

The Good News Herald



The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church

4881 W. Panther Creek Drive

The Woodlands, TX 77381

281-363-2040 www.wcpc-tx.org

"An Inclusive Church Family: Loving, Sharing, and Serving Christ."



JANUARY
2018

³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Love Your Neighbor Day

Saturday, Jan 27th
beginning with breakfast at
8:00am

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

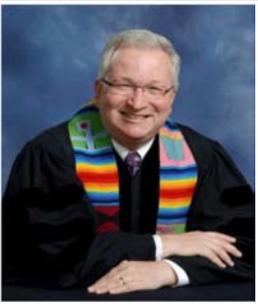


Visit our website at www.wcpc-tx.org to view the online brochure detailing the various mission opportunities. Brochures are also available at The Welcome Table or in the church office. Please sign up by Tuesday, Jan. 23rd. Questions? Contact Michele Stelter @ 281-363-2040 ext. 7.

Two New Projects This Year

We will assemble Breakfast Bags for Meals on Wheels and then deliver them to their clients. You can sign up for all or part of this project.

We will be making and freezing chili and other food items on site for use at Gathering Place events.



Rev. Dr. David F. Jones
Pastor

Dear WCPC family,

Peter Ducker, who was a management consultant for many years, suggested at one point that all the books he had written, all the seminars he had taught, and all the work he did as a business consultant could be summed up with these three questions:

What are you doing that you need to keep doing?

What are you doing that you don't need to do?

What do you need to start doing?

I think those are great questions but not just for businesses or churches (I've asked your officers and the teams of our church to start asking those questions regularly). No, those three questions can also be asked of each of us, especially as it relates to our lives as disciples, followers of Christ. And there is no better time to ask those questions than the first of a new year.

What are you doing in your life as a disciple that you need to keep doing? Certainly, I trust it involves regular worship and fellowship at WCPC. If you are doing that, keep it up. If not, see question 3. What else are you doing in your life as a disciple? Daily devotions? Daily prayer? Participating in a Sunday School class or study group?

I know that if I don't walk at least my 10,000 steps daily something isn't right. I know it. Not only does my Fitbit tell me but I feel it. That's the way it should be in our journey as disciples. We hunger for that time with Scripture, with God in prayer. We hunger for reaching out to others, serving them and being generous with our lives.

Question 2: What are you doing you don't need to do? This is maybe a more difficult question since for most, if not all of us, the things we are doing aren't bad things, just maybe not the best things, the best use of our time.

One of the tools I've used in the past is keeping an hourly log of how I'm spending my time. Try that for a week or two. You might discover for yourself patterns that, again, may not be bad, but maybe there is something else that can fill up that time that will enrich your life.

Finally question 3: What do you need to start doing? Again, if you aren't worshipping regularly with other disciples or if you aren't growing in fellowship with other disciples, that is something to begin. Or it could be service. There are so many needs, not just in the church, but in our community, such as volunteering for Interfaith, Habitat, The Montgomery County Food Bank or The Women's' Shelter.

This is probably the most important thing we can do to grow spiritually, to grow closer to Christ. After all Jesus said he didn't come to be served but to serve. Shouldn't we as well as we follow him?

I'm not suggesting that you will see instant growth. It takes time. In fact often it is so gradual that we don't even notice but others do and looking back we do as well.

Think about January 1, 2019. It's not that far away. What we do now and in the coming days, weeks and months will determine who we will be then.

You never know what a new year will bring. You never know really what each day will bring. But we can be intentional about how we live each day and each year.

Happy New Year!

WCPC HOSTS A WEEKLY AA MEETING.

Each Monday at 7:00 pm in Hendricks 306 a local AA group is meeting. If you know of anyone who would like to attend please share this information.



Rev. Laura Grice

Dear Ones,

As I write this letter, I am preparing for the surgery I will be having on Dec. 19. By the time you read this, I hope to be well on my way to recovery. I cannot begin to tell you how much your prayers, encouragement, and offers of help and support have meant to me over the past few days.

Among the many things I wanted to do as I got ready for the surgery, was to update my plans for my memorial service (I still haven't gotten around to a will, yet. Perhaps I will in 2018!). Hopefully, this document is not used for a very long time, but I want the people I love to have a starting place. In it I've made suggestions of my favorite scriptures and hymns that would be appropriate for such an occasion for my family. In reality most of what I have written is just that, a suggestion. There is one element that is not a suggestion. I am adamant that my memorial service will include a remembrance of baptism. After all, our baptisms are completed in death. I want the people gathered to hear and see and maybe even feel these waters and be reminded of the gracious claim that God has made upon their lives and on mine. I want them to be comforted by these baptismal promises.

This month, on January 7, we celebrate Baptism of the Lord Sunday. It is also the Sunday closest to Epiphany, so I am not sure what our worship plans are this year. However, often on Baptism of the Lord Sunday at WCPC, we remember and reaffirm our baptisms. We hear the words from one of the Gospels about John baptizing Jesus in the Jordan River. We see the Holy Spirit descending like a dove. We hear the voice of God calling from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Whether it is on January 7, or some other Sunday in worship, take a moment and stop at the baptismal font. Touch the water. Hear those ancient words as promise and claim for yourself. "You are my child, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." This is the love that claims us. This is the love that will not let us go. For that I will always give thanks to God.

