



ST. PHILIP'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE CAMPANILE

November 24, 2009

Volume 14, Issue 24

SUNDAY

SCHEDULE

- 8:45 AM
CONTEMPORARY
WORSHIP SERVICE
- 9:45 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL
FOR ALL AGES
- 11:00 AM
TRADITIONAL
WORSHIP SERVICE
- 4:30 PM
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

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Manna Made Manifest

St Philip's 1st Annual "Hearts for the Homeless" Commission

When we are involved in **MISSION** we are fulfilling Christ's call to go into the world to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, visit the sick, and welcome strangers. The Great Commission is still our challenge today. It is a challenge that St Philip's is called to answer. So, how do we go about answering this call? The first step is to open our doors and step outside and look around; look at and listen to our community.

What is our community telling us? – That there is an abundance of homeless people in need of an outstretched hand. What can we do? We can help fill this need by supplying these individuals with a St Philip's "Manna Bag". Starting this Sunday and throughout the Christmas holidays, there will be a box marked "Manna Made Manifest" made available for donations located in the narthex. We are requesting that you drop off what is listed for that particular date from the donation schedule below into the "Manna Made Manifest" box. Then at the beginning of January, the St Philips' Youth will collect all donations received from the congregation and create our "Manna Bags" for the homeless. The Youth will then make available these bags for the all St Philipians to keep at your home or in your vehicles so the bags can be ready to be handed out when you encounter someone in need.

Donation Schedule

November 29th – Case of bottled water or Capri Sun

December 6th – Granola Bars, package dried fruit, tuna snack cans, crackers

December 13th – Travel size soap and shampoo, wash cloths

December 20th – Toothbrush, toothpaste

December 27th – More information to follow on donations lacking as of this date.

In addition to the above listed items, if you have socks, blankets, coats, and/or rain ponchos to donate for this cause, please feel free to do so at any time. The Youth will be distributing these items to the homeless throughout the month of January. The opening of your hearts for this cause is what will make this effort a total success. St Philip's has a reputation for stepping up to the plate, meeting challenges head on, and not backing down from a good challenge. Let's keep that streak going.

If there are any questions or concerns about this church-wide program, please direct them to Trina Williams or Marc DeRome. Thank you in advance for all your efforts with this endeavor.



WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Church Family,

Advent is more than a season of familiar contemplation of Jesus' nativity. Advent becomes for us each year a fresh heartfelt experience, a setting forth on a journey to encounter Christ. We travel to the manger in Bethlehem to rediscover the Incarnation in life-changing ways. During Advent, we are invited to cast off emotional baggage, hear the thoughts of fellow seekers in the stable, listen to a shepherd's awe-filled story, and ultimately encounter the Christ child himself.

During each of the four weeks of Advent, you will have the opportunity to be touched by Christ, to receive him anew into your life. There will be many other things pulling at you in these days leading up to Christmas. There will be parties and shopping and more parties – all telling you there is no need to take this journey again. After all, you have traveled this path before. I hope you will listen instead to the voice of the heavenly host calling you to journey again toward Bethlehem – to that place in your heart where God waits to be born.

The journey begins this Sunday with the Hanging of the Greens at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Our entire church family will begin the Advent journey together. We will light the Advent candle, hang the evergreens, decorate the Chrismon tree and join together in the music of Christmas. Consider joining one of three Advent studies offered during the Sunday School hour. (Sunday, November 29 only, classes meet at 9:15 a.m.) And, stay after worship for our fellowship luncheon.

So this week, gather at the thanksgiving table with family and friends and then head up to the church this weekend as we set out together on this Advent journey to Bethlehem and the best Christmas ever.

Lisa Callaway



The First Sunday of Advent Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

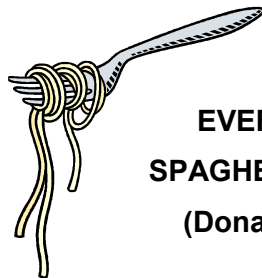
HOLLY AND IVY

A Worship Service for the Hanging of the Greens



Every year on the first Sunday of Advent, our church observes a "Hanging of the Greens" service which is rich in music, symbolism, readings and prayers to begin our journey to anticipate the coming of the Christ-Child. The lighting of the Advent Wreath, decorating of the Chrismon Tree, carols and anthems, people bringing garlands and greenery all provide for a joyous and rich beginning of the season. Join us this Sunday as our entire church family comes together for this very special time of worship.

