

STGMA *"news you can use"* GOSPEL NOTES



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Isn't Being a Member of STGMA enough?

The Board is extremely happy to have you... but honestly it's not enough! We need your help! This is YOUR association!

Yes, I've heard it all. Why do I need to be involved? Who has the time or money to be at every event? Well, if being a member is all you can do at the moment, then that's all you can do. Or is it? At times it may seem overwhelming to do anything other than just live your busy life. We all can relate. But all too often we just don't know what to do. If you could do more but maybe just don't know how to go about starting, the following information might help.

- ⇒ Volunteer at local events in your community and talk to others about STGMA. Our Members have a desire to share the gospel with a heart full of love for the Lord. If it's a large event, let us know about it and we'll publish it on our Facebook page so our other Members can also participate. If the event needs a sponsor, let us know! Giving back to the community shows our collective compassion and that STGMA is not just about soliciting a church to come "entertain" them.
- ⇒ Send (to webmaster@stgma.org) a testimony someone shared with you at an event so we can share it on Facebook (with or without names) and allow the Lord to use it to encourage someone who may be feeling like they aren't making a difference and just want to give up.
- ⇒ Our Regional Managers will be working hard in all parts of Texas to make contact with churches of all sizes and denominations. You can help them to help you by referring churches to us, tell us about festivals and other events in your area as soon as you are aware of them and recommend new groups to us when you hear one you like!
- ⇒ Take every opportunity to remind folks how good God is! He loves absolutely everyone and we're blessed that He allows us the privilege to stand on a platform and worship Him... but the praise goes to Him!

STGMA FOUNDED 1999

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From the *President's Desk*

Greetings,

Not too long ago, I was sitting in a hotel room in Sequin, Texas and suddenly I looked at Chrissie and said, "I've got it figured out." She said, "What? Tell me!" Well, let me begin with what I was thinking and what was going on at the time.

A few years back I accepted the position of President of South Texas Gospel Music Association and I wanted to do whatever I could to help all the Members of the association make it what it was intended to be... a ministry to share the gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ. There had been many great ideas that wonderful folks tried to implement to grow the numbers...of groups and audience members...but it's not about the groups or audience. So, I brought my business knowledge along with much prayer to the equation of figuring out the best way to achieve that goal. I started at the beginning which meant cutting back on the number of singings that we'd had in the past and evaluating our mission, purpose, impact, strengths as well as weaknesses in order to rebuild for the future. Over the course of several months, the Board tried to get new churches involved and invite new Members to join us; to no avail. The scripture says that without a vision the people will perish. STGMA had been fading fast. Yet, we all stood strong on God's promises and agreed; we were NOT going to give up.

Now back to my original opening statement. I'd been thinking for some time about where we (or I) had failed. Suddenly, the Spirit spoke to me and said "just tell them the truth." Of course, I wanted to know exactly what that meant so I asked the question: "Lord, what does that mean?" The scripture says that "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." [Psalm 127:1]

You see we, the Board, had been doing everything within our power and means to make things work for the honor and glory of the Lord but the truth of the matter is that we cannot make this a better Association without ALL the Members being involved. So, we need your help. We need every individual who loves the Lord and loves Gospel music; everyone who sings and all those on the sidelines who pray for the Members as they go forth.

So here's the truth... we cannot work alone. First and foremost, we need the spiritual guidance of the Lord. Then, we need each other. I love the Lord and I also love God's children. We are one family united by His love. It takes all of our ministries to reach this lost and dying world. Now more than ever, we must work together toward our goal: to serve the Lord in whatever way He has gifted us so we encourage folks and influence them to come to know Jesus.

I concluded that day that all the blessings I receive in this life come from God. All the failures in this life are because of me. The Apostle Paul said it best: "If I am going to have to suffer in this life, I want to suffer for the good that I do and not the evil." Your Association will continue to serve and grow during 2018. Will you grow with us? I pray that you will.

Blessings to you and your families.
Until next time...

Floyd

welcome new members...

