



ALL INCLUSIVE EASTER

I was talking to a pastor in the Dallas area not long ago and he was telling me about his first “All Inclusive Easter Celebration.” It was a new church started in a housing development full of young families with children. Most of the families in the area did not have a church home and many of them had little or no church experience. But they would all be celebrating Easter in some way. He had an idea. They ordered direct mail flyers to everyone within a five mile radius inviting them to an “All Inclusive Easter Celebration”. The flyer had a list of activities and invited people to come to any or all of the festivities. They would start the day with a well planned and safe Easter egg hunt. The hunt would be

followed by games and activities for the children while lunch was being set up. The lunch was simple and inexpensive because of the limited resources of the congregation but free for everyone.

After lunch people were invited to stay for a lively and relevant worship service. Everyone in the congregation was committed and ready to act as host to guests in God’s house. It took every member to make sure all the activities were well done and reflected God’s love for each guest. They knew people would stay as long as they felt comfortable and welcomed but they had no idea how many.

On the day of the celebration the response was so great they ran out of parking. The guests were patient and responsive to the gracious hospitality of the congregation. Some people, who had come for only the Easter egg hunt, found by the time they were parked and made their way to the activities, the group had begun to set up for lunch. Their children enjoyed the other activities as those families decided to stay for the meal and fellowship. As you can guess, some people who arrived late for the meal found they were just in time for worship. Because of the hospitality expressed by the hosts of the event, very few people left mad and many returned on the Sundays following to find out more about this gracious group of people. The next year the congregation had doubled in size and they decided to have a pot luck and added additional parking for their All Inclusive Easter Celebration.

I have never been to an all inclusive resort or cruise but I understand you are given a variety of choices and experiences. This Easter, you can choose to participate in a full experience of all the “courses” of Easter from Palm Sunday, Holy Wednesday, Maundy Thursday-Seder followed by communion, Good Friday Tre Ore, Holy Saturday Baptism renewal to three Easter Services representing Light, Word and Table. Or you can pick and choose only the offerings that interest you. Not everyone is ready for the rich diet of the Tre Ore service or Seder. Some will come to the Palm Sunday celebration to hear the children sing and then skip everything else until Easter morning. And some will plan to come to all or only part of the Easter Festival.

I celebrate that they allowed us this brief opportunity to be hosts to them in God’s house. With God’s help a seed may be planted or a relationship formed that will spark a curiosity in them about God’s love. As members of this congregation we have committed to be hosts and not guests. We are God’s servants given the wonderful opportunity to welcome God’s guests and maybe they too will give their life to God through the Resurrected Christ and commit to serve him as their Lord and Savior.

See you Sunday,

Jim

SUNDAY, APRIL 17 *Palm Sunday*



Labyrinth: Through Easter the labyrinth is up in Room 312 Sunday to Friday, generally from 8 to 8 and 8 to 3 on Saturday

Palm Sunday Services: Worship and Palm Processional at 8:30 & 11:00 am in Sanctuary. Both children’s choirs will sing

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

Lenten Prayer & Reflection Group: 10:00 am in Laurel Room

Body & Spirit (Tuesday & Thursday): Exercise of body and spirit, 1:45 pm to 3:00 pm in Room 312

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

Walk through Holy Week: Child-friendly experience of the events of Holy Week, especially for 3 years through fifth grade. Begins in Room 105 at 6:15 pm

Prayers around the Cross: Meditative worship service centered around prayer and healing. Led by Rev. Valli Seilheimer at 6:15 pm in Room 312

Compline: Evening prayers and music in the Sanctuary Foyer at 8:30 pm

THURSDAY, APRIL 21 *Maundy Thursday*

Maundy Thursday Seder Meal: Dinner and worship around the Passover meal ending with Holy Communion - 6:15 pm in the Dining Room

FRIDAY, APRIL 22 *Good Friday*

Tre Ore Service: (12 to 3 in the Sanctuary.) This year’s service features cycles - or sections - combining instrumental, vocal, and choral music with hymns, meditations, and prayers, all centered around the seven last words of Christ on the cross. Guest musicians joining with our Chancel Choir are bassist Max Weir, violinist Julian Tello, and cellist Megan Swisher. Worshipers are welcome to come and go quietly as needed. A reception with Hot Cross buns follows at 3:00

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

Easter Festival: Starts at 10 am - Family fun with crafts, Easter Egg hunt, and lunch

Service of Baptism: In the Sanctuary at 1 pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 24 *Easter Sunday*

Easter Sunrise Service: Laity-led service at 7 am on the Roof. Gather first at the porte cochere at the Woodlawn entry. We will process as a group to the roof where the service will continue.

