

Our Values

WORSHIP OF GOD THAT
INSPIRES HEARTS AND MINDS

SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS, OUR
NEIGHBORS, AND THE WORLD

SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BEING A CARING COMMUNITY
OF FAITH



Strawbridge

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Messenger

February 2011

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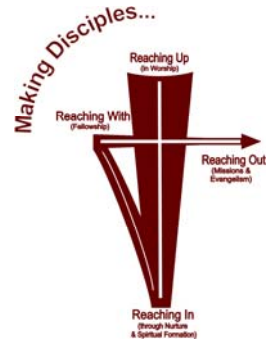
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The Beams of the Cross and Our Mission

I've mentioned it before—how the two beams of the cross embrace the fullness of what it means to be Christian. There's the vertical beam, pointing up and down, which recalls that Christianity is very much about us and God. But, there's also the horizontal "arms" which invite us to embrace those around us as equally essential in our Christianity. The cross is a perfect symbol for the Church and our faith in another way; as indeed the reconciliations and communions of Christianity are vertical and horizontal.

Our Crosswalk Sermon Series is grounded in SUMC's orientation program by the same name. The program's focus (our mission of making disciples by reaching up, reaching in, reaching with, and reaching out) tracks well with this imagery. In January, the first half of our series focuses on the vertical beam of our faith; *reaching up* to God, and God's graceful life reaching into us. In February, "we turn the horn" as we focus on our horizontal relationships with those around us; *reaching with* others (in the "family") and *reaching out* to others (outside our "family").

- February 6 and 13 will focus on *reaching with*. It will be a great time to reemphasize small groups as important and plentiful opportunities for *reaching up*.
- February 20 and 27 will focus on *reaching out*. It will be a great time to reemphasize mission and outreach opportunities, and our "Every Member in Ministry" initiative. (I am especially excited about a sneak preview of "Discover Your H.E.A.R.T. for Ministry" during the February 27 service. Many will find this process most helpful in determining just where they fit in ministry—within the walls and beyond!)



*"Discover Your
H.E.A.R.T.
for Ministry!"*



With You, in the Crosswalk,

Pastor Jim

P.S. Hard for me to believe that we're only four weeks away from Lent. Ash Wednesday is March 9! Don't forget the service that Wednesday night at 7 p.m.! Don't miss the article, inside which provides a little peek at the season and all the meaningful opportunities it holds in store for us all!



Restoring "First Generation" Faith:



A Lenten-Easter Journey to Blessedness

The pictures above highlight the difference—where the picture in the foreground is a “first generation” copy and the picture in the background is a copy of that copy (a “second generation” copy).

Lent-Easter 2011

Lent-Easter 2011: A Journey of Restoration and Renewal Through the Beatitudes

Those in the printing trade refer to each round of printing on the way to a final product as a “generation.” I love the fact that our copier can also serve as a printer from my computer! It not only saves time, but it makes for a much better product. Those of you versed in sound recording (especially in the days before digital files) know the same principle applies; with each succeeding copy, there is a loss of quality. Whether in photo copying or in duplicating tapes, the rule applies; with each “generation” of copying, there is a certain distortion and graininess that makes its way into the final copy (as compared to the clarity of the original).

It is a concept which has its parallels in the Christian life. “God does not have grandchildren,” I heard a preacher comment recently—suggesting that we are called to be first generation copies of Christ. Unfortunately, there are too many living off of distorted, grainy copies instead of the original. (Dear, sweet “Aunt Sally,” no matter how good a Christian and dear a Saint, is no replacement for the original which is Jesus. In fact, the better she was or is as a Christian, the more she would tell you the same! “Copy me,” wrote the Apostle, “inasmuch as I copy Christ!”)

The Church’s mission should be to produce first generation copies of Christ rather than second or third or fourth generation reproductions of reproductions! (In fact, the professionals out

there will tell us that there is no such thing as a “first generation” print or recording. These are referred to as “master copies.” Hmm... “master copies”... now, that will preach!)