Grace and Peace,

Laura

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DRAWING TO A CLOSE

Our Three Year Capital Campaign ("God's House – Our Home") will conclude at the end of May 2018. It has been a very successful campaign. Here is what has been accomplished with your gifts:

- New roof and gutters for all buildings except the Hendricks Building;
- Replacement of most ac units that were costly to maintain with energy efficient units;
- Upgrade to audio/video units in sanctuary;
- New carpeting in sanctuary and sanctuary narthex;
- Painting the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall;
- New awning covers on Youth and Children's Educational Building;
- Replaced old/rotten lumber/paint as needed on Youth and Children's

Ed Building, Fellowship Hall and offices and sanctuary and extensive pressure washing of all buildings and walkways.

We still have several objectives that will be addressed as funds are available including the reupholstering of the sanctuary pews; replacement of one ac unit for kitchen and Fellowship Hall narthex, and a proposed permanent labyrinth.

The Capital Campaign Committee wants to encourage all those who pledged to try and fulfill those pledges by the end of May. If you have a question about your commitment you can contact Matthew Jensen in the church office at mjensen@wcpc-tx.org

If you did not financially participate in the campaign you are invited to do so now. Please be certain if using a check to note it is for the Capital Campaign.



GOD'S HOUSE. OUR HOME.
A Shelter for All

WCPC Capital Campaign 2015

WORSHIP SERVICE: SUNDAY MORNINGS: 8:30AM & 11:00AM SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45AM-10:45AM

Pastor: Rev. Dr. David F. Jones	Music Ministries: Jonathan Aigner, Director of Music Sherry Hunter, Director, Bell Choirs Dr. Dave Faber, Organist	Early Learning Program: Cindy Mountain, Director Fran Weissbach, Administration	Our Missionaries Nancy Collins, Zambia Sara Armstrong, Peru Rusty Edmondson, Peru
Associate Pastor Rev. Laura R. Grice		Administration: Matthew Jensen Financial Administrator Shirley Barclay, Dir. of Communications	Our Seminarians Martin Garner Naomi Daka
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Charles Hendricks	Mission Outreach: Michele Stelter, Facilitator		
Parish Associate: Rev. Warren Johnson	Children's Ministries: Susan Duncan, Director		

BOARD OF DEACONS**SESSION MEMBERS**

CLASS OF 2018	CLASS OF 2019	CLASS OF 2020
William Davis	Nancy Castro	Todd Duncan
Cinda Hitchcock	Jen Conner	Sheree Fleming
Gordon Lentz	Ria Du Bruyn	Megan Hansen
Chris Liddell	Bruce Lee	Betsy Whitehead
Sarah Martin		

CLASS OF 2018	CLASS OF 2019	CLASS OF 2020
Patty Ahern	Carrie Bucki	Ed Allen
Kathy Bray	Karen Gonzales	Kristen Campbell
Mary Jo Chapman	Barbie Hardy	Jane Harding
Beth North	Debra Martinez	Leslie Lee
Tammy Rand	Kim Petrie	Mignon Mabry
		Erin Michaelis
		Daniece Peck
		Janet Youngblood

TEAMS OF THE SESSION

Building and Grounds	Bruce Lee	balee5068@gmail.com
Christian Enrichment:		
Adults	Ria Du Bryn, Chair	ria.smit.dubruyn@gmail.com
Children/Tween	Jen Conner, Chair	jenniferconner79@gmail.com
Hospitality Team	Cinda Hitchcock	cchtx@att.net
Creation Care	Cinda Hitchcock, Chair	cchtx@att.net
Evangelism Team	Sheree Fleming, Chair	sgflemi@gmail.com
Fellowship Team	Cinda Hitchcock, Chair	cchtx@att.net
	Betsy Whitehead	bowhead8@yahoo.com
Finance Team	Bubba Davis, Chair	wdavis88@comcast.net
Mission Outreach	Gordy Lentz, Chair	gordon.lentz@yahoo.com
Personnel Team	Todd Duncan, Chair	tmduncan173@gmail.com
	Chris Liddell	liddellchris@hotmail.com
Worship Team	Nancy Castro, Chair	nancy1254@yahoo.com
Youth Team	Sally Bowers, Co-Chair	sally_bowers@comcast.net
	Megan Hansen, Co-Chair	megateer@gmail.com
	Sarah Martin	
Moderator	David Jones	djones@wpc-tx.org
Clerk of Session	Roger Richardson	roger8226@sbcglobal.net

BOARD OF DEACONS TEAM LEADERS

<i>Baby Ministry-</i>	Beth North	
<i>Bereavement Ministry</i>	Tricia McDonald	
<i>Card Ministry-</i>	Karen Gonzales	409-789-5631
	rigonzales@earthlink.net	
<i>Cookie Ministry</i>	Barbie Hardy	
<i>Home Outreach Ministry</i>	Tammy Rand	281-615-4900
	fromaway1958@me.com	
<i>Hospital Ministry-</i>	Kathy Bray	281-419-0373
	kathyj.bray@gmail.com	
<i>Meals Ministry</i>	Erin Michaelis	
	erintbaker@gmail.com	
<i>New Member Ministry</i>	Mary Jo Chapman	281-361-5779
	maryjo.chapman5206@gmail.com	
<i>Prayer Ministry</i>	Kim Petrie	281-419-5309
	petrie_kim@msn.com	
<i>Moderator</i>	Patty Ahern	
	pahernrd@sbcglobal.net	
<i>Co-Moderator</i>	Carrie Bucki	
	clschaef@hotmail.com	

WCPC PRAYER MINISTRY

Prayer is one of the greatest gifts God has given to us. At WCPC, we have the opportunity to participate in the prayer ministry as well as request prayers in several different ways.

