



## ST. VALENTINE

Susan Holloway loaned me a wonderful book by Mary Reed Newland. It is a book on the liturgical year and the Christian values that we learn as we consider the many different special days in the Christian calendar. Newland wrote, "St. Valentine's day is not one of the major feasts of February, but it has the peculiar distinction of being celebrated by almost everyone for reasons known to almost no one" (p.109). I realized how right she was and continued reading.

There are three Valentines listed as Saints who were martyred. It could be that all three of these people were killed on February 14, or it could be that the early church chose a pagan festival on which to remember these people as a way to call people's attention away from the pagan values being promoted, or a combination of both. However it came to be, Pope Gelasius appointed it an official feast in the fifth century and named St. Valentine the patron saint of lovers. Add to this the legend that one of the martyrs left a note in his cell reminding his executioners of God's love for them the day he was executed and signed it "your Valentine" and it's not too difficult to see how we came to some of today's practices.

So what are some of the Christian values we can teach by observing this day as part of the Christian year? Simply remembering God's love in addition to our sweetheart's love for candies, cards or flowers might be enough for some. Others might want to think about the kind of love that would lead a person to give his or her life for another. As Christians we remember Jesus and his sacrifice. On Valentine's Day we are invited to remember others who were led to die for their love of Jesus, who is Love. Today, in the United States, it is unlikely we will be called to die for our love of Christ but with God's help we might be led to let go of a little of the self-love that comes between us and our love for God. We might try a little harder to love the people with whom we come in contact who we find are not easy to love.

This Valentine's Day week we can give of ourselves rather than simply meeting worldly expectations. One family shared that they made cookies and decorated them with symbols of their faith and liturgical symbols telling of God's love. Making cards at home with someone you love can be a time of celebrating the relationships God has given us. Parents and children working together can talk about the differences between friendship and love and what that first "crush" might be like. "We may use the evenings spent making valentines to have our own open forum on the subject of love, and the making of love, and how it is that people fall in love, and how it is related to God's love" (p.114).

Following the Church year in our homes can teach us about Christ and Christian values. It can teach us about waiting, sacrifice, delayed gratification, celebrating, love, serving others, creation, death, resurrection, hope, expectation, etc. As you remember the gifts or cards of this Valentine's Day, remember each gift as a way of participating in God's Love. Each symbol is giving of yourself in response to what God has given you. Much like the gift of Christ, some will recognize the value of the gift being offered and others will not. Long before Hallmark, God "cared enough to send the very best".

See you Sunday,

*Jim*

## Outreach activities of UMW

by Liz Hughes



The Statement of Purpose for United Methodist Women reads thusly: "The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."

In practice, the purpose of United Methodist Women reaches beyond the walls of the church and into our neighborhood and even around the world, influencing and helping others.

Recently, 45 pillow cases were delivered to Respite Care of San Antonio. These were sewn by our United Methodist Women sewing group as our quarterly activity for Faith in Action. Then, on Feb. 18 we met in the dining room to make children's dresses for Clyta Coder to take on her mission trip to Africa. To find out about upcoming sewing dates, contact Liz Hughes, 680-4262.

We always welcome new friends to come and work with us. We also gladly accept fabric, bias tape, ribbon and thread.

In January, the Elizabeth Circle provided supper one evening in the dining room for Bexar County Detention Ministries. This was their Faith in Action project.

On March 9, United Methodist Women will prepare the Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper, an annual Ash Wednesday tradition and fundraiser. The cost is the usual \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. Be sure to make your meal reservations by noon Tuesday, March 8.

Everyone is welcome at our UMW Lenten Luncheons. These soup and cornbread luncheons are complimentary, but reservations are requested. On the Sunday prior, you can use the attendance registration slip or, if you forget, call the church receptionist, 733-7156, by noon the Monday prior. The dates are March 15 and 29 and April 12 at 11:30 am in the dining room.

## Confirmation Orientation

Confirmation Orientation for confirmands, friends in faith, and parents will be held in the parlor at noon on Sunday, Feb. 20 with lunch provided. Questions? Contact Kercida, 733-7156.



**BLOOD DRIVE**  
**SUNDAY, FEB. 20**  
**9:15 AM - 12:30 PM**  
**LHUMC GYMNASIUM**

Blood donors save lives! Anyone who is 16 years old (with parental consent form) and weighing at least 120 pounds, or at least 17 years old and weighing at least 110 pounds and in good general health can donate blood. Sign up today by calling Judy Davis, 733-7156, ext. 18.

**Other LHUMC News on Pages 4A & 8A**

## Book Club News



by Karen Michaelson

If you love to read, we have just the group of friends for you. The Laurel Heights Book Club meets the third Wednesday of the month in the church library.

