

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

November 2010

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From the Pastor's Desk

"reCONNECT" has been the theme of this year's spiritual growth campaign. (Used to be we called it the "Stewardship Campaign," but folks so identified that word with money and "that thing for the budget" [as one member of a former church put it] that we need a new, fresh name to speak the fullness of our management and faith responsibilities: gifts, yes, but also our prayers and presence and service!) By the way, if you have not returned your 2011 Commitment Cards, now's the time to do so! A response from everyone is important—for each member, for the church family, and for the world we seek to reach and serve!



Given Christianity's nature as a walk, perhaps we should consider each day of our lives as a leg in a journey and a day of essential reconnecting. When we leave our reCONNECT campaign behind, we will continue on a pilgrimage of intentional and regular reconnecting, reaffirming, and recommitting. Specific opportunities for us to reconnect this fall are:

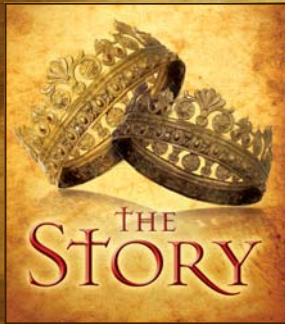
- Our Annual Church Conference (Sunday, November 14 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary) where we will review our year in ministry and reconnect to our vision, mission, and greater ministry faithfulness in the year ahead!
- Thanksgiving (perhaps my favorite "holiday" due to its pure spirituality that has not been decimated by over commercialization and secularization) will afford us an opportunity to reconnect with those essential attitudes which are gratitude and humility—attitudes which are so crucial to spiritual vitality but which can be displaced and neglected amidst hurried and harried living.
- Advent gives us a chance to reconnect with the good news of Christ's coming(s). While we'll remember and celebrate his first coming in Bethlehem, this year's sermon series, "How, Then, Should We Live?" (based on [Matthew 24 and 25](#)) will prayerfully engage us in the other "Advents" of Christ in our lives: His comings into our lives now... and His coming at the end of this age!

As I have addressed our Christian lives in prayer, worship, and devotion, I have occasionally used the analogy of "spiritual breathing." This is a continual need in our lives "out with the old and in with the new." I am inclined to admit that all this talk of "reconnecting" may be just one more way of affirming the same fundamental truth: that while we might come to Christ in a moment, it takes of lifetime of continual breathing and recommitment to be transformed into His image!

With You, in the Journey, the Breathing, the Connecting (over and over),

Pastor Jim

NOVEMBER 2010



Nov 7	Paul's Mission The Early Church	Paul	Acts 13-14; 16-20; Romans 1; 3-6; 8; 12; 5-6; 10; 12-13; 15-16; Galatians 1; 3; 5-6; 1 Thessalonians 1-5
Nov 14	Paul's Final Days The Early Church	Paul	Acts 20-23; 27-28; Ephesians 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4
Nov 21	The End of Time A New Beginning	End Times	Revelation 1-5; 19-22

WE'VE DONE IT! THE WHOLE BIBLE - IN 31 WEEKS!



Beginning November 14 you'll see a Christmas tree in the church narthex. This will not be just any tree decorated for the Christmas season, but a tree filled with opportunities to share true Christmas spirit. The tree will be adorned with paper decorations—each filled with a Christmas wish.

Some tags have the names of pre-teens and teens who live at the Methodist Children's Home in Waco. Their tags request \$25 gift cards for WalMart. Like all young people, these children like to shop for things that they want for themselves and others.

Other tags will have specific requests for items to be purchased for children of all ages and adults. These items will be delivered to the "Christmas Store" at The Mission Northeast in Porter. Adults and children in need shop at the store (at no cost) for Christmas items for their children or parents. Tags may be picked up beginning Sunday, November 14. Unwrapped items may be returned under the tree, at any time, but no later than December 5.



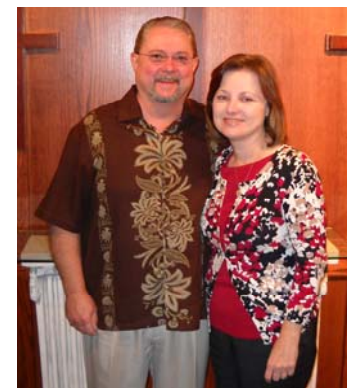
Marilyn Mann



Emily Bauserman



Erica and John Rendon



Bobby and Laura Johnston

Welcome these new members of SUMC!

