

Looking Ahead

Jan 1 New Year's Day Worship Service, Kevin Mitchell preaches, Share Your Table

Jan 4 Ministry Meetings, 6:15 pm

Jan 5 WMU Morning, 9:30 am

Jan 6, 13, 20, 27 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 am

Jan 8 Communion, Share Your Table, Taize Worship at 7:30 pm

Jan 9 Sisters in Service, 7 pm

Jan 13-15 Youth Disciple Now

Jan 16 Ministry Council Meeting, 7 pm

Jan 29 Ministry Fair

Feb 10-12 Youth MidWinter Retreat

Apr 13-15 National Alliance of Baptists meets at HPBC

Apr 27-29 HPBC 60th Birthday Celebration



Some Words About and From the First Ministry Council

In our transition from *Board and Gavel* to *Council and Christ Candle*, we attempted to focus on discernment and worship in making decisions and doing our work.

Discernment requires us to cultivate sensitivity to the ways God works in our world. As we considered discernment we became more comfortable with being worshipful, whether we were discussing technology, missions, or money. Each of us grew into our called position.

Some valuable concepts we learned were delegation, communication, and consecration. There were times of frustration that members did not sign up to be part of a particular ministry, times of surprise when things worked so well, times of sadness and disappointment when our work became unpleasant, times of abundant joy when it was obvious that God's hand was guiding us, times of gratitude for expressions of love and support from the congregation.

Each of our meetings centered around a theme: Hope, Love, Think, Simplify, and Forgiveness are a few examples.

There were two meetings which particularly exemplified our desire to do *Worshipful Work*. One was our last meeting. It came so close to Christmas I was really in doubt of each one taking time to do what they had been asked to do. How could I have been such a doubter? Each person came with a quotation or scripture that was meaningful to them as a result of doing their work. I was profoundly blessed by the time and thought given to their choices. The other meeting which reflected each persons' dedication to his or her calling was the joint retreat of the 2011-2012 councils. We closed with the joint retreat with the Lessons From Geese below.

Lessons From Geese

Fact 1: As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier, because they are traveling the thrust of one another.

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(From page 1)

Fact 2: When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose, we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help, and give our help in return.

Fact 3: When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent on each other's skills, capabilities and unique arrangements of gifts talents or resources.

Fact 4: The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those in front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement the production is greater. The position of encouragement (to stand by one's heart or core values and encourage the heart and core values of others) is the quality we seek.

Fact 5: When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help or protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.

With much gratitude to each of you who have practiced the Lessons listed above in your support of the 2011 ministry council and encouragement to do the same in 2012.

Peace and grace,
Nancy Lamb



An Anthem for a Special Someone

Now you can honor someone with the purchase of an anthem — and all it takes is a click on a button on our calendar page.

Choral anthems usually cost between \$55 and \$70 when we buy enough copies for our choir, and instrumental accompaniment copies add another cost. Your purchase of an anthem in someone's memory or honor will be noted in the worship bulletin and on all copies of the anthem. Garrett can help you select an anthem and schedule it for a special time. This is a gift that will give for a good, long time.

So start thinking about your favorite titles or composers or styles. And go click that button.



January Worship of the Lord: We've been called

Jan. 1 Holy Name Sunday Rev. Kevin Mitchell preaches at 10:55 a.m., no Sunday School, Share Your Table food gathering

Jan. 8 First Sunday after Epiphany Celebration of Communion, Share Your Table food gathering, Rev. Cheryl Kimble preaches at 10:55 a.m.; Taize Service of prayer, meditation, song and communion at 7:30 p.m.

Jan 15 Second Sunday after Epiphany Rev. Cheryl Kimble preaches at 10:55 a.m.

Jan. 22 Third Sunday after Epiphany Rev. Cheryl Kimble preaches at 10:55 a.m.

Jan. 29 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Rev. Cheryl Kimble preaches at 10:55 a.m., Ministry Fair



January Wednesday Weavings: Where will you serve in 2012?

We're back together on Wednesday nights for our fellowship supper and programming for adults, youth and children — holidays are wonderful, but it is good to back together again. Please join us every Wednesday in January for a shared meal and emphasis on our ministries. Adult plates are \$6, children's plates and half-plates are \$4, and we'll always hold the family cost to \$18. Join us — we're saving a place for you.

Jan. 4 Ministry Meetings After our fellowship supper prepared by Team Rodney we will meet in ministry groups for the first ministry meetings of the 2012 Ministry Council.

