



Rev. Jon D. Lowry
Senior Pastor

Letter of Jon

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (*Philippians 1:2*)

As the church season of Lent comes to an end, it also marks the end of our “Journey to Jerusalem” as we follow Jesus to His destiny. For these five weeks of Lent we have been thinking and praying about how we can prepare our hearts and lives for Easter through our practices of penance, repentance, fasting, tithing, serving and witnessing.

Easter, when we remember and celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord, is the single most important event in Christendom because it proves and confirms our faith that Jesus Christ IS Lord and Savior.

Now comes the end of the Lenten season of preparation and the end of our “Journey to Jerusalem.” Lent ends and Easter begins with what we call “Holy Week,” and we will remember and celebrate that in several very special events here at Laurel Heights.

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 28, as we remember and celebrate Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem where He was hailed as the long-awaited Messiah and the crowd strew clothes and palm branches before Him.

We will have our own “Palm Processional” as part of worship that morning. Then, at 3:30 that afternoon our choir will join the choir at Christ Episcopal Church in presenting parts of Handel’s *Messiah*. (The address is 510 Belknap Place.)

During that week in Jesus’ life, He challenged the business practices of the Temple as He drove out the moneychangers and those who sold animals for sacrifice.

We will have a service of healing and Holy Communion that Wednesday evening at 6:15 in Scott Chapel.

Maundy Thursday, April 1, is the day we remember and celebrate the events in the Upper Room where Jesus washed the disciples’ feet as a sign of servanthood and instituted the sacrament of Holy Communion as He shared the Passover feast with them. That was also the night that Jesus was betrayed by Judas and handed over to the Temple guards. Later that night was the midnight trial and Peter’s denial: “I don’t know the Man.”

We will have a special service of Holy Communion at 7:00 that night in the sanctuary.

Good Friday is the day Jesus was tried by Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor; when He was beaten and scourged; where He carried His cross along the Via Dolorosa to Calvary where He was crucified.

We will remember these events on Friday with our “Tre Ore” service beginning at noon and continuing until 3 o’clock in the sanctuary.

On Saturday, our children will have their annual Easter Egg Hunt here at the church.

Then comes our great celebration of Easter, as we remember the empty tomb and celebrate that Jesus rose from the grave and appeared to His followers.

Our traditions at Easter include the choir and congregation singing the *Hallelujah Chorus* and the organ postlude of Vidor’s *Toccata* in F.

I invite you to join me as we complete our “Journey to Jerusalem” with Jesus. As it is in life, we must go through the “pits” and the “valley of the shadow of death” in order to appreciate the New Life we experience at Easter.

This is a good time for us to consider just what a difference Easter makes in us, and the witness we make in response to it.

God bless us all,

Jon

Choirs present *Messiah* as CAM and SAMM fundraiser

The choirs of Laurel Heights UMC and Christ Episcopal Church will present a Charity Concert of *Messiah* (Handel’s *Messiah*, Part III with highlights from I & II) at Christ Episcopal Church, 510 Belknap Place on March 28 (Palm Sunday) at 3:30 pm. Proceeds will go to Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM) and SAMMinistries of San Antonio.

Soloists include Jennifer Halteman, Angela Malek and former New York City Opera and Covent Garden bass-baritone Naymond Thomas.

Advance-purchase tickets are \$18 for adults and \$6 for students. Tickets at the door will be \$20 for adults and \$8 for students. The Composer’s Circle is \$40 per ticket which includes reserved seating and a special reception with the artists following the concert.

For advance online purchases visit www.cecsa.org. (Use the “online giving and events” tab.) Or, call Christ Church, 736-3132, for more information.

Now is the time

by Aleene Block

Now is the Time to do your witness. We promise to share our faith with others when we join the Church and every time we receive a new member into the Church. How can we do it?

The Evangelism Ministry Team has set Sunday, April 11 as the day to invite our friends, relatives and neighbors to join us in worship.

The March 10 Upper Room devotional asks, “*Are we living as though we believe God is real?*” Pastor Jon often tells us when we leave worship to go and live as though we believe God is real.

