

St. Stephens
 United Church
 of Christ
 Making
 Disciples for
 Jesus

THE INTERPRETER



"The Bote"
 March 4, 2010

REV. SCOTT HAWKER, SENIOR MINISTER
 MISSY HOLDORF, LICENSED LAY MINISTER

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HOURS: 8:00AM-4:30PM MON-THURS.

8:00AM-4:00PM FRI

WEBSITE: STSTEPHENSUCC.NET

E-MAIL ADDRESS: STS.UCC@VERIZON.NET

SERVING SUNDAY, MARCH 7

Welcomer: Beverly King & Phil Schaefer
 Acolytes: 9:00 Chelsey Dengel and Collin Grefe
 Ushers: 10:30 Valerie Amelse and Wesley Boehm
 Lay Readers: 9:00 Linda Bergh
 10:30
 Host/Hostess: The Golisch Family
 Special Music: 9:00 Terry Krueger
 10:30 Kelly Wallace and Sarah Zastrow
 Nursery Care: Leah Hanson and Hope Golisch

SERVING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

Acolytes: 7 PM Celina Hawker and Tyler Holbach
 Special Music: 10 AM
 7 PM

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR SCOTT

Many quotes are attributed to Winston Churchill; including "You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life." I believe St Stephens UCC should and is standing up for Merrill and our community's voiceless many.

Some of the voiceless do not speak English. It is true, that our national policy and law on immigration is a mess. The solution is not simple. But hungry people seeking to feed their children are denied status to secure auto insurance so the rest of us face an uninsured accident. Millions of dollars go into the Social Security system on behalf of undocumented workers who will never draw benefits. If all undocumented immigrants left our country, many of our industries would grind to a halt.

Before we rush into a pro immigration policy position, maybe we need to look at our economic system that allows employers to pay so little that we import workers while our local unemployment rate is over 20%. The Prophets of old told of judgment against financial oppression. Jesus had a short parable about God wanting all the workers to receive enough wage.

The dilemma of balancing human economics with divine economics is capping the reward for risking capital. Without rewarding risk there is no investment. I have not found an adequate scale of what is a sufficient reward. I have witnessed those working more than 40 hours a week, unable to pay the bills, while their employer's executives are rewarded 500% more than they are.

I guess the best we can do is to act, speak up and shop where our resources stay as local as possible and remain hopeful that real change will come.

LINK UP

MARCH BOOK CLUB

March 29, 6:30 in the Kuck Lounge. The book: Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt. Copies available in the office soon for \$4. Contact Julie with questions: 539-3761.



THIS WEEK'S MEMORIALS

Memorial Fund

\$ 10.00 in memory of our mother Katherine Karau on her birthday March 1 from Lyle and Kathleen Karau

Parking Lot Fund

\$ 25.00 in loving memory of nephew Neville Belongia, son of Phyllis and late Col. Blair Belongia, from Milita and Roland Hall

Windows

\$ 425.00 in memory of our parents Bill & Marie Knispel and Melvin & Elaine Alft from Terry and Judy Alft

\$ 425.00 in memory of Raymond and Adeline Neumann from Mike & Kathy Neumann, Dan, Jenny, Sophie, Cooper Wendorf & Dave, Molly, Emma, Avery, Lily & Grace Hoff.

\$ 425.00 in memory of our parents Mr. & Mrs. Erwin Ramm and Mr. & Mrs. Gust Kuck from Rev. Dale & Jackie Kuck

\$1700.00 in memory of Betty Osness from Harry Osness

SOUP'S ON MARCH 10 by Marie Steffenhagen

Another successful soup supper was enjoyed on February 24th by 68 individuals. We could have served a few more as we had some soup leftover this week. The bars were scrumptious and a big hit, thanks to the donors of these and the other ingredients for the soups. The monetary donations are growing for the youth fund thanks to your generous support. A thank you to Mike Catlin, Landis Holdorf, Brian & Brenda Rowe, Jacob & Kathy Anderson, Adam Messerschmidt, Leota Davis and Joan Hartson for help with the serving and clean up and Nancy & Phyllis Reinhardt for making the soup. Great job Phyllis, many compliments on the Pea Soup, her 'old' family recipe. They always seem to be the best.

Join us again or come for your first time, I'm sure you won't be disappointed. Meghan Sampo, Justin Schmeltzer, Brittany Rousseau, Mathew Leistikow, Adam Messerschmidt along with their parent(s) will be your servers this week. They will be serving CHICKEN NOODLE, POTATO CHEESE AND STUFFED PEPPER SOUP. Some of the ingredients that will be needed are green peppers, canned diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, Velveeta cheese, canned cheddar cheese soup, bacon, whole milk, 2% milk, juice, bars and cookies. Sign up sheet is on the Kiosk in the Kuck Lounge if you want to help the cause. Thanks in advance.

Remember serving starts at 5 PM, come early, stay and visit, attend church at 7 PM. Leave the cooking and dish washing to us. What a deal!