Seasons of the Heart



**Seasons of the Heart Craft Bazaar
Saturday, November 6!
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Strawbridge Activity Center**

**Buy unique Christmas gifts
that benefit a good cause.
Shop for handmade crafts.
Visit the Sweet Shoppe, and bid
at the Adult and Children's
Silent Auctions!**



**Contact Sandy Telljohann, 281-361-4904, or Kay
Burleson, gkburleson@suddenlink.net or 281-358-8208.**

Still Accepting Silent Auction Donations!

Carry Each Other's Burdens

*"Carry each other's burdens,
and in this way you will fulfill
the law of Christ."*

—Galatians 6:2

Strawbridge United Methodist Church is a Stephen Ministry congregation. Stephen ministers are members of our congregation who have gone through extensive training in providing high quality Christian care to individuals experiencing a crisis or challenge such as divorce, grief, job loss, hospitalization, relocation, or loneliness. Each Stephen minister is assigned a care receiver. They meet the care receiver for about an hour a week. This caring relationship is completely

confidential and will last for as long as the care receiver needs it.

If you feel your spiritual gift is to give this type of quality, Christ-centered care, please contact Bev Puckett at 281-360-6687 or Ellen Cosio 281-360-6337 for more information. Visit the stephenministries.org website and follow the prompts to listen to a PBS discussion with Dr. Kenneth Haugk.



Please be a part
of this very
special weekend.



Sincerely,
Your Retreat Team
Barbie Bugner
Cheryl Burnett
Rose Burnett
Trish King
Barbara Livesay
Kathy Reiter
Carolyn Treyner

*Women's Retreat 2011
Winter Tree: Becoming New Again
January 7-9*



Registration Deadline November 15!

Advent and Christmas Preview

November 28 - Hanging of the Greens with dinner and family activities (Time TBA)

December 5, 9:45 am—Children's Choirs perform
"The Gift Goes On" by Claire Cloninger

December 12, 9:45 am—Chancel Choir performs
"Christmas Oratorio" by Camille Saint-Saëns

December 18, 9 am — Breakfast in Bethlehem with
breakfast, music, gingerbread nativities to take home,
and a walk through the city of Bethlehem!

December 24, Three Christmas Eve Services:

- 5 pm—A Child-Friendly, Family Service
- 7 pm—A Blend of Traditional and Contemporary Music and Worship with Candlelight and Holy Communion
- 11 pm—A More Contemplative Service with Candlelight and Holy Communion

December 26—One Service only at 11 a.m.

Advent Worship Theme, "How, Then, Should We Live?" Matthew 24 and 25

The Gift goes On—December 5, 9:45 a.m.



Adults and children will relate to the songs and plug into the message of "The Gift Goes On": Jesus Christ is the true Gift of Christmas, given in love by God the Father to each one of us. May your hearts be filled with the wonder of His Gift this Christmas!

The children's choirs will present "The Gift Goes On" by Claire Cloninger Sunday, December 5, during the Sunday School hour at 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

All of us dream of the perfect Christmas, where the love, joy, and peace of Jesus prevails in every activity and tradition. Too often, however, the commercialism of our culture has a way of getting its toe in the door of our ideal celebration.

"The Gift Goes On" takes a lighthearted poke at the hol-

lowness of Christmas commercialism. Cashus B. Greenback and his assistant, Bucko, love Christmas mainly for "the sound of the cash register ringing up another sale" at Greenback's Emporium. Next door at Comfort's Candle Shop, Comfort is giving away free candles ("What better way to spread the light!") and telling the story of the newborn Son of God. Comfort convinces Cashus and Bucko to at least listen to her story and then make up their own minds.

Using traditional carols, Comfort and the choir "Tell the Ancient Story" to the two shopkeepers, whose eyes and spirits are opened to the gift of God's love in Christ. Cashus and Bucko realize that, unlike any of the items in stock at the Emporium, only Jesus Christ is "The Perfect Gift." It is their excitement over this revelation that leads to their discovery that Jesus is "the kind of gift that is meant to be shared with others"...and "The Gift Goes On"!

