



Little Rock Stewpot September 2026 Newsletter



Fall and cooler weather are on the way!

Little Rock Stewpot's Mailing Address

**Please send all Little Rock Stewpot correspondence
and donation checks to P.O. Box 2278,
Little Rock, AR 72203.**

Little Rock Stewpot Celebrates 50 Years of Service in 2026



In 2026, Little Rock Stewpot will celebrate a monumental milestone: 50 years of "serving all who enter." For five decades, this ministry has stood as a cornerstone of downtown Little Rock—a rare example of a faith-based, volunteer-led mission that has never wavered. As we honor this half-century legacy, our Board is hard at work planning a year of reflection and growth. We aren't just looking back at where we've been; we are seeking new ways to expand our reach for the next 50 years. Stay tuned as we unveil our anniversary plans!

Charlotte and Charlie Frith Retire After Decades of Dedicated Service to the Little Rock Stewpot

After nearly 30 years of unwavering commitment, **Charlie and Charlotte Frith** are officially retiring from their leadership roles at the Little Rock Stewpot at the end of 2026. The couple leaves behind an incredible legacy of community service, compassion, and hands-on leadership.

A 30-Year Journey of Service

Charlie's journey with the Stewpot began nearly three decades ago as a member of the Westover Hills Presbyterian Church First Wednesday team, working under co-captains Dick and Carolyn Hardie. Dick, who served as Westover Hill's minister for nearly 50 years, eventually stepped back due to health concerns, and Carolyn asked Charlie to take over as captain.

- **Leadership & Board Service:** In addition to leading the First Wednesday team, Charlie served on the Little Rock Stewpot Board for many years, holding positions as both chair and co-chair. He set up arrangements for collecting coats for the Stewpot Clothes Closet from TV Chanel 7 and Hangers Cleaners in their Annual "Coats for Kids Drive." He also collected hundreds of athletic shoes for the Clothes Closet from Fleet Feet Running Store.
- **Communications:** Charlie single-handedly developed and maintained the Stewpot website and launched its newsletter, which grew to an email list of nearly 400 subscribers featuring photos, updates, and community activities.
- **Charlotte's Partnership:** Following her retirement as a speech-language pathologist from Arkansas Children's Hospital in 2000, Charlotte joined Charlie as co-captain of the First Wednesday team.

Memories of the Stewpot Kitchen

During the years when the Stewpot operated out of First Presbyterian Church, volunteers cooked and served meals directly to diners who gathered upstairs. The First Wednesday team became famous for a reliable and comforting menu: **350 hot dogs**, seasoned pork and beans, salads, and desserts picked up from downtown's Community Bakery on Main Street. Ed Stanfield was an active member of the team for many years and always picked up several gallons of milk so that the diners could have another beverage choice besides water, coffee or tea. Fred Whitmore, a former member of the team, made sure the dishes were washed and ready for the next day.

The First Wednesday Team consists of Charlie and Charlotte Frith, Dwane Tankersley, Scott Hiers, Joyce Wilson, Lorie

Scott, Ellen McEwen, Debbie Cooper, Tammy Pflug, Polly Redmond and Nancy Carter.

Ensuring a Seamless Transition

To ensure the vital ministry continues uninterrupted, transitions have been put in place for Charlie's administrative duties:

- **Website and Newsletter: Ministry Architects**—which already provides administrative services for Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, including the weekly bulletin and CareLine—will take over maintaining the website and producing the newsletter. Cory Martin is the individual from Ministry Architects who will be responsible for maintaining the website and producing the newsletter.
- **Church Support:** With the backing of current Westover Hills minister **Robert Lowry**, the church will cover the service costs as a direct contribution to the Little Rock Stewpot.
- **Michael Easley**, Stewpot Manager, will take over writing articles and taking photos of Stewpot activities and submit them to Cory.

While Charlie and Charlotte reluctantly step down from their daily duties, they do so with deep affection for the Stewpot and a strong belief that its mission to feed the homeless in the Little Rock area must carry on. The community extends its deepest gratitude to them for decades of exceptional service and wishes them a joyful retirement.



