

Currents

A Publication of Clear Lake Presbyterian Church
1511 El Dorado Blvd
Houston, Texas 77062

December 2006

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

A FEW VOLUNTEER OPENINGS LEFT

Because our numbers are growing, we are now accepting applications for a few additional teachers, shepherds, nursery workers, and other positions in Children's Ministry for the Spring Semester. We also need creative people to make signs and bulletin board art. Contact Kim if you are interested.

TREE OF LIGHTS STARTS DECEMBER 3

Hey kids, we've got a tree upstairs by the elementary Sunday School sign-in table that is begging to be all lit up! Come buy a light in honor or memory of someone you love, and you'll get to turn the light on yourself. Our goal is to have every light burning by Christmas eve (December 24.)

The lights are priced as follows, and the money goes to Cross in the City:

White	a penny
Red	a nickel
Yellow	a dime
Green	a quarter
Blue	a dollar
Angel ornament	5 dollars

KIDSINC

Hey, 3rd-5th graders, make sure you come to KidsInC Wednesday, **December 6** because we're making Advent crafts. Also, Wednesday, **December 13** is our service project and Christmas movie, so make sure you bring a friend to help. There will be no KidsInC on December 20 or 27 because of the CCISD holiday, but make sure you come join us for our New Years Party and Spring Semester Kickoff on Wednesday, **January 3** in the KidsInC room. KidsInC meets every Wednesday from 6:15-7:45 in C203.

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

All kids are invited to celebrate Jesus' birthday on Saturday and Sunday, **December 16 and 17** in their Sunday School class. We'll play games, eat cupcakes, and have lots of fun. Please bring an unwrapped gift for the baby Jesus (diapers, formula, baby blankets, socks, booties, hats, infant wear, bottles, etc). We will donate the items to several charities we support.

"A NIGHT FOR DANCING" – CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

The musical "A Night for Dancing" is part of our 4 o'clock Christmas eve service. It is not necessary to audition in order to be in the musical. If you would like to join in the fun, it's not too late to contact Shannan McFarlane (281-480-1560 or s.mcfarlane@earthlink.net) or Carol Jordan (x315) in the music office. Rehearsals will be held in the sanctuary:

Sunday, **December 17**, 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Thursday, **December 21**, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Friday, **December 22**, 10:00 am – 12noon

Children are to meet at 3:00 pm on December 24 to get into costume for the 4:00 pm.

IMPORTANT HOLIDAY DATES

No Sunday School or Children's Worship on Saturday or Sunday, December 23 or 24; childcare will be available Saturday the 23rd and during the 10:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. services on the 24th for ages 3 and under. No Sunday School on Saturday or Sunday, December 30 or 31.



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES (Continued)

TEACHER'S/SHEPHERD'S BREAKFAST ON JANUARY 7

All children's Sunday School teachers and shepherds and all Children's Worship leaders are welcome to stop by the gathering room between 8:30 and 9:30 am for pastries and fellowship. We'll also have the spring curriculum for you to pick up. Thank you for all you do!

FINANCIAL MATTERS

FINANCE UPDATE (Through October)

For the ministry funds for the month of October, we gave \$144,540 and our expenses were \$110,834 for a total surplus of \$33,706 that will be added to our reserves for the year. Year-to-date, we have given \$1,209,355 and have spent \$1,167,536 or a total surplus of \$41,819 that could help us achieve our goal of giving more to outreach. For the capital budgets (Now Finish the Work and Compelled by Grace), in October, we gave \$45,516 and spent \$72,835 that included using some of the accumulated surplus for an extra payment of \$34,462 that was applied to our principal. Year-to-date, we have given \$390,949 and spent \$386,110 for a year-to-date surplus of \$4,839.

Proverbs 3:9

*"Honor the Lord with your possessions,
and with the first fruits of all your increase."*

Please prayerfully consider how you honor God in all manners.

COMMITMENT WEEKEND STATUS

As of November 12, we have received 134 commitment cards totaling \$761,470! If you have not yet turned in a commitment card and plan to do so, it is not too late. By sharing your financial giving plans with CLPC, we are better able to be good stewards of the resources that have been given to us.

TAX TIP

(A New Law Regarding Charitable IRA Rollovers)

Under the Pension Protection Act of 2006, only for tax years 2006 (just a few weeks left) and 2007, taxpayers who have at least reached the age of 70.5 years can make a donation DIRECTLY from their IRA to a charity (up to \$100,000) tax free! The taxpayer receives no tax deduction but also does not have to report the income from the distribution. Such a charitable donation from an IRA can satisfy the required minimum distribution, which would not only lower income; it may reduce the tax paid on Social Security income.

This provision may be beneficial whether you normally itemize (but are limited in your total deductions) or whether you normally take the standard deduction.

