 12

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COUNCIL - 10:00 AM

**MORNING GLORIES CIRCLE - 10:30 A.M.
Coffee and Bible Study**

March 5 and March 19 - 1:00 pm

**CARD MINISTRY
Make birthday cards for members!**

All meetings in Eastminster Room.

75 YEARS | ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

REPAIRING THE BREACH

— ISAIAH 58
PROVIDING RELIEF FROM NATURAL DISASTERS,
FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY, AND SUPPORT
FOR THE POOR AND OPPRESSED.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

When you give on or before
Easter Sunday, March 31,
you help restore hope, provide food to the hungry and accompany the poor and oppressed by supporting three life-giving programs:

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

- Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters and provides support for refugees.

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM

- Takes action to alleviate hunger and care for creation. Addresses the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE

- Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice.

Educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues.

This Lent, you can provide safety, sustenance and hope to our most vulnerable siblings in Christ. Remember, **when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.** Please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing today.

PRAYER REQUESTS

CURRENT NEEDS

Ken Record	Room in the Inn Guest
Max Jackson	Friend of Barbara Clinkscales
David O'Brien	Member
Timothy Wright	Friend of Adelaide Leavens
Beth Haller	Member
Nick Flores	Member
Ann Mills	Member

MEMBERS WITH LONG-TERM NEEDS

Dale Henderson	Bee Ingalls
Angela & Ernest Jimenez	Jim & Faith Mallory
Jim McKenzie	Kitty Mitchell
Jean McCord	Ben Pennington
Dorothy St. John	Jody Wasson

FAMILY & FRIENDS WITH LONG-TERM NEEDS

Jolene & Jack Wasson	Mother of Jody Wasson
Elizabeth McCartney	Daughter of Brent McCartney
Christy Green	Stepdaughter of Dexter Wilborn
Gretta Maples	Friend of Art Schmidt
Michael Young	Friend of Art Schmidt
Pam Elza	Daughter of Art Schmidt
Peter Longo	Friend of Jim Scott
Alvina Gaffney	Grandmother of Scott Gaffney
Marian Morse	Wendy Larmour's mother
Corinne Breshears	Daughter of Mimi & David Andrews
Christy Ledesma	Friend of Kathy Flores
Heidi	Friend of Kurt & Sue Anderson
David Sandella	SSPC Sunday Security Officer
Robin Boldt	Cousin of Beth Haller
Curtis Hissam	Friend of Mimi & David Andrews
Sandra Wheeler	Sister of Darlene Myatt
Betsy Johnson	Cousin of George Bristol

Docent Tour of the Sanctuary Sunday, March 10

Following the 11:00 a.m. service.

Meet in the crossing at the chancel steps.

Daylight Saving Time Begins 2:00 AM - Sunday, March 10



PARISH HEALTH NEWS

by Lynn Wilson, *Parish Nurse*

What does a blood clot feel like?

People of all ages and genders can develop blood clots anywhere in the body. Clots often form in the legs, which is called deep vein thrombosis (DVT). They can also break off and travel through the blood stream and into the lungs causing a pulmonary embolism (PE)

Some of the risk factors for blood clots include major surgery or illness, severe physical trauma, sitting too long, and using birth control that contains estrogen. Blood clots can be fatal, and it is important to know the signs and symptoms. DVT can cause swelling and pain, as well as a reddish or blue skin. Someone who has a PE might experience sudden shortness of breath, sharp chest pain, back pain, a rapid heart rate, and an unexplained cough. Blood clots are typically treated with blood thinning medications such as Xarelto and Eliquis which can break up existing clots and prevent new ones from forming.



Church Life Fair
April 14th!

The many opportunities for both giving and receiving at

St. Stephen will be on full display at the upcoming Church Life Fair. This event will

make possible a greater awareness – and appreciation – of what members, regular visitors, friends and community members can participate in and contribute to in 'life at St Stephen'. It will be both informative and, like most successful fairs, fun!

Come to the Parish Hall following both worship services to see what's on hand at St Stephen... a place that challenges us to think, serve, worship and belong.

Remember Loved Ones and Beautify Our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024

One Service Only - 11:00 a.m.

I wish to purchase _____ plants @ \$18 ea.

Will pay by check. ☐ I paid online. ☐

This Easter lily is dedicated to:

INDICATE: in HONOR or in MEMORY:

For multiple dedications, use a separate sheet or form.

