

A Newsletter from St. Stephen's
A UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY

The Weekly Messenger

December 11, 2011

www.ssumc.com

NEW Small Groups and Studies Starting in January!

We have new groups starting in January! Please read the description below and contact Shelly Boeglin at 293-9673 x 101 or sboeglin@ssumc.com to sign up for a group or for more information.

EPIC OF EDEN CLASS: Would you like to understand the theme around which the Bible is organized? Does your knowledge of the Old Testament seem like a miscellaneous collection of people, stories, and writings, yet you would like to make sense of it? If so, you might be interested in participating in a small group that will be studying an easily-readable book written by an Old Testament professor entitled "The Epic of Eden: A Christian's Entry into the Old Testament." The book claims to put the Old Testament "in usable order—a history of God's redeeming grace. A story that runs from the Eden of the Garden to the garden of the New Jerusalem. This is a book that will renew your enthusiasm for studying the Bible. ... This book will not only expand your knowledge, it will deepen your spiritual life." The small group will meet weekly from 6:30 – 7:45 p.m. on Thursdays at St. Stephen's UMC for 10 weeks beginning January 19th. Books will cost about \$20. Outside of class preparation is roughly 2 hours per week. For more information or to register for the class, contact Alan or Bonnie Armentrout (899-3099) by January 4th.

MOTHER OF YOUNG CHILDREN SMALL GROUP: Are you ready to deepen your relationship with God? Strengthen your spiritual walk? Develop friendships with other women? Experience growth through a small group? Discuss connections between Scripture and everyday life? Add a spiritual component to your women's ministry? Join Debbie McGrady for this study Wednesday, January 18th at 9:15 am will be the start of this seven week study. This series is titled Sisters: Bible Study for Women - Unfailing Love. Childcare will be available if requested in advance.

CON'T ON BACK

ON THE CALENDAR



Solid Grounds Coffeehouse
Saturdays at 6:30
Free Coffee - Live Music

Saturday, Dec 17 from 6:30 pm
Bill Hearne Trio

The Bill Hearne Trio has been playing together since 2005. The Trio plays a variety of (mostly obscure) songs, many written by Texas songwriters whom Bill knows, as well as Western Swing, Honky Tonk, and "Classic" Country songs from the 50's and 60's.
www.myspace.com/billhearnetrio;
www.billhearne.com

Sunday, December 18
from 5-7:30 pm
Interactive "A Christmas Story"
Children's Worship Center



**CHRISTMAS
EVE
SERVICES
AND
CHRISTMAS
DAY SERVICE
DETAILS ON
BACK**

Sunday, January 1
Old-Fashioned Methodist Potluck
Fellowship Hall



Upcoming

**SUNDAY
MESSAGE**

DECEMBER 18 MESSAGE: PASTOR TODD

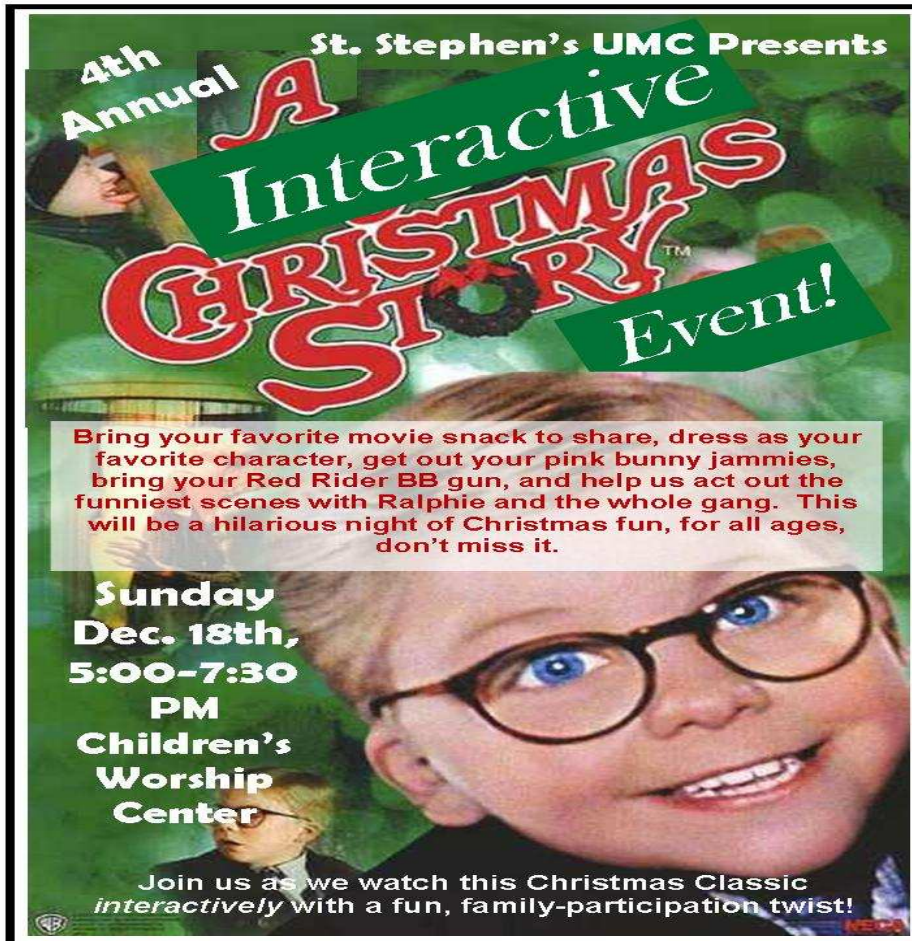
"Journey to Bethlehem: From Nazareth to Bethlehem"

