

# 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](http://www.wcpc-tx.org)

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

## MAY 2017

Please join us as we

# CELEBRATE

## 25 Years!

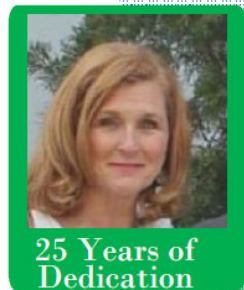
of

### The Early Learning Program

### of The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church

and

### Rita Van Sickle's Long Vacation (Retirement)



25 Years of  
Dedication

May 6, 2017

10:00 AM — 1:00 PM

4881 W. Panther Creek Drive, The Woodlands

Rock Climbing Wall, Jump House, Face Painting, Pop Corn, Sno Cones



Rev. Dr. David F. Jones  
Pastor

Dear WCPC family:

One of the real joys I get to experience every day during the school year is watching the children of our Early Learning Program arriving. It's revealing to watch the transformation. In September there is reluctance and some tears as the kids are brought to class. Then in just a few short weeks they can't wait to get out of their parents' car and go to see their teacher and classmates.

The Early Learning Program is one of the most important ministries and outreaches of our congregation. We are literally touching hundreds of children and families, many of whom aren't connected to any faith community. Through Bible stories, songs, and chapel services the children are learning about God's great love for them and through the care they are receiving from the staff and their teachers our love for them.

**Rita Van Sickle, the Director of ELP for 25 years, the only Director the program has ever known is retiring this May.** We owe her so much. Her vision for a ministry, not just a program, has laid such a solid foundation. Children who were in the program often return to visit her. Some as parents of children who are ready or close to being ready to enroll their child. If you want to talk about legacy she has one in all the children, parents and grandparents who have been touched by her wisdom, compassion and understanding.

A new Director, Cindy Mountain, has been chosen by the ELP Board and your Session has affirmed that decision. I know, just as I will forever be grateful to Charles Hendricks, she is grateful to be following such a beloved leader in Rita.

We will be celebrating Rita's ministry with us on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> with a reception in the Fellowship Hall beginning immediately after our 11:00 am worship. ELP will be celebrating her 25 years of leadership on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm (more details on the front of this newsletter).

I know you join with me in wishing Rita the very best as she enters another stage of her life and ministry in retirement.

Your pastor,

## HOSPITALITY TEAM IS RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS!

The meals and receptions that happen throughout the year are the result of our own church members' participation. Please consider becoming a part of this behind-the-scene team. If your gift is preparing food, serving, making tables beautiful or cleaning up, this team has a place for you. Making these special events happen is a wonderful way to get to know other WCPC members better while being of service to others. Remember that by spreading the work around, team members don't need to work at every event. Contact Cinda Hitchcock, [cchtx@att.net](mailto:cchtx@att.net) or 281.363.2723 to join us.



Rev. Laura Grice

Dear Ones,

A few weeks ago, over 30 women of all ages from WCPC joined with women from First Presbyterian Church, Conroe for our annual Women's Retreat. Led by our fabulous speaker, The Rev. Caressa Murray of Covenant Presbyterian in College Station, we were reminded how much women need other women, and how important our "sisters in faith" are for us. We explored famous biblical sisterhoods, Mary and Martha, Ruth and Naomi, the women followers of Jesus. In small groups, large groups and with prayer partners, we thought about our own sisters in faith, and how these biblical women could become sisters in faith for us. Whether you are a woman or not, whether you were on this retreat or not, I think we can all gain something from what Rev. Murray shared with us. The journey of our life and the journey of our faith is too complex for us to travel alone. We need each other. We need people who will listen to us, who will care for us, who will hold us accountable, who will simply show up.

In this season of Easter, we are hearing stories about how our risen Lord keeps showing up for his followers as they are filled with sorrow, fear and uncertainty following his death and resurrection. We hear stories about how Jesus also encourages them to show up and be present for each other and for others as well. In these great 50 days, where are you seeing the risen Lord showing up in your life? Where are you being called to be present for others. Who are your companions, supporters, sisters and brothers in the faith? Friends, this life of faith is not always an easy one. We need each other to point the way to the one in whom we have our hope. I encourage you to think about who your siblings in faith are, and how you can be a good sibling in faith as well. Talk to them, remember them in your prayers, spend some time helping and encouraging each other in your faith journeys.

*Grace and Peace,*

*Laura*

### **PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund was established to provide financial assistance to those in need who make requests to the pastors of WCPC. Primarily it is used to assist non-members, but on occasion funds are used to assist members with short-term needs. Individuals and families in the past have been helped with rent, utilities, car repair, and prescriptions. A person requesting aid meets with one of our pastors. Their needs are assessed and typically referrals are provided. As an example, if someone lives in the area supported by Interfaith of The Woodlands they are encouraged to contact Interfaith. Your pastors have the discretion to assist those requesting financial help if they believe the need is legitimate and other avenues of help have been explored and are either not available or have been exhausted. If you would like to make a special contribution to this fund you are invited to prayerfully consider doing so. Please make certain that your check to WCPC notes that it is for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. If you would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact any of our pastors.





## The Early Learning Program

of the Woodlands Community  
Presbyterian Church



Dear Friends of WCPC,

At the end of May, we will have completed our 25<sup>th</sup> year of The Early Learning Program. It is also my last year of having the privilege of serving as the director of ELP. I like to refer to my last day as the beginning of my long vacation.

When this program opened its doors, we had 30 children and 6 teachers. We now have a staff of over 30 and 185 students. The hallways are full and so is my heart. It has been a wonderful journey. Through these 25 years, I have made WONDERFUL, life-long friends with parents, board members, staff and you, members of WCPC. Some of our first students have returned to ELP as parents of little ones and have even returned as teachers. What a blessing this circle of life has been for me.

