

IN THIS ISSUE OF THE MIRROR:

- Advent and Christmas Worship Services
- Special day of music on Dec. 16
- Christmastime Missions
- Book Clubs and Birthdays
- Year End Report
- Pictures from last month events



Share the Light of Christmas



There are so many ways for you to share the light of hope, peace, love, and joy this Advent and Christmas.

Join us for special times of worship, celebrations of fun and music, and incredible mission opportunities as we share the great news of Christmas.

From the Pastor:

I recently read a post by another pastor talking about all we have to do to prepare for an event like Thanksgiving. There is so much preparation that goes into a big event, especially if it's at your home. Where will people sit, what will I serve, what will I ask others to bring, how do I keep the conversation going? In addition to the meal portion, what about my home? Are the rooms all clean, are my decorations just right, does the yard look presentable?



Then there is the time and money spent shopping for all the food (and of course anything new you might need for such a big occasion) and time spent getting it all prepared and presented. It's funny that we don't think anything of putting that much time and energy into an event in our home. Many of us, myself included, rather enjoy cooking the meal and watching the people enjoy time together. It's all well worth it.

It does make me wonder though: how much time and energy do we put into preparing for our Savior's birth? Do we get so caught up in planning for the event at our home or going to see family and friends that we forget the real reason for these events? Do we take time each day of Advent to focus some of our energy and thoughts toward the coming of our Savior?

The Savior who came down to Earth from Heaven to be with us. The Savior who want to create his Kingdom inside of you. The Savior who wants to bring tidings of Good News, of Hope, of Peace, of Joy, of Love!

I pray you find that time amidst the hustle and bustle to stop and prepare your heart and mind for the big event of Christ's birth. May this season be a time for you to remember and reflect (and plan and cook and enjoy, too) the coming of the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords.

Amen and amen,

Cheryl



Worship this Month

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Choir Practice
10:55 a.m. Worship Service



December 2

- Worship on the **First Sunday of Advent** with the celebration of our Lord's Supper with communion by intinction
- Rev. Cheryl Kimble preaches "*Share the Light of Hope*"
- Quarterly Church Conference following the service to vote on 2019 church budget and Ministry Council

December 9

- Worship on the **Second Sunday of Advent**
- Rev. Cheryl Kimble preaches "*Share the Light of Peace*"
- **Ministry Council Meeting** in the Library after worship
- **Taizé Worship Service** at 7:30 p.m. in the Atrium

December 16

- Worship on the **Third Sunday of Advent**
- The **Chancel Choir performs a Christmas Cantata, Sing Joy to all the World** by Lloyd Larson during worship
- **Plum Pudding Festival** following worship with potluck lunch, fun Christmas performances, caroling, and desserts

December 20

- The **Longest Night Service at 7 p.m.**—a service for those experiencing grief during the holidays.

December 23

- Worship on the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
- Rev. Cheryl Kimble preaches "*Share the Light of Love*"

December 24

- **Christmas Eve Worship Service at 6:30 p.m.**
- Rev. Cheryl Kimble preaches "*Share the Light of Christ*"
- Service features candlelit hymns

December 30

- Worship on the **First Sunday of Christmas**
- Rev. Kevin Mitchell preaches

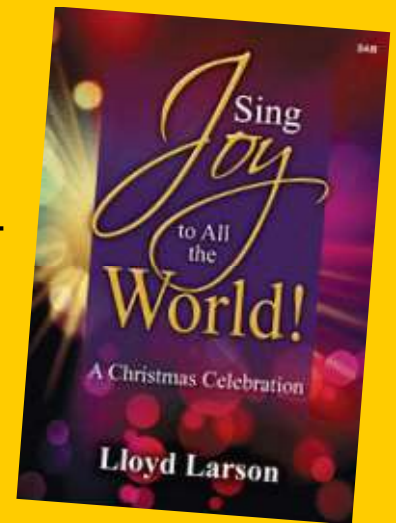


Sunday, December 16

Christmas Cantata & Plum Pudding Festival

A special day of music in and after worship

Advent season begins on December 2, and with it comes a beautiful set of Advent-themed music. Inspired by this year's theme "Share the Light of Christmas", our weekly advent music displays the joy of spreading God's love through song. One highlight of this year's Advent music comes from the Chancel Choir's Christmas Cantata, *Sing Joy to all the World* by Lloyd Larson. The melody from Larson's "The People Walking in Darkness" shows the "Sharing the Light" theme with the age-old text: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great Light!". Another highlight of the service will be ending with the classic "This Little Light of Mine" as an inspiration to go and share your light with the world throughout the Advent season.