ST. STEPHENS LENTEN SEASON SCHEDULE

Soup Supper: 5 PM
Bible Study Opportunity: 5:30 PM
(Call church office to register.)
Lenten Services: 10 AM & 7 PM
Maundy Thursday: 10 AM & 7 PM
Good Friday: 1 PM
Easter Sunday: 6:30, 9 & 10:30 AM



There is also a community Lenten Lunch at noon with music at 12:30. Proceeds go to Comunidad Hispana
March 10: St. Francis
March 17: Christ Methodist
March 24: Bible Presbyterian

USHERS' CLUB NEWS by Neal Christensen

March is here and spring is on the way. February attendance was as follows: there were 8 regular Sunday Services with 1,218 attending, 477 attending the Wednesday Lenten Services. Were you one of the attendees? See you all in church.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

DEAR FRIENDS:

This week, please prepare your offering for our One Great Hour of Sharing Dedication of Sunday, March 14. I hope you will give generously to this life-giving offering.

Your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing will sustain lives through the mission work of the United Church of Christ and our mission partners in more than 80 countries. Your gift of money will transform into gifts of food for infants, education for children, income-earning work for women, shelter for refugee families, safety for young men, and clean water for entire villages.

“Serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” Please bring your offering to church on Sunday, serving others with your gift.

With the peace of Christ,
The Stewardship Committee

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

There is a family in our household of faith that is in dire need of legal aid. At this time, they are unable to cover the cost of the lawyer who has graciously cut down the cost of this aid significantly. However, this family still needs help. If you are in the position to help this family with some monetary relief, please bring the offering to the church office or see Pastor Scott or myself.



Peace, Pastor Missy

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,

Pastor Scott and I have received several requests to let the congregation know what my preaching schedule will look like. Eventually, I will most likely go back to preaching the second Sunday of every month or something similar to that. For now the schedule that we have worked out is listed here: March 14th, April 1st (Maunday Thursday 10am and 7pm), April 11th, May 9th, May 23rd (Confirmation Sunday at 10:30am), and June 6th.

Many Blessings from your Licensed Lay Minister,
Missy



ST. STEPHEN'S UCC FAMILY MINISTRIES: REACHING FAMILIES FOR CHRIST

If you're interested in participating, the first program will be held April 18th, 2010. We will begin by sharing a meal together, sponsored by the Youth Ministry Team, right after 10:30 AM worship. Then we will move to a program about “Making a Home for Faith,” where the adults will engage in a Power Point and discussion that I will lead. The children will be split up age-appropriately for a lesson about their role in the home. Then we will offer a group project for everyone, followed by a brief worship for the whole family and leave for home at about 2 PM. Call Pastor Missy at 536-7322 or email her: [Pastor Missy](#).



CALLING PEOPLE OF ALL AGES

We are excited to be planning our 3rd annual multigenerational & multimedia Easter Worship Service. Come and be part of the 10:30 AM worship service on Easter Morning. We are looking for *actors, readers, ushers, singers and musicians (bass, drums, guitar, harmonica, etc....)* If you would like to participate, please contact [Pastor Missy](#).

THANKS!



MISSION MOMENT

Strengthen The Church – Special Mission Offering

About Strengthening the Church

Before Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005, New Orleans' Beecher Memorial United Church of Christ was not unlike many churches – modest in size, but significant in mission – with a century-long tradition of providing educational and community development programs, and a vibrant gospel music ministry reaching 90 people a week.

Then the levees broke. Its building drowned, its people displaced, and no endowment to draw on. Meeting in a nearby church, Beecher's attendance hovered at about a dozen.

Beecher could have called it a day. As the song say, "when the levee breaks, mama, you got to move." But the Spirit had other plans for Beecher. Instead of moving out, Beecher dug in.

They worshiped in the studs of their church. Their large former choir became a praise team. Their Bible study met in a FEMA trailer. They began a quilting ministry and reached out to the homeless. Every Saturday, they "walked" the community, greeting people, passing out flyers, praying.

And as they re-built, people returned – both those they expected and those they didn't. This historically black church now draws on a much broader demographic – justice-seeking, spirit-filled, music-loving people of God who believe that God is still speaking and working amid the chaos and pain of New Orleans.

Beecher Memorial's renewal has been supported by funds from Strengthen the Church. Last year, Beecher joined our church and thousands of other UCC congregations in supporting Strengthen the Church. Your gift to this special offering grows the UCC's future by funding The Stillspeaking Ministry, new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership formation – especially among women and people of color. Your offerings are directed to your church's Conference, Local Church Ministries and The Stillspeaking Ministry. You are called to be Christ's disciples in the mission field.

ADOPT A WINDOW

34 windows of 39 have been sponsored. 5 remain available.
Each window will cost \$425,
but donations of any amount are welcome.