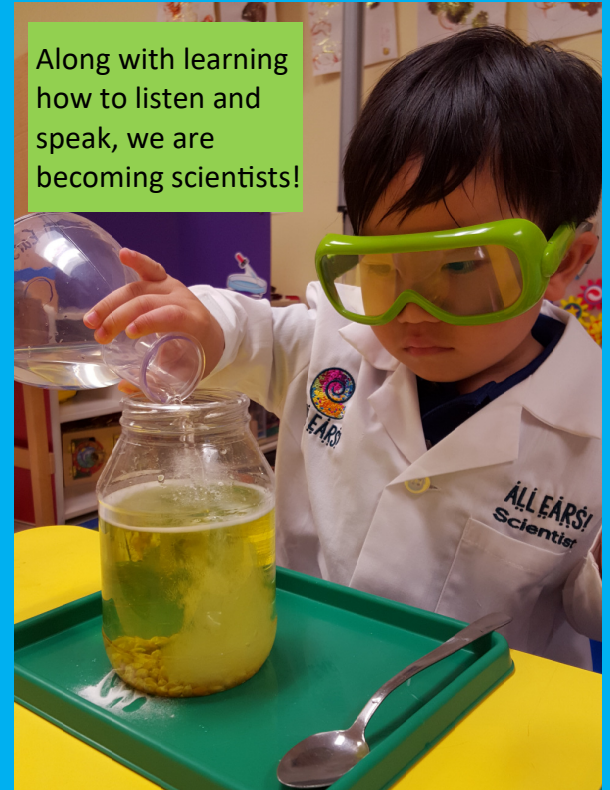
This “vacation” has not been an easy decision. When I began this program, my children were 11, 9 and 5. They are now grown, married, have a total of 6 small grandchildren, (hopefully more) and are scattered away from The Woodlands. We all know how fast time flies and I am realizing that my grandchildren are growing quickly. I need more flexibility in my schedule to be able to travel to see them and spend time with them.

I am delighted to announce that Cindy Mountain has been hired as the new director. She will begin June 1. Cindy has been an ELP teacher for 7 years and has worked in many capacities. We open our hearts and arms to her and wish her many happy, rewarding years of service to ELP and WCPC.

Thank you for being a week-day church family to me for these past 25 years, for your support to me and this wonderful ministry. Your thoughts and prayers, involvement and support have been deeply appreciated.

Your friend always,

Rita Van Sickle



### BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

The Early Learning Program is a ministry of WCPC. The ELP Board is currently seeking new members for the 2017-2018 school year. The ELP Board consists of church members, parents of preschoolers, and community members. Board members are expected to serve a three year term and attend monthly meetings during the school year. Childcare is available to board members upon request. The board functions to support the ELP Program Director and the school as well as oversee and approve tuition, budget, and daily operations. If you are interested in serving on the ELP Board please email the board at [elpboard@gmail.com](mailto:elpboard@gmail.com).

# 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

## MAY 2017

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

Marnie Bush	<a href="mailto:marniebush@gmail.com">marniebush@gmail.com</a>	Kim Falcone	<a href="mailto:kimfalcone@gmail.com">kimfalcone@gmail.com</a>
Sarah Parker	<a href="mailto:ssnyder888@gmail.com">ssnyder888@gmail.com</a>	Robin Ward	<a href="mailto:robinmctx@yahoo.com">robinmctx@yahoo.com</a>

Monday, May 1st	Mom's Meeting	9:30am- 11:30am	Youth Room	Whip up your favorite brunch food to share, print up the recipe and join us to eat, swap recipes, and chat!
Friday, May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Night Out	7:30pm	El Bosque	Let's get together for Mexican food and fun! RSVP to Kim Falcone (808) 728-3252 if you think you can come and we'll save you a seat, but feel free to join in last minute!
Monday, May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Planning meeting	9:30am- 11:30am	Torchys Tacos	Join us as we "Wrap up" our year over Breakfast Tacos! We'll also be chatting about what worked and didn't this year to start laying out a fun-filled 2017/2018 agenda. If you have anything you'd like to try, or a topic or speaker you'd like to hear from, bring your appetite and feedback! See you there!
Saturday, May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Night Out	5:00pm- 8:00pm	CHEB	This month's theme is "Bring On Summer"! Let your kids spend an evening with friends, enjoy dinner (pizza), a movie and crafts right here at WCPC. Cost is \$20/child or \$40/family. RSVP Susan Duncan <a href="mailto:sduncan@wcpc-tx.org">sduncan@wcpc-tx.org</a>



## ANNOUNCING Mom's Group

**Pool Playdates coming in June!  
Every Wednesday evening  
5-7pm at Ridgewood Pool**

Grab your suits and goggles, pack a picnic dinner (or grab a pizza) and come swim with friends! We'll see you at the pool!  
(Regular pool fees apply.)



## Moms in Mission

Join MIMs for their End of Year luncheon! We'll meet for lunch on Wed., May 3, at 11:30 at the home of Jeanne Bonnette. Contact Jeanne for details (936.273.0678).

*(After this, MIMs is on summer vacation until September.)*

### PRAYERS & SQUARES

The Prayers and Squares, quilting/knitting/crocheting group will meet on Mondays, May 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 with questions at

#### DOROTHY JOHNSON CIRCLE

**MAY 2**

This group meets on the first Tuesday of the month in the Church Parlor from 10:00 am- 12:00 pm.

#### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN EVENING CIRCLE

**MAY 2**

The Evening Circle meets at 7:00 pm the first Tuesday of the month in member's homes. Our next meeting is on May 2. and will be hosted by Susie Lindsay and the devotional given by Sheree Fleming. This year we are studying This Book We Call The Bible by James E. Davison. Contact Rev. Laura Grice for more info.

