



Gifts of the Spirit



It has been five months since I arrived to serve Laurel Heights though my relationship with Laurel Heights goes back many years. In some ways it feels very much like coming home. I was baptized by Rev. Chess Lovern over 50 years ago, yet I can still feel his influence over the ministries and vision of that congregation that nurtured and loved me from birth to ordination. I feel those same values in Laurel Heights. Both congregations are loving and caring congregations with rich traditions and heritage. Both have strong lay leadership who serve the church far beyond the local congregation on the district, conference and world levels. Both strive to serve God in whatever ways God leads them.

It is a blessing to serve Laurel Heights as we seek to continue the great commission by reaching out to the least, the last and the lost while caring for those already in our care.

During our time together you have hosted 10 cottage group meetings for us to visit briefly and get to know each other. 185 people were able to attend those cottage meetings and not only get to know me, but each other. I have also had the privilege of visiting two retirement communities and learning about this congregation. I enjoyed every visit and appreciate your willingness to share. From these conversations I learned that many of you came to Laurel Heights because it was close to where you lived, you married someone who was a member or when you were born your parents were members. But most of you came because someone invited you, there was a ministry you heard about that was attractive to you or someone asked you to be part of a ministry project. These are some of the qualities of Laurel Heights that you shared with me: "...the church is friendly, open-minded, traditional, non-judgmental, accepting, loving, appreciative of children, historical, warm, has the Spirit of God, a sense of community, an opportunity to serve, good studies, and great beauty..."

I encourage us to remember and celebrate what we love about Laurel Heights. There will be many opportunities to share these gifts with others. Take time to invite friends to worship with you. We share those things we find important with the people we love. Encourage your family to join you during the Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas traditions that have special meaning for you. There will be several projects and mission opportunities that might cause you to think of people with gifts that would be helpful. Invite them to help and be a part. Look around for things that might help someone feel more accepted. Are things clean and neat? Are the materials they might need to fully participate readily available? Are there traditions they would enjoy more or find more meaningful if they knew more about them?

You have said some of the most important duties of the local church member are "being the 'Word' to the community," "knowing the community" and "to serve others in Christ's name." This is a great place, full of wonderful people and this is the time of year people are open to an invitation to join in celebrating the wonderful gifts of the Spirit found at Laurel Heights.

See you Sunday,

OTHER LHUMC NEWS ON PAGES 4A & 8A

Advent - Christmas - Epiphany

2010 / 2011 Schedule

NOVEMBER

28 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- Labyrinth goes up in Room 312 (through Jan. 5)
- Worship 8:30 am & 11:00; Rev. John McMullen preaching

30 Walk to Bethlehem begins

- Walk to Bethlehem continues Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10 am - 11 am, Nov. 30 - Jan. 6 (walking areas vary)

DECEMBER

1 Family Advent Festival, 5:30 pm in the Gym

- Godly Play for adults, 7:15 pm in Mann Chapel

3 "Christmas at the Carillon," 7 pm in Sanctuary

- Tickets: (512) 476-5775

5 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- Worship 8:30 am & 11:00; Rev. Jim McClain preaching
- New Members Luncheon, 12:00 in Dining Room

6 Healing Through the Holidays, 7 pm in Room 312

- Co-sponsored by Porter Loring Mortuaries

8 Mid-week Worship at 6:15 pm; preceded by supper at 5:30

11 Believers Class Christmas Breakfast, 9:30 in Dining Room

12 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- Worship 8:30 am & 11:00; Rev. Jim McClain preaching

14 United Methodist Women Christmas Luncheon & Program, 11:30 am in the Dining Room

15 Mid-week Worship at 6:15 pm; preceded by supper at 5:30

- Line Dancers at Chandler Center

16 Super Adult Christmas, 9:00 am in the Dining Room

- Christmas Lunch at 11:45 am in the Gym

18 Lessons & Carols Rehearsal, 10:00 am in the Sanctuary

19 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- Worship 8:30 am & 11:00; Rev. Jim McClain preaching
- Lessons & Carols, 7:00 pm in Sanctuary

22 Mid-week Worship at 6:15 pm; preceded by supper at 5:30

24 CHRISTMAS EVE

- Candlelight Communion Service at 4, 7 & 11 pm

25 CHRISTMAS

29 Mid-week Worship at 6:15 pm; preceded by supper at 5:30

JANUARY

2 EPIPHANY SUNDAY

5 Epiphany Feast, 5:30 pm in the Gym

6 EPIPHANY

What is Advent?