- The Prayer Book is located in the foyer of the church. Members are asked to sign the book requesting prayers for themselves or others prior to the church service. Prayers for these individuals are included during the worship services and are added to the Church Prayer List.
- The Church Prayer List is available online (www.wpc-tx.org) and at church on Sundays. Prayer requests may be added to or removed from the list by contacting Rev. Laura Grice in the church office (281-363-2040 ext. 2; lgrice@wpc-tx.org). Please obtain permission from the person prior to adding their name to the prayer list.
- The Thursday Morning Prayer Group meets on Thursday at 9:30—10:30 am at the church. This group is led by Sally Lichtenwalter. Through the use of Lectio Divinia and Intercessory Prayer, the group prays for members, family, and friends that have requested prayers. Contact Sally Lichtenwalter (218-292-3152) if you would like more information about this group.

During the next few months, deacons will be contacting members who have added the names of friends and family to the WCPC Prayer List. The purpose of these calls is to assure the member that the WCPC church family is praying for those who need our prayers.

Adult Class & Study Opportunities

SUNDAY MORNING 9:45—10:45 am

The Apocryphal Jesus CHEB 301a
led by Corliss Lentz, Bill McCleary & Joe Christoffel

The 27 canonical books of the New Testament are a tiny fraction of what has been written about Jesus, his family and the apostles. These other writings offer fascinating insights into how different groups in the early Christian world understood Jesus and the first apostles.

Lectionary Class CHEB 303
led by Bob Campbell

In this class, we dig more deeply into the day's Revised Common Lectionary readings so that we can increase our understanding, enhance our worship experience and equip ourselves and each other to apply these biblical lessons in our daily lives.

Connecting Through the Bible CHEB 304
led by Sue Watkins, Neville Walker and Dave Watkins

NEW Sunday School Group! A fun, interactive discussion of the book of James. Part of N.T. Wright's series, *New Testament for Everyone*, this study of James is an accessible and practical study for everyone. Great for those new or well-versed in Bible Study.

Parenting, the Early Years CHEB 306
led by Mike and Tara Devoley

Are you the parent of a young child? If so, please join us as we seek to learn how to bring God's will into our life as parents. We will laugh together and form bonds as we try to navigate the hardest job we have; being a parent! We will also have the opportunity for fellowship together (childcare provided) on one Friday night a month!

First Place 4 Health Parlor
led by Patty Ahern

This class is a Christ-centered weight-loss and healthy living program. Using the Bible Study *Make Everyday Your Best Day*, we will examine the way in which you live your life so you can focus on the present, leave the past behind and avoid worrying about tomorrow.

MONDAY

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CHEB 301b
Mondays, 9:30-11:30 am

led by Tricia Knight

The **Mon. Morning Women's Bible** study group meets Mondays from 9:30-11:30am in Rm 301 in the Hendricks building. New members are always welcome! We will be studying Barbara Essex' *More Bad Girls of the Bible* (which should last 14 weeks). We'll plan on starting back Jan. 8th. It will be \$12.00; either cash or check made out to WCPC with MMBS on the notation line. Contact Tricia Knight (281-367-0490) for more info!

MOMS' GROUP Youth Room/CE 200
Fourth Mondays, 9:30-11:30 am

Contact Marnie Bush

This year we will be reading *More Than Enough: How Jesus Meets Our Deepest Need* by Jeff Iorg. Using the Gospel of John we will explore how, in Jesus, we can find peace, security and fulfillment— everything we need.

TUESDAY

DOROTHY JOHNSON CIRCLE Parlor
First Tuesdays, 10:00 am– 12:00 pm

This year we are using the Horizons Bible Study "Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews" by Melissa Bane Sevier. This study invites you to explore major themes in Hebrews as they relate to the overarching motif of community.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN EVENING CIRCLE
First Tuesdays, 7:00 pm in Member Homes

This year we will be using the study *Deeply Rooted: Knowing Self, Growing in God* by Christopher Maricle.

WEDNESDAY

WED. MORNING MEN'S STUDY GROUP
1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 am in the Library

led by Rev. Dr. David Jones

The focus of the study is the text for the upcoming sermon our pastor will be delivering.

WEDNESDAY MORNING STUDY GROUP
Wednesdays 10:00-11:30 am in CHEB 301b

contact Sylvia Campbell

This group is using The Great Courses study- *Death, Dying, and the Afterlife: Lessons from World Cultures* by Professor Mark Berkson, Ph.D.

WED. EVENING MEN'S STUDY GROUP
1st & 3rd Wednesdays 7:30-8:30 pm at Crust Pizza

led by Rev. Dr. David Jones

The focus of the study is the text for the upcoming sermon our pastor will be delivering.

THURSDAY

CIRCLE OF BLESSINGS - WOMEN'S CIRCLE
2nd Thursdays 7:00 pm in Member Homes

This year we are using the study *The Bad Girls of the Bible, and What We Can Learn from Them* by Liz Curtis Higgs.



The Early Learning Program

of the Woodlands Community
Presbyterian Church



Happy New Year!

Here it is, already 2018! While it is exciting to start a new year, it is a bit sad to see the Christmas trees and decorations all coming down.

At ELP, we continue to keep Jesus our focus as we look forward to an Epiphany Celebration. This is a time when we follow the star to Bethlehem (to chapel) and find the Baby Jesus, just as the Wise Men did.

Soon, we will also enjoy our annual "Snow Days" out in the side yard. This is always a fun week for staff, parents, and most of all our children! As we prepare for our snow days here at ELP, we remind our parents to purchase water proof gloves for their children, just in case we have our famous Texas winter day temps in the 70's! Whether it is snow or ice, it will all be fun and likely a new experience for many of our little ones!

As we count our many blessings of the past year and anticipate this new year, we are reminded of God's goodness in everything. We appreciate your prayers and support of The Early Learning Program.

