

February 2016

Mission of the Month: Souper Bowl of Caring

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
		10:00 Flexercise 7:00 Fellowship	9:30 PW Bible 10:15 PW Board 4:30 WOW 6:00 WNS 7:00 Choir	10:00 Flexercise 6:00 Yoga		
7 Transfiguration of the Lord	8	9	10 Ash Wednesday	11	12	13
Communion Souper Bowl of Caring 9:30 Sunday School 10:50 Worship 12:00 Congregational Meeting 12:00 Youth Lunch Bunch	9:30 Bridge 6:00 Yoga	10:00 Flexercise	9:30 Circles 1 & 2 4:30 WOW 6:00 WNS 7:00 Choir	10:00 Flexercise 6:00 Yoga		9:00 Jesus' path to the Cross Bible Study - Parlor
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 Hand in Hand Assembly—GP 9:30 Sunday School 10:50 Worship 12:15 Handbells	9:30 Bridge 5:30 Academy Board 6:00 Yoga	10:00 Flexercise 6:00 Finance	4:30 WOW 6:00 WNS 7:00 Choir	7:00 Early Bird Gardening 10:00 Flexercise 6:00 Yoga		8:00 Presbyterian Men
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 Sunday School 10:50 Worship 12:15 Handbells 4:00 Marriage Talk with Ann Wilson	9:30 Bridge 6:00 Yoga 6:00 Unwind Circle	10:00 Flexercise 7:00 Session	9:30 Happy Hands 4:30 WOW 6:00 WNS 7:00 Choir	10:00 Flexercise 6:00 Yoga	Youth Conclaves	Youth Conclaves 9:00 Jesus' path to the Cross Bible Study - Parlor 11:00 MOW
28	29	1	2	3	4	5
Youth Conclaves 9:30 Sunday School 10:50 Worship 12:15 Handbells	9:30 Bridge 6:00 Yoga					

FEBRUARY



PresPress

The monthly publication of
Spring Branch Presbyterian Church

1215 Campbell Road
Houston, Texas 77055

LENT 2016

Dear Friends in Christ,

Here it comes again --- the most uncomfortable day... and it's early this year: February 10th. It's that one day when the Church marks ashes upon our skin with the words, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Ash Wednesday rubs in our faces that one day each of us is going to die.

But I invite you into that uncomfortable reality as a Call to the threshold of Lent! Think about the times in your own life that you have had to confront death—whether it be with a medical report that's "terminal" or the death of somebody you love. Such a time makes us step back from our daily life. All of a sudden, we see with such clarity what's most important and what is not. It makes us stop in our crazy busyness. We no longer take the people we love for granted, and we want our days to count. That's the gift of Ash Wednesday in its marking of the cross as a sign of being claimed by God's love in Jesus Christ. It is to hear the invitation to go "in the wild" for 40 days like Jesus. We trust that the Spirit will lead us, too, in a time to be strengthened in our faith; to be drawn closer to the Holy One who keeps seeking us out, and to be all we are meant to be as made in God's image. It is a journey that promises to be "Life giving" in His name.

So join me for Lent! Hand in hand, let us walk in the footsteps of Jesus!

Dr. Laurey H. Murphy



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

When: Sunday, February 7th

Immediately following Worship

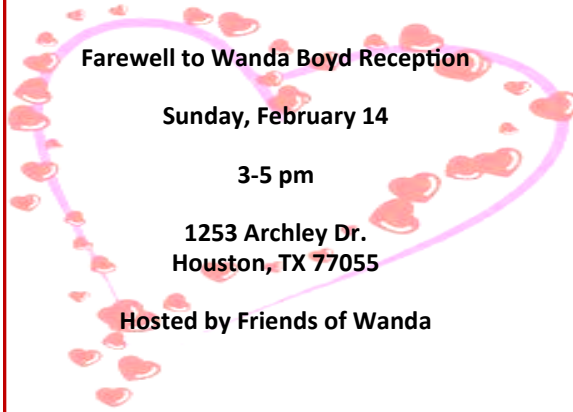
Purpose is to:

- ✓ Approve changes to Pastor's Terms of Call
- ✓ Receive the 2016 Budget
- ✓ Elect Ruling Elders for the Class of 2019





February



Farewell to Wanda Boyd Reception
Sunday, February 14
3-5 pm
1253 Archley Dr.
Houston, TX 77055
Hosted by Friends of Wanda

- 02/01 Sarah Fake
- 02/02 Clara Dikeman
- 02/03 James Daley
- 02/04 Victoria Miller
- 02/06 Cali Alegria
- 02/07 Stephen Earnest
- 02/08 Loretta Pittman
- 02/09 Logan Caldera
- 02/10 Daniel Powell
- 02/11 Betty Dallmann
- 02/13 Merveilles Massamba
- 02/13 Doris Wright
- 02/14 Eric Purfurst
- 02/15 Lynn Dudinsky
- 02/15 Beth Mizwa
- 02/18 Kayla Mizwa
- 02/19 Lane Kennedy
- 02/21 Dianne Bigelow
- 02/24 Amanda Greeley
- 02/27 David Escoto
- 02/27 Amy Skinn



Happy Anniversary

02/05 Don & Barbara Tremble

02/14 Wayne & Carol Summers

February



Merci

It is given with heartfelt thanks for all the cards, visits and love shown to our mom, Ferrell Thorpe, during her illness. As you all know, she felt blessed to be a part of this church family.

Sincerely,

Jennifer and Todd Miller

And the extended Thorpe family



We can not express the love and care that was shown to us with the sudden passing of my mother.

Thank you everyone for the prayers and the thoughtful cards.

Yours truly,

Margaret Rouse



Thank you every one for the prayers, meals visits and cards during Luna's convalesce. Each and every one was greatly appreciated and we were blessed to witness to God's love through your gracious acts.

Luna, Mike & Matt Lassiter

A Great Slate!

The Session has approved and presents the Congregational Nominating Committee's Slate for Ruling Elders to serve a three year term as the Class of 2019 on the Session. If elected by the congregation at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 7th, they will be installed to serve beginning June 2016. According to our By Laws, immediately after the Nominating Committee presents its slate there is opportunity for nominations from the floor. Anyone placing a name in nomination MUST have the consent of the person nominated.

Here is the Slate of Nominees:

Jacque Ballesteros

I was raised Presbyterian in Pittsburgh, PA. I have been a member of this church for more than 30 years. I has two grown adult children (Nick Ballesteros and Liz Earnest) whose families are members as well. I have served on Missions, Stewardship, Stephen Ministry and twice on the Session of SBPC.

Fonda Blair

I was raised in western Kansas in a farming community, a member of Bethany Lutheran Church. This was the home church of my Swedish immigrant great-grandparents, my grandparents and my mother. I graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in accounting and began my southern migration, with stops in Tulsa, OK, Dallas, TX, and Saudi Arabia, ending here in Houston in 1996. Over the years I have been a member of Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian churches along the way. In all cases, continuing to learn and grow in God's grace along the way.

Steve and I have been married for 26 years and have two boys, Ryan (18) and Andrew (15).

We joined SBPC about a year ago and have been attending regularly since then. I find it to be uniformly welcoming and God-centered with a passion reaching out to lift others up. I'm happy to be a part of it.

Donald McDaniel

My journey of faith began in childhood when my family joined a Presbyterian church here in Houston. Growing up actively involved in the youth activities at the church provided a solid foundation of values for me. Rev. Jim McLeod began his ministry at our church and was influential on our youth group. I began attending Spring Branch Presbyterian Church in February 2013 and became a member in August 2015. I participate in the Explorer's Sunday School class and Men of the Church meetings. I have also contributed in the Meals on Wheels program, Vacation Bible School, Seafarer's Mission and Ushering.

I look forward to continued growth and learning in my "journey of faith."

