



STILLWATER CHURCH

"People helping people love and serve Jesus!"

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



A Special Message from Pastor Tony Barnes

More Than a Greeting: The Ministry of Hospitality

Hospitality is one of the simplest, and most powerful ways the church lives out the love of Christ. It's easy to think of hospitality as a handshake at the door, a cup of coffee in the lobby, or a friendly smile before worship begins. Those things matter. But biblical hospitality goes much deeper. It is the intentional act of making space for others to be seen, known, and welcomed into the life of God's people.

Scripture consistently reminds us that hospitality is not optional for the believer. In Romans 12:13, we are called to "practice hospitality," and in Hebrews 13:2, we are reminded that in welcoming others, we may be entertaining angels without even knowing it. Hospitality, then, is not just about manners, it is ministry. It reflects the very heart of God, who welcomes us not as strangers, but as beloved children.

At its core, hospitality says, "You belong here." In a world where many feel overlooked, disconnected, or unsure of their place, the church has a unique opportunity to be different. Every conversation, every invitation, every moment of genuine care becomes a doorway through which someone can experience the grace of God.

True hospitality is not about perfection; it is about presence. It's remembering a name, noticing someone sitting alone, or taking a few extra moments to listen to someone's story. It's inviting a new family to lunch, checking on someone who has been absent, or simply creating an environment where people feel safe to ask questions and grow in their faith.

At Stillwater Church, hospitality is not the job of a few. It is the calling of all of us. Whether you are greeting at the door, serving on a team, or simply sitting in the pew, you are part of the welcoming presence of this church. The way we receive people often shapes how they experience God.

As we continue to live out our mission of "People Helping People, Love and Serve Jesus," let us be intentional about how we welcome others. A warm church is not built by programs alone, but by people who carry the heart of Christ into every interaction.

Because sometimes, the first glimpse someone gets of God's love... is us.

Join Us for Easter Events at Stillwater!

- Thursday, April 2, 7pm, **Last Supper Drama**
- Friday, April 3, 7pm, **Good Friday Service**
- Saturday, April 4, 9-11am, **Easter Eggstravaganza & Breakfast**
- Sunday, April 5, 6:30am, **Easter Sunrise Service at Bayou Sara Boat Launch**
- **Sunday, April 5, 8:30am & 10:30am, Easter Worship Services, Easter Message, "The Resurrection Miracle" (Luke 24:1-12)**



*****Please bring your own chair to the Easter Sunrise Service at Bayou Sara Boat Launch.***

*****Nursery will be provided for the Last Supper Drama.***



Easter Cross

Help decorate our Easter Cross by bringing fresh flowers on Easter Sunday. Pictures will be taken with the Easter Cross on Easter morning.

Mark Your Calendars!

- Mondays - Food Pantry, 9-11am
 - Tuesdays - Tuesday Adult Small Group, 10am, Choir Room
 - Tuesdays - Prayer Team Meeting, 5:30pm, Sanctuary
 - Tuesdays - Celebrate Recovery Step Study, 6-7pm, Choir Room
 - Wednesdays - Wednesday Night Dinner & Programs, 5:30-7:15pm
 - Thursdays - VIBE Ministry, 6:30pm, Sanctuary
 - Apr. 7 - Celebrate Recovery Launch Meeting, 7-7:45pm, Choir Room
 - Apr. 10 - Club 345, 6pm
 - Apr. 12 - Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall
 - Apr. 12 - Threads of Grace Ministry, 2-4pm, Fellowship Hall
 - Apr. 21 - Celebrate Recovery Launch Meeting, 7-7:45pm, Choir Room
 - Apr. 26 - Serve Sunday, 7:30am-12pm
 - May 6 - Bake Auction, 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall
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Wednesday Night Dinner and Programs

Wednesday Night Dinner and Programs will be off for Holy Week (April 1) and for Spring Break (April 15). Dinner and programs will take place all other Wednesdays in April.

Men's Breakfast, April 12

All men of the church are invited to Men's Breakfast on April 12, at 7am, in the Fellowship Hall! Cost is a freewill donation, and the men enjoy casual conversation and a short devotion.



