

HERALD



Join us online or in person this weekend for the Christmas Worship Experience! We hope to see you soon.

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Grief, Loss and Seeing the Face of God

By Rev. Kyle Roberson – Pastor of Care & Support

“The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen.”
- Dr. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross

This Advent season, I am reflecting on a person who does not get much attention, but I believe she needs some because what little we know

GRIEF cont'd on page 3



CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

It's officially the 'most wonderful time of the year'! The Christmas Festival kicked off holiday festivities at the church. (more pics on p. 3)

This Weekend

“There is a King” is pronouncement of Christmas Worship Experience



The White's Chapel Christmas Worship Experience is perhaps one of the most beloved traditions in our calendar year. The 2023 service, “There is a King” is offered three times this weekend: Saturday evening at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday morning at 9 and 11 a.m. Our traditional brunch will also be available in Evans Hall from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Come immerse yourself in worship in this year's Christmas Worship Experience, “There Is A King.” From the tech team to the dancers and musicians, hundreds of members and non-members alike have come together to create a service that ushers in this season promise, promise of a King.

“There Is A King” offers many opportunities to join us in worship,” said Lauren Luke, CWE Producer. “Whether it's singing along to your favorite carol or dancing in your seat as Ken Nelson closes out the service, we invite you to join us to remember who this season is truly about.”

This is the first year Luke has filled the role of producer, and her musical gifts and knowledge are evident throughout the service.

“It has been such a pleasure to step into this new role for CWE this year, and I pray that God's love pours out from the very first note, to the last,” she said.

CWE cont'd on page 3



Sound of Seasons Revisits Holiday Tradition

Each Christmas, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra (FWSO) partners with The APEX Arts League for the highly anticipated annual Sounds of the Season holiday concert. And each year, this enchanting event takes place at White's Chapel.

The Sounds of the Season concert has become a beloved Southlake family tradition, captivating audiences with a delightful blend of holiday classics. Attendees can expect to delight in the magical world of the Nutcracker, experience the joy of Sleigh Ride, and participate in a heartwarming ‘Holly Jolly’ sing-along, among other festive musical selections.

Mark your calendars Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. for an unforgettable evening filled with the enchanting sounds of the holidays.

SOUNDS cont'd on page 2



Carols, Cookies & Cocoa

*Perfect for “Kids From
One to Ninety-Two”*

It's one of everyone's favorite services during this time of year. Carols, Cookies and Cocoa is a family-friendly event that is great for kids and those kid at heart. If you like to sing Christmas carols, you won't want to miss this nostalgic return to simpler times. Families and friends will join together in the sanctuary on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. to enjoy the heartwarming holiday sing-along. This year, there will be a special Christmas Story Time during the service, where children will be encouraged to come to the front as leaders read a Christmas story. Refreshments and goodies will be offered to those in attendance. People of all ages are welcome.

CAROLS cont'd on page 2



Christmas Eve at White's Chapel

Because Christmas Eve falls on Sunday this year, there are a few changes in our normal Christmas Eve schedule.

One major change is the service specifically dedicated to WC Kids will now be on Saturday, Dec. 23 at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Sunday, Christmas Eve will offer six worship services. The Christmas Contemporary

Service will be at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Services at 11 a.m., 2, 3:30 and 5 p.m. will feature the full choir and orchestra in the sanctuary. Finally, the 11 p.m. service will be one of Liturgical worship. All the services will end in a candlelight homage to the baby Jesus.

Invite your friends, neighbors and family members to this wonderful tradition of worship, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

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Health and Wellness Update
Event Pictures and Highlights



WC Kids Christmas Service
Saturday, Dec. 23 | See Page 4



Beginning. Advent.

“For outlandish creatures like us, Bethlehem is not the end of our journey but only the beginning – not home, but the place through which we must pass if ever we are to reach home at last.” – Frederick Buechner

By Dr. Todd Renner

We all know that this time of year – when we sing of peace on earth and good will towards all – can be the most hectic and frustrating of all. The lines. The lists. The commotion. The obligations. The expectations. Like the infamous inn of ancient Bethlehem, we seem to live lives with little (or no) vacancy; so it's easy to get overwhelmed, to find ourselves searching for that certain “something” that can't be found in any store or bought for any price.

