



WINTER GARDENS



This is a wonderful time of the year for me. The weather is getting cooler, the sunrises later and the world is changing. I know what is going to happen but I always seem to be surprised by something. It might be a light snow flurry on a clear day or a beautiful pasture covered with green winter grasses. When I move to a new place there are so many new things. What does a Laurel tree look like in the winter; will the oaks lose their leaves; what winter plants will homeowners put in their flower beds along the path I drive to Church each morning? It is a time of advent.

Each congregation has its own traditions for this time of year. I am excited to discover ours. I know many of the same things will happen but there will also be small

surprises. Even in trying to keep things exactly the same we change them slightly. Laurel Heights is a vibrant, living body of Christ. I invite you to look around and enjoy the nuances as well as the expected in our traditions.

This year's Advent readings speak often about traveling, roads, paths and journeys. As we move through this season, keep your eyes open for the little blessings along the way. There will be plenty of opportunity for each of us to keep track of our movements and even measure the distances we travel as we move through this season. Spiritual movement is sometimes difficult to measure so Methodist Health Care Ministries and the Health Cabinet are providing step counters. While they will not measure your spiritual journey, let each step you take during Advent be a prayerful one. As you record your steps for the day think of all the people you met, the blessings you witnessed, the growth you experienced. You will be receiving a Devotional Guide for you to use to help call these and other moments to your attention if you would like to use it.

As we look out over the winter landscape, things are happening. Many seeds will not sprout if they do not get cold enough. Root systems are becoming stronger so they can support the green plants above ground during the spring and summer. Water supplies are replenished and reserves filled during winter rains and the occasional snowfall. Things look the same but little changes are happening.

Advent is a time when we notice things change. Families who moved during the summer begin to settle in and look for ways to celebrate their own traditions or start new ones. People look for a church home or faith community to form a foundation for the coming year. Families who have lost loved ones are looking for new beginnings knowing how much they want things to be the same but also knowing they will be significantly different. Children grow up, jobs change, favorite stores close and new ones open. We know what is going to happen but there are so many surprises.

Movement does not have to be great distances from one place to another. It can be walking a labyrinth or a marathon. It can be praying quietly or singing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus". This Advent, move, change, grow.

See you Sunday,

Bring a Christmas Dish on December 5

Bring your favorite Christmas side dish or dessert and help us celebrate our new members for 2010 at a covered dish lunch held in their honor immediately following 11 o'clock worship on Sunday, Dec. 5. The church will provide the meat.

Even though there is no charge for the meal, we need a head count. Making your reservations early will help us to know whether we will need to set up in the dining room or the gym that day. Call the church office, 733-7156.

Coping with grief, Dec. 6

- *Have you recently experienced the death of a loved one?*
- *Are you presently experiencing grief for a loved one who died years ago?*
- *Does the holiday season intensify those feelings?*

If you answered yes to any of these questions or if you are simply interested in better understanding how you can support family, friends, and community members through the grief process this holiday season, please join us in Room 312 on Monday, Dec. 6 at 7:00 pm for a "Healing Through the Holidays," workshop. Facilitator Dr. Ann Hillstead, a chaplain with Methodist Healthcare System, will help the group explore the physical, mental, and spiritual dynamics of grief and offer suggestions for participants to create new meaning out of the holiday season. This event, sponsored by Laurel Heights UMC and Porter Loring Mortuaries is free and open to anyone interested in attending. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Wesley Nurse Elizabeth Woods in the church office.

United Methodist Women
invite you to a
*Christmas Luncheon and
Program*
Laurel Heights United
Methodist Church
227 West Woodlawn Avenue
December 14 at 11:30 a.m.
RSVP
Liz Hughes, 680-4262, or
Molly Walden, 366-4581, 859-5902

Other LHUMC News on Pages 4A & 8A

Meet our newest members

If you haven't already had the opportunity to get acquainted with those members who joined Laurel Heights in 2010, make plans to attend the Pot Luck Lunch at 12:00 on Sunday, Dec. 5. The congregation is asked to bring a favorite, ready-to-serve side dish or dessert. The church will provide the meat, drinks, and everything else. We just need you to be here because it won't be complete without you.