Worship Service: In the Sanctuary at 8:30 and 11 am with Rev. Jim McClain giving the Easter message and Chancel Choir and brass instruments at both services

Breakfast for All: Starts at 9:15 in the Gym. All are welcome

Other LHUMC News on Pages 4A & 8A

At your LHUMC Library for Easter



Spring is a time of resurrections. Laurel Heights United Methodist Church Library is pleased to help you prepare for the miracle of Easter with new hours, new services, and new books. Come visit the church library on the third floor and discover how this quiet place can bless you and your family.

Easter books in the children's collection range from the little board book *What is Easter?* by Michelle Medlock Adams that helps the very youngest understand this concept to Fiona French's *Easter*, with its beautiful illustrations in the style of stained glass windows, that can be enjoyed by readers of all ages.

Deborah Heiligman takes a lively look at the meanings and traditions surrounding Easter in countries around the world. The beautiful color photographs in *Celebrate Easter with Colored Eggs, Flowers, and Prayer* help one visualize these special customs. Author Chris Auer and illustrator Rick Johnson present an inspirational story for young readers of Easter hope in *The Legend of the Sand Dollar*.

For older readers may we suggest *The Resurrection Promise: An Interpretation of the Easter Narratives* by Charles Austin Perry. In this book, Perry examines the resurrection accounts with historical reasoning and helps us understand our own experience of faith.

Quiet Spaces: Prayer Interludes for Women by Patricia Wilson contains calming meditations to help a woman find her center for various occasions including one for Easter Sunday.

No Wonder They Call Him the Savior: Chronicles of the Cross by Max Lucado describes the cross as "the hope that lures all searchers... where God and man encounter each other." This is a timeline that lovingly traces the sacrifices of our Savior on the cross and recounts the miracle of his reappearance in the garden.

Sandra Webb and Karen Michaelson
Volunteer Librarians

Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

Easter offering helps budget

Looking for a tangible way to share your faith this Easter? Your special gift through our Easter offering helps the Church meet this year's Operating Budget, which is vital in our outreach to the community. For your convenience, an Easter offering envelope will be included in your Easter Sunday worship bulletin. If you prefer, you can give online securely at <http://www.mylhumc.org/onlinegiving.html>.

LHUMC LIBRARY HOURS

STAFFED

LIBRARY HOURS

SUNDAY

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

WEDNESDAY

5 - 6:15 PM

Need help with a term paper, repair information for a vehicle, or some genealogy support? Know someone looking for work? In addition to checking out books and media to you, we know of online resources like job databases, quick and user-friendly resume templates, and local organizations that provide free career counseling and business start-up advice. Come by during library hours on Sunday or Wednesday.

SELF-HELP

LIBRARY HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY

9 - 5 PM

Patrons are welcome to visit the church library whenever there is a Receptionist on-duty at the first floor Reception desk. Someone there can provide you with a key to the library and assist you with books and media check-out.



Search the Library Catalog online at <http://66.196.195.10:8080>.

"Adventures in Africa"

Dr. Edward Dodge, MD will talk on "Adventures in Africa" during the Sunday School hour in the Parlor on May 1. Brought up by Methodist parents in a medical mission station in Angola, Dr. Dodge has a unique perspective on missions. A physician and former public health official and familiar with the history and culture of Zimbabwe, he brings firsthand knowledge of cultural barriers to health and other challenges faced by the people of Africa. Anyone with an interest in missions should enjoy Dr. Dodge's vast repertoire of stories from personal and professional experiences in Africa. Teachers, why not bring your entire class.

College scholarships available

Need money for college? The Laurel Heights UMC Scholarship Committee is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2011-2012 school year. Anyone seeking an undergraduate or graduate degree may apply. Scholarships are not auto-renewing; current scholarship recipients must re-apply. Deadline to apply is May 31, 2011. Pick up an application from Elizabeth Jackson in the church office. Or, contact Scholarships Chair Dave Gannon, 852-9932, or dave_gannon@msn.com.