Share your faith and invite someone to worship with you. **NOW IS THE TIME.**

Bring your guest or guests to either the 8:30 or 11:00 service. Take them for fellowship following the first service, or if you come at 11:00 invite them to join you in the foyer for fellowship after the service.

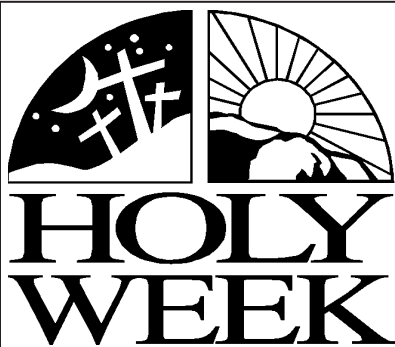
Our faith is only as strong as we share it. **NOW IS THE TIME.**

Editor’s Note: The 11:00 service on April 11 will be a special treat as our children and youth explore the meaning of Easter in a 10-minute presentation, “The Easter Tree.”

Our mission

...is to offer Christ to those we encounter and to nurture, equip, and enable persons to become committed Christians in our community and the world beyond.

Other LHUMC News on Pages 4A & 8A



SUNDAY, MARCH 28 Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday Services: Palm Processional and Traditional Worship services at 8:30 am and 11:00 am in the Sanctuary.

Contemporary Worship: The Connection meets at 5:30 pm for supper in the Fellowship Hall with praise and worship following at 6:00 pm.

Messiah: The choirs of Laurel Heights UMC and Christ Episcopal Church present a joint-concert fundraiser. See front page article for details and ticket information.

Emmaus Gathering: Refreshments and fellowship at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall followed by Emmaus Gathering in Scott Chapel at 6:30 pm. Sandra Ojeda-Medina is the Fourth Day Speaker.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

Service of Healing: 6:15 pm in Scott Chapel. Led by Rev. Raquel C. Feagins. Holy Communion.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1 Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday Service: 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Holy Communion celebrated.

FRIDAY, APRIL 2 Good Friday

Tre Ore Service: 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary. A three-hour service of music, Scripture readings and meditation following the events of the last day of the earthly life of Christ. Guest musicians are Timothy Birt, tenor and Scott Allen, cellist. Speakers are Elizabeth Hughes, Richard Parrigan, Randy Pollock and Dinah Tanner.

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

Easter Egg Hunt: Sponsored by The Children's Ministry Team. Saturday, April 3 at 10:00 am in the Gymnasium. Beginning at 10:00, fun activities hosted by our youth include a face-painting booth, cupcake walk and an "Easter craft" art-zone. At 11:00 am we will break into groups. Younger children will hunt eggs in the Gym and older children (up to fifth grade) will hunt on the Weekday School playground. The children are also encouraged to bring their favorite basket. "Easter Bunnies" will have prizes for those deemed the prettiest and most creative Easter baskets. A hot dog plate will be served for lunch. Please RSVP for the lunch by calling the Church Receptionist, 733-7156.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4 Easter Sunday

Easter Sunrise Service: Gather first at the porte cochere at the Woodlawn entry. At 6:45 am we will process as a group to the roof where the service will continue. Due to its location on the roof, this service is *not* handicap accessible. In this laity-led service, special music will be provided by the Easter Singers and Henry Holloway will give the message.

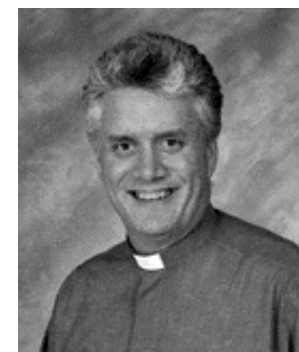
Traditional Worship: 8:30 am and 11:00 am in the Sanctuary. Reverend Jon Lowry will present the Easter message at both services. Adult choir at both services.

Lenten Journey Celebration: Everyone participating in the Lenten Journey, which began on February 20, will come together for a meal and time of celebration and fellowship at the home of Valli and David Seilheimer.