Against this background, I am excited to announce our plans in worship and in small groups, during the coming Lenten Season; a focus on the Beatitudes of our Lord as a key to restoring “first generation” (or “master copy”) faith. In the Beatitudes of our Lord, you see, are timeless principles and concepts of transformation and restoration in the image of Christ—perfect, I believe, as a focus for Lent.

A Lenten Journey of Restoration and Renewal Through the Beatitudes



- March 6 *“Restoring a First Generation Faith”* (John 3:5-16)
- March 9 (Ash Wednesday) *“Are You Dying to Live?”* (John 12:24)
- March 13 *“Blessed are the Poor in Spirit: A People of Humble Honesty”* (Matt. 5:3)
- March 20 *“Blessed are Those Who Mourn: A People of Affirmation”* (Matt. 5:4)
- March 27 *“Blessed are the Meek: A People of Belief”* (Matt. 5:5)
- April 3 *“Blessed are the Pure in Heart: A People of Confession”* (Matt. 5:7)
- April 10 *“Blessed are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness: A People of Repentance”* (Mt. 5:6)
- April 17 (Palm Sunday) *“Blessed are the Merciful Peacemakers: A People of Reconciliation”* (Matt. 5:7,9)
- April 21 (Maundy Thursday) *“Blessed are Those Who Sit at the Feet of Jesus: A People of the Journey”* (Matt. 5:1,2)
- April 22 (Good Friday) *“Blessed are the Persecuted: A People of Outreach”* (Matt. 5:10)
- April 24 (Easter) *“Blessed are Those Who Believe [in Resurrection] Without Seeing [Jesus]”* (John 20:29)

55+ Ministry News

XYZ (Extra Years of Zest) Dinner

All 55+ folks are invited to an early supper Saturday, February 19 at 4:30 p.m. We'll be dining at Chili's in Atascocita. Please sign up at the church office 281-360-4500, or contact Trish at trish.king@strawbridge-umc.org

Painted Churches Trip

On Tuesday, March 8 we will travel to the Painted Churches of the Schulenburg area. We'll tour four beautiful churches (so there will be a lot of getting on and off the bus). Unfortunately, we will not be able to accommodate walkers or wheelchairs on this trip.



The Painted Churches (located in the communities of Dubina, High Hill, Ammannsville, and Praha) appear unassuming from the outside, but as you enter, prepare to have your breath taken away by the beauty inside. We will tour:

- **Saints Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church**, built in 1912 in Dubina. The interior is decorated with frescoes and stenciling; artistry that was common in Germany in the 1800s.
- **St. John the Baptist Catholic Church** in Ammannsville. This Gothic Revival style struc-

ture was dedicated on December 22, 1919.

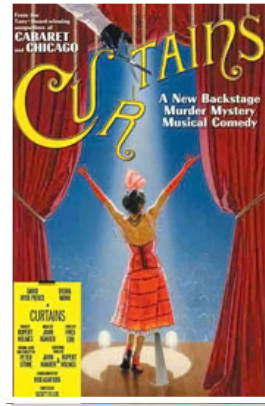
- **St. Mary's Catholic Church**, High Hill. The present St. Mary's Catholic Church is the third to be built at High Hill. It is listed in the National Register of Historical Places. Construction of the present church started in 1905 with 18 stained glass windows from the second church placed in the new church.
- **St. Mary's Parish**, Praha, established in 1855. In 1895, the present church was built from native stone brought by oxen from a nearby village. The artwork was done by a Swiss artist and remains in its original condition. This church has stood unchanged for over 100 years.

Theater Under The Stars

What Broadway musical combines music, comedy and murder in one killer package? It's "Curtains," the smash hit from the creators of "Cabaret" and "Chicago." This backstage mystery where the leading lady's been bumped off, and everyone's a suspect, is the musical comedy whodunit that knocks 'em dead every time.