Scholarship application deadline is May 1

The Mary Blackford Scholarship Committee awards five to seven \$500 scholarships each year (\$250 for fall and \$250 for spring semesters). Since we continue helping a student until he or she graduates (as long as the grade requirement is met), we usually have two or three openings every year. Applications can be picked up in the church office and must be returned to Elizabeth Jackson by May 1, 2011.

Disaster training, May 7

If sudden disaster strikes, would you know how to help?

UMCOR's Disaster Early Response Training will take place from 8:30 am to 4 pm on Saturday, May 7 in the gym. This class is for anyone interested in being trained to respond to disasters in our area. The training will give you credentials recognized by the Red Cross that will allow you into disaster areas after first-responders have declared them safe. The skills you learn will help if you are called to be a part of a mission relief team along the coast or in our own backyard. The cost is \$30; scholarships are available. There is no commitment to respond to a call for relief but knowing that you can is a great comfort. The Rev. Jim McClain says, "This church has always stood ready to respond to those in need and I know many of you will want to have this valuable training." For more information or to register, contact Elizabeth Jackson, 733-7156 ext. 12.

Native American Ministries Sunday

Once a year, on Native American Ministries Sunday, United Methodists worldwide join forces by making a special offering to help Native Americans answer God's call to ministry.

Our annual conference keeps 50 percent of the Special Offering to develop and strengthen Native American ministries within the conference. The remainder goes to programs benefiting Native Americans in cities throughout the United States. Your gifts also provide scholarships to Native Americans attending United Methodist and other approved schools of theology.

For your convenience, an envelope will be provided in the May 8 Sunday bulletin.

Final Book Review for season concludes with lunch

The final Book Review of the season is Monday, May 9. The morning begins at 10:00 with coffee and snacks in the choir room. At 10:30 in Scott Chapel Susan Holloway reviews the new novel by Fannie Flagg, *I Still Dream About You*. Maggie Fortenberry



is a former Miss Alabama. Still beautiful, she is now a successful real estate agent in her hometown of Birmingham, Alabama. To others her life seems ideal, but Maggie knows how empty her life has become. She decides on a plan to solve all her problems, but life keeps interrupting, causing her to delay her plans. The eventual resolution comes in a way she could never have predicted. This novel is a perfect combination of comedy and old-fashioned wisdom that only Fannie Flagg could write. Admission for the Review is \$3 at the door or by season ticket.

If you plan to attend the luncheon afterwards, the cost for lunch is \$7. Please RSVP for the lunch to 733-6482. On the menu is: artichoke appetizer, garden salad with apple and blue cheese, beef tenderloin, potatoes Romanoff, green peas with mushrooms, dinner roll, and raspberry angel cake.

Gifts to United Methodist Women Mary Blackford Scholarship Fund

In Memory of JOAN NAVARE RITTER

by Billie Arredondo

In Memory of MARY MCDAVID

by Teresa Garcés
Elizabeth Hughes
Myrna Kearney
Barb & Tom Kurtz
May O'Neal
Marjorie & Richard Parrigan
Gloria Sparkman
Sharon & Phillip Templeton
Molly Walden

In Memory of BIRDIE TOWERY

by Teresa Garcés
Molly Walden

CHURCH CALENDAR

*Childcare available.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

PALM SUNDAY

8:00-8:00 Labyrinth (Sun.-Fri.) 312
8:30 & 11:00 *Worship - Sanctuary
9:30 Fellowship Time - Dining Rm.
9:30 Tiny Tones - 106
9:30 Joyful Noise Choir - 313-A
9:30 Youth Chimes Choir - Choir Room
9:45 Confirmation Class - The Tower, Room 201
10:00 Sunday School for all ages
10:00 LHUMC Leads Worship at Chandler Center
12:00 Youth Ministry Council - 319
4:00 Student Ministries (Middle School) - 319
5:30 Student Ministries (High School) - 319

Monday, April 18

9:00 Body Recall (Mon./Wed.) 312
9:00 Super Adult Games Day - DR
1:00 Knitpickers - Laurel Room
3:00-7:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC (Mon.-Thu.) - Gym
5:30 Trustees - Parlor