FROM:

LAST DAY TO ORDER
for names to be printed in the
Remembrance listings - March 21.

Use the QR code to order and pay online.
Drop your completed order form in the collection plate for processing.



The Chancel Guild sincerely appreciates your generous support for the holiday flowers and Sunday floral dedications throughout the year.

Caterpillars Are Coming the Approximately March 5—7. Be Ready for the Call to Help Set them In their New Home (for 3 weeks)



We need help in preparing the caterpillars' cage and lodgings for the three weeks it takes to mature into butterflies before popping out as resurrected new creatures symbolizing the Resurrection of Christ.

Caterpillars: Earthly Beings; Chrysalis: The Tomb; Butterfly: Rising from Death to a New Creature. Contact Beth to Help!



HOLY WEEK CHILDREN'S EVENT Wednesday, March 27, 5 p.m. On the Lawn

Don't miss the serious Holy Week focus wrapped in fun at the Children's Event, Wednesday, March 27, 5 p.m.

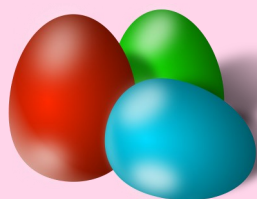


Things to do:

- • Paint Plaster Feet from Lent!
- • Go Visit Stations of the Cross to read a Prayer and receive a bag of trinkets!
- • Play and Play!

**We are Marching Toward the Cross and To
Resurrection!**

Easter Egg Hunt Easter Sunday, March 31, 10:30 a.m.



Starting Once Everyone meets Miss Beth on the Lawn for an explanation of Christian Egg Symbolism!

Youth Fellowship News



START Time for most Youth Fellowship activities are 5:30—7:30 p.m.

March 3 Straighten up a few classrooms, then go Shopping for the Harris family as Misty Recovers from back surgery. Then Out to eat at Central Market.

March 10 **(Start of Spring Break)**
Possible Date to Visit Itasca Children's Home AFTER CHURCH to check to see If it is a Viable place to do our YMT.

March 17 (end of Spring Break)
Possible Date to Visit Itasca Children's Home AFTER CHURCH to check to see if it is a VIABLE place to do our YMT. Other - wise, Game Night!

March 24 **Palm Sunday. Donkey Processional
Palm Sunday Picnic That Afternoon.**

March 31 **EASTER! Butterfly Release. Easter Egg
Hunt. Meet that Evening or Spend with
Family?**

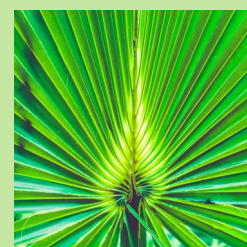
All youth ages 6th—12th are invited to have fun, explore your faith, do mission projects, and more!

Children's Choir & Choristers Rehearsals Wednesdays 5—6 p.m.

The Children's Choir with Chorister Helper happens every Wednesday. We enhance our experience with rhythm instruments and chimes, boom whackers and steel drums along with our religious singing.

We will sing again in church on:

- ♦ ♦ **Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday** (early this year)
- ♦ ♦ **Sunday, April 28, Children's Sabbath**



March 1, 2024

Christian Education - Adult

817-927-8411 office

Beth Fultz, Director of Christian Education

817-875-9704 cell

beth.fultz@ststephenpresbyterian.com

Searchers Adult Class Upcoming Speaker / Classes

This semester is spoken for as our coordinators: Paul Lewis, Adelaide Leavens, and Beth Fultz have reached out and secured a semester's worth of interesting topics and guest speakers for you.

March 3, 10—Rev. Randy Branson leads us in Bible Study on "A Modern Story on Ancient Israel". (This is an eight part series broken into four segments now and four later mid-April into May.)

"A Modern Story of Ancient Israel" presents a coherent biblical narrative of Ancient Israel from Creation to Revelation. Using contemporary scholarship the class will provide participants an opportunity to connect their contemporary life with the biblical story. Christians rarely have the whole story of Israel developed thoroughly. You are encouraged to bring a more modern interpretation of the Bible, NRSV, study Bible, etc. And to take notes!

Rev. Randy Branson is an Honorably Retired Presbyterian minister member of Palo Duro Presbytery.

March 17— Dr. Cathy Corder on "The Scandal at Broadway Presbyterian!" (the former site of St. Stephen!)



Holy Week Luncheon Speakers Announced!

