HERALD



Join us online or in person this weekend as we conclude our sermon series "Blameless." We hope to see you soon.

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ARTS ACADEMY

Kids are currently enjoying a new semester of Arts Academy classes that focus on art, science, dance, music, cooking, and Lego building. We can't wait to see what new skills they learn!

Special EventFocuses on Old Testament

"...in really falling in love with the Old Testament, it unlocked the doors of my questions to the New Testament. It helped me understand who Jesus was, and who Jesus is, and who Jesus ever more will be."

By Cassidy Johnson

hile it may be 'The Bible Jesus Knew,' at times, the Old Testament may seem difficult for us to fully understand today. Filled with cultural, historical and symbolic significance, the Old Testament has the ability to add to our overall understanding of God and the Gospel, if we let it.

WC Co-Pastor Dr. Todd Renner will further outline these ideas as he presents information on "The Bible Jesus Knew" on Monday, Feb. 19 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in Evans Hall. A dinner will be served and then an informal 60-minute presentation will be shared on the development, history, and particulars of the Old Testament.

"I grew up in a tradition, and I'm sure many people did, that the Old Testament was in our Bibles, but we really didn't really give it that much thought... those were the stories that they taught in Vacation Bible School and in kids Sunday School – of Noah and the Ark, and the Tower of Babel, and Daniel and the Lions' Den, Jonah and the Whale. There is just as much powerful God-image stuff and there's a depth of theology in Jonah and the Whale, and Daniel and the Lions' Den..."

While Renner is excited to share key highlights from the Old Testament, he understands that many may find the ancient text a bit intimidating... but he encourages people to come to the event to learn and ask questions so they can better understand themes seen throughout the Bible.

"My up and down journey with faith was really based in a lot of questions – a lot of big questions – that never fully got resolved," Renner shared thoughtfully. "And, in fact, there were questions I was told not to have – that just made me that much more hungry to figure it out... at least for a journey

EVENT cont'd on page 3

<u>Informational Meeting Sunday, Feb. 18</u>

Studying the Footsteps of John Wesley

Drs. John McKellar and Todd
Renner will be hosting a tour
highlighting John Wesley's life
and Heritage this fall.
The scheduled nine-day trip
leaves Sept. 24 and returns to the
United States on Oct. 2.

ffered through Educational Opportunities, the itinerary was planned to experience the origins of the Wesleyan movement and see the sites that inspired the writings and sermons of John and Charles Wesley.

Included in the trip will be a tour of their childhood home, the Old Rectory of the Parish church where their parents, Samuel and Susanna Wesley served for 39 years. Additionally, a tour is planned for Christ Church College at Oxford, where the Wesley brothers were educated.

Other historical sites will be on the tour including Stratford, the birthplace of William Shakespeare, and Blenheim Palace, the birthplace of Winston Churchill. Forays into the port city of Bristol, the spa town of Bath, and two days in London are also included. Major city sites will be seen such as Hyde Park, Trafalgar Square, St. Paul's Cathedral, and Westminster Abby. A free day in London is provided for personal itineraries and sightseeing.

Choral performances by members of the WC Choir and Music program will be available for enjoyment in Bristol, as well as the Kensington and Westminster regions of London. Shaunna Fuller, WC Choir Director will lead the music. She welcomes "any and all who love God and love to sing" to join this special group on the trip.

"Over the years, several amazing opportunities have come to us," Fuller said. "We have taken our music to Germany and Austria to celebrate Mozart's 250th birthday. White's Chapel Musicians also sponsored a concert in Carnegie Hall, taking with us 235 singers from area Methodist churches. Texas Christian University invited us to join them one year for July 4 in Normandy, France, where we also sang in Notre Dame (before the fire). We have been privileged to sing in our National

MEETING cont'd on page 2



INSIDE THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

WC Music Update
YA Event Pictures



Ash Wednesday
Noon & 6 p.m. | Feb. 14 | See Page 2



Holy Season of Lent

"Thou callest us to delight in Thy praise, for Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts find no rest until we rest in Thee." St. Augustine –

be about the

ashes; it will be

about the God of

the ashes.

