



Church Conference



The Church Conference for Laurel Heights United Methodist Church (UMC) has been called for December 4, 2011 at 3:00 pm. It promises to be a wonderful celebration of many of the ministries from Asbury UMC, Korean UMC, Laurel Heights UMC, Sanford Chapel UMC, Shepherd's Gate Community UMC, and St. Paul UMC. Each congregation will meet for one hour and then adjourn to the Sanctuary and worship together. There will be a presentation from the district followed by worship with communion led by our District Superintendent, Carl Rohlf. Many of those who came last year said it was a very meaningful time and they would encourage everyone in each of the congregations to attend. This is not only a significant worship service but a time to experience how other congregations celebrate communion, their liturgies and traditions.

Many of you have already begun preparation for our Church Conference by meeting together, compiling reports, setting goals and recommending committee members. Most of the work of the Church Conference will be approved during our Board of Stewards and Program Council meetings on November 19, leaving just a few items to be voted on during Church Conference. This allows us to focus on our connection to other United Methodist congregations and the message from our Bishop or District Superintendent.

Recently, I was reminded how much I appreciate the structure of the United Methodist Church. While it is not perfect and I do not agree with all of its positions or decisions, I believe the procedure allows for greater diversity and expression. In some denominations the laity has very little significant influence over the policies or direction of the church. Decisions are made by individuals or small groups of clergy appointed by other clergy to make policy concerning direction or purpose. Other denominations give those called by God little ability to guide the congregation or the congregation can simply fire them if they disagree with the direction or position being proposed. The Church Conference is the foundational tool available to Clergy and Laity of the United Methodist Church to share their visions, hopes and dreams for the congregation.

One of the duties of Church Conference is the election of lay leadership within the congregation. Some committees are required in order to be a United Methodist Congregation while many are created in order to be more effective in ministry. Every member of each committee charged with making decisions on behalf of the congregation is elected by the congregation. The overall direction of each committee is established by the Church Conference and each committee is then accountable to the Church Conference. Each committee is designed to reflect the diversity of the congregation with committee membership rotating every three years.

This is a wonderfully diverse congregation, rich in history and burning with vision, which is the result of the faithful leadership provided by the laity. I hope each of you will agree to be part of this dynamic leadership team when the opportunity is provided.

See you Sunday,

Jim

Celebrating Bible Sunday, Nov. 20

Did you know that our church gives Bibles four times in a person's life? At birth infants receive the Beginner's Bible which is a picture and story version. In third grade children receive their first "real" Bible. It comes with age appropriate helps and comments as they begin to study God's word. As a part of confirmation teenagers receive a study Bible for youth that has commentaries designed for where they are developmentally. And finally, as a gift to commemorate high school graduation youth are given an Oxford Annotated Study Bible that is often used as a textbook in college-level Bible courses.

On Sunday, Nov. 20 we will present all third graders in our care with an NRSV children's Bible as a part of worship. Please help us make sure we haven't missed anyone by looking over and praying for our third graders. They are: Laura Beuhler, Catherine Geerdes, Brianna Gonzalez, Emily Hickle, Kara Lee, and Ella Sanders.

Thanksgiving offerings help 2011 operating budget

A Thanksgiving Offering envelope will be provided in your Sunday bulletin on Nov. 20 if you would like to make an extra gift toward our 2011 church budget. You may mail your gift to the church or bring it to the church office. Indicate "Thanksgiving" in the note field of your check.

Caring for our college students

We currently have approximately 30 college students in our care. On Thursday, Dec. 1 a group of volunteers will meet to assemble "care packages" for school finals week to mail to each of our college students. All are welcome to help with assembly at 1:30 in the dining room that day. You can also help by donating hot chocolate and/or instant coffee packets, microwave popcorn, granola bars, etc. If your son or daughter is in college, please contact the church office to make sure we have their current address.

BRING YOUR GIVING CARD

Remember to fill out and bring your Estimate of Giving card with you to either the 8:30 or 11:00 worship service on Consecration Sunday, November 20.



