



## WELCOME 2011



It was just a few years ago people were concerned about surviving the turning of a new year. Would there be enough? What would people do? The year was 1999 and the fear was computers would fail at midnight. Some people saw a future of chaos and others a year of coming together. My grandmother told me, "You will always find in people what you look for."

I am excited about 2011. There are many new people to meet, places to go and things to do. I hope to do things I have never done before and see things I have never seen. Laurel Heights has a deep and rich tradition that serves as a foundation to build on and a ballast to help weather storms. Because of this we can explore new oceans and see new lands. The world around us is changing and like Jeremiah we are being asked "What do you see?"

I am excited to be part of a congregation that embraces

everyone as a child of God; for who they are over who they can be or people may want them to be. Not everyone has the same taste, values or traditions we do. Not everyone has the same mental capacity, opportunities or support systems we do. Not everyone has the same visions, hopes or dreams. It takes a faithful congregation to embrace people different than themselves, to welcome those who have made mistakes and love those who are searching. That congregation is one whose security comes from a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

I know many things have changed since I was appointed here. Most were not intentional but simply because I didn't know any better, came from a different perspective, or misunderstood. No matter how hard we try we can't be or do things exactly the same as someone else. This is true for everyone. Other changes happened because you and I were willing to try new things, we shared thoughts, hopes and visions and everyone left differently and creation happened. We witnessed the power of the shared word. Other things have changed because God willed it; the keeper of the memory was no longer present, the situation changed or we grew.

I don't presume to know what the future holds. I do know that God is already there waiting for us to be the body of Christ. God is ready to speak into being a new creation and we are invited to be a part. All the pieces are in place, the people are gathered and the resources available. Laurel Heights is like no other congregation in all creation. We are uniquely fashioned for this time and place. We have a rich tradition from which to draw to share but remember true sharing always means change. You cannot offer your true self and accept another and not be changed. We do not have control over this change but do have the freedom to choose what we look for. God's is asking, "What do you see?"

See you Sunday,

## New Stephen Minister class now forming

Lay caregivers (called Stephen Ministers) provide one-to-one Christian care to the bereaved, hospitalized, terminally ill, separated, divorced, unemployed, relocated, and others in the congregation facing a crisis or life challenge. The next training class for Stephen Ministers begins Friday, Jan. 21. Subsequent classes will be held, for the most part, on Thursday evenings. For more information, or for an application, contact Don Clark, Ellen Evans, or Barb Kurtz.



## It's Epiphany - "Go Green" January 9

Join us in the parlor at 10:00 am on Sunday, Jan. 9 to hear the Rev. Dr. Art Mills (Barb Nardi Kurtz's little brother). Dr. Mills is an ordained Presbyterian minister who has served the church and God in many offices as a steward of the environment. He was the Program Officer for Religion and Environment at the Marin Community Foundation. He has integrated his faith with his work in the conservation movement. As Dr. Mills contemplates retirement, he is thinking about how to most effectively continue to integrate his love of God and God's creation.

Join us as we too consider how we, as people of faith, can be better stewards of God's creation. There will also be displays of environmental stewardship ideas.



## "A SECRET GIFT" REVIEW, JAN. 10

To start off the New Year, Susan Holloway will review a true story of Christmas generosity: "A Secret Gift" by Ted Gup. In 1933, during the depths of the Depression, Sam Stone placed an ad in the Canton, Ohio, newspaper offering cash gifts to 75 families in distress. It wasn't until recently that Gup discovered that his grandfather was the source of this generosity. He has written the story of those who responded to the ad and those who were recipients of those small, but important gifts. It is a fascinating story of hardship and gracious sharing.

The Book Review will be given at 10:30 am in Scott Chapel, preceded at 10:00 by a half-hour of coffee and treats in the Choir Room. Admission to the Review is \$3.

## Confirmation starts February 22

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 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 the Faith to walk through the process with them and to meet with them regularly for Bible study and to listen. We have a spring retreat planned, as well as several field trip experiences.

If you are interested in being a confirmand or a Friend in the Faith, please contact Kercida, 733-7156 ext. 37.

Handbells  
Rehearsals Resume  
Jan. 12

Other LHUMC News  
on Page 8A

## CHURCH CALENDAR

\*Childcare available.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

#### GO GREEN SUNDAY

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 "Go Green" Presentation by  
Rev. Art Mills - Parlor  
1:00 Super Adults to Yule Log/Boar  
Head Festival - Regent Coach  
4:00 Middle School Student  
Ministries - 319  
4:30 UMW Elizabeth Circle- 313-B  
5:30 High School Student  
Ministries - 319

#### Monday, January 10

9:00 Body Recall (M-W-F) - 312  
10:00 Super Adult Coffee Social  
- Choir Room  
10:30 Super Adult Book Review  
- Scott Chapel  
1:00 Knitpickers - Laurel Room  
3:00-7:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC  
(Mon.-Fri.) - Gym  
6:00 Emmaus Reunion Group - DR  
6:00 Education Committee Goal  
Setting Workshop - Dining Room  
6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

#### Tuesday, January 11

7:30 Health Cabinet - The Foundry  
9:30 UMW General Mtg. - Parlor  
10:00 A Matter of Balance - 312  
11:30 Executive Committee- Luby's  
11:30 Stephen Leaders-Laurel Rm.  
5:30 Bexar County Detention  
Ministries - Dining Room

#### Wednesday, January 12

10:00 Super Adult Steering- Parlor  
11:00 Staff Meeting - 313-B  
11:30 Let's Eat Out - Church Bus  
4:15 Kinder - 5th Graders - Gym  
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 - Scott Chapel  
6:15 Handbells- Sanctuary Balcony  
6:30 Disciple I - Parlor

