



The Hallelujah Messenger

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you..” Luke 6:38 NIV

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WHY IS IT CALLED “STEPHEN MINISTRY?”

Most Christians have heard about the stoning of Stephen but few remember the reason. Acts 6 tells how the early church grew to the point where people’s needs were being neglected. So, the Apostles commissioned lay people to care for God’s converts. Stephen was the first and in a sense became the first Stephen Minister.

In Acts 2:42-47, it states that the fellowship of believers sold possessions and goods and came together and had everything in common...And “the Lord added to their numbers daily those who were saved”. (Most Christians remember the story of Acts 4:32-37 as it describes a couple, Ananias and Sapphira who held back some of the profits and were struck dead.) However, Acts 5:12-16 states that “many were healed by the Apostles”.

Acts 6 documents complaints that widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. The Apostles decided that they were unable to continue their teaching and preaching and chose seven men who were known to be “full of the Spirit and Wisdom”. The responsibility for daily distribution was turned over to these men and the apostles stated, “We will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a “man full of faith and the Holy Spirit”. Verse 8 states “Stephen did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people.” Opposition then arose among the Pharisees who felt threatened by the ministry which resulted in Stephen being arrested and stoned.

In support of the Stephen Ministry in our congregation, members are asked to “give attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” You will also be asked to refer persons that you know are experiencing crises and difficulties in their daily lives to our Pastor, Paul Harris, the point person for Stephen Ministry at CCUMC.

For more information about Stephen Ministry, contact Verda Turnbo, 512 308-9138; Judy Walker, 512 308-1162; or Pastor Paul at 512 303-1393.

The Importance of Prayer

Praying Right Now

"So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer" (Ezra 8:23).

Finding Stephen Ministers is the next step for our congregation's Stephen Ministry. Right now we are praying for the individuals God is calling to serve as caregivers. Please include this need in your prayers. God answers our prayers because he is faithful. For more information about Stephen Ministry, contact Verda Turnbo, 512 308-9138; Judy Walker, 512 308-1162; or Pastor Paul at 512 303-1393.

Prayer Power

James tells us that the prayers of righteous people are powerful and effective (James 5:16). During the coming week, we invite you to pray about our congregation's Stephen Ministry. Specifically, please pray for those God is calling to serve as caregivers in this ministry. For more information about Stephen Ministry, contact Verda Turnbo, 512 308-9138; Judy Walker, 512 308-1162; or Pastor Paul at 512 303-1393.

Using Your Spiritual Gifts

Gifted to Care

Spiritual gifts are gifts to give away. God gives them to us, and we use them to serve others. How are you using your gifts right now? Are you looking for a new way to use them? If your spiritual gifts include one or more of the following--faith, mercy, teaching the faith, encouragement, or knowing--consider Stephen Ministry, our congregation's one-to-one caregiving ministry. This may be just what you've been looking for! Contact Verda Turnbo, 512 308-9138; Judy Walker, 512 308-1162; or Pastor Paul at 512 303-1393 to learn more about this ministry.

Your Gifts Package

Faith, mercy, teaching the faith, encouragement, or knowing: Do one or more of these gifts describe you? If so, check out Stephen Ministry, our congregation's one-to-one caregiving ministry. A new training class is starting soon. Contact Verda Turnbo, 512 308-9138; Judy Walker, 512 308-1162; or Pastor Paul at 512 303-1393 today to find out more about what you can do for the Lord.

Preparing to Serve

Learn, Grow, and Serve by Becoming a Stephen Minister

Do you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening? If so, please prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister. Cedar Creek United Methodist Church will be training a class of Stephen Ministers on Sundays, 4pm -6:30pm. Stephen Ministers provide emotional and spiritual support and care to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness. To find out more about becoming a Stephen Minister or how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Verda Turnbo, 512 308-9138; Judy Walker, 512 308-1162.

Ready? Set? Minister!