There was a time when retailers hit us with Christmas ads just after Thanksgiving. Not anymore. Today Christmas is “celebrated” by marketers before the last of the Halloween decorations have been put away. The world’s anticipation of Christmas is dull in comparison to the true meaning of Christ’s advent.

Advent, which comes from the Latin word *Adventus*, means *coming*. Since not all churches celebrate Advent, some are left wondering, “What is Advent?” and “Why do we celebrate it?”

Advent is the season when we await the coming of the Christ child – into the world and into our heart anew. There are four Sundays of Advent, beginning this year on November 28. Advent wreaths mark the passing of Advent with a new candle lit each Sunday for the four Sundays of Advent. Then, on Christmas Eve, a fifth candle in the center of the wreath, the Christ candle, is lit.

When something is new to us, we are eager to learn as much as we can so that we can put into practice what we have learned. On the other hand, when traditions become too familiar to us we sometimes forget their purpose. Whether the season of Advent is new to you or not, latch onto the resources available this year that can help prepare your heart for His coming again.

Here are a few: 1) Sunday morning and Wednesday evening worship; 2) *Journey to Bethlehem* devotional guide (read the daily devotionals *and* you can also physically walk each day and log the progress of your journey in the guide); 3) Walk to Bethlehem, Tuesdays and Thursdays during Advent (beginning Nov. 30); 4) Walk the Labyrinth in room 312 through Epiphany Feast on Jan. 5; 5) Family Advent Festival (children and adults make crafts for Advent together as a family while those without young children get involved too); 6) Worship with music (“Christmas at the Carillon” on Dec. 3 and “Lessons & Carols” on Dec. 19); Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service at 4 pm, 7 pm and 11 pm; and 7) Epiphany Feast on Wednesday, Jan. 5.

“Christmas at the Carillon”

Four-time Grammy-nominated, Austin-based choral ensemble *Conspirare* returns to Laurel Heights UMC on Dec. 3 with the 17th edition of its stunning Christmas program, “Christmas at the Carillon.” Joining Craig Hella Johnson and Company of Voices again this year is Austin singer/song-writer and international touring artist Patrice Pike and Tom Burritt on percussion. The Concert begins at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.

Tickets will be available at the door. Or, you can order online at <http://conspirare.frontgatesolutions.com>. General admission is \$35; students are \$10 with student ID.

For more information, call (512) 476-5775 or visit their website at www.conspirare.org.

Starting Off the Season with Family!

Family Advent Festival

Wednesday, December 1

Supper begins at 5:30 pm in the dining room and tables for making crafts will be set up in the gymnasium. What would your Sunday School class or group like to do? How many tables will you need? To sign your class or group up to help, contact Dr. Anne Wier, 732-6979 or email lhwsdir@yahoo.com by Monday, Nov. 29.

Be sure to make your meal reservations for the supper by 12:00 noon Tuesday, Nov. 30. Call 733-7156.

Healing through the Holidays

The Christmas Season celebrates the birth of a Savior with the promise of new beginnings. It *should* be the happiest time of the year. Unfortunately, it is also a season filled with memories of family in our midst. When death, separation, divorce or an empty-nest feeling occurs, the holidays can bring sadness and feelings of loneliness.

While we may understand that through Christ we are never alone, it sometimes helps to explore the emotional, physical, and spiritual dynamics of grief. “Healing through the Holidays” targets these issues and can help you learn how to create *new* meaning out of the holidays.

Whether or not your loss is recent, if grief makes you dread the holidays, come and discover ways to help you cope. Join us in Room 312 at 7:00 pm on Monday, Dec. 6 as Laurel Heights UMC and Porter Loring Mortuaries presents “Healing through the Holidays.” For more details, contact Elizabeth Woods, Wesley Nurse, 733-7156 ext. 36.



Let's make the Journey

During Advent this year, we encourage everyone to walk the distance that Mary and Joseph walked from Nazareth to Bethlehem (73 miles) and to use the time spent placing one foot in front of the other to become stronger physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Our journey begins the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 28 and

lasts until the Epiphany Dinner on Wednesday, Jan. 5.

Whether you exercise regularly or are just beginning, we hope that your Walk to Bethlehem will help you flex your physical and spiritual muscles. You can walk with only God as a walking partner, using this as a time for personal prayer and reflection, or you can find a walking partner(s) and spend time encouraging one another and holding one another accountable. If you feel that 73 miles in 39 days is too far for you to walk alone, combine your miles with those of a family member or friends.