Kids Korner

Our **EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA** is THIS SATURDAY, April 4, from 9-11am. We will have breakfast (pancakes with all the trimmings!) with the Easter Bunny, egg hunts, crafts, our annual Bunny Store, games and lots of fun! Everyone is encouraged to come and join in the fun! Children should bring an Easter basket for the egg hunts. Extra hands are still needed to help make the morning run smoothly. If you can help, please contact Betty at 251-604-0949, betty@stillwaterchurch.com or call the church office.

News from **Stillwater Kids Worship!** We offer Kids Worship (Kindergarten-5th grade) and Wee Worship (2-5 year-olds) at both the 8:30 and 10:30 services. During Kids Worship, our kids are experiencing the lesson in a variety of ways...dancing, singing, hearing and learning Scripture, doing crafts, and sharing in a story/sermon time. Each Sunday our Kids Worship and Wee Worship topic centers around the same topics covered in the morning sermon. Our kids are learning about the same message that is being preached in "big church" on Sunday mornings!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is in the planning stages and help is needed! If you would like to help with VBS this year, please speak with Betty. LOTS of adult and youth help will be needed!

Student Ministry Update

Real Life Youth Summer Camp, May 25-29

Stillwater is registered as a church for Real Life Youth Summer Camp and currently has 9 slots left for students to register. While we are registered as a church, individual registration is required and needs to be done as soon as possible. Because of the annual bake



auction, the church will absorb most of the \$325 cost. Each student will only pay \$100. The first deposit of \$50 is due by Sunday, April 12, and the remaining \$50 is due by Sunday, April 29.

For registration, please click on the link at the bottom of this article. When you click the link, go to the very bottom of the page and click Begin Individual Registration. Then, at the top of the page click that you are a part of a church group. After that fill out all required information.

<https://realife.fillout.com/bluespringsmay25>

Serve Sunday, April 26

Mark your calendar for Serve Sunday! Once a year, the congregation of Stillwater Church takes our mission of "People Helping People Love and Serve Jesus" out of the sanctuary and into the community! We start the day with a light breakfast (7:30am) and worship (8am) and then deploy our teams to serve. Projects will be available for all ages and will conclude around 12pm. Children in 1st-5th grade are asked to serve with their parents. Children age 3 years through K5 will have special activities at the church. Nursery is provided for children ages 2 and under. Each Sunday in April, before and after each service, signup cards for projects will be available. Please fill these out and return to the Missions Committee as soon as possible. You will be contacted by your team leader the week prior to Serve Sunday. Come join us and serve as the hands and feet of Christ!

Celebrate Recovery

Stillwater will host its first Celebrate Recovery Step Study on **Tuesday, March 31, at 6pm, in the Choir Room**. We anticipate being finished by 7pm.



Our goal is to have weekly step studies and bi-weekly CR Launch meetings. The next CR Launch Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 10, at 7pm, immediately following the Step Study at 6pm. The Launch meetings are for everyone who wants to be actively involved in any volunteer position. The Launch meetings should not last more than 30-45 minutes each. At each Launch meeting, we will discuss topics that will shape our Celebrate Recovery.

Step Studies are for anyone who wants to begin healing from a hurt, habit, or hangup, and for people who want to be small group leaders, sponsors, share their testimony at Celebrate Recovery, or hold a T.E.A.M. position within CR. Anyone can attend and participate in a Step Study. Everyone is encouraged to invite people who may benefit from this study outside of Stillwater. We should start interacting with people outside the church walls in these studies.

Joys and Concerns

Congratulations to...

~ Ali and Justin Welch on the birth of their baby boy, Phillip.

Sympathy to...

~ Elecia Ezell and family, on the passing of her sister.

~ Trish Martin and family, on the passing of her mother, Shirley Lane.

April Birthdays

04/02 Finley Beckner
04/06 Shauna Crenshaw
04/07 Emma Leveritt
04/09 Brittni Burch, Johnny Holley, Jerry Johnson, Stephanie Martin
04/10 Mac Boutwell, Meagan Stubbs
04/11 Millie Harrison
04/15 Chelsea Killingsworth
04/19 Victoria Crownover
04/21 Kaizer Byrd, Matthew Milner, Liz Oglesby
04/22 Brenden Bolen
04/23 Jean Davis, Lane Martin
04/24 Brooklyn Marchiolo
04/25 Quinn Currie, Rodney Waltman
04/27 Scott Crenshaw, Stephanie Moye, Brandy Ott, Corbin Whetsel
04/29 Reed Feaster
04/30 Miranda Ingram



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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