

**Connecting People with Jesus...
In Us... Among Us... Through Us**



ST. STEPHENS

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

2304 Springs Road NE
Hickory, NC 28601

Church: 828-256-9865
www.sslcms.org

School: 828-256-2166
www.sslswarriors.org

St. Stephens Staff

David Ziehr, Pastor + Shea Pennington, Pastor
David Guelzow, Visitation Pastor + Tristan Jones, Vicar
Ross Chiles, Principal + Randall Cline, Youth Ministry
Donna Lee, Children's Ministry + Brandon Buff, Facilities and Technology
Robert Smith, Traditional Music Director + David Day, Praise Team Director
Jadi Gurganious, Mission Facilitator + Savannah Lee, Communication Coordinator
Sharon Maynor, Administrator + Tashia Fisher, Church Administrative Asst.
Debbi Becker, School Administrative Asst.
Tiffany Sigmon, Receptionist & Visitor Engagement Coordinator
Kristy Smith, New Member Coordinator

4th Sunday of Easter

April 25 & 26, 2026

Welcome to Worship

We pray you will find the presence of God in our worship. We ask that all of our members and all guest to please print your name in the book passed along the pew before the offering. Guest, we encourage you to fill out a Connect Card also.

Holy Communion: We welcome all who have been instructed in the faith, who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior and in the true presence of His body and blood in the sacrament. If you are a guest today and would like to participate in the Sacrament, please consult a pastor or elder beforehand with any questions. **We do offer white grape juice and gluten free bread for those who need it.**

Children are welcome in our worship services. As an alternative, a nursery for infants through 2 years old is available in Room #101. The nursery is staffed from 8am to 12pm on Sunday mornings. For assistance, please see an usher.

Children's Worship (preschool & early elementary) is offered in the choir room during the 10:30am worship. Children will be dismissed before the sermon and return for offering.

Fire Exits: In addition to the main entrance, fire exits are located on both sides of the chancel and are opened for quicker exit from the church after worship.

Broadcast & Photography: Just a reminder that our services are live streamed on YouTube and may include images of the congregation. St. Stephens Lutheran Church reserves the right to use any photograph/video taken at any service on church grounds or event sponsored by St. Stephens Lutheran Church. A person attending who does not wish to have their image recorded for distribution should make their wishes known to the photographer. By participating in a St. Stephens Lutheran Church service or event or by failing to notify your desire to not have your photograph used, you are agreeing to release and the use of your picture.

Sunday School - 9:15am - 10:15am

For room location assistance, please see an usher.

Little Lambs /Preschool (3 & 4yrs) & Kinders:---- Ed Wing Riser Room----Martha Propst, Jane Guelzow, Sue Seabock & Cynthia Hewitt
Kid Connect/ Grades 1 & 2:-----Ed Wing #222----- Andrea Trent
Kid Connect/ Grades 3-5:-----Ed Wing #220 -----Teresa Ritchie
Jr. High Life Group: Led by Randall & Shannon Cline-----Youth House
Sr. High Life Group: Darel Reese & Jon Guelzow-----Youth House
Young Adult Life Group: Led by Taryn Cline & Dalton Powell-----Peace House
Adults: Led by Pastor/Vicar-----Scripture----- Fellowship Hall
Adults-Men's Bible Study: Led by Dwight Hollar----Genesis----School Bldg. #108
Adults: Led by Caleb Taylor/Katie Clontz-----Bible Lessons-----Choir Room
Adults - Led by Dean Ledbetter-----Eleven Days----- School Bldg. #109
Adults-Ladies Led by Regina Propst & Cindy Brinn:
In His Image by Jen Wilkin-----School Bldg. #110

Prayer on Entering

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Flowers

The flowers at the altar are give to the glory of God by Allen Crowe & Bobbie Starnes in celebration of their marriage on April 24 and in loving memory of Marvin and Lois Crowe, Arthur and Wanda Brittain, John and Faye Starnes.