Hurry! We have exactly 20 discounted tickets for the Theater Under the Stars (TUTS) production of "Curtains" on Sunday, April 3! We will ride the bus to and from the show, and will leave from Strawbridge at 12:45 p.m. for a 2 p.m. show time. Our group rate is \$24 per ticket. Please call the church office at 281-360-4500 to re-

serve a ticket or e-mail Trish at trish.king@strawbridge-umc.org.



Pinocle Game Day Group

Everyone is invited every Tuesday! Hosts Rick and Carol Wilcox host a fun Pinocle game at the church on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. Experts and novices are welcome. If you've never played before, Rick will be happy to teach you.



Volunteers are needed to help set up Holy Communion for the 8:30 a.m. service on the first Sunday of each month. To help, please contact Jenny Vannauker at 281-360-2401.



Supper Help Needed

Wednesday evening suppers will be served during Soul Feast times only. If you would like to have Wednesday evening dinners more often throughout the year, please volunteer to help. More volunteers are needed for this ministry of fellowship. If you can help, please contact Katie Marvin at katies-marvin@gmail.com.



Winter 2011

**Food for Body and Soul
Wednesday Evenings
January 19—February 16**

Wednesday Evening Supper

Supper is served from 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Cost: \$5 per person with \$20 max per family.
Reservations are required and supper is optional. Please call the church office at 281-360-4500 by Monday at noon for reservations.

Wednesday Evening Classes

10 Commandment's from the Backside by Ellsworth Kalas

This study shows new possibilities of insight into the familiar Ten Commandments by restating them in the positive and showing how they were intended to make life richer and more fulfilling. This is a 10 week study, and this group will also study the book of Revelation. This class will be ongoing. This group will meet at 7 p.m. in Room 207. For more information contact:
Roxann Bentsen at 281-361-4523.

Country Western Dancing

Grab your partner or come alone and learn the Texas Two-Step, Country Waltz, Country Polka, and Swing. The cost is \$35 per couple per month, and this class will be ongoing. This group will meet in the Strawbridge Activity Center from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. For more information contact: Lynetta Campbell at 281-361-3511 or Carol Kolehner at 281-360-5436.

Women's Retreat Continued...

This group will meet from 6:30 to 7:25 p.m. in Room 151
For more information contact:
Kathy Reiter at 281-312-2533

Teaching Your Child about Worship

Learn how to help your child grow in the understanding of, and participation in, our worship services. This group will meet from 6:30 to 7:25 p.m. in Room 209. For more information contact:
Kimberly Kurtz at 281-360-4500

Journeys in the Footsteps of Paul

Gleaning from slides and teachings from his travels in Bible lands, Pastor Reiter will survey the life of St. Paul through that lens which is the Book of Acts. Special regard will be given to applying insights to our contemporary lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. This group will meet from 6:30 to 7:25 p.m. in the Chapel (Great Hall).
For more information contact:
Jim Reiter at 281-360-4500

The Third Annual Son Run



Let God guide our feet.

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.
Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.
Hebrews 12:1-2

Awards will be offered to children who complete the course, and a prize drawing will be held at the conclusion of the run. Registration forms are located on the church website and at the hallway display table. The entry fee covers the cost of a T-shirt or sweatshirt.

Contact Joel Johnston at 281-358-7502 for details. Join the fun!

Proceeds benefit SUMC Children's Ministries.

Saturday, February 26
9 a.m.

Strawbridge United
Methodist Church

A two-mile fun run/walk
open to people of all
ages and abilities.

Entry Deadline is
February 18!

Men's Retreat

Men's Retreat

The men of Strawbridge will come together on Friday evening, February 11 and Saturday morning, February 12 for a period of fellowship and spiritual reflection framed by the rhetorical question "How, Then, Should We Serve?". The retreat will feature two guest speakers; Rob Renfroe, Pastor of Discipleship at The Woodlands UMC, and Steve

Lufburrow, President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Houston, and an active member of St. Luke's UMC.

Mark your calendars and make plans now to attend.

