



## **NICKELS AND NOSES ARE LOOKING GOOD**

'Tis the season for great food, wonderful friends, fabulous parties and loving families. Most of us have our favorite dishes we look forward to and traditions that still stir a deep feeling of joy and anticipation after many years. We look forward to being with old friends and sharing our lives as we catch up on the happenings in theirs. We talk about our families, new restaurants we've discovered, and who has the best recipe for stuffing. We talk about things that bring us joy. This year you have been talking about your faith and your church. How do I know that? *Nickels and noses*.

While numbers, graphs and charts can be impersonal and dull, what they represent can be exciting. One year, during the annual church conference, a leader of the church stood up and gave his report on the status of the church by saying, "Everything is great; the nickels and noses are up." He went on to say that attendance and church

membership were up and that the giving was ahead of the previous year. He knew that people support what they believe in and invite their friends to be a part of things they find meaningful and life-giving.

2011 was a great year. We were involved in exciting ministries, wonderful mission trips, great fellowship and moving worship. This is a vibrant congregation and it is a blessing to be a part of it. As a congregation we came together last November to celebrate the life of over 20 Saints of the church since November 2010. I was able to meet most of these wonderful people and give thanks that we had this short time together. As a congregation, we have met new people as shown in the growth in church membership. In November 2010 we had 779 people who indicated a desire to be in a formal relationship with Laurel Heights United Methodist Church. Even after the deaths and people who moved, we showed a net growth to 785. Our average worship attendance grew from 203 to 226 and Sunday School grew from 109 to 139. That is 28% more friends in Sunday school over the previous year. Yes, you are talking about your church, your interests and your church family and it shows. There are new and beautiful noses showing up in worship every week.

The nickels are right on target, too. One of the indicators of a congregation's health is the amount of resources directed to ministries beyond the local church. In the United Methodist Church, one of the most effective ways to participate in world missions is through our contributions to the "apportionments". While we have always paid our apportionments, last year we paid 91.67% as opposed to 78% by the same time in 2010. It is through these apportionments that we are able to provide the infrastructure so Clyta Coder and others can help stamp out killer diseases in Africa caused by poverty and Ted and Colleen Bailey can do ministry in Mexico.

You are sharing your love on Facebook, Twitter and by email. You are stepping up to leadership positions in the church, district and conference when asked and looking for new ways to serve. The hands-on missions of the church continue to grow domestically and abroad. Neighbors are stopping by for coffee and fellowship because you took the time to introduce yourself and invite them. Children of the SA Youth Center and our Super Adults are inviting their family and friends to meet new friends, too. Nickels and noses are looking good.

See you Sunday,

*Jim*

## **CONFIRMATION CLASSES START FEBRUARY 5, 2012**

Confirmation classes are during Sunday School and 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 the Faith who walks through the process with them and meets with them regularly to do Bible study and listen. We will have a Confirmation retreat as well as several field trip experiences. Anyone sixth grade and above is invited to participate in Confirmation.

Please let the church office know if you or someone you know is interested in participating.

## **Have you considered Stephen Ministry?**



As you think about the New Year, and how you will use

this gift of time, consider becoming part of the new Stephen Ministry training class which begins in February. You will prepare to be one of the "faithful listeners" who accompany persons in our community who are in crisis or transition. To get the facts and to find out more about this special ministry of lay caregivers, talk with one of our Stephen Leadership team members: Don Clark, Ellen Evans or Barb Kurtz.

Stephen Ministry is Christ caring for people through people.



## Got class?

Many people come to 9:30 fellowship on Sunday mornings and enjoy chatting with friends over a cup of coffee and warm pastry. When the Sunday School bell rings some continue to sit and chat, which is ok - if you know your choices and this is the one you've chosen, not by default, but on purpose.

The truth is, we are very fortunate at Laurel Heights to have a great number of talented and highly knowledgeable adult Sunday School teachers, which can make choosing between classes a difficult task. For example, a new class was recently formed for those with something "new" in their lives: New marriage, new job, new... "whatever". Called "The Lamplighters," this is a casual group of adults of all ages who are forming new friendships while talking about decisions that face them daily. They meet in Room 211 (Laurel Room). Bring your coffee and join the discussion.

Seekers is another newly formed class. Their studies are based on lectionary readings on a three-year cycle of the Bible. The class is age diverse. They meet in Room 313-B (hidden in the corner "behind" the elevator on third floor.

If you're the parent of a teenager you will probably feel right at home with Kairos Shalom folk. They know that life changes fast and trying to keep up with family while applying biblical principles and seeking God's direction is a feat that requires energy, focus, and a group of peers who understand your special needs. They meet in Room 201 near the Sanctuary balcony.