#### CIRCLE OF BLESSINGS

**MAY 11**

The Circle of Blessings Bible study will be meeting on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:30PM at Dianne Lundgren's, 31 Dove Trace Circle and Eleanor Stone will be the study leader.



## Creation Care Team News and Announcements

*Did you know that some consumers make buying choices partly based on the packaging? Yes, because sometimes what they see is just too much waste! Suppliers are beginning to pay attention, and many products are now packaged more sensibly. But we have a long way to go. So the next time you shop, take a look at the package that your item comes in. Will that weigh in on your decision of which item to buy?*



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

## SEAMSTRESSES NEEDED

Mission dresses needed for Africa and Peru. If you are a sewer please pick up a pattern in the church office. For any questions contact Mary Lou Machle, 832-928-9022.



**WCPC NOW HOSTS WEEKLY AA MEETINGS.** Each Monday and Wednesday 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.

Join us to practice 'Hatha Yoga' in the Sanctuary 'Narthex' on:  
Monday: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Gentle and Restorative Meditation  
Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Energizing Yoga Sun Salutations  
Wednesday: No classes  
Thursday: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Energizing Yoga Sun Salutations  
Thursday: 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Gentle and Restorative Meditation  
Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Energizing Yoga Sun Salutations  
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Energizing Yoga Sun Salutations



**Gentle and Restorative Meditation**



**Energizing Yoga Sun Salutations**



Rita Upadhyaya  
TheWoodlandsLady@gmail.com  
(713) 377-8521

## Sanctuary Guild

The next Sanctuary Guild meeting has been rescheduled for **Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** in the Parlor with coffee at 9:30 and the meeting at 10:00. This group prepares the communion elements, changes the beautiful banners and paraments, has fun excursions. They also keep the sanctuary neat and tidy, order flowers, and decorate for Christmas and Easter. That, along with many other "behind the scenes" jobs are done with love, by this special ministry team. The Guild will then meet on Sept 5th after their summer recess. For more information, contact Nancy Schlirf at [pschlirf@comcast.net](mailto:pschlirf@comcast.net).

## Stephen Ministry Is Your Ministry....

### All Alone?

Don't be. God doesn't want us to be all alone. God wants us to turn to others when things are bothering us. Stephen Ministers will walk with you through your troubles and be there for you when you need them.

Following worship Stephen Ministers are available for those in need of prayer. Need prayer? We'll be there for you.







### Benefits of Nature

In reviewing Florence Williams' recent book, THE NATURE FIX, Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative, Jason Mark wrote, "Imagine a miracle drug that could ease many of the stresses of modern life — a combination mood enhancer and smart pill that might even encourage the remission of cancer. Now imagine that this cure-all was an old-fashioned folk remedy: Just take a hike in the woods or a walk in the park."

In her book, Ms. Williams describes the findings of researchers working in the field of nature neuroscience. "As little as 15 minutes in the woods has been shown to reduce test subjects' levels of cortisol, the stress hormone. Increase nature exposure to 45 minutes, and most individuals experience improvements in cognitive performance. There are society-scale benefits as well. Researchers in England have shown that access to green spaces reduces income-related mental health disparities...."

Maybe it's the forest smells that turn us on; aerosols present in evergreen forests act as mild sedatives while also stimulating respiration. Perhaps it's the soundscape, since water and, especially, birdsong have been proven to improve mood and alertness. Nature's benefits might be due to something as simple as the fact that natural landscapes are, literally, easy on the eyes. Many of nature's patterns — raindrops hitting a pool of water or the arrangement of leaves — are organized as fractals, and the human retina moves in a fractal pattern while taking in a view. Such congruence creates alpha waves in the brains — the neural resonance of relaxation....

Awe, which many people experience in nature, is, according to one study, associated with increased generosity toward other people. Maybe what we get out of nature is a sense of connection to the larger community of life. I know how that sounds: at best like an aspiration dressed up as a hypothesis, at worst like woolly-headed romanticism. But here's the thing — science is on its way to proving it."



# 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 will be on Tuesday, May 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](http://www.wcpc-tx.org) or contact Michele Stelter at [mstelter@wcpc-tx.org](mailto:mstelter@wcpc-tx.org) or 281-363-2040 x 7.

*The following article was printed on the front page of Family Promise's Spring 2017 Newsletter and is also on their website. With their permission, we have reprinted it below so that you may have the opportunity to read it. Many of you may recall that Tonya & Ben spent a couple days on the WCPC campus last summer.*

## Family Strides: The Success of Tonya



Meet Tonya, mother of two (27 year-old married daughter and 16 year-old son), who moved from the Dallas-Fort Worth area for a new job in Houston. Tonya and her son Ben moved to Houston in the spring of 2016. Once they arrived, the individual she was to lease an apartment from and had already paid her deposit to, did not show up on their move-in day. Tonya had no savings, very little cash, and nowhere to live. She lost her new job. Shock and devastation set in as she and Ben were now facing homelessness in an area unknown to them.

"Everything fell through."

"Getting up every morning and not knowing where we were, that was hard for me. I didn't want to move back to my previous city and face my failures, so I knew I needed help."

Through a referral, Tonya found out about Family Promise and decided she would apply. Her family entered the Family Promise Home-to-Home program in April on her 46th birthday. "Finding Family Promise has allowed me to hit the reset button in my life. I was able to re-evaluate lessons and see the mistakes I had made. I'm so appreciative of the programs and staff that were there to help my family. I was able to plan out my goals, focus on what was important: my son, and create a new pathway to our family's success."

While in Family Promise, Tonya's family was helped with clothing, food, job resources, and financial education along with the essential needs of every family. When her vehicle was unexpectedly repossessed, she was given a donated vehicle to drive that would later be gifted to her family upon completion of the program.