That is the beauty of Advent. In these days leading up to the angels' song that Christ is born, we are invited to find a calm amidst the chaos and a stillness amid the swirling schedule of December. In short, these days invite us to wonder (even as we wander). Sure, it takes a little while to decompress, and no one gets it right (whatever “right” looks like) all the time; but Advent gives us four weeks of preparation and practice, four weeks to make room in our lives for the good news that a Savior has been born unto us! It's four weeks of stumbling towards the Light, a sacred invitation to journey as the light and life of nature all around grows steadily dimmer – recognizing

that, the deeper the darkness grows, the brighter the Light shines.

It's no wonder that one of the most beloved hymns of this season is “Silent Night”...but there's an anxious story even there: one I'm sure we've all heard... but maybe need to re-hear. It starts way back in 1816, when an Austrian pastor named Joseph Mohr wrote the simple words as a poem. Two years later on Christmas Eve, the organ in Pastor Mohr's church broke just before the Christmas Mass. Determined that the Mass should not be without music, Mohr gave the poem he had written two years earlier to his organist and friend, Franz Gruber who immediately composed the melody and arranged it for two voices: choir and guitar – just in time for the midnight service.

Bask in this simple truth: some of the most beautiful and profound gifts of this season come as the results of mistakes, of plans gone awry. These unexpected presents come wrapped not in brightly colored paper but in the people that rally around us, those who love us regardless, those who come into our chaos to remind us of the truly simple message of Christmas: that we are not alone, that hope is not dead, and that God's love continues to be born in us!



Carols

Cont'd from page 1

New for this year's event, a Christmas craft will be offered before the service for those who want to come early. Join

WC Kids in The Foundry at 5:30 p.m. to participate. Registration is not required.

There's something for everyone to enjoy, so invite a neighbor and bring the whole family for this fun Christmas celebration! Remember: “The best way to spread Christmas cheer, is singing loud for all to hear!”

Sounds

Cont'd from page 1

Tickets for this extraordinary event are \$10 for children, \$25 for adults, and \$20 for Seniors and APEX members. To secure your seats, please contact the

FWSO Ticket office at (817) 665 - 6000 or visit www.fwsymphony.org.

Don't miss out on this magical celebration of the holiday season. Bring your loved ones and immerse yourself in joyous melodies that will leave you with cherished memories. Get ready to be swept away by 'The Sounds of the Season'!

FINANCIALS DECEMBER	
December 2023	
Week 1	\$ 286,800
Week 2	
Week 3	
Christmas Eve	
Week 4	
Week 5	
MTD Actual	\$ 286,800
YTD Actual	\$ 10,120,312
Year End Goal	\$12,650,000
Remaining Goal	\$ 2,529,688



WHITE'S CHAPEL
HERALD
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Bake It or Buy It

Classic Peanut Brittle

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup light corn syrup
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 cup dry-roasted or raw peanuts, shelled
- 2 tbsp butter
- 2 tbsp vanilla

DIRECTIONS

1. Combine first 3 ingredients in a large glass bowl. Microwave on high for 5 minutes, add peanuts, and microwave for 2 more minutes with 1,000-watt microwave. Microwave 4 more minutes if using a 700-watt microwave. Stir in remaining ingredients.
2. Pour into a buttered 15 x 10 inch jellyroll pan; shake pan to spread thinly. Cool until firm, and break into pieces. Store in an airtight container.
3. Cooktop Brittle Prep: 5 minutes, Cook: 8 minutes, Stand: 5 minutes. Cook first 3 ingredients in a medium-size heavy saucepan over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture starts to boil. Boil without stirring for 5 minutes or until a candy thermometer reaches 310°F.
4. Add peanuts, and cook 2 to 3 more minutes or to 280°F (mixture should be golden brown.) Remove from heat, and stir in butter and remaining ingredients. Pour mixture onto a metal surface or into a shallow pan. Allow to stand 5 minutes or until hardened. Break into pieces.

PEANUT BRITTLE VARIATIONS

- Pecan Brittle: Substitute 1 cup chopped pecans for peanuts.
- Chocolate-Dipped Peanut Brittle: Prepare peanut brittle as directed. Melt 2 (2 oz) chocolate bark coating squares; dip peanut brittle pieces into melted chocolate. Place on wax paper, and let harden.
- Popcorn Peanut Brittle: Prepare brittle as directed. Stir in 1 cup popped popcorn before pouring into pan.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

We enjoyed food, rides, games, animals, live nativities and fireworks with friends and family. It all helped 'to make the season bright!'