By Dr. Todd Renner

e've all been there: tossing and turning in our beds, unable to sleep, accompanied only by the sound of the clock that ticks precious seconds away...the faint sound of the pendulum that swings is almost deafening. Sleep eludes us, and we are stuck – stuck with worry or anxiety, stuck with angry words filling our sleepless thoughts or dread fear that holds us in its cold embrace. Such is the picture that Augustine provides us of the soul that knows not God: it is restless.

One of the most provocative figures amid the developing landscape of Western Christianity, St. Augustine of Hippo's prayer tells us who we are: we are precious creations of God's own

hands, designed for nothing other than to delight in remembering and praising our Maker. A man with a questionable past, himself, Augustine knew what it was to live apart from God, to live according to his own whimsical nature and for his own selfish desires; but he found that nothing outside of the Divine could fill the emptiness that plagued him.

It's that exact same emptiness that we are called to confront during the holy season of Lent that we'll enter this coming Wednesday (Ash Wednesday). Lent, as many of us know, is the forty-day season that the Church has observed for centuries as a time of preparation and penitence, a time of self-reflection and self-searching...a 40-day season that leads us through the pain and emptiness

of the cross to the glorious emptiness of Easter's tomb – to the pierced side of the Savior who says, "Here I am... and here I'll always be."

And that journey begins with ashes. It begins with a reminder of our mortality, a reminder of the emptiness and neediness that we all try to deny so often. We hide them behind our wellmanicured lawns and well-manicured lies. But try as we may – with money, success, drugs, sex, popularity, overly crowded schedules that make us feel important...whatever our particular flavor of vice – we will never be able to

manufacture a "fix" for **Wednesday won't** our souls, for we can only find wholeness in the One who created us.

> But Wednesday won't be about the ashes; it will be about the God of the ashes. It'll be about the God who comes to give infinite worth to those

parts of our lives that sometimes seem so worthless. It'll be about the God who comes to trade something beautiful for all those places in our lives that are ugly and spent and charred.

"Come unto me all you who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest," Jesus says (Matthew 11:28). This Lent, amidst the noise and demands of our lives, may we hear the voice of the Master, and may our souls find muchneeded rest as they return to the gentle and familiar hands of the One who sculpted them.

Our two Ash Wednesday services will be held in the sanctuary on Wednesday, Feb. 14 (there's something really beautiful about entering this holy season on Valentine's Day) at noon and 6 p.m.

Meeting

Cont'd from page 1

Cathedral in Washington DC, Gettysburg, and the World War II Memorial. Finally, before COVID we enjoyed the privilege of singing for a mass at St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican."

"And now, Pastors John and Todd chose to take our church to England to follow the 'Footsteps of John Wesley' as we are developing a brand-new

version of Methodism," she said, "I look forward to studying our roots to get inspiration for this exciting endeavor called the Methodist Collegiate Church."

McKellar was inspired for this trip on a prior visit to England, when he visited some of the spots planned in the

"What I love about Wesley's ministry is that when you study the history of the Methodist church you realize he's an organizational genius ...a model that lasts on after his life is over. He put an institution together that would live beyond his life. Other people concentrated on power and authority within the class of the ordained, but Wesley didn't care about that," said

McKellar. "He just wanted people who were 'on fire' for Jesus, and that dedicate themselves to a life of holiness."

"For him, he didn't get caught up on the particulars. He thought you could train the stuff that you could train, but it was the heart Wesley was really after."

While Renner has also been to England, there are specific destinations he is excited about.

"I have never been to Oxford, so I'm

looking forward to that day, seeing the campus," he said. "I also look forward to visiting places where C.S. Lewis - a personal hero of mine - and J.R.R. Tolkien and that crew used to hang out, share ideas and inspire one another.