Brice Wilborn

I was born in 1954, in Houston, into a family of Presbyterians. I joined Spring Branch Presbyterian Church by Transfer of Letter from First Presbyterian Church in Houston, having "followed" my wife Denise, who was already a member (who was also serving as SBPC Director of Christian Education), and son Joseph.

I first served in congregational leadership in the Presbyterian Church as a Deacon, having been installed at First Presbyterian Church in Houston. I have since served as a Ruling Elder on the Session of Spring Branch Presbyterian Church. I have served as a choir member at Spring Branch Presbyterian Church and will most likely resume that service in the near future. I have served as the Elementary-age Sunday-School Class Lead Teacher. I served on the Pastor Nominating Committee which called Reverend Laurey Murphy to become Head Pastor of Spring Branch Presbyterian Church.

While on Session at SBPC, I also served as a member of the Property Committee, connecting to my interest in facilities operation and relating to my professional work as a consulting engineer.

I consider the call to work within and serve Spring Branch Presbyterian Church, through the Session, to be an honor and privilege, and will continue also to seek the privilege and honor of serving God and my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



February

Christian Education



Lent During the Week

How many of us observed Lent growing up or in more recent years? For those of us that did, this often involved giving up something for Lent. It might have been meat, cookies, soda, beer, cussing... sometimes we fast successfully sometimes not so successfully. But there are many other ways to observe Lent in addition to fasting, we'll explore these this year.

Look for "**Lent at Home**" and "**Illustrated Advent**" resources in the Narthex, SBPC News Stand, and at Wednesday Night Supper on Ash Wednesday.

Some of what you'll find:

Word of the Day – Spend the day looking for this word as you go about your day. Maybe you'll see it and take a photograph or maybe you'll pray over the word – saying your prayers out loud, drawing the prayer, or writing the prayer.

Calendar/Fishbowl – You can keep the list intact, looking for a new activity or practice every week or every day, or you could cut the list and draw the practice out of a bowl each day as you get ready for a new way of observing Lent.

Find what works for you, and be blessed by the experience.

But first – Mardi Gras!

Mardi Gras is French for “Fat Tuesday,” it culminates on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. It reflects the practice of eating richer, fattier foods, before the ritual fasting season of Lent. In some traditions it is also known as Shrove Tuesday (from shrive, which means to confess).

While some Mardi Gras traditions involve masks, costumes, dance, parades, and overturning social conventions – other traditions are tamer. For instance, in the United Kingdom and Ireland, pancakes are a traditional food – consumed to clean the cupboards of the sugar, fat and eggs that are fasted from during the season of Lent? Perhaps in the week before Ash Wednesday, you might eat breakfast for dinner?



REGISTRATION FORM

-TACKLING THE-

TOUGH STUFF

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Saturday, February 20, 2016

West Houston Chinese Church (10638 Hammerly Blvd)

Lunch provided. No childcare. Earphone translation into Mandarin Chinese available.

A CPYU (Center for Parent/Youth Understanding) Seminar presented by youth specialists

Dr. Walt Mueller and Dr. Marv Penner

SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Registration
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Welcome
9:45 – 10:45 a.m.	Session 1: Narcissism
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Session 2: Self-Injury
12:00 – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch
1:15 – 2:15 p.m.	Session 3: Pornography
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Session 4: Depression
3:45 – 5:00 p.m.	Ministering in the midst; Questions and Answers

PAYMENT¹

\$25 per person; \$40 per couple by January 31.
\$30 per person; \$50 per couple by February 14.

Payment due or postmarked by February 14.
Make checks payable to *West Houston Chinese Church*.

Cancellation: 50% refund after February 14.

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1 CPYU is a non-profit mission organization, all funds go to support their ongoing work: research, resources, preparation, and presentation of cutting-edge content with excellence. CPYU commits to good stewardship of their ministry and message, along with fair compensation for CPYU staff time away from family and home.