"Family Promise has really given me a fresh start on life. I'm so thankful for the many opportunities given to me and my son. My experience has taught me to value things that are most important; smiling, giving, sharing. I was given the security and support I needed to fulfill my obligations and shown that with the right attitude there is a way to start over and be successful."

This hard-working family has had many accomplishments since completing their stay in Family Promise. Tonya is continuing her education, improving her finances, and plans to open her own staffing franchise in Conroe. Ben continues to play football and receive high grades in his academics.

"Family Promise has shown me how I can be a beacon of hope to myself, my son, and others. I want to continue to be an asset to the community that helped me when my family was in need. Family Promise will always be family to me. I know that if I'm in need of a referral, a place to call, or someone to talk to – they will be there."





## Family Promise at WCPC in June

This year will be WCPC's third year to host Family Promise in CHEB. **We will be hosting for two consecutive weeks beginning Sunday, June 4th and ending Sunday, June 18th.** Like last year where over 130 volunteers helped over the two week period, we will need lots of people to help. We need dinner/evening hosts, overnight hosts, Saturday hosts and drivers. This year it is expected that we will need double the number of drivers because it is anticipated there will be two vans. Remember families of all ages and sizes can participate as meal and Saturday hosts. We welcome everyone's participation in this mission outreach project. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for Family Promise during their stay at WCPC this June. **During the month of May, there will be a sign-up table in the courtyard on Sunday mornings or contact Warren Evans at 281-255-6286 or wevans36@comcast.net to volunteer.**

## Pentecost Offering on June 4th



**25% supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAV)** - Providing opportunities for young adults to serve in communities around the world and grow as leaders through transformative Christian service.

**25% goes to Ministries with Youth** - Helping to guide our youth by uniting them in Christ and lifting them up as leaders and messengers of God's word.

**10% advocates for at-risk children** - Supporting vital ministries to improve education and provide a safe haven for children across the globe.

**40% stays with our congregation** - Developing and supporting programs for children at risk, youth or young adults in our community. **CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County** will be the beneficiary this year.

The Pentecost Offering is about helping young people begin life with a strong start-a solid foundation of faith formed in childhood to young adulthood. Your gift to the Pentecost Offering unites young people in Christ and inspires them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.



## Our Local Beneficiary of 2017 Pentecost Offering

When a child enters the foster care system because his or her home is no longer safe, a judge may appoint a committed volunteer to help them. That volunteer is called a Court Appointed Special Advocate®, or CASA. These volunteers are screened and highly trained and then appointed by judges to represent and advocate for a child's best interests in the child protection system.

**CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County** provides valuable volunteer advocacy for every abused child in this area. CASA volunteers serve as the "eyes and ears" for the judge in child welfare cases. This includes researching each child's situation and making objective recommendations to help them reclaim their childhoods from abuse and neglect. CASA volunteers are frequently the only stable presence in these children's lives as they navigate the foster care system.

CASA volunteers bring three critical qualities to their work: they focus on one case at a time; they bring a unique perspective to the court case; and their sole objective is representing the best interests of the child. So please give generously to the Pentecost Offering. **This special offering will be collected on Pentecost Sunday, June 4th.** Make your check payable to WCPC and mark it Pentecost Offering. There are also specially marked envelopes in the pew racks for your convenience.

## Off to Zambia



The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church is very blessed to continue its support of Justo Mwale University. In particular, we are blessed to be able to assist deserving students such as Rev. Chizason Chunda, Rev. Lazarus Chilenje, Rev. Lovemore Nyirenda, Tommy Banda and now, Naomi Daka with their seminary studies. We have been fortunate in the past to have representatives from our congregation in attendance at the graduation ceremonies of Rev. Chunda, Rev. Chilenje and Rev. Nyirenda. Michele Stelter and John Hathaway will continue this tradition as they will travel to Zambia to celebrate the graduation of Rev. Banda on May 13th. They will arrive in Lusaka on May 6th and will depart on May 15th. In addition to spending time with our friends at Justo Mwale, they will travel to Siavonga for a few days to reconnect with our brothers and sisters at the United Church of Zambia – Siavonga Main Congregation, St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, Namumu Orphanage and Katalumba school. A visit with Muhange Shelemba, the nursing student we are helping to support, is also planned. Please keep the travelers and our Zambian friends in your prayers.

## Celebrate Patriotism At



## The Gathering Place

**Friday, May 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.



## Still Interested in a 2017 Peru Mission Trip?

Registration is still open for the two Peru mission trips listed below. Please contact the trip leader **as soon as possible** since there is limited availability. You must be a high school graduate to participate. Some scholarship money is still available.

### WCPC will lead a trip to Sicuani Biblical Seminary in the highlands of Peru

*Project: Strengthening Relationships*

*Date: July 21 - 26\**

*\*Please note that this trip is scheduled to return to Lima in time for the start of the FPC Kingwood Mission Trip*

**Signup Deadline: May 7**

**Contact: Gary Chapman at 281-361-5779 or  
gary.chapman5206@gmail.com**

### Clear Lake PC will lead a Living Waters trip to Chazuta, Peru

*Project: Install Water Purification System & Provide Health Education Program*

*Date: August 30 -September 7*

**Application Deadline: June 1**

**Contact: Don Metzler at 832-247-6447 or  
don.metzler@gmail.com**

## Supplies Needed for Peru Medical Mission Trip

We are collecting eyeglasses, both prescription and reading glasses, as well as toothbrushes and unused travel-size toiletries for the Peru Medical Mission Trip to Lima. The toothbrushes and toiletries will be distributed to those families visiting the medical clinic in La Molina from July 26th - August 3rd while the eyeglasses will be used for the vision screening. Kindly put your donations in the specially marked bin in the courtyard on Sunday mornings or bring them to the church office during the week. **We will be accepting donations through the end of June.** Please be sure to **mark your donations for the Lima, Peru Medical Mission Trip** when you leave them in the church office. If you have any questions please contact either Michele Stelter at 281-363-2040 x 7 or Gary Chapman at 281-361-5779.