Other LHUMC News on Pages 4A & 8A

Advent 2011

God Creating Among Us

NOVEMBER

27 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- Worship 8:30 am & 11:00 am, Rev. Jim McClain
- Isaiah 64:1-9; **Art Expression: Pottery**

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

DECEMBER

1 Super Adults in Charleston, Dec. 1-4

- 2 "Christmas at the Carillon," 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary
- Tickets: (512) 474-5664

4 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- Worship 8:30 am & 11:00 am, Rev. Jim McClain
- Mark 1:1-8; **Art Expression: Weaving**

6 Super Adults St. Nicholas Day on Riverwalk, 6:00 pm

7 Mid-week Worship, 6:15 pm; preceded by Supper at 5:30

- 10 Believers Class Christmas Party, 9:30 am in Dining Room
- MOPS Gathering "The Reason for the Season," 10:00 am

11 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- Worship 8:30 am & 11:00 am, Rev. Jim McClain
- Psalm 126; **Art Expression: Painting**
- Christmas Congregational Lunch, 12 pm in Dining Room

12 Super Adults - Hill Country Lights, 4:30 pm

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

- 14 Mid-week Worship, 6:15 pm; preceded by Supper at 5:30
- Line Dancers at Chandler, 4:00 pm

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

- Christmas Lunch at 11:45 am in the Gym

16 Super Adults Norwegian Christmas by Regent Coach

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

18 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- Worship 8:30 am & 11 am, Rev. Jim McClain
- Luke 1:26-38; **Art Expression: Dance**
- Super Adults - Lights at the Capitol & more, 1:00 pm
- Lessons & Carols, 7:00 pm in Sanctuary

19 San Antonio Choral Society Christmas Carols Concert with Benjamin Britten & Conrad Susa, 7:30 pm in Sanctuary

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

24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services

- 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm & 11:00 pm in the Sanctuary

25 CHRISTMAS

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

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

JANUARY

1 EPIPHANY SUNDAY

- Worship & Communion 8:30 & 11:00, Rev. Jim McClain

4 EPIPHANY FEAST

- Feast of the 3 Kings Dinner & Program 5:30 pm in Gym



What is Advent?

Advent, which comes from the Latin word *Adventus*, means *coming*. Since not all churches celebrate Advent, some are left to wonder, "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 27. 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.

This year, our Sunday morning worship services in Advent will include "art expressions" to help us focus on this year's theme: "God Creating Among Us". The Advent 2011 Calendar in this issue gives the scripture to be illustrated and the mode of artistic expression that will be carried out during the sermon at both 8:30 and 11:00. Those with young children may especially want to sit near the front of the sanctuary in order to have a better view of the action. These are services you won't want to miss. But please, although it might be tempting to photograph these unique services, we ask that you refrain from doing so in order to preserve the reverence of these services.

Explore early literacy, Nov. 28

Free class. Learn how you can help your young child get ready to read with Little Red Wagon. RSVP to Christina Galvan by Nov. 23, 733-7156.



NOVEMBER

- 20 Tom Fisher; Penelope Rose Hemingway; Jennalee Hollerbach; Jim Redmond; Lucille Warren
- 21 Dit Justiss; Charles Schneider; Gerald Straney
- 22 James Holloway; Alan Kramer
- 23 George Newcomb
- 24 Day McNeel
- 25 William Ray 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; Danny Holst; Chance Smith; Anne Sadler-Godwin; Dinah Tanner
- 3 Doris Grant; Stephen Jett

Advent Festival for all families

Please join us Wednesday evening, Nov. 30 to celebrate the season of Advent. We will begin with dinner at 5:30 and then have stations set up for children of all ages to learn about and make the symbols of Advent. The Advent Festival is an intentional time for us to create and enjoy, as families, the time of preparation in our lives. The evening will conclude with a children-friendly worship procession to the crèche.

UMW Elizabeth Circle
BAKE SALE
 Sunday, Nov. 20
 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
 Rowe Plaza

"Christmas at the Carillon"

Four-time Grammy-nominated, Austin-based choral ensemble Conspirare returns to Laurel Heights UMC on Friday, Dec. 2 with the 18th edition of its stunning Christmas program, "Christmas at the Carillon." Artistic director Craig Hella Johnson's music selections from many centuries and styles always makes this popular holiday collage concert a delight. This year's guests include Mela Sarajane Dailey and Matt Alber. The concert begins at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.