He is also looking forward to Blenheim Palace ("because John tells me it's incredible") and going to Epworth because it is "the primitive stage of Methodism, where the movement really kind of came together."

"There's a season of Wesley's life when he returns to England as an absolute failure after his momentous collapse in the colony of Georgia. He thinks of himself and his ministry as ruined. He returns to England and not long after, he has his Asbury experience; his heart being strangely warmed," said Renner. "Here you have this very intelligent, very surreal sort of a man experience God's grace, and this powerful sort of feeling deep in his heart. As a cerebral person, it was very, very rare for him. He describes it as setting him on fire, and it's a fire that burns for the rest of his life."

"It is this revivalist that really makes a difference," Renner said, "there's something truly inspiring to the nerd in me where God uses that failure as the springboard of Wesley experiencing an indescribable grace."

Though plans for the trip have been finalized, registration is in its early stage. The first informational meeting will be Sunday, Feb. 18 at 12:15 p.m. in Room 3103 (Rawlins Lecture Hall). Anyone interested in the trip is encouraged to attend. White's Chapel Director of Adult Discipleship Tracy Christensen will be available to answer any and

> every question conceivable.

Christensen is excited about the trip.

"I imagine many folks have taken international trips over the years, but our White's Chapel trips provide a special time of bonding with John, Todd, and other staff members as well as all the other travelers in our group," she said. "This time together often leads to friendships and deeper connections

The first informational meeting will be Sunday, Feb. 18 at 12:15 p.m. in Room 3103 (Rawlins Lecture Hall).

> long after the trip is over. White's Chapel is always able to add our own special flavor to any trip we take, which makes traveling from site to site and city to city even more adventurous! "

> All-inclusive prices for the Footsteps of Wesley trip start at \$4,898 from Dallas/ Fort Worth and includes round-trip air, basic tour and sightseeing fees, firstclass hotels and gratuities, breakfast, and deluxe motorcoaches. Dinner arrangements are also included in areas outside London.

Christensen added that we "try to have a trip every couple of years. The last trip we took was in 2022. It was a 12-day Danube River Cruise to see the Oberammergau Passion Play in Germany. We are currently looking at The Passages of the Bible Cruise in 2025 Or 2026. If it happens, it will be the first time that we visit the Holy Land via a cruise ship!"

Tracy Christensen tchristensen@whiteschapel.org





Editor Debbie McKellar Managing Editor Cassidy Johnson Graphics and Design Susanna Cunningham **Graphics Consultants** Alec Hanson & Sarah Hamilton

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Easter/Lenten Rehearsals Begin

With Ash Wednesday anticipated in the coming days, rehearsals for the Easter season will begin next Sunday, Feb. 18 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

"Do you love to sing? Do you love hanging out with fun people? Do you look good in a green robe? Come join our Holy Week choir!"

said Shaunna Fuller, Co-Director of White's Chapel Music and Worship.

WC's Holy Week Choir will help lead worship for three holy days: March 24, Palm Sunday; March 28, Maundy Thursday; and March 31, Easter.

"Many songs are arrangements of familiar tunes and hymns, while others

are brand new anthems" said Fuller.
"This year, our Holy Week music will
also include selections from a stunning
collection called 'Illuminare' by Elaine
Hagenberg."

The commitment involves five Sunday evening rehearsals from 5 to 6:30 p.m. until Holy Week, as well as additional rehearsals in the last few days. Copies of the music and links to hear the songs will be distributed at the first rehearsal in the Music Rehearsal Hall.

"The music of Holy Week sets the tone for each of our Worship services," said Dr. John McKellar, Co-Pastor. "Many people attend these services simply to experience God through the music."