### Supplies Needed

**Travel-Size: soap, shampoo, lotion and toothpaste**

**Adult size: toothbrushes**

**Adult & Children's Eyeglasses: prescription & reading**





## 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 May 21st or 28th. Contact Mary Emerson at 757-561-3764 or [emerlee911@gmail.com](mailto:emerlee911@gmail.com) with questions or to place an order.**



**Delivering Health  
& Hope to the World**

If you would like to make a significant contribution to the healthcare and well-being of people in less fortunate countries, please join us when we travel to the Project C.U.R.E. warehouse in Houston. Project C.U.R.E. (Commission on Urgent Relief and Equipment) is a national non-profit organization that sends unused, donated medical goods to countries facing poverty and disease. Our group helps sort, count and package boxes of donated medical supplies. We will travel to the Project C.U.R.E. warehouse on Thursday, June 8th. Meet in the church parking lot at 8:30am to carpool. We work until noon and then return to the church. To volunteer, please contact Sally Shu at 936-273-0370 or at [sally.f.shu@gmail.com](mailto:sally.f.shu@gmail.com). All are invited to participate!

**Project C.U.R.E.  
Thursday, June 8th  
8:30 am to 1:00 pm**

**Meet in church parking lot to carpool**

## *The Interfaith Food Pantry*

### **Special Pantry Needs for May:**

**cooking oil, syrup  
pancake/muffin mixes  
peanut butter, jam & dry milk  
shampoo & conditioner**

Interfaith values our support of their Food Pantry. Through March, 2017 Interfaith has provided food assistance to 3,900 families and approximately 8,500 individuals. Please continue to remember our neighbors in need when you go grocery shopping. In addition to the specific items listed for this month, the pantry always needs personal hygiene items, diapers, baby wipes, cleaning supplies (no spray bottles) and laundry detergent. Bring your donations to the pantry in the narthex anytime.



## Get away with your grandkids to Mo-Ranch!

Grandparents, bring your grandkids for an incredible experience in the Texas Hill Country. If you're looking for something memorable and exciting to do this summer with your grandkids, Grand Camp is it!

### What's included?

Adventure-filled days to pray and play together! Activities include worship, Bible study, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, vespers, swimming, paddle boarding, snorkeling, archery, ropes course, pool party, nature and critter classes, arts and crafts, campfires, s'mores, square dance and much, much more.

### Cost?

Grand Camp pricing is all-inclusive (food, lodging and program activities are all included). Mo-Ranch will take care of the details, planning, activities (including rest time!) and prepare the meals. You'll get to enjoy quality time and fun with your grandkids!

**Adults 18 and up: \$465 per person**

**Ages 13-17: \$300 per teen**

**Ages 5-12: \$200 per child**

For more information visit the Mo-Ranch website:

<https://www.moranch.org/attend-a-conference/intergenerational-conferences/grandcamp/>





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Public VBS online registration starts Mom's Mtg 9:30-11:30 rsvp for childcare	2	3 WAM 4:15-4:45 chimes 4:45 choirs 5:30 dinner FH VBS work evening afterward	4 WELCOME VBS WORK DAY	5 VBS Workday 9:30-11:30 in 203	6 ELP 25th Anniversary Picnic 10-1 in fenced side yard
7 Sunday School 9:45 Worship 8:30 & 11 12:30-2 Youth & Tween Fellowship	8	9	10 Last WAM 4:30-5:30 Awards and concert FH 5:30 dinner FH	11	12	13 Picnic
14 Men's May Sunday School 9:45 Teacher Brunch Worship 8:30 & 11 Recognize Teachers MOTHER'S DAY	15 Teacher Appreciation Day Mom's Mtg 9:30-11:30 at Torchy's rsvp for childcare	16	17 WAM Pool Party at MacDonald's home details in LOC and email	18 Swimming	19 ELP Last Day	20 Parent Night Out Bring on Summer! 5-8 pm reservations required to sduncan@wcpc-tx.org
21 Men's May Sunday School 9:45 Worship 8:30 & 11 Worship Play at 11 am service	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Mission Project Sunday School 9:45 in FH Worship 8:30 & 11	29 memorial DAY Church Office closed	30	31			



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**Children's Sunday School 9:45-10:50** drop off and pick up in CE building rooms 203, 103, 101 and 102. 5th and 6th grade SS classroom in 202. Childcare for worship and under 3 Sunday school in Charles Hendricks Ed. Building rooms 307-309.



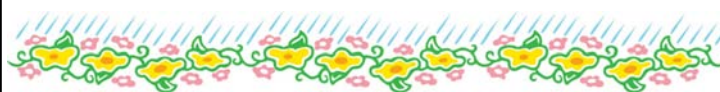
Join us every Wednesday evening from 5-7 pm at Ridgewood Pool. Grab your suit and goggles, pack a picnic dinner (or grab a pizza) and come swim with friends. We'll see you at the pool!

(Regular pool fees apply.)



## ELP 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Picnic May 6th

Join us in the fenced side yard of church grounds to celebrate the ministry of Rita Van Sickle and the Early Learning Program. All ages invited! Rock Climbing, Jump House, Face Painting, popcorn, sno-cones are some of the entertainment provided.