CONTACT

Jodi Chung (WHCC Youth Minister)
youth@whcchome.org 713.935.9422

Title (circle one) Mr. Ms. Mr. & Mrs.

First Name(s) _____

Last Name _____

Email (for confirmation email and seminar updates only) _____

Phone _____

Church Affiliation _____

Lunch options (check one)

- Yes, will be staying for lunch.
- Yes, will be staying for lunch and would like a vegetarian meal.
- No, will not be staying for lunch.

Comments, Questions, Requests _____

Will you need

**earphone translation
into Mandarin Chinese?**

- Yes
- No

Please send this completed registration form along with your payment to the following address:

West Houston Chinese Church

Attn: Jodi Chung

10638 Hammerly Blvd

Houston, TX 77043

You will receive a confirmation email once registration is received. Thank you!

-TACKLING THE- TOUGH STUFF

Saturday, February 20, 2016
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
West Houston Chinese Church
(10638 Hammerly Blvd, Houston, TX 77043)

Lunch provided. No childcare. Earphone translation into Mandarin Chinese available.

A one-day parenting seminar tackling the tough issues of narcissism, self-injury, pornography, depression, and suicide. Presented by CPYU (Center for Parent/Youth Understanding) President Dr. Walt Mueller and CPYU Associate Staff Dr. Marv Penner. For more information, visit cpyu.org.

This seminar will equip your children and teenagers to navigate some of the most pervasive and difficult of the world's problems, regardless if you see those problems in your family. The culture throws all kinds of challenges to pull teenagers away from the life that comes with choosing to live in God's ways.

Youth specialists Walt Mueller and Marv Penner will help you unpack and respond to society's push to focus on one's self, the growing problem of self-injury, the pervasiveness of pornography, as well as depression and suicide. You will leave with practical, hope-filled strategies for equipping kids to hear and follow God's voice in the midst of a challenging world.

STATISTICS

1 out of 5 teens will experience Depression before adulthood.

20% of female teens (14% male teens) report cutting behavior.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among teenagers.

97% of boys and 83% of girls have been exposed to internet pornography to varying degrees.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Asian-American teenage girls have the highest rate of depression of any other racial, ethnic or gender group.

REGISTRATION

\$25 per person; \$40 per couple by January 31.
\$30 per person; \$50 per couple by February 14.

Payment due or postmarked by February 14.
Checks payable to *West Houston Chinese Church*.

Cancellation policy: 50% refund after February 14.

Register online: whcchome.org

CONTACT Jodi Chung (Youth Minister) youth@whcchome.org 713.935.9422

Sponsored by: West Houston Chinese Church, Fort Bend Community Church, Houston Chinese Church, Katy Community Christian Church



The teachers of the Grace and Gratitude class are collecting supplies for the spring curriculum and setting up a Bible times campsite for the class.

We are seeking donations for the following:

- ⇒ Wooden hall tree or hat rack to hang costumes
- ⇒ 10 baby food jars
- ⇒ Gently used red, white, green, and purple tablecloths for 8' table
- ⇒ 60 oz baby oil
- ⇒ Sculpty or other oven bake clay (any colors)
- ⇒ Assorted colors of glitter glue
- ⇒ Gently used hand towels
- ⇒ Felt squares and scraps in assorted colors
- ⇒ 2 large beach balls
- ⇒ One role of clear contact paper
- ⇒ 10 bean bags for bean bag toss (not the chairs)
- ⇒ Elementary aged magazines for collages
- ⇒ Six votive candles
- ⇒ Set of wooden blocks
- ⇒ Jenga game
- ⇒ 2 sets of oil pastels
- ⇒ 4 dowel rods (.25"-.5" diameters)
- ⇒ Large rainbow pack of tissue paper

We will place a donation box under the "missions of the month" bulletin board by the offices.

Got questions? Ask Kate Cross or Rebeca Rivera-Alegria. Thank you!