Registration ends February 8!
Contact Howard Deterding at
harv@kingwoodcable.net.



Jacob Andrew Brown born
January 14 to Ryan and Katie
Brown. Grandparents are
Steve and Judy Brown.

What is a Stephen Minister?

They are among us...No, we are not talking about angels or aliens. We are talking about individuals who care about others. If you or someone you know wants to do more as a Christian caregiver, consider Stephen Ministry.

This is our congregation's one-to-one care giving ministry. Stephen ministers use words and deeds to express Christ's care for others by listening and com-

forting, calling on the training they have received and employing the tools of faith.

If this job description fits your personal goals for ministry, consider becoming a Stephen minister. A training class is starting soon. We will equip you to give effective Christian care. Call Bev Puckett at 281-360-6687, or Ellen Cosio 281-360-6337.



Lipstick and Lunch
Contemplates
"Compelling Questions."



Curious?

Lipstick and Lunch welcomes all at-home and mostly-at-home moms of any age and stage. Pack a lunch and see what all the fun is about! We feed our minds, bodies, hearts and souls together.

Time: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Place: Room 151

Childcare is available. Contact Barbara Livesay at barbara.livesay@gmail.com for more details.

ADD/ADHD Support Group

The Attention Deficit Disorder Association—Southern Region (ADDA-SR) Kingwood/Humble/Atascocita Chapter is a nonprofit organization that meets monthly, 7–9 p.m. at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 2929 Woodland Hills Drive, Kingwood in Room 211.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 10. We will welcome Virginia Allen, MD as our guest speaker. Dr. Allen is a Child, Adolescent, and Adult Psychiatrist practicing at the Tarnow Center for Self Management. Her presentation will focus on "Emotional and Behavioral Evaluations and Inter-

vention." The community is invited to attend.

For more information, please contact: Susan Mac Hugh at 281-812-3182 or MrsQ123@aol.com.

Learn About Reaching Out

You are invited to a special evening with the theme of "Reaching Out," featuring information sessions for two of our volunteer-intensive mission ministries; Habitat for Humanity and Family Promise of Lake Houston.

Directors of the two organizations will join us, as will seasoned SUMC participants, prepared to provide first-

hand feedback on their volunteer experience. Dinner will be served from 5:30-7 p.m. (the usual Wednesday evening prices and sign-up procedures will apply), and the information sessions will run in parallel from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Childcare will be available so that younger adults can take full advantage of the oppor-

tunity. So...if you've considered volunteering for either or both of these outreach ministries, but hesitated because of questions or concerns, these sessions are for you! For additional information, contact Neil Ryan (Habitat, 281-361-2333) or Corena Lipstreuer (Family Promise, 281-360-0308).



Seasons of The Heart Craft Group

Crafting Resumes

The Seasons of the Heart Craft Group will begin crafting for the 2011 Bazaar on February 3 from 9:30 a.m. to noon in room 210. We welcome new crafters and old crafters alike, and we treasure all levels of expertise. Contact Sandy Telljohann at 281-361-4904.

Submit Your Ministry "Wish List" Request

The Seasons of the Heart craft group raised about \$8,000 in November, and now it's time to distribute funds to church groups with "Wish List" items not included in their budget. Submit written requests to the Seasons of the Heart mailbox, or by e-mail to Sandy, jimandsandyt@aol.com

or Kay, gkburleson@suddenlink.net). Funds will be distributed the end of February, so get your requests in quickly!



Houston Emmaus Gathering - February 11, 2011, 6 p.m.

Call CiCi Strube for details at 702-596-4742.

Interested in car pooling? Call CiCi.

SUMC Emmaus Potluck Gathering - February 25, 2011, 6 p.m.

Come join us for food, fun, and fellowship! Saturday February 25, 2011 at 6 p.m. at the Strawbridge Activity Center. Childcare will be provided. RSVP to CiCi Strube at 702-932-7763 or CiCiEsa@cox.net. Haven't been to Emmaus yet? No Problem! EVERYONE is welcome!

