



# The Messenger

A monthly publication of Lake Highlands Presbyterian Church

## Moving Forward into God's Future

We are excited to have welcomed ten new adult members to LHPC so far this year, with four more planning to join during the next month! It also looks like we will have a banner year for baptisms: four young ones and one adult already baptized, and four more children yet to be scheduled. Two weddings are on the books, and two of our members are expecting babies early next year.

We celebrate this growth in our congregation, realizing that even so, with loss of membership due to deaths, moving, and attrition, the news isn't as promising as we would like it to be. Worship attendance is down over what it has been for the past two years. Many of our elderly members are finding it more difficult to participate in worship and other activities on a regular basis.

While we continue to serve the needs of older members, we must also continue to reach out to our friends and neighbors, to invite them to join us on the journey here at LHPC. Many of you have stepped out to do this in a more active fashion. We need more of you to join in! **The single biggest reason people visit a church is because someone they know invited them!** We continue to look for ways to make it easier for you to do evangelism on your street, in your workplace, and with your social groups outside of church. The upcoming August Evening Series and the planned Parents' Night Out are two things you should be excited to invite your friends and neighbors to participate in!

LHPC is forming an Evangelism Team whose goal is to consider how we might better reach others, share the good news of Christ, and make a difference in Lake Highlands. We need your input and participation to continue to fulfill the mission and vision of LHPC, **"Making disciples by reaching out, loving, caring, and inspiring spiritual and personal growth."** If you are interested in the Evangelism team, contact Willa Reece at 972-864-0711.

Even while we celebrate the new members God is bringing to us, it is important we continue to seek to do more. How is God calling you to grow God's church?

Your partner in His Mission,  
*Pastor Anne*

## What Does the Pastor Do?

In the Presbyterian Church the minister of Word and Sacrament is ordained for service. One of the major roles of the minister is that of teaching and preaching. Each year I teach an Inquirers' class for new members or people considering membership in the church. I also am involved annually with new elder training. In addition to this regularly occurring teaching, I have done series in connection with preaching (*The Shack*), Sunday School teaching, and some things just for fun (a photo essay of my trip to Israel). Besides formal teaching series, there are many opportunities to "teach" afforded by our website and my blog, **faithsetsyou-free.blogspot.com**. This is a place where I make informal observations, share quotes or stories that I find moving or theologically interesting, and reflect upon where we find God in the world. I see this as not only a teaching "tool" but also as a place to record the life of the imagination, which feeds the soul and also my preaching. I encourage you to read it; I usually update it every week or two.

The pastor's book club is another place of mutual learning and sharing where a group of us meet monthly to read good fiction and look for God's fingerprints in the world of literature. Reading widely keeps things fresh and in perspective as together we seek to better understand God, ourselves, and our world. Anyone may join us on the last Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

I take the responsibility of preaching very seriously. I had the privilege this past year to participate in a series of workshops with other pastors and a mentor, with the goal of improving sermon preparation and delivery. Our mentor encour-

aged us to share the sermon preparation process with our congregations. Once or twice a year I spend several days in prayer and study to set out a sermon plan for the coming months. This helps guide worship planning, teaching, and special series for the year ahead.

On a weekly basis, I spend three mornings in prayer and contemplation of the sermon texts for the next month. This time allows the imagination and the Spirit to work. Because I know what is coming down the road, I can pick up on things I read, current events, and other important issues of the moment and bring them bear on the sermon.

I would like to say that I get up and speak extemporaneously on Sunday, but that is not the way it works! Each week I spend anywhere from seven to twelve hours researching, writing, and rehearsing the sermon.

I invite your feedback about my preaching, both content and delivery. I want to know what affects you, but more importantly, what does not work! I also want to know what topics you want to hear about. In the ideal world, over time, sermons become a conversation. I look forward to the continuing conversation over the coming years with you!

### **August Tuesday Nights Out!**

*Bible History and Archeology* — 6:30 p.m. on August 10, 17, 24, and 31, a series of interactive lectures by Rollin Phipps focusing on the Ark of the Covenant.

The program will include a display of ancient artifacts, a half-scale model of the Ark, and numerous pictures and maps of the ancient world. The talks are designed to illustrate key events, people and places which we find in the Bible. The series will also investigate archeological theories about important religious relics.

Rollin Phipps taught history classes at UTA for some 20 years. He is a noted speaker and has worked with museums and libraries all over the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

### **Free Car Wash!**

Sunday August 8, from 12 - 2 p.m. here at the church. Here is a chance to invite friends and neighbors to church at 11 a.m., then to stay and get their cars washed! Youth and others will be washing cars to reach out to the community and show the love of Christ by doing this simple act of service. Donations for the youth fund will not be refused, but are not being required!

### **Parents' Night Out!**

On Friday, July 30, and also Friday, September 10, the teachers and assistant director of our Child Development Center will be volunteering their time to watch your children (newborns - ten years of age) from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. The proceeds from the evenings will go to support Mary Matusiak's group in the Metroplex Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer walk in November. Mary is our CDC Assistant Director and her team is looking to raise as much as they can for the cause!

Cost is \$20 for one child or \$35 for a sibling group. **Please make a reservation** for your child by calling 214-343-7103. Give your name, phone contact, and number and ages of your children.