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

Tuesday, April 19

10:00 Lenten Prayer & Reflection - Laurel Room
1:45 Body & Spirit (Tue./Thu.) 312
5:30 Finance Committee - Parlor

Wednesday, April 20

11:00 Staff Meeting - 313-B
4:30 Line Dancing - 312
5:00 Book Club - Library
5:30 *Supper- Dining Room
6:15 *Meditative Worship: Prayers around the Cross (Rev. Valli Seilheimer) - 312
6:15 Child-friendly Walk through Holy Week (3 years - 5th Grade) - 105

6:15 Handbells- Sanctuary Balcony
6:30 Disciple I - Parlor
7:00 Chancel Choir - Choir Room
8:30 Compline - Sanctuary Foyer

Thursday, April 21

MAUNDY THURSDAY

9:00 Church Mice meet for fellowship and to do repairs around the church (open to all)
6:15 Seder Meal and worship ending with Holy Communion - Dining Room
6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

Friday, April 22

GOOD FRIDAY

12:00 Tre Ore Service - Sanctuary
3:00 Reception - Dining Room

Saturday, April 23

8:00-3:00 Labyrinth - 312
8:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B
10:00 Easter Festival & Lunch
1:00 Service of Baptism- Sanctuary

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

EASTER SUNDAY

7:00 Easter Sunrise Service - Roof
8:00-8:00 Labyrinth - 312

8:30 *Easter Service/Communion - Sanctuary

9:15 Easter Breakfast for All - Gym

9:30 Tiny Tones - 106

9:30 Joyful Noise Choir - 313-A

9:30 Youth Chimes Choir - Choir Room

9:45 Confirmation Class - The Tower, Room 201

10:00 Sunday School for all ages

11:00 *Easter Worship - Sanctuary

Monday, April 25

9:00 Body Recall (M-W-F) - 312

1:00 Knitpickers - Laurel Room

3:00-7:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC (Mon.-Thu.) - Gym

5:30 Stephen Minister Training-312

6:00 Emmaus Reunion Group - DR

6:00 Weekday School Board - WDS

6:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B

Tuesday, April 26

11:30 Stephen Leaders -Laurel Rm.

1:45 Body & Spirit (Tue./Thu.) 312

5:30 Bexar County Support Groups - Dining Room

6:30 Missions / Neighborhood Ministries - Parlor

Wednesday, April 27

9:00-4:00 Clergy Group - 322

11:00 Church Staff - 313-B

4:30 Line Dancing - 312

5:30 *Supper - Gym

6:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC Parents' Meeting - 305

6:15 *Worship / Communion (Rev. Robin Hiatt-Reed) - Scott Chapel

6:15 Handbells- Sanctuary Balcony

6:30 Disciple I - Parlor

7:00 Chancel Choir - Choir Room

Thursday, April 28

9:00-4:00 Clergy Group - 322

9:00 Super Adult Day - DR, Gym

9:00 Church Mice meet for fellowship and to do repairs around the church (open to all)

10:00-11:30 Mobile Food Bank at Beacon Hill Baptist Church, 612 Fredericksburg Rd.

5:30 SPRC - Laurel Room

6:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B

7:00 Worship Committee - Parlor

Friday, April 29

9:00-1:00 UMW Sewing Group-DR

10:00 Weekday School Ambulance Demonstration - Woodlawn Lot

6:00-9:00 Godly Play Training Retreat - Dining Room

6:00 SAC Methodist / St. Mary's Student Banquet - Gym

7:00 MOPS Mom's Night Out @ Taco Garage

Saturday, April 30

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B

9:00-3:00 Godly Play Training Retreat - Dining Room

SUNDAY, MAY 1

8:30 & 11:00 *Worship / Holy Communion - Sanctuary

9:30 Fellowship Time - Dining Rm.

