



## Extravagant Responses



Each year, about this time, congregations gear up for their annual stewardship program. When I was younger, this was the time people made their commitments to their congregation so the committees would know how much income they could expect and budget accordingly. But generosity is much bigger than paying for a specific set of services. It is one of the core teachings of Christ, whether it was the good samaritan or the father in the parable of the prodigal son, throughout the scriptures of the Old and New Testament we find examples of the generosity of God and God's people.

Several years ago, Kercida, Lancy and I began a time of prayer and study about being foster parents. We solicited the help of the church and their prayers in making this decision. We knew this was a major commitment and wanted to make our decision knowledgeably, prayerfully and

outside the emotional pressure we knew was sure to follow. We wanted to make sure we would be able to fulfill our commitment to loving unconditionally and without reservation even while knowing we would one day have to offer whatever children God gave us to someone else. We knew there would be unforeseen difficulties as well as blessings that would challenge our decision and we needed to be ready to meet those challenges with God's help. It was important to be secure in our decision and to share our commitment with a community of faith who would help to encourage us when those challenges came. Above all, we wanted to share with others the extravagant generosity that we had come to know through God's love shown to us in Jesus Christ.

It is no surprise to me that, when you prepare to make your pledge to God this year, you will want to take time to prayerfully and knowledgeably make your decision outside the emotional and unforeseen events we know will come. It is much easier to raise pledges when the air conditioner in the sanctuary has gone out or there has been some deadly disaster in the world that has caught our attention because we are meeting a personal need and feel a sense of relief when the need is filled. When we give as a spiritual discipline or in response to something we believe we may not feel that same personal sense of relief. Once a year we take four or five weeks to study, pray and prepare to answer God's call to generosity as a show of gratitude for blessings already received. I encourage you to take the next few weeks to reflect on what God is calling you to do, what God has already done and the future God has planned for this congregation. On Christ the King Sunday you will be asked to share your answer with God.

Practicing spiritual disciplines such as extravagant generosity changes us. It brings us more in line with what God desires for us. Giving prepares us to recognize and receive what God offers us. Responding to God in a prayerful, thoughtful and knowledgeable manner equips us to share God's love in situations we might not expect. Because of times of spiritual discernment like this, I am able to respond more like the good samaritan or the prodigal's father when faced with those choices and to be prepared for the unexpected challenges that come.

See you Sunday,

*Jim*



### *A Solemn Remembrance and Celebration*

All Saints Sunday is Nov. 6, the first Sunday after All Saints Day. Join us in worship at 8:30 and/or 11:00 that morning as we give honor to and light a candle in remembrance of each of these 20 members in covenant connection with Laurel Heights UMC who have either died or who we have learned of their passing since All Saints Sunday 2010:

- Lillian Wells 10/6/2010
- Winifred Worsham 11/11/2010
- Lorraine Paul 11/22/2010
- Roy Kosaka 12/30/2010
- Betty Japhet 1/5/2011
- Helen Shepler 1/16/2011
- Charles F. Schwab 1/30/2011
- Grace Bailey 2/11/2011
- Nancy Fassnidge 2/12/2011
- Birdie Estelle Towery 3/13/2011
- Mary McDavid 3/21/2011
- Elaine Donaldson 4/7/2011
- Talitha Margaret Holloway 4/29/2011
- LaVonne "Bonnie" Hills 5/6/2011
- Harold Souder 6/4/2011
- E. L. "Don" Donaldson 6/16/2011
- Dorothy Budd 8/28/2011
- Verna Lacy 8/31/2011
- Mindy Lanoux 9/1/2011
- W. S. "Bill" Magavern 10/21/2011



## Book Review, November 14



The next Super Adult Book Review (open to all) will be given at 10:30 am on Monday, Nov. 14 in Scott Chapel. In her usual captivating style, Super Adult

Director Susan Holloway will review *"The Homecoming of Samuel Lake"* by Jenny Wingfield. This first novel of Wingfield explores the impact of family tragedy and loss of profession upon the family of Samuel Lake, a minister with a wife and three children. The novelist's characters are as vivid as the people next door and her story entertaining, heartwarming and uplifting. Join us for coffee and fellowship in the Choir Room at 10:00. Admission for the Book Review is by season ticket or \$3 at the door. Please note that being a Super Adult member doesn't increase your chance of having a good time. Membership does have its privileges however. Contact Susan Holloway to find out how you can be a Super Adult on the Go.

