Annual Christmas Concert

The Chancel Choir and Southeast Symphony, under the always masterful direction of our own Chuck Dickerson, will be presenting their Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 18th. This year’s concert will feature the glorious – and challenging – Magnificat by J.S. Bach. Following the Magnificat, the Christmas Story will be sung in a narrated and rarely performed presentation of the cantata Night of Miracles by the well known mid-century American composer, John W. Peterson. You may recall the anxiety that was felt last year by many as they waited in line, wondering if there would be a seat available for this popular event. To relieve that anxiety and to assure everyone attending comfortable seating, we are selling tickets with numbered seating - a first for RHUMC. You may call Maureen in the church office to reserve your seats or you may see Jan and Steve Johnson on the patio between and after services this Sunday and next - or until we are sold out - to view the seating chart and purchase your tickets. Sanctuary seating is priced at $20. A limited amount of Narthex seating is available for $10.

Time to Deck the Halls

We are decorating the sanctuary on Saturday, Dec. 4th from 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. We are decorating with the poinsettias on FRIDAY, Dec. 17th, at 9:30 a.m. Your help is welcomed and appreciated! And it’s fun – honest!

from the pastor

One of my favorite passages from scripture comes up during Advent. It’s from the prophet Isaiah, and it describes a scene of hope and peace among the creatures of the earth. It was written during the time of the exile – a time when hope had been crushed, and peace was a distant memory. Things looked bad for the people of Israel. They were far from home, oppressed by their captors. They had lost everything they had worked to build in the land God had given them. The temple was in ruins, and other people had moved in to fill the void. Things were grim.

Isaiah’s words are remarkable both because they are so hopeful, but also because they acknowledge how bad things look at the time he writes. “A shoot shall come forth from the stump of Jesse.” Jesse was the father of David, the most beloved of Israel’s kings. Isaiah was saying that as dead and hopeless as things seemed (that’s the stump), that there was still life waiting to grow forth from what had been destroyed.

My great-grandfather was Jesse Chute. He was a Canadian Baptist minister and missionary to India more than a century ago. So when I hear the words “a shoot shall come forth from the stump of Jesse,” I feel a close personal kinship with the verse. To me it sounds like “a Chute shall come forth from the stump of Jesse.” I know it’s a stretch. But I still like the sound of it.

The passage goes on to describe a world in which all creatures shall live together in harmony. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard lie down with the baby goat, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. It’s like that, Isaiah says. The world that is to come is so different from the world that is with us now. The vision is grandiose. It is almost unimaginable.

Yet sometimes we catch a glimpse. We see something that isn’t the full picture, but which gives us reason to believe that something so ridiculous might really be possible. I caught such a glimpse in a video you can see yourself on Youtube (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2D6aAKW-iE4). It shows a dog who lives on an island off the coast of Ireland, who goes out into the harbor nearly every day to swim with his friend, a dolphin. The two play together for a
time, and then the dolphin goes back out to sea, and the dog comes back in to shore. It might not be exactly the scene Isaiah pictured, but it’s remarkable all the same.

It makes you think, if a dog and a dolphin can get along, maybe there’s hope for the rest of us! Maybe the human family can learn to get along too – maybe even MY family! If you want to see the video, enter “dog” and “dolphin” in the Youtube search window. It might not get you in the mood for Christmas, but if you want to see a preview of God’s future, check it out!

Grace and peace.

Jonathan

---

**Christmas Eve Services**

**Friday, December 24th**

4:00 p.m.  **Children’s Nativity Play**  
8:00 p.m.  **Lessons & Carols, 3rd Service Ensemble**  
11:00 p.m. **Candlelight, Carols, Communion**  
with Chancel Choir

---

**KIDS CHRISTMAS CAFE**

Come and enjoy a day of holiday delights in our Christmas Café. Build traditional ornaments in Santa’s Workshop. And decorate cookies at the Gingerbread Jamboree. Kids of all ages are invited.

December 8th from 3:30-5:00pm  
Wesley Hall—$5 donations are welcomed

All ages welcome—parents please accompany children under 5yrs.
Children’s Ministries

Christmas Eve Children’s Play... Kids Needed!
The children will participate in the 4 pm Christmas Eve Service. They can be part of the Nativity scene, liturgists, and/or bell ringers. Parts are open for 3 year-olds through 5th grade. Junior High students will be lighting the Advent candles. **There will be one rehearsal** on Saturday, December 18th, from 9:00 to 11:30 AM for kids up to 5th grade, and 11:30 to 12:00 PM for Junior High. A snack will be provided. **No RSVP is necessary, just come and participate!**

Children’s Christmas Eve Rehearsal... Helpers Needed!
**WE NEED EXTRA ADULT/TEEN HELP** at the rehearsal Saturday, December 18th, 9-11:30 AM. We are looking for 10 people to help as assistants with crowd control, costuming, staging, line reading and snack preparation. If you are an adult or high schooler interested in helping, please contact Lisa Lehman as soon as is convenient (310-377-6771 or lisa@rhumc.org).

