

Shepherding A Mother's Heart

Last fall as we took our oldest, Dante, to college, I prepped myself for having a hard time as we left him on campus. Instead, when I genuinely felt peaceful, I started questioning whether I was "ok"! I felt God settle my spirit that all was well in this major life transition. Oh, but six weeks later, peace like a river was NOT flowing! It was a LONG time to go without seeing my child! Feeling like I was a basket case of emotion and tears, God reminded me that I had never been separated from my son that long. I had never been so thankful for Facetime, texts & phone calls! In reflection, I realized that we all go through the changes and challenges differently in this journey we call motherhood. There is no "one size fits all" script – and sometimes we need to be reminded that it's ok, and that God is still good.



Williamson Family: (l-r) Dante, Chase, Charis, Christa, Dorena, Pastor Chris

I think our Heavenly Father had us moms in mind as He inspired this verse:

"He tends His flock like a shepherd; He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart; He gently leads those that have young."

Isaiah 40:12

Oh how we mamas need to be gently led! I recently spoke to a friend who is asking the Lord to guide her in finding the balance of a busy travel schedule with work coupled with her time away from her family. My sister Matina just gave birth to her first child, Aaron. Although she is the favorite aunt of the family, and has graduate degrees, she is quite aware that being a new mom is a vibrant learning experience!

My friend Julie has felt the Lord shepherd her mother heart in the midst of pain. Her family's call to adoption just took a turn towards grief as the precious son they had become attached to from afar, slipped into the arms of Jesus. In her words: "I had to simply abide in the Lord, knowing that in the sunshine and now in the rain, He remains the same. When I am abiding, I see Him more clearly, and His presence is richer than anything else."

Laura Story's song "Blessings" says it beautifully;

*"We pray for blessings, we pray for peace
Comfort for family, protection while we sleep
And all the while, You hear each spoken need
Yet love us way too much to give us lesser things
'Cause what if your blessings come through rain drops
What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise"*

During this month for Mother's Day, I honor you moms, women of courage and strength who work tirelessly, sometimes through tears and heartache. You're doing an outstanding job!

Here is my prayer for the mothers of STBC: "God, you are the Good Shepherd, so please lead us and guide us with your wisdom and care as we seek to raise up the precious lambs you have entrusted into our arms. Thank you for giving us children and for being faithful every step of the way. In Jesus' name, Amen!"

Dorena Williamson

Family Day
Sunday, June 30





A MESSAGE SERIES
BY PASTOR CHRIS
BEGINNING **JUNE 2**
SUNDAYS AT 9 & 11



Christian Education Equipping Center

All current CE classes will end on May 8.
Look forward to these upcoming summer offerings:

Adult Co-Ed CEEC Class

Book: *The Cross and the Prodigal* by Dr. Kenneth E. Bailey
Wednesday Nights | 6:30-8:00pm
June 5 through July 24

Men's CEEC Class

Book: *Kingdom Man* by Tony Evans
Wednesday Nights 6:30-8:00pm
June 5 through August 7

Women & Teen Girls Discipleship Class

(rising 9th graders and older)
Book: *Intra Muros* by Rebecca Ruter Springer
Thursday Mornings 9am-10:30am
June 6 through August 1

Women's Calibrations

3 Saturday Nights this summer
June 15 at Lonnie Cochran's home (Spring Hill)
July 13 at Jennetta Jones' home (Franklin)
August 10 at Lisa Crowe's home (Nashville)

Visit our website for more details and to register for a class
or contact Kristi McLelland: kmcllland@stbch.org

All classes are held at The Grove
274 Mallory Station Road, Cool Springs (unless otherwise noted)
classes will NOT meet the week of July 4



What's Happening@ STBC

Details on all dates inside this bulletin or on our website!

- May 8 Final Wednesday night CE classes
- May 11 Men's Challenge at Horton Haven Christian Camp
- May 22 Baptism Service at The Grove
- May 29 Elder Examination at The Grove
- June 1 Pre-Membership Class
- June 5 Men's CE Summer Class begins
- June 5 Adult CE Summer Classes begin
- June 6 Women & Teen Girls Summer Study begins
- June 15 Tighten Up Men's Event at The Grove
- June 30 Family Day at TPC



Online giving is now available! Log in to The Hub to set up your giving on a recurring schedule (this is a one-time set up) or visit our website to give a one-time donation using your debit/credit card or checking account. Through The Hub you can securely keep track of your contributions and gifts throughout the year. At the end of 2013, you will be able to print out an end-of-year contribution statement to be used for tax purposes.

Visit our website to download online giving instructions or to fill out a Connect Card to request a username and password for The Hub. If you have trouble logging in to The Hub, contact franklin@stbch.org.

Contact Tony Bailey (tbailey@stbch.org) with any questions regarding online giving.

Online giving is authentic and secure through Comodo Identity Authority. (Visit our website to view CCB's Comodo credentials).

March 2013 Contributions: \$169,090.71
April 2013 Contributions: \$61,980.36



Elder Examination and Ordination

For the past several months, STBC has been testing two men to serve in the office of elder at STBC. The two elder candidates are **Dan Pitts** and **Tyler Reimschisel**. If you have a legitimate concern about whether one or both of these men qualify for the office of elder based on the qualifications of I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, please make an appointment to speak with Pastor Williamson by May 28. **The Elder Examination** will be held on **Wednesday May 29, 6:30 PM** at the Grove, and **the Elder Ordination** will be conducted on **Sunday June 2** during both worship services.