Here's a listing of our 2010 members so far:

Bill Carmichael

Leona Coker

Laurie Dobson

Annie Garcia

Ilda Gennero

Max Fey Hedgepeth (by baptism)

Penelope Rose Hemingway (by baptism)

Alan and Angela Kramer

Lauren Kramer (by letter of baptism)

Warren Kramer (by letter of baptism)

Rick Lange

Mercida McClain

Lancy McClain

Eddie and Erica Madrigal

Dyego Madrigal (by letter of baptism)

Charlotte Elizabeth Parsley (by baptism)

Paul Seeman

Douglas and Donna Semmes

John Harper Shaw (by baptism)

Barbara Shortt

Lucian Smith

Henry Samuel Taylor (by baptism)

Missy Todd

Brady Charles Woods (by baptism)

If you've been thinking about becoming a member of Laurel Heights, talk with Rev. Jim McClain to get more information.

Are you walking to



Bethlehem?

If you are walking the 73 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem with us during Advent this year, we encourage you to walk some of your miles at the church. We have set up stations throughout the church that will guide you through meditation and prayer while you walk. Four laps through the stations is one mile. Please also remember that there is a walking group on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 11:00 am led by the Wesley Nurse for those interested in the support and camaraderie of exercising with others. Lastly, don't forget to record the number of miles you walk each week on a purple footprint. There will be a table set up each Sunday morning as well as baskets around the church during the week where you can fill out and drop off your weekly footprint.

If you have questions, contact Wesley Nurse Elizabeth Woods, 733-7156 ext. 36.

Christmas Party for youth center

A group of volunteer tutors from the church will host a Christmas party for children attending San Antonio Youth Center at Laurel Heights UMC at 5:30 pm on Thursday, Dec. 16. There will be craft tables for the children and parents with refreshments provided by MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers). Each child will also receive a gift bag of fruits and snacks.



Festival of L&C
Sunday, Dec. 19
7:00 pm

We will celebrate our 52nd Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, Dec. 19 at seven o'clock in the sanctuary. celebrate our 52nd Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Lessons and Carols includes Christmas carols and Bible readings that vary from year to year, making each year unique. The form of service known as Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was instituted at Truro Cathedral, England, in 1880. It has continued there since that time and in other settings, significantly, King's College Chapel, Cambridge, where it has been sung annually since 1918. Laurel Heights first began the service in 1958.

The service is free of charge and open to the public. A reception will follow in the gym. Anyone interested in contributing cookies for the reception should contact Julie Mazel, 734-5703.

Curious?

Questions about Stephen Ministry? Wonder if you could become a Stephen Minister to help others? Get the facts! Join us on Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 5:45 pm in Room 305 or Sunday, Dec. 12 at 9:30 am in the Parlor. Stephen Minister training begins in January.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

For several decades of our 101 year history, the Altar Guild has been responsible for making Sunday worship go smoothly and without a glitch. Though the Altar Guild members have given many years of service, the Guild has not increased its numbers to have sufficient volunteers to cover all the necessary duties.

Altar Guild membership is open to everyone: male, female, young and old. It will bless your life and the lives of all who attend worship here. If you work or are otherwise occupied weekday mornings (which is when the Altar Guild meets), you can be excused from meetings. Your most important contribution is your time and talents in service to the church.

Just provide your presence; we will provide the training. For more information, contact Margaret Parsons, 359-7343, or mahp1@sbcglobal.net.



Celebrate Christmas

Super Adults and their guests will celebrate Christmas (yet again!) at Super Adult Day on Thursday, Dec. 16. Be sure to make your meal reservations by 12:00 noon Dec. 14 by calling the Super Adult office, 733-6482.

Morning coffee and Christmas treats will be available in the dining room beginning at 9:00 am during a time of fun and fellowship. The lunch and Christmas program will be at 11:45 in the gym.

