



STILLWATER CHURCH

"People helping people love and serve Jesus!"

JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER



A Special Message from Pastor Mike Hoppe

Relationships Over Performance

At Stillwater Church, we value relationships over performance. Or, as we like to say: *people over projects.*

We seek less to impress and more to simply be ourselves. In a highly edited, polished media world, this may seem countercultural - but we believe it's essential. Real relationships matter. When we're free to be ourselves, we let our guard down and form true friendships - across age groups and life stages. We also show seekers that Christianity isn't about a performance or a big show. We're just normal people, and Christ meets us right where we are.

Here are a few ways we're living out this relational approach at Stillwater - and how you can be part of it:

Nurture Team

Stillwater wants our shut-ins, hospitalized, sick, or in-need members to know they are deeply loved and cared for. If you have a compassionate heart and a desire to care for those in need, reach out to **Pastor Tony** to learn how to get involved in this vital ministry.

Altar Prayer Team

Many people seek Jesus during our Sunday morning worship services - and they often need someone to pray or talk with them. If you're interested in growing in your understanding of intercessory prayer, spiritual healing, or spiritual warfare, contact **Pastor Mike** to learn more about our upcoming training opportunity.

July 6: Worship + Connection

Join us for **combined worship at 10:00 am**, followed by a **free meal and games for all ages**. Don't rush out the door! Linger. Meet someone new. Ask questions that show genuine curiosity and care. This special service - and every gathering at Stillwater - is a chance to put relationships first.

Blessings,
Pastor Mike

Mark Your Calendars!

- Mondays - Food Pantry, 9-11am
- Tuesdays - Prayer Team Meeting, 6pm, Sanctuary
- Thursdays - VIBE Ministry, 6pm, Sanctuary
- July 6 - Combined Worship Service, 10am, followed by free lunch & fun activities for the family
- July 13 - Student and Family Tubing Trip, 12pm
- July 13 - Rebecca Reed Piano Recital & Reception, 2pm
- July 15 - By His Grace (Widows Helping Widows) Meeting, 10am, Choir Room
- July 18 - Club 345, 6-8pm
- July 20 - Missions Team Meeting, 12pm, Fellowship Hall
- July 26 - Disaster Response Training, 8:30am-3:30pm, Fellowship Hall
- Aug. 1 - Port City District Youth Day, 9:15am-4:30pm, Stillwater Church
- Aug. 3 - Back to School Sunday
- Sept. 9 - Tuesday Adult Small Group starts, 10am, Choir Room
- Sept. 21 - Stillwater Church 70th Anniversary Celebration, 10am Combined Worship followed by lunch



Independence Day Celebration, July 6

Join us on Sunday, July 6, at 10am, for a combined worship service, followed by a free lunch and family fun activities here at Stillwater!

Disaster Response Training, July 26

Stillwater Church is hosting Disaster Response Training on July 26, 8:30am-3:30pm. This Basic Disaster Response Team (DRT) training covers essential skills that a volunteer must have to effectively respond to a disaster. This training includes basic roof tarping, cleaning out flooded homes, assessment techniques, spiritual and emotional care, DRT protocols, and more. The training sessions are open to all individuals aged 18 and older. If you are interested in this training, find more information on costs, requirements, etc., at stillwaterchurch.com/disaster-response-training.



Church Directory Pictures

Stillwater is making a new church directory with photos to help celebrate our 70th anniversary later this year! A make-up picture day is scheduled for July 13, beginning at 9:30am until 12:30pm, for those interested in having their picture in the directory.

Rebecca Reed Recital

Rebecca Reed, Stillwater's Traditional Service Pianist, is having a recital at Stillwater on Sunday, July 13, at 2pm, with a reception to follow. Everyone is invited to this special event!





Student Ministry Update

Summer Tubing Trip - On Sunday, July 13, all middle and high school students are invited to go inner tubing at Magnolia Branch Reserve! Students' friends and families are invited. Younger children in families are invited as long as a parent goes. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall immediately after the 10:30 worship service, have a quick lunch, and carpool. We will return in the late afternoon. Cost is \$12 (\$10 to tube and \$2 to help cover the meal). Please RSVP to Pastor Mike if you plan to attend and how many will be joining you. Friends coming along will need to fill out the medical form to go off campus with us.

Port City District Youth Day - On Friday, Aug. 1, 9:15am-4:30pm, Stillwater Church is hosting youth groups from other district Global Methodist churches! There will be large group games, a community service project, swimming at the Chickasaw City Pool, lunch, worship, Bible studies, and commissioning for the new school year. Mark your calendar for this first-ever district youth gathering!

Meet Travis Grimes - Travis is joining our staff as a part-time Youth Ministry Intern. Travis graduated from the University of Mobile and is currently employed as a full-time accountant. Travis played saxophone in the UM RamCorp ensemble and has helped to lead chapel worship. He has also been a leader at a large youth summer camp. Travis senses God's leading to work with youth to help them hear the gospel of Christ that he didn't know when he was a teen. You will see Travis move into more leadership roles in our youth program in the coming months. Please welcome him to Stillwater Church when you meet him! We are also glad that Tony Feaster will be able to continue working with our youth in many volunteer capacities.