We often refer to our spiritual life as a "journey." Both figuratively and literally, Mary and Joseph, as well as their unborn child, have been on a life-altering journey...for all of humanity! What we don't often focus on is the preparation Mary and Joseph undertook before this trip. But it provides insights for us in our preparation for the coming of the Messiah!

SMALL GROUPS AND STUDIES, CON'T

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY: DISCIPLE is a program of disciplined Bible study aimed at developing strong Christian leaders. It focuses on the disciple as learner, believer, follower, proclaimer, and servant while providing the fellowship of a small group for study, prayer, preparation, support, and servanthood. DISCIPLE assumes that the Bible is key to renewal in the church and affirms that the canon was formed as it is in order for God to speak to us. The study gives the Old and New Testaments equal time, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as a revelation of God and draws upon the work of scholars to aid understanding of the Bible. Jill Spurlin and Todd Salzwedel will be leading an online course with some gathering times for questions and discussions. An information/lunch session will be held on January 15 at 12:15 pm in Room 20 to learn more about the Disciple study.

TWO NEW FAMILY GROUPS: Two new groups starting! One will be meet Wednesdays, and the other is TBD. Interested in more information on family groups, please contact Shelly Boeglin.



4th Annual St. Stephen's UMC Presents
A Interactive CHRISTMAS STORY Event!

Bring your favorite movie snack to share, dress as your favorite character, get out your pink bunny jammies, bring your Red Rider BB gun, and help us act out the funniest scenes with Ralphie and the whole gang. This will be a hilarious night of Christmas fun, for all ages, don't miss it.

Sunday Dec. 18th, 5:00-7:30 PM
Children's Worship Center

Join us as we watch this Christmas Classic interactively with a fun, family-participation twist!

Christmas Services SCHEDULE

December 24—Christmas Eve "the manger"

4:00 pm: Family Service
6:00 pm: Solid Grounds Service
8:00 pm: Traditional
11:00 pm: Communion (Pastor Reuben)

After all the talk and preparation, at some point we are called to action. Often times, we don't feel ready or adequate to the task. Mary and Joseph surely felt the same way! And I'm sure that they revisited those same feelings throughout the rest of their lives! After all of the prayer, learning, and anticipation, we too need to put our faith into action. But we also need to realize that this will be an ongoing venture in our "journey"!

One service at 10 am
December 25
Christmas day



SATURDAY, 10:10
DECEMBER 31
6:00-10:00 pm

Solid Grounds
Coffeehouse New Year's
Eve Party!

Dance to the music of
Los Radiators!
Appetizer and dessert buffet,
door prizes,
family-friendly!



SUNDAY,
JANUARY 1

Special Wesleyan
Covenant Service
Two services at 9 and 11 am

COOKIES FOR THE TROOPS

A big THANKS to all of the bakers who volunteered to bake for the KAFB troops! Please have the cookies at the church by Wednesday, Dec 14 no later than 3:00 pm. Please do not bag the cookies in small bags; just put them in large disposable containers. Your help with this project will mean a lot to the troops! — Bonnie Eddings