Jan. 11 Church Conference and Ministry Council presentations We will meet in church conference after fellowship supper prepared by Team DeeDee to elect a Pulpit Committee to name a new senior pastor. In compliance with our bylaws, the Executive Committee of the church Ministry Council recommends the following to serve: Alana Mallard (from the Ministry Council at large), Leigh Hebbard (Deacon/Servant Ministry), Nancy Osgood (Fellowship/Family Life Ministry), Susan Magee (Missions Ministry), and Don Dillard (Personnel Ministry). The congregation will nominate and elect, by secret ballot, two additional members to serve on this committee, after which the congregation will vote to accept the entire group of nominees as the Pulpit Committee. Following the committee's election by the church, the Pulpit Committee will elect its own chair as one of its first orders of business.

Jan. 18 Ministry Council presentations Enjoy a meal prepared by Team Roy and then hear presentations from ministry chairs as we work towards our Jan. 29 Ministry Fair.

Jan. 25 Ministry Council presentations Team Barabara cooks tonight, and then we will hear more presentations from ministry chairs. Be praying about where you might serve in 2012.



Sights and Sounds of the Christmas Season



More Sights and Sounds of the Christmas Season



From Joe Stafford, our 2012 Ministry Council Chair

Thanks to the 2011 Church Council for showing us all a new way to be church.

Now would be a good time to let 2011 council members know that we appreciate their leadership.

One refinement from the 2011 council is renaming the Deacon Ministry as the Servant Ministry. You do not need to be ordained as a Deacon to be on the Servant/Deacon Ministry.

All of the ministries are looking for your participation. The Ministry Fair will be Jan. 29.

Many thanks to our Sunday School Classes and Usher Ministry



Our Sunday School classes have begun taking turns as Sunday worship ushers, an innovation from our faithful head usher, John Miller.

If you're looking for a Sunday School class, check the reader board by the front door or our website.

Adult classes meet on the second floor, youth and college and career meet downstairs in the Underground, and children meet in the multi-purpose room across from Sapp Hall and in the preschool area by the back door.

I just can't wait to see those little toddlers bringing in the offering plates and handing out worship bulletins.

Next what's happening next

in our student ministries

Jan. 13-15 **Disciple Now**

Feb. 10-12 **MidWinter Retreat**

Christmas Season Mission Projects at HPBC



Sisters in Service bought gifts for SafePlace kids and moms and delivered cookies to Highland Park's Open Door Ministry members; and Good News Goods' sales after worship raised money for fair trade craftspeople.



WMU morning made stockings for children at Baptist Community Center, which we all filled with goodies and toys; and our youth collected clothes, toys and gift cards for a family affected by Central Texas wildfires.

Missions Ministry sponsored an Alternative Market for Christmas giving, to donate food, medical supplies, livestock, and gardening possibilities to lift families out of poverty.





We've been called to be a
Worshipping
Learning
Practicing
Missional
Community of Faith

5206 Balcones Drive
Austin, Texas 78731
hpbcaustin.org
Phone: 512-453-6603
Fax: 512-453-2495

The Mirror
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Life of the Church

Share Your Table We'll celebrate Share Your Table on two Sundays this month: Jan. 1 and Jan. 8. Our collection of food will again benefit Micah 6 in downtown Austin, which provides food to needy people and families on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. We are grateful to Micah 6 for its service to needy people and families. In February our Share Your Table collection will benefit Leander Middle School and its weekend food program for students.

Interfaith Hospitality Network Our next time to host IHN week is Feb. 5-15. Sign up online or on the white board in the atrium and in Sapp Hall. Do take the time to tell Cathy how much you appreciate her organizing and serving in this loving ministry.

Sisters in Service Our second Monday S.I.S. women's group will meet at Sue Fowler's house on January 9 at 7 p.m.. Sue will guide us in making Braille music cards for children, and all women are invited to join us.

Ministry Fair Jan. 29 — that's a new date, so put our annual Ministry Fair on your calendars now. Think about and pray about where your gifts are needed, and you'll have an opportunity to find out more about our ministries during the month on Wednesday nights at presentations and then on Jan. 29 when all ministries will be ready to sign up new workers.

Morning WMU Our first Thursday WMU group will meet on Jan. 5 in the parlor. Join us for the first WMU meeting of the New Year. All ladies are welcome for fellowship, prayer, and learning about missionaries.

Kids Kids Kids Looking for people to get to know our preschool and nursery children. This might be just what you would like to do one Sunday every once in a while — maybe once a quarter, maybe once a month. Shifts during Sunday School and/or worship are available. Let Nancy Osgood know you'll give a hand in this important ministry.

Please join us for worship.
Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:55 a.m.
Taize Worship on Sunday, Jan. 8, at 7:30 p.m.
All are welcome