Kids Korner

THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all the youth and adults that helped with Vacation Bible School! We had a fun week in ancient Egypt learning about Joseph and the One True God. During the week, the kids learned that God gives us hope, special abilities, wisdom, forgiveness, and family. Check out the video recap of such a fun week by clicking this link: <https://www.stillwaterchurch.com/vbs/>.

Our Stillwater babies need you!



Our nursery is available during both worship services and the Sunday School hour on Sunday mornings. A paid worker is always present but sometimes extra hands are needed. Volunteers are needed to provide those extra hands! Our paid worker will do all of the “dirty” work! You would be responsible for playing, rocking, reading, and/or whatever task is comfortable for you! If you would be willing to be part of our Nursery Volunteer Team, please contact Betty (251-604-0949) or the church office to learn more and get on the schedule.



Workers are needed in our Kids Ministry! Adults are needed to help with Kids Sunday School Classes, Kids Worship and Wee Worship, Club 345, and Wednesday evening activities for kids. Please prayerfully consider stepping up to work with our kids! Contact Betty (251-604-0949 or betty@stillwaterchurch.com) for more information.

Campus Project Update

We want you to be aware of ongoing upgrades on our campus. Thank you for your faithful giving that makes these projects happen:



- **Roofing:** Our flat roof has been failing. Thankfully, it is still under warranty and the original installers are replacing the roof. In the meantime, we are enduring drips and fixing ceiling tiles.
- **Van:** The church van interior became wet and, as a result, became covered in mold. We had it professionally cleaned and hope it can be salvaged. We currently have \$6,500 in our new bus fund towards the eventual dream of purchasing a new, small bus.
- **New Air Conditioner:** The air conditioner in the Boy Scout building had to be replaced at a cost of \$6,500.



Feeding Hungry Children

This summer, Stillwater has been partnering with Saraland Schools to provide food for approximately 30 students. These students were identified by counselors as having the most severe need for food while out of school. Thanks to our Food Pantry volunteers for coordinating this important ministry.

Stillwater Security Team

The Stillwater Security Team is seeking more members to join the rotation of Sunday morning volunteers. Security Team members maintain a safe and welcoming environment, monitor entrances, exits, and hallways, assist in emergencies, support children's and youth safety, communicate and coordinate, follow church policies and training, and reflect Christ in all actions. If you are interested in joining this team, see Lenzie Overton or contact the church office at info@stillwaterchurch.com.



STILLWATER
SECURITY
TEAM



Women's Resource Center Baby Bottle Campaign

*****Please return all baby bottles - empty or full - to the church. The baby bottles are reused every year.*****

Backpack Ministry

Our Backpack Ministry is starting up again! We need people to pack bags, deliver bags, and food items. The following food items are appreciated: cans of ravioli, spaghetti-o's, soup, pop tarts, Vienna sausage, small packages of cookies, cheese crackers, breakfast bars, Ramen Noodles, instant grits and oatmeal packets, macaroni and cheese cups, and juice boxes. No items with peanut butter are needed due to allergies. Donated items can be dropped off in the lobby at our missions table. Sign-up sheets for packing bags and delivering bags will be available at the Welcome Desk in the church lobby by the end of July. Thank you for your diligence in the past years in supporting this ministry. We are looking forward to another wonderful year supplying our area school children with much needed nutritional assistance on the weekends.



Serve in the Food Pantry

Join us in serving our community! 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.

You may also give directly to this ministry by clicking [here](#) with "Food Pantry" noted on the memo line. Your gift helps touch the lives of people needing nutritious food, prayer, and a listening ear.

July Birthdays

07/01 Willie May
07/03 Tony Barnes
07/04 Stephen Martin
07/06 Kate Bonvillain
07/07 Pam Marchiolo
07/08 Ronnie Outlaw
07/11 Carolyn Wright
07/12 Jack Smith
07/13 Eldon Burr
07/15 Graycee Wallace
07/17 Carson Lee
07/19 Jackie Brown
07/20 Adalynn Lucas
07/24 Bobbie Pope
07/26 Sophia Burch
07/28 Jack Bledsoe
07/30 Therese Brown, Gage Chesney, Linda Fobes, Justin Middleton
07/31 Lori Stanley



Monthly Financial & Attendance Update

	Attendance		General	Capital
	In-Person	Online	Fund	Fund
June 1	139	57	\$12,500	\$131
June 8	149	66	\$10,033	\$85
June 15	183	58	\$8,153	\$110
June 22	164	62	\$4,843	\$60
June 29	188	55	\$6,427	\$60

Joys and Concerns

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

~ Sarah Robbins and Justin Snuggs on their wedding.

SYMPATHY TO...

~ Jean Davis and family on the passing of her brother, Mike Collins.

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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