## Parlor Series focuses on intentional grace

Reverend Jim McClain is teaching a three-part parlor series on stewardship November 6 *"How Do Relationships with Our Family Reflect Our Relationship with God?"*, November 13 *"Seeing the Bigger Picture"* and November 20 *"Freedom to Live"*. Feel free to come to any or all three classes, during the Sunday School hour beginning at 10:00 am. Come discover how giving the way that God gives is an intentional act of grace that reaffirms our faith, bringing purpose into our lives.



### Advent Calendar in Next Issue

The next issue of this newsletter will include the Advent Calendar for upcoming church events through the Feast of the Epiphany. Call Elizabeth Jackson at 733-7156 ext. 12 if you need to add your event to the church calendar.



Welcome to Tara Davis who joined Laurel Heights UMC on October 23, 2011 by letter of transfer from another United Methodist Church.

## Advent Festival needs your creative ideas and helping hands

Would your group or class like to have an activity table at the Advent Festival on Wednesday, Nov. 30? We are considering activities like making Advent placemats, wreaths, and Chrismons.

This year's Season of Advent will center around the arts and different art expressions: God's time to create in us. If you have a crafts idea for the Festival or if you would like to help, contact Kercida McClain, 733-7156.

## Advent Time for Teachers

Teachers, be sure to mark your calendars for the Advent planning meeting with Kercida McClain on Monday, Nov. 14. You don't want to miss this get-together as we set our hearts and minds toward the journey to Bethlehem. We'll meet in the fellowship hall at 6:30 pm.

## MAKING GOD'S HOUSE BEAUTIFUL

On Saturday Nov. 12 the Altar Guild will be cleaning the sanctuary in preparation for the the upcoming holidays. We will begin at 9:00 am and continue until finished. Anyone who would like to help in this endeavor is invited to come. You do not have to be an Altar Guild member. Bring your own dusting cloths, furniture polish or a light-weight vacuum if you have one. The more hands we have that morning the quicker the job will get done. You will truly appreciate the beauty of the sanctuary after you have helped.



### Active Military

Our new pictorial directory will have a special section for our active military. For details, call Elizabeth Jackson at 733-7156 ext. 12.

### 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.*

## Calling all chocoholics

If just the mention of chocolate excites your tastebuds and makes you drool, you're sure to love going with the Super Adults on Thursday, Nov. 10 as we spend the day tasting chocolates on the Hill Country Chocolate Trail.

The day starts with Starbuck's Coffee and muffins on the road with the first stop in Comfort for a first-tasting of chocolate at High Street Chocolates. Next is Fredericksburg Fudge before a light lunch at the Peach Tree Restaurant. Dessert will be at Chocolat on Main Street in Fredericksburg. The last stop is Marble Falls where sampling Innocent Chocolates is sure to help you enjoy a chocolate induced nap as we head back to San Antonio.

The cost is \$60, which includes charter Regent Coach, morning coffee and muffins, four chocolate tastings, lunch, driver tip and guides Susan and Henry Holloway. To sign up, call the Super Adult office, 733-6482.



12 October 2011

Dear friends at Laurel Heights UMC,  
Thank you so very much for the gift of goodie bags for the students at San Antonio College. Your gift helps us extend goodwill

to visiting students and strengthens our mission in campus ministry.