To read about other options, pick up a Sunday School brochure at one of the Welcome stations around the church or visit <http://www.mylhmc.org/ministries/adults.html> on the web.

## What's ahead in

by Cathy Everhart

We're always curious about the future. We make plans for ourselves, for our children and for all those in our care. We find peace and comfort in securing our future and the future of loved ones with resources we hold and those yet to come. Nonetheless, natural disasters, Stock Market dips, widespread job loss, economic downturns and worldwide unrest vie to steal our peace.

Have you noticed how much is being forecasted about 2012? It's not all good, particularly December 21, 2012, the last date on the Mayan calendar. Google that date and you'll likely pull up a long list of cataclysmic predictions.

The idea that the sky is falling or the world is coming to an end is not new. For generations people have speculated when the end of the world would come. In fact, some of the disciples got nervous when Jesus told them he was going to leave them; they wanted to know when he would return. Jesus told them, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (*Matthew 24:36 NRSV*) After the Resurrection, the disciples and all the church kept looking for Jesus to return - in their lifetime.

Indeed, we should live our lives always looking and expecting Christ's return, as if he will come today. But our expectancy should bring us hope, not fear.

If forecasts about 2012 have you anxious, don't be. God isn't. Whatever comes in 2012, or at any other time, should not cause us to wring our hands in dread. We would do well to heed the Apostle Paul's words to the early Christians in Philippi many centuries ago: "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (*Philippians 4:7 NRSV*)

It's not time to run to the mountains and hide in wait of some evil to come. It's time to stand on the mountain where God has planted us and be the light of Christ to all the world. (*Matthew 5:14-16*) Enjoy a happy and blessed 2012 and may the peace of Christ rule and reign in your heart now and forever.

## Texas Cruise is a bird watcher's delight

Bring your binoculars and join the Super Adults for a delightful Texas Cruise of Lake Buchanan on Thursday, Feb. 17. Lake Buchanan is the largest lake in Texas and home to a myriad of water fowl and birds of all kinds. The cruise will pass by Garrett Island, the largest uninhabited island on the lake. It is a wildlife sanctuary for migratory birds such as the blue heron, white egrets and particularly two birds of prey, the osprey and the American Bald Eagle. The cost is \$75. Call 342-6912 for more details or to sign up.

### GIFTS IN HONORARIA

**Choir Robes**  
**CHANCEL CHOIR**  
 by  
 Mike & Deanne Trodden

**General Fund**  
**JIM & KERCIDA**  
**MCCLAIN**  
 by  
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Kurtz  
**JUANITA SOUDER**  
 by  
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Kurtz



### JANUARY

- 8 Greg Geerdes; John Lloyd Meister; Bob Riddle
- 9 Barbara Boren; Franklin Redmond; Donna Skinner
- 10 Thad Dorsey
- 11 Christian Campbell; Bryan Cole Christensen; Jacob Samuel Jones; William Northway; Thomas Parish
- 12 Jane Jacobs
- 13 Paul Beuhler; Hugh Tilson
- 15 Mixson Maverick Oleson; Marisa Parker
- 16 Linda Salazar
- 17 Kathy Chandler; Nancy O. Diseker; Camryn Hickie; Mikayla Denise Mendez
- 18 Wesley Nye; Abby Sadler
- 20 Linda Pope
- 21 Frank Healy; Jillian Jopling

## "Nothing Daunted" for January's Super



## Adult Book Review

On Monday, Jan. 12 at 10:30 am in Scott Chapel, Susan Holloway begins the New Year with a review of the delightful book by

Dorothy Wickenden, *Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West*.

Two young women, graduates of Smith College in the early 1900s kept diaries during their year in the wilds of northwestern Colorado, where they rode horseback several miles each day to a backwoods schoolhouse to teach children of Colorado homesteaders. That year transformed the children and their families as well as the two undaunted teachers. The surprising twist to the story occurs some 40 years later. This is a heartwarming story of two young women determined to carve out a different history for themselves.

All are welcome. Admission to the Review is \$3 at the door or by season ticket. Come to the Choir Room at 10:00 for a half-hour of fellowship with coffee and snacks.

## New Year = New church officers

The list of 2012 church leadership will be posted on the church website soon at [www.mylhmc.org/staffleadership/churchleadership.html](http://www.mylhmc.org/staffleadership/churchleadership.html). Watch for details about leadership training - coming soon.