Beginning Sunday, Nov. 28, we will have available for you devotional books to aid you in your Journey. We will also have pedometers to help you keep track of the miles you walk. The Labyrinth will be set up throughout Advent in Room 312. The Labyrinth is an ancient spiritual tool for meditation and prayer that many find helps them feel closer to God and brings a sense of healing or transformation. We hope that you will find some time during Advent to walk the Labyrinth. If you like the support and camaraderie of exercising in a group, join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 11 am at the church for a walking program. The first walking group will meet on Nov. 30.

Regardless of how and where you walk the miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem, congratulations in advance for taking the first step... and all the steps after that!

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED
Nov. 25 & 26



MESSENGER DEADLINES

Issue Date	Coverage	COPY DEADLINE
12/3	12/5 - 12/18	11/15
12/17	12/19 - 1/8	12/2
1/7	1/9 - N/A	12/16

Stephen Ministry is . . .



Stephen Ministry is Christ helping People Through People!

If you would like to be part of this challenging and beautiful ministry, talk to Don Clark, Ellen Evans or Barb Kurtz soon – a new class begins in late January.



NOVEMBER

- 21 Dit Justiss; Charles Schneider; Gerald Staney
- 22 Alan Kramer; James Holloway; Anna Lowry
- 23 George Newcomb
- 24 Day McNeel
- 25 William Brooks; Louise Rawlings
- 26 Braden Wade Durham
- 27 David McDavid
- 28 Roger Gary; Janice Louise Grant; Mac Holst; Linda Patton
- 29 Mosselene Brittingham; Tom Morton
- 30 Janice Davis; Darla Peek

DECEMBER

- 1 Meryl Elizabeth Jones; Victoria Jones; Jacquelynn Jopling; Kristy Kuhn
- 2 Vicki Ferguson; Ann Sadler Godwin; Danny Holst; Chance Smith; Dinah Tanner
- 3 Doris Grant; Stephen Jett
- 4 Juanita Souder; Penny Viola



Walk to Bethlehem

Mission Statement

The mission of Laurel Heights United Methodist Church 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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

*Childcare available.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

8:00-12:00 UMW Bake Sale -
Rowe Plaza
8:30 & 11:00 *Worship - Sanctuary
9:30 Fellowship Time - Dining Rm.
9:30 Tiny Tones - 106
9:30 Joyful Noise Choir - 313-A
10:00 Sunday School for all ages
10:00 LHUMC Leads Worship at
Chandler Center
4:00 Student Ministries (Middle
School) - 319
5:30 Student Ministries (High
School) - 319
6:30 Youth & Parents Thanksgiving
Dinner - Dining Room
6:30 Emmaus Gathering - Scott
Chapel

Monday, November 22

9:00 Super Adult Games Day - DR
1:00 Knitpickers - Laurel Room
3:00-7:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC
(Mon.-Thu.) - Gym
5:00 SA Youth Advisory Council
- Laurel Room

5:30 Stewardship - Parlor
6:00 Emmaus Reunion Group - DR
6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

Tuesday, November 23

5:30 Bexar County Detention
Ministries - Dining Room
6:30 Neighborhood Ministries
- Parlor

Wednesday, November 24

**Weekday School Closed for
Thanksgiving Holidays** (Wed.-Fri.)
4:30 Line Dancing - 312
6:15 *Worship - Scott Chapel

Thursday, November 25

HAPPY THANKSGIVING
All Buildings & Offices Closed
Friday, November 26

All Buildings & Offices Closed

Saturday, November 27

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

8:00-12:00 Labyrinth up through
Jan. 5 - 312

8:30 & 11:00 *Worship (Rev. John
McMullen) - Sanctuary
9:30 Fellowship Time - Dining Rm.
9:30 Tiny Tones - 106
9:30 Joyful Noise Choir - 313-A
10:00 Sunday School for all ages
4:00 Student Ministries (Middle
School) - 319
5:30 Student Ministries (High
School) - 319

Monday, November 29

1:00 Knitpickers - Laurel Room
3:00-7:00 San Antonio Youth at
LHUMC (Mon.-Fri.) - Gym
6:00 Emmaus Reunion Group - DR
6:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B

Tuesday, November 30

10:00 Walk to Bethlehem (Tue. &
Thu.) - Locations vary
5:30 Bexar County Detention
Ministries - Dining Room

Wednesday, December 1

Dec. 1-5 Super Adult Christmas in
Newport (342-6912 for details)
11:00 Church Staff - 313-B
4:30 Line Dancing - 312
5:30 *Supper - Dining Room
5:30 Family Advent Festival - Gym
6:15 Handbells- Sanctuary Balcony
6:30 Disciple I - Parlor
7:00 Chancel Choir - Choir Room
7:15 Godly Play - Mann Chapel