AFTER WORSHIP



**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO STAY FOR A
SPAGHETTI LUNCHEON IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
(Donations go to youth 2010 Mission Trip)**

GIVING**Giving on Sundays****Sunday, Nov. 15**

\$ 4,940.00

Sunday, Nov. 22

\$ 4,173.00

*Thank you for your
generosity in giving.***PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please remember persons on our prayer list in your regular prayers.

For Healing:Brisa Dougan, Louis Wagner, Doug Welch,
Cindy Davis, Will Johnson & Family, and
Jerry Corken.**For Our Homebound Members**

List available at Narthex



Have a prayer request? The Prayer Ministry Team wants to pray for your needs. Please call the church office with your request 713-666-2175.

December Calendar

- 1 UMW Christmas Luncheon at 10:30 am (FH)
- Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 6 pm
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal at 7pm
- Evangelism Cmte. Mtg. at 7 pm (107)
- 4 SS Fellowship Christmas party at 6:30 pm (FH)
- 6 Family Advent for family & friends at 2 —4pm (FH)
- 7 Trustee Mtg. at 7 pm (103)
- 8 UMW Circle Mtgs. At 9:30 am
- Worship Cmte. Mtg. at 7 pm (103)
- 11 UM Men Churchwide Holiday Dinner at 6:30pm FH
- 14 Finance Cmte. Mtg. at 7 pm (103)

UM Men Annual Holiday Event**Friday, Dec. 11 at 6:30 pm
In Fellowship Hall**

It's a traditional holiday dinner, turkey and dressing, etc. with entertainment by Counterparts Quartet. Tickets are \$10/adults, and \$5/children and bought from a UMM member or please visit the church office. Bring a friend(s) with you.

**Third Advent Sunday, Dec. 13, Christmas Cantata at 11:00 am
"A Great and Mighty Wonder"**

All are invited to come and hear through music the celebration of the Messiah's birth. This Christmas story prompts us to a profound sense of awe and wonder. It is a love story conceived in the heart of a great and mighty God before the creation of time. The musical story begins with the announcement that a child has been born, a son given to us, he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God. The cantata includes: soloists, narrators and an instrumental ensemble. Mary, Joseph, Jesus, the Shepherds, the three kings are all brought into the story as the musical story is told.



DATED MATERIAL: November 22, 2009

Church Information

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Monica Ferreira, Day School Director
Dee Ramirez, Secretary

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STEWARDSHIP CORNER
(An Eight-Part Series, Part One)

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms” – 1 Peter 4:10 NIV

The meaning of stewardship has long been debated with definitions surrounding time spent focusing on the Lord, building relationships with others, and using the gifts God has given. The meaning of Christian stewardship has focused many times on tithing, but this is not the priority definition when discussing stewardship. The priorities involved are how time is spent, how relationships are retained, and then how money is spent. There are a lot of things that have to do with this responsibility of which many people have never been made aware. Most agree that a good idea is to spend time studying ways to become a responsible steward. The Lord gives a few thoughts on the subject in the Bible, i.e., “but those who were good stewards, were incredibly blessed”. The meaning involves how the precious gifts that God has given to all of us are cared for and used. The good steward is someone who is doing the best he can with the things that God has given him. The reality shows up in how a person reacts in situations and how much he or she is willing to sacrifice to retain that inherent responsibility.

Throughout the upcoming weeks and months, we will touch on what stewardship is - a reminder of why each of us needs to give back to our church (giving of one's time, talents and abilities, and financial resources). As God has given us a “lease” to life each and every day, we need to reinforce our Christ-centered life by giving back to St Philip's and its members rather than being self-focused. As we move forward and do our part, let us continue to rely on His promises, trust in His timing, and believe in His miracles.

God bless,

Marc and Mary
Stewardship Campaign Coordinators