Please bring a covered dish:

A - H...Salad, J - R...Casserole/Entrée, S - Z...Dessert

Prayer Requests

Sympathy to:

Jill and Brad Ioerger and family on the death of Jill's mother, Martha Bancroft.
Family and friends of Max Keevil, a member of our scout troop

For our family and friends who are experiencing illness or injury:

Dave Keffer's mom; Josephine Fertsch (grandmother of Aaron Kurtz); Catherine Rice; William Dykstra (father of Mark Dykstra); Kris Bryan (brother of Rick Bryan); Doris Lakatos (mother of Margie Freeman); Inman Vaughn (father of Beth Chenault); Arch and Shelley Moore (brother and sister-in-law of Joy Sievertson); Thomas Joseph Stanton; David Wells (brother of Carolyn Reed); Mike Harris

For our family and friends who are recovering from surgery:

Esther Jones; Hunter Leahy; Trinidad Arnaud and Lala Margarita (friends of John Barnett); Danny Cox (friend of the Drees family); Marianne Armosky

For our military family and friends who are deployed overseas:

Matt Lennon (son of co-worker of Marsha Johnson); Kyle Johnson (brother of Kari Johnson); Wesley Smith (son of Marsha and Frank Johnson); Spencer Brady (friend of the Capaletti family); Michael Cox (son of Karla Goolsby); John Sarno (nephew of Judy Brown); Heather Lane; Lance Stephens

For our family and friends who are living with cancer:

Alicia (niece of Pauline and Garry Musy)
Dave
Debra (co-worker of Halina Duncan)
Trey (cousin of Brenda Hulse)
Megan (friend of Ashlyn Smith)
Matt (teammate of Cody Smith)
Stacey (niece of Cindy Rasch)
June (aunt of Ann Bryan)
George (co-worker of Rick Bryan)
Amy (niece of Rick and Ann Bryan)
Cade (friend of Ann Bryan's daughter's family)
Debbie (friend of Pat Chandler)
Sandra (aunt of Sherry Burger)
Andrea (friend of Frank and Marsha Johnson)
Mary Anne (friend of Marsha and Frank Johnson)
Joel
Sam (father of Sindi Sonnier)
Jeanette (friend of Jan and Freddie Black)
Rosalyn (co-worker of Elisha James)
Bill (brother-in-law of Ron Flinn)
Joyce (friend of Kelsey Belflower)
Lucy (daughter of a friend of David Bornstein)
Debbie (cousin of Linda Barnett)
Anne (friend of Jennifer Cargill)
Charlie (cousin of the Drees Family)
Meagan (Jennifer Cargill's sister-in-law's mother)
Peggy (sister of Sam Ellington)



To honor the need for privacy regarding medical information, it is necessary to list first names only for some of our friends and family.

Howard (brother of Carolyn Treynor)
Jeane (grandmother of Laurel Erickson)
Ward (father of Sky Cheney)
Vivian (friend of Theresa Snyder)
Rob (son-in-law of Sue and Donald Howlett)
Carol (friend of Paul and Brenda Hulse)
Maria (friend of Laurie Zalewski)
Heather (friend of the Ahmanns)
Frank (grandfather of Erin Robbins)
Jennifer (cousin of LaNell Anderson)
David (friend of Bill Chenault)
Mary
Jim (stepfather of Gary Williams)
Mike (friend of Doris Anne Moomaw)
Marge, Lucy, Jack, and Mr. Miller (friends of John and Linda Barnett)
Martha (mother of George and Carolyn Reed)
Debbie (cousin of Linda Bell)
Tom (brother of Cheryl Burnett)
Keith (friend of Layne Smith)
Sean (friend of Lauren Llewellyn)
Richard (cousin of Barbara Stream's cousin)
Grant (BBLC student)
Wanda (friend of Pat Flinn)
Tom (father of Doug Henry)
Matt (nephew of Layne Smith)
Ron (friend of Carolyn Ruth)

Souper Bowl of Caring

Souper Bowl Two-Minute Warning!



