



we've been called



Vol. LXI Issue IV Apr 2017

# HOLY WEEK

***Our journey comes to its close as we enter Holy Week. All are welcome to experience the story with us through worship and meditation.***



*Palm Sunday*  
APRIL 9

*Encountering Praises*  
(Mt. 21:1-11)

Service at 10:55 a.m.

Anthem: "Ride On,  
King Jesus"

Picnic & Egg Hunt  
at Bull Creek Park  
following worship

Taizé Service at 7:30  
p.m. in the Atrium



*Labyrinth*  
APRIL 10-14

*Encounters on  
the Journey*

During Holy Week,  
a labyrinth will be  
available to walk in  
the Church Atrium  
Monday through  
Thursday from 9  
a.m. to 4 p.m. and  
on Friday from  
5 to 7 p.m.



*Good Friday*  
APRIL 14

*Encountering Death*  
(Jn. 18:1-19:42)

Service at 7 p.m.

Anthem: "Were You  
There?"

Choir rehearses  
at 6 p.m.

Bring back the nail  
you've been carrying  
with you all Lent.



*Easter Sunday*  
APRIL 16

*Encountering  
New Life*  
(Jn. 20:1-18)

Service at 10:55a.m.

Anthems: "Joy in  
the Morning" and  
Handel's Hallelujah"

Bring flowers to  
beautify the  
resurrection cross!



## From the Pastor's Desk

Highland Park continues to be a place that I'm so proud to be a part of. I was visiting with a former member this week who, although she's not here any longer, wanted me to know that she still feels like Highland Park is a part of her and she is still a part of Highland Park. I was so moved to hear her stories and memories of raising her children here. I continue to hear that over and over from people who have moved away: "I still love Highland Park", or "I may not be there but it's still part of me and I still feel a part of you". What great things to hear!

I attended my weekly Lectionary Group this week and Fr. Larry Covington, the Priest at St. Theresa's just around the corner, mentioned that he loved that fact that one of his staff members, a Catholic nun, arranges her schedule so she can be here on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. She has a Baptist upbringing and comes because she loves having the ecumenical experience of worshiping with us. His exact quote was, "She loves Highland Park". What high praise that she comes here because she loves our worship and community!

This past Monday, I went to Howard Payne University in Brownwood, TX to speak to a newly formed group of females who are interested in going into ministry. We talked about the struggles of finding your voice, whether called into fulltime professional ministry or being called into ministry in the secular world. I was so surprised when I arrived to find that they had all been on our church website and they were so excited about what they saw. One girl read our motto: *Everyone is welcome, because everyone matters*, and she said, "That's the best thing I've ever heard". They were so excited to see a



church that not only believed women could be in the pulpit but also believed every person had a place in God's kingdom. They jokingly said maybe they could just load a bus every Sunday and drive into Austin (2 hour-drive) for worship. They did promise to do that at least once before too long.

In the midst of churches struggling all over this world to keep people engaged and active, we have our continued problems. There is so much work to do and not enough of us to do it all. But that's why we're here. If we didn't have work to do we would become complacent. Sometimes we may prefer complacency. Like we heard in the movie *Zootopia* that we saw Sunday evening at Faith and Film, "That's the beauty of complacency, if you don't try anything new, you'll never fail!" Sometimes it's a great feeling to have everything just roll along feeling good. But when we're busy and have things happening, it means we're trying. Yes, sometimes we're gonna fail, but other times we're gonna make a huge difference! Highland Park has made a difference in so many lives and we continue to do so today. Thanks for being the church you are today. I'm so proud to be a part of this community!

Rev. Cheryl Kimble





# Scout News

***We welcome "Ship 410" to our scouting family!*** The Sea Scouts (a program of the Boy Scouts of America) learn to maintain and operate boats, including the meaning of buoys and lights, how to drop anchor or approach a dock, and safety such as CPR. Since the majority of Sea Scouts activities need to take place on a boat, we won't see them around the building except for the occasional meeting.