Thanks, Altar Guild

Several members of the Altar Guild rolled up their sleeves and gave the sanctuary an especially good dusting and polishing on Saturday, Nov. 13. Many thanks to: Diane Boehme, Evelyn Galbreath, JohnDavid Griffin, Helen Moseley, Mary Verette, and Molly Walden.

13 November 2010

Dearest Friends at Laurel Heights,



A NOTE OF Our family greatly appreciates your sympathy and the lovely arrangement you sent in honor of our mother, Regina Novak. Your prayers and loving support for Elizabeth, Brian and Brady during this difficult time are deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,
Sherlyn and Tom Novak



DECEMBER

- 5 Juanita Souder; Penny Viola
- 7 Audrey Patrice Garcia; Ed Pendleton
- 8 Diane Irwin Grant; Stephen Hall; Martha Hamil
- 9 Sue Carter; Sam Dibrell; Jocelyn Isabelle Evelyn Reed
- 10 Stephen Cavazos; Jerome Malek
- 11 James Meister; John Merson
- 12 Jed Dorsey; Donald Redmond
- 13 Grace Evelyn Bailey
- 14 Hallie Saylor; Elaina Taylor
- 15 Kenneth Henry
- 16 Marilyn McNeel
- 18 David Adams; Helen Bernhardt

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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

*Childcare available.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00-12:30 Labyrinth - 312
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 LHUMC Leads Worship at Chandler Center
12:00 New Members Pot Luck - DR
4:00 MOPS Around Town Family Holiday Party - Dining Room
4:00 Student Ministries (Middle School) - 319
5:30 Student Ministries (High School) - 319

Monday, December 6

9:00-7:00 Labyrinth (M-F) - 312
1:00 Knitpickers - Laurel Room
3:00-7:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC (Mon.-Fri.) - Gym
6:00 Weekday School Board - WDS
6:00 Emmaus Reunion Group - DR
6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B
7:00 Healing Through the Holidays - 312
7:15 Green Committee - Parlor

Tuesday, December 7

9:30 UMW Exec. Comm. - Parlor
10:00 Walk to Bethlehem - DR
11:00 Wesley Nurse Meeting - Laurel Room
5:30 Bexar County Detention Ministries - Dining Room
6:15 Stephen Ministry - 313-B

Wednesday, December 8

10:00 Super Adult Steering Committee - Parlor
11:00 Staff Meeting - 313-B
11:30 Let's Eat Out - Church Bus
4:30 Line Dancing - 312
4:30 Property Committee - Library
5:30 *Supper - Dining Room
5:45-6:15 Find out how you can become a Stephen Minister - 305
6:00 Women's Book Group - Laurel Room
6:15 *Worship - Scott Chapel
6:15 Handbells-Sanctuary Balcony
6:30 Disciple I - Parlor
7:00 Chancel Choir - Choir Room

Thursday, December 9

9:00 Church Mice meet for fellowship and to do repairs around the church (open to all)
10:00 Walk to Bethlehem - DR
6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B
7:00 Education Committee - Parlor

Friday, December 10

10:00 Church Women United Executive Board Meeting- Parlor
4:00 Super Adults Christmas in Fredericksburg - Woodlawn Lot
6:30 Parents' Night Out (Reservations by noon 733-7156)
7:30 Dodge Ball Night - Gym

Saturday, December 11

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B
9:30 Believers Class Christmas Party - Dining Room
10:00 History & Records - Library
10:00 MOPS Gathering - 105

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00-12:30 Labyrinth - 312
8:00-12:30 Blood Drive - Gym
8:30 & 11:00 *Worship - Sanctuary
9:30 Fellowship Time - Dining Rm.
9:30 Tiny Tones - 106
9:30 Joyful Noise Choir - 313-A
9:30-10:00 Find out how you can become a Stephen Minister-Parlor
10:00 Sunday School for all ages
4:00 Student Ministries (Middle School) - 319
4:30 UMW Elizabeth Circle- 313-B
5:30 Student Ministries (High School) - 319