Blessings,
Cindy



All Ears! loves science! All Ears! is grateful to be a part of ELP and WCPC. We teach deaf children how to talk! We empower families of children who are deaf and hard of hearing, without financial burden, who have chosen listening and spoken language as their child's communication option by teaching them listening, speaking and literacy skills in order to promote independence. To learn more about All Ears! go to allearscenter.org or email shelley@allearscenter.org



DOROTHY JOHNSON CIRCLE 1st Tuesday

This year we are using the Horizons Bible Study "Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews" by Melissa Bane Sevier. This study invites you to explore major themes in Hebrews as they relate to the overarching motif of community. We will not meet in January but will resume our meetings on February 6.

February 6 at 10:00 am in the WCPC Parlor

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN EVENING CIRCLE 1st Tuesday January 2 at 7:00 pm in Member Homes

This year we will be using the study *Deeply Rooted: Knowing Self, Growing in God* by Christopher Maricle.

CIRCLE OF BLESSINGS - WOMEN'S CIRCLE 2nd Thursday January 11 at 7:00 pm in Member Homes

This year we are using the study *The Bad Girls of the Bible, and What We Can Learn from Them* by Liz Curtis Higgs.

THE SANCTUARY GUILD 1st Wednesday

The next Sanctuary Guild meeting is on Wednesday, January 3 in the parlor with coffee at 9:30 and the meeting at 10:00. Everyone is welcome! For info, contact Nancy Schlirf at pschlirf@comcast.net.

January 3 in the WCPC Parlor

Moms Group

A Fellowship and Support Group for Mothers of Children
from Birth through the Elementary Years
A Ministry of The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church

For additional information contact any of the following Steering Committee Members:

Marnie Bush	marniebush@gmail.com	Stephanie Keiser	stephaniekeiser1@gmail.com
Sarah Parker	ssnyder888@gmail.com	Robin Ward	robinmctx@yahoo.com

Jan 20 th	Parent's Night Out	5:00-8:00 PM	CHEB Nurseries	The Theme is Mardi Gras. Kids will enjoy dinner (pizza), a movie, and crafts right here at WCPC. Suggested donation for the cost of pizza. *RSVP to Susan Duncan (sduncan@wcpc-tx.org).
Jan 22 nd	Moms Meeting	9:30 - 12:30	CHEB Nurseries	We are sticking to our resolution to become more active this year! Wear your comfy athletic gear and come for a morning of light exercise. If the weather is nice, we will walk. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we will exercise inside. Bring a healthy snack to share during our cool-down time. Feel free to invite and share this information with your friends and neighbors. If you want your name added to our distribution list, please contact Robin Ward. *RSVP to Susan Duncan at SDuncan@wcpc-tx.org for childcare.
Jan 29 th	Book Study	9:30-11:30	Youth Room-CE 206	Join us for chapter 5 of <u>More Than Enough: How Jesus Meets our Deepest Needs</u> by Jeff Lorg. You can order a copy of the book through Amazon. Contact Marnie Bush (marniebush@gmail.com) for more information or just drop on in for a . *RSVP to Susan Duncan at SDuncan@wcpc-tx.org for childcare.

Moms in Mission

Looking for a new small group to join this year? Try Moms in Mission! We're a group of women with high school aged children or older who meet twice a month during the day, once for fellowship and once to work on our service project. Join us for lunch on Jan. 10, at Zoes Kitchen, 6700 Woodlands Pkwy (281.419.5985). We'll meet again on Wed., Jan. 24, from 12:30 - 2:30 in CHEB 303 to work on our service project, making heart shaped pillows for women undergoing breast cancer treatment. All supplies are provided; hand sewing skills are helpful, but not required. For more information, email mimswcpc@gmail.com.

**AQUÍ SE HABLA
ESPAÑOL**

Are you wanting to brush up on your Spanish or build on the base you have? Then come to Spanish as a Second Language class! We meet on Mondays, from 10:00 - 11:30 in CHEB 302. We work in a reader, a grammar book, and practice conversational skills. Our level is advanced beginner / intermediate. If you've had Spanish before, even if it was awhile back, you'll fit in skill wise. Questions? Contact Jeanne Bonnette!



Fleece Needed

We will be making fleece blankets for the 50 boys aged 12-15 yrs. who will be attending the Love Fosters Hope camp this summer. We are specifically looking for patterns that boys in this age range would like as they get to bring these blankets with them when they leave camp. Two yards of fleece is required for each blanket. We will begin making these blankets on Love Your Neighbor Day, January 27th. For more information, contact Michele Stelter at 281-363-2040 x 7 or mstelter@wcpc-tx.org.

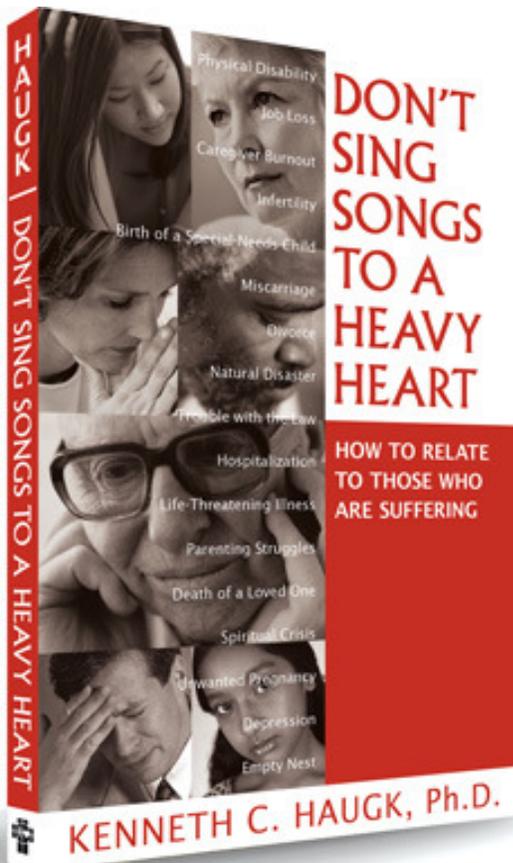
PRAYERS & SQUARES

The Prayers and Squares, quilting/knitting/crocheting group will meet on Monday, January 15th. Come join us for fellowship, learning, and sharing of ideas and projects as we supply quilts and shawls for caring and comfort for those in need. Meeting is from 2:00 until 5:00 p.m. on the first and third Mondays each month. Contact: Nancy Kiefer.