New pastor announced

In an announcement to the congregation on Sunday, March 14, Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair Alice Gannon named Rev. Jim McClain as the new senior pastor at Laurel Heights beginning in June, 2010. The Reverend McClain's first Sunday in the pulpit here will be June 13. To listen to the announcement online, visit www.mylhunc.org/readingroom/newsevents.html.



Rev. Jim McClain

Seekers' class begins April 11

by Karen Hogan

Earlier this year Pastor Raquel preached on yearning. I yearn to have the opportunity on Sunday mornings to be involved in an adult Sunday school class. Then I groused that someone else should fill my spiritual needs and create the perfect class for me; I was just too busy to do it.

Then it hit me. I am responsible for my own spiritual needs and I can encourage others who might be on the same quest.

To fill that void, I decided to lead/coordinate an adult Sunday school for others who yearn. If you share this longing, join me on April 11 at 9:45 am in Room 321.

New furnishings await in Columbarium Room

In 2009, a new element of ministry was added at Laurel Heights: a columbarium. In February 2010, new furnishings were added to the Columbarium Room (in the northwest entry vestibule of the sanctuary).

If you haven't visited the area lately, be sure to visit the next time you're in worship. It's a quaint, inviting room with places to sit and quietly meditate or pray. About 20 of the 64 niches have already been sold, but only one person's remains have been placed in the columbarium thus far.

A columbarium inside the sanctuary serves as an appropriate place for the earthly remains of any member or former member of the church, ordained Methodist minister, employee or former employee of the church, and the spouse, parents, children and grandchildren (natural, adopted, foster or step) of the above-mentioned persons.

The Laurel Heights Columbarium Ministry invites our LHUMC family to consider this location as the final resting place for their earthly remains. To learn more about the columbarium ministry, go to www.mylhunc.org/home/columbarium-ministry.html or pick up a brochure from one of the Welcome stations around the church.



Recently added furnishings in Columbarium Room invite mourners to visit in quiet comfort.

Will our children have faith?

The question comes from the writer John Westerhoff – but it applies to our own congregation: Will our children have faith? Faith is, of course, a gift from God, but if it is to grow into mature Christian discipleship, it must be nourished, nurtured and supported as the child moves into adulthood.

When children are baptized in our tradition, we - all of us

– promise to “so order our lives that [these children], surrounded by love, will grow into the way that leads to life eternal.” That is the task of all of us – people with children and people with none; old people and young people.

In the weeks and days to come, we will be talking to everyone – a lot – about what it takes to nurture our children and youth into strong Christian Faith. We will also be talking about how every member of this Family of Faith can help.

Your Education and Children's Ministry Team



MARCH

28 Benson McGlone
29 Abigail Reed; Jackson Fey Hedgepeth
31 Emily Cavazos; Cleo Ellis; Mike McGlone

APRIL

1 Judy Geerdes
2 Larry Aguilar; James Gentry
4 David Bailey; Dave Gannon; Ty Kuhn
5 Tony Arredondo; Natalie Ojeda

CHURCH CALENDAR

*Childcare available.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

8:30 & 11:00 *Worship (Rev. Jon D. Lowry) - *Sanctuary*
 9:30 Fellowship Time - *Dining Rm.*
 9:30 Tiny Tones - *Children's Chapel*
 9:30 Joyful Noise - *313-A*
 9:45 Sunday School
 9:45 Efrd Study on Revelation-312
 2:45 Children's Ministry Team - *Parlor*
 3:30 *Messiah* Charity Concert - *Christ Episcopal Church, 510 Belknap Place*
 4:00 UMYF - *319*
 5:30 Supper - *Dining Room*
 6:00 *Refreshments & Fellowship - *Dining Room*
 6:30 *The Connection & Emmaus - *Scott Chapel*

Monday, March 29

1:00 Knitpickers - *Laurel Room*
 3:00-7:00 Learning Center (Mon.-Thu.) - *Gym*
 5:00 Learning Center Advisory Council - *Laurel Room*
 6:30 Gamblers Anonymous- *313-B*