Christmas Oratorio—Camille Saint-Saëns

On December 12, during the Sunday School hour at 9:45 a.m., the Adult Choir, soloists, and instrumentalists, will present the Christmas Oratorio by French composer Camille Saint-Saëns.

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921), French composer, pianist, and organist, born in Paris, made his debut as a pianist at the age of ten and later studied organ and harmony at the Paris Conservatoire. Saint-Saëns' first position was a church organist at the Parisian Church of Saint-Merry.

In 1858 he rose to the position of organist at the prestigious Church of the Madeleine where he remained for twenty years. In later life, he brought French music an international reputation touring as pianist and organist at the start of the twentieth century. He played in the United States twice, with an honored presence at the Pan-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco in 1916. Throughout his

compositional life, Saint-Saëns provided elegant examples of music in all its forms: opera (Samson and Delilah); symphonies (Symphony No. 3, The "Organ" Symphony); concertos (both piano and violin); oratorio (Oratorio de Noël), and chamber works. He himself wrote, "The artist who does not feel completely satisfied by elegant lines, by harmonious colors, and by a beautiful succession of chords does not understand the art of music."

The Christmas Oratorio was composed in 1863 and was Saint-Saëns' first major choral work. This work is scored for five vocal soloists, chorus, harp, strings, and organ. The text of the work is taken from various biblical sources ranging from the gospel of St. Luke to the Psalms to Old Testament prophecies. The Christmas Oratorio opens with a Prelude subtitled In the style of Sebastian Bach harkening back to Bach's Christmas Oratorio. This opening prelude sets the

scene for the Christmas story: its lilting pastoral quality creates images of the shepherds tending their flocks in the fields. In the remaining movements, the vocal soloists take turns representing different characters such as the narrator of the story or as the angel who announces the birth of the baby Jesus while the chorus represents a multitude of angels singing to the glory of the Lord. The final movement of the piece, which follows the model of old French Christmas songs, is a virtual hymn of praise of all creation in the presence of God.

Come help us ring in the Christmas Season with this wonderful Christmas message in music.

Featured Soloists

Laura Nielsen
Chelsey Wilburn
Anthony McMullen
Kevin Watson
with instrumentalists from
Sam Houston State
University



There were shepherds at night in that same country, abiding in the fields, and silently keeping their watch by night over the sleeping flocks around them. And lo! an angel of the Lord appeared, standing there beside them: And the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid at his coming.



Holiday Food Drive

To help Humble Area Assistance Ministries (HAAM) with food for their Thanksgiving baskets, SUMC has been asked to collect at least 500 cans of yellow and green vegetables.

Please bring donations to the baskets in the sign-up hall, or outside the Children's Ministry office.



We need YOU to help...hand out Thanksgiving food baskets to 350 needy families on Friday, November 19: 8:30 a.m.-noon. Meet at the Kingwood United Methodist Church Gymnasium (1799 Woodland Hills Drive). E-mail Howard Deterding at harv@kingwoodcable.net or Trish at trishking@strawbridge-umc.org to sign up or learn more.



Wednesday Evening Dinner

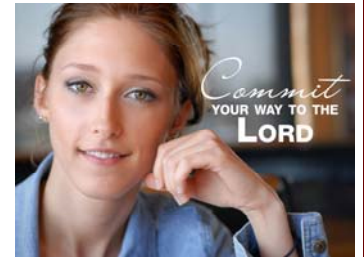
Dinner is served from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$5 per adult, \$2.50 per child (12 and under) with a family max of \$20. Advanced reservations are required. Please contact the church office by noon on Monday, 281-360-4500.

Student Ministry News

The Jr. High and Sr. High students at Strawbridge stay busy! After you check out this page full of activities, you'll understand why virtually everyone in Kingwood knows about the great student ministries of SUMC.