Shaunna Fuller | sfuller@whiteschapel.org

Final Auditions for "Music Man"

White's Chapel Presents is happy to announce its very first complete musical theater production for the entire family, Meredith Willson's classic musical production "The Music Man". The beloved musical is scheduled to be performed April 24 and 25.

Final auditions, which will be open to the congregation and the local community, will be held Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 17 & 18 from 1 to 5 p.m. "This production is perfect for a church to present," Said Arnold Rawls, Artist in Residence and Director of WC Presents. "It is good, wholesome, old-fashioned family fun, while being a standard in the American theater repertoire. I am really excited about this project!"

If you have any questions or interest in auditioning, contact Arnold Rawls.



This marks the first time White's Chapel will present a production that includes an adult cast. We need singers, actors, townspeople and pretty much everybody we can put on that stage!

For those interested in participating behind the scenes, there will also be opportunities for crew members that will include needs for props and costumes.

Arnold Rawls | arawls@whiteschapel.org.

Daniel Bryson Joins Music Staff

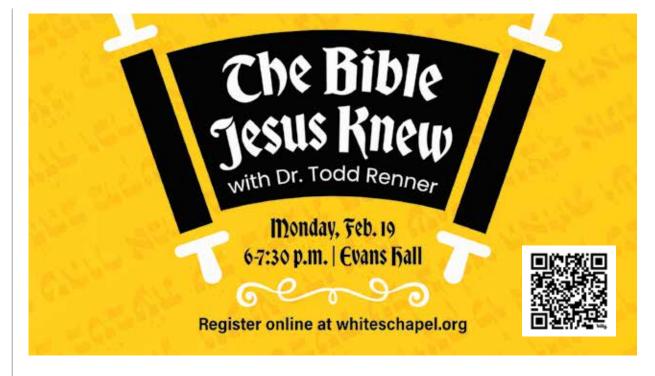
White's Chapel welcomed Daniel Bryson on staff full-time in January. Bryson is serving as the Director of Educational Technology. While Bryson has been at WC since 2013 serving in the Music & Worship department, he is now primarily working to create educational resources for the Methodist Collegiate Church as it grows and expands. In addition to his work with the MCC, he continues to serve White's Chapel by assisting and directing the Chancel Choir, Orchestra, and the IT department. He is married to his lovely wife, Sarah, and together they have a cute, rambunctious (almost) 2-year-old, Wesley. In his free time, he runs his own woodworking company, and he enjoys playing board games of all kinds with friends and family.



REHEARSALS: TUESDAYS 7-8:30 P.M.

thughes@whiteschapel.org to schedule an audition.

Please contact Teresa Hughes at



Event

Cont'd from page 1

towards figuring it out. So, my undergrad degree was in religion, with an emphasis in the Old Testament – the Hebrew Bible and Semitic languages... I was expecting to just one day stumble upon this class or this way of finding all the answers and either I missed that class, or it didn't exist – but in really falling in love with the Old Testament, it unlocked the doors of my questions to the New Testament. It helped me understand who Jesus was, and who Jesus is, and who Jesus ever more will be. There is something about understanding the culture, understanding the imagery of what Jesus says and what he does throughout the New Testament and the parables and the messianic prophecies that Jesus comes in fulfillment of... I had an Old Testament professor say 'You can't really appreciate the New Testament until you appreciate the Old Testament.' There is a depth... it's like going from black-and-white TV to color TV – there's just a depth of understanding that you get whenever you have at least a familiarity with the Old Testament."

In the past, Renner has offered special presentations like this on Methodism, church denominations/history, and other similar topics. This will be the first offering that highlights and explores topics specifically seen in the Old Testament. The structure of the discussion will largely be framed around history.

"This was placed on my heart," Renner shared. "Pastor John and I were talking about something, and I recalled that conversation, that quote, from my Old Testament professor about not being able to truly appreciate the New Testament until you understood the Old Testament, the Bible that Jesus had the Bible that Jesus read... We've done timelines before, we've done the history of the Bible, we've done the history of denominationalism, but we've never done just an Old Testament specific study before... I think the armature of the Old Testament, in particular, is built around the history – if you can get the

timeline in your head, then things just kind of fall into place."