Enjoy Chimes & Christmas Carols During Sunday School
All during the weeks of Advent, the children will be learning Christmas Carols at their Kids Own Worship time in Sunday School. The Preschoolers, 1st & 2nd graders will be singing in the Mission room and also enjoying Theo & Friends puppet shows. The 2nd–5th graders will be practicing chimes with Stevie Lorentzen in Wesley Hall. This is in preparation for our Christmas Eve Children’s service, but your child does not have to be a participant of that to enjoy singing and chimes during Sunday School in December. **Oh, come let us adore Him!**

Lisa Lehman, Director of Children’s Ministries (lisa@rhumc.org)

Club Maintenance
Accomplishments by Club Maintenance included moving a Pre-School bulletin board, relocating old and installing new parking lot signs, replacing burned out light bulbs, applying waterproofing to the external surfaces of the cross tower and preparing and painting most of the lower Narthex walls. Those helping to accomplish the above included Bill Bails, Gene Koester, Dave Larson, Oren Sheldon, Jim Showalter and Richard Yasuda. Dave Satchwell rejoined the group after some time away. Welcome back Dave. The next work party will be a week early, on Saturday, December 4. Please help to make all in good order as the Christmas season approaches.

Basketball Update
The basketball schedule for December is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 6, 6-8 pm</td>
<td>Dec. 9, 6-8 pm</td>
<td>Dec. 16, 6-8 pm</td>
<td>Dec. 23, 6-8 pm</td>
<td>Dec. 25, TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you would like to be sent reminders/updates regarding our schedule via email, please forward your email address to John Kwan at john@rhumc.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Family Ministries
On Sunday, December 19, the Family Ministries Committee is sponsoring an ornament display between the morning services. You are invited to bring your favorite Christmas ornament to share. We will display them in Wesley Hall. It would be helpful if you would bring a 3 x 5 card as well, with a description of your ornament and why it is your favorite. You are also welcome to be with your ornament between services, to answer questions or explain more about it. Bringing the ornament in some sort of box or display case would also be helpful, as we don’t want any of them to roll off of tables! Everyone will be invited to come to Wesley Hall between services for some Christmas treats, and to see the ornaments. If you have an ornament to share, please come to the Family Ministries table on any of the Sundays before December 19, or email us at familyministries@rhumc.org so that we will know how many tables to set up.

Our newest parenting class, **Keep It Positive**, was quite well received. Two of the facilitators, Juda Carter MA, and Esther Chun JD, along with the Rev Craig Brown, have written a book by the same name, which is now available from
Amazon. We will have a copy in the family ministries library shortly. The authors will be appearing on Lifetime Television’s morning show “The Balancing Act” sometime during the first quarter of 2011. We look forward to having them back, along with their third presenter, Julie Major, in the near future.

50 Years Ago ….. Lest we forget…

Sue Nicks asks us to join her in honoring and remembering the six families who pledged to start a new Methodist church in Rolling Hills Estates on September 18, 1960: Don and Mother Drew; John and Sue Nicks; John and Lorraine Greathead; Charles and Olga Whitely; William and Letha Porter; Dr. Stanley and Mabel McKee.

We are grateful to all of those who started the church. It’s been a long and fruitful journey.

Attention All Children!!!

Be a part of the
4 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

All children (ages 3 years to 8th grade) are invited to participate in the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service! The children will sing, read Bible verses, ring bells, light the Advent wreath, and re-enact the Nativity.

This will be a special and meaningful service, with only ONE PRACTICE at:

Saturday, December 18th
9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (3 years to 5th Grade)
11:30 am to 12 noon (Junior High)
Snack is included!

If your child would like to participate, please contact:

Lisa Lehman
310-377-6771 or lisa@rhumc.org
Thank you to Concert Committee

On Friday, November 5, we were treated to an outstanding performance by violinist, Chan Ho Yun, and pianist, Althea Waites. The music was beautiful and truly a gift to the audience who gave the performers a standing ovation! Althea is passionate about her music and we are fortunate to have her share her talent with us.