CWE

Cont'd from page 1

Whereas, many congregations in the area produce cantatas, musical productions, shows - and musicals - many requiring tickets and reservations at cost - White's Chapel adopted the concept many years ago of providing a worship experience that was more service than performance, and one that would be a gift to the community.

"This is not a performance," said Shaunna Fuller, White's Chapel Music Co-Director. "It is a carefully-crafted one hour worship service. Every song and word, actor and dancer, has been chosen to glorify God and to bless our community and congregation!"

"We were so blessed that Lauren Luke agreed to produce this year's CWE. Lauren grew up in our church and has a vision for how to reach every heart in worship."

The program is a collaboration of all of the adult choirs, the WC Orchestra, the Praise Band, Cantaré, Youth Ensemble, soloists, dancers, and more. No auditions are necessary to participate in this annual, joy-filled expression of hope.

As Fuller always reminds us, "Our doors are always open to all who would like to participate in any capacity. We are a cast of hundreds of volunteers who are sharing gifts and talents with our church family."

Cantaré has been working very hard preparing their Christmas music for CWE since the beginning of October," said Director Teresa Hughes, in her first year of directing this White's Chapel Youth Choir. "They will open our CWE Service with a very haunting, contemporary arrangement of 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel.' This has quickly become one of their favorite pieces with the drums and amazing orchestration."

Additionally, Cantaré will be featured in an Italian song "Nella Fantasia," which

translated means, "In my fantasy I see a world of justice, where all people live in peace and honesty..."

"A very fitting text to be singing about in light of our current world situation," added Hughes.

"The song is a beautiful arrangement for a tenor, baritone and choir as well as a wonderful opportunity to sing with Arnold Rawls, who has a diverse background in opera. This will definitely be a highlight for our Cantaré Youth Choir and certainly for our congregation as well."

Fuller added that the service will feature many special moments. She said that some of her favorites include "14-year-old Michelle Nieto, who sparkles on the piano; DeeDee Elliot will be singing to her new baby, Raia, as baby Jesus; Doug Terry and Cindy Sledge bring back 'One King'. Jacob Serrano, is introduced - a new soloist who is a worship leader for WC Students; Bruce Wermuth sings everyone's favorite 'Drummer Boy'; Grace Zeller introduces a new 'Noel' and Ken Nelson closes our worship with energy and enthusiasm."

"Pastor John's mom always encouraged us to include more familiar carols and hymns so our audience could connect easily with our music," Fuller said. "To that end, we are introducing, 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel,' 'Come Thou Long Expected Jesus,' 'O Little Town of Bethlehem,' and 'Joy to the World.' Though the melodies and tests are familiar, the arrangements are fresh and exciting."

"Our desire is for people to truly worship at the White's Chapel CWE, 'There Is A King,'" said Hughes. "Through music, narration, drama, visuals and dance we tell the ever-familiar Christmas story in a fresh and creative way - that truly invites people to worship."

As Max Lucado tells us through his wonderful writings, "God loves us and God is with us. We are ever reminded once again: "The child in the cradle became the King on the cross. And because he did, there are no marks on my record. Just grace."



We are excited to introduce Alynne Rivers, RN, as the new WC Wellness Director. Rivers has nearly 44 years in various nursing practices including bedside nursing and post-anesthesia care/recovery, in both large hospital setting and ambulatory surgery centers. Additionally, she had many years of experience in the medical case management field, during which time she obtained a Certified Case Manager designation.



Rivers supervised and mentored in field care management for a decade and later worked closely with the physicians in a hospital ED. She obtained her education at Memphis State University and Methodist Hospital School of Nursing. She graduated in 1980.

After retiring from nursing in 2020, Rivers recently accepted the position of Wellness Director at White's Chapel Methodist Church.

"I have always been a people person, and I have been eager to pursue a career where it's my job to help people that are in need of care, kindness and understanding," she shared.

Rivers is a wife, mother of three and grandmother of seven. Spending time with her family is her favorite pastime and priority. Rivers and her husband, Gale, have been WC members for two years. She began volunteering at WC in the Care & Support flower ministry, both arranging and delivering flowers.

Rivers is planning a variety of Health and Wellness presentations and classes in 2024, including CPR and "Stop the Bleed" classes, Caring for Someone with Dementia, getting your legal documents in order, and more. In addition, she is also coordinating classes presented by the Tarrant County Health Department "Living with Diabetes" and "Move and Groove." Look for more information in The Herald newspaper and on the church website as these opportunities get closer.