Riding a bike. Using a new computer program. Ironing a shirt. Training is important whenever anyone learns a new skill. Training is important in Stephen Ministry too. Before Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers begin their work, they go through a lot of training. When they start their official ministry, they're ready.

A training class for Stephen Ministers is beginning soon. To find out more about what this ministry has to offer, contact Verda Turnbo, 512 308-9138; Judy Walker, 512 308-1162 today.



Outreach, August, 2011

Recently, a much beloved member of our church told me they wanted the Outreach Team to have a much more visible presence at CCUMC events and activities. To be honest, I am not real sure how I responded to this request, but it has certainly given me much to think about, and four questions have come out of my ponderings:

- 1) How would members of CCUMC have the Outreach Team be more visible at CCUMC events?
- 2) How are the Outreach efforts of CCUMC not visible?
- 3) What Outreach efforts would you like to see CCUMC participate in?
- 4) Who is the Outreach Team?

Will you give me a response to questions 1, 2 and 3? You are encouraged to email me, call me, or drop me a note.

While I wait for you to respond to me on the first 3 questions, I will address question 4 here . . . Who is the Outreach Team? Officially, there are eight active, committed members of the Outreach "Team", they are Ginger and Brent Salone, Gwen Bunnell, Gloria and Arnold Essler, Vickie James, Caitlyn Goodwin and myself. We used to have fifteen, but for reasons of personal challenges Joe and Geri Gambino, Peggy Eastabrook, Elma Campbell, Edie Stimach, Alice Ives and Pat Miller have all had to resign from our team. We have not yet found volunteers to step up to the special ministries they spearheaded. Those that remain committed to the Outreach Team have stepped forward to fill in the gaps.

Unofficially? Every member of CCUMC is a member of our Outreach Team. Did you know that? Whenever you share your time, talent and/or treasure to fulfill a need, to help someone else, to lend a hand, you commit an act of Outreach.

If you only come once a month to help with Angel Food . . . **YEA!** We love to see you, to visit with you, to share you with our neighbors and friends, and you bless all of us with your time and presence!

If you only wrote a check . . . **YEA!** We need the funds. The funds are used to help our neighbors, and these funds come from you. By donating, you have blessed someone who needed your blessing!

If you only visited and listened . . . **YEA!** You gave someone the blessing of your presence and time, which is valued beyond measure!

When you volunteer for or donate to VBS, Easter Egg Hunt, Spring/Fall Festivals, Wednesday at the Well, Trinity Travelers, Brown Bag Study group, Geezers, Children's ministries, Education ministries, Nurture Team, Evangelism Team, Worship Team, Blood drives, Saturday Servants, Christmas Dinner, Angel Tree, Angel Food, CCE supplies, Food Drives, Youth Group activities, you give of yourself, and this is what CCUMC Outreach is all about.

YOU make the difference . . . YOU are the key to change . . . and YOU are the visibility of CCUMC Outreach. I leave you with this thought and quote . . . ***'You must be the change you wish to see in the world'***. (*Mahatma Ghandi*) and ". . . anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me." Matthew 25:40 (read Matthew 25:34-40).

May God continue to bless you as richly as you bless all of us, your brothers and sisters in Christ.

~Debra Goodwin Outreach Committee dcgoodwin@austin.rr.com (512) 636-3517

~Ongoing Outreach Ministries ~

***Angel Food Ministries** – We have the opportunity to grow this ministry if you will help spread the word. Visit the bulletin board at the Worship Center front door. If you have any questions regarding this ministry, please feel free to give me a call, Debra Goodwin, (512) 636-3517.

***Good Neighbor Fund** - This fund is monitored and administered by Pastor Paul and Pastor Katy. Our Pastors do a tremendous job of meeting needs and praying with our neighbors here in Cedar Creek. If you have any questions regarding this ministry, please feel free to give me a call, Debra Goodwin, (512) 636-3517, or visit with Pastor Paul and Pastor Katy!

