

ST. JOHN'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



— *The Explorer* —

Volume 4, Issue 7

Website: <http://www.stjohnslubbock.org>

April 2, 2009

HOLY WEEK 2009



**PALM
SUNDAY
APRIL 5**



**YOUTH MUSICAL
PRESENTATION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8
BROWN BAG SUPPER
6:00 P.M. IN THE
GARDEN ROOM
“THE TALE OF THE
THREE TREES”
6:30 P.M. IN THE
SANCTUARY
DIRECTED BY
COLEEN SEDBERRY**



**GOOD FRIDAY
SERVICE
7:00 p.m.
APRIL 10**



**MAUNDY THURSDAY
SERVICE AT 7:00 p.m.**



**EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 12
ALL-CHURCH BRUNCH
BEGINNING AT 9:15 a.m.**

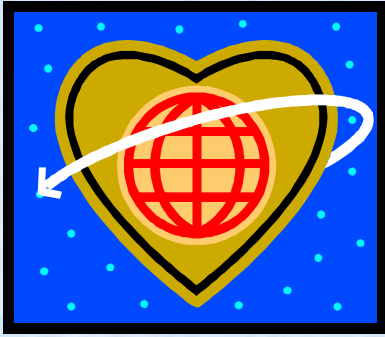
*Bring fruits, pastries or
a breakfast casserole to share.*

**EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 12**

**SUNRISE SERVICE
7:15 a.m.**

**POT-LUCK BRUNCH
9:15 a.m.**

**EASTER LATE SERVICE
10:30 a.m.**



*Open hearts,
Open arms,
Open minds*

*With open hearts, open arms and open minds,
we welcome you to St. John's United Methodist
Church and invite you to join our community
of faith, for a day, a week or a lifetime.*

**Sunday
Opportunities**

- 8:15 a.m. Holy Communion
- 9:00 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour
- 10:15 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 5:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth

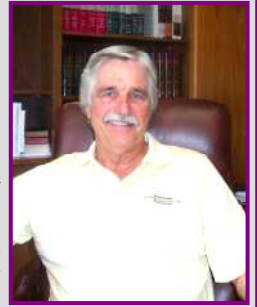
1501 University
Lubbock, TX 79401
806-762-0123
fax: 806-762-0130

Email: openminds@stjohnslubbock.org
web: www.stjohnslubbock.org

Saint John's Staff

- Senior Pastor: Archie Echols
- Associate Pastor: Daniel Echols
- Associate Pastor: Ann Akin
- Pastor Emeritus: Ted Dotts
- Dir. of Music Ministries: Kathryn Zetterstrom
- Minister of Christian Ed.: David Cameron
- Organist: Roy Wilson
- Business Manager: Dennis Howard
- Facilities Supervisor: Cedric Robins
- Childcare Director: Trisha Castillo
- Administrative Assistant/Editor: Donna Lindley

PASTOR'S NOTE



“Let this cup pass from me.” (In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground.) Luke 22:44

Every year as Holy Week and Easter approach I wrestle with this prayer from Jesus. He prayed it after sharing in the Passover Feast with his disciples. It was just a short time before he was arrested, a day before he was crucified and three days before his resurrection. It was spoken after three years of radical preaching and powerful healing. It came in the midst of thousands of people following him and hoping he would be the revolutionary leader that would free them from Roman rule.

How frustrating it must have been that everyone missed the point of his life and message. How lonely it must have been to face the cross knowing he would be betrayed and denied by his friends and followers. How genuine this plea was... “Please Father, don’t ask me to do this.”

I am reminded of how often I mumble to God, “I don’t want to do this thing.” It usually is something that is a bother or demands something of me (like writing this article regularly). Sometimes it is a real sacrifice...but not often. Sometimes it is a something hard to face, like a death or other great loss. “Please, Lord, let this cup pass from me.”

And then my heart goes out to Jesus. And I am overwhelmed with his response... “Alright, I’ll die.” And I hear Charles Wesley’s hymn:

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior’s blood?
Died he for me? who caused his pain!
For me? who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

May God help me to come to the ability to pray, “Alright,” as well.

Grace and Peace,
Archie

Join us for Easter Brunch

9:15-10:15

During the Sunday School Hour

Bring food to share in a disposable container.

Your Guests are Welcome



Address Changes Needed!

If you have changed your e-mail address, cell phone or home phone number or have moved, please contact the church office at 762-0123 or openminds@stjohnslubbock.org

Children's Sunday School Opportunities this Sunday



This Sunday, April 5th, the Children's classes will combine for a Mission Study about Native Americans, the 2008--2009 mission study for children, published by the General Board of Global Ministries. We will be giving the children a taste of the larger study our St. John's Women have enjoyed recently.