The Jeters



Denise and Shane began singing together in 1994. Shane had a call to preach on his life and began preaching in 2001. Denise and Shane are currently working on their second CD project. Denise is the author of "Apples of Gold, a devotional in rhyme". They now minister together in word and in song, preaching and teaching that all the answers to life's problems are still where they have always been found ... in the precious Word of God. Shane and Denise are available for revivals, singings, ladies' or men's meetings! We'd love for you to invite us to come to your church or event!

www.asheepspeaks.org
713-419-1677
djeter45@yahoo.com
sjeter12@yahoo.com

CrossTimbers



Fay Gassner along with Rosie and Wayne Goedhart have been together as a group for about 12 years and recently decided to have a group name. Fay said "we agreed our real lives began where the timbers crossed on Mount Calvary. Jesus shed His precious blood on the cross that day that we might be saved. It's our desire as we travel around this country to see the lost come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. It's also our desire to lift up and encourage the body of Christ through testimony and songs. We're available for morning or evening church worship services, fellowship meetings, etc. CrossTimbers will come on a love offering basis. We truly believe that God is our source and provider, consequently NO CHURCH IS TOO SMALL... so where He leads, we will follow."

www.CrossTimbersSings.com
830-217-4290
faygssnr77@gmail.com

...and welcome back! Faithful II



Jim and Katherine Ryals have a powerful testimony of what the Lord has done for them and you will be blessed to hear them sing from their heart each and every time they step on the platform. They truly love singing full-time for the Lord and believe that seeing souls saved is what it's all about. They were members several years ago but started dividing their time between Texas and Tennessee. They are still doing that but glad to be back with the STGMA family.

www.faithful2.org
713-498-1191
www.faithful2.org



EVENING OF *of* GOSPEL MUSIC

Paul's Journey



**Saturday, January 27
6 PM**

Oak Ridge Baptist Church
10915 Vance Jackson Rd
San Antonio TX 78230

MercySong Revival



**Saturday, February 24
6 PM**

Live Oak Baptist Church
11560 Toepperwein Road
Live Oak TX 78233

**FREE
ADMISSION**

STGMA

South Texas Gospel Music Association
www.stgma.org

For more information, contact Fay Gassner
at 830.217.4290

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- ⇒ When you finish an event, send a thank you through our Facebook page. How? Send it to me and I'll post in our Facebook page and tag them (if they have a page)! It really helps to acknowledge someone's kindness. Church participation is declining so we need to faithfully show our appreciation to those still willing to open their doors to our events. If it was not an STGMA event, send it and I'll post something like "Hearts of Grace is a Member of STGMA and wants to thank _____ Church for their hospitality on _____, 2017!" A quick post like this puts them in front of a whole new audience and shows your appreciation (*and our support of their efforts*).
- ⇒ Read the STGMA newsletter... yes, just like this one! It's published six times a year. Share the link to it with others.
- ⇒ We now have a "**Proud Member of STGMA**" icon available on our website (see the [Members page](#)). I encourage you to use this on your website, Facebook page and any other location! Right-mouse on the image and save it to your computer so you can use it over and over again!!



People typically join Associations because they want to be part of a group who has the same goals and objectives...they want to make a difference. Members of STGMA want to make a difference... particularly in the lives of others by pointing them to Jesus! Being a blessing to someone else... is a blessing to us! Seeing someone touched by the words and/or music... touches our heart! Seeing a lost soul find hope in the message we bring... gives us the desire to carry on even when there's no gas in our car, no money in our bank account and no place offered to spend the night. We know that we know our God will supply and we say... Lord, send me! As a member of this Association, you are NOT a grain of sand on a beach. You matter. There is no Association without YOU! God brought you to this Association for a reason... the STGMA Board takes that very seriously with no hidden agendas or monetary motives.

I believe that we must stop worrying about who is not coming to events and focus on those who do. Stop worrying about churches no longer opening their doors to us and respect those who do. Stop allowing the enemy to convince us no one cares about what we do and instead focus on caring for the hurting souls all around us. The strength and commitment of STGMA comes from its Members and Associates. The Board helps keep things running smoothly but YOU are the workers in the field...and you are both needed and appreciated! This Association serves you as you serve the Lord! Help us help you reach others...and the Lord will always be blessed at the end of the day! I am truly blessed by each of you!

By: Christine Scott



A promotional graphic for the 19th Annual STGMA Convention. It features a background of musical notes and sheet music. On the left, a yellow and pink starburst contains the text "save the Date!". To the right, the text reads: "19th Annual STGMA Convention", "APRIL 28th 2018", "Cibolo Valley Baptist Church", and "5500 FM 1103 • SCHERTZ, TX 78108".