***Cracker Basket** – Vicki James is coordinating this exciting ministry! Snack cracker donations will be taken into the two Austin VA Medical centers to be given to homeless veterans as they come in for treatment! For questions about this ministry, please contact Vicki at (512) 247-4625!

***Bastrop Food Pantry** – Ginger & Brent Salone coordinate CCUMC's efforts for this ministry. Your food and money donations stay right here in Bastrop County. Will you help CCUMC increase their donations to Bastrop Food Pantry this year? We are asking each member of our church to commit to bringing one non-perishable food item per month to church and place it in our RED donation box sitting in the hallway.

***CCUMC Food Pantry** – The Nurture Committee coordinates this wonderful Cedar Creek ministry because so many people come to our church seeking help, and with this pantry, Pastor Paul and Pastor Katy are able to help meet some of those needs. Pass the word to your friends and Bible Study classes! Let's keep this pantry full!

***Cedar Creek Elementary** – CCUMC has a long standing tradition of supporting the needs of this school. Sadly, CCE is "86% economically disadvantaged". Our continued effort on the school's behalf helps not only the school administrators and educators, but also the children and their families. The needs are many and your donations are sought, and greatly appreciated. The most needed items are listed below:

- a. Mentors
- b. School Supplies
- c. New undies, sizes 4 – 14, girls and boys
- d. Gently used children's clothing, clean

Disaster Recovery** - Ginger & Brent Salone coordinate CCUMC's Early Response Teams. ERT's are specially trained teams that offer assistance soon after the disaster strikes. They generally do clean-up work and tasks required to stop further damage from being done, e.g. putting tarps on damaged roofs. They might do minor repairs that help make homes habitable, but they do not do extensive repairs or reconstruction (that is the job for Long Term Recovery). ***If you would like to know more about helping Texans recover when disaster strikes, please visit with Ginger and Brent or visit our Conference website at: <http://www.umcswtx.org/umc-disaster-response.html>

The Stewardship of Wellness Why Wellness?

The way I normally describe my reason for seeking wellness is so that I may be able to serve others rather than have them serve me (1 Peter 4:10). Having just passed the 71st anniversary of my birth, I am getting to the age that illness would not be unexpected. Although my dad lived more than twenty years past that age, and my mom nearly twenty, I saw them in declining health for decades. Their world shrank from a small farm to a house and lot, to a borrowed house, to an apartment, to one shared room. Both of my parents had dedicated much of their lives to serving family, friends—others. But the final decades of their lives were consumed with survival, accepting care rather than giving it.

On a deeper level, I believe that the true reason for me to strive for wellness is my role as a member of the Body of Christ—the Church. This point is addressed in [Romans 12](#) and [1 Corinthians 12, among other scriptures](#). The Head of the Body is Jesus Himself; the central nervous system relaying His guidance is the Holy Spirit. As those recognize who have studied the gifts of the Spirit, each member of the Church is a unique member of the Body. As 1 Corinthians 12:28 tells us, some are apostles, some prophets, some teachers. I heard one joker describe himself as a special member of the Body—a hangnail. Most likely each of us knows someone in the church who can best be described as a "grace builder" because their actions compel others to grow in grace.

Being a unique member of the Body of Christ, what kind of member will I be? I have known some great leaders and teachers in the church. For example, from about 1959 until 1976, I participated in and was discipled by a fellowship of Christian officers. One of the early leaders I knew was Cleo "Buck" Buxton, a veteran of WW II; another was Lieutenant General William K. Harrison, Jr., the signer of the Korean War cease-fire on behalf of the US and UN. Buck was a committed Christian, effective leader, and faithful discipler of those within his influence. General Harrison was equally capable as leader, teacher, mentor, and role model. The difference between them was that Buck did not guard his wellness and died relatively young; General Harrison lived to about the age of 87 and was actively engaged to the end. To the extent that I have choices, I choose to follow General Harrison.