For tickets, call (512) 474-5664 or visit their website at <http://www.conspirare.org>. Tickets will also be available at the door.

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED
 Nov. 24 & 25



Advent devotion guides available

If you would like a daily devotion guide during the Advent season, they will be available on the Welcome Center tables starting Sunday, Nov. 27 or we would be happy to mail it to you if you let us know. Call Cathy, 733-7156 ext. 13 or email cathy@mylhmc.org. There will also be a mailer to children and youth with a family version of weekly foci. Copies of it will also be available on the Welcome Center tables.

Women's Retreat

A Weekend of Rest and Spiritual Renewal

January 6-8, 2012

\$150 (by Dec. 1)

Scholarships Available

Sponsored by
 Laurel Heights
 United Methodist
 Church

Namaste

Hill Country Retreat

Ladies, after the holidays, give yourself permission to take care of *you*. Enjoy worship, fellowship, prayer and relaxation in a peaceful setting. Registration forms can be found at church or www.MyLHUMC.org/ministries/adults.html.

CHURCH CALENDAR

*Childcare available.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

BIBLE SUNDAY

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

8:30 & 11:00 *Worship - *Sanctuary*

8:30-12:00 UMW Elizabeth Circle

Bake Sale - *Rowe Plaza*

9:30 *Fellowship Time-*Dining Rm.*

9:30 Tiny Tones Choir (preschool - 1st Grade) - *105*

9:30 Joyful Noise Choir (2nd-5th Grade) - *313-A*

9:30 Youth Chimes - *Choir Room*

10:00 *Sunday School for all ages

10:00 LHUMC leads worship at

Chandler

12:00 Youth Ministry Council - *319*

4:00 Middle School Student

Ministries (UMYF) - *319*

5:30 High School Student

Ministries (UMYF) - *319*

6:30 Disciple 1 - *Library*

Monday, November 21

8:00-5:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC

(Mon.-Wed.) - *Gym*

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

9:00 Super Adult Games Day - *DR*

1:00 Knitpickers - *Laurel Room*

5:30 Trustees - *Parlor*

6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - *313-B*

Tuesday, November 22

7:45 Taco Tuesday Devotions (Paul

Seeman) - *Alamo Hgts. Jr. High*

8:00 Super Adults in New York

(Nov. 22-25)

8:45 Yoga Class - *312*

10:30 Positive Parenting Class- *319*

12:30 MELD Parenting Group -*DR*

5:30 Bexar County Detention

Support Groups - *Dining Room*

7:00 Nominations Comm. - *Parlor*

Wednesday, November 23

8:45 Church Staff Meeting - *313-B*

10:30 Positive Parenting Class- *319*

2:00 *Disciple 1 - *Library*

4:00 Positive Parenting - *319*

Thursday, November 24

Thanksgiving Holiday

Friday, November 25

Thanksgiving Holiday

Saturday, November 26

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous- *313-B*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 & 11:00 *Worship - *Sanctuary*

9:30 *Fellowship Time-*Dining Rm.*

9:30 Tiny Tones Choir (preschool - 1st Grade) - *105*

9:30 Joyful Noise Choir (2nd-5th Grade) - *313-A*

9:30 Youth Chimes Choir (6th-12th Grade) - *Choir Room*

10:00 *Sunday School for all ages

4:00 Middle School Student

Ministries (UMYF) - *319*

5:30 High School Student

Ministries (UMYF) - *319*

6:30 Emmaus - *Scott Chapel*

6:30 Disciple 1 - *Library*

Monday, November 28

9:00 Super Adult Games Day - *DR*

1:00 Knitpickers - *Laurel Room*

3:00-7:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC

(Mon.-Thu.) - *Gym*

4:00 Red Wagon Reading - *TBD*

6:00 Weekday School Board - *WDS*

6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - *313-B*

Tuesday, November 29

7:45 Taco Tuesday Devotions (Paul

Seeman) - *Alamo Hgts. Jr. High*

8:45 Yoga Class - *312*

10:30 Positive Parenting Class- *319*

12:30 MELD Parenting Group -*DR*

7:00 Nominations - *Laurel Room*

Wednesday, November 30

8:45 Church Staff Meeting- *313-B*

10:30 Positive Parenting Class- *319*

2:00 *Disciple 1 - *Library*

4:00 Positive Parenting Class - *319*

4:30 Line Dancing - *312*

5:30 Advent Festival -*Dining Room*

5:30 *Supper -*Dining Room*

6:00 SA Youth Parents' Mtg. - *305*

6:15 *Worship (Rev. Jim McClain)

