



The Messenger

A monthly publication of Lake Highlands Presbyterian Church

New Year's Musings from the Pastor

Many people have already 'fallen off the wagon' with regard to New Year's resolutions they may have made. I think this is because people go overboard. They get too excited and they set themselves up to fail by saying they are going to make huge, momentous changes in the way they live.

The gospel is a great corrective to this all-too-human tendency to try to do too much too fast, and also to the tendency to "go it alone." In the gospel of Mark we hear of the story of the Great Sower, and what happens to the seeds sown. Some seeds fall on rocky ground, some get eaten up by the birds, some seed falls among the thorns, and some lands on good soil. The Great Sower is often thought to be God. So, I would argue, if God's sowing isn't always fruitful, then why would we possibly expect our own to be? A little later in the same gospel, Mark talks about the seed growing gradually, "The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows---how, he himself does not know. The soil produces crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head." (Mark 4:26-28)

When we think about this year, perhaps one of the things we should think about first is handing our good intentions over to God. Then perhaps we should cut in half what it is we hope to see happen in our lives in 2012. We do our part to make that happen, and the rest is up to God.

I am now into my fifth year as your pastor. Each year I have had one or two "major" goals. Last year I sought training to a better leader and administrator. For 2012 I hope to better develop leaders, and to strengthen our program of Faith Development. I can do neither of these without God, and neither of them without you. I have encouraged each of our staff to set a major goal for 2012 and to let you know what it is, and to engage you to be a part of that area of growth for the life of LHPC.

May God continue to richly bless us as we seek to grow his church and to make disciples by reaching out, loving, serving, and inspiring spiritual and personal growth.

Pastor Anne

2012 Nominating Committee

LHPC is looking for two members at large to serve on the church Nominating committee for 2012. Candidates must be active members of LHPC and be willing to serve as a part of the committee which selects the slate of officers for the next term of service. Generally the Nominating Committee begins its work in June and ends by October, with meetings called only as needed. If you are willing to serve please put your name on the form and place it in the offering plate. If you want more information about what is involved, please contact Nancy Hager who will chair the committee this year.

The congregation will choose the two candidates at the **Congregational Meeting to be held, Sunday, February 12, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting has been called by the Session to hear a report of the "State of the Church" and to elect members to the nominating committee.

Pigs and Piggy Banks! Sausage and Somoles! Bacon and Bucks!

Come to the **Congregational Meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 12th!** Enjoy a great breakfast while you hear a report on the state of the church, which will include (but **not** be limited to) a discussion of finance and budget. We will also vote on two candidates to serve on the church Nominating Committee for 2012.

Fat Tuesday February 21 at 6:00 p.m.

Join us at 6:00 p.m. for an evening meal at the church, on Tuesday, February 21, Mardi Gras style, as we enter the season of preparation leading up to Easter.

Ash Wednesday Service

Lent begins early this year in comparison to last! Join us for the traditional service and the imposition of ashes on **Wednesday, February 22, at 7:00 p.m.** as we begin to observe a Holy Lent.

Faith Development Leadership at LHPC

You may have noticed that Ledainne Henley is no longer listed as Director of Faith Development on the bulletin or on our website. In late December, Ledainne let us know that after serving for six months in this volunteer position, she felt she could not continue to do so in the capacity required by the position. Ledainne will continue to teach a Sunday School class and if teachers would like for her to suggest books or studies for their class study, she would be happy to do so. This is a great example of the fact that if you sign up to do something, it doesn't have to be for life!

There continues to be a need for strong leadership in the area of Faith Development at LHPC. As there was no clear leader called forth from the current Session, in December the Session voted to permit the Pastor to work in this capacity during 2012, with an eye toward developing and nurturing new leadership for Christian Education and Faith Development.

If you have any interest in serving in the area(s) of Christian Education and Faith Development, you are strongly encouraged to contact Pastor Anne and let her know of your interest.

Calling All Bookkeepers

Do you have experience or skills in the area of bookkeeping or accounting? Our part-time Treasurer, Bob Palmer, could use some assistance. As you know, as our church has grown over the past few years, and Bob's duties have increased. We are looking for persons who are interested in providing assistance to Bob so that he can be freed up to improve and develop the LHPC accounting practices. If you have the skills and interest, we are interested in speaking with you! Your role can be as large or as small as your interest and experience dictate. Please let either Pastor Anne or Bob Palmer know of your interest.

Women's News

Women's Retreat—Register Now!

Mark your calendars to join us for the Women's Retreat (hosted by the women of First Presbyterian Church, Garland) to be held February 24-26, 2012. Contact Missy Rodgers for more information, missy@mrodders.net or 214-403-3258.

Birthday Tea Saturday, March 10, at 11:00 a.m.

Our Spring Birthday Tea will be called "A Friendship Tea" and we would like for every lady to wear a hat. You will be treated to luscious goodies and loving fellowship. Circles One and Two will host the tea. All women of LHPC, host members, friends, and visitors are welcome.

LHPW Scholarship

Lake Highlands Presbyterian Women offers a scholarship for the fifth year. This scholarship, in the amount not to exceed \$500, will again be awarded to a deserving student in our church family who has completed or will complete high school by May 2012. The student must be enrolled in a college or other institution of higher learning, must have good grades and must be in need of financial assistance.