The Lord Provides!
Myron Remington
Myron62@juno.com

Back to School Night and Community Dinner

Wednesday, August 17th, 5:30 – 8:00

It's time to get ready for school!! Cedar Creek United Methodist Church will have a clothes swap, free school supplies and hair cuts to help you prepare for the first day of class. Dinner will be served from 5:30 – 7:00 so come make an evening of it for the whole family.

Community Meal Coordinator - **Ed and Roberta Laundry**

Facilities Coordinator - **Pastor Paul**

Clothing Donations Coordinator - **Youth Group/Pastor Katy**

Hair Care Professionals Coordinator - **(Pending)**

School Supply Coordinator - **Ginger Salone**

Event Hosts Coordinator - **Verda Turnbo**

Event Advertising Coordinator - **Lillian Nogues**

Invite Local Agencies – **Nancy Litzau**

Your help is needed . . . please contact one of these Coordinator's and volunteer your time, talent and treasure!
Or call me, Debra Goodwin, 512.636.3517

New CCUMC Financial Peace Class Begins in September

What is Financial Peace University?

FPU is the most important step to changing your financial future. It is your Total Money Makeover Program. It takes the knowledge from God and turns it into real action in our lives through a step-by-step process taught by best-selling author and financial counselor Dave Ramsey.

FPU is a 13-week life-changing program that empowers and teaches you how to make the right money decisions to achieve your financial goals and God's plan for your life. The course includes practical lessons on eliminating debt, building wealth, giving like never before, and much, much more!

Who is Financial Peace University for?

It's for EVERYONE!...from the financially secure to the financially distressed. Over 1 million families and individuals have attended .

Applying God's Word radically changes your life. On average, FPU graduates have paid off over \$5,300 in debt and saved \$2,700 during the 91-day program!

What Will I Learn?

In this life-changing program you will learn:

Luke 14:28: "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it."

Proverbs 22:7: "The borrower is slave to the lender."

Ecclesiastes 11:2: "Give portions to seven, yes to eight, for you do not know what disaster may come upon the land."

The preview for FPU will be held Wednesday, August 31 at 6:30 pm in Room 201, Upstairs in the Worship Center. The class begins Wednesday, Sept. 7 at 6:30 pm also in Room 201. For additional information, please contact Robert Jones at 303-7931 or Brian Telle at 925-9439.

Come one; come all singers!

Traditional service choir resumes Wed., Aug. 17th, at 6:45 P.M., in the Music Room. Let's add some musical joy to that big evening at our church!

Phil Flories' son, John, is in basic training at Great Lakes, Illinois, and would love to hear from any of our members who would like to send him a word of encouragement, etc. He will not be able to respond to any correspondence while he is in basic training but I am sure he would love to hear from us. His address is below:

SR, Flories, John W

Ship 12 Div 296

Recruit Training Command

3515 Sailor Dr Great Lakes, IL 60088-3515

Do you have some old ties you just can't throw away?

Here is an opportunity to donate them to a good cause!!!!

A giving opportunity has come for you to purge your supply of old ties you are not wearing. It is hard to get rid of them, but they can be repurposed for a good Emmaus cause. Please leave them in the "Choir Director" mail box.

Thanks and De colores! Barb Zech

Weekly Scriptures to Encourage Generosity and the Grace of Giving

Week Beginning August 7

“Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.” (Deuteronomy 16:17)

Week Beginning August 14

“Give, and it shall be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measure to you.” (Luke 6:38)

Week Beginning August 21

“...Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:20-21)

Week Beginning August 28

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.” (Malachi 3:10)

A RIDDLE TO PONDER

What is greater than God,

More evil than the devil,

The poor have it,

The rich need it,

And if you eat it, you'll die?

ANSWER: Nothing

Online Giving: Beginning July 1st, Cedar Creek United Methodist Church is pleased to announce that we now offer a secure & convenient way for you to contribute to your parish! Online donations may be made at any time from the comfort of your own home. Online donations are credited to your tax statement for the end of the year (except when made anonymously), and each user can change his or her preferences or amounts at any time. Your gift supports ministry in and making disciples for Jesus Christ.