Grief

Cont'd from page 1

about this beautiful person teaches us a great deal. Her name is Anna, and she appears in the story of the Holy Family, Luke tells us, as Mary and Joseph bring their child Jesus to the Temple 40 days after his birth.

At Jesus' presentation, they first encounter Simeon, a man of advanced age whom God has promised to see Christ before his passing. Simeon speaks a beautiful prayer over Jesus, known as the *Nunc Dimittis*, in which he praises God, claims Jesus as the salvation and revelation to God's people, and offers a warning to Mary, foretelling Jesus' suffering and death on the cross.

Then, we find the elderly prophetess, Anna, who was a fixture of the Temple, fasting and praying, awaiting the presence of Jesus. Here is how the author of the Gospel of Luke describes Anna and her interaction with the Holy Family:

"There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment, she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem." - Luke 2:36-38

We know little about Anna, and even less about the specifics of her prophecy over Jesus, but what we know reveals much about her. Anna is the daughter of Phanuel, a member of the tribe of Asher, a prophetess of advanced age who has spent a significant portion of her life as a widow. She is a devout Asherite Hebrew, devotedly spending her time fasting and praying in the Temple.

Her father's name, Phanuel or Penuel, translates into "Face of God." As she sees the face of the Christ child in the Temple, she again looks upon the Face of God. As she had most assuredly seen in the face of her father who, through his faith, inspired her own, she sees again God's recognizable features. This prophetess is at once inspired to offer

her praise, prophetically proclaiming Christ's role as the redemption and savior of Jerusalem.

The land of her tribe, Asher, would have been coastal and fertile, containing rich pastures, wooded hills, and orchards. Asher, however, is one of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel, whose land is part of the Northern Kingdom taken by the Assyrian conquest of 723 BCE. What once was lost is, however, through Anna found again. The lost tribe of Asher reconnects to God's overarching plan for salvation through Anna's witnessing and prophecy over the Christ child in the Temple.

There are competing ideas on how old Anna was and how long she lived after the passing of her husband, with some believing she was 84 years of age and others that she had lived 84 years *after*

her husband had died, making her over a hundred years old. Regardless, she was of advanced age and had lived much of her life as a widow. Anna intimately knew the stinging pain of loss and had journeyed along the path of grief for some time after that loss. She transformed that pain and the lessons she learns along

the journey of grief into a life of faith fervently and steadfastly focused on the worship of God.

I count many in my life as "Annas," figures who have, through their faith, seen God at work, proclaimed it as such, and brought myself and others into a closer relationship with Christ. Women who have transformed broken, painful parts of their life experiences into beautiful, complete ministry done in the name of Jesus Christ to advance the kingdom of God.

I pray that in this season, as we reflect on the gift of Christ that has come into the world and our lives, we keep our eyes open to those unexpected people, those "Annas" who have led us or may lead us through their faith into a closer walk with Christ. Through our faith, I also pray that we may serve as "Annas" by allowing others to recognize where God is already at work in their life, identify Christ as our savior, and connect them to the good news of his coming Kingdom of God.



Rev. Kyle Roberson
kroberson@whiteschapel.org

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

"The Sacred Enneagram"

Thursdays, Jan. 11 - Feb. 15
10 to 11:30 a.m. | Adult Ed. Room 3203

Most of us spend a lifetime trying to figure out who we are and how we relate to others and God. The Enneagram is here to help. Far more than a personality test, author Chris Heuertz teaches us that the Enneagram is a sacred map to the soul. All are welcome to this six-week Spiritual Formation class facilitated by WC Stephen Minister Janice Smith. The book is available for purchase at WC's Circuit Writer's and Such Bookstore. Please register on the church website. Janice Smith | jps2000@mac.com

transportation, lodging, meals and a safari excursion). A non-refundable deposit of \$500 is required to complete registration and final payment is due in February. Registration is available now on the church website. Besides a current passport, a Kenya E-Visa will be required at a cost of \$55. Medical requirements include: Yellow Fever vaccination (\$100-\$300), Malaria prevention medicine (\$25) and COVID vaccines.