What do you say when someone is suffering?

Stephen Ministers at WCPC will lead a six hour study on this subject. We'll meet in the CHEB for one hour (7-8 PM) on the first and third Thursday of Feb - April. Together we'll read the book: *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart*, and share our thoughts.



How Can We Help?

Dr. Haugk's book speaks to an issue we face. We want to comfort those who are hurting. What should we say or do? Are there things we might say or do that inadvertently make the pain worse? Is it okay at times to say nothing ?

Offering Comfort

Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart offers guidance on comforting people in their time of need. After his own experiences [Kenneth C. Haugk](#) wrote this book using research with others who had also experienced suffering in their lives. Using a biblical foundation and acknowledgement of God's grace, *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart* suggests what to say or do—and what *not* to say or do. It will help readers bring Christ's loving care to hurting people when they need it most.

Situations Leading to Suffering

- death of a loved one
- depression
- hospitalization or illness
- physical disability
- caregiver burnout
- job loss
- infertility, miscarriage
- birth of a special needs child
- parenting struggles
- unwanted pregnancy
- divorce
- natural disaster
- relocation or empty nest

Interested?

Contact our pastors or Stephen Ministers to express an interest and we'll order a book for you.

Stephen Ministers (We're the ones wearing the blue name tags)

Becky Carlson	Linda Conner
Bruce Garthwaite	Holly Gaunt
Gordy Lentz	Pat Johnson
Sally Shu	Ray Penton
Robin Ward	

ADULT FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31
FELLOWSHIP HALL AT 11:30 AM**

Start the year by making an effort to make new relationships, and celebrate the ones we have by coming to the adult fellowship luncheon. Bring a neighbor or a co-worker, the more the merrier! Something warm and yummy will be served! Don't miss out on all the fun catching up with your friends and church family!

Choose Wisely,
LIVE FULLY

WCPC Stewardship Campaign 2018

If you haven't returned your Commitment Card for 2018 you can put it in the offering plate on Sundays, mail it to the church office, drop it off in the office during the week, or easiest of all just go to www.wcpc-tx.org/2018-stewardship-commitments/ and make your commitment online.

Let us Choose Wisely as We Offer Our Lives to Christ!

I sure like being with my friends! And I found a way to spend even more time with them. What is it? Carpooling! Yes. If we are going to the same event, I pick up the phone and ask, "Do you want a ride?" They almost always say, "Yes." And there we go. We have fun at the event, and we have fun riding there and back. And, guess what? We save gas, and we save on air pollution. Wins all around!



W. C. PEEZY is the official Praying Mantis for the WCPC Creation Care Team.



Save the Date!

Game Night- Through the Decades

Saturday, February 24, 2018

5:30-8:00 PM

Cost: \$20/seat

Pasta dinner will be served.

*Childcare will be provided for grades 2nd and under. RSVP to Susan Duncan required.

Gather together your cleverest friends or come and make new friends at our annual Game Night fundraiser. All monies raised will help defer costs of attending summer camps for children and youth. Sign-ups will begin in January. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Stephanie Keiser at stephaniekeiser1@gmail.com or Marnie Bush at marniebush@gmail.com.

Thank you Sewers!

The Alternative Market sale of the dresses was a huge success thanks to all the women who sewed all 59 of them! This was the most ever sold!

This year we have provided 131 dresses and 19 pairs of pants for Africa and Peru. This total includes the 12 dresses and 19 pairs of pants sent back with Nancy Collins when she was here.

We need to keep on sewing for the summer mission trip to Peru. Remember that this may be the only piece of new clothing these children ever receive.

Please come sew with us on Monday's during Prayers and Squares or leave completed dresses in the church office with my name on them.

Thank you again!

Mary Lou Machle





Mission Outreach Team (MOT)

The Mission Outreach Team's mission statement reads:

Because God's love knows no bounds, the Mission Outreach Team encourages the congregation of WCPC to be a servant people, witnessing to the light of Christ through actions and words so that the world might know the grace, peace, and love of God.

WCPC has a long history of mission outreach, whether locally, globally or in our own church family. We don't have to look very far to find people who are in need of our love and care. Each one of us has unique gifts and can make a contribution for the glory of God. We are called to reach out to our neighbors, whether across the street, across town, across the country, or across the ocean. That is because God's love knows no boundaries.

MOT meets at 7 pm on the first Tuesday of each month in Room 301B to discuss current mission outreach programs and consider new outreach opportunities. **The next meeting is on Tuesday, January 2nd. New members as well as new ideas to engage in caring for each other and for others throughout our community, nation and the world are always welcome.** For more information about MOT or mission outreach opportunities, please look on our website, www.wcpc-tx.org or contact Michele Stelter at mstelter@wcpc-tx.org or 281-363-2040 x 7.