EXPLORE ROMANS THROUGH SCRIPTURE AND THEATRE

The Explorers Sunday School class will begin studying the Book of Romans, led by Linda Crawford, on February 21. All adults are invited to these classes from 9:30-10:30 on Sundays in the Conference Room. As part of the class, but open to all, we are organizing an optional Dinner and a Play trip to see "The Apostle" at the A. D. Players Theater at 2710 West Alabama on Saturday, April 9, at the 2:30 p.m. matinee. All are also invited to an early dinner following the performance at Amazon Grill at 5114 Kirby. Contact Carol Davis if you are interested in either the play or dinner.

Publicity for this play includes reviews such as: "a fresh, vibrant and unwavering journey through the book of Romans like you've never experienced before! The Word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. Experience the power of scripture coming to life in this unique verse by verse dramatization of the Book of Romans---ONE MAN. ONE BOOK. ONE MESSAGE OF HOPE"

You may order play tickets online at www.adplayers.org or by calling 713-526-2721. Senior (60+) and student discounts are available. If SBPC has 10 or more attending this performance, a group discount is available. Please contact Carol Davis by the end of February if you are interesting in joining a group to receive the group discount.

Fellowship News

FRIDAY NIGHT LENTEN FISH FRY!

A favorite event each week during Lent by many at SBPC is to go to our neighboring Catholic Churches for their special Lenten Fish Fry! Everybody is invited to join in the fun. Some meet at the designated church of the week and others meet at SBPC to carpool. Just call the church office by Thursday of that week if you want to carpool!

HERE'S THE LINEUP AND OUR SBPC HOSTS IN FEBRUARY:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH: St. Jerome at 8835 Kempwood; Doris and Mike Wright will serve as our hosts and answer any questions and arrange for a block of seats for our group. Since we have a lot of neighbors who attend St. Jerome feel free to sit with them if you like.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH: Our Lady of Crestochowa Catholic Church at 1731 Blalock. This is one of our favorites with a wider offering of food and serving one of the best coleslaw recipes you will find. Jan and Gerald Fitts be our hosts. There will be a free dessert for the first person who can pronounce the name correctly. The Polish person taking the money will be the judge.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH: St. Cecilia Catholic Church, 11720 Joan of Arc Drive. If we are lucky some of the seminarians from the St. Mary Seminary on Memorial will join us. If they are there, try and sit with them. They are friendly and willing to answer questions. They run in age from just out of high school to retired military in their 50s. We don't have a host designated yet here. Step up and volunteer if you will.

In March, we will probably go to St. Jerome and Our Lady of Catholic along with St. John Vianney as our last Fish Fry on the 18th. They serve Shrimp Scampi that evening!

****Note:** Prices change between location and sometimes they offer large and small plates but usually the cost will be \$10 or less. There usually is a variety of desserts sold separately by the Ladies' Auxiliary. The Knights of Columbus normally handle the Fish Fry.

A special thank you to Mike Wright for coordinating this great event!



Wednesday Night Suppers in February

February 3rd—Hamburgers

February 10th—Ash Wednesday—Food to feed the soul—Red Beans & Rice & Fried Chicken & Cornbread

February 17th—Presbyterian Men will be cooking something yummy!

February 24th—Chili & Rice



MISSION OF THE MONTH

TACKLE



HUNGER

On Sunday, February 7th, join us for the annual Souper Bowl of Caring as we tackle hunger in Houston. Bring a non-perishable item to Worship Service—which will be donated to Fair Haven Food Pantry, or you can give a donation that will be given to the Houston Food Bank.

houston 
foodbank
Filling pantries. Filling lives.



Hand in Hand

...a perfect Valentines Assembly of what God's Love Can Do! Will be on February 14th during the Sunday School Hour in the Gathering Place. Presbyterian Mission Co-Worker, Kathi Neubert, will be sharing her experience at the Hand in Hand School in Jerusalem this past year (and whom we helped support).

December Blood Drive

19 Donors!

17 Donations!

23 Total Units!

45 Lives Saved!

Look for more information about the next Blood Drive in April!