OPEN CALENDAR DATES

Radio dates available:

April 18 & 25 May 2, 9, 23 & 30

Flower dates available:

March 28 April 4 May 16

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

The following students had perfect attendance in Sunday School in February:

3 & 4 Yr. Olds

Emerson Iwen
Kekoa Schuetze
Braxton Bartelt
Ryder Depies
Ian Schuetze
Avery Hoff
Emma Hoff
EJ Weix
Britney Rajek

K & 1st Grade

Angela Hinner
Paige Plautz
Chase Stahnke
Tanner Depies
Piper Plautz
Connor Stender
Taylor Zastrow

2nd & 3rd Grade

Cody Depies
Emma Golisch
Jacob Schnable
Molly Seidler
Caylie Amelse
David Davis
Bailey Iwen
Dominic Leistikow
Nora Trapp
Nick Luedtke
Brayden Rajek

4th & 5th Grade

Deanna Davis
Riley Humphrey
Jordan Vair
Alisha Scantlin
Zachary Boehm
Madisen Weix
Reno Leavitt



SCHOLARSHIPS 2010

The following scholarships will be available for the 2010-2011 school years:

The **Edward A. Staats and Mary Staats Scholarship** will be offered for the ninth year. Normally, the earnings from the Staats Scholarship Fund have allowed two scholarships of \$6,000.00 each.

The **Ellis and Alice Sholund Scholarship** is in its fourth year of five and will provide a scholarship of \$1,000.00.

For either scholarship, the requirements are that the student must be:

- A graduating high school senior, or a university or technical school undergraduate in good standing as of September 2010, who had demonstrated good scholastic standards.
- A member of St. Stephens church who has been ACTIVE AND FAITHFUL IN ITS MINISTRY.
- Meets the admission requirements and be accepted by the school of their choice before the award is finalized.

In order to apply for either scholarship, the student must:

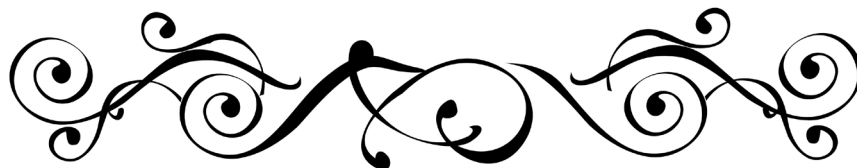
- Submit a written application by **April 1, 2010**. Applications are available in the church office.
- Complete the Scholarship Financial Form, and for graduating seniors, a copy of the FAFSA (see a high school counselor if you need help with this requirement.).
- Submit a personal statement indicating your goals and aspirations and what St. Stephens has meant to you in your life.
- Include a transcript of your high school credits and grades, along with a statement from your school containing your grade point average and class rank. (See your high school counselor.)
- Submit letters of recommendation from:
 - a St. Stephens, Merrill, pastor
 - your high school principal
 - one high school teacher
 - one member of the community (not a relative)

First consideration for all of the available scholarships will be given to those students who meet all of the above criterion. However, the Scholarship Committee will give consideration to those undergraduate students who have been a previous recipient of a St. Stephens Scholarship, and who remain ACTIVE AND FAITHFUL TO ITS MINISTRY, and who are presently in good standing at their school as of the time of application. When applying, please note on your application the year and amount of your scholarship.

Both scholarships, including dollar amounts, are awarded through the judgement of the St. Stephens Scholarship Committee. In order to protect impartiality, all names are removed from the application prior to committee review **Neither of the pastors at St. Stephens participates with the committee.**

Both scholarships will be for the school year beginning in the Fall of 2010 and will be awarded at the Baccalaureate Service held at St. Stephens this Spring.

We are grateful for the foresight and generosity of the Staats and Sholund families in making these scholarship funds available for worthy students from St. Stephens Church. We invite all applications by April 1, 2010.
-The St. Stephens Scholarship Committee



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CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 7-13

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

9:00 & 10:30 Worship and Sunday School
FOOD PANTRY

Radio Ministry is sponsored in memory of Loved
Ones from Mr. & Mrs. Carlen Stevens

MONDAY, MARCH 8

6:30 Church Council

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

4:00 Wedding Policy Meeting
6:00 Youth Committee Meeting
6:30 Christian Ed. Meeting
6:30 AI-Anon

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

10 AM & 7 PM Lent Services
12:00 Lenten Lunch @ St. Francis
5:00 Lenten Soup Supper
5:30 Multigenerational Bible Study (pre-register)
6:00 Senior Choir

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

5:30 Special Singers

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

12:00 AA Meeting

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS SUNDAY

Old Testament: Isaiah 55:1-13
Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

SERMON

"Second Chances Run Out"

HYMNS FOR THIS SUNDAY

#622 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
#602 O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee
#348 More About Jesus Would I Know
#709 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

BIBLE TRIVIA (Each answer is worth 10 tickets.)

1. What plague in Egypt fell from the sky?
(Ex.9:23-24)
2. Who held the coats of those who stoned
Stephen? (Acts 7:58)
3. How many times was Paul shipwrecked? (2 Cor.
11:25)

*Did you get last week's answers? 1. Joseph 2.
the first 3. she turned into a pillar of salt*