***Thanks for the mulch, Troop 410!*** The Boy Scouts of Troop 410 spread 80 bags of mulch on the back playground on Saturday, February 25. The church purchased the mulch from the scouts as part of their annual fundraiser.

## HPBC SILENT SERVANT

### ERNA JEFFREY

When memorial contributions come to the church, the donor receives a thank you card and the family receives a note to let them know that a donation has been made in memory of their loved one. But it's not the staff that sends these notes, it's Erna Jeffrey! She has been helping the office with this important task for years, and we are grateful for her service. Thank you, Erna!





# SMOOTH LIFE REFLECTIONS

*Though the mills of God grind slowly;  
Yet they grind exceeding small;  
Though with patience He stands waiting,  
With exactness grinds He all.*  
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

## Slow Medicine by Sheila Allee Kershaw

If you'll pardon me for saying so, this is one of the things that has always annoyed me. Why does God have to do everything sloooooooooooooowly?

I must admit, if there's anything I've learned (over and over) in life, it is that God works his wonders at a very unhurried and deliberate pace.

This slow thing flies in the face of our modern way of living. We're flush with time-saving devices and apps. If our computers take more than two seconds to load a web page, we're drumming our fingers impatiently.

I was steeped in this hurrying thing especially in my work life. I spent many years as a wire service reporter, churning out a dozen news stories every day. If I didn't produce, produce, produce -- and fast -- I was out of a job.

Later in my career, I began writing books. Again, the conventional wisdom in the literary world was to turn out a steady stream of titles. I was in awe of writers who published dozens of books in their lifetime. Why couldn't I do the same?

What I discovered is that, for me, to turn out something of quality, it takes time -- lots of it. And not just putting in hours and hours every week pounding out a manuscript. It took time over a span of years to do a project justice. I needed to think and rethink, write and revise, turn thoughts over and over in my mind.

When I wrote a memoir *My Father's Eyes* (which turned out to be on the short side -- less than 175 pages), it took me eight years and a dozen drafts. All that time and all those drafts worked together to not only help the book grow, but to help me grow as a person.

Writing that book changed me as a person, and for the better. It was transformational. The process helped me work through some painful issues that were unresolved from my childhood. I believe God was at work behind the scenes, using that book project to lead me to a better place.

Since finishing the book, I've gotten interested in this idea of doing things slowly. And now that I'm paying attention to this concept, I'm finding it's not a unique idea.

I just read a book called *God's Hotel*, by Dr. Victoria Sweet. She's a physician in a publicly supported hospital in San Francisco and most of the patients are there for long periods of time. She practices what she calls "slow medicine," a method that relies on giving people time to heal and allowing doctors the time they need to really listen to their patients.

Dr. Sweet found that slow medicine, which focuses on the patient first and costs second, usually has better health outcomes. And in the long run, it saves money.

So hurrying sick people to good health works about as well as rushing through a writing project.

I'm still working on this "slow" thing. My husband keeps telling me to slow down and stop rushing pell-mell through life. All I can say is God is taking His time (again) teaching me that lesson.

**A Lazy Thought**  
*There go the grownups  
To the office,  
To the store.  
Subway rush,  
Traffic crush;  
Hurry, scurry,  
Worry, flurry.  
No wonder  
Grown ups  
Don't grow up  
Any more.  
It takes a lot  
Of slow  
To grow.*  
- Eve Merriam

# MINISTRY REPORTS

## Administration

We are nearly finished with updating the signature cards with Wells Fargo Bank for our business accounts. We have received notice that some of our health insurance premiums have increased. Electricians have been out to replace an exterior light fixture and burnt out bulbs in the Sanctuary. There are five additional projects that they will address in late March and a possible 6th project to be addressed in April. Other property maintenance includes fixing the patio awning at the back of the building and removing leaves from the roof of the Parsonage. Two thermostat sensors were installed in the Sanctuary which should help better regulate temperatures in there.

