



CONFIRMATION

"I didn't know she was thinking about joining a church; I thought she was just hanging out at the church with her friends." This was part of a conversation I had with a high school girl's mother. The young lady had come with a friend to supper and asked if she could stay for the confirmation class. Of course I said that was fine. We created a notebook for her and found her a friend in faith. After 13 weeks of classes I begin my interviews with each of the youth to see if they want to make a profession of faith, be baptized or confirm their baptism, and join the church. I always consider it an affirmation when at least one who has gone through the classes makes a well informed decision to not stand before

the church and take those vows. I had experienced times when youth were encouraged by their parents to "join" but this time a parent was refusing to let her child follow through with the choice to claim a relationship with Christ. This was a first.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you" (Mt. 28:19-20) has been identified as the "Great Commission". Based on this "Great Commission," our United Methodist Church has stated its purpose: "The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs." This requires inviting and equipping people to make informed and sincere professions of faith. This is one of the most important tasks of the church. Confirmation is about making this choice.

When a person agrees to participate in the confirmation journey the church enters into a covenant with that person. The congregation makes a decision to live as the example of what it means to make choices where Christ comes first. Confirmands often have to choose between a sporting event or a confirmation event. Mentors, called "Friends in Faith," will have to choose between work, sports or family and a weekend retreat or other confirmation events. They often come to me wanting me to say choices made regarding confirmation are not important. I simply remind them that confirmation is all about choices and self-reflection where God is in their choices. We try to give everyone as much information as possible before they agree to participate to minimize these struggles but I didn't see this coming.

The young lady missed the interview and the next class but was there the Sunday before Pentecost. Pentecost Sunday was when we had decided to confirm and baptize those who wanted to make a personal profession. I asked if I had caused trouble with her mom. She assured me everything was fine. I asked if she knew God still loved her and wanted the very best for her, if she understood that following Christ could be difficult. She said she knew that very well. She said she wanted to know and do God's will and needed God's help and the help of the church to do so. She knew that God's power was sufficient to help her and that when she fell short she could continue to put her whole trust in God's love for her and continue the journey. I said a prayer of thanksgiving for her confirmation and transformation even though I knew she most likely would not show up to stand before the congregation on Pentecost Sunday.

See you Sunday,

Jim

*From *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church—2008*, p. 87. Copyright © 2008 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.

Book Review fun - Coming



and going!

It's triple the fun and double the victuals for Super Adult Book Review fans this

Valentine's Day, Monday, Feb. 14. Start the morning with coffee and treats in the Choir Room at 10:00 am, followed at 10:30 in Scott Chapel with Susan Holloway reviewing *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*.

This delightful debut book by Helen Simonson is set in a small village in the English countryside filled with a cast of characters who are both original and hilarious. Among them is Major Ernest Pettigrew (retired) who lives a quiet life, valuing the proper things that Englishmen have lived by for generations: honor, duty, decorum and a properly brewed cup of tea. Then his ordered world is upset, first by his brother's death and then by an unexpected friendship with Mrs. Jasmina Ali. Suddenly he finds himself attracted to Mrs. Ali. Neither his nor Mrs. Ali's family is pleased with the relationship. The Major has to take a stand. This is a perfect story for Valentine's Day - a story of the delicious disruption romance can introduce to a well-settled life. Admission is \$3 at the door or by season ticket.

After the Book Review, join us for lunch at Cappy's. Order your own - pay for your own - but why not treat yourself to a Valentine's Day Lunch! Discuss the book just reviewed and other books you're reading or just books or just come and eat. Call the Super Adult office, 733-6482, to reserve your place.

Leadership lunch and training, February 6

There will be a pot luck lunch and leadership training in the dining room immediately following the 11 o'clock service on Sunday, Feb. 6. Please bring a ready-to-serve meat, side dish or dessert to share with the group. All leaders are encouraged to attend. *Who is a leader?* If you serve on the Board of Stewards, Program Council, Board of Trustees, a committee, you teach a class, you volunteer, you attend worship here, you eat here, you want to be a leader, or you just like pot luck -- you are welcome. So that we know how many tables to set up and materials to prepare, please RSVP to 733-7156.

Other LHUMC News on Pages 4A & 8A

Training begins for new Stephen Ministry class



Training for the newest class of Stephen Ministers for Laurel Heights began with supper and the first session on Friday, Jan. 21. The learning retreat continued on Saturday at Laurel Heights. Robbie Grzymek, Karen Michaelson and Randy Pollock will need to complete 50 hours of training before being commissioned as Stephen Ministers. Commissioning is set for Sunday, May 22.

Don Clark and Ellen Evans are Training Coordinators for this class, which meets each Monday evening. Study topics include *Maintaining Boundaries, Confidentiality and Crisis Intervention*.