The Watchmen of Texas and Baggy Bottom Boys have been members of STGMA for many years, but their performance on Saturday night,

December 9th, was very special.

It was particularly rewarding to see the music inspire a needy individual to respond to the musical message of God's love that each group had delivered---inspiring this person to respond to an altar call.

Both groups are valued members of STGMA and we appreciate greatly your continued support. May the Lord continue to bless each of you throughout the coming year.

By the way...the 2018 Schedule will be announced on the website and via email soon! Stay tuned...

Gerald Lyda, Board Member, STGMA



Recipe

CROCK POT CHICKEN CHILI DIP

3-4 chicken breasts	1 small can of green chilies
1 can each of Campbell's Cream of Mushroom, Cream of Celery and Cream of Chicken soup	4-6 9" flour (or corn) tortillas, cut into 1" square strips
1 can of green salsa	1 1/2 cups grated American, Cheddar and/or Gouda cheese
1 16 oz can of chili (no beans)	

Boil chicken breasts in boiling water for 25-30 minutes, or until done; let cool. Tear chicken off the bones (unless boneless) into strips, or bite-size pieces. Place into crock pot. Add all other ingredients until blended.

Place crock pot on low for 1 hour to heat thoroughly. Can be enjoyed by itself as an appetizer, or use hearty tortilla chips for a dip.



Mexican FOOD



Bacon-wrapped Jalapeno Poppers

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil.
2. Mix cream cheese and Cheddar cheese together in a bowl until evenly blended. Fill each jalapeno half with the cheese mixture. ...
3. Bake in the preheated oven until bacon is crispy, about 15 minutes.

Greetings, folks!

As we head into the new year, everyone loves to make resolutions and we vow to try new things, clean out old things, etc. Well, it's time for a revamp of the website. So I will be implementing the new one just before convention in 2018... and I would love to hear what you'd like to see. Are there things we don't have on there you really wish we did? Is there anything about it you don't like? *Don't worry... it won't hurt my feelings! Do tell...*

I will also be adding more updates to the Facebook page! We make every effort to ensure that the concert events posters are posted in a timely manner but you will see some other updates as well! If you haven't "liked" the STGMA Facebook page...why not? Seriously... go do it now! That's the best way to see our posts and kindly respond to the posts so others see our Association is active and cares about one another! Showing how much we care about each other makes an impact on our friends and fans who come to our events! Share the love... of Jesus... in every way you can! As always, blessings to you and it's gonna be a great year!

See you soon... Lord willing! Christine



DIRECTOR'S CORNER



TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON...

This is so true! It is easy to see in our lives as the new year rolls in, we FEEL different! The hope of renewal, the promise of another chapter and the eagerness to improve our overall character consume us. Likewise, as spring, summer and fall come out hearts and minds will flow right along with the tide of time. Seasons are a funny thing; they separate the calendar, they define different stages in our life and they make food taste so much better! The Lord gave us so many blessings and a perfect order in their creation. Acts 1:7 *"And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power."* It is amazing how well the Lord knows our hearts and minds so perfectly. His seasons, His divine order, gives our lives stability and fills our minds with feelings of hope, reflection, thankfulness and renewal. As Christians we are blessed with an extra season, one without end. 2 Timothy 4:2 says *"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine."* What a responsibility! To be held accountable and responsible for something as timeless as winter, spring summer and fall...the salvation of our fellow man. I pray as the year carries us through the season of the Lord in 2018, each of us will exhort the season of salvation and the gospel of Jesus Christ each and every single day. Have a blessed 2018!



If you haven't downloaded the STGMA2GO Smartphone App... it's never too late! You can simply scan the QR Code or visit <http://apps.appmakr.com/stgma2go> to access the download page. Choose the format you need (Android or HTML5 for iPhone and iPad), download it and install it (add to your home screen).



Call Christine if you need assistance!

Share it with others!!
Promote STGMA!!

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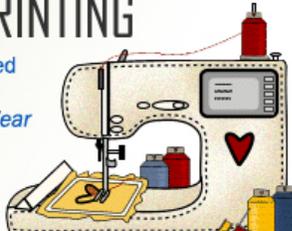
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The South Texas Gospel Music Association, Inc. is a Christian Association Incorporated under the non-profit act and is qualified under Section 501 (C) (3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and all contributions made to the STGMA, Inc. are tax deductible.

We are on the web...
www.stgma.org