Thanks to the concert committee Jan Bunker, Suellen Fung, Doug Kemps, Joan Moe, Jo Sheldon, Phyllis Sherwood, Margaret and Wayne Stark for their continued efforts. We appreciate the cooperation of Maureen Banasky for printing and answering phone inquiries and Gordon Goldberg for creating the flyer and program. This is truly a team of committed members.

Save the date, FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2011, to hear Brenna Whitaker and quartet presenting a jazz concert and FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2011 to enjoy the American Songbook with Karen Benjamin, soprano, Charles Lane, tenor, Victoria Kirsch, piano, and Alan Chapman, double bass and narrator. Our eclectic programming gives everyone an opportunity to listen to a variety of musical offerings.

Gratefully,
Shirley Farley, Concert Chair

Hannah Chute Harp Recital
December 29th 7:30 p.m.

On Wednesday evening, December 29th, Hannah Chute will be presenting a program of pieces for harp. Hannah is a first year student at Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. She has presented music in our sanctuary previously and is looking forward to sharing her growth as a musician. The recital is free and all are welcome.

NEW VISITING MINISTRY

Want to share some sunshine with someone who is home bound or is being challenged with health concerns? How to do this? Becoming a friend who can share Christian fellowship during a home visit, assisting with transportation needs or sharing a meal are some of many possibilities that can be explored.

Diane Rehfield and Marian Komori will be sharing some information that will be helpful for those interested in pursuing this new ministry of visiting. A meeting will be held on Monday, January 10 at 11 a.m. in the Church Office. For those who are interested please contact Marian at the church phone, 310 377-6771 or email marian@rhume.org.

Compliments to the Chef – and the Entire Team!

There is an ancient African saying that "it takes a village to raise a child"......today we might say it takes a wonderful group of church members and friends to make the annual Thanksgiving Dinner come together so well in so many ways.

Special recognition needs to go to Suellen and Clarence Fung, who put in many hours organizing the menus, buying the groceries, trying out the recipes, and overseeing all the details to make this once-a-year event a great success! Suellen pulled together a great bunch of cooks and the dinner was the best ever! Among those who toiled away in the kitchen were Sam & Carolyn Melvin, their daughter, Sharon Houts; Curt Wuestenhagen; Shirley Farley, Shirley Fehrman, Ann Ellerman, Frances Grosso, Steve McCall, Mark Raggio, Ruth Fuller, Marian Komori, Shirley Bails, Clarence Fung, Brendon Fung, Budi
Soehardi, Kyrie Sankaran, Annette Jaquette, Tom Coleman, Kathy Nesheim, Frances Dingman, and I am sure there were others I can't remember, but appreciate all the same.

Another round of cheers go to Doug Kendle, assisted by Mike Lewis, Wes Thompson, and Diana Davis, for the great job cooking the twelve turkeys in the Weber kettles. It's an all-day job preparing the turkeys and overseeing them roasting during the afternoon. They are a good group of "turkey" gourmets!

Doug Kemps had a great team setting up Wesley Hall with twenty-nine tables seating 252 people Gene &Patty Koester, Jim Showalter and Bill Bails assembled the cross covered with the corn stalks and fall floral arrangement with the fabric display behind it. It really sets the theme for the evening along with the cornocopia arrangement at the bottom of the cross arranged by Doug Kemps and Jenni Todd. The crew included Sally Whitney, Mike Todd, Dianne Randall, Bob Baliff (who brought a big box of doughnuts to keep us all going!). We want to salute Mike Todd for serving as master of ceremonies. We thank Chuck Dickerson for overseeing the program, which featured Brass Pacifica led by our fellow member, Jason Foltz. They played beautiful brass music ranging from Aaron Copeland to Johannes Brahms and ending with a gorgeous rendition of "Amazing Grace."

The annual Thanksgiving Dinner is always a time of good food and fellowship with the added bonus of raising approximately $2500 to help our young people participate in the Sierra Service Project coming up next summer. A great evening for a good cause! If you missed it this year, mark your calendars for Saturday, November 19, 2011!

Welcome to the new members listed below. Their photos will be posted this week so please introduce yourselves and please update your Directories.