Renner believes that by sharing his own love and understanding of the Old Testament, he may be able to present information in a new, and more approachable way.

"My hope and what I feel is one of the calls of my ministry is to help people find that same love of the Bible," he said. "Part of that is to help maybe people who have been a little intimidated by the Old Testament – maybe because some of the names have 17 syllables or it just seems like a whole world apart, not just geographically but culturally and historically. To maybe put it in a new frame for people, so they can understand it and it can come to life... and if the Old Testament can come to life, then maybe the New Testament does too. Maybe there's a deeper understanding, a deeper appreciation, a deeper connection to Jesus that is transformative in our spiritual life that then becomes transformative in our thinking life and our social life and our family life and our marital life..."

Anyone interested in the Old Testament or in the significance of 'The Bible Jesus Knew' is welcome to attend. Registration is required to prepare enough food for dinner, but there is no cost. Childcare is also offered and available through the digital registration link, found on the church website.

"I think there is depth and an extra layer of color, of detail that comes out especially in the gospels – when you understand the background and the history, whenever you understand some of the nuance that you pick up from the Old Testament and you kind of layer that into the New Testament," Renner said. "Things really do come alive and it doesn't feel so foreign anymore. It doesn't feel so alien to us - it starts to be this beautifully-interwoven story of God's faithful provision to the nation of Israel and to us, as we see in Jesus the fulfillment – not just of a messianic prophecy but we see a new covenant being made for believers."

For more information about this event, please contact Tracy Christensen.

Tracy Christensen tchristensen@whiteschapel.org



PREPARING FOR LENT

Using a Lenten Devotional written by our co-pastors, we will look at the Priestly Blessing given to Aaron and his sons (the priests) to prepare our hearts for the miracle of Easter. This year's devotional, "The Blessing," will be available to pick up on campus after the Ash Wednesday services on Feb. 14 (at noon & 6 p.m.). Scan the provided QR code to sign up to receive daily devotional emails and podcast readings throughout Lent. Thank you for journeying through this time with us. We pray you encounter God's presence as you set aside time for prayer and reflection.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Tutors Needed for WC Students Wednesdays 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

WC Students would like to take the burden of completing homework off of parents on Wednesday nights, so their students are more freed up to attend Wednesday night worship. We hope it will also be a support to students and parents who might need additional help.

If you have an interest, please let Michelle Joseph know. Tutoring would be for middle school students on Wednesday nights from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Michelle Joseph | mjoseph@whiteschapel.org

Having the Conversation Thursdays, February 6-7:30 p.m. | Room 3103

Care & Support is pleased to again sponsor this important and informative four-week presentation "Having the Conversation" which provides a safe place to learn and ask questions about a variety of end of life issues. We will address spiritual and medical issues surrounding legal decisions, dying, death and planning the Christian funeral. Join us in Adult Education 3103 (Rawlins Hall) for each presentation. There is no cost, and all are welcome. For more

information, please contact Alynne Rivers, RN, at 817-481-4147. Remaining Dates:

Feb. 15 | "Finding the Care You Need" with Dawn Bransky, PT, MSPT, CDP, Benevolent Hearts Home Care; and "Finding the Coverage You Need" with Jack and Renee Townsend, Insurance Solutions USA

Feb. 22 I "Care of the Elderly" with Dr. Janice A. Knebl, D.O. Geriatric/Internal/ Hospice & Palliative Medicine

Feb. 29 I "My Loved One Has Died – Now What?" with Jimmy Lucas, Lucas Funerals & Cremations and Rev. Kyle Roberson, WC Pastor of Care & Support

Carter BloodCare Blood Drive Sunday, Feb. 11 | 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Carter BloodCare will host a blood drive at White's Chapel. Come to the bus in front of the Center for Spiritual Care between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. to participate. Register on Carter BloodCare website https://www.carterbloodcare.org/

Line Dancing Classes Open to All! Remaining Classes: Feb. 15 & 22 6 - 7 p.m. | Evans Hall

The cost \$5 per person per class (pay online or at the door).

