



LIVING THE SEASON OF LENT

Each year I follow much the same discipline for Lent. Yet each year it seems slightly different even in its familiarity. As we move through the seasons of Lent and Easter this year, you may find things that are familiar yet somehow different than previous years. This year, the readings for worship seem to lead our journey in a spiral. While it may seem we are doing the same things as before and ending up in the same place we have always been, we actually have moved slightly. Our lives are different, we have had new experiences since last year, met new people, been exposed to new ideas and had new thoughts. We have, perhaps, moved from the temporary to the permanent, from the temporal to the spiritual. We have moved a little farther towards the mystery

of faith. And along the way, we explore what it means to be a Disciple of Christ. Whether you have been on your journey for a long time or just recently started, you cannot end up back exactly where you started.

This year, to illustrate the spiral nature of our faith journey, we are offering opportunities to experience several different labyrinths in our area. While many people look at a labyrinth and compare it to a maze, they are different. You may remember the news story of a family who used their cell phone to call 911 to rescue them from a “corn maze” only to discover they were just a few feet from the edge of the cornfield, the other events of the festival and the parking lot. With a labyrinth, there is no way you can get trapped or lost. You can always see your destination and where you started but you can be surprised by the thoughts and prayer responses you may encounter as you walk.

Our faith journey is often like a labyrinth in that it is rarely the straight path we envisioned it to be. Growth in faith often has unexpected turns and leads us in surprising directions. We may encounter people on our journey or have to move aside so others can pass. We may become distracted or feel we must abandon our journey and take a more direct path only to find that in doing so, part of the experience is lost. It may take some discipline on our part to stay the course and slowly and deliberately finish the labyrinth in much the same way it takes discipline to continue our journey of faith.

I sometimes hear people say they don’t give up or take on a spiritual discipline. Sometimes they will use a statement like, “I just don’t think giving up chocolate so you can lose a few pounds, is right”. I often wonder if they tried it. Giving up something to lose a few pounds is not the only reason to take on a spiritual discipline but it can be one that gets us started. We may find in giving up chocolate that we discover how little self-control we really have or how hard it is to, “stay the course and slowly and deliberately finish . . . our journey of faith.” In giving up something as simple as chocolate, you may find all sorts of unexpected twists and turns or you have to step aside so someone else can keep their spiritual discipline.

We start our Easter journey with Ash Wednesday. Touching the ashes is a way of touching base with our beginning, our mortality, and our creation. This can prompt reflections about what is really important to us compared to what distracts us or tempts us to take the more temporal path.

See you Sunday,

Jim



CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION AND LUNCH, FEBRUARY 5

An orientation, lunch and a time of getting acquainted will be held immediately following the 11 o’clock worship service on Sunday, Feb. 5 in the dining room for confirmands, their parents and Friends in the Faith.

Confirmation Feb. 12 during Sun- range from how to what it means to help give youth a strong the pastor, Rev. Jim



class begins Sunday, day school. Topics study the Bible to others. In order to relationship with McClain will be the primary teacher. There will also be activities outside the Sunday morning class, including a confirmation retreat and several field trips. Anyone sixth grade and above is invited to participate.

Each confirmand will have an adult Friend in the Faith to walk through the process with them and meet with them regularly for Bible study and to just be a listening ear. Call the church office, 733-7156, for more details.

Adults can experience Godly Play in Lent

Godly Play...

- is a creative and imaginative approach to Christian nurture;
- is based on long-established, tried and tested approaches;
- encourages participants to make meaning for themselves by inviting them into God’s stories and providing the opportunity for them to connect the stories with their personal experience;
- is a non-coercive way to encourage people to move into larger dimensions of belief and faith through wondering questions and open-ended response time.

The goal of Godly Play is to show how to be open to the Holy Spirit, The Creator, and the Redeemer all at once and all the time in every place. To achieve this goal is to help us become deeply rooted as Christians and yet at the same time use this powerful language and community to be open and creative.

If you are interested in this experience, Rev. Jim Carr will be leading a Sunday school class that is a survey of Bible stories during the Sundays of Lent in the parlor. Each class is independent so that you may come for one or all of these classes:

February 26: *Creation*

March 4: *Great Family*

March 11: *Advent*

March 18: *The Good Shepherd*

March 25: *Faces of Christ*

April 1: *The Good Shepherd and World Communion*

Other LHUMC News on Pages 4A & 8A

Stephen Ministry is Christ caring for people through people



Stephen Ministers: *The "after" people*

People often ask, "Exactly what is a Stephen Minister?" One answer is that Stephen Ministers are "after" people.

Stephen Ministers are there:

... *after* the divorce papers have been served and the bottom falls out of your life.

... *after* the last child honks the horn while waving and driving away - and your house suddenly seems incredibly empty.

... *after* you arrive home from the funeral service and the emotions you've held in check threaten to overwhelm you.

... *after* the doctors say there's nothing more they can do.

... *after* the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.

After any of these times - and at many others - a Stephen Minister can be there to walk your journey with you and provide comfort and support for as long "after" as needed.

