



STILLWATER CHURCH

"People helping people love and serve Jesus!"

MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER



A Special Message from Pastor Tony Barnes

May is a Time for Reflection and Renewal

As May 2025 approaches, I am filled with excitement and awe at what God has been doing. I have now had the honor of serving as your associate pastor for two years and have loved every minute. I have watched as God has been moving in each and every one of you and in this church we call Stillwater. This time of year, for me, has caused a time of great reflection.

I had the pleasure of serving at the last Men's Emmaus Walk and had to prepare for a talk on the Means of Grace. One of the points of that talk is ordination. Many of you know that I will be ordained on May 5, 2025, at our Annual Conference in Montgomery. As I was writing about what that would mean for me and what it has taken to get there, I began to think of that moment in time when I finally said yes to God's call for pastoral ministry. I remember the exact moment, because it was during my Emmaus Walk on that Sunday afternoon that I told God that he could stop chasing because I was tired of running. I wanted to know that exact day for my talk to these new Emmaus men. I pulled out my blue book that tells all the particulars of a walk, and I was completely shocked to see that my walk was May 3-5, 2019. That means that my decision to answer that call was May 5, 2019, and my ordination is May 5, 2025. With God, there are no coincidences, only affirmations, that you are on the right path.

May is an exciting time. Spring comes and life seems to be renewed. This is also a time that our graduates set out on new adventures. I have two girls at home that are preparing to head off to college. We have others in our church as well. Some are heading off to college, and some are graduating and preparing to start their careers. As they set off on this new chapter of life, it is my prayer that they understand that you don't graduate from the church. Your relationship with God is a lifelong learning adventure that will take you to places you never imagined. So, as you pack away those school uniforms for the last time, hold fast to God's Word and listen for his calling on your life.

Many Methodists around the world have listened to that calling in their faith journey. It was only two Mays ago that we saw the birth of our new denomination, the Global Methodist Church. Through that new birth we have seen a resurgence of the Holy Spirit as it has revitalized our faith. Everything seems to be in bloom during this time of year.

As you are enjoying this May, I pray that you open your hearts and minds to the glories that God wants to show you. I pray that you will take the time to stop and listen and then act on that call, whatever it may be. Be open to new opportunities, new life and new growth.

Mark Your Calendars!

- Mondays - Food Pantry, 9-11am
- **Tuesdays - Tuesday Adult Small Group, off for the summer**
- Tuesdays - Prayer Team Meeting, 6pm, Sanctuary
- Thursdays - VIBE Ministry, 6pm, Sanctuary
- May 4 - Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall
- May 4 - Kids Ministry Team Meeting, 3pm, Fellowship Hall
- May 7 - Bake Auction, 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall
- May 11 - Mother's Day
- May 16 - Early Learning Center K4 Graduation, 6pm, Sanctuary
- May 18 - Graduation Sunday & Reception, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall
- May 18 - Missions Team Meeting, 12pm, Choir Room
- May 23 - Family Games Night, 6-8pm, Fellowship Hall

May Sermon Series "What Was I Made For?"

"What Was I Made For?" is a sermon series that will help believers answer life's biggest question: "What was I made for?" When we know our purpose, we can walk in God's confidence and joy.



- May 4 "Who Am I?" Genesis 1:26-27
- May 11 "Laboring for Love" 1 John 4:19-21
- May 18 "Planned for Purpose" 1 Corinthians 12:4-7
- May 25 "Wired for Worship" John 4:23-24
- June 1 "Created for a Calling" Ephesians 2:10



Wednesday Night Dinners in May

In May, we will wrap up our spring Wednesday Night Program. On May 7, we will have our annual bake auction to benefit the ministries of our young people. Bring a dessert for the auction and let's see how much money we can raise! May 14 will be the finale, Volunteer Recognition Night. Dinners begins at 5:30pm. Register for meals on Sunday Connection Cards or call the church office.

5:30pm meal cost: \$8 adults, \$6 children, \$25 family max. First-time guests and young adults (18-25) eat free.

What's for dinner on April 30? Mexican Night!



Capital Improvements Update

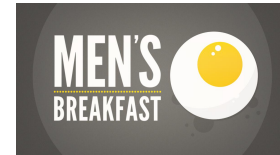
Stillwater is continuing to improve our campus. We



are excited to see the old vinyl siding on the sanctuary coming down! This siding has been on our building for more than 30 years and has been cracking, falling apart, or has even fallen off the building. The vinyl siding is being replaced with Hardie Board, which is made of concrete. This will ensure that our beautiful building will continue to serve this community as we share God's love with others. Thank you to all of our generous givers and volunteers that help make improvements at Stillwater happen!

Men's Breakfast, May 4

All men of the church are invited the first Sunday of each month at 7am for breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is a freewill donation, and we enjoy casual conversation and a short devotion. Join us May 4!



Graduation Sunday, May 18

May 18 is Graduation Sunday! We will have a reception for our high school and college graduates in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am and recognize them during the 10:30am service. Contact the church office at info@stillwaterchurch.com or 251-675-2728 with your graduate's information so that we can recognize them on Graduation Sunday.

Women's Resource Center Baby Bottle Campaign

Fill a bottle. Change a life! The Baby Bottle Campaign for the Women's Resource Center exists to inform and empower women and their families. It's easy to participate! From Mother's Day until Father's Day, pick up a bottle in the church lobby and fill it with coins, cash, or a check over the coming weeks. Bring it back to the church by Father's Day and know that your giving is making a positive difference for the women and children in our community. You can also give online at wrcmobile.org/donate.