Early Stewpot Days



Coats from Hangers Cleaners for the Clothes Closet



Shoes from Fleet Feet Running Store for the Clothes Closet



1st Wednesday Team



Giving Out Christmas Bags

Have a memory or message you'd like to share with Charlotte and Charlie? [Click here to leave them a note.](#) - Cory Martin

Community Spirit Shines: Nexstar's Founder's Day Supports the Little Rock Stewpot

On Friday, June 12th, teams from KARK and FOX16 rolled up their sleeves for Nexstar Media Group's annual Founders Day

of Caring. Every year, this nationwide initiative empowers local news stations to give back to their communities by partnering with local nonprofits. Celebrating Nexstar's 30th year of giving back, the Little Rock Stewpot was honored to be chosen once again as a service site where the team could make a meaningful impact.



The Nexstar volunteers jumped right into action, assembling special care bags for our diners. Packed into reusable bags, these essentials included Bombas socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, washcloths, bar of soap, deodorant, bottled water, and Vienna sausages.

Meanwhile, the regular Stewpot crew prepared our daily meal bags, complete with a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, Doritos, dessert, and utensils. To top it off, the Nexstar team added a special treat: a container of hot cheese dip. Once assembly was finished, the volunteers shifted gears to the buffet line, handing out the care packages and connecting with our diners face-to-face.

The Nexstar Team was so fast and proficient, that Jason, Little Rock Stewpot Day Manager, had to come up with some additional work for them. Jason had the Group open cans of pears and fill styrofoam cups with pears for the diner's bags for the following Monday.

We are deeply grateful to Nexstar, KARK, and FOX16 for choosing the Little Rock Stewpot. Their commitment to service brought joy, nourishment, and a powerful sense of community to everyone involved. **Together, we truly made a difference!**



The Fantastic Team from Nexstar KARK Fox 16



Diner's Food Bags Filled With Food



Doritos and Cheese Dip



Filling Styrofoam Cups with Pears



Styrofoam Cups with Pears



Special Care Bags and Their Contents

Jason, Little Rock Stewpot Day Manager, Gets a New T-Shirt

Jason's typical greeting to Volunteers when they arrive to work at the Little Rock Stewpot is almost always " 'Bout Time You Got Here." One Group of Volunteers got this this special T-shirt for him.



Make a Donation

Stewpot's financial support comes from donations from churches, individuals, corporations and grants. With food costs rising and our numbers increasing each month, we really need your financial support. Please help support the Little Rock Stewpot. Checks can be mailed to The Little Rock Stewpot, Post Office Box 2278, Little Rock, AR 72203. You can also make an online donation by clicking on Make a Donation below. When you click on Make a Donation, you will have the option of making an online donation using PayPal or a credit card.

[Make a Donación](#)

Little Rock Stewpot Prepares Lunch for Providence Park

On Thursday, July 23rd, Michael Easley, Little Rock Stewpot Manager, served the hardworking staff and volunteers at Providence Park with a comforting meal of gumbo and rice, rolls, and cookies. This gathering was another meaningful expression of the strong relationship between Stewpot and Providence Park and our shared commitment to supporting those who serve our community. We are grateful for this continued partnership and for every opportunity to encourage and care for one another. The Little Rock Stewpot plans to serve lunch at Providence Park once a Month beginning in 2027.



Enjoying the Meal



Parker Blake, Providence Park Director of Neighborhood Services on left and Jon, on right — Providence Park's newest

neighbor.



Mandy Davis, Providence Park Director of Partnerships with Katy Allison, LR Stewpot's newest Board member.

Sonic Comes to the Little Rock Stewpot

We were thrilled to welcome Will Faygan and his Sonic Drive-In team to the Little Rock Stewpot on Wednesday, August 5 for a very special day of service! They generously donated 75 meals, each featuring a Jr. Burger, hot dog, and tater tots, and Will and his team personally served the food to our neighbors. The Little Rock Stewpot augmented the meal with a bag of chips and a large chocolate cookie. Their organization operates more than 16 Sonic locations, including restaurants in Benton, Bryant, White Hall, and several other communities. We are incredibly grateful for their generosity, enthusiasm, and willingness to serve, and we look forward to building an ongoing relationship with Will and his team in the future.

Thanks to Nancy Carter, member of the Little Rock Stewpot board and a volunteer on the First Wednesday volunteer team, who was instrumental in setting up the Sonic visit.



Will Faygan and his Sonic Drive-In team



Sonic food bags



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