A new Stephen Ministry training class begins Friday, April 13. If you would like to be part of this class, contact Don Clark, Ellen Evans or Barb Kurtz. We'll be glad to talk with you!

Explore early literacy, Feb. 27

Think reading begins when your child starts school? Little



Read Wagon is a free, hands-on class for parents and young children to discover reading in some very creative ways. Bring your little ones Monday, Feb. 27, 4 pm to 5:30 pm and find out how much fun early literacy can be for both

you and your child. Please RSVP by Friday, Feb. 17 to Christina Galvan at 733-7156 ext. 37.

Free parenting classes in February

Wesley Nurse Christina Galvan invites parents of young children to attend Positive Parenting Promotions from 1 pm to 2 pm on Tuesdays this month. Come as often as you like; each class offers something new to help improve your parenting skills. You might learn some helpful potty training tips for toddlers or how to keep your cool when Jr. loses his, and lots more! Plus, each class offers "Baby Boutique Bucks" for infant and toddler supplies, baby clothing, and more and information on free diapers assistance (to families who qualify). Contact Christina, 733-7156 ext. 37, for more information. If you plan to attend, RSVP is appreciated.



Welcome to Joan Hudgins who joined Laurel Heights United Methodist Church on January 15, 2012 by letter of transfer from another denomination. She is pictured here with husband Clyde Hudgins.

February is heart awareness month



February is not just about cutesy red hearts and candy. February is also a time to raise awareness about the No. 1 killer of women, heart disease. On Friday, Feb. 3 men and women across the United States wear shades of red for National

Wear Red Day to raise awareness of heart disease.

Stop by the Wesley Nurse table during fellowship time (9:30 am) on Sunday, Feb. 19 to learn more about heart disease and the things you should know to protect yourself, your daughters, sisters, or wife. Remember to "Go Red for Women" this month.

A story of intrigue



The Super Adults' February book review will be in Scott Chapel at 10:30 am on Monday, Feb. 13. Susan Holloway will review *The Very Picture of You*.

This new novel is a delightful *story about artistic inspirations, family secrets and the courage to turn one's life into a masterpiece*. Gabriella Graham (Ella to her family and friends) is a successful portrait artist in London. She tries to capture the essential truth in each of her subjects' faces. She is convinced by her sister, Chloe, to paint Chloe's fiance, Nate. Ella neither likes nor trusts Nate, but in the sessions as she paints him, she begins to see him in a different light. This leads to a new examination of her life and the portraits she paints begin to reveal more about the artist herself. It is a story crafted to convey the humor, mystery and beauty that exist within each of us.

The review is open to anyone; the cost is \$3 or by season ticket. Enjoy a half-hour of fellowship with coffee and desserts beginning at 10 am in the Choir Room.

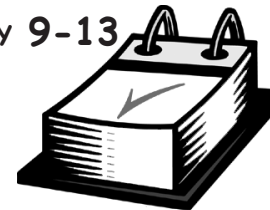
5,000 Years of Chinese Art

The San Antonio Museum of Art is featuring an exhibit of *5,000 Years of Chinese Art*, which includes 45 outstanding jade works of art, most never seen outside Taiwan, 24 jades from the Arthur Sackler Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution, and others. The cost is \$8; add \$3 for transportation on the church bus or meet us at SAMA at 10 am on Feb. 9. The bus departs from the Woodlawn lot at 9:45.

**New Members
Lunch
February 26**

SAVE THE DATES!

**VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 9-13**



Diaper bag

Keys

~~Shower~~

? Sanity

We totally get it
and we're right there with you.

MOPS
Mothers of Preschoolers

Join us the 2nd Saturday of each month 10 am - 11:30 am for a chance to recharge your batteries and maybe even find your sanity. We provide hot coffee, great conversation, lots of laughter, and free childcare. For more information about MOPS, visit <http://www.myhunc.org/programs/mopsprogram.html> or call Katie Myers, 545-0312.

Dance Skills Not Needed

Once again it's time for the almost-world-famous Valentine's Day Dance at Laurel Heights UMC, Sunday, Feb. 12, 5 to 7 pm. The Youth of Laurel Heights cordially invite you to cut a rug (or just listen) to great tunes with your favorite guy or gal. We will be serving up some tasty, love-flavored snacks and cherub punch! Be a sweetheart and let us know you are coming by calling 733-7156. Be sure to let us know if you will need childcare.

CHURCH CALENDAR

*Childcare available.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

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
12:00 Confirmation Orientation and Lunch - *Dining Room*
4:00 Middle School Student Ministries (UMYF) - 319
5:30 High School Student Ministries (UMYF) - 319
6:30 Disciple 1 - *Library*

Monday, February 6

9:00 "Moving On" (M-W-F) - 312
3:00-7:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC (Mon.-Fri.) - *Gym*
6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

Tuesday, February 7

8:45 Yoga Class - 312
9:30 United Methodist Women Executive Committee - *Parlor*
12:30 MELD Parenting Group- *DR*
1:00 Positive Parenting Class- 319
5:30 Finance Committee - *Parlor*
6:15 Stephen Ministry - 313-B