Greeters

April 25th - Brent & Donna Townsend
April 26th - 8am- Jason & Faye Honeycutt
April 26th - 10:30am- Tim & Tonya Boliek

May 2nd - Chris, Danyelle & Connor Wyatt
May 3rd 8am- Judy Gurganious
May 3rd 10:30am- Tim & Tonya Boliek

Communion Assistants

April 26 10:30am - Chris Barringer, Eric Kent, Eddie Warren
May 3 8:00am - David Pingel & Steve Cain

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

April 26 - Shannon Cline May 3 - Teresa Ritchie

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 511 (81, 114, 316) Sunday School - 147
General Fund: \$24,590.94 (Regular Offer. needed each week: \$30,392.22)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$1,447.81
School Endowment Fund: \$195.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$109,098.93
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$3,273,804.23

Stay Connected to St. Stephens Lutheran

SATURDAY

5:30pm - Saturday Evening Worship & Holy Communion

SUNDAY

8:00am - Traditional Worship

9:15am - Family Bible Hour

10:30am-Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion

3:00-6:00pm - Pickle Ball

6:00pm - Life Group (Dwight Hollar) - Conference Room

MONDAY

9:00am - Lifelight - Conference Room

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

1:00pm - Ruth Circle - Peace House

6:00pm - After the Boxes - Conference Room

7:00pm - Men's Bible Study - Youth Modular

TUESDAY

4:00pm - Life Group (Pastor Guelzow) - Conference Room

4:00PM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

5:15pm - Church Council - Conference Room

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

10:00am - Women's Bible Study (Sonni Thornton) Youth Modular

6:00pm - Life Group (Paul Miller) Youth Modular

THURSDAY

10:30am - Life Group (Larry Bowman) - Conference Room

NOON - BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

5:45pm - Handbell Team - Sanctuary

7:00pm - Life Group (Richard Starnes) Youth Modular

7:00pm - Parish Choir - Choir Room & Sanctuary

FRIDAY

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

2:00pm - Life Group - David Rittenhouse's

4:00pm - LWML Convention - St. Peter's Lutheran Church

5:30pm - Halo Bible Study - Youth Modular

SATURDAY

8:00-am - LWML Convention - St. Peter's Lutheran Church

5:30pm - Saturday Evening Worship

SUNDAY

8:00am - Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

9:15am - Family Bible Hour

10:30am-Contemporary Worship

12:00-1:00pm - Confirmation Unit Check In - Sanctuary

3:00-6:00pm - Pickle Ball

5:00-8:00pm - Jr. & Sr. High Youth - Man Hunt - Yough Modular

6:00pm - Life Group (Dwight Hollar) - Conference Room



CAN DRIVE



**GOAL:
800!**

**CANNED VEGGIES, SOUP, FRUITS, MEATS, ETC.
ALSO, YOU MAY BRING IN ANY
NON-PERISHABLE FOOD**

Items can be dropped off in the designated bins in the Narthex by **May 1**.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE CORNER TABLE - BACKPACK PROGRAM

Workdays for Camp Linn Haven

Dates: Saturdays, May 2, 9, 16 • 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Description: Volunteer days to prepare camp for the season – cleaning, maintenance, setting up.

Who Can Attend: Adults & student volunteers.

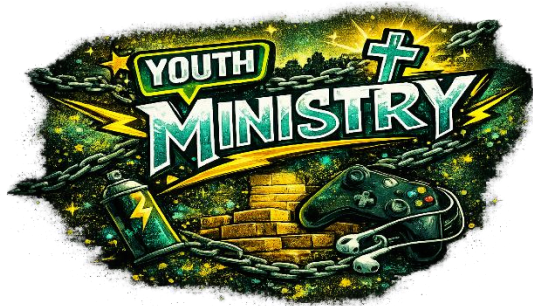
Cost: Free to help with lunch provided.

Forms/Deposit: Contact camp manager for details and to sign up.

Out of The Office

Vicar Tristan is serving at Immanuel Lutheran Church this Sunday.

Pastor Shea & Holly will be on vacation April 27 - May 1



Building relationships in Christ to develop and strengthen faithful followers for life.”

Sunday Morning LifeGroup | 9:15am | Youth House

Mark Your Calendars!



4/24-4/26 SED Middle School Youth Gathering

Please keep our middle school students and leaders in your prayers as they prepare for their upcoming trip. Pray for safe travel, strong friendships, and growth in faith.



5/3 | 12:00-1:00 PM Confirmation - Unit Check-in

Confirmation students and their families will meet in the sanctuary immediately following the 10:30 AM worship service. This is a chance to reflect on their learning so far, ask questions, and stay connected as we continue this journey of faith together.



5/3 | 5:00-8:00 PM ManHunt!!! - The Wise Survive

Life isn't just about speed—it's about wisdom. The ones who pause, think, and choose wisely are the ones who make it. Join us for a night where strategy beats instinct and wisdom makes the difference... Then step into the game: MANHUNT!!! Will you survive?