ADVENT

"O COME, EMMANUEL"

ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKLETS ARE HERE!

The 2006 CLPC Advent Reflections booklet is an invitation and a resource for slowing down and making Advent a holy season of waiting and watching for God. Each day includes a Scripture passage, a devotional reflection, and a prayer, written by the children, youth and adults of our church family. The daily Scripture texts follow the Revised Common Lectionary readings for Advent.

The 2006 CLPC Advent Reflection booklets have been mailed to your home. In addition, feel free to pick up an extra copy to share with friends, co-workers or neighbors! Special thanks to Dana Park, Virginia Stonestreet, Connie Nyquist and volunteers who donated over 90 hours of their time to producing and mailing 800 booklets!

In the midst of the holiday frenzy, I encourage all of us to simply **slow down!** Reflect on God's Word. Listen to what God may be saying to you. Watch for the ways Christ may be coming into your life anew.

Blessings,
Pastor Katie

ADVENT (Continued)

CHRISTMAS CAROLING!

Warm up those beautiful voices as CLPC Deacons sponsor our annual Christmas caroling outing on Sunday, **December 17**. We are meeting at 12:30 in room L208 for a light lunch before we head out to visit those in the CLPC family who are not able to get out. If you or a group you are part of (small group, choir, Bible study) are interested in the outing, please call the CLPC office. We will need a head count by Wednesday, December 13 in order to plan for the lunch. Call Deacon Laurie Morrow (281-993-2228) and R.S.V.P.

SPECIAL TOPICS SERIES FOR ADVENT: "OLD TESTAMENT PROMISES AND THE HOPE OF ADVENT"

Join the pastors for a 3-week Advent discussion class, beginning Sunday, December 3 at 10:15 am! Touching on covenant, prophecy, and the grace-filled promises of God, the class will bring the Old Testament to bear on the meaning of Advent. Class meets in room L108/109.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

2007 WOMEN'S RETREAT

Registration for the 2007 Women's Retreat begins January 6, 2007. The retreat is **February 23-25** at Camp Cho Yeh with our own Lane Henderson speaking on "Waiting on God". Costs will be \$96/person for accommodations in a cabin or the infirmary; \$107/person for a 4-person room; \$118/person for a 3-person room; \$134/person for a 2-person room; and \$188/person for a 1-person room. Get ready for a great weekend of fun and fellowship. Contact Laurie Morrow (281-993-2228).

ADULT EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ADULT EDUCATION CELEBRATES THE SEASON

There will be no adult classes on Christmas Eve, December 24. However, as we prepare to welcome in the New Year on Sunday, December 31, all adults will gather in Fellowship Hall for sharing of wassail and cookies, listening to the stories behind our most familiar carols, and carol singing.

HOSPITALITY-TEA (A Gathering for Women)

Romans 12:13

*"Share with God's people, who are in need.
Practice Hospitality."*

Invite your friends and neighbors to come with you on Saturday, **January 13**, from 10 to 11:30 am to hear Penny Ward share with us her passion for the ministry of hospitality. Penny is an entertaining speaker who loves sharing her heart for hospitality with others. She is active in her home church, Jersey Village Baptist, serving on the Women's Ministry Team, using her spiritual gifts for administration, hospitality and teaching.

Join us as we gather around beautifully decorated tables in Fellowship Hall and share morning tea. Put this date on your calendar now! You will not want to miss this very special opportunity. Childcare provided.

Proverbs 11:25

*A generous person will prosper;
he who refreshes others will in turn be refreshed.*

KERYGMA: DISCOVERING THE NEW TESTAMENT (Begins January 14)

Studying the Bible is exciting. It can be a transforming experience and is crucial to understanding who we are and what we believe. If you missed becoming part of Kerygma this Fall, you may join in January

for the New Testament study. Kerygma provides a basic introduction to the Bible, inviting adults into a new adventure of learning. The course explores biblical people, events, ideas and places through reading, reflection, discussion, creative expression and discovery. The New Testament course is 15 weeks long and begins Sunday, **January 14**, meeting from 7 to 8:30 pm. Participants will be expected to purchase a student's book and prepare outside of class for each week's lesson. The preparation time is about two hours per week. The course is taught by LeRoy Schlechte and Brian Lacy.

The objective of the Kerygma program is not just to increase biblical literacy, but to infuse biblical faith into the life of individuals and communities and is similar to that found at the end of the Gospel of John, "But these are written so that you may come to believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:31)

Registration cards are available in Philadelphia Hall. If you have questions, contact LeRoy Schlechte (281-486-9745) or Connie Nyquist (281-488-6896).