During the December 16 service, the Chancel Choir will proudly present this year's Christmas Cantata: "Sing Joy to All the World" by Lloyd Larson. Many of the classic Christmas hymns you know and love are masterfully incorporated into Larson's own original composition. The driving opening movement calms into the soft, tender middle section of the cantata, which builds momentum until the final movement named after the title: "Sing Joy to all the World!" You won't want to miss this incredible performance by the HPBC Chancel Choir.

After worship on Dec. 16 our musical celebration will continue with our annual Plum Pudding Festival of zany, Christmas fun. Please bring a non-dessert food to share, and join us in Sapp Hall for a potluck lunch, Christmas crafts and carols, and a parade of decadent desserts!



Do you have a Christmas act you'd like to share during the festival? Whatever your talent, whatever your style, we'd love to have you join the fun. Please contact the church office by email or phone to add your name to the set list.

You are cordially invited to Highland Park's

Service for the Longest Night

on Thursday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m.

This candlelit service of prayer & song offers a special time of remembrance for those experiencing loss, sadness or grief during the holiday season. All are welcome at this quiet and reflective service. Please bring a memento or picture of your loved one(s) as part of our remembrance. You may honor as many as you'd like; beloved pets are certainly welcome to be honored as well.



Share the Light of Christ

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Monday, December 24

6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned...For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." – Isaiah 9:2,6

CHRISTMAS TIME

BCCM Stockings



Sisters in Service decorated the beautiful red stockings and now they are ready to be filled. The decorated stockings will be handed out on Sunday December 2 and are **due back to the church - - stuffed with goodies - - by Sunday, December 16** so that they can be handed out at the Baptist Community Center Mission's Children's Christmas Party. The kids love the stockings every year - - many thanks to everyone for helping.

Excess items are also need to supplement any stockings that might arrive to the BCC not as filled as others.

Here's the list if you'd like to contribute. It's best to pick gender-neutral items as the stockings are handed out randomly to boys or girls.

- 🎁 **Small toys like cars, Legos, cards, bouncy balls, puzzles**
- 🎁 **Wrapped candy, chocolates, gum**
- 🎁 **Cracker Jacks, nuts, pretzels - NO RAISINS**
- 🎁 **Coloring books & coloring pencils**
- 🎁 **Gloves/socks (one size fits all)**
- 🎁 **Toothbrush, toothpaste, lip balm**



Giving Tree

HPBC Sisters in Service has **adopted a family through the MACares organization**, which supports the students and families in need at McCallum High School. Please stop by the Christmas Tree in the Atrium to pick out a gift tag that details a wish list item. Please place your gifts beneath the tree by Dec. 18. Thank you for giving.

MISSIONS

This holiday season and always, thank you for your immense generosity to those in need everywhere.



MEALS on WHEELS
CENTRAL TEXAS

Holiday Drive

We have been invited to participate in a **collection benefiting the clients of Meals on Wheels Central Texas**. The need for these donations is year-round, but they have a big drive at Christmas so they can create a special gift for each client. Please help make the holiday season a little brighter for someone in need. The list of suggested items is below and the **drop-off box will be in Atrium until December 18**.

Items needed:

- **new blankets**
- **new socks**
- **new towels**
- **shampoo**
- **soap**
- **lotion**
- **toothpaste**
- **deodorant**
- **Clorox Wipes**
- **2018 Calendars**
- **\$20 Gift cards to HEB, Walmart or Target**

Benevolence Offering



On the 5th Sunday of the month, **Sunday, December 30**, our offering will be collected for the **Instituto Nigropetense Para La Educacion Cultural Y Las Artes. A.C.** (the Instituto Benjamin Franklin) in Piedras Negras, Mexico. In mid-December, Fred and Barbara Worley will visit and take donations of books to the school and this offering will help them continue their wonderful work. Thank you for your generosity for our River Ministry.