5/15 | 5:00-10:00 PM The Corner Table Gala Fundraiser

Be part of The Corner Table Gala fundraiser supporting their mission to feed those in need in our community. Students will help serve drinks, run game stations, and make the night awesome! Interested? Contact me for more details.

Want to Get Connected?

Parents and families are always encouraged to reach out with questions or to learn how to partner in their student's faith journey.

Visit sslcms.org/youth for all the latest.

SAVE-THE-DATE

**Congregational Meeting
with Building Dedication**

MAY 17

Candidates for President (Vote for 1):

Eric Kent
Kirk Hymes

Candidates for School Board (Vote for 1):

Garry Butler
Erica Moretz

Candidates for Finance & Facility (Vote for 2):

Jennifer Eckard
John Link
C E Moser

Candidate for School Endowment Fund (Vote for 1):

Cheryl Frye

Candidates for Nominating Committee (Vote for 1):

Diane Maynor
Barbara Underwood

Candidates for Elders (Vote for each individually):

Keith Binns, Tim Boliek, Tony Cook, Coach Mike Davis, David Eckard, Mike Hoke, Mark Kastner, Eric Kent, Andrew McLain, Ralph Mueller, Scott Plassman, Robert Propst, Darel Reese, Kevin Sherrill, Tony Spencer, Phillip Starnes, & Bob Vogt



St. Stephens Lutheran School News
Excellence in Education since 1943

Make A Joyful Noise
(Psalm 98:4)

School Board Members - Scott Clontz, Chairman, Erica Moretz, David Janisko, Kim Yancey, and Shawn Sigmon

Temporary School office is located in the Church Parlor. This is a temporary move for the rest of the school year and summer, until the current school office is complete. This will not change any pickup or drop procedures; the school will continue as it has been all school year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ST STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

APRIL 28

WAPC WALK-A-THON

APRIL 30

SSLS SPRING FINE ARTS PROGRAM
1:00PM

District LWML Convention

Join the LWML for the 70th Biennial District LWML Convention of the Carolinas May 1 - 2 at **St. Peter's Lutheran Church - Conover**. Friday events include registration beginning at 4pm, fellowship, exhibits, worship service with Holy Communion at 7pm, followed by a President's Reception. Saturday's activities begin with registration from 8-9am, Bible study, program, lunch, exhibits, and business with adjournment at 3pm. All women are welcome to attend. Registration is required. How can you register? See Regina Propst or Teresa Ritchie, pickup a form at the welcome center in the narthex or you can visit www.lwmlcarolinas.org.



70th Biennial Carolinas District LWML Convention

May 1-2, 2026

St. Peters Lutheran Church

Guest Speaker:
Teirsa Lane, Camp Linn Haven Director

Register TODAY! Contact Regina Propst or Teresa Ritchie
or visit www.lwmlcarolinas.org

Thank You

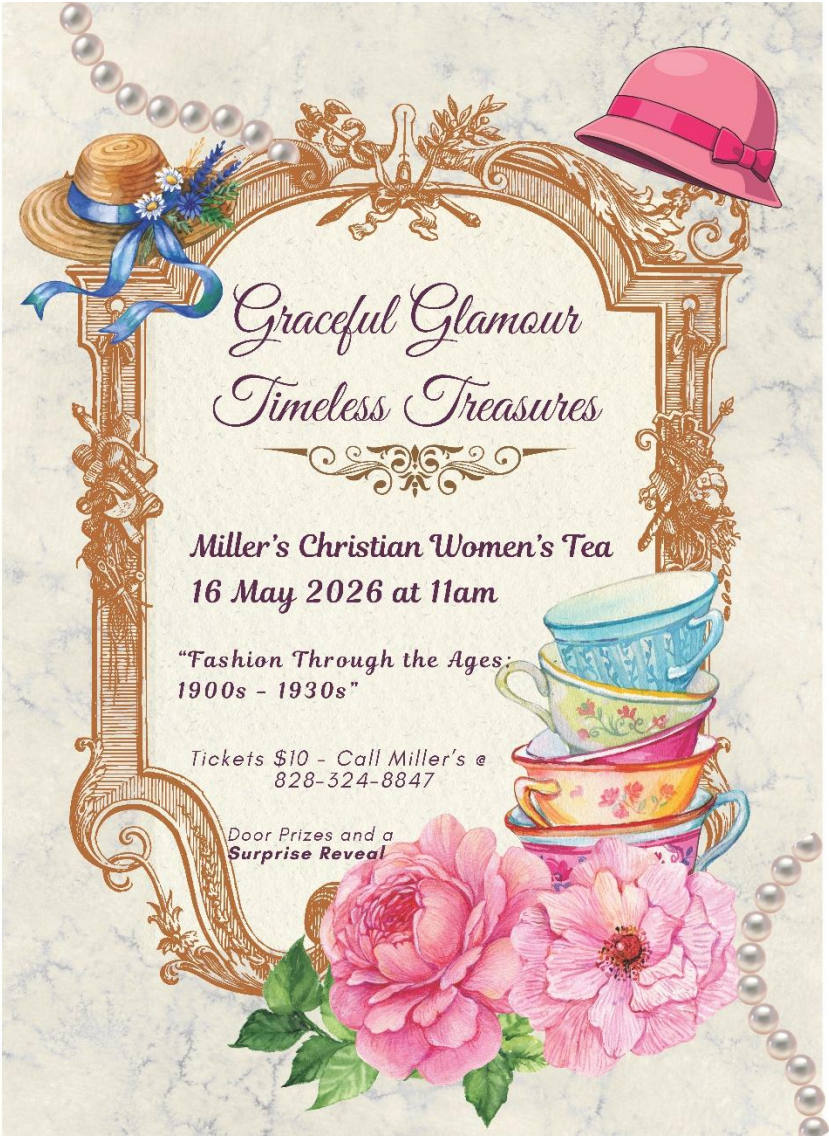
A big thank you to Steve Flowers & Jon Guelzow for changing the lights in the gym and to Shawn Sigmon for arranging the use of the lift.