Monday, December 13

9:00-7:00 Labyrinth (M-F) - 312
10:00 S.A. Coffee - Choir Room
10:30 Super Adult Book Review - Scott Chapel
1:00 Knitpickers - Laurel Room
3:00-7:00 San Antonio Youth at LHUMC (Mon.-Fri.) - Gym
5:00 Super Adults River Barge Christmas Party - Regent Coach
6:00 Emmaus Reunion Group - DR
6:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B

Tuesday, December 14

7:30 Health Cabinet - The Foundry
10:00 Walk to Bethlehem - DR
11:30 Executive Committee-Luby's

11:30 UMW Christmas Luncheon - Dining Room

11:30 Stephen Leaders-Laurel Rm.
5:30 Finance Committee - Parlor
5:30 Bexar County Detention Ministries - Dining Room

Wednesday, December 15

11:00 Church Staff - 313-B
4:30 Line Dancing - 312
5:00 Book Club - Library
5:30 *Supper - Gym
6:15 *Worship - Scott Chapel
6:15 Handbells-Sanctuary Balcony
6:30 Disciple I - Parlor
7:00 Chancel Choir - Choir Room
7:15 Godly Play - Mann Chapel
7:15 Bible Study - Library

Thursday, December 16

9:00 Church Mice meet for fellowship and to do repairs around the church (open to all)
9:00 Super Adult Christmas - Gym
10:00 Walk to Bethlehem - DR
5:30 SPRC - Laurel Room
5:30 SA Youth Center Christmas Party - Gym
6:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B
7:00 Worship Committee - Parlor

Friday, December 17

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B

Saturday, December 18

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B
10:00 Lessons & Carols Rehearsal - Sanctuary
4:00 Borg Bunch - Laurel Room

Cookies Call for Lessons & Carols Reception

If you would like to donate cookies for the Lessons and Carols reception following the service on Dec. 19, please contact Julie Mazel, 734-5703.

GIFTS IN MEMORIAM

General Budget
GILBERT ALFARO

by
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Kurtz

General Memorials
GRADY REED

by
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Koerlin

Music Fund
ANNE RANTA

by
Mr. & Mrs. David Gannon

Organ Fund
WINIFRED WORSHAM

by
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Parrigan

Give the Gift of Life



Each day of the year an increasing number of sick and injured

people depend on generous, healthy volunteer blood donors to give them the gift of life. In fact, just one unit of blood can help save the lives of several people. The South Texas Blood and Tissue Center will be at Laurel Heights on Sunday, Dec. 12 from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm for a blood drive in the Gym. Those interested in donating should contact Wesley Nurse Elizabeth Woods to sign up.

December Mission

December's Mission of the Month, Cross-Health Ministries, is a San Antonio-based mission that is especially active in Mexico and is helping to set up a full clinic in Piedras Negras. Members of our congregation have volunteered for a number of medical mission trips at the clinic.

The ministry's purpose is two-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.

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

GIFTS IN HONORARIA

General Budget
JIM MCCLAIN'S BIRTHDAY

by
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Kurtz

HAROLD & JUANITA SOUDER'S 55TH ANNIVERSARY

by
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Kurtz



Healing: Mary Verette; James Verette; Sheila Sims; Harold Souder; Mindy Lanoux; Roxane Darnell; Nancy Fassnidge; Harold Souder; Richard Jackson; Leona Coker; Shelley McMullen.

Those Who Mourn: Family of Lorraine Paul who passed away Nov. 22.

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

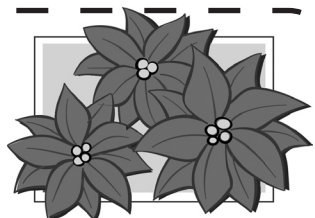
Programming

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

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

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.

This gift is given...

in Honor of _____

in Memory of _____

My name: _____

Phone: _____

Include this coupon with your check payable to LHUMC and mail to LHUMC, Attn: Bookkeeper, 227 W. Woodlawn, SAT 78212. Deadline: 12/6/10. Total limit: 70 plants.

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.