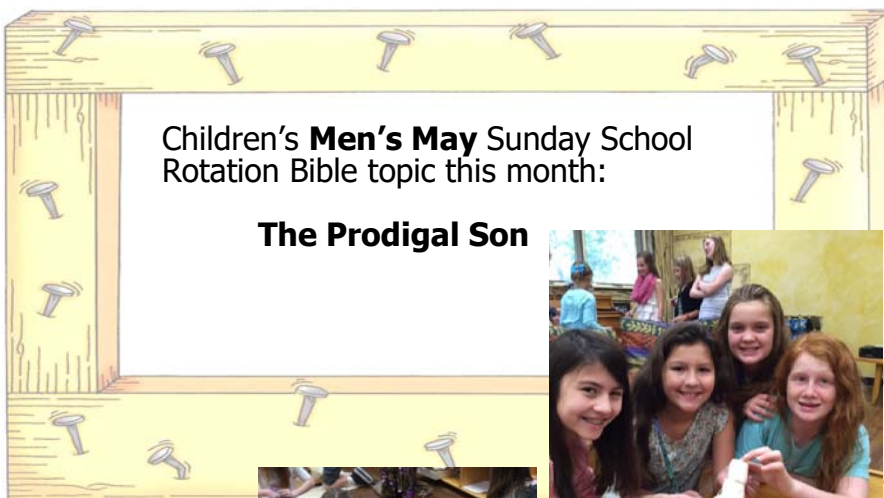


## Sunday School



Children's **Men's May** Sunday School  
Rotation Bible topic this month:

### The Prodigal Son



Thank you Teachers!  
Godly Play response time and the  
Tween SS class

## Teacher Appreciation Brunch May 14<sup>th</sup>

for Teachers, Leaders and Helpers of  
All Age Groups!

Come and let us thank you for all your help this year in W.C.P.C.'s Sunday School classes with a brunch on **May 14<sup>th</sup>** in the Fellowship Hall. *We really appreciate you!* We could not do Sunday School for our adults, youth and children's classes without your willingness to serve and share your faith this past year as Teachers, Leaders, Floaters, and Storytellers! We will also recognize your contributions at both **worship services May 14th.**

## VBS Galactic Blast



Register and pay for VBS Galactic Blast online at [wcp-cx.org](http://wcp-cx.org) before it's *Too Late!*

**VBS July 17th-21st**

VBS Planning meetings on:

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> 5:45-7 pm** after WAM in FH after dinner and **May 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30-11:30** in 203.

Childcare provided by reservation. Use this opportunity to make a supply list and plan your lessons or —help with decorating and craft prep.

**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



## Children's Ministry Continued



**May 20<sup>th</sup>**

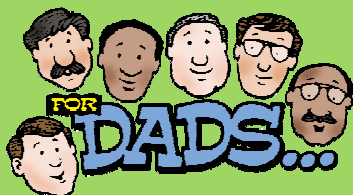
### Parent's Night Out Bring on Summer!

Let your kid's spend an evening with friends, enjoy pizza dinner, a movie and crafts right here at WCPC. Cost is \$20/child or \$40/family. RSVP to [sduncan@wcpc-tx.org](mailto:sduncan@wcpc-tx.org).

**May 28<sup>th</sup>** marks the end of the regular Sunday school and worship schedules. To celebrate the end of Children's Sunday school we will have a celebration with service projects, games and snacks in the Fellowship Hall. Parents and everyone else are very welcome to join us! Our Summer Worship schedule begins June 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 with one service and Sunday school before at 9:45.

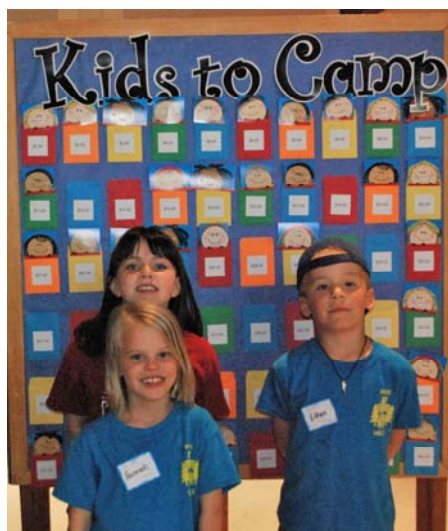


## Sign up for Men's May!



**Our special treat for May Children's Sunday School is Men's May; this year the Sundays of May 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. It is a rest for our regular teachers and an opportunity for some new faces to experience Children's SS. We are encouraging male WCPC members to help or lead as we learn about the parable of the Prodigal Son using rotation rooms offering cooking, games and "manly crafts". Lesson plans, supplies and games are all ready to go for you. All we need is the guys, dads and granddads to come and play with us.**

**Contact Susan Duncan for more info. [sduncan@wcpc-tx.org](mailto:sduncan@wcpc-tx.org)**



## Camp News

Summer Cho Yeh dates are June 11-17  
July 9-15  
July 30-Aug 5 and  
August 6-12 (the same week as Servin' Safari.)

So far 14 WCPC children have signed up for Camp Cho Yeh this summer and will be using a portion of the funds raised from the Ready to Launch fundraiser to help them get there! Several others are also going without scholarship or discount. A very big Thank You to all the donors who made this possible!







# KICK BALL

**TWEEN AND YOUTH**

**MAY 7**

**FELLOWSHIP EVENT**

**12:00pm**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
**Hot dogs & kick ball!**

## SENIOR SUNDAY MAY 21

**GRADUATION SUNDAY:** On May 21 WCPC will honor graduating seniors during the worship service of their choice. If you are a graduating senior in 2017 then please contact Sally Bowers to sign up. There is a reception during the Sunday School hour in the youth room. *Please contact Sally Bowers [sally\\_bowers@comcast.net](mailto:sally_bowers@comcast.net) or Shirley Barclay, [sbarclay@wcpc-tx.org](mailto:sbarclay@wcpc-tx.org) to let us know if your senior will attend or to help plan the reception!*



## YOUTH WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS BIBLE STUDY AND JAM NIGHT

Wednesday night Youth will run through May 10<sup>th</sup>; no gathering May 17<sup>th</sup>, but a party Friday May 19<sup>th</sup> to start around 6:30pm. Details to Follow!