The Huntington-Surrey school has been purchased by a family and a new lease will be signed in May. The school will operate in a very similar manner but will have a smaller staff. The school will no longer lease the back building so it will be available for other purposes. We are in conversations with a brand new all-boys private school to rent some of the Underground classrooms that are not currently in use. The school is willing to pay for the necessary items to bring the space within code. If this agreement proceeds, the goal is to sign the lease in May with the school moving in over the summer.

## Family Life & Fellowship

Family Life and Fellowship is working with Kevin on the Mission Trip Fundraiser. We will help with plans for the Palm Sunday event that Hayley is planning. We are working on plans for the April 30th 65th Birthday Celebration which will be a Pot Luck following the Worship Service.

## Christian Education

This year Faith & Film will be held in the Library at 5:30PM on Sundays. Popcorn and soft drinks will be offered. All are family oriented & children welcome in the bean bag library children's section during adult discussion. Film Discussions will be led by Keith Cranford. 4 part series of "May All Be One" of discussions with our Catholic and Muslim sisters and brothers for dialogue. Flyers are in the church and all are encouraged to distribute them to friends and colleagues.

## Outreach and Communications

In addition to posting our events and activities on the neighborhood websites, we now have a Nextdoor account to reach out to nearby neighborhoods. We will be working with the touch leaders to make phone calls to members we haven't seen in a while to invite them to Lent, Holy Week, and Easter services, and we are considering a Holy Week and Easter mailer to nearby homes. There is a need for updates and repairs to our sound system. While we have \$1,000 of work to do, we will see how much we can get done for \$300.

## Worship

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The worship Ministry changed the banners for Lent and will work after the Good Friday service to ready the sanctuary for Easter morning. Any volunteers that can stay and help will be greatly appreciated.

## Missions

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Our summer intergenerational mission trip to Washington, D.C. will be July 26-31. All ages are welcome to join us! Talk to Kevin Mitchell for more information. We are also organizing a team for iACT's Spring Blitz on Saturday, April 8, which helps with home repairs for people who cannot afford to do them. Talk to Alana Mallard if you are interested in joining the team. Ten Thousand Villages will return to Highland Park for a Fair Trade Market in the Atrium on May 7, just in time for Mother's Day and graduation gifts.

### 2017 Ministry Council:

Walt Shelton, Chair

Herb Wilson, Administration

Nancy Lamb, Personnel

Jim Nuckols, Property

Tom Petrie, Finance

Becky Dillard, Worship

Alana Mallard, Missions

Roy Kimble, Servant

Jody Harrison, Christian Education

Family Life & Fellowship (*vacant*)

Kristin Werner, Outreach & Communications

# MINISTRY COUNCIL

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: APRIL 2

NEXT MINISTRY MEETINGS: MAY 3

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!**

### Agenda from the March Ministry Council Meeting

- I. Opening Thoughts and Prayer
- II. Autonomy of Ministry Areas
- III. Church Documents
  - A. Bylaws and Ministry Handbook
  - B. Comments to Herb Wilson Working Group before April 2 Meeting
  - C. Revised Conflict of Interest Form
- IV. Building Lease(s): Status and Update
- V. Internship Request
- VI. Closing Thought and Prayer

***If you have anything you would like the Ministry Council to discuss at the next meeting on Sunday, April 2, please contact the church office by Sunday, March 26.***





5206 Balcones Drive  
Austin, TX 78731

*For where we've been  
and where we're going,  
we praise God and  
celebrate our 65th year.*

*— join us —*  
**APRIL 30, 2017**



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 • Wednesday fellowship dinner & program: 6:00 p.m.

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Rev. Cheryl Kimble, Pastor • Rev. Kevin Mitchell, Associate Pastor

Dr. Josh Miller, Director of Congregational Music • Hayley Kimble, Children & Young Families Ministry Coordinator • Dr. C. Ray Burchette, Pastor Emeritus  
Kelley DeCleene, Director of Church Operations • John Guerra, Church Custodian • Anna Strickland, Administrative Assistant • Susan Hammack, Bookkeeper