### GIFTS IN MEMORIAM

**Bell Tower**  
 ALL OF  
 MOM'S LHUMC  
 FRIENDS & FAMILY  
 by  
 Hayley Fassnidge Miller

**MILTON & GERI**  
**FASSNIDGE**  
 by  
 Hayley Fassnidge Miller

**D. P., JR. &**  
**ELISE HENLEY**  
 by  
 Hayley Fassnidge Miller

**DON KIRBY &**  
**DORIS MILLER**  
 by  
 Hayley Fassnidge Miller

**Christmas**  
**PARENTS**  
 by  
 Hazel Spillman

**General Budget**  
**MRS. COLLEEN**  
**BLONDEAU**  
 by  
 Dinah Tanner

**General Memorial**  
**MRS. MYRLE**  
**DEATON**  
 by  
 Dr. & Mrs.  
 Herbert Hennington

**General Memorial**  
 ELLA TAYLOR  
 SCHUTZ  
 by  
 Mr. & Mrs.  
 Andrew Spillman

**HATTIE TUCKER**  
 by  
 Charles & Sarah Koch  
 by  
 E. Mittendorf, III  
 by  
 Curby Ohnheiser

**Library Designated**  
**HATTIE TUCKER**  
 by  
 Jerry & Carolyn Crockett

**Music Fund**  
**ARLENE MORTON**  
 by  
 Col. & Mrs. Vane Hugo  
 by  
 LHUMC Drama Council

**Signage Fund**  
**ALL THE SAINTS**  
 by  
 Aleene Block  
 by  
 Dinah Tanner



## CHURCH CALENDAR

\*Childcare available.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

8:30 & 11:00 \*Worship - *Sanctuary*  
 9:30 \*Fellowship Time-*Dining Rm.*  
 9:30 Tiny Tones Choir (preschool - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade) - 105  
 9:30 Joyful Noise Choir (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade) - 313-A  
 9:30 Youth Chimes - *Choir Room*  
 10:00 \*Sunday School for all ages  
 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, January 9

9:00 Body Recall (M-W-F) - 312  
 10:00 Altar Guild - *Parlor*  
 10:30 Super Adult Book Review - *Scott Chapel*  
 1:00 Knitpickers - *Laurel Room*  
 3:00-7:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC (Mon.-Fri.) - *Gym*

6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

### Tuesday, January 10

7:30 Health Cabinet - *Foundry*  
 8:45 Yoga Class - 312  
 9:30 United Methodist Women General Meeting - *Parlor*  
 10:30 Positive Parenting Class- 319  
 1:00 Positive Parenting Class- 319

### Wednesday, January 11

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  
 4:30 Property Committee - *Library*  
 5:30 \*Supper - *Dining Room*  
 6:00 Women's Book Group - *Laurel Room*  
 6:15 \*Worship (Rev. Jim Crews) - *Scott Chapel*  
 6:15 Handbells- *Sanctuary Balcony*  
 7:00 Chancel Choir - *Choir Room*

### Thursday, January 12

9:00 Church Mice meet for fellowship and to do repairs around the church  
 11:00 Hattie Tucker Memorial Service - *Sanctuary*  
 12:00 Tucker Family Reception - *Dining Room*  
 5:30 CROP Recruiters Meeting - *Dining Room*  
 6:30 Education Committee - *Parlor*  
 6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

### Friday, January 13

8:00 Super Adults to King's Inn - *Regent Coach*  
 10:00 Church Women United Executive Board Meeting- *Parlor*

### Saturday, January 14

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B  
 10:00 MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) Gathering - 105

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

8:30 & 11:00 \*Worship - *Sanctuary*  
 9:30 \*Fellowship Time-*Dining Rm.*

9:30 Tiny Tones Choir (preschool - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade) - 105  
 9:30 Joyful Noise Choir (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 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, January 16

Weekday School MLK Holiday  
 9:00 Super Adult Games Day - *Dining Room*  
 9:00 Body Recall (M-W-F) - 312  
 3:00-7:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC (Mon.-Fri.) - *Gym*  
 5:30 Trustees - *Laurel Room*  
 6:30 Safe Sanctuary Training - *Parlor*

6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

### Tuesday, January 17

9:00-4:00 Tuesday Musical Club Meeting - *Sanctuary*  
 10:30 Positive Parenting Class- 319  
 1:00 Positive Parenting Class- 319  
 2:00 Tuesday Musical Club Reception - *Dining Room*  
 5:30 Finance Committee - *Parlor*  
 6:15 Stephen Ministry - 313-B