**Youth** grab your supper @ 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall and meet @ 6:00pm for fellowship & study in the youth room.  
 @7:30 Stay for Jam Night/Open Mic ! Stay and share your musical talent!

**Youth Group 7-12<sup>th</sup> Grades-Wed.,** CE Bldg, Rm 206, 6 – 7:30pm  
 Youth Group Curriculum: *The Amazing Faith Race*

**Jam Night 7-12<sup>th</sup> Wed.,** CE Bldg, Rm 206, 7:30pm – 8:30pm  
 Bring your instrument/talent and jam out!



## SUMMER CAMP & CONFERENCE REGISTRATION—LAST CALL!

Submit your fees and paperwork (rising 7th graders—graduating seniors) and get registered NOW! Spots may be gone so check with Shirley Barclay in the church office, or email [sbarclay@wcpc-tx.org](mailto:sbarclay@wcpc-tx.org).



**YOUTH GROUP WEDNESDAY NIGHTS**  
**7-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADES**  
**6:00PM CE 206**  
**THE AMAZING FAITH RACE!**

Join Sally & Debi every Wednesday night for  
 dinner at 5:30pm and then Bible Study and  
 Activities from 6:00pm—7:30pm.

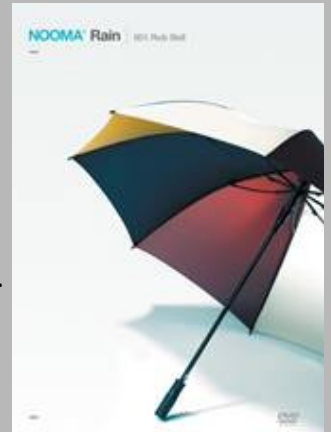


**JR and SR High Sunday School**  
**7-12<sup>TH</sup> Grades**  
**9:45am Youth Room CE 206**

**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.



**CONNECT**  
 QUIRKY TWEENS. BIBLE THEMES.

**Tweens Sunday School**  
**5-6<sup>TH</sup> Grades**  
**9:45 am CE 202**

Engage *preteens* in God's big story through videos, Bible exploration, and hands-on projects.

Connect is a Bible-centered curriculum, with just enough humor to get 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders hooked. Using quirky videos, hands-on activities, and Bible exploration, Connect helps preteens uncover major Biblical themes and discover how the Bible relates to their own lives.

Connect takes *tweens* on a journey through the Old Testament and into the New Testament, exploring the connections between several stories each week.

The third Sunday of the month tweens will meet in the Youth Room and walk over to the Brooklyn Café

Director of Children's Ministry: Susan Duncan

[sduncan@wcpc-tx.org](mailto:sduncan@wcpc-tx.org)

Elder for Children & Tweens: Jen Conner

[jenniferconner79@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferconner79@gmail.com)

Elder for Youth: Sally Bowers

[sally\\_bowers@comcast.net](mailto:sally_bowers@comcast.net)

Please support the Youth & Tweens ministries of WCPC with your prayers, your time, and your talents.

Contact Susan Duncan or Sally Bowers with questions, to donate, and to volunteer

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

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

SESSION MEMBERS			BOARD OF DEACONS		
CLASS OF 2017	CLASS OF 2018	CLASS OF 2019	CLASS OF 2017	CLASS OF 2018	CLASS OF 2019
Sally Bowers	William Davis	Nancy Castro	Marnie Bush	Patty Ahern	Carrie Bucki
David Martinez	Cinda Hitchcock	Jen Conner	Gail Hyndman	Kathy Bray	Karen Gonzales
Eleanor Stone	Gordon Lentz	Ria Du Bruyn	Nancy Schlrif	Mary Jo Chapman	Barbie Hardy
Tom Welch	Chris Liddell	Bruce Lee	Andy Ward	Molly Anne Davis	Kim Petrie
				Beth North	
				Tammy Rand	

TEAMS OF THE SESSION			BOARD OF DEACONS TEAM LEADERS		
Building and Grounds	Tom Welch, Chair	tom-welch@sbcglobal.net	<i>Baby Ministry-</i>	Andy Ward	281-636-5512
	Bruce Lee	balee5068@gmail.com		andynon7@gmail.com	
Christian Enrichment:			<i>Bereavement Ministry</i>		
Adults	Ria Du Bryn, Chair	ria.smit.dubruyn@gmail.com			
Children/Tween	Jen Conner, Chair	jenniferconner79@gmail.com	<i>Card Ministry-</i>	Karen Gonzales	409-789-5631
Hospitality Team	Cinda Hitchcock	cchtx@att.net		rigonzales@earthlink.net	
Creation Care	Cinda Hitchcock, Chair	cchtx@att.net	<i>Cookie Ministry</i>	Nancy Schlrif	936-718-2687
Evangelism Team	Bruce Lee, Chair	balee5068@gmail.com		pschlrif@yahoo.com	
Finance Team	Bubba Davis	wdavis88@comcast.net	<i>Home Outreach Ministry</i>	Tammy Rand	281-615-4900
Mission Outreach	Gordy Lentz, Chair	gordon.lentz@yahoo.com		fromaway1958@me.com	
	David Martinez	davemart32@comcast.net	<i>Hospital Ministry-</i>	Kathy Bray	281-419-0373
Online Team				kathyj.bray@gmail.com	
Personnel Team	Chris Liddell, Chair	liddellchris@hotmail.com	<i>Meals Ministry</i>	Marnie Bush	817-966-2771
Worship Team	Eleanor Stone, Chair	stonesmail70@yahoo.com		marniebush@gmail.com	
	Nancy Castro	nancyc1254@yahoo.com	<i>New Member Ministry</i>	Mary Jo Chapman	281-361-5779
Youth Team	Sally Bowers, Chair	sally_bowers@comcast.net		maryjo.chapman5206@gmail.com	
Moderator	David Jones	djones@wcpc-tx.org	<i>Prayer Ministry</i>	Kim Petrie	281-419-5309
Clerk of Session	Judy Welch	judyhwelch@sbcglobal.net		petrie_kim@msn.com	
			<i>Moderator/ meals</i>	Patty Ahern	
				pahernrd@sbcglobal.net	

## 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.wcpc-tx.org](http://www.wcpc-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@wcpc-tx.org](mailto:lgrice@wcpc-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.