Lent to begin with pancakes in peril



Ash Wednesday Supper usually touts a menu of pancakes with all the fixings and bacon and/or sausage on the side. This year, the youth group has opted out of doing the supper, leaving the event open for your group or Sunday School class to

prepare the Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper as a fundraiser. Ash Wednesday is March 9. If interested in continuing the pancakes tradition, call Elizabeth Jackson by Tuesday, Feb. 15 at 733-7156 ext. 12.

Welcome to Meagan Lemon who joined Laurel Heights UMC on Jan. 20 by profession of faith and baptism.

FEBRUARY
 7 Clyta Coder; John Peck; Steven Stehle
 8 Allie Jackson
 10 Reid Hartson; Hazel Nelle Spillman
 13 Don Donaldson
 15 Emily Ella Bull; Gary Jackson; Robert Ojeda; Leo York
 16 Robert Bull; Ellen Myers; Cathryn Yon
 17 Raquel Mathis
 18 Gabriel Davis
 19 Lucian Smith

As each sings his praise differently, all together form a symphony of praise

The start of a new year is an excellent time to join or return to the choir. Soon we will begin learning music for the Lenten, Passion, and Easter seasons and the time is right to get in on the ground floor. To those who have sung with the choir in the past and taken leave for whatever reason, we would love to have you back with us. For those who have been considering joining us, or perhaps are now considering it as you read this, we want to hear from you! Not sure? A test drive may be the best way to learn more, risk free!



Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30, and warm-up rehearsal is Sunday mornings at 10:30.

Feel free to direct any questions you might have to any choir member or to Geoffrey, and don't be surprised if one of our scouts finds you first!

February 17 deadline
 The deadline for your Lenten announcements and articles for the March 4 issue of this newsletter is Thursday, Feb. 17. Send to cathy@mylhumc.org.

I'm 3rd

Children's program in Room 105 for Kindergarten - 5th grade

- Wednesdays 4:15 pm to 5:15 pm
- Dinner for the whole family follows
- A place to explore characters in the Bible and how they put God first, others second, then me:...

I'm 3rd

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Gracie Huron, Supervisor

2011 DATES	RATES
Feb. 4 & 11	\$15 for first child; \$10 for each child thereafter
March 11 & 25	
April 1 & 8	
May 13 & 20	
June 10, 17 & 24	
July CLOSED	
Aug. 5 & 12	

CERTIFIED CHILDCARE
 Ages 3 months to 5th Grade

TIME
 6:30 PM - 11 PM

Call 733-7156
 for more information and reservations. Reservations are required by Friday at Noon.

Valentine's Dance

The Youth of Laurel Heights would like to invite everyone to a Valentine's Dance! The Valentine's Dance will be held on Sunday, Feb. 13 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in the dining room. We will have music, dancing, hors d'ourves, decorations and lots of Valentine's fun provided by your youth. So bring your Love, that special someone, or your loving family and join us on Feb. 13 for a Valentine's Dance to remember!

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.

Confirmation begins with Orientation on Feb. 20

Confirmation is open to anyone in sixth grade and older. It is a big commitment from February through May that prepares confirmands to be able to answer faith questions for themselves on Confirmation Sunday, June 12.

Confirmation classes, starting Feb. 27, are during Sunday School and Wednesdays as needed. The classes cover topics from how to study the Bible to what it means to help other people. Our pastor, Jim McClain, is the primary teacher to give the youth a strong relationship with him. There will also be activities outside of the Sunday School hour. Each confirmand will have an adult Friend in Faith who will walk through the process with them and meet with them regularly for Bible study and to listen. We have a Spring retreat as well as several field trip experiences planned. If you are interested in being a confirmand or a Friend in Faith, please contact Kercida, 733-7156 ext. 36.

Confirmation Orientation for confirmands, friends in faith, and parents will be held in the fellowship hall at noon on Sunday, Feb. 20 with lunch provided.

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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

*Childcare available.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

8:30 *Worship / Pratt Baptisms / Holy Communion - *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
11:00 *Worship / Communion - *Sanctuary*
12:00 Leadership Development Pot Luck Lunch & Training - *DR*
5:30 Youth Group Super Bowl Party - *Home of Hartsons*

Monday, February 7

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 Education Committee - *Parlor*
6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - *313-B*

Tuesday, February 8

9:30 UMW General Mtg. - *Parlor*
10:00 A Matter of Balance - *312*
11:30 Stephen Leaders -*Laurel Rm.*
5:30 Bexar County Support Groups - *Dining Room*
7:00 Friends in Faith Orientation - *Parlor*

Wednesday, February 9

10:00 Super Adult Steering Committee - *Parlor*
11:00 Staff Meeting - *313-B*
11:30 Let's Eat Out - *Church Bus*
4:15 *I'm 3rd* (K-5th Grade) - *105*
4:30 Property Committee - *Library*
4:30 Line Dancing - *312*
5:30 *Supper - *Dining Room*
6:00 Women's Book Group - *Laurel 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, February 10