### Wednesday, January 18

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 - *Dining Room*  
 6:15 \*Worship (Rev. Robin Hiatt-Reed) - *Scott Chapel*  
 6:15 Handbells- *Sanctuary Balcony*  
 7:00 Chancel Choir - *Choir Room*

### Thursday, January 19

Super Adults on Queen Victoria to Panama Canal (Jan. 19-30)  
 9:00 Church Mice meet for fellowship and to do repairs around the church  
 9:00-4:00 Clergy Group (Thu. & Fri.) - 322  
 5:30 Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)- *Laurel Room*  
 6:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B  
 7:00 Worship Committee - *Parlor*

### Friday, January 20

5:30 Rein / Galindo Wedding Rehearsal - *Sanctuary*  
 6:30 Parents' Night Out (RSVP by 12 noon @ 733-7156)

### Saturday, January 21

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B  
 9:00 Program Council - 312  
 10:30 Board of Stewards - 312  
 5:30 Galindo Wedding - *Sanctuary*

**"May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!"**

*Psalm 29:11*

## Sacred Saturday: Equipping the Saints 2012

Equipping the Saints is a leadership development opportunity offered by the San Antonio District through the Council of Ministries. There is no charge to attend; your participation is encouraged. The first Sacred Saturday of 2012 is Jan. 14 at Helotes Hills United Methodist Church, 13222 Bandera Rd. (outside Loop 1604 in Helotes, Texas).

The event is open to chairpersons and members of the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), Lay Leaders and anyone interested in the role of the SPRC and Lay Leader within the local church.

Sign-in is at 8:30 am. Session I starts at 9:00 am; lunch on your own is 11:30 to 12:45; Session II begins at 1:00 pm.

In order to ensure adequate materials for those in attendance, please register with the San Antonio District Program Office by phone, fax, or email. Contact District Program Director Terry McCandless at 408-4533 or by fax at 408-4521 or by email at [tmcand@umcswtx.org](mailto:tmcand@umcswtx.org).

## SPECIAL SUNDAY: Human Relations Sunday, Jan. 15

On the Sunday before the observance of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, United Methodist congregations observe Human Relations Day. The special offering supports Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Service and Youth Offender Rehabilitation programs. Your offering strengthens outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth. A Special Sunday envelope will be included with the Sunday worship bulletins on January 15.

### Laurel Heights United Methodist Church 2012 Budget

INCOME ACCOUNTS		
40101	Individual Pledges	\$675,000.00
40102	Prev Yr Pledge Collected	\$500.00
40113	Non-Pledged Giving	\$60,000.00
40114	Loose Plate Offerings	\$10,000.00
40115	Church School Offerings	\$3,500.00
40116	Easter/Thanksgiving/Xmas	\$15,000.00
40119	General Memorials	\$3,500.00
40120	Facility Use	\$7,500.00
40121	Super Adults	\$5,000.00
40122	Weekday School (increase \$1,000/yr)	\$23,820.00
40123	Weekday School (Insurance)	\$7,000.00
40130	Interest On Accounts	\$0.00
40135	Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00
40140	Income Applied to Apport.	\$13,706.57
40141	Pastor House Endowment	\$17,000.00
40175	Endowment from Trustees	\$13,000.00
40180	Orts Bequest	\$12,644.00
	<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>\$867,170.57</b>
EXPENSE ACCOUNTS		
	EVANGELISM	\$1,250.00
	COMMUNICATION	\$6,200.00
	LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER	\$1,950.00
	WORSHIP	\$1,960.00
	NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY	\$1,300.00
	MUSIC & THE ARTS	\$5,200.00
	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$10,800.00
	CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	\$1,000.00
	CHILD CARE MINISTRY	\$500.00
	YOUTH MINISTRY	\$2,965.00
	MEMBERSHIP CARE	\$1,650.00
	MISSIONS/OUTREACH - Admin	\$250.00
	CONFERENCE APPORTIONMENTS	\$69,504.00
	ADMINISTRATION	\$34,000.00
	OPERATIONS	\$177,500.00
	PERSONNEL	\$581,629.00
	<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$897,458.00</b>
	<b>OPERATING INCOME (Deficit):</b>	<b>(\$30,287.43)</b>



*Healing:* Richard Jackson; Jane Magavern; Geraldine Douglas; Patti Vaughan; Lucille Warren; Fred Vaca.

*Those Who Mourn:* Family of and Charles Schneider who died Dec. 19; family of Elizabeth McNamee who died Dec. 7; Elisse De La Vega in the loss of her mother, Colleen Blondeau.

*God's Presence:* 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

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Elizabeth Jackson x12  
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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](mailto:cathy@mylhmc.org).