

Extra-Ordinary Comes Along

By Beth Fultz, Director of Christian Education



As you may know, our grandchildren and youngest daughter share our home. You might feel like we are burdened, but no! It's a riot of love in our full but disarrayed house. Our lives are unpredictable with surprises awaiting for the right moment to spring forth. Recently, 6 year old grandson, DJ, read "Go, Dog, Go", to me while younger sister, Payten, wiggling-ly listened. After DJ triumphantly read the book, Payten surprised with, "Oh, that was so satisfying!" "What?", I exclaimed? Granddad Robby trying to sneak into the conversation said, "Yeah, that's a book about dawgs!" Payten looked at him shaking her head. "No, granddad, it's about opposites." I was unaware that Payten's vocabulary and usage had become more like a teenager. It was an extraordinary moment to learn that 5 year old Payten had much more in her head than the thought of punching out her brother.

Like Payten, the Christian Education Committee has been surprising me with new ideas and twists on the annual events I so prize in our schedule. Don't wait on the ordinary from our committee. No! Expect the unexpected. Yes, there is a pandemic, but we are trying to safely and unpredictably work around it. **CHRISTMAS ON THE HILL**, weather permitting, will be a joy-filled outdoor experience. Through Kim Torgul, we hooked up with Paul Unger and a group of his friends who will play Christmas jazz with a saxophone, guitar, bass and drum on the steps of the church all three hours of our event. You will have the benefit of music wafting as we roast marshmallows, make simple crafts as the sun sets and the night creeps into dark. Flashlights, gaslights and fire pits will brighten our lives this night. We'll have bubbles and games outdoors, donkey carriage ride and a lot of space to be free. Tamales, Horchata, and mulled wine will be plentiful; try the Cake Walk for some tasty desserts while you hunt for candy canes! Currently, forecasts have a cool evening awaiting us without precipitation. Though I like surprises, hopefully the weather cooperates with the predictions calling for a dry, cool night on **NOVEMBER 28**.

Another way the CE Committee will surprise is shaking up the **CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE, DECEMBER 24, 4:30 PM ON THE FRONT LAWN**, weather permitting! We have already asked the donkey to return to help Mary and Joseph make it to the stable. A few chickens and possibly a sheep may grace our lawn to help the children understand the earthy birth of the Christ Child. Our frequent visitors, Gabriel and Valerie Garcia, plan to share their musical talents on the trumpet and flute for that service, as well as portray Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus, with baby Lucas filling that role. Three year old brother, Rowan, plans to be a donkey in costume. There will be lots of costumes for any child willing to be near the animals in the stable. If it rains, we think we can move into Parish Hall. Let's pray for a lovely silent night of stars, not clouds!

Finally, Dr. Corey Trahan, vocal teacher at TCU, astounded me a few months ago, asking to use our stage in Parish Hall for the Christmas Opera performance of "**AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS**". It was quickly approved and have been planning, recruiting, rehearsing and gathering costumes. Robin Owhonda's set is incredible! Corrigan Jones is an amazing Amahl! Sara Walter's dance solo is beautiful. TCU music students are volunteering their time to join our cast, and a few Adult Choir members, including Tommy and Peggy Wadley, Mary Jane Harbison, Chuck Hoffman, and me are some of the shepherds singing in the hills as we meet the three kings. If all goes well, we are hoping "Amahl..." will become an annual event. **PLEASE JOIN THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY MADE RESERVATIONS FOR OUR DECEMBER 3 OR 4 PREMIERE AT ST. STEPHEN.**

Extra-ordinary is coming along to surprise us as we await the earthy birth of the Christ Child! Come and enjoy! For the Christ Child's birth full of the unexpected!



You are invited to hear Guillermo Martinez, organist, and Nicholas Garza, countertenor, in concert this Sunday, November 21 at 7:00 pm. The program will include works by Schütz, Wolf, Rachmaninoff, Faure, and Purcell. A reception will follow the program. We hope you will join us!

TCU

Football Parking at SSPC!

**Proceeds Benefit:
Mission & CE Committees & Church Budget!**

**Saturday, Nov. 20 — TCU vs. Kansas
Mission Committee Volunteers**

\$20 per car with free shuttle to and from the stadium!

Lot opens at Noon. Game time 3:00 pm.

Last game of the season!