During the Sunday School session we will be taking an offering for The United Methodist Children's Fund for Christian Mission for projects particularly aimed at children's needs. Please help your children earn some nickles and dimes for this April 5th offering if your family wishes to participate in this Mission.



***Following Sunday School, children will meet in the Garden Room to prepare for the traditional Palm Sunday processional.**



The Worship Committee is selling Easter Lilies for St. John's sanctuary for Easter Sunday.

The lilies cost \$15.00 for one plant or \$25.00 for two plants. (Proceeds benefit the Worship Committee to purchase materials for new Chrismos.)

The last day to order Easter Lilies is Sunday, April 5. Easter Lilies will be available to take home following the Easter Sunday services.

If you have any questions about your order, please call the church office at 762-0123.

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

How many Easter Lilies? _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Please return this form to the church office with your payment.



**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT
FRIDAY, APRIL 17 AND
SATURDAY, APRIL 18
CETA CANYON**

**Speaker: Tina Cross, Pastor
Registration - 3:30 p.m.**

Meal - 5:00 p.m.

First Session - 6:00 p.m.

Cost - \$75.00

Saturday Only - \$28.00

Register by April 10

Mail to: Judy Nelson

130 Nelson Rd.

Spearman, TX 79081

God does not see as human beings see; they look at appearances but Yahweh looks at the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7

Secularity is a way of being dependent on the responses of our milieu. The secular or false self is the self which is fabricated, as Thomas Merton says, by social compulsions. "Compulsive" is indeed the best adjective for the false self. It points to the need for ongoing and increasing affirmation. Who am I? I am the one who is liked, praised, admired, disliked, hated, or despised. The compulsion manifests itself in the lurking fear of failing and the steady urge to prevent this by gathering more of the same -- more work, more money, more friends.

It is not so strange that Anthony and his fellow monks considered it a spiritual disaster to accept passively the tenets and values of their society. They had come to appreciate how hard it is not only for the individual Christian but also for the church itself to escape the seductive compulsions of the world. What was their response? They escaped from the sinking ship and swam for their lives. And the place of salvation is called desert, the place of solitude. Solitude is the furnace of transformation. Without solitude we remain victims of our society and continue to be entangled in the illusions of the false self. Jesus himself entered into this furnace. There he was tempted with the three compulsions of the world: to be relevant ("turn stones into loaves"), to be spectacular ("throw yourself down"), and to be powerful ("I will give you all these kingdoms"). There he affirmed God as the only source of his identity ("You must worship the Lord your God and serve him alone"). Solitude is the place of the great struggle and the great encounter -- the struggle against the compulsions of the false self, and the encounter with the loving God who offers himself as the substance of the new self.

Our heart is at the center of our being human. There our deepest thoughts, intuitions, emotions, and decisions find their source. But it's also there that we are often most alienated from ourselves. We know little or nothing of our own heart. We keep our distance, as though we were afraid of it. What is most intimate is also what frightens us most. Where we are most ourselves, we are often strangers to ourselves. That is the painful part of our being human. We fail to know our hidden centers; and so we live and die often without knowing who we really are. If we ask ourselves why we think, feel, and act in such or such a way, we often have no answer, thus proving to be strangers in our own house. The mystery of the spiritual life is that Jesus desires to meet us in the seclusion of our own heart, to make his love known to us there, to free us from our fears and to make our own deepest self known to us. In the privacy of our heart, therefore, we can learn not only to know Jesus but, through Jesus, ourselves as well.

Prayer: Almighty God, your eternal word is the true light that enlightens every human being. Heal the blindness of our hearts, that we may discern what is right and love you sincerely.

THE SCAPEGOAT

What needs to be sacrificed in order for me to forgive?

What has happened in human history is this. We have always needed to find a way to deal with human anxiety and evil by some means—and it was invariably some “technology” other than forgiveness.

We usually dealt with human anxiety and evil by sacrificial systems, and that has largely continued to this day.

Historically, we at least moved from human sacrifice to animal sacrifice, to various modes of seeming self-sacrifice. Unfortunately it was not usually the ego self that we sacrificed, but most often the body self as its vicarious substitute. In forgiveness, it is precisely my ego self that has to die, my need to be right, to be in control, to be superior. Very few want to go there, but that is exactly what Jesus emphasized and taught. I am told that forgiveness is at least implied in two-thirds of his teaching!