WEEKEND IN THE WORD

SAVE THE DATE! (January 26-28, 2007) "The Parables of Jesus: Subversive Tales for a Self-Righteous World" with Dr. Scott Black Johnston at Clear Lake Presbyterian Church. All are invited and encouraged to come and hear Dr. Scott Black Johnston, Senior Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia, as he joins us as the teacher and preacher for "Weekend in the Word" on **Friday, January 26 through Sunday, January 28**. Along with preaching in the 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Sunday morning worship services, Dr. Black Johnston will also teach on Friday evening at 7:00 p.m., Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m., and Sunday during the 10:15 a.m. church school hour.

Before his call at Trinity Presbyterian Church in August 2003, Dr. Black Johnston was the Jean Brown Associate Professor of Homiletics and Liturgics at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, where he had been since 1993. He holds a Bachelor's degree

from St. Olaf College, a Master of Divinity from the Divinity School at Yale University, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. He has previously served as interim pastor in the Reformed Church of North Brunswick, New Jersey, as interim preacher for churches in San Antonio and Bertram, Texas; and as Scholar-in-Residence for First Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Black Johnston is well known for his creative scholarship and excellence in preaching. He has authored reviews, articles, and books and led seminars and teaching conferences throughout the denomination. He is widely sought as a gifted preacher and pulpit teacher.

A note from Pastor Katie: Scott Black Johnston was my first preaching professor in seminary. His enthusiasm for God's Word is contagious, and fills up any room that he walks into! I am thrilled that Scott will be joining us for a rich time of joyful and challenging teaching and worship. So come, and BRING A FRIEND!

YOUTH MINISTRY

PARENT MEETING

Sunday, December 3 at 11:15 am in the youth wing. Come meet other parents of youth. You may just have something in common. I will hand out important information about mission trips and we'll discuss other upcoming events.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec 1	An Evening of Advent
Dec 3	Parent Meeting (11:15am) IMPACT (6pm)
Dec 6	Midweek (6:45pm)
Dec 8-10	High School retreat to MO Ranch
Dec 10	Gift of Giving NO IMPACT

YOUTH MINISTRY

(Continued)

- Dec 13 High School Progressive Dinner (6 pm)
Dec 16 Triennium interviews-presbytery offices
Dec 17 Intermed. School Progressive Dinner (6pm)
Dec 20, 27 NO Midweek
Dec 24, 31 NO IMPACT

MUSIC AND ARTS MINISTRY

SMOKIN' PIPES AVAILABLE ON DVD

Copies of the Smokin' Pipes concert performed on Sunday, November 19, 2006 are available for purchase. Please mail your payment to: Peter Cronk, (281-488-0663), 17300 Saturn Lane, Suite 1008, Houston, 77058. Add \$2 for postage, or pick up your copy at the same address. The DVD can be played on your home TV or computer with a DVD player.

First DVD \$20.00 each
Additional copies \$10.00 each

A portion of the proceeds will go directly to CLPC Music & Arts Ministry

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting following the 11:15 am worship service on Sunday, **December 10**, 2006 to elect the Church Nominating Committee. Look for nominee biographies in upcoming December bulletins.

POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

Each year the Worship committee sells Christmas poinsettias, which can be purchased in honor or memory of loved ones. The poinsettias brighten our worship experience through Christmas Eve, and then can be taken home for you to enjoy. Order deadline is **December 9-10**. The cost is \$15. Sign up in Philadelphia Hall to reserve your Christmas poinsettia.

MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE

The first weekend of the month (Communion weekend,) as we gather around the Lord's Table, we remember that some people don't have food on their tables. Therefore we take this opportunity to bring non-perishable food items on every first weekend of the month and drop them off behind the Sanctuary in the designated baskets.

CLPC MEMBERS SERVE ON PRESBYTERY COMMITTEES

At the November 18th meeting of presbytery the following CLPC members were elected to serve on presbytery committees:

Administrative Div., Personnel David Johnson
Administrative Div., Business Affairs Bob Scott
Committee on Ministry, Administration .. Art Wood
Outreach Chair Jim Luther
Seafarers' Board Jim Keith

Please join the CLPC staff
in welcoming
KAREN MONTALVO
our new
Pastoral
Administrative
Assistant

Worship With Us

WEEKLY ADVENT SERVICES

Saturday Night Worship Service 6:00 p.m.
(Casual and Contemporary Worship)

Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
(Celebration Worship)

Sunday Worship Service 11:15 a.m.
(Traditional Worship)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
(The Fourth Sunday in Advent)
(no church school classes)

Children's Musical 4:00 p.m.
(A Night For Dancing)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 9:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service .. 11:00 p.m.

*CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE FOR
3-YEAR-OLDS AND YOUNGER AT THE
10AM, 4PM, AND 7PM SERVICES*

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