Tuesday, March 30

10:00 Staff Meeting - *313-B*
 5:45 Missions - *Laurel Room*

Wednesday, March 31

4:30 Line Dancing - *312*
 5:30 Supper - *Dining Room*
 6:00 Learning Center Parents' Meeting - *312*
 6:15 *Service of Healing (Rev. Raquel C. Feagins)- *Scott Chapel*
 6:15 Handbells - *Sanctuary Balcony*
 7:00 Chancel Choir - *Choir Room*
 7:15 Bible Study - *Library*

Thursday, April 1

9:00 Church Mice meet for fellowship and to do repairs around the church (open to all)
 4:00 UMYF - *Kitchen*
 5:45 Education Committee - *Parlor*
 6:00 Church under the Bridge - *Leave from Woodlawn Lot*
 6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - *313-B*
 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service w/ Holy Communion - *Sanctuary*

Friday, April 2

Weekday School Closed
Learning Center Closed
 12:00 Tre Ore - *Sanctuary*
 3:00 Tre Ore Reception - *DR*

Saturday, April 3

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous - *313-B*
 10:00 Easter Egg Hunt/Party-*Gym*

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

6:45 Easter Sunrise Service (Henry Holloway) - *Gather at covered drive to process to roof via stairs*

The issue date of this bi-weekly publication is the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. Deadline for submitting news is 5:00 pm on 1st & 3rd Thursdays. Mail to: Messenger Editor, 227 W. Woodlawn, San Antonio, TX 78212 or send an email to: cathy@mylhumc.org.

8:30 & 11:00 *Worship / Holy Communion (Rev. Jon D. Lowry) - *Sanctuary*
 9:30 Fellowship Time - *Dining Rm.*
 9:45 Sunday School
 9:45 Efrd Study on Revelation-312

Monday, April 5

9:00 Body Recall (M-W-F) - *312*
 10:00 Altar Guild - *Parlor*
 1:00 Knitpickers - *Laurel Room*
 3:00-7:00 Learning Center (Mon.-Fri.) - *Gym*

Tuesday, April 6

6:30 Gamblers Anonymous- *313-B*
 9:30 UMW Executive Committee - *Parlor*
 10:00 Staff Meeting - *313-B*
 6:15 Stephen Ministry - *313-B*

Wednesday, April 7

1:30 Bridge the Gap - *Laurel Room*
 4:30 Line Dancing - *312*
 5:30 *Supper - *Dining Room*
 6:15 *Worship/Communion (Rev. Robin Hiatt-Reed) - *Scott Chapel*
 6:15 Handbells- *Sanctuary Balcony*
 7:15 Bible Study - *Library*

Thursday, April 8

8:00-7:00 Super Adults to Brenham - *Regent Bus*
 9:00 Church Mice meet for fellowship and to do repairs around the church (open to all)
 5:30 SPRC - *Parlor*
 6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - *313-B*

Friday, April 9

4:30 Church Staff Retreat - *Heimat*
 6:30 Parents' Night Out (Reservations: 733-7156)

Saturday, April 10

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous - *313-B*
 10:00-5:30 Super Adults to Gillespie County - *Regent Bus*
 10:00 History & Records - *Library*
 10:00 MOPS - *105*
 10:00 Children & Youth Easter Program Practice - *Sanctuary*
 4:00 Borg Bunch Study Group - *Laurel Room*

GIFTS IN HONORARIA

Organ Fund

MARCIO ARRUDA
 RICHARD PARRIGAN
 GEOFFREY WAITE

by
 Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Mazel



February 26, 2010
 Dear friends,
 Thank you for continuing to keep my mom, Ann Jones, in your thoughts and prayers. The notes from church members are so thoughtful.