Thursday, December 2

9:00 Church Mice meet for
fellowship and to do repairs
around the church (open to all)
6:00 Church under the Bridge
- Leave from Woodlawn Lot
6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

Friday, December 3

6:30 Parents' Night Out
(Reservations by noon 733-7156)
7:00 "Christmas at the Carillon,"
Tickets (512) 476-5775-Sanctuary

Saturday, December 4

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B
10:00 Adoption Workshop - 105
4:00 Borg Bunch - Laurel Room

Let not your heart be troubled.
"Healing through the Holidays,"
Monday, Dec. 6 at 7 pm in Room
312. All are welcome.

United Methodist Student Day

Please prayerfully consider a gift of support for the United Methodist Student Day offering on Sunday, Nov. 28. One-hundred-percent of this General Church Special Offering goes to provide scholarships for United Methodist students attending United Methodist-related colleges and universities. An offering envelope will be included in the Nov. 28 Sunday bulletins.



"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.' For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, 'Peace be within you.' For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good."
Psalm 122:6-9 NRSV

December Mission: Cross-Health Ministries

Cross-Health Ministries is a San Antonio-based mission that Laurel Heights has been involved with on our medical mission trips. This mission is especially active in Mexico and is helping to set up a full clinic in Piedras Negras. At this time, four consulting rooms, a lab, and dental stations for three dentists are complete. Members of our congregation have volunteered for a number of medical mission trips at the clinic.

The ministry's purpose is two-fold:

- † To provide & facilitate health care to children & adults in impoverished areas around the world; and
- † To collect and distribute donated medical and surgical supplies to individuals and health care facilities.

To date it has accomplished the following:

- † Medical Mission trips to Mexico and Guatemala;
- † Special activities, i.e. children's Christmas parties; and
- † Delivers about 1000 pairs of donated shoes each year to children in need.

Response to individual health care needs include:

- † Participation in church mission fairs;
- † Supply trips;
- † Crisis response, i.e. flood relief; and
- † Donations to other mission teams and health agencies in 27 countries around the world.

Your communion rail and Wednesday night table offerings this month go to Cross-Health Ministries. To give anytime during December, please write "Cross-Health Ministries" in the memo line of your check.

GIFTS IN MEMORIAM

Baskett Music Fund

ANNE RANTA

by

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kinnison

General Memorials

BETTY HAMNER

by

Michael & Nancy Avellar

ANNE RANTA

by

Rev. & Mrs. Bert Clayton

by

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Kurtz

GRADY REED

by

Carroll & Colleen Fitzgerald

Organ Fund

ANNE RANTA

by

Mr. & Mrs. Tony Arredondo

by

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Parrigan

UMW Elizabeth Circle

BAKE SALE

Sunday, Nov. 21

8 AM - 12 PM

Rowe Plaza



Healing: James Verette; Harold Souder; Mindy Lanoux; Roxane Darnell; Nancy Fassnidge; Vicki Ferguson; Richard Jackson.

Those Who Mourn: Family of Winifred Worsham who died Nov. 12; Teresa Garcés in the loss of her brother-in-law, Gilbert Alfaro.

Remember our shut-ins and those in the military.



CONTACT Us

Main (210) 733-7156

Fax 737-3920

School 732-6979

Super Adults 733-6482

Clergy

Rev. Jim McClain x34
Pastor

Programming

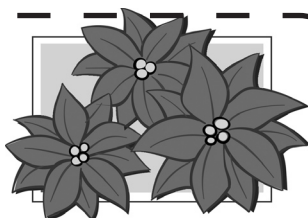
Deaconess Judy Davis x18
Community Outreach
Susan Holloway 733-6482
Super Adult Director
Kercida McClain x37
Christian Education Director
Paul Seeman x17
Youth Director
Geoffrey Waite x19
Director of Music
Dr. Anne Wier 732-6979
Weekday School Director
Elizabeth Woods RN BSN x36
Wesley Nurse

Office

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

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.

Poinsettias in December



I/we wish to make a donation of \$10 to help purchase poinsettia plants to decorate and beautify the sanctuary in December. This gift is given...

in Honor of _____

in Memory of _____

My name: _____

Phone: _____

Include this coupon with your check payable to LHUMC and mail to LHUMC, Attn: Bookkeeper, 227 W. Woodlawn, SAT 78212. Deadline: 12/6/10. Total limit: 70 plants.