Nomination/requests for this scholarship may be placed in the LHPW box at the church or mailed to the church, attention Joni Kern, Moderator of LHPW. The deadline for requests is March 15.

Young at ♥ will not have a meeting in February. Watch for information about the next program in the March newsletter.

Christmas Bags for TYC

Gerri McCleskey reports that 63 Christmas bags were filled with personal items for the troubled girls of the Texas Youth Commission. Many thanks to all who happily participated in this annual project of the church.

Thank You

Dear Friends,

I want to thank my LHPC friends for all the cards, calls and visits. I hope to be back at church soon.

Bless you,
Harriet Dingman

Child Protection Policy and Volunteer Training

If you volunteer with children or youth, or you would like to volunteer with Arts Camp this summer, please plan to attend a volunteer training on March 4th at 10:00 a.m. During this training, we will go over our Child Protection Policy and update our background checks and forms. If you attended last year, you do not need to attend this year. We will be updating our volunteers every two years. For more information, contact Sarah Crowder.

Crosswave Youth News from Sarah Crowder

February Schedule

Crosswave Youth Fellowship will meet at the usual time of 5:02—7:02 p.m. on Sundays, February 5th, 19th, and 26th.

Grace Presbytery Youth Event!

We are so excited to be hosting a youth worship service for all the youth of Grace Presbytery on February 12 from 5:00—7:30 p.m. This will be an awesome event with an amazing speaker, Bruce Reyes-Chow. All youth are invited to attend and invite a friend!

Youth Sponsors!

The Crosswave Youth Group is a very important and exciting ministry of LHPC. A vital part of youth ministry is having adult sponsors to help and support our group. Thank you to Clint Enderli and Tracy Turner for being so dedicated to our youth! Y'all are AWESOME! We are so excited to add Andrew Dowhaniuk as a sponsor. I'm really excited for the next year and direction of our Crosswave youth ministry.

ESPREE Performing at LHPC

Lake Highlands High School's select pop vocal performance ensemble will perform here at LHPC on Sunday, March 25th at 5:00 p.m. Bring your family and your friends to enjoy a very entertaining show by these talented students, including our own Matt Smith! No ticket purchase required.

For more information contact Patti Smith at 214-342-8339 or Peyton Strouth at 214-348-2133, Ext. 105.

Session

Recap from December 19, 2011

1. Received and approved the following items by consent:
 - December meeting docket
 - November Session Minutes and attachments
 - Reports from Congregational Care and Personnel committees
2. Leadership Discussion moderated by Pastor Cameron on "The Role of the Session."
3. Participated in a time of prayer and reflection.
4. Received and approved the following items from Stewardship and Finance:
 - November 2011 Financial Statement
 - \$400 Expenditure for participation in "Creating Cultures of Generosity" training offering by Presbytery.
 - A Christmas Eve community offering, proceeds of which will be applied to Pastors Discretionary Fund (for community needs.)
 - A transfer of \$2300 from LHPC General Revenue to replenish the CDC Scholarship Fund.
 - Staff Christmas bonuses as proposed by Stewardship and Finance and Personnel committees.
 - Held a discussion regarding fundraising within the church.
5. Approved request by Scout troop 435 to utilize a portion of the LHPC parking lot over a two day period for the purpose of storing of mulch bags until they are distributed by the scouts.
6. Received CDC report and held discussion on preliminary proposal to install video cameras in the CDC.
7. Approved future baptisms of the following children: Jason & Jacob White, Nathania Ekong, Gerald Chenyi, Jr., Ellyse Higgins
8. Approved Staff/leadership changes for 2012: Maureen Ramsay to serve as Clerk of the Session; Bob Palmer to serve as financial Secretary.

Recap from January 16, 2012

1. We held a brief service of worship, followed by devotional led by Roger Emrich.
2. Received reports from Stewardship/Finance and CDC. No action items.
3. Pastor Anne led a discussion on "Holding Spiritually Grounded Meetings."
4. Discussion of committee assignments and leadership.
5. Date for Congregational Meeting set for February 12, at 10 a.m. in order to receive reports on the State of the Church and to elect two representatives for the Nominating Committee.

LAKE HIGHLANDS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Making disciples by reaching out, loving,
caring, and inspiring spiritual and personal growth.*

LHPC Staff

Pastor — Dr. Anne M. Cameron

Parish Associate— The Rev. Phyllis Danhof Speck

Director of Worship and Music Ministry — Peyton Strouth

Associate Director of Worship and Music, Praise on High — Patti Smith

Director of Outreach and Family Ministry — Sarah Crowder

Member Ministries Coordinator — Missy Rodgers

Child Development Center Director — Ashley Beakey

Organist — Edwin Walker

Property Manager — Ladell Ritchey

Treasurer — Bob Palmer

Administrative Assistant — Lynetta Littleton

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FEBRUARY 2012

NOTE: If you no longer wish to receive *The Messenger*,
please contact Lynetta@lhpres.org or 214-348-2133, Ext. 101.

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