### **August 15th Family Day at LHPC! Special Music at 11 a.m.**

CDC children and their families will be coming to the 11 a.m. service for the children to sing, and we want to encourage other families to join us. Invite your neighbors to worship with us. We want a big turnout! **It will also be Edwin Walker's, our new organist, first Sunday with us. Welcome Edwin!**

We encourage all our young families to come welcome our CDC families, and attend worship at 11 to see the children sing.

### **Young at Heart**

On August 27, the **LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH**, Pastor Anne will present a travelogue of her trip to India. As usual we will gather at LHPC at 11:00 a.m. for lunch. Cost of the lunch and other details will be in the mail. Following lunch, we will move to the Sanctuary for Pastor Anne's presentation which includes photographs that she took on her trip. This is one program you don't want to miss and we look forward to seeing you there. Please call Jim Cumbie, 214-341-1543 or Jan Gifford, 214-348-8595 if you plan to attend.

### **Welcome New Members!**

Sean and Jenn Newbold (Daren and Jason) The Newbolds moved here this spring from Petaluma, California when Sean took a position with the FDIC. Jenn is home with their two boys, Daren (age 3) and Jason (20 months). They live in Lake Highlands and have already become active here at LHPC. They usually attend the 9 a.m. worship service.

Susan Harrison Susan has been attending POH for about a year with member Greg. She and Greg were recently remarried and Susan made the deci-

sion to join the church. She is a lawyer by training and eager to become involved in volunteering here at LHPC.

### **Congratulations and Blessings to:**

Ron and Amy Chester on the birth of William Holden Chester, born June 14. William Holden was at church worshipping with his parents just three weeks later!

Kathy and Philip Laughlin on the birth of a grandson, Jonah Daniel Harper, born July 4, 2010.

Suzanna Swanson and Rich Sulfstede upon their engagement July 8. A March 12, 2011 wedding is planned at LHPC.

Lisa Matz recently earned her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Business Administration from Phoenix University. Way to go, Lisa!

Greg and Susan Harrison were married in Dallas on June 5.

Ryan and Jamie Koch were married in Austin on June 12.

Chris and Melendy Jacobie were married in San Antonio on June 19.

### **Sympathy**

We extend Christian sympathy to the families of the following who have recently died: Gail Ansley, William Chester (Ron Chester's father), Marjorie Malone (Ashley Beakey's grandmother), Jack Swanson, Ethel Kamper, Pat West, Norma Kunde (Paul Kunde's mother), and Julia Haskett.

### **Appreciation to Our Church Family**

Thank you so much for all the get well cards, visits, food, sympathy notes, and expressions of care and concern following Gail's death. The concern of my church family has been a great comfort to me. Special thanks to the women of Circle Two who planned and gave such a beautiful reception after the service.

Jim Ansley

My heartfelt thanks to each of you for the love and care I have received during my surgery and recovery. The cards, calls, food, and prayers remind

me once again of the depth of love and care within Lake Highlands Presbyterian Church. We are blessed.

Lin Johnson

### **Focus on Communications Committee**

The Communications Committee is an administrative committee that reports to the session. We serve to support the ministries of LHPC in promoting the church's activities, ministries, services and events to the surrounding community and within the church. The communications committee works hand in hand with the LHPC staff to ensure that both our internal and external communications systems are working well.

Areas of responsibility include: Updating, organizing and keeping the look and content of the LHPC website fresh and appealing; creating and producing informational brochures, and promotional flyers for the church; writing and submitting news articles and photo spreads for local area publications, newspapers and websites; and working with the property committee on external signage suggestions, including the creation of changeable banners for events, lecture series and other activities. We also work closely with the LHPC staff on the newsletter format and content and LHPC Happenings postings.

Cinda Koch  
Communications Chair

### **Session Recap from 7/19/10**

A fruitful discussion was held regarding the importance of LHPC growth and evangelism. An Evangelism Team ("E-Team") is being formed to work on specific needs and opportunities.

The need for congregation members to increase their pledges for 2011 was discussed in light of the Stewardship and Finance report, which anticipates "bridging the gap" in 2011 with a unified budget which will include our mortgage costs as a line item in our overall budget.

The Session formally approved (second month's vote) the following mission/vision statement for LHPC: "Making disciples by reaching out, loving, caring, and inspiring spiritual and personal growth." Though not a formal motion, the Session unanimously agreed to investigate assisting Iglesia Cristiana with their insurance needs, which have prohibited them from worshipping here.

There will not be a stated Session meeting in August.

# LAKE HIGHLANDS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Making disciples by reaching out, loving,  
caring, and inspiring spiritual and personal growth.*

## **LHPC Staff**

**Pastor**— Dr. Anne M. Cameron

**Director of Music Ministry & Contemporary Worship**— Peyton Strouth

**Child Development Center Director**— Ashley Beakey

**Organist**— Edwin Walker

**Property Manager**— Ladell Ritchey

**Treasurer**— Bob Palmer

**Administrative Assistant**— Lynetta Littleton

**NOTE:** If you no longer wish to receive *The Messenger*,  
please contact [Lynetta@lhpres.org](mailto:Lynetta@lhpres.org) or 214-348-2133, Ext. 101.

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