Ongoing Events

- United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF)** meets every Sunday evening from 5-6:30 in the Activity Center. Snack supper is available from 6:30 to 7 for \$3. Students in grades 7-12 gather for fellowship, faith, and fun. They play games, hear a faith-growing message, and share a meal together.
- Mid High Power Hour Bible Study** meets Wednesday evenings, from 6 to 7 in the SUMC Library. Middle school can be hard! Get the support and tools you need to grow and survive. All 6th-8th graders are invited.
- Cross Training Bible Study** meets Wednesday evenings, from 7 to 8 in the Senior High Room (201). This is an all-youth Bible study with Mr. Rick.
- Youth Choir** is new this year and meets Wednesday evenings, from 6:15 to 7 in the Choir Room. Lend your voice to this growing group! Contact Director of Music, Richard Aslanian, at richard.aslanian@strawbridge-umc.org for more information.
- Complete Blackout Bible Study** meets Thursday evenings from 6 to 7:30 in the Senior High Room (201). This is a Senior High Bible Study led by Roxann Benson which uses *The Story* translation of the Bible for teens. Contact Roxann at rbentzen@gmail.com to get plugged in.
- "Percolating with Paul"** meets Thursday mornings at 8. We meet at Starbucks in Town Center for caffeine and fellowship on late arrival days. All youth are invited.
- DTeams** D(isciple) Teams are the small groups of the Strawbridge Student Ministry. Each grade and gender meet separately at various times throughout the week under the leadership of one or two adult sponsors. If you are not currently in a DTeam, contact paul.belk@strawbridge-umc.org or 281-360-4500 for information or to get connected.



UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

November 7: Praise & Worship Jam: Volume I, 12:15-2:30 p.m. Meet in the Senior High Room for food and discussion, then to the Sanctuary for the real fun! This is open to all youth who want to share their talents in a praise and worship setting: musicians, singers, sound and video technicians. Sign up on the bulletin board by the youth rooms.

November 14: For Parents, 12:15 p.m. Do you know where your youth are, or where they should be? Join Paul for a parent information session on November 14 at 12:15 p.m. in the Senior High Room. We will talk about upcoming plans and events. Stay up-to-date on youth events at www.strawbridge-umc.org or find us on Facebook.

November 28: Hanging of the Greens - SUMC's annual event celebrating the beginning of Advent. Details to come.

December 12: Youth Christmas Parties - Celebrate Christmas during our Youth Fellowship time! Details to come.

Prayer Requests



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

Sympathy to:

Mary Lynne and Erland Weemering on the death of Mary Lynne's uncle.

The family and friends of Freddy Miller who died this week.

Doris Anne Moomaw and family on the death of her husband, Richard Moomaw.

Natalie Carter and family on the death of her daughter, Morgan. They are friends of the Drees family

Gayle and Chris Hanz and family on the death of Gayle's brother, Gary Cerrato.

Rev. Winston Goens and family on the death of his father, Ray Goens.

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

Bill Miller (father of Sandy Telljohann); Mary Gammage (mother of Gary Burleson); Albay McManus (brother of Verna St. Andre); Michael Reiter; Inman Vaughn (father of Rev. Beth Chenault); Arch and Shelley Moore (brother and sister-in-law of Joy Sievertson); Marguerite Armistead's father; Kevin Larson; Thomas Joseph Stanton; Shirley White; Alicia (niece of Pauline and Garry Musy); David Wells (brother of Carolyn Reed); Mike Harris

For our family and friends who are recovering from surgery:

Carolyn Belk (Paul Belk's mother); Melanie Johnston's mother; Jack Johnson; Rose Brown; Chris Burnett

For our military family and friends who are deployed overseas:

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:

Stacey (niece of Cindy Rasch)

Kelly (friend of Frank Johnson)

Andrea (friend of Frank and Marsha Johnson)

Mary Anne (friend of Marsha and Frank Johnson)

June (aunt of Ann Bryan)

Catherine (niece of Rick and Ann Bryan)

Amy (niece of Rick and Ann Bryan)

Kris (brother of Rick Bryan)

Cade (13-year-old friend of Ann Bryan's daughter's family)

Debbie (friend of Pat Chandler)

Sandra (aunt of Sherry Burger)

Ryan (godson of Amelia Keel)

Joel

Sam (father of Sindi Sonnier)

Jeanette (friend of Jan and Freddie Black)