Jesus, help me absorb and transform evil.

from [Things Hidden](#): Scripture as Spirituality

You're invited to

The Tale of the Three Trees

Musical by Allen Pote

Presented by some of the
St. John's Youth

Wednesday of Holy Week,
April 8

6:00 p.m. Bring your own brown bag supper
Church to provide drinks & dessert
Garden Room

6:30 p.m. Musical Presentation
Sanctuary

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN APRIL

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Sunday, April 5 | Mark 11:1-11, Isaiah 50:4-9a, Philippians 2:5-11, Psalm 118:1-2 |
| Sunday, April 12 | Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, I Corinthians 15:1-11, John 20:1-18 |
| Sunday, April 19 | Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, I John 1:1-2:2, John 20:19-31 |
| Sunday, April 26 | Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, I John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48 |





Proclaiming Love

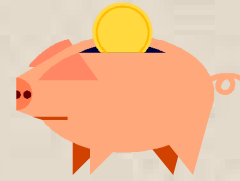
by Donald Spoto

Conversion is a response to God, who invites us to a state of complete freedom, away from everything that is hostile to God's goodness and mercy. The call one hears is not primarily or simply an encouragement to amend one's life or to follow a particular religious path. The call Jesus extended to his disciples was a summons to acknowledge God's unconditional love of us as individuals and it was an invitation to proclaim that love to the world by acts of caring, forgiveness and compassion for others, by refusing to demand one's prerogatives at the expense of others and by rejecting vengeance and reprisal. The New Testament summarizes the entire mission and message of Jesus in one calm phrase that is deeply moving in its secular simplicity:

"He went about doing good."

Reluctant Saint: The Life of Francis of Assisi

Just a Quick Note From Dennis Howard's Office



We closed 2008 with a very small surplus in the checking account, all bills paid and our apportionments paid 100% for the year. My thanks to the Finance Committee for their work and effort at the end of the year. Without their conscientious diligence we would not have been able to manage our funds as well as we did.

We have started the New Year with high expectations and hopes. The new Finance Committee labored to create a budget for 2009 that will allow us to maintain all of our current ministries and projects. However, this is a budget built on faith; faith in each of you that when asked you will prayerfully consider the requests, and when needed, you will honestly consider how you can help. It is a budget predicated on discipleship, stewardship and a belief that in Christ we can join together to continue our ministry in this community.

As many of you know, the weather in the sanctuary has been rather unsettled in the past few weeks. This has several causes, not the least of which is the rapid fluctuations that we have in daily temperatures this time of year. Add to this the wide variations in temperatures from one day to the next and it is hard to judge just how to set the system in the sanctuary.

Unfortunately, the heating and cooling system that we have does not allow us to make a quick switch from heating to cooling and vice versa. The system has to be manually changed from one to the other and requires down time between the transitions to prevent damage to the system. This makes it almost impossible to cope with extremes when we have 90 degree days one day and a freezing snow the next.

In addition to these built-in problems, the main pump that circulates the hot and cold water throughout the building to provide heating and cooling failed last week and had to be removed to be rebuilt. This means that for the present we have no heating nor cooling in the sanctuary and much of the main building. Please bear with us as we deal with these problems.

AROUND THE CONGREGATION

BRIAN SHANNON Named to Commission: As reported recently in *The Avalanche Journal*, Gov. Rick Perry has reappointed Brian Shannon to the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities. Brian is the Charles "Tex" Thornton Professor of Law at the Texas Tech School of Law. He is president of the Lubbock County Bar Association and an elected member of the American Law Institute. He is a member of the American Bar Association, Lubbock Regional Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center Board of Directors and Lubbock Dispute Resolution Center Advisory Board. The committee works to ensure that Texans with disabilities have full and equal access to live of independence, production and self determination. Congratulations, Brian!

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW GRANDPARENTS, LARRY AND ELAINE HOWARD: Tracy and Sara Bell had a baby boy, Kendall Eugene Bell, on Thursday, March 19, 2009. Kendall weighed 8 lbs. and 8 oz. Congratulations to all!

A BIG THANK YOU TO GOLDEN K KIWANIS! Thank you Golden K Kiwanis for donating 153 items for the St. John's food pantry! And to **Walter Mitchell** for delivering them.

Another donation of 2,640 items was given for our food pantry last week after the Kiwanis Chili Festival by other members of Kiwanis! We appreciate all your continued support of our pantry!

In the News: As reported March 29, in *The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, Heather McPhaul, daughter of **Jack and Marilyn McPhaul**, has written her first novel, "Raggedy Ann Heart". The story is about a 12-year-old who desperately seeks her mother's love and approval. Heather, a Texas Tech graduate, now lives in California where she has appeared in several TV series, *Boston Legal*, *Will and Grace*, *The Shield*, and *Malcolm in the Middle*.