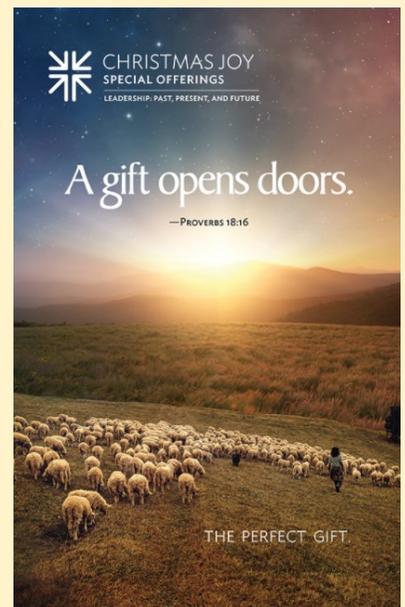
A GIFT OPENS DOORS

... Proverbs 18:16

For those of us gathered in Advent expectation, we know that the only perfect gift ever given was the one we received in Jesus Christ – a perfect gift from a gracious God. In Matthew’s Gospel, one of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” We know that in Jesus, we receive the perfect gift of God *being with us*. What a powerful gift, a perfect gift – a gift that opens so many doors for us. Although we cannot give the perfect gift, we can give generously to support and *be with* our past, present, and future leaders in their time of promise and their time of need, opening doors that may not have been available to them.

Three Ways You Can Give:

- By check or online payment to the Joy Offering on the St. Stephen website
- By credit card online at www.pcusa.org/give/christmasjoy
- *Designate St. Stephen Presbyterian Church as the name of congregation for SSPC to receive credit for your gift
- Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999



IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

**DAY SCHOOL SUPPORTS
PNS SACK LUNCH MISSION**

During the month of November, the Day School hosted a Peanut Butter & Jelly drive to support the Sack Lunch Mission. Our families donated nearly 1,600 oz of peanut butter and 700 oz of jelly! These donations will keep the sandwich makers busy for quite a while! Our Pre-K students learned about the Sack Lunch Mission and the importance of sharing our food with neighbors in need. The children worked together to fill 90 sack lunches. We are thankful for this important ministry and the opportunity to include our children in serving others.



SERRV International's Online Gift Market Arrives November 28 at Christmas on the Hill

For more than 25 years St. Stephen's Mission Committee has sponsored a Christmas Market featuring finely crafted, handmade gifts, personal accessories and home decor items available through SERRV International. Each year SERRV offers a wonderful selection of fair trade items from developing countries around the world. The artisans are guaranteed and paid a fair market price for their highly skilled handwork.

An exciting new feature started last year is SERRV & EARN: an online shopping opportunity!! St. Stephen has a customized web link to shop hundreds of ethically made handcrafts and food from the full SERRV catalog! You can shop from the comfort of your own home at your convenience. You shop, pay with your credit card and the products are sent directly to you.



PLUS, St. Stephen earns 20% of the total purchases to help support our many mission outreach programs!! Start your shopping today!!

This is our custom SERRV & Earn web link: serrv.org?a=ststephen

Copy/paste into your web browser. Always check the orange banner at the top of our home page to make sure your nonprofit is identified. The banner should look like this, with St. Stephen named where we show a blank space:



While we will not have a "live" market for shopping this year, **we will have a table at "Christmas on the Hill" on Sunday, November 28.** There will be a few laptops available for looking at the online catalog and placing orders....So bring your credit card and be ready to shop!!!

For more information or to help with sales, contact: **Peggy Wadley** at peggy.wadley705@gmail.com

**Become a Member of St. Stephen
Next Sunday, November 28**

If you've been thinking about joining the St. Stephen church family, this is your opportunity. Or maybe you're searching for a new church home and have some questions you'd like answered. Whatever your situation, we invite you to meet with Rev. Fritz and Session members this Sunday, after the 11:00 service. Come to the Parish Hall (*at the south end of the Education Bldg.*) We look forward to meeting you!

**ORDER POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS
In Honor or In Memory of Friends and Loved Ones**

The Chancel Guild will place live poinsettia plants in the sanctuary for Christmas. **Plants are \$18.00 each. Pay online or attach a check to this form.** Names submitted by **Dec. 16** will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Plants may be taken home **after** the 8:00 pm Christmas Eve service or picked up after the holiday.

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Number of plants: _____ x \$18.00 each = \$ _____



PARISH HEALTH NEWS

by Lynn Wilson, Parish Nurse

Nurse Assistant Named

Those who know **Marilyn Jones**, are keenly aware of her kindness, generosity, and compassionate nature. Because of these qualities, I have asked Marilyn to be my Parish Nurse assistant. We will both be assisting in managing the health care needs of our parishioners. Additionally, since Marilyn holds a Master's degree in education, she will be a valuable asset in managing the logistics of our future health educational seminars. Please welcome Marilyn in her new role at St. Stephen!