Join us at 5:00 for a lively discussion with fellow book lovers.

- **Feb. 16:** *Maisie Dobbs* by Jacquelin Winspear is an Agatha Award winning mystery about England between the two World Wars. Maisie Dobbs leaves her apprenticeship to a Scotland Yard investigator to set up her own business.
- **March 23 (4th Wednesday):** *Pope Joan* by Donna Woolfolk Cross tells the story of a legendary woman during the middle ages who disguises herself as a man and braves dangers and repression to become the Pope.
- **April 20:** *Rain Gods* by James Lee Burke. An elderly sheriff and his young female partner track a murderer who knows his Bible. They need the help of two clever women, a stripper and a waitress, to solve a mysterious string of killings. This action adventure novel is written with literary quality.
- **May 18:** *First Family: Abigail and John Adams* by Pulitzer Prize historian Joseph J. Ellis. The writer centers on a love story that helped shape a nation. Read about this Founding Father's family who gave so much to our country during and after the Revolutionary War.

We have an exciting spring ahead filled with reading. Now we just need you. Come and share your thoughts.



### FEBRUARY

- 20** Kelsey Shaw  
**23** Eileen Arocha; Teresa Garcés; David Paul; Jim Pollok  
**24** Josue Campos; Kent Cowan; Edna Peterson  
**25** Ellen Berky  
**26** Amanda Xiaxin Riddle; Thomas Sanders  
**28** Roy Campbell, III; Henry Holloway; Amelie Lanoux; Debra Dee Snoha  
**(29)** Al Frakes

### MARCH

- 1** Elizabeth Hartson  
**3** Sharon Armstrong; Genny Campbell; Zoe Gannon; Jose Luis Mercado  
**4** Dana Bull; Dale Jacobs; Harold Snyder  
**5** Lisa Harmon; Mary Jo Martin

## 291 Students helped by the power of one

What a difference one single life made! Miss Mary A. Blackford was born July 6, 1891 and served as a missionary of the Methodist Church in China and Malaya for 41 years. After her retirement, Miss Blackford was received into membership at Laurel Heights UMC in 1957 by the Rev. Dr. Howard Hollowell. That same year, Miss Blackford became a member of United Methodist Women. When she died in 1978, a bequest of \$1325.84 was made to United Methodist Women.



Mary A. Blackford

Those funds were used in 1981 to establish the Mary A. Blackford Memorial Scholarship Fund. To date, Miss Blackford's gift, along with the generous donations of others, has made a difference in the lives of 291 students by assisting them with a total of \$83,970. Many thanks to each one who, through the years, have helped keep funds available for students and Miss Blackford's legacy alive by their giving through memorials, honorariums, and donations. For information about how *you* can make a difference, contact Irene Vaca or Molly Walden.

## CAM Food and clothing drive



During March the Missions and Neighborhood Ministries Committees will have an all-church food and clothing drive to support Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM). CAM's mission is to share the love of Christ by providing immediate assistance and encouragement to people in crisis. CAM has been assisting hundreds of people each month with basic essentials since 1977. One Sunday in March a CAM representative will join us during fellowship time to share information about the ministry.

Food, clean and serviceable used clothing and hygiene items may be placed in bins labeled and located around the church. Below is a list of items needed:

### FOOD ITEMS

Applesauce	Stew	<b>PASTA</b>
Apricots	Tomatoes	Macaroni and cheese
Carrots	Tuna	Noodles
Corn		Spaghetti
Fruit cocktail	<b>CANNED AND PACKAGED SOUPS</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>
Green beans	Chicken noodle	Cereal
Mixed vegetables	Cream of mushroom	Jams & jellies
Peaches	Potato	Oatmeal
Pears	Tomato	Peanut butter
Pineapple	Vegetable	
Spam		

### CLOTHING

#### **MEN** (no dress pants or shoes)

Winter coats, sweatshirts, sweaters, shirts, t-shirts, jeans, khaki's, workpants, work boots, tennis shoes, socks, underwear, belts, and hats.

#### **WOMEN** (especially large sizes)

Winter coats, sweaters, t-shirts, blouses, skirts, dresses, pants, jeans, robes, shoes, nylons, underwear, socks, purses, and gloves.

#### **CHILDREN**

Coats, sweaters, sweats, khaki's & white button-down shirts (for school uniforms), dresses, pants, belts, caps, gloves, socks, pajamas, and underwear.