Alternative Market & Advent Festival



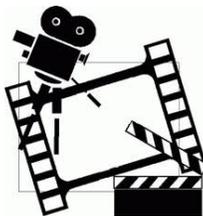
Thanks to everyone who participated in our Alternative Market and Advent Festival. Just over \$3,500 was raised for Heifer International, which puts the children very close to reaching their goal of being able to purchase an ark of animals. We had two new items from Equal Exchange, extra virgin olive oil from Palestine and hot cocoa mix, which both sold out soon after the market opened. The three additions to the market this year, All Ears!, which sold notecards and birdseed ornaments made by the students, the Montgomery County Homeless Coalition, which sold ceramic bowls handcrafted by Lone Star College-Montgomery Ceramics Club, and the Gathering Place, which sold baked goods, were very well received. All fifty-nine dresses sewn by members of the Prayers and Squares Ministry were purchased for distribution to girls in Africa and Peru. As a result of your generosity, over \$11,000 will be given to the various mission projects represented at the market.



Recycle Christmas Tree Lights for Habitat

Christmas Lights not working? Don't Throw them away! Bring them to church. We will turn them into money that goes directly to Habitat. Please deposit your light strands in the specially marked box located in the courtyard on Sunday mornings or in the narthex of Fellowship Hall on weekdays. This program will run through Sunday, January 14th.

Come Shout "Hooray for Hollywood!"



At
The Gathering Place

Friday, January 19th
10:00am to 1:00pm
(Lunch is provided)
WCPC Fellowship Hall

The Gathering Place of The Woodlands at WCPC is a ministry for those who are living with memory loss and the people who love and care for them at home. The Gathering Place seeks to help both the care partner and the caregiver. If you or someone you know are caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's, stroke, Parkinson's, or other dementia, you know that caregivers often find it difficult to do things such as run errands, visit friends, or just have free time alone. The Gathering Place provides the caregiver a few hours of free time or they may choose to participate along with their care partner or they may attend Common Ground, a caregiver support group which meets in the WCPC Parlor from 10:30am to noon.

The Gathering Place provides a time of fun activities and fellowship in a safe, caring environment for the care partner during a time where it may be difficult for a caregiver to find appropriate social activities for their loved one with memory loss. The monthly programs will vary, often featuring a festive theme to help the care partner identify with the current season, event or holiday. In a fun, interactive atmosphere, our volunteers offer music, games, chair exercises, crafts, reminiscing, guest performers, and a light lunch.

A representative from InterFaith CarePartners or our care team helps determine if we can meet the family's need with our program. This is done by arranging for the caregiver and the care partner to attend The Gathering Place together for the first visit. We welcome the opportunity to speak with you. For information, call WCPC coordinator Kathy Bray at 281-419-0373.



SICUANI SEMINARY UPDATE

We recently received a letter from the seminary in Sicuani, Peru thanking WCPC for the funds provided to purchase books and kitchen furniture. As a result of this donation, 51 new books were added to their library and their kitchen is now fully operational. The Rector, professors and students expressed their thanks and gratitude for WCPC's generosity, which also provided student scholarships and funds to enable them to complete construction of their women's dormitory in 2017.



We need you to help us build our 8th Habitat House!

WCPC is partnering with The Woodlands United Methodist Church to build a three-bedroom Habitat House at 1210 Cedar Creek in Conroe. **The Wednesday work days for this January are the 10th, 17th and the 24th. The only Saturday work day this month will be on Love Your Neighbor Day, January 27th.** Not handy? There are many other ways you can help with our Habitat House besides construction such as painting, providing lunches for the work crew, helping plan the dedication, etc. You don't have to swing a hammer to help out with our Habitat House. Everyone is invited to participate whether you have experience or not. Please contact Bill Bray at bill.bray@sbcglobal.net or 832-702-6227 or if you would like to become involved.

Did You Know that Employer Matching Funds Can Be Used for Our Habitat House?

Some employers have programs where they match employees and retirees charitable donations and/or hours to 501c3 organizations like Habitat for Humanity (H4H). ExxonMobil and Chevron will donate \$500 to the charity if you volunteer 20 hours for the same charity. In the past, Chevron retirees have donated funds to WCPC's H4H project which their company matches 1:1. These matching funds are also credited to WCPC's project if the proper instructions are given. If your employer has these or similar benefits, please investigate and discuss with Michele Stelter or Bill Bray to assure we take advantage of this great opportunity to help with our WCPC Habitat House.



Our 2017-18 Habitat House



Just Coffee (Café Justo)

Most of us start each day with the undeniably, sweet aroma of coffee filling the air, which makes our taste buds ache for a cup. We read the newspaper and talk with our family and friends as we enjoy our morning coffee. We connect on a deeper level.

A cup of smooth and creamy Just Coffee (Café Justo) not only invites us into relationships with our family and friends, but also into relationships with our brothers and sisters in Mexico, who toil in the fields all day to produce that delectable cup of coffee. Café Justo is based on a model of sharing as families work cooperatively in order to be better compensated for their hard work and commitment to the land that they love. 100% of Café Justo's profits remain in Mexico because the coffee is cultivated, roasted, packaged and exported by the cooperative. It is FAIR TRADE PLUS!

Since its inception in 2005, Café Justo found partners in churches, but that relationship has since been extended to individuals who acknowledge the importance of being connected to the farmers and individuals who work in the coffee fields, transport, roast, and deliver the coffee for our enjoyment.

For us, it is the beginning of a new level of discipleship, an entry into a world where we unite every time we spend a dollar. It is an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of individuals who have previously had to risk their lives by crossing the border to seek work in an effort to provide for their families. It is also an occasion to be grateful for the resources of the earth and most importantly, for social justice to prevail in our Christian efforts to make this world a better place.