Sharon Nelson | sharonann.nelson@yahoo.com
Ken Nelson | nelsonk@2878@yahoo.com

Super Saturday: Rise Against Hunger Saturday, Jan. 27 | 9 to 11 a.m. Evans Hall

White's Chapel is teaming up again with Rise Against Hunger to help people around the world who are food insecure. Over 150 volunteers will be needed to package food for the hungry. The dry, packaged food, supplied by Rise Against Hunger, will provide a nutritious meal when recipients mix it with water. There will be two volunteer opportunities: (1) help unload supplies from the truck and set up packaging stations from 8 to 9 a.m. and/or (2) actively participate in the fight to stop hunger by measuring and packaging meals for those in need from 9 to 11 a.m. Approximately 30,000 meals will be packaged and shipped globally!

Registration for this event will open on Jan. 5 online. Contact Dedra Moffat at dmoffat@whiteschapel.org.

Kenya Adult Mission Trip June 13-21 (Team 1)

June 20-28 (Team 2) | Trinity Methodist Ministries, Kenya, Africa

Come join us on our first mission trip to Kenya where we'll visit, work and learn about the ministries of the Trinity Methodist church in Gilgil, Kenya. We have two groups going with 15 people on each team. The Trinity Methodist Church is a district of 18 churches around the area of Gilgil. They have a Safe House for women in need, a full-time Medical Clinic, two high schools and they are about to open a primary school. We'll be helping wherever we are needed: painting, construction, helping with medical ministry and playing with the children. Total trip cost is \$2,500 (includes all



Prayer List

Randy Adams, Subha Akula, Judy Allen, Sandi Attwood, Ron Bangert, Dudley Barnes, Carol Barret, Martha Beeks, Judy Belter, Craig Bishop, Bethia Blomquist, Cara Bradshaw, Kay Brandt, Marlin Brandt, Cheryl Brashear, Debbie Brown, Hudson Brown, Ruby Buffalo, Dewey Butler, John Cairns, Bobbie Cameron, Connie Center, Jackie Black Chaffins, Daniel Vikash Chandra, Freddie Charles, James Choat, Carey Cockerell, Carolyn Cockrell, Ines Collazo, John Corder, Jim Cox, Bonna Downum, Debbie Dreyfus, Tommy Duer, Bobbi Dunbar, Nick Durbin, Wilma Dykman, Bobye Eagleston, Dennis Eaton, Courtney Echerd, Susan Epstein, Adam Evans, Ralph Evans, Mark Ferrell, Trey Holston and Raygan Follis, Diane Franks, Maxine Fry, Earl Geddes, Gary Lou Geddes, Melissa and Olivia Gee, Larry Gessner, Carolyn Gillum, Barbara Goetz, Curtis Griffith, Sharon Griffith, John Guthrie, Amy Guzzy and Family, Junior Hall, Judith Hallam, Shannon Hamilton, Maxie Hays, Belinda Henderson, John Hering, Stephen Hood, Josie Jewart, Jack W. Keen, Jean Davis King, Cooper Kohan, Connie Lamb, Ann Riley Lange, Bud Liles, Carol Liles, Robin Long, Danny Mayer, Sheldon Metz, Beverly Molberg, Ed Molberg, Ed Molberg, Thomas W. Morris, Wayne Muncy, Linda Nadeau, Jerry and Dorothy Owen, Don Pansegrau, John Peck, Heather Peyton, Barbara Pico, Dana Pierce, Kathy Pierce, Rejane Proença, Chip Reid, Jim and Mary Renner, Martha Reukema, Gale Rivers, Kristin Robertson, Norman and Holly Rodier, Johnnie Ruth Rogillio, Elizabeth Rowland, Beatrice Scally, Gary Schneider, Bruce Schollmeyer, Paul Sikes, Christie Soileau, Sid Soileau, Steve Swanston, Myra Taunton, Jason Thomas and Family, Carolyn Thompson, Bill Thornton, Buster Thrasher, Emily Torres, Sharon Valentine, Charlene Wahrmond, Michael Wenger, Charlene Weseloh, Meegie L. Wheat, Randy Whisenhunt, Ida Wilson, Lisa Wilson, Leigh Winzeler, Lynn Wolford, Donna Young.

Recent deaths: The Family of Jan Cotton, The Family of Carmel DiLauro, The Family of Jane Grazer, The Family of Joe Hennig, Kayla Martinez and Family, The Family of Buddy Mincey, The Family of Jerry Weber, Lindsay Wolfe and Family, The Family of Josephine Wolford.



You may submit prayer requests at whiteschapel.org/prayer-request.html or use the QR code.