Love in Christ,  
Rev. John Feagins

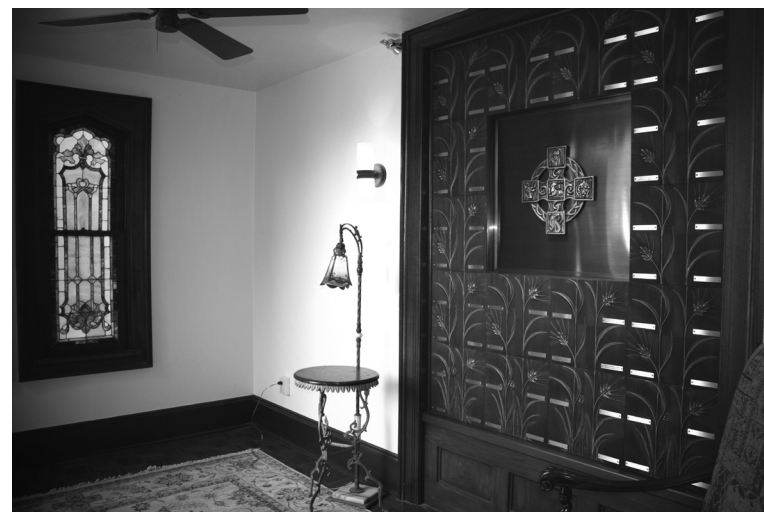
## Church interment recognizes communion of the saints

For many, the church is a Christian's spiritual home on earth, the place where families in Christ meet to worship God and have fellowship with one another. They become members of the Body of Christ through baptism, are confirmed, married and ultimately enter eternal life with the prayers and remembrances of their congregation. Interment in church property is a recognition of belief in the communion of saints, both living and dead and is a witness to faith in the resurrection to eternal life.

Church interment provides a permanent link between the deceased and their place of worship while enabling their surviving family members, friends and fellow worshipers to pay frequent respects during regular church visits and worship. Another practical consideration is that cremation and inurnment in a columbarium is considerably less expensive than ground burial.

The Laurel Heights family's spiritual home, our sanctuary, will continue to provide a permanent link to the comfort, peace and support found here during one's earthly life.

For information about the Columbarium Ministry at Laurel Heights and how you and your family can participate, contact Trudy Kinnison or Aleene Block.



TURN BACK 1 HOUR  
BEFORE  
RETIRING TO BED  
SATURDAY, NOV. 5

## CHURCH CALENDAR

\*Childcare available.