Thank you, Mike Davis, Billy Beard, Bob Watson, DuWayne Westby, James Bradshaw & David Pingel for oil the statues and changing filters.

Thank you to the pastors and congregations for your prayers. My vision has been improving.

Bob Hollar





*Graceful Glamour
Timeless Treasures*

*Miller's Christian Women's Tea
16 May 2026 at 11am*

*"Fashion Through the Ages:
1900s - 1930s"*

*Tickets \$10 - Call Miller's @
828-324-8847*

*Door Prizes and a
Surprise Reveal!*

Children's Ministry

Sunday Morning Bible Hour - 9:15-10:15am Ed Wing

Preschool & Kinders: Riser Room

Grades 1 & 2: Ed Wing #222

Grades 3 - 5: Ed Wing #220

CPH Enduring Faith

Children's Worship

10:30AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

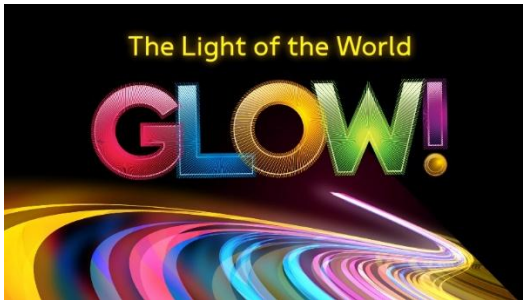
Preschool- 5th Grade

Meet in the choir room during the sermon

Opportunities to serve weekly

JOIN THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

We are looking for caring leaders and helpers to serve during Sunday Bible Hour, Children's Worship, or Special Events. Help us create a safe, fun space for kids to grow in faith!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

ANNOUNCING 2026 VBS

JUNE 22-25

6:00pm-8:30pm

Elementary (rising K-5th Grades)

Middle School (rising 6th - 8th Grades)

Childcare available for Volunteers

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!

Volunteers Needed Vicar's Outreach Project

As vicars, we organize a community outreach project, where the church reaches out and serves in the greater community. For my project, we will be doing a day of service on **Saturday, May 23rd**. I am putting together teams who will go out and provide basic lawncare services for people who need them. Pulling weeds, trimming, hauling brush off, spreading mulch, etc. I need your help with two things for the project.

First, I need a list of people for us to serve that day. We are looking for people outside the church. Think about your neighbors. Who do you know of that could use a hand with their yard?

Second, I need volunteers. I am looking for:

- Team leaders - Experienced people who will take point at each service site.
- General volunteers - The hands to do the serving.
- Hospitality volunteers - The goal is not just to provide a service but to use this as an opportunity to build bridges in the community. Hospitality people will focus more on talking with the people we are serving, getting to know them, praying for them, and giving them some information about St. Stephens.

Please contact Vicar Tristan at tjones@sslcms.org to volunteer and/or connect us with people to serve.



CALL DAY
2026

Tuesday, April 28
Assignment of Vicarages - 4pm EST
Assignment of First Calls - 8pm EST

Livestream at: csl.edu/call-day

Tune in on Call Day to see if St. Stephens Lutheran is assigned another Vicar (4pm). Come back at 8pm to see where Josh and Sarah will serve.