#### **HYGIENE ITEMS**

Shampoos, soaps, toothbrushes, toothpastes, lotions, deodorants, razors, sanitary pads, and tampons

## GIFTS IN HONORARIA

### Library

#### Designated Fund

**MAY O'NEAL**

*Epworth Class Teacher*

**ELLEN MYERS**

*Epworth Class Teacher*

**WILLIAM BEUHLER**

*Epworth Class President*

### LIBRARY COMMITTEE

#### MEMBERS

**SANDRA WEBB**

**MOLLY WALDEN**

**BONNIE SURBER**

**MARGARET PARSONS**

**JIM MOSS**

**KAREN MICHAELSON**

**LAURA MEDELLIN**

**KERCIDA MCCLAIN**

*Library Committee*

*Staff Liaison*

**ALICE JOHNSON**

**RICHARD JACKSON**

**TERTIA EMERSON**

**JERRY CROCKETT**

**BONNYE CAVAZOS**

by

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Crockett



I would like to thank the members of Laurel Heights UMC for making my five years as site coordinator for the Youth Center such a pleasant experience. I would like to mention the name of every church member who has touched my life so positively, however I would need several sheets of paper to do that.

From my first year here in 2005, when Bill and Ellen Myers donated a huge television and VCR (that the Center still uses), until now – when just this week Teresa Garcés donated beautiful curtains for all the bare windows in the Center, so many church members have made donations from their hearts which benefited the children, their families and the Center. Gloria Sparkman, thank you for donating countless dozens of delicious homemade cookies and donating your time to the youth for years.

The Laurel Heights UMC academic tutors, led by their hard-working coordinator, Ellen Evans, beat out many competitors and won United Way's Faith-based Volunteers award and also won the honor and respect of the SA Youth organization. I am often asked by other site coordinators about how they may get their centers to provide as loyal a team of dedicated volunteers as Laurel Heights UMC. I reply that the volunteer should be "God-centered," and the rest will come. Thanks to all of you for your dedication.

Finally, my heart bubbles over when I think of the efforts of this church, Judy Davis, Elizabeth Woods and both pastors, Jon Lowry and Jim McClain and their lovely wives (and others) to instill the knowledge of God into the lives of the Center's youth by always including them in the church's celebrations. I know you are challenged by many things, but I hope you will continue to plant seeds that you may see blossom into wonderful, productive lives one day.

Although I have been called to another vineyard to work, I will still be managing the positive development of youth. I shall never forget my happy years at Laurel Heights UMC. Don't be surprised when I "pop up" at your celebrations. May the Lord continue to bless each of you, in very special ways, is my prayer.

Sincerely,

**Linda Darnell Cherry**

## CHURCH CALENDAR

\*Childcare available.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

8:30 & 11:00 \*Worship - Sanctuary  
9:15-12:30 Blood Drive - Gym  
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  
12:00 Confirmation Orientation & Lunch for Confirmands, Parents & Friends in Faith - Parlor  
12:00 Youth Ministry Council- 319  
4:00 Student Ministries (Middle School) - 319  
5:30 Student Ministries (High School) - 319

### Monday, February 21

#### WEEKDAY SCHOOL HOLIDAY

8:00-5:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC - Gym  
8:30-2:30 Weekday School Staff Meeting & Lunch - Dining Room  
9:00 Body Recall (M-W-F) - 312  
1:00 Knitpickers - Laurel Room  
5:00 (tentative) SA Youth @ LHUMC Advisory Council - Laurel Room  
5:30 Trustees - Parlor  
5:30 Stephen Minister Training-312  
6:00 Emmaus Reunion Group - DR  
6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

### Tuesday, February 22

10:00 A Matter of Balance - 312  
3:00-7:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC (Tue.-Thu.) - Gym  
5:30 Bexar County Support Groups - Dining Room  
6:30 Missions / Neighborhood Ministries - Parlor

### Wednesday, February 23

11:00 Staff Meeting - 313-B  
4:15 I'm 3rd (K-5th Grade) - 105  
4:30 Line Dancing - 312  
5:30 \*Supper - Gym  
6:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC Parents' Meeting - 305  
6:15 \*Worship / Holy Communion - Scott Chapel

6:15 Handbells- Sanctuary Balcony  
6:30 Disciple I - Parlor

### Thursday, February 24

9:00 Super Adult Day - DR, Gym  
9:00 Church Mice meet for fellowship and to do repairs around the church (open to all)  
9:30 MOPS Around Town at Magik Theater (Katie Myers, 545-0312)  
6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

### Friday, February 25

### Saturday, February 26

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

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 Confirmation Class-Rm. TBD  
12:00 \*Evangelism Meeting & Lunch - Dining Room