Rosalyn (co-worker with Elisha James)

Bill (brother-in-law of Ron Flinn)

Wanda (friend of Pat Flinn)

Joyce Beal (friend of Kelsey Belflower)

Lucy (3-year-old daughter of a friend of David Bornstein)

Linda (sister of Sherry Burger)

Greg (brother-in-law of Alan Stivers)

Anne (friend of Jennifer Cargill)

Meagan (Jennifer Cargill's sister-in-law's mother)

Charlie (3-year-old cousin of the Drees Family)

Peggy (sister of Sam Ellington)

Howard (brother of Carolyn Treynor)

Greg Williams' father (friend of Cliff and Carol Hensley)

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, Mr. Miller (friends of John Barnett)

Jack (friend of John and Linda Barnett)

Debbie (cousin of 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)

Grant (BBLC student)

Tom (father of Doug Henry)

Matt (nephew of Layne Smith)

Ron (friend of Carolyn Ruth)



Almighty God, we thank you for making the earth fruitful, so that it might produce what is needed for life: Bless those who work in the fields; give us seasonable weather; and grant that we may all share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

**STRAWBRIDGE
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

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281-360-4500
www.strawbridge-umc.org

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

Submission Deadline:	For Issue:
November 15	December

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Methodist Church Staff**

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The Rev. Beth Chenault

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Chris Dickson

A Spiritual Sanctuary in a Hectic World

November Birthdays

11/1	Christopher Burnett	11/11	John Kollehner	11/21	David Bornstein
11/1	Sarah Potter	11/12	Stephanie Mashburn	11/21	Dale Grayson
11/1	Joel Johnston	11/12	Doug Bugner	11/21	Elizabeth Herink
11/1	Jeremiah Johnston	11/12	Donna Bridger	11/21	Glenn Beadling
11/1	Pat Connor	11/12	Emma Kent	11/22	Holland Vavra
11/1	Anne Medina	11/12	Wayne Garrison	11/23	Joshua Morgan
11/2	Jacob Starkey	11/13	Will Bridges	11/23	Doris Moomaw
11/2	Tom Leahy	11/14	Judy Ehrhardt	11/23	Jon Matthews
11/2	David Smith	11/14	Ricky Bryan	11/24	Katelyn Warren
11/3	Eric Pregler	11/15	Shannon Retrum	11/24	Kelly McLean
11/3	Linda Berner	11/15	Cynthia Nielsen	11/25	Brenda Genter
11/4	Lindsay Chenault	11/15	Robin Ardoin	11/25	Katie Reiter
11/4	Jane Christensen	11/15	Anita Garcia	11/26	Andy Gorham
11/4	Virginia Gandy	11/15	Cathy Hutzell	11/26	Cody Welborn
11/4	Mike Carter	11/16	Hannah Hanz	11/26	Noah Kent
11/5	Ellen Hogan	11/16	Robbin Burger	11/27	Lance Permenter
11/5	Brad Ioeberger	11/16	Elizabeth Fogt	11/27	Sewo Olonilua
11/6	Tom Zyroll	11/18	Julianne Ellington	11/27	Sarah Richardson
11/6	Joshua Reynolds	11/18	Brett Somogye	11/28	Nicholas Gilpin
11/6	Cheryl Burnett	11/18	Tyler Somogye	11/28	Sophia Harris
11/6	Sarah Permenter	11/18	Brenda Hulse	11/28	Jeff White
11/7	Richard Schwabenlander	11/19	Ayo Jejelowo	11/29	Ron Flinn
11/8	Gary Burger	11/19	Diane Livingston	11/29	Christopher Wahrmond
11/9	George Dowd	11/19	Kelly McKenzie	11/29	Ryan Dempster
11/9	Megan Duncan	11/20	Norman Graff	11/29	Barbie Bugner
11/10	David Lewis	11/20	Joy Sievertson	11/30	Stephanie Reubin
11/10	Marguerite Armistead	11/20	Andrew Morgan	11/30	David Wofford
11/10	Jack Armistead	11/20	Daniel Lawson	11/30	Nicole Janowski
11/11	Tamara Tippey	11/20	Stephen Schellinger		