To sign up, please go to: <http://www.cedarcreekumc.org/donations>



"Discipleship Opportunities"

Sunday

9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Contemporary Worship Service

10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Traditional Worship Service



A HUG FROM THE LORD

Message from Newsletter Editor:

Please feel free to submit any articles, upcoming activities, etc., that you would like to see in the newsletter. I will be happy to include any and all items submitted. The deadline for the September Newsletter articles is August 26, 2011.

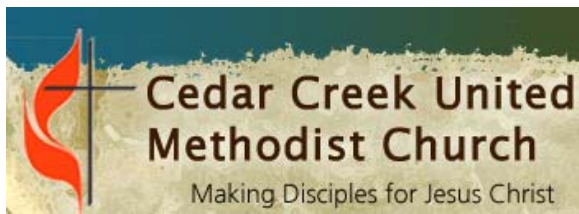
I am also interested in including a prayer list and a list of special joys and/or celebrations in each monthly newsletter. Please send me the names and any other information you would like included for the prayer list or the special joys/celebrations list and I will see that it gets in the newsletter.

If you would to receive the newsletter by email, please send me send me an email at the address below. Please include CCUMC Newsletter in the subject line so your message doesn't go to my junk mailbox.

May your blessings be many and your troubles few!

Janice Hoffman , Editor

jhoffmanccumc@aol.com



WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
WWW.CEDARCREEKUMC.ORG

Administrative Council and Leaders for 2011

Church Council Chair **Ginger Salone**
 Lay Leader **Doedee Vann**
 Lay Delegate to SWTX # 1 **Doedee Vann**
 Lay Delegate to SWTX # 2 **Laura Harris**
 Lay Delegate to SWTX # 3 **Andi Hudson (Y)**
 Alternate Delegate *to be named later*
 District Missions Board **Doedee Vann**
 Staff Parish Relations Chair **Verda Turnbo**
 Board of Trustees Chair **Brent Salone**
 Finance Chair **Jim Cole**
 Church Treasurer **Bob Severance**
 Financial Secretary **Irene Sparks**
 Membership Secretary **Janice Hoffman**
 Recording Secretary **Sandy Walthall**
 Church Historian **Laura Zglinski**
 Website Communications **Terri Underhill**
 Christian Education Co-Chair **Mark Clingan**
 Christian Education Co-Chair **Jim Dufour**
 Outreach Ministries Chair **Debra Goodwin**
 Evangelism Chair **Mary Ann Green**
 Generosity Chair **Brian Telle**
 Nurture Chair **Pat New**
 Worship Chair **Charlene Severance**

2011	2012	2013
<u>Lay Leadership Team:</u>		
Doedee Vann	Diana Jones	Geri Gambino
Laura Zglinski	Ann Adams	Curtis Dunford
Peggy Collier	Jim Talbot	Zack Taylor

Staff Parish Relations:

Arnold Essler	Sunshine Reyes	Loren Hahn
Jonathan Lindsey	Fred Emens	Sharon Estrada
Verda Turnbo	Ben Ortiz	King Rawlins

Board of Trustees:

Henry Gideon	Chuck Osborne	Robert Jones
Brent Salone	Ray Guillory	Joe Gambino
Mark Adams	Ed Leighton	April Hudson

Cedar Creek Childcare Center Board Representative:

Pat Miller	Pip Taylor	Diana Jones
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Lay Speakers: Recertification – Sue Kratochvil, Myron Remington, Shirley Smith, Jim Talbot, Doedee Vann, Mark Clingan

New Certification – Loren Hahn, Janet (Larson) Hahn

DEADLINE
 For August Newsletter Items week of
 August 22, 2011 for distribution on August 28, 2011
 Email articles to jhoffmanccumc@aol.com
 And/or ccumc@cedarcreekumc.org