Here are the latest vaccines authorized by age group:

- ◆ **Children 4 years and under:**
None
- ◆ **Children 5-11 years old:**
Pfizer-BioNTech
- ◆ **Teens 12-17 years old:**
Pfizer-BioNTech
- ◆ **Everyone 18 years and older:**
Pfizer-BioNTech
Moderna
Johnson & Johnson

Lance Corporal Scott Campbell, son of Bruce and Karla Campbell, was promoted to the rank of Corporal in the United States Marine Corps in a ceremony held Monday, November 1 in Belle Chase, Louisiana. Bruce and Karla had the honor of pinning the chevron pin on Scott. In addition, Scott received the red stripes for his uniform indicating that he is now a noncommissioned officer.



Scott and the rest of the Marine Corp Reserve Band recently spent 2 weeks in Texas performing daily at the State Fair of Texas. They also had performances at area high schools and churches.

Prayer Requests

Current Needs

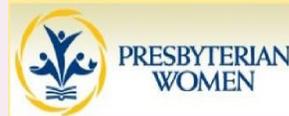
Carol Steen	Member
Dean Johnson	Member
Mike Witt	Member
Jolene Wasson	Mother of Jody Wasson
Wes & April White	Friends of Jane Ann Janssen
Nicci Kennedy	Member
Bryan Polly	Member
Cathy Ngeny	Daughter of Kitty Mitchell

Members with Long-Term Needs

Luis Andrade	Mimi Andrews
Beezie Cooper	Wanda Gill & Dwane Cash
Margaret & Henry Hash	Dale Henderson
Bee Ingalls	Natalie Hubbard
Booty Jones	Jim Mallory
Kitty Mitchell	Melissa Philips
Jody Wasson	

Family & Friends with Long-Term Needs

Grace Wright	Friend of SSPC
Lynette Larmour	Mother of Bill Larmour
Carolyn Cleveland	Sister-in-law of Barbara Finch
Sandra Wheeler	Sister of Darlene Myatt



Tuesday, December 14

- 10:00 am - PW Council
- 10:30 am - Morning Glories Bible Study
- 11:00 pm - PW Christmas Lunch & Program
- 1:00 - Knitting and Card Ministry
Eastminster Room

Monday, December 20

- L.O.T.E. - Evening Bible Study & Fellowship
- 6:30 pm - Bring cover dish for potluck supper
Location to be announced



Roger Davis Presents Trophy to Usher Team 2

Everyone wants to be on Team 2!

Left to right:

Roger Davis, Gretchen Denny, George Bristol, Dian McCall and Robby Fultz.

Amahl AND THE Night Visitors

AN OPERA IN ONE ACT BY GIAN CARLO MENOTTI

St. Stephen
Presbyterian Church

DECEMBER
3 & 4
7:00 PM

Tickets: \$10 AT THE DOOR



2700 MCPHERSON AVENUE
FORT WORTH, TX 76109

TICKETS - \$10 per person
RSVP to Church Office or Beth Fultz
Masks Required.

Amahl and the Night Visitors is the story of the Three Kings following the Christmas Star to locate the new born Jesus. They stop at a poor village and meet crippled Amahl and his widowed mother spending the night. It's a charming story with shepherds, theft, forgiveness, and miracles. Dr. Corey Trahan and many vocal students at TCU alongside a few singers from St. Stephen provide the story in song. Our own Corrigan Jones is Amahl. He is amazing! Robin Owhonda's stage set is incredible. You have to see and hear the marvelous little opera!

This will be a most memorable experience and possibly a new tradition at St. Stephen. **Reserve your ticket now through the Church Office or Beth's office. You may also purchase online - \$10 per person!**



Christmas Angel Tree
Opens Sunday, November 21
in the Narthex
Pick Your Angel Tag!

In consultation with the Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services through Kathy Dodson and Bailey Warpula, we have many angels almost ready to decorate the Narthex Tree for the Itasca Foster Home Care children (Kathy Dodson's responsibility) and the Fort Worth families in care (Bailey Warpula).



Particularly the Itasca Campus is in need of lots of bicycles for those kids temporarily housed in Itasca. 20 bicycles of various sizes are being requested. Bicycles will have their own tags. But the Fort Worth families, too, are in need of bicycles of all sizes—11 more.



All these children also have clothing and a toy request or two for their Christmas wishes, also. These requests will be on a different tag.

We have reached out to the Fort Worth Veterans Clinic for names of veterans in need. As of now, rules have changed from the old way. We unfortunately, we have NO veteran tags at this time.

TIPS

1. Choose an angel tag.
2. Shop for needs listed—per your ability to purchase.
3. Return presents in GIFT BAGS with ANGEL TAG securely attached with tape. Bicycles need Gift Tag and Bow.
4. Presents will be set around our trees on the right side of Narthex.
5. **Bring your gifts any time between November 21 and December 12. Gifts will be distributed December 13 to the various agencies!**
5. Any questions? Ask Beth Fultz!

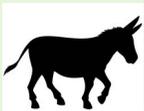




Christmas on the Hill
November 28, 4 - 7 pm
OUTDOORS
(Cancelled if raining!)