OK, Strawbridge, we need a 4th quarter rally! We know you can do it....you've done it lots of times before. With just a week remaining, we've collected 890 food items, well short of our goal of 2,500. If you've been putting it off, now is

the time to deliver. Even if you've already made a contribution, please consider one more trip to the store. Local food pantries at HAAM and The Mission are pulling for a win!

**STRAWBRIDGE
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

5629 Kingwood Drive
Kingwood, Texas 77345
281-360-4500
www.strawbridge-umc.org

E-mail submissions to:
karla.goolsby@strawbridge-umc.org

Submission Deadline:	For Issue:
February 15	March

**Strawbridge United
Methodist Church Staff**

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ASSOCIATE PASTOR

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Chris Dickson

A Spiritual Sanctuary in a Hectic World

February Birthdays

2/1	Judy Hampshire	2/10	Jim Pregler	2/21	Jeffrey Romine
2/1	John Paradysz	2/11	Sara Michael	2/21	Christopher Struzynski
2/1	Marty Ott	2/11	Jacob Dowd	2/21	Brian Llewellyn
2/2	Clark Bridges	2/11	Emily Bauserman	2/22	Becky Carroll
2/2	Jeffrey Vincent	2/11	Heather Dohse	2/22	Diane McCabe
2/2	Jim Phelan	2/13	Sandra Presley	2/22	Ellen Cosio
2/2	Michael Struzynski	2/13	Bryant Ware	2/22	Katie Carter
2/2	Michael Pubentz	2/13	Earl Wahrmond	2/23	Ashley Newbold
2/2	Fissy Jejelowo	2/14	Sarah Browning	2/23	Kelly Rose
2/3	Emilia White	2/14	Corbin Lisser	2/23	Tim O'Leary
2/3	Howard Deterding	2/14	Ron Averill	2/23	Dan Dempster
2/3	Raymond Danner	2/16	Isabella Vazquez	2/23	David Livingston
2/3	Joel Danner	2/16	Carole Burrage	2/24	Carlee Lisser
2/3	David Reidy	2/16	Levi Sell	2/24	Crosbee Lisser
2/3	Belinda Fagin	2/16	Jennifer Leahy	2/24	John Traina
2/3	Kaitlin Betts	2/16	Alyssa Spiller	2/24	Deborah Smith
2/3	LaNell Anderson	2/17	Catherine Hill	2/24	Jackie Collins
2/4	Katee Parks	2/18	Barry Hutzell	2/24	Sandy Telljohann
2/5	Melvin Puckett	2/19	Rodney Dove	2/24	Phyllis Graff
2/5	Alex Worzel	2/19	Ryan Brown	2/25	Michael Reiter
2/5	Kellie Bornstein	2/19	Joe Ehrhardt	2/25	Bill Hampshire
2/5	Churchill Couch	2/20	Lisa Deterding	2/26	G.M. Church
2/6	Genia Thorn	2/20	Jeanine Mooring	2/26	Caroline Bridges
2/6	Katie Paradysz	2/20	Pat Chandler	2/26	Jennifer Bryan
2/6	Evan Rice	2/20	Kirk Johnson	2/26	Rose Brown
2/6	Nicholas Henderson	2/20	Sarah Musy	2/27	Joseph Vittitow
2/7	Leigha Spence	2/20	Sarabeth Hanz	2/27	Sara Phillips
2/8	Dennis Pfeiffer	2/20	Karen Vick	2/27	Jason Creech
2/8	Mark Blakelock	2/21	Don Benham	2/28	Trish Wilson
2/8	Josh Cash	2/21	Jean Anderson	2/28	Whitney Browning
2/9	Chris Morisette	2/21	Alexis Pubentz		
2/9	Lynetta Campbell	2/21	Joe Potter		
2/10	Marilyn Mann	2/21	Kristi Gray		