9:30 Tiny Tones - 106

9:30 Joyful Noise Choir - 313-A

9:30 Youth Chimes Choir - Choir Room

9:45 Confirmation Class - The Tower, Room 201

10:00 Sunday School for all ages

10:00 "Adventures in Africa" with Dr. Edward Dodge - Parlor

10:00 LHUMC Leads Worship at Chandler Center

4:00 Middle School Student Ministries - 319

5:30 High School Student Ministries & Youth Worship Planning for Senior Sunday - 319

Monday, May 2

WEEKDAY SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

(MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY)

9:00 Body Recall (M-W-F) - 312

1:00 Knitpickers - Laurel Room

3:00-7:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC (Mon.-Fri.) - Gym

5:30 Stephen Minister Training-312

6:00 Emmaus Reunion Group - DR

6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

Tuesday, May 3

9:30 UMW Exec. Comm. - Parlor

1:45 Body & Spirit (Tue./Thu.) 312

6:15 Stephen Ministry - 313-B

Wednesday, May 4

8:35 Parents & Pastries - Parlor

11:00 Staff Meeting - 313-B

4:30 Line Dancing - 312

5:30 *Supper- Dining Room

6:15 *Worship / Communion (Rev. Jim Carr) - Scott Chapel

6:15 Handbells- Sanctuary Balcony

6:30 Disciple I - Parlor

7:00 Chancel Choir - Choir Room

Thursday, May 5

9:00 Church Mice meet for fellowship and to do repairs around the church (open to all)

6:00 Church under the Bridge - Depart from Woodlawn Lot

6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

Friday, May 6

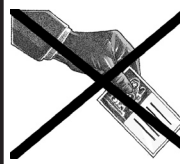
5:30 WDS Family Picnic - Gym

Saturday, May 7

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B

8:30-4:00 UMCOR Early Response Training: \$30 (Contact Elizabeth Jackson, 733-7156) - Gym

Automatic Giving



Giving just got easier.

We can now receive your pledge to the church by automatic bank draft. The process is as simple as 1-2-3:

- 1) Request a form by calling Louise, 733-7156
- 2) Fill it out and attach your voided check
- 3) Return these items to the Church Office

Please allow 3 to 4 weeks for processing.

May Mission: Janet and Roy May

Roy and Janet May are assigned to San Jose, Costa Rica where each serves on the faculty of the Latin American Biblical University. They have been at that post for more than 20 years. Janet works in the area of pastoral care; Roy teaches theology and ethics. In addition to their academic work, both Janet and Roy serve through church agencies in that area. Some may recall Roy as he grew up in parsonages in the Southwest Texas Conference where he sustains his clergy membership. Our support helps enable this outstanding and dedicated couple a continuation of their effective service in that critical region of the world.

You can give at anytime, but communion rail offerings and Wednesday night table offerings in May will help the Mays in their ministry.



APRIL

17 Randy Pollock

18 Sandra Jones; Mario Rendon; Chris Welch

19 Hattie Tucker

20 Lindsay Welch

21 Christopher Parish; Martin Zufall

22 Mary Mercer

24 Jessica Lewis; Brock Townzen

26 Rudy Sandoval

27 Larry Berry; Robert Parkinson; Natalie Rocha

28 Ryan Joesepp Barr

29 Laurie Morton; Alexander Padgett; Truman Smith

30 Bryan Saldana

MAY

1 Sharyn Barr

3 Margaret Bich; Dorothy Budd

4 Myrna Kearney; Shannon McFarland

5 Sheila Sims; Brian Trodden

6 Rick Lange

7 Alice Gannon; Pierce Peck

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.



Healing: Shelley McMullen; Geraldine Douglas; Jo Anne Barker; Ginger McKay; Truman Smith; Clay Skinner; Roxane Darnell; Mindy Lanoux Myrle Deaton; Patti Vaughan; Harold Souder; Martha Hamil; Faye Fox.

God's Presence: Sam Grant
Those Who Mourn: Bo Lee and family in the loss of his grandfather, Sergio Shearer. 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

Susan Holloway 733-6482
Super Adult Director
Kercida McClain x36
Christian Education Director
Paul Seeman x17
Youth Director
Geoffrey Waite x19
Director of Music
Dr. Anne Wier 732-6979
Weekday School Director
Christina Galvan, RN x37
Wesley Nurse

Office

Clyta Coder, Kayla Hester,
and Jessica Lewis x10
Receptionists
Louise Dudley x29
Bookkeeper
Cathy Everhart x13
Publications Editor
Elizabeth Jackson x12
Administrative Secretary

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.