9:00 Church Mice meet for fellowship and to do repairs around the church (open to all)
6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - *313-B*

Friday, February 11

Weekday School Grandparents' Day for Y3 and older - *WDS*
10:00 Church Women United Executive Board Meeting -*Parlor*
6:30 Parents' Night Out (Reservations by noon 733-7156)

Saturday, February 12

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous- *313-B*
10:00 MOPS Gathering - *105*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

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
4:30 UMW Elizabeth Circle- *313-B*
5:30 Valentine's Dance-*Dining Rm.*

Monday, February 14

9:00 Body Recall (M-W-F) - *312*
10:00 Coffee & Treats for Book Review Group - *Choir Room*
10:30 Super Adult Book Review - *Scott Chapel*
11:30 Book Review Group to Cappy's - *Call 733-6482*
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, February 15

10:00 A Matter of Balance - *312*
5:30 Bexar County Support Groups - *Dining Room*

6:15 Stephen Ministry - *313-B*

Wednesday, February 16

7:30 Executive Committee - *The Foundry*
11:00 Church Staff - *313-B*
4:15 *I'm 3rd* (K-5th Grade) - *105*
4:30 Line Dancing - *312*
5:00 Book Club - *Library*
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, February 17

Deadline for March 4 *Messenger*
8:00-6:30 Super Adults to Rockport - *Regent Coach*
9:00 Church Mice meet for fellowship and to do repairs around the church (open to all)
5:30 Library Committee - *Library*
6:30 Gamblers Anonymous- *313-B*
7:00 Worship Committee - *Parlor*

Friday, February 18

Saturday, February 19

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous- *313-B*
9:00 Program Council - *312*
10:30 Board of Stewards - *312*



Mark Your Calendars

SAVE the DATES
July 11-15
9 AM - 12 Noon

"For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever. They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord. Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid."
Psalm 112:6-8a

Mission of the Month: House of Mercy Orphanage, Piedras Negras, Mexico

House of Mercy Orphanage is a Methodist home for children abused, abandoned, or mistreated by their parents. This orphanage is part of the Border Ministries that this Church supports. A loving Christian environment is provided for boys and girls of all ages. Over 140 children have come to the Casa since its opening in January, 2005. Rather than a facility, House of Mercy is a Christ-centered home with loving house parents and caregivers. The children, more often than not, come to the orphanage distraught, afraid, angry and belligerent. But in this safe haven God's love melts away the despair and they become happy, well-adjusted, loving children. At House of Mercy children receive full medical and dental care. Children's clothes in good condition are always welcomed and your support is appreciated. All Wednesday night table offerings and communion rail offerings in February go to House of Mercy Orphanage in Piedras Negras.

From the Editor



Last December I stepped into a new decade. I actually hit the big 6-0. Shortly thereafter I visited a local fast food chain and at the conclusion of my order the young cashier (probably still in her teens!) smiled calmly and announced, "And I gave you your senior citizen discount." Suddenly it hit me. I was there. I had arrived. I was now officially a senior, though I didn't feel much different than I did just a few weeks prior.

I have a cousin who is a year older than me who moved into retirement over a decade ago after working for the city of Waco for 25 years. She and her brother now help care for their aging mother, who manages to still live in her own home thanks to her devoted children. They live in another city, but sometimes I think how wonderful it would be if we lived closer so we could do things together more often.

As an alternative, I'd love to introduce my cousin to the wonderful program for seniors that so many enjoy here at the church. But alas, the twain shall never meet because she still lives in Waco. Nevertheless, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce *you* to this great on-the-go program called Super Adults. Every month Susan Holloway, the program's director, publishes a newsletter filled with articles about places the Super Adults are going this week, this month, the following month, and so on.

Although the program caters mostly to seniors in our area, not just in our congregation, those who join don't have to be a certain age. Anyone can give the \$25 annual dues to join, but it helps if you are free days so you can join in the fun daytime activities and local and out-of-town trips the Super Adults enjoy on a regular basis.

I hope you'll take that first step to pick up the phone and call the Super Adult office at 733-6482 to find out more. Isn't it time you got off the couch and out of the house to enjoy the fun, fellowship, and always great food, with a fun-loving group of men and women? Go ahead. Test the waters for me and in a few years I'll join you at the Bingo table on Games Day. I just hope the white elephant prize I win isn't my own. That one is for *you!*

Cathy



Healing: Geraldine Douglas; Myrle Deaton; Martha Hamil; Faye Fox; Mindy Lanoux; Rod Smith; Patti Vaughan; Nancy Fassnidge; Roxane Darnell; Harold & Juanita Souder; Mary Lou Miller; Rebecca Mayes; John Evans; Richard Jackson; James & Mary Verette; and Larry Mooney.

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

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