Kids and Students Recognitions and Awards

We would love to recognize all of the awards that our Stillwater kids and students received for the school year in the next monthly newsletter. Email all of your child's information to the church office at info@stillwaterchurch.com so that we can celebrate their achievements.

Vacation Bible School 2025

Join us for
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



JUNE 23-27

9 AM - NOON

FOR CHILDREN AGE 3 YRS - 5TH GRADE
REGISTRATION BEGINS MAY 25



Kids Korner

Many, many thanks to all those who made our **Easter Eggstravaganza** such a huge success! Everyone who attended was well fed and had fun hunting eggs, shopping at the Bunny Store, making Easter crafts, dancing to some fun songs, playing games, and laughing together! It was a fun morning!

Join us for **Family Game Night** on Friday, May 23, 6-8pm! Let's celebrate the end of another great school year with dinner and games for all ages. Families are encouraged to come for an evening of fun! We will eat together, have a quick devotion, and play lots of family friendly games.

Our **Stillwater Kids Ministry Team** will meet on Sunday, May 4, at 3pm. This team is a group of parents and Kids Ministry leaders who meet quarterly to discuss upcoming events and dreams for the future. If you would like to know more, please contact Betty Moye at 251-604-0949.

Early Learning Center Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for the Early Learning Center's 2025-26 school year begins on April 30. Contact Linden Davis at 251-675-2904 or linden@stillwaterchurch.com for more information.



Missions Update

This month the Missions Committee is highlighting the Stillwater Food Pantry! The Food Pantry has been serving the North Mobile County area for years. In 2020, the need grew tremendously and God has been paving the way for us to continue serving. In 2024 alone, an accumulated 5,486 households were served. This was over 136 tons of food distributed that cost over \$31,000. This has been made possible through the help of 59 active volunteers! More volunteers are always needed and welcomed. The

following is a list of volunteer opportunities in the Stillwater Food Pantry:

UNLOADING FOOD TRUCK: Days vary. Receive 1-2 food trucks per month. Arrival time is usually in the mornings.

BAGGING FOOD BAGS: Thursday, every other week. Time: 3:00pm-5:30pm

FOOD DISTRIBUTION: Mondays. Time: 8:30am-11:15am

PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION: Fridays, on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday each month. Time: 10:00am-1:15pm. Light lunch is usually provided on Produce Day.

*****The next Missions Team meeting is Sunday, May 18, at 12pm, in the Choir Room.***

Serve Sunday Recap

What a blessing it was to serve as a church family on April 27 for our annual Serve Sunday. People of all ages were living out 1 Peter 4:10, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." The list of projects that were completed this year is below. Look at what the body of Christ can do when we work together. Look at what we can do in just a few hours. Imagine what we can do for Christ if we live with this servant spirit every day! Jesus gave His life for us. We should LIVE for Him!

Projects completed this year:

Yard Clean-Up
Cemetery Clean-Up
Building Gliders at Ahepa Apartments
Building a Prayer Box
Praying for Community Members at Piggly Wiggly
Free Car Wash and Lemonade Stand
Trash Pick-Up
Happy Home - Spring Cleaning
Hope Blankets for Cancer Patients
Cooking for First Responders
Food Pantry
Wee Servers
Blessing Bags
School Emergency Kits
Flood Buckets



Serve in the Backpack Ministry



Do you want to serve needy students in the Saraland School system? Ways to serve the Stillwater Backpack Ministry are packing food bags, delivering bags to the schools, and donating food items. Sign-ups are located in the church lobby Welcome Desk. This is an easy way for families or small groups to serve together. If you are serving this ministry for the first time, please contact the office (or Judy Callen) so we can show you how to pack bags and prepare them to be delivered to the schools.

***** Food items currently needed: Ravioli, Vienna Sausages, pudding cups, Capri Suns, fruit cups, cheese crackers.***

May Birthdays

05/03 Ryan Brown, Steven Sherrer, Destiny White
05/04 Justin Ladnier
05/09 Don Smith
05/11 JT Ladnier
05/12 Lori Outlaw
05/13 Bobby Epperson, Sr.
05/16 Meagan Jones, Zander Whetsel
05/17 Betty Moye
05/20 Preston Sasser
05/24 Kelli Salter
05/25 Karen Hennis
05/27 Aaron Milner
05/28 Russell Coxwell
05/31 Courtney Ladnier



Monthly Financial & Attendance Update

	Attendance		General	Capital
	In-Person	Online	Fund	Fund
Apr. 6	167	64	\$16,554	\$384
Apr. 13	169	64	\$9,424	\$60
Apr. 20	321	46	\$11,682	\$10,010
Apr. 27	140	0	\$5,607	\$4,498

Joys and Concerns

THANK YOU TO...

~ Everyone who helped with all of the Stillwater Easter Events and who served on Serve Sunday!

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

~ Tony Barnes for his upcoming Deacon ordination at annual conference on Monday, May 5, in Montgomery!

SYMPATHY TO...

~ Joyce and David Boshell, on the passing of Joyce's daughter, Amy Steele.

Weekly Prayer List

To submit a prayer concern or a praise to be shared on our weekly prayer email, or to sign up to receive our weekly prayer emails, please contact the church office at info@stillwaterchurch.com.

Telephone: (251) 675-2728
Email: info@stillwaterchurch.com
Website: stillwaterchurch.com

To give online, [click here](#) or scan the QR code below!



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