# Spring Adult Class & Study Opportunities

March 5– May 28, 2017

## Sunday Morning 9:45 – 10:45 am

### The World of Biblical Israel CHEB 301a

led by Corliss Lentz, Bill McCleary & Neville Walker  
How did ancient Israel emerge? Who were the Israelites and where did they come from? What was it like to live in biblical Israel? Using this series from The Great Courses, this class will explore these questions and more.

### 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.

### First Place 4 Health Parlor

led by Patty Ahern

This class is a Christ-centered weight-loss and healthy living program that will build the whole person and create balance in your life. First Place 4 Health is based on three core principles:

1. Christ-centered priorities-Bible study, prayer & scripture memory
2. Choices for total health-addressing the whole person: body, mind, emotions and spirit
3. Community- support and accountability through small groups.

### Holy Grounds CHEB 306

led by a rotating team of pastors & class members

Each week we explore and discuss what our faith has to say to what is happening in the world, holding scripture and news items in conversation with one another.

### Men's Meeting CHEB 304

led by Mike Devoley

Like the other Men's groups that meet during the week, this class will check in with each other, discuss the day's sermon topic and other topics of interest.

See back for Weekday Study Opportunities

## Monday

### Women's Bible Study CHEB 301b

9:30-11:30 am

led by Tricia Knight

This fall this group will be studying the book of Romans. Only Bibles are needed! New members are always welcome!

### Moms Group CE 206

**Fourth Mondays, 9:30-11:30 am**

Contact Marnie Bush

This year we will be reading Boundaries with Kids by Harry Cloud.

## Tuesday

### Dorothy Johnson Circle Parlor

**First Tuesdays, 10:00 am– 12:00 pm**

This year we using the Horizons Bible Study "Who is Jesus?" by Judy Yates Siker. This study is a "journey to expand our understanding of who Jesus was and is."

### Presbyterian Women Evening Circle

**First Tuesdays, 7:00 pm in Member Homes**

This year we are studying This Book We Call The Bible by James E. Davison.

## Wednesday

### Wed. Morning Men's Study Group CHEB 301b

**1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 am**

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 CHEB 301ab

**10:00-11:30 am**

contact Sylvia Campbell

This group is currently using the study "Cultural Literacy for Religion" by Mark Branson.

### Wed. Evening Men's Study Group Crust Pizza

**1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 pm**

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 (NEW Women's Bible Study)

**2nd Thursdays, 7:00 pm in Member Homes**

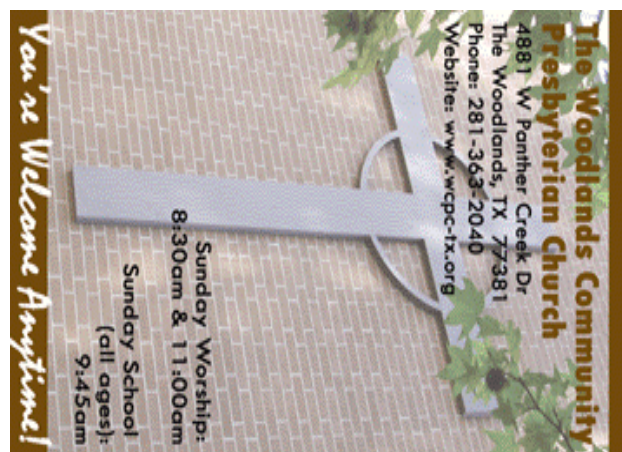
This year we are using the study Deeply Rooted: Knowing Self, Growing in God by Christopher Maricle.



# Wednesday Afternoon Music End of Year Dates

It seems like this year has flown by, but we still have more important things to come. Here are a few dates to keep in mind as the time approaches.

- May 7:** Alleluia Choir sings and Children's Chimes ring in worship
- May 10:** End of the year awards and concert in Fellowship Hall (4:30pm)
- May 14:** (Mothers' Day) Angel Voices sing in worship
- May 17:** End of the year pool party at the MacDonald's house



## 2017 WCPC CALENDAR

Children | Tweens | Youth | All

### May

- 7 Tweens/Youth Kick Ball
- 14 SS Teacher Appreciation Brunch
- 20 Parents Night Out
- 21 Graduation/Senior Sunday
- 28 Sunday School/Family Promise Prep

**Wednesdays:** Music programs begin at 4:15pm, dinner at 5:30, Youth Bible study at 6pm:  
 "The Amazing Faith Race" ongoing weekly  
 (Wednesday night Youth will run through May 10<sup>th</sup>; no gathering May 17<sup>th</sup>, but a party Friday May 19<sup>th</sup> to start at 6:30pm. Details to Follow!)

**Sundays:** Sunday school at 9:45 for all ages  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Message4kids (gr 1-6<sup>th</sup>)  
 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship Class (gr K-2<sup>nd</sup>; 5-6<sup>th</sup>)  
 For additional dates & info visit [wcpc-tx.org](http://wcpc-tx.org)