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

#### ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

2 am Daylight Saving Time Ends

8:30 & 11:00 \*Worship / Holy

Communion - *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 Room*

10:00 \*Sunday School for all ages

10:00 LHUMC leads worship at Chandler

4:00 Middle School Student Ministries (UMYF) - 319

5:30 High School Student Ministries (UMYF) - 319

6:30 Disciple 1 - *Library*

### Monday, November 7

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

1:00 Knitpickers - *Laurel Room*

2:00-9:20 Olan Mills Photo Sessions (by appt.) - 312

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

6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

### Tuesday, November 8

7:00-7:00 Elections - *Choir Room*

7:30 Health Cabinet - *The Foundry*

7:45 Taco Tuesday Devotions (Paul Seeman) - *Alamo Hgts. Jr. High*

8:45 Yoga Class - 312

9:30 United Methodist Women General Meeting - *Parlor*

10:30 Positive Parenting Promotions (Tue. & Wed.) - 319

11:30 Stephen Leaders- *Laurel Rm.*

12:30 MELD Parenting Group -DR

2:00 Tuesday Musical Club Concert - *Sanctuary*

5:30 Bexar County Detention

Support Groups - *Dining Room*

7:00 Nominations - *Parlor*

### Wednesday, November 9

8:45 Church Staff Meeting - 313-B

10:00 Super Adult Steering Committee - *Parlor*

11:30 Let's Eat Out - *Church Bus*

2:00 \*Disciple 1 - *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*

7:00 Chancel Choir - *Choir Room*

### Thursday, November 10

9:00 Church Mice meet for fellowship and to do repairs around the church

9:00 Super Adult Hill Country Chocolates - *Regent Coach*

6:30 Education Committee - *Parlor*

6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

### Friday, November 11

10:00 Church Women United Executive Board Meeting- *Parlor*

6:30 Cowles / Spading Wedding - *Sanctuary*

### Saturday, November 12

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B

9:00 Altar Guild Cleans - *Sanctuary*

10:00 MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) Gathering - 105

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

8:30 \*Worship Service - *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

11:00 \*Worship Service / Baptism of Jacob Phillip Dixon- *Sanctuary*

4:00 Middle School Student Ministries (UMYF) - 319

4:30 United Methodist Women

Elizabeth Circle - 313-B

5:30 High School Student

Ministries (UMYF) - 319

6:30 Disciple 1 - *Library*

### Monday, November 14

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

10:30 Super Adult Book Review

- *Scott Chapel*

1:00 Knitpickers - *Laurel Room*

3:00-7:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC

(Mon.-Thu.) - *Gym*

6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

### Tuesday, November 15

7:45 Taco Tuesday Devotions (Paul Seeman) - *Alamo Hgts. Jr. High*

8:45 Yoga Class - 312

10:30 Positive Parenting

Promotions (Tue. & Wed.) - 319

12:30 MELD Parenting Group -DR

5:30 Finance - *Laurel Room*

6:15 Stephen Ministry - 313-B

7:00 CROP Executive Meeting

- *Parlor*

7:00 Nominations - *Laurel Room*

### Wednesday, November 16

#### MESSENGER DEADLINE

7:30 Executive Comm. - *Foundry*

8:45 Church Staff Meeting- 313-B

2:00 \*Disciple 1 - *Library*

4:30 Line Dancing - 312

5:00 Book Club - *Library*

5:30 \*Supper - *Gym*

6:15 Handbells- *Sanctuary Balcony*

6:15 \*Worship - *Scott Chapel*

7:00 Chancel Choir - *Choir Room*

### Thursday, November 17

9:00 Church Mice meet for

fellowship and to do repairs

around the church

9:00 Super Adult Day - DR, *Gym*

5:30 Staff Parish Relations

Committee - *Laurel Room*

6:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B

7:00 Worship Committee - *Parlor*

### Friday, November 18

9:00-4:00 SA Youth Training - *Gym*

6:30 Parents' Night Out (RSVP by

12 noon @ 733-7156)

### Saturday, November 19

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B

9:00 Program Council - 312

10:30 Board of Stewards - 312

## November Mission aids Mexico clinic

Betania is a clinic that is evolving into a three-bed hospital and surgery facility in Reynosa, Mexico. The goal is to provide a Christian witness by offering medical and dental assistance at the lowest possible cost. Twenty percent of the people helped are unable to pay for any of the services they receive.

Betania provides medical and dental services primarily to women and children and has a laboratory considered top-notch for a clinic in Mexico. On staff is one physician, one dentist, one lab technician and others who perform a variety of services. Most of the medical equipment has been purchased through donations.

Betania also provides services in other extremely impoverished areas of Reynosa with its outreach services and United Methodist Volunteers In Mission medical teams from the United States. United Methodist Volunteers In Mission teams are looking forward to seeing the new Centro Medico Quirurgico (hospital name) created as it has been a long-term vision of many.

Your communion rail offerings and Wednesday night table offerings in November will help move their dream forward. You can also make a special gift for Betania any time in November. Just mark "Betania" in the memo field of your check.

### GIFTS IN MEMORIAM

#### General Memorial MACK UPCHURCH

by

Mary Lou Miller

TOM WALSKI

by

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Spillman

### GIFTS IN HONORARIA

#### Faith in Action PAUL BILLINGSLEY'S 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY

by

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Spillman



### NOVEMBER

- 6 Gavin Williams
- 7 Bud Holst; Renee Klahn; Lancy McClain; Laura Medellin
- 8 Caroline Carter; William Hills; Tim Hughes
- 9 Linda Childs; Kitty Jenkins
- 10 Eddie Madrigal
- 11 Emily Hickle; Lisa Peck
- 13 James Aderhold; Jim McClain; Barbara Shortt
- 14 Jean Ockenfels
- 15 Douglas Carter; Rudy Lopez
- 17 Caitlyn Hughes; Sandra Webb
- 18 Cherie Burt
- 19 Ann McGlone; Greyson Zachary Mitchell

## 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.



*Healing:* Mrs. Dick Thiesen; Maurice Mazel; Charles Schneider; Patti Vaughan; Geraldine Douglas; Roxane Darnell; Fred Vaca; and Lucille Warren.

*Those Who Mourn:* Jane Magavern in the loss of her husband Bill; Kay Carter in loss of her cousin Clay Fulcher; Carmen Hughes & family in loss of her mother Josephine Gallegos; Margie Roe in the loss of her mother; and Sharon Armstrong in the loss of her son Willie.

*God's Presence:* Hattie Tucker & family; Ricky Bailey and family; 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, 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@mylhumc.org.