Wednesday, February 8

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 (Rev. Jim Carr) - *Scott Chapel*

6:15 Handbells- *Sanctuary Balcony*
7:00 Chancel Choir - *Choir Room*

Thursday, February 9

8:35 Parents & Pastries - *Parlor*
9:00 Church Mice meet for fellowship and to do repairs around the church
9:45 Super Adults to San Antonio Museum of Art ("5,000 Years of Chinese Art") - *Church Bus*
6:30 Education Committee - *Parlor*
6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B
7:00 CROP Walk Planning - *DR*

Friday, February 10

9:30 Church Women United Executive Board Meeting- *Parlor*
11:15 Weekday School Grandparents' Day Chapel - *Sanctuary*
6:30 Parents' Night Out (RSVP by 12 noon @ 733-7156)

Saturday, February 11

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

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 Room*
9:45 Confirmation Class - 202
10:00 *Sunday School for all ages
4:30 United Methodist Women Elizabeth Circle - 313-B
5:00 *Valentine's Dance - *DR*
6:30 Disciple 1 - *Library*

Monday, February 13

9:00 "Moving On" (M-W-F) - 312
10:30 Super Adult Book Review - *Scott Chapel*
3:00-7:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC (Mon.-Fri.) - *Gym*
6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

Tuesday, February 14

7:30 Health Cabinet - *The Foundry*
8:45 Yoga Class - 312
12:30 MELD Parenting Group- *DR*
1:00 Positive Parenting Class- 319
5:30 Bexar County Detention Ministries - *Dining Room*

Wednesday, February 15

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. Jim Carr) - *Scott Chapel*

6:15 Handbells- *Sanctuary Balcony*
7:00 Chancel Choir - *Choir Room*

Thursday, February 16

9:00 Church Mice meet for fellowship and to do repairs around the church
5:30 Staff Parish Relations Committee - *Laurel Room*
6:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B
7:00 Worship Committee - *Parlor*

Friday, February 17

7:30 Super Adults Cruise Lake Buchanan - *Regent Coach*
6:30 Parents' Night Out (RSVP by 12 noon @ 733-7156)

Saturday, February 18

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B
9:00 Program Council - 312
10:30 Board of Stewards - 312
5:00 Raquel Mathis' 100th Birthday Celebration - *Dining Room*

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East Texas Spring & Gladewater Daffodil Gardens, March 1-3

Call the Super Adult office, 733-6482, for cost and daily itinerary.

UMCOR DISASTER RESPONSE: FEBRUARY MISSION OF MONTH

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) maintains a corps of trained disaster response specialists for quick reinforcement of local efforts, and it keeps a supply of relief materials in warehouses for dispatch when and where required. UMCOR-trained disaster response coordinators are part of each annual conference and are ready to respond locally when a disaster occurs. Annual conferences are regional organizations that represent the United Methodist churches in that area. There are nearly 70 annual conferences in the United States. When a disaster occurs, UMCOR staff are in contact with disaster response coordinators offering, advice, support, financial assistance, and a personal presence as needed. Your communion rail and Wednesday night table offerings in February help support this ministry.

FEBRUARY

- 5 Karen Hogan; Richard Parrigan; Fred Vaca
7 Clyta Coder; John Peck; Steven Stehle
8 Allie Jackson
10 Reid Hartson; Barbara Miller; Hazel Spillman
13 Tammy Valentine
14 Sarah Aldana



- 15 Emily Ella Bull; Gary Jackson; Robert Ojeda; Leo York
16 Robert Bull; Ellen Myers; Evelyn Pratt; Cathryn Yon
17 Raquel Mathis (100th)
18 Gabriel Davis

GIFTS IN MEMORIAM

Bell Tower COLLEEN BLONDEAU

by
Mr. & Mrs.
Richard Parrigan

NANCY FASSNIDGE

by
Doris Wise Hoffman

HAROLD SOUDER

by
George Frame

General Memorials CHARLES SCHNEIDER

by
James & Claudean
Blackburn

HATTIE TUCKER

by
Mary Lou Griffith
by
Wier & Laura Labatt

by
Cathy, Gary & Elissa
Marcous

by
Jose & Shirley Martinez

by
John & Janis Rice

General Memorial HATTIE TUCKER

by
C. Herb & Claudia Skoog

by
Emily Thuss

by
Carol Wilson

Music Fund ARLENE MORTON

by
Mr. & Mrs. Wendell Davis

Organ Fund MRS. MYRLE DEATON

by
May O'Neal

Trustee Sign Project MRS. MYRLE DEATON

by
Paul & Trudy Kinnison

HATTIE TUCKER
by
Paul & Trudy Kinnison

PAUL YOUNG
by
Paul & Trudy Kinnison



Healing: Marion Dillon; Vane Hugo; Lucille Warren; Patti Vaughan; Jane Magavern; and Fred Vaca.

Those Who Mourn: Family of Margaret Dobbs who died Jan. 15; and family of Christie Cerda who died Jan. 11.

God's Presence: Our shut-ins and those in the military.



CONTACT US

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Fax 737-3920

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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

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and Jessica Lewis x10
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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@myllhmc.org.