What is just about Just Coffee? It impacts the world, beginning with farmers who use organic means of growing the crops and extending to the churches and other supporters who are committed to the cause of fair and just trade for those farmers who would otherwise be disadvantaged by the large corporations that dominate the industry. These farmers even share their blessings by teaching farmers in other countries how to get their coffee businesses off the ground. It's all about justice and a sensible alternative to migration.

You are invited to become a part of this amazing story and to help make our brothers and sisters' dreams become reality by placing an order for a few packets of Just Coffee after worship on either Sunday January 21st or 28th. Contact Mary Emerson at 757-561-3764 or emerlee911@gmail.com with questions or to place an order.

The Interfaith Food Pantry

Interfaith values our support of their Food Pantry. Through the end of November, 2017, Interfaith has provided food assistance to over 7,500 families which equates to approximately 17,000 individuals. It is important to note that these numbers do not include any assistance given to those affected by Hurricane Harvey. Please continue to remember our neighbors in need when you go grocery shopping.

**Special Pantry Needs for January:
boxed or bagged cereal
oatmeal, granola bars
bar soap, body wash**

In addition to the specific items listed above, the pantry always needs peanut butter, jam, personal hygiene items, diapers, cleaning supplies (no spray bottles) and laundry detergent. Bring your donations to the pantry in the narthex anytime.

Did you know that in 2017 WCPC

gave almost 3,200 pounds of grocery items to the Interfaith Food Pantry?

gave an undesignated gift of \$2,000 to Interfaith of the Woodlands?

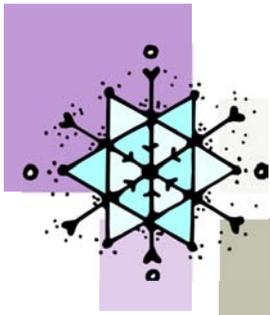
gave an undesignated gift of \$6,000 to Interfaith Community Clinic?

gave an additional \$320 to Interfaith Community Clinic from the Randalls Good Neighbor Program proceeds?

provided two Christmas presents each for 5 seniors in Interfaith's Adopt a Senior Program?

housed the ESL (English as a Second Language Program) run by Interfaith?

gave \$500 to Interfaith to purchase books for their ESL program?



January



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 11:00			WAM 4:15-4:45 chimes 4:45-5:30 choirs 5:30 dinner FH 6:00 pm CETeam Meeting			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 11:00	Martin Luther King Jr. Day		WAM 4:15-4:45 chimes 4:45-5:30 choirs 5:30 dinner FH			Parent Night Out 5-8 pm "Mardi Gras" fun! Reservations with sduncan@wcpc-tx.org
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 11:00			WAM 4:15-4:45 chimes 4:45-5:30 choirs 5:30 dinner FH			
28	29	30	31			
Sunday School 9:30 Worship 8:30 & 11:00						



Children's Sunday School 9:45-10:50 drop off and pick up in CE building rooms 204, 106 and 101. 5th and 6th grade SS in 205.
 Childcare for worship and under 3 Sunday school in Charles Hendricks Ed. Building rooms 307-309.



WAM Fellowship

Jan 17th join us for un-decorating the tree and wreaths in Fellowship Hall after dinner and WAM. Also there will be snow from ELP on the fenced area outside of the Youth and Children's Education Building. Bring mittens and plan to stay and play.



Jan 17th Children's, Tween and Youth Ministry Teams are responsible for the WAM dinner. We are having a Taco Bar, contact Susan at sduncan@wcpc-tx.org to sign up.



Ice Skating Outing

Remember everyone is welcome for Ice Skating on January 7th from 3-5 pm at Town Center Ice Rink. Admission and skate rental is \$10.50 per person. Scholarships available!



Bundle Up!



Sunday School

Children's Sunday School
Rotation Bible Topic this month:

The Disciples



Last month at the Alternative Market the children's Candy Sale, Merry Mine-strore Soup Jars brought in \$1000. So far with the adults purchases at Alternative Market, the Noisy Offering, Sunday Petunia collection, and the Trunk or Treat and ELP Petting Zoos we have \$4,700 toward our Heifer Ark!



Love Your Neighbor Day is January 27th!

Children 4 years and up may join us Saturday morning at 8 for breakfast and children's mission projects. The sign up forms and details will be on the website www.wcpc-tx.org. Also more details will be giving in the bulletin and at worship.



Godly Play classes on Sundays mornings will be hearing the stories on Epiphany & Holy Baptism this month.



Children's
Worship Class



Jan. 28th during the 11:00 service in the Sanctuary Narthex. The January lesson is on Baptism.

Nursery News

Monday children's nurseries will be experiencing winter fun and crafts even if the weather doesn't cooperate!
Parent Night Out January 20th 5-8 pm for Mardi Gras Fun!



Children's Ministry Mission Statement: To nurture all to experience the unique joy of being a "child" of God.

... You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign to your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorpost of your house and on your gates.
Deuteronomy 6:4-8

CONCLAVES 2018

March 2-4, 2018

Whether you have a troubled past, an undecided future, or are dealing with difficulties in the present, it doesn't matter at CONCLAVES. Christ will assure that you are not crushed, in despair, persecuted, or abandoned. Come reclaim the strength of your faith at CONCLAVES!

DETAILS

CONCLAVES are fun, faith-filled weekends at Camp Cho-Yeh that will enable you to grow closer to God and connect with other young people from all over our presbytery. You will engage in Bible Study and small groups, experience dynamic worship, participate in a mission project, explore ways to connect with God in the Spirituality Center, and of course have a blast playing games and making new friends.

DON'T MISS IT!

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.
- 2 Corinthians 4:8-9



PRESBYTERY OF
NEW COVENANT

WHERE: Camp Cho-Yeh
2200 S Washington Ave., Livingston, TX

WHO: 7th thru 12th grade youth

COST: \$140 per person
Scholarships are available.