Holy Week luncheons are thoughtful ways to "Follow Jesus to the Cross and Beyond". This year, the luncheons will occur on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 12 noon - 1 p.m. in the Narthex of the Sanctuary. Expect to reimburse cooks \$5 to \$8 for their effort and culinary faire!

Speakers are :

Rev. Katie Hays from Galileo Church in Fort Worth on Monday.

Rev. Wayne Menking, Lutheran Minister and frequent pulpit supplier at St. Stephen on Tuesday.

Rev. Randy Branson, retired Presbyterian Minister on Wednesday.

Cooks to be announced shortly.

Palm Sunday Donkey Processional Sunday, March 24, 10:45 a.m.



On the Promenade!

**Pick Up a Palm and Wave Jesus from the
Lawn then Through the Sanctuary!**

**Palm Sunday Picnic
Sunday Afternoon,
4—5:30 p.m.**

**Food, Fun, Crafts, Activities
More Information TBA!**



Trinity Adult Bible Study Moves to Barmen Confession, Confession of 1967, and then Finally Toward the Brief Statement of Faith.

Angela is wrapping up the confessions by the study of the 20th Century confessions. The original confessions were about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The Reformation Confessions were about Church Polity and rules and their necessity.

In the 20th Century, the Confessions strike a cord for Justice and need to include our Neighbor and ethics of race and acceptance.

Come, discuss these newer confessions and understand why they were written.

ROOM CHANGE

**This Sunday ONLY!
Meet in the Session Room
9:45-10:30 am**

March 3 - 23, 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 8:30 am Worship and Communion 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:15 pm Church Life Fair Committee Eastminster 5:00 pm Youth Group	4 9:30 - 2:30 pm Day School 1:30 pm Staff meeting	5 1:00 pm Card Ministry Eastminster 7:30 pm Troop 17 Scout House <div>RUDY LOVATO OUT OF OFFICE</div>	6 9:30 -2:30 PM Day School Noon Bible Study Zoom 5:00 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	7 7:00 pm Morning Prayers Chapel 4:00 pm WORSHIP Cmte Zoom 6:30 pm Handbells	8	9 10:00 am AGO Steering Committee Eastminster
10 2:00 AM Daylight Savings Time Begins - Clocks Forward 1 Hour 8:30 am Worship and Communion 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:15 pm • Deacons Session Room • Mission Eastminster • Docent Tour Meet in Crossing	11 1:30 pm Staff mtg	12 PNS sandwiches due today! 10:00 am PW Council Eastminster 10:30 am Morning Glories Circle Eastminster 7:30 pm Troop 17 Scout House	13 Noon Bible Study Zoom 5:00 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	14 7:00 am Morning Prayers Chapel 8:00 am PNS setup, sack and delivery Parish Hall 6:30 pm Handbells	15 Office Closed 5:00 pm Samaritan House Supper Delivery <div>Anne Barrett VACATION</div>	16
	FWISD SPRING BREAK -- NO DAY SCHOOL					
17 8:30 am Worship an Communion 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 5:00 pm Youth Group	18 9:30-2:30 pm Day School 1:30 pm Staff mtg 3:00 - 10:30 pm FW Opera Parish Hall	19 Noon FINANCE Cmte Eastminster 1:00 pm Card Ministry Eastminster 2:00 - 10:00 pm FW Opera Parish Hall 7:00 pm SESSION Eastminster	20 9:30 - 2:30 pm Day School Noon Bible Study Zoom 3:00 - 10:30 pm FW Opera Parish Hall 5:00 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	21 7:00 am Morning Prayers Chapel 2:00 - 10:00 pm FW Opera Parish Hall 6:30 pm Handbells	22 10:00 am Memorial Service for Judy Pennington Chapel 11:45 am Van leaves for Keith House Noon 4th Friday Book Group KEITH HOUSE 2:00 - 10:00 pm FW Opera Parish Hall	23 1:00 - 5:00 pm SW Adventist Sanctuary 2:00 - 10:00 pm FW Opera Parish Hall
	Anne Barrett -- Vacation					



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WORSHIP SERVICE:

SUNDAY SERVICES | SEPT - MAY
2 SERVICES - 8:30 AM AND 11:00 AM
LIVE STREAM ON WEBSITE & YOUTUBE

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY-THURSDAY 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
FRIDAY 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

TELEPHONE:

(817) 927- 8411