Blessings to you,
 Linda Martin

GIFTS IN MEMORIAM

Altar Guild
 BOBBYE SCHOOLER
 by
 Pal & Barbara Wenger

General Memorials

CAROLE CARMICHAEL
 by
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Campbell

BETTY HAMNER

by
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Campbell
 by
 Mr. & Mrs. Andy Spillman

JOHN J. TAYLOR

by
 Mr. & Mrs. Andy Spillman

Library

JOHN J. TAYLOR

by
 Dr. & Mrs. Reeves Smith

Pastor's

Discretionary Fund

BETTY HAMNER

by
 Richard & Nancy Dugger

UNCLAIMED MONEY FOR COLLEGE

Need money for college? Then, why haven't you applied for a scholarship?

The Laurel Heights UMC Scholarship Committee is accepting scholarship applications for the 2010-2011 school year. Anyone seeking an undergraduate or graduate degree may apply. Current scholarship recipients must re-apply as scholarships are not auto-renewing.

Applications are available in the church office or by email from Dave Gannon, Scholarship Committee Chair, at dave_gannon@msn.com.

Deadline for applying is April 30, 2010. Awards will be made by June 15, 2010. If you have any questions, call Dave Gannon, 852-9932.

United Methodist Women
 Mary Blackford
 Scholarship Deadline
 May 1, 2010



Healing: Rebecca Mayes; Cora Nell Fournier; Harold Souder; Richard Jackson; Mindy Lanoux; Roxane Darnell; Clay Skinner; Fred Vaca; Roy Kosaka; Bob Riddle; Nancy Fassnidge.

Those Who Mourn: Family of Ceryl E. Seiler who passed away on March 16; families of Gracie Huron, Chris Huron, Connie Molina and Roxie Rocha in the loss of Jose Henry Graciano, Jr. (March 12) and Jose Henry Graciano, Sr. (March 13); family of Thomas Sanders in the loss of his mother, Carole Carmichael, on March 10; and family of Betty Hamner who passed away March 9.

Remember our shut-ins and those in the military.



CONTACT Us

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School 732-6979

Super Adults 733-6482

Clergy

Rev. Jon D. Lowry x34
 Senior Pastor
 Rev. Raquel C. Feagins x35
 Associate Pastor

Programming

Sandra Jones x37
 Director of Children and Youth Ministries
 Judy Davis x18
 Community Outreach
 Susan Holloway 733-6482
 Super Adult Director
 Jerome Malek x19
 Music Director
 Geoffrey Waite x45
 Organist/Music Associate
 Dr. Anne Wier 732-6979
 Weekday School Director
 Elizabeth Woods x36
 Wesley Nurse

Office

Cherie Burt x10, Receptionist
 Louise Dudley x29
 Bookkeeper
 Cathy Everhart x13
 Publications Editor
 Elizabeth Jackson x12
 Administrative Secretary

April Mission of the Month: Imagine No Malaria

by Deaconess Judy Davis

Can you imagine no polio? No smallpox? Thanks be to God we are now experiencing life without the devastating effects of these two diseases. Now imagine a world where there is no malaria that kills a child every 30 seconds. You can help turn this vision into a reality. Ephesians 3:20 says, "God can do immeasurably more than we can ask or IMAGINE."

With Imagine No Malaria as our Mission of the Month for April, Laurel Heights has a chance to make an extraordinary impact on the lives of children, families and entire villages in Africa. The success of Nothing But Nets has lifted us to a place where a sustainable victory over malaria is possible.

In addition to giving through your communion rail offerings in April, please join other United Methodist Churches in the Southwest Texas Conference as we celebrate *A Sunday to Save Lives* on April 18, 2010. During both morning worship services that day, special Imagine No Malaria envelopes will be provided in your bulletin for you to give. One hundred per cent of every dollar you give goes to the project and each \$100 dollars donated saves 10 lives. A gift of \$5 provides one course of treatment to a child with malaria and \$20 provides food and treatment of anemia for one pregnant woman with malaria.

Mark your calendars! April 25, 2010 is World Malaria Day and The United Methodist Church will host an event to create awareness from 2:00 to 5:00 pm on the south steps of the Capitol in Austin, Texas. Join us if you can.

Together, we can cast a wider net - and more importantly, we can begin to imagine a world without malaria and with God's help, we can make that dream a reality by the year 2015.

This is who we are. This is what we do as United Methodists — we save lives!