Conclaves Registration

March 2-4

- Who:** 7th thru 12th grade youth
What: Presbytery Youth Weekend Retreat
Where: Livingston, Texas Camp Cho-Yeh
When: March 2-4. Meet at 4:45 pm on Friday, March 2, pack the cars and head out! We return on Sunday afternoon about 2pm. Bring a sack dinner for Friday and \$ for lunch on Sun.
How: We will travel by personal cars with the retreat leaders and additional parents as needed.
Cost: \$140 total, which includes everything ! Even a cool t-shirt!
*\$80 deposit is due with registration form ASAP!!!! **Final Deadline for registration is Sunday, Jan. 14th***

Questions: Contact a youth team leader or Shirley Barclay in the church office at 281-363-2040 ext. 0 for more information or to turn in your paperwork!



YES! I want to go!

Name of Youth: _____
 Address: _____ City / Zip: _____
 Cell phone: _____ E-mail: _____
 Circle T-shirt size: AS, AM, AL, AXL, AXXL

We understand that in addition to this form, we also have to complete the 2017-18 Youth Registration Form which gives medical information and release signatures, and Health and Release forms for Camp Cho-Yeh .

We set an example through our words and deeds. Both adults and youth are held to the same standard: there is no tolerance for smoking, use of illegal substances or alcoholic beverages, use of foul language, bullying or inappropriate sexual conduct. Inappropriate behavior will result in phoning the parent to arrange for the immediate return home of the youth at the parent's expense.

Signature of youth and date: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian and Date: _____

(if youth is under 18 years of age)

**Turn in this signed form along with your \$50 deposit to the Church Office ASAP!.
 Full or partial assistance is available for this trip. Please don't let the lack of funds keep your student
 from participating in this worthwhile weekend. All requests are kept confidential. Contact Shirley Barclay at
 281-363-2040 ext. 0 for paperwork/forms/registration information.**

The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church
 4881 West Panther Creek Drive, The Woodlands, Texas 77381
 281-363-2040 www.wcpc-tx.org

YOUTH MISSION OVERNIGHT

JANUARY 5-6
TIME 2 PM

DETAILS: On Friday January 5th we will leave WCPC at 2pm and return to WCPC at approximately 7pm. The Lock-in portion will then begin at 7pm and pick up is on Saturday, January 6th by 8am. Bring \$10 for food and activities. Please RSVP (let one of the youth team know) so we can make sure to have enough drivers and chaperones.



YOUTH WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Please join us for our new "Who is Jesus?" Study that begins on January 10 at 6:00 pm in the Youth Room (CE Rm 200)
Come early at 5:30 for dinner in Fellowship Hall!



YOUTH WEDNESDAY NIGHT JAM SESSION

Youth Jam Session will meet in
Youth room 7:30pm
Text Sally Bowers to RSVP
(713-823-2824)



Director of Children's Ministry:

Susan Duncan

sduncan@wcpc-tx.org

Elder for Children & Tweens:

Jen Conner

jenniferconner79@gmail.com

Youth Team Chairs:

Sally Bowers

sally_bowers@comcast.ne

Megan Hansen

megateer@gmail.com

*Please support the Youth & Tweens ministries of WCPC with your prayers, your time, and your talents.
Contact Sally Bowers or Megan Hansen with questions, to donate, and to volunteer.*

JR and SR High Sunday School 7-12th Grades 9:45am Youth Room CE 200

NOOMA Series by Rob Bell

Nooma is a series of 24 short films on everyday topics, like rain, that use the topic as a platform to understand a Biblical truth about God or our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Jesus lived with the awareness that God is doing something, right here, right now, and anybody can be a part of it. He encouraged his listeners to search, to question, to wrestle with the implications of what he was saying and doing. He inspired, challenged, provoked, comforted, and invited people to be open to God's work in this world. Wherever he went, whatever he did, Jesus started discussions about what matters most, because for Jesus, God is always inviting us to open our eyes and join in. NOOMA is a series of short films that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. NOOMA is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion.



THEOCADEMY CONFIRMATION

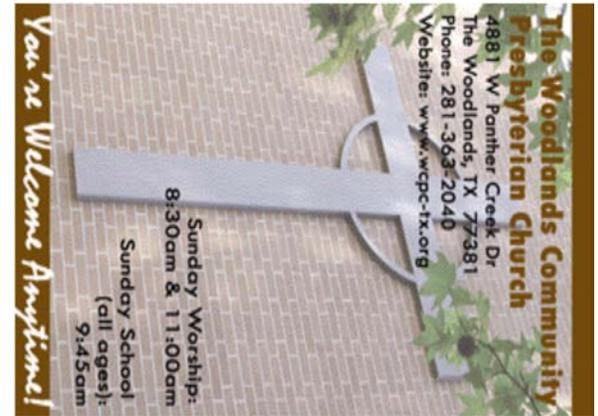


September 2017 through May 2018

7th and 8th grade

17 lessons

Led by Megan Hansen



SAVE THE DATE!

Heifer International Mission Trip June 10-15, 2018 Rising 9th - Graduating Seniors

Details TBA soon! There are a limited number of spots available. Please contact a youth team leader or Shirley Barclay in the church office to sign up or for more information.

This trip is designed to increase our group's understanding of the global hunger and poverty issues that Heifer International encounters in the field. By experiencing activities such as learning to milk a goat, working in the garden, learning how to bee-keep and about animal husbandry, living in a village and learning to make cheese, not only will our group **grow and develop together**, but they will gain a greater understanding of how Heifer creates lasting change in communities around the world.