Kathy & Craig Lomino
P.O. Box 10093
TOR 90505
310-373-5633
craiglomino@cox.net
Kathy & Craig Lomino
P.O. Box 10093
TOR 90505
310-373-5633
craiglomino@cox.net

Jackie & Paul Csengeri
Jaden, Jace
5624 Calle de Arboles
TOR 90505
310-378-7844
csengeri88@yahoo.com

Shannon Presley & Greg Swartz
Emma, Eve
6788 Kings Harbor Dr.
RPV 90275
310-377-4020
shannonpresley@virco.com

Jeannine Black
109 Via Ardilla
PVE 90274
310-283-3096
sweed53@gmail.com

Terry Hunt & Peter Heinsimer
Mary Lou & Gil Hamblet
1705 Chelsea Road
PVE 90274
424-206-2640
greenworks02@aol.com

A.J. & Kirsten Poulin
24 Buckskin Lane
RHE 90274
310-891-2346
blodrnr@pacbell.net

Jackie Bhojak
2550 PCH, #249
TOR, 90505
310-257-8177
vmb27@yahoo.com

Adrienne Presley
901 Deep Valley Dr., #115
RHE 90274
310-377-4750
adriennepresley@usa.net

csengeri88@yahoo.com

Shannon Presley & Greg Swartz
Emma, Eve
6788 Kings Harbor Dr.
RPV 90275
310-377-4020
shannonpresley@virco.com

Jeannine Black
109 Via Ardilla
PVE 90274
310-283-3096
sweed53@gmail.com

Terry Hunt & Peter Heinsimer
Mary Lou & Gil Hamblet
1705 Chelsea Road
PVE 90274
424-206-2640
greenworks02@aol.com

A.J. & Kirsten Poulin
24 Buckskin Lane
RHE 90274
310-891-2346
blodrnr@pacbell.net
Winter Wonderland @ Kid/Mid Zone

What’s better than a fort made of sheets... a room made of snow!
Discover the magic of A Winter Wonderland at Kid Zone and Mid Zone this Holiday Break.

What will we do...?

**Elementary Age**--Experience the joys of the season through such spectacular classes as science, games, crafts and cooking. Uncover the truth about why your tongue sticks to the snowball... Sample tasty dishes from granny’s table to that of kings... Engineer a perfect defense in a game of Gift Wrap Relay... and fashion Santa’s head (or maybe just his house) out of ginger bread. What fun!

**Middle School**--The holiday is crazy fun at Mid Zone. Just check out the zany schedule**:

- **Monday**--Ice skating in Pershing Square with a classic rock cover band.
- **Tuesday**--Santa’s Workshop; travel to a secret workshop where you will be treated like Santa’s elves as you design unique projects and gifts to deliver to family and friends
- **Wednesday**--TRON at the El Capitan Theatre with lunch at McDonald’s and a live laser light show.
- **Thursday**... Day of Traditions--Celebrate your family’s traditions and those of your friends/staff through recipes and crafts. Plus, give back in our annual service project.

**Remember to bring a sack lunch.

Prices and how to sign-up...

**Elementary** 9:00AM to 4:00 PM--$155 (4 day)
Elementary daily rate--$50/day
**Early care 7:30AM to 9AM--$6/day
**Late care 4:00PM to 6:00PM--$8/day

**Middle School** 9:00AM to 4:00 PM--$210 (4 day)
Middle School daily rate--$75/day
**Early care 7:30AM to 9AM--$6/day
**Late care 4:00PM to 6:00PM--$8/day
**Early and late care waived for school-year students

So, if you’re wondering how to get all that last-minute holiday shopping done, join us at Kid Zone Winter Wonderland. RSVP soon; spots will fill-up quickly. Contact the office at 310-377-7302 with questions.
POINSETTIA ORDERS

Poinsettias will be used to decorate the Chancel for our Christmas Worship Services. You may place your order “In Honor of…”, or “In Memory of…” a loved one, or “To the Glory of God”.

THE LAST DAY TO ORDER PLANTS IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

After the last Christmas Eve Service, you may pick up the plants you ordered. Those left will either be planted on the church grounds or delivered to home-bound people by a group from the church.

Will take plant____
Will donate to the home-bound or the Church____

In Honor of________________________________________
In Memory of________________________________________
To the Glory of God_________________________________
Given by___________________________________________
Check #_______ Amount______________________________
Cash_______ Amount_______________________________

Please make your checks payable to RHUMC in the amount of $12.50 per plant. If you wish to place an order, fill out this form and give it with your check to the person staffing the table on the patio Sunday mornings on Nov. 28, Dec. 5 and Dec. 12. Please do not put in the offering plate. Or mail it to the church office with your check. If you have questions you may call the church office at 310.377.6771.

SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS
8:30 & 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Monday -Thursday 9 – 4:30
Friday 9 – 3

www.rhumc.org