4:00 Student Ministries (Middle School) - 319

5:30 Student Ministries (High School) - 319

6:30 Emmaus Gathering - Scott Chapel

### Monday, February 28

9:00 Super Adult Games Day - DR  
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  
6:00 Weekday School Board - WDS  
6:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B

### Tuesday, March 1

9:30 UMW Executive Committee - Parlor  
10:00 A Matter of Balance - 312  
1:45 Body & Spirit (Tue. & Thu.) - 312

5:30 Bexar County Support Groups - Dining Room

6:15 Stephen Ministry - 313-B

### Wednesday, March 2

11:00 Church Staff - 313-B  
1:00-8:00 Clergy Group - 322  
4:15 I'm 3rd (K-5th Grade) - 105  
4:30 Line Dancing - 312  
5:30 \*Supper - Dining Room  
6:15 \*Worship / Holy Communion - Scott Chapel

6:15 Handbells- Sanctuary Balcony  
6:30 Disciple I - Parlor

7:00 Chancel Choir - Choir Room

### Thursday, March 3

Deadline for March 18 Messenger  
8:35 Parents & Pastries - Parlor  
9:00-4:00 Clergy Group - 322  
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  
6:30 Weekday School Spring Social at La Fonda

### Friday, March 4

### Saturday, March 5

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B  
9:00 Crop Walk Registration at Mission County Park, 6030 Padre Drive (Judy Davis, 733-7156)  
9:00-3:30 Stephen Ministry Training Retreat - 312



Welcome to Murray Elizabeth Pratt and Evelyn Holloway Pratt who joined Laurel Heights UMC on Sunday, Feb. 6 by baptism. Murray and Evelyn are the young daughters of Michael and Kristen Pratt.

## March Mission: CAM

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40 NRSV

The mission for March is Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM), an ecumenical, non-profit charitable corporation formed by nine downtown churches in 1977. CAM provides immediate, temporary assistance to individuals in crisis situations and enables those in need to move toward independence.

Every person who comes to CAM regardless of his or her belief, is considered a child of God. Help is extended in a Christian manner to all clients – which may sometimes be as simple as providing a caring "ear" or praying together. Through licensed social workers, administrative staff and over 300 volunteers, CAM (downtown and northwest location) provides a variety of basic essentials to sustain life, as well as Bible study, counseling, referrals, and limited financial assistance.

CAM relies on the support of its volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering a three-hour to four-hour shift in the morning or afternoon each week, call 223-1553.

Non-perishable food and men's, ladies' and children's clothing and shoes are always needed. To learn more, visit their website at [www.christianassistanceministry.org](http://www.christianassistanceministry.org).

Your communion rail offerings and Wednesday night table offers help support this local outreach ministry.

## Aprons and cards for ministry

A wise saying tells us if we give a person a fish, we feed him for a day; if we teach him to fish, we feed him for a lifetime. Aleluya Methodist Church in Piedras Negras, Mexico desires to start a cottage industry to make aprons and greeting cards. They are in need of apron patterns, material, and sewing notions, such as thread and pins; and used greeting cards of all kinds. The greeting card pictures will be used to make new greeting cards that they will sell for 50 cents each. Money earned will go toward their ministry to women and children, which provides food and educational assistance. Please leave your articles at the Church Receptionist Desk or in the trunk marked "Missions" in the dining room.

### 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.

## God's hands & feet wanted

Volunteers are needed



Thursday mornings (9-12) to serve as Church Mice,

doing minor maintenance and repair projects. Bring donuts or just bring yourself for coffee and fellowship. Open to women and men at all skill levels. For information, email George Frame at [framegr@hotmail.com](mailto:framegr@hotmail.com).

Handicap ramp builders are needed for occasional Saturday mornings (8-12). Tools are provided for the assembly of pre-built wooden wheelchair ramps. No experience is needed. For the next work date, email Jerome Malek, [jeromemalek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeromemalek@sbcglobal.net).

### GIFTS IN MEMORIAM

**General Budget**  
DORATHIA HERNANDEZ

by  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Kurtz

**Organ Fund**  
JEAN B. MCCARTY

by  
Darla Peek



Healing: Cece Adams; Geraldine Douglas; Clay Skinner; Roxane Darnell; Myrle Deaton; Faye Fox; Mindy Lanoux; Patti Vaughan; Harold Souder; Nancy Fassnidge; Richard Jackson; Martha Hamil; James & Mary Verette; and Larry Mooney.

Family of Charles Schwab who died Jan. 30.

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

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Cathy Everhart x13  
Publications Editor  
Elizabeth Jackson x12  
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Jessica Lewis x10  
PM Receptionist

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](mailto:cathy@mylhumc.org).