The Christian Education Committee is working on the final details of our Outdoor Christmas on the Hill soon. However, we know this much:

Jazz Quartet led by Dave Monsch:
Sax, Guitar, Bass and Drum



Donkey Carriage Ride by our favorite
Donkey Wrangler, Janet Vance!

Tamales, Chips, Salsa;
Marshmallow Roasting,
Drinks including Mulled Wine & Horchata,



Crafts include a Door Knob Wreath
Designed by Harriett Moore,
Christmas Clear Balls Painted Inside
Designed by Court Fryman,
Beaded Ornaments for Kids,
Twirly Paper Christmas Trees for Kids,
Jingle Bell Prayer Ribbon!



Continuous Candy Cane Hunt for All Kids
(limited # per kid)
Games, Free Play, &
Bubble Machine with Foggy Bubbles



Cake & Cookie Walk
Can YOU help provide items?
Wrapped in baggies?

Contact Mara Miller to Volunteer!
maraleemillertx@gmail.com

Youth Fellowship 5—8 p.m. Sundays

November 21 Shop for soon to be Born Baby Born, a child and mother under care of PCHAS. Along with Mission Committee funds, we will shop for loads of baby necessities. Need everyone to get the bed and diaper changing table, etc.

November 28 Participate with **Christmas on the Hill!** May need your help in booths. Or have a good time yourselves!

December 5— Go Christmas Shopping again, our annual trip to Walmart or Target for our bevy of Christmas Angels. Need lots of shoppers so we can get presents for the Foster Care Village or PCHAS families in Fort Worth.

December 12— Deliver Gifts to PCHAS families, if allowed. Otherwise, we will wrap all the presents and design cards.

December 19— need 2—3 houses to visit for a Traveling Christmas Party. One house appetizers; one main dish; one dessert and Christmas Gift Exchange. Bring gifts \$10.

Children's Rhythmic Choir

Rehearsals every Wednesday afternoon from 5—5:45. Includes a little music theory, a little fun, rhythm and singing in masks.



Singing & Playing Christmas Eve,
4:30 p.m. OUTDOOR SERVICE!

Includes live donkey, chickens and
maybe a sheep.

Sunday School Takes a Break
Over Thanksgiving Weekend

But Back in December!

Love to help your child with
their faith journey!!



November 21 - December 4, 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>21</p> <p>Select Your Angel from the Tree</p> <p>8:30 am Worship & Communion</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 am Choir rehearsal</p> <p>11:00 am Worship</p> <p>4:00 pm Officer Training via Zoom</p> <p>5:00 pm Youth Group</p> <div style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>7:00 pm CONCERT Chamber Music for Organ & Voice</p> </div>	<p>22</p> <p>1:30 pm Staff meeting</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1:00 pm Knitting Guild Eastminster</p> <p>7:30 pm Boy Scouts Scout Lodge</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Bible Study CANCELLED</p> <p>Noon Office closes</p> <p>6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>25</p> <p>THANKSGIVING</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>26</p> <p>HOLIDAY</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>First Sunday of Advent</p> <p>8:30 am Worship & Communion</p> <p>9:30 am NO Searchers Class</p> <p>10:15 am Choir rehearsal</p> <p>11:00 am Worship and Communion</p> <p>12:15 pm New members received Parish Hall</p> <div style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>4:00-7:00 pm Christmas on the Hill Front Lawn</p> </div>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30 am Day School</p> <p>1:30 pm Staff meeting</p> <p>6:00-8:00 pm Rehearsal Parish Hall</p>	<p>30</p> <p>1:00 pm Knitting Guild Eastminster</p> <p>6:00-8:00 pm Rehearsal Parish Hall</p> <p>7:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>DECEMBER 1</p> <p>9:30 am Day School</p> <p>Noon Bible Study via Zoom</p> <p>5:00 pm Children's Choir Parish Hall</p> <p>6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 am Morning Prayers Chapel</p> <p>7:30 am Breakfast Parish Hall</p> <p>5:00 pm Worship Cmte via Zoom</p> <p>6:00 pm Small Group Worship via Zoom</p> <p>6:00-8:00 pm Amahl dress rehearsal #3</p> <p>6:30 pm Handbells</p>	<p>3</p> <div style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>7:00 pm Amahl and the Night Visitors Performed Live! Parish Hall</p> </div>	<p>4</p> <div style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>7:00 pm Amahl and the Night Visitors Performed Live! Parish Hall</p> </div>



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WORSHIP SERVICES: SUNDAYS 8:30 AM WITH COMMUNION
11:00 AM LIVE-STREAMED ON YOUTUBE
FACEBOOK AND OUR WEBSITE
OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-THURSDAY 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
FRIDAY 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
TELEPHONE: (817) 927- 8411