- *Scott Chapel*

6:15 Handbells- *Sanctuary Balcony*

7:00 Chancel Choir - *Choir Room*

Thursday, December 1

MESSANGER DEADLINE

Super Adults in Charleston (Thur.-

Sun.)

8:35 Parents & Pastries - *Parlor*

9:00 Church Mice meet for

fellowship and to do repairs

around the church

6:00 Church under the Bridge

- *Leave from Woodlawn Lot*

6:30 Gamblers Anonymous- *313-B*

7:00 Worship Committee - *Parlor*

Friday, December 2

6:30 Parents' Night Out (RSVP by

12 noon @ 733-7156)

7:00 Conspirare Concert-*Sanctuary*

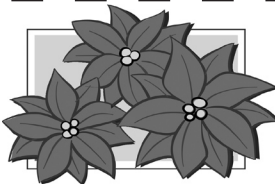
Saturday, December 3

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous- *313-B*

Church Conferences at LHUMC, Dec. 4

As last year, members from other local United Methodist congregations will hold their church conference at Laurel Heights on Sunday, Dec. 4. From 3:00 to 4:00 pm the church groups will meet in separate rooms for their congregation's church conference. (Laurel Heights members will meet in the dining room.) At 4:00 pm we will all come together in the sanctuary for a time of community worship.

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.

My/Our gift is given...

in Honor of _____

in Memory of _____

My name: _____

Phone: _____

Include this coupon with check made payable to LHUMC and

mail to LHUMC, Attn: Bookkeeper, 227 W. Woodlawn, SAT

78212. Deadline: Sunday, Dec. 12, 2011. Total limit: 70 plants.

Special Sunday: United Methodist Student Day

Your generous gifts for United Methodist Student Day support: United Methodist scholarships and the United Methodist Student Loan Fund, administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Annual conferences participating in the Rebate Program may award one or more merit scholarships to United Methodist students. Participating conferences may award scholarships to United Methodist students who reside in the conference and who attend or will attend a United Methodist-related college or university. (The Southwest Texas Conference is a participating conference.) If you wish to participate, a Special Sunday offering envelope will be included in your Nov. 27 Sunday bulletin.

December Mission: Cross-Health Ministries

Cross-Health Ministries is a San Antonio-based mission that is especially active in Mexico. The ministry's purpose is 2-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, Cross-Health Ministries has accomplished: 1) Medical Mission trips to Mexico and Guatemala; 2) special activities, i.e. children's Christmas parties; 3) delivering about 1,000 pairs of donated shoes each year to children in need; 4) responding to individual health care needs including supply trips; 5) crisis response, i.e. flood relief; and 6) donations to other mission teams and health agencies in 27 countries around the world. It also helps support the House of Peace and Love Orphanage in Piedras Negras, Mexico.

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

Food for the homeless

Donations of sandwiches, fruit and individually wrapped cookies are very much appreciated for our ministry to the homeless at Church under the Bridge on the first Thursday of each month. Our next visit is December 1. We will leave from the Woodlawn parking lot at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to participate. Contact Julie Mazel or Diane Boehme for more information.

**CONSECRATION
SUNDAY IS
NOV. 20**

Extravagant
Generosity
A Matter of the Heart



**Remember
in
Prayer**

Healing: Karen Hogan; Patti Vaughan; Charles Schneider; Geraldine Douglas; Fred Vaca; Roxane Darnell; and Lucille Warren.

Those Who Mourn: Family of Mrs. Dick Thiesen who died Nov. 5.

God's Presence: Hattie Tucker & family; Ricky Bailey and family; our shut-ins and those in the military.

Blood Drive Sunday, Dec. 11

8:30 am - 1 pm in the Gym



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, BSN

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@mylhmc.org.