Want to learn more about Strong Tower Bible Church?

Whether you are new to Strong Tower or have been coming around for a while, we invite you to join us for our next Pre-Membership Class:

Pre-Membership Class
Saturday, June 1, 9-12pm

at the Big White House on the Franklin Campus of
The People's Church | 834 Murfreesboro Road, Franklin
(childcare will be provided)

In this class, you will get to learn more about STBC's history, structure, integrity, doctrine, goals, and ministries. You will also be able to discover how you can connect spiritually, socially, and vocationally. We offer **three ways to sign up** for the Pre-Membership Class:

1. Fill out a Connect Card at the Welcome Desk on Sundays
2. Visit www.strongtowerbiblechurch.com and go to >Next Steps>Membership
3. Call or email Tanya Franklin at the church office (tfranklin@stbch.org)

Baptism

If you or a loved one are interested in being baptized, visit our website to fill out a Baptism Questionnaire or pick one up from the Welcome

Desk on Sundays. Our next Baptism service will be on Wednesday night, **May 22** at The Grove.



Stop by the Missions Café on Sunday mornings to support local and global missions. This month's proceeds will go to support the Haiti Team and the Student Ministry Community Missions

Café Hours

8:30am-9:00am & 10:15am-11:00am



If you would like to participate in the next Baby Dedication service, scheduled for **Sunday, May 12**, please visit our website to register or fill out a Connect Card on Sundays.



Cruise dates: January 2-6
Destination: The Bahamas

for more information, visit our website or
Contact: Kristi McLelland: kmcllland@stbch.org

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house there are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." John 14:1-2

GDK Men's Challenge

Saturday, May 11 | 8:30am-2pm
Horton Haven Christian Camp



Choose your challenge:
Ropes course - \$30
Golf Challenge - \$39.50

600ft zip line low ropes course
canoeing challenge course

Sign up in the lobby on Sunday, May 5 or
Register online by Wednesday, May 8

1st Annual STBC
Golf Challenge
at Henry Horton State Park



CLAIM YOUR DESTINY

GDK Men's Summer CEEC Class
Wednesdays | 6:30-8pm
beginning June 5

facilitated by Pastor Chris Williamson
visit our website to register

KINGDOM
MAN

Important Children's Ministry Updates

1st through 5th grade Sunday morning Children's Ministry classes will be on break for the summer. Please plan to have your children join you in the service **beginning Sunday, June 2**.

If you are interested in applying for the part-time Children's Ministry Director position, visit our website to view the job description and fill out an application. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Daryl Fitzgerald at [dfitzgerald@stbch.org](mailto:d Fitzgerald@stbch.org).

student ministry @ strong tower bible church

students
6th-12th grade

seeking **CHRIST** more intimately
opposing the **CULTURE** we live in
building healthy **RELATIONSHIPS**
stepping into **LEADERSHIP**
serving our **COMMUNITY**

SUNDAYS @ 11:00am
at the Cool Springs YMCA, 121 Seaboard Lane, Franklin

WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30pm
at The Grove, 274 Mallory Station Road, Franklin

for more information on Student Ministry news, contact Stefani Johns at sjohns@stbch.org

Wednesday Night

Wednesdays at The Grove is for **ALL** students 6th-12th grade. We break out into age specific groups.

Sunday Morning

Our Sunday Break Out classes will meet through May 26.

If you would like to find out how you can have a **life changing** affect on the student body at STBC, contact Stefani Johns at sjohns@stbch.org to get connected.

Donate a Basket of Hope!

The **Red Road Native American** ministry will journey to Rosebud, South Dakota filled with Baskets of Hope from residents of Tennessee to share the love of Jesus and the Hope that exists in Him. Several years ago while traveling on their yearly mission trip to Native Americans, Charles and Siouxsan Robinson, founders of The Red Road Native American ministry, established a tradition of filling a laundry basket with various "Daily Bread" items such as food, clothing, toiletries, etc. as gifts to people on reservations, working through local churches and ministries.



The Robinson family

Families at Strong Tower have contributed to this ministry for several years by providing Baskets of Hope. This year, your gift of a basket can provide an opportunity for Charles and Siouxsan to sit with and tell a Native American family about a Savior who can deliver them from abuse and hopelessness that exists on the Reservation. In your basket, a Bible is being placed along with a personal note from The Red Road explaining how Jesus can provide HOPE to America's first inhabitants.

Will you fill a Basket of Hope?

Fill your basket and **drop it off at church on Sundays** or contact **Charles at 615-480-6449** to have it picked up. *Please make sure your basket contains all (or most) of the items on the list.*



Donate your baskets by May 19.

Stop by the table in the lobby to speak to Charles or Siouxsan personally and to pick up a flyer with more details about this ministry and what to include in your Basket of Hope.

Contact: Charles Robinson | Charles@TheRedRoad.org
615-480-6449

This
SUMMER

Women & Teen Girls are Walking Together
Thursday Mornings at the Grove, Cafe 9-10:30 am
June 6th-August 1st
(Rising 9th graders and older)
Every other Thursday, fellowship after class

Visit our website to register
Contact: Kristi McLelland | kmcllland@stbch.org

the HUB Stay Connected at STBC

Don't miss out on announcements and STBC events! Visit the Welcome Desk on Sundays to fill out a Connect Card or click the "Connect" tab on our website to sign up to stay connected with what's happening at STBC through The Hub!