7:00 Chancel Choir - Choir Room

#### Thursday, January 13

9:00 Church Mice meet for  
fellowship and to do repairs  
around the church (open to all)  
7:00 Education Committee - Parlor

#### Friday, January 14

10:00 Church Women United  
Executive Board Meeting- Parlor  
7:30 Foam Ball DodgeBall - Gym

#### Saturday, January 15

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B  
9:00 Program Council - 312  
10:30 Board of Stewards - 312  
4:00 Borg Bunch Study Group  
- Laurel Room

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

#### HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY

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 LHUMC Leads Worship at  
Chandler Center  
10:00 Sunday School for all ages  
12:00 Youth Ministry Council - 319  
4:00 Middle School Student  
Ministries - 319  
5:30 High School Student  
Ministries - 319

#### Monday, January 17

9:00 Body Recall (M-W-F) - 312  
9:00-4:00 Clergy Groups (Mon.-  
Thu.) - 322  
9:00 Super Adult Games Day - DR  
1:00 Knitpickers - Laurel Room  
3:00-7:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC  
(Mon.-Fri.) - Gym  
5:30 Trustees - Parlor

6:00 Emmaus Reunion Group - DR  
6:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B

#### Tuesday, January 18

10:00 A Matter of Balance - 312  
5:30 Finance Committee - Parlor  
5:30 Bexar County Detention  
Ministries - Dining Room

#### Wednesday, January 19

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

#### Thursday, January 20

9:00 Church Mice meet for  
fellowship and to do repairs  
around the church (open to all)  
7:00 Worship Committee - Parlor  
**Friday, January 21**  
6:30 Stephen Minister Training-312  
6:30 Parents' Night Out  
(Reservations by noon 733-7156)

#### Saturday, January 22

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B  
9:00 Stephen Minister Training-312

### Altar Flower Donors Needed

Beginning Jan. 23, we have openings Altar Flower contributors. To give an arrangement in honor or in memory of someone, contact Elizabeth Jackson, 733-7156.

## DODGEBALL

All ages are welcome to come and play dodgeball, Friday, Jan. 14 at 7:30 pm in the gym. Games will be grouped to make the games as fun as possible. Safety is our first priority. Teams will be changed every game. All the games will be for fun only; no prizes will be given out to anyone. All games will be played with Voit FOAM balls. Please wear proper attire.

## New program for kids

Kindergarten through fifth graders are invited to hang out with some fun characters -- who saved lives, were really brave, and did amazing things for God. Join us in the gym Wednesday afternoons, 4:15 to 5:15. Dinner is served for the whole family afterwards.

## Human Relations Day changes lives

Your special offering gift on Human Relations Sunday, Jan. 16, supports: 1) community developers self-improvement efforts, 2) youth offender rehabilitation programs, and 3) United Methodist voluntary services community advocacy work that challenges oppression and injustice. With your help, we are "changing the world, one life at a time."

Congratulations to Emily and



Bradley Jones on the birth of their daughter, Wynne Bradley Jones who was born Dec. 10, 2010. Wynne Bradley is also welcomed by sisters, Meryl Elizabeth and Eleanor Katherine.

I begin by wishing all a happy and wonderful New Year, though at the time of my writing



this we are still in the season of Advent, a time of preparation and contemplation. This year in particular, as I consider the many blessings in my life, I am deeply grateful for the Laurel Heights family. The kindness and support that you showered on me following the loss of my mother at the end of October has overwhelmed me and touched me deeply. My affection for you as a congregation and as individuals only grows greater week by week. God has blessed my life in many ways, not the least of which has been the Body of Christ at Laurel Heights United Methodist Church. Thank you, one and all.

Geoffrey Waite



### JANUARY

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 Marisa Medina Parker; Mixson Maverick Oleson  
16 Linda Salazar  
17 Kathy Chandler; Nancy O. Diseker; Mikayla Denise Mendez; Camryn Hickle  
18 Wesley Nye; Abby Sadler  
20 Linda Pope  
21 Frank Healy; Jillian Jopling  
22 James Moffett; Ron Rardin; Douglas Semmes; Yvonne Stehle

Welcome to Arch Campbell who joined Laurel Heights



Dec. 26 by letter of transfer from Concord-St. Andrews UMC, Bethesda, Maryland. Arch is married to the Rev. Gina Campbell. Welcome to Michael and Kristen Pratt who joined Laurel Heights Dec. 12 by letter of transfer from another denomination. The Pratts have two daughters, Murray and Evelyn.

### GIFTS IN MEMORIAM

**Christmas Offering**  
**CHARLES MOSELEY**

by  
Helen Moseley

**General Memorials**  
**LORRAINE PAUL**

by  
Jim & Claire Wisman

**Organ Fund**  
**DOROTHY BELL  
CLAYTON**

by  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Parrigan

**CHARLES MYERS**

by  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Parrigan



*Healing:* Myrle Deaton; John Evans; Rebecca Mayes; Harold Souder; Martha Hamil; James & Mary Verette; Roxane Darnell; Mindy Lanoux; Nancy Fassnidge; Richard Jackson.

*Those Who Mourn:* Alethea Phillips on loss of her grandfather, Ray Loper; Johnny Pickett on loss of his sister, Ruth Hinson; Barbara Shortt on loss of her father; Bill Myers in the loss of his brother, Charles Myers.

Remember our shut-ins and those in the military.



**CONTACT Us**  
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School 732-6979  
Super Adults 733-6482

### Clergy

Rev. Jim McClain x34  
Pastor

### Programming

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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

### Office

Louise Dudley x29  
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Publications Editor  
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Jimmy Barrett x10  
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.