Join dance instructor Donna Whiteley to learn a variety of line dances. Whether you're 8, 88 or somewhere in between, we have a great way for you to meet new friends, get in shape and laugh - a lot! These classes are for singles, couples and families. The cost is only \$5 per person, per week for those 13 and older. Register and pay online.





Prayer List

Wayne Ackerman, Frank Alamilla, Kamry Askew, Sandi Attwood, Jack Bair, Mandi Barnett, Bonnie Jo Bramhall, Cheryl Brashear, Arnie Brooks, Michelle Brown, Ruby Buffalo, Ethan Burns, Bobbie Cameron, David Carroll, Connie Center, Freddie Charles, Carolyn Cockrell, Kennedy Joy Coke, Kenneth Coleman, John and Willene Corder, Dan Creedon, Aurelio Costa, Levi Dietz, Bobbi Dunbar, Wilma Dykman, Dennis Eaton, Lana Elkins, Darrell and Jan Emory, Darrell and Jan Emory, Linda Evans, Ralph Evans, Becca Floyd, Dorothy Fontana, Diane Franks, Clare Gatlin, Shelly Gillette, Ted Gillum, Chuck Gregg, Kate Greinert, Chandler Groves, Barbara Guest, John Guthrie, Alice Hall, Judith Hallam, Gayle Hampton, Thetis Hilliard, MacKenzie Holly, Larry Hoover, Bob Horn, Linda Huffhines, Monty Johnston, Cooper Kohan, Nick Lake, Sam Lapp, Eric Larson, Laura Lieske, Linda Lukas, Leslie Matthews, Kerri McLeod, Hunter Mixson, Ed Molberg, Samantha Montejano, Cathy Moore, Chris Moore, Thomas W. Morris, Keith Morrow, Ruth Muse, Margaret Payne, Heather Peyton, Barbara Pico, Kathy Pierce, Kathy Poe, Pat Powell, Maureen Punko, Jim and Mary Renner, Jody Rogers, Johnnie Ruth Rogillio, Christine and Barbara Ruiterman, Jeff Ryno, Beatrice Scally, Bruce Schollmeyer, Jane Schultz, Craig Sikes, Bruce Slocum, Bill and Yvette Smith, Celia Smith, Susan Starr, Tammy Studdard, Orville Summey, Steve Swanston, Myra Taunton, The Thalluri Family, Katlyn Thomas, Ronnie Thomas, Carolyn Thompson, Bill Thornton, The Tomlinson Family, Julie Weldon, Branden Wells, Meegie L. Wheat, David Williams, Dick Williams, Elizabeth Willis, Ida Wilson, Larry Winans, Lynn Wolford, Blossom and Hannah, Marie, Terri. Recent deaths: The Family of John Q. Adams Sr., The Family of Randy Adams, The Family of Annette Barkemeyer, The Family of Dewey Butler, The Family of Sheila Cook, The Family of Rosie Dowdy, The Family of Judy Dunham, The Family of Bobye Eagleston, The Family of McKenna Johnson, The Family of Aimee Krummel, The Family of Kay Madera, The Family of Greg Metzger, The

Family of Georgene Rhame, The Chris and Ashley Salsado Family, The Family of Kati Zeller Buehler, The Family of Linda Severns, The Family of Heath, Noah and Wyatt Smith, The Family of Mark Smythe, The Family of Hazem Valdez, The Family of Sybilla Vickers.

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









A few of our Young Adults recently participated in the White's Chapel Habitat for Humanity project. The group meets monthly for various activities,