Past Vicar, now Pastor: Where are they now?

- Vicar #1 **Eric Stacy**
Grace Lutheran – St. Louis, MO
- Vicar #2 **Sean & Molly Baker (Noah & Lucy)**
Bethany Lutheran – Kansas City, KS
- Vicar #3 **Andrew & Amelia Thompson (Mabel & Della)**
St. John Lutheran Church – Plymouth, WI
- Vicar #4 **Jake & Christina Childers (Shepherd)**
Grace Lutheran – Knoxville, TN
- Vicar #5 **Peter & Laura Frank (Sawyer, Melody, Everett)**
St. Peters Lutheran – Conover, NC
- Vicar #6 **Daniel & Sarah Brummet (Lily)**
Willis, TX - Church plant
- Vicar #7 **Josh & Sarah Marlatt**
- Vicar #8 **Tristan & Carolyn Jones (Micah)**

Today's Readings

Acts 2:42-47

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

1 Peter 2:19-25

19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

John 10:1-10

10 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6 This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. 7 So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL BOARD

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

SHAUEN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa

TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG

OUR COMMUNITY, COUNTY, STATE, NATION, AND THE WORLD

FIRST RESPONDERS/FIRE FIGHTERS

POLICE/CIVIL SERVANTS

CHRIS HALLE, waiting for a liver transplant

KATELYN DAY, pregnancy complications, daughter of David Day

STUDENTS & LEADERS who will be traveling home from the SED Middle School Gathering that was held in Williamsburg, VA.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

JUDY GURGANIOUS FAMILY. Her brother, Rick Eastman, was called to glory on April 16.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

KAY WEAVER

JO WILHELM

CATHERINE WINKLER

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

NICOLE DRUM FAMILY

CAROL HOWARD

DAVID & DARLA DAY

CALEB & TASHA CLINE FAMILY

ROSS & JILL CHILES FAMILY

PRAYERS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

The marriage of **ALLEN CROWE & BOBBIE STARNES** on April 24.

The marriage of **ALYSSA MCALPIN & DYLAN WILCOX** on April 20.

HOSPITALIZED

JODI BLACK, ICU, lung disease, friend of Vonda Hodun

GARNER SETTLEMYRE, stroke/heart attack - FRMC

PRAYERS FOR ONGOING TREATMENTS

DINKY EDDINS, breast cancer

GIL BRAUCH, cancer

ERVIN BOLICK, cancer

LINDA TILLEY, cancer

DELANEY JESSUP, cancer

KAY WEAVER, Squamous Cell (Skin) Cancer

SHARON JONES

KEVIN CARPENTER, treatments for PTSD

JOE MATHIS, cancer, brother-in-law of Karen Shade

DONALD TRAVIS, cancer, father of Justin Travis

LORI MILLS, cancer, family of Keith Payne

JUDY MOSER, chemo treatments at Duke, friend of Linda Fritz

BRANDON MOOSE, diabetic neuropathy in eyes, friend of Sheila Poovey

DARNELL MITCHEL, pancreatic cancer, friend of Kim Cline

JOE STEELE, cancer, friend of J P Nelson

WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, son of Teri Cain

KEVIN CLOHESY, ALS, brother of Brian

EARL WYATT, recovering from cancer surgery, uncle of Chris Wyatt

JESS CAPPS, cancer, friend of David & Martha Propst

JAMES CARMICHAEL, malignant brain tumor, friend of Jerry & Teresa Ritchie

DRUDE CORBET, cancer, neighbor of Eddie & Vanessa Warren

JOYCE, breast cancer, friend of Michele Bamert

RICHARD ELDER, receiving treatment for an infection around the heart, friend of Danny & Miriam Mecimore.

RECOVERING

LINDA STEELMAN, Trinity Village Rehab, sister of Betty Bostain

CRYSTAL HEDRICK, back issues, daughter of Teresa Phillips

SHARON RADKE, recovering at home from shoulder surgery

DEANIE HILTON, recovering at home from knee surgery

RUTH WILLIS, home recovering from surgery

CAROLE HUFFMAN, health issues

LINDA BOLICK, recovering at home from surgery

CANDAS SEXTON, health issues, sister of Fran Clarke

DAVID HERMAN, recovering from a stroke, neighbor of Dale & Parcilla Crouch

RANDY CONWELL SR., health issues, father-in-law of Katrina Conwell