IN THE NEWS: The #1 "Lubbock Centennial, 1909 - 2009 Most Influential Award", presented by *The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, went to George H. Mahon. Mahon was **Melba Rickman's** uncle. As reported in *The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* Sunday, March 29, Mahon's persistence and willingness to walk through doors as they opened led him to a 44-year career in Congress and recognition as one of the most important and respected officeholders in Washington. In the 19th District, his legacies include the development of farm programs beneficial to area agriculture, the founding of Reese AFB in Lubbock and Webb AFB in Big Spring, leadership in the development of Interstate 27 and disaster relief during droughts and tornadoes. A school, library, and federal building in Lubbock carry Mahon's name. Others affiliated with St. John's on *The Lubbock-Avalanche Journal's* City's 100 Most Influential list include: Preston Smith, W.B. "Dub" Rushing, Larry Combest, Elmer Tarbox, and W. Curry Holden.

Church Calendar

Sunday, April 5, 2009

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

- 8:15 a.m. Communion Service
- 9:15 a.m. Lenten Study (Room 215)
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Hour
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. ETC University Lunch
- 5:30 p.m. Jr. High and Sr. High Youth

Monday, April 6, 2009

- 5:30 p.m. Nurture and Care Committee
- 6:30 p.m. Disciple I Bible Study
- 7:30 p.m. Scouts

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

- 8:45 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:30 p.m. Tuesday Food Vouchers
- 5:30 p.m. Special Legal Clinic

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

- 7:00 a.m. Lenten Communion Service
- 9:30 a.m. UMW General Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. NO Disciple III Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. Theology Group
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Musical Brown-Bag
- 6:30 p.m. **YOUTH MUSICAL PERFORMANCE**

- 6:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 9, 2009

- 9:30 a.m. Quilters & Knitters
- 7:00 p.m. District Boy Scouts
- 7:00 p.m. **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE**

Friday, April 10, 2009

- 7:00 p.m. **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**

Sunday, April 12, 2009

EASTER SUNDAY

- 7:15 a.m. **SUNRISE SERVICE**
- 9:15 a.m. **ALL-CHURCH BRUNCH**
- 10:30 a.m. **EASTER LATE SERVICE**
- 12:00 p.m. ETC University Lunch
- 5:30 p.m. NO Junior High Youth
- 5:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Egg Hunt

Monday, April 13, 2009

- OFFICE CLOSED FOR EASTER HOLIDAY**
- 6:30 p.m. NO Disciple I Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. LUNA
- 7:30 p.m. Scouts

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

- 8:45 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 12:00 Noon Trustees Meeting
- 1:30 p.m. Tuesday Food Vouchers
- 5:30 p.m. Legal Clinic

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

- 5:00 p.m. Disciple III Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. Theology Group
- 6:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 16, 2009

- 9:30 a.m. Quilters & Knitters
- 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee

The mission of St. John's United Methodist Church is to worship and serve God with open hearts, open arms, and open minds. To respond to this calling, we will nurture each other in the Christian faith, we will work so that all people can experience God's love, and we will examine critically and respond prayerfully to the difficult issues that face us.

St. John's United Methodist Church
Mission Statement

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

St. John's United Methodist Church
 1501 University Ave.
 Lubbock, TX 79401
 (806) 762-0123

THE EXPLORER

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United Methodist Women

General Meeting and Luncheon
Wednesday, April 8

9:30 a.m. in the Garden Room
Program Study: "I Believe In Jesus"
Mary Vines, Jane Haynes, and
Deborah Bratcher, Leaders

Dora Harris Circle
Wednesday, April 22

9:30 a.m. in the Garden Room
Program Study Continued: "I Believe in Jesus"
Mary Vines, Jane Haynes, and
Deborah Bratcher, Leaders

Dorothy Manning Circle
Thursday, April 23

6:30 p.m. at Applebee's on 4th & Milwaukee

YOUTH

This Sunday, April 5 . . .



5:30 p.m.. - Youth meal
6:00 p.m. - Both Senior & Junior High
 Youth will meet together for a Holy Week/
 Easter Study, facilitated by Daniel Echols.
 Bring 12 candy-filled plastic eggs to Sally

Kennedy for the egg hunt the following week.
 More information next week.

Easter Sunday, April 12 . . .

Junior Highs will **not** have any Sunday evening youth activities.

Senior Highs will have an Easter Egg Hunt at Charles Guy Park Pavilion, 88th and Nashville. Prizes will be given for most creative Easter Baskets, so bring a decorated basket for the eggs you will find!