Book Club Selections for December



Monday Night Book Club

**Monday, December 3
at 6:00 p.m.
in the downstairs Library**



Saturday Book Club

**Saturday, December 15
at 10:00 a.m.
in the Upstairs Parlor**

H A P P Y B I R T H D A Y

- December 1** Jeanie Petrie
- December 2** Shirley Prud'homme
- December 3** Hayley Kimble
Karen Walters
Phyllis England
- December 6** Pat Hebbard
Alex Pence
- December 8** Will Glazener
Joe Luna
Travis Wilson
- December 9** Cayla Cardiff
Edna Nation
Martha Rapier
- December 11** Chuck Morton
James Dick
- December 12** David Eskew
- December 13** Thyra Neas



- December 16** Barbie Farmer
Ouida Hartman
- December 18** Bell Morton
- December 20** Wes Glazener
Sheila Kershaw
- December 21** Hannah Hinckley
- December 22** Ben Osgood
- December 23** Rachel Stokes
- December 24** David Balkum
- December 25** Gregg Wilson
- December 26** Carter Kimble
- December 27** Russ Nelson
Megan Tetzlaff
- December 30** Andy Porter
- December 31** Courtney Morton



The church office will be closed on Monday, December 24, Tuesday, December 25, and Wednesday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday, and Monday, December 31, Tuesday, January 1, and Wednesday, January 2 for the New Year's holiday. The staff thanks you for this time to spend with loved ones.

YEAR-END REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIR

The HPBC Ministry Council has met each month, except July, throughout 2018. This has proved to be a most cooperative, forward-thinking and responsible group.

Our members, who represent eight (8) different areas of our church, have been successful in arranging property updates in and around our building, including back stairs, trees trimmed, and LED lighting inside our building which is already saving us money! Christian Education made arrangements for our Wednesday night meetings. Though fewer in number, they were very meaningful in content. The Administration and Personnel made arrangements and presented Rachel Davis to us, along with the continued use of Kent Burrell, when he is available, in our Music Ministry. Family Life has worked all year arranging family activities like camps, celebrations, and Parents' Night Out, and our upcoming Plum Pudding Festival—to name a few! Our Worship group planned beautiful services each Sunday and decorated the Sanctuary, in particular this past week as we get ready for the Advent Season. Missions, as always at HPBC, have continued to be a vital part of our church as we give of our time and resources to many organizations in our city. HPBC is now advertising in a community newspaper to tell neighbors about this great church! And have you noticed?? We now have friendly greeters to welcome you each Sunday!

These activities are successful because YOU do your part in helping and contributing your time and money to help YOUR church carry out its mission to be God's people in this place—and outside these walls.

LaNell Coltharp, outgoing Council Chair

SNAPS FROM LAST MONTH



Many of us were honored to be invited to the *Creating Hope Luncheon* for the Catholic Charities of Central Texas, an amazing organization that is truly the hands and feet of Christ in our Central Texas community. As the founding bishop Most Rev. John E. McCarthy declared "*Let us go forward and let us go forward together.*"



A BIG thank you to all who came to decorate the Sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Everyone worked hard hanging and fluffing and climbing and glueing and stringing and tying...and even singing.

Deck the Halls



Kevin "laying down on the job" hanging garland from the balcony.





The women of Highland Park (and three precious babies) were blessed this year to have Kristin Braun as our facilitator for the weekend. Kristin led us through many exercises and discussions on dealing with conflict within ourselves as well as conflict in relationships and helped us understand some way to reconcile differences in our lives. Everyone had a wonderful time learning, visiting, laughing, eating & enjoying the town of Fredericksburg.





5206 Balcones Drive
Austin, TX 78731

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:55 a.m.
Taizé Service: 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd
Sunday of each month

www.hpbcaustin.org
512-453-6603
hpbcoffice@hpbcaustin.org

Rev. Cheryl Kimble, *Pastor*
Rev. Kevin Mitchell, *Associate Pastor*
Dr. C. Ray Burchette, *Pastor Emeritus*
Rachel Davis, *Director of Congregational Music*
Kelley DeCleene, *Director of Church Operations*
John Guerra, *Church Custodian*
Susan Hammack, *Church Bookkeeper*

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						1
2 1st Sunday of Advent Communion	3 Monday Night Book Club	4	5	6	7 Men's Prayer Breakfast at Austin Diner	8
9 2nd Sunday of Advent Ministry Council Meeting Taizé Worship	10	11 Travis County Runoff Election in the Atrium	12	13	14 Men's Prayer Breakfast In Sapp Hall	15 Saturday Book Club
16 3rd Sunday of Advent Plum Pudding Festival/Potluck	17	18 Sisters in Service Road trip to visit the Lightseys	19	20 The Service for the Longest Night at 7 p.m.	21 Men's Prayer Breakfast	22
23 4th Sunday of Advent	24 OFFICE CLOSED			27	28 Men's Prayer Breakfast	29
	24 Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 p.m.	25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i>	26			
30 1st Sunday of Christmas 5th Sunday Offering	31 OFFICE CLOSED			LEGEND Christian Education Family Life & Fellowship Missions Worship Ministry Council/Church Business		
		1 Happy New Year!	2			