WHITE'S CHAPEL

HERALD



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

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A 'Tail' of Palm Sunday*

*(or why you should volunteer for the Palm Parade)

By Debbie McKellar

Adults of all ages (and families) are welcome to participate in our Triumphal Entry Services on Sunday, March 24 at 9:30 and 11 a.m. Simply come to the Annex area next to the Circuit Writers Bookstore and Choir Rehearsal Hall 15 minutes before each service for a costume and to receive directions. I promise you will be excited and moved (and maybe a little entertained!) participating in this live reenactment of Jesus entering Jerusalem as we lead into Holy Week!

here was a moment on Palm Sunday last year that epitomizes all the years Tracy Christensen has spent planning and producing the pageantry of the White's Chapel Palm Sunday Services: At our 9:30 service, as Jesus walked down the aisle by the donkey (we will talk about the reasons why a little later in the story) and as our kids waved palms and held all manner of barnyard pets, those in close proximity could glance down to see Christensen nearly crawling on the floor, pointing. Now, all sorts of things happen in church; but this was a first. "Someone get the duck!" she kept saying. "Someone get the duck!"

Apparently, at some point in all the hoopla and excitement, one of the ducks escaped the tender grasp of her holder. Undoubtedly surprised by everything going on, the duck knew only one thing to do: Hide! So, she took cover amidst all the flowers and palms up front.

"Someone get the duck!" repeated Christensen.

The duck was only one of the behindthe-scenes stories. The other story, as alluded to earlier, was the donkey.

"We weren't sure until the very last minute that we were going to secure a donkey last year," said Christensen. "Believe it or not, there are not that many around that meet the criteria. The donkey must be specifically trained and able to carry a certain amount of weight, which makes their availability quite rare. The one we finally procured (at the very last minute) was smaller and could not carry much weight.... the reason 'Jesus' was leading her in instead of the scriptural ride. It was the first year Jesus did not actually ride in triumphantly, and I think that was a surprise for many people, including our pastors."

"We had used 'Jenny' from Westland

PALM cont'd on page 2









MISSIONS' FAIR

There was quite a crowd last Sunday as people stopped through the concourse to visit with ministry leaders and learn about volunteer needs. Check out the church website for information about other ministries and upcoming opportunities.

Lessons from Lent

Editor's note: "Lessons from Lent" is an annual series of reflections on the six-week Lenten Season. A daily devotional guide, "The Blessing" is available at various kiosks at White's Chapel, or at the Administrative Building front desk. Written by White's Chapel Co-Pastors Drs. John McKellar and Todd Renner, the guide is available at no charge.

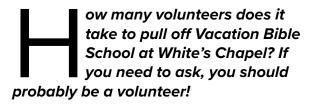
The Plea of Prayer

"Dear Jesus, help us to spread your fragrance everywhere we go. Flood our souls with your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly that our lives may only be a radiance of yours. Shine through us, and be so in us, that every soul we come in contact with may feel your presence in our soul. Let them look up and see no longer us, but only Jesus! Stay with us, and then we shall begin to shine as You shine; so to shine as to be a light to others. The light, O Jesus, will be all from You, none of it will be ours; It will be You, shining on others through us. Let us thus praise You without preaching, not by words but by our example, by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what we do, the evident fullness of the love our hearts bear to You. Amen." – Mother Teresa

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Many Volunteers Needed June 10-13

VBS Registration Opens



"Over 900 kids attend VBS every summer," said Denise Bennett, WC Kids Co-Director, "and that number is limited only to the number of volunteers we have each year."

Registration for this year's event opened March 1. The 2024 program, with

the theme 'Scuba' is scheduled for June 10-13 from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration fees are \$25 per child until May 22. Late registration begins May 23 for \$40.

The two-level program combined (VBS for Kindergarten through 4th grade, VBX for those in 5th & 6th) requires at least 250 volunteers to be successful. Parents can sign up to volunteer on the same VBS registration link as their kids. Teens and adults who don't have children attending will have a separate link to sign up. Both volunteer links are available at

wckids.org. All registrants and volunteers will receive a t-shirt, which may be

There are six areas of need for volunteers: crafts, games, missions, music, guides and assistant guides and snacks.

picked-up at the beginning of June.

"Some areas need more volunteers than others," explained Bennett. "The areas of music and snacks need less than a dozen, whereas guides need close to 90. We have everyone to

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Easter Lily Order Form

Due by Sunday, March 10 | See Page 4



Big-Time Small-Talk

"It was impossible to get a conversation going; everybody was talking too much." - Yogi Berra -

By Dr. Todd Renner

n his typical, Yoda-like style, Yogi Berra gets to the heart of what I think a lot of us have been missing: real connections and real conversations. With lives driven by schedules and souls hidden behind masks, we're missing one of those imperative "things" that make us human – and Lent is meant to confront us with our humanity.

And my thoughts turn to Nicodemus's late-night conversation with the Lord. In my mind's eye, I see him coming to Jesus in the inky darkness of night, lit only by the flickering glow of a lamp's wick. He comes to Jesus because he's looking for something; he needs something. Maybe it was that he didn't know exactly what that "thing" was, but he knew there was more to life and more to God than mere lists and rules and the sterility of easy

Maybe that's us, too. We know there's more, but we're not quite sure what question to ask. That's the power of good conversations. Quite often, in the midst of our discussions, we stumble upon a new line of thinking; we discover new ideas; our eyes are opened to new possibilities and new horizons. It is tragic, though, that so few of us ever actually have good conversations – a tragedy that was growing way before the social isolation of COVID. More than just small talk, deeper than just superficial chats, real conversations are marked with a rare sense of defenselessness. They happen

only when we let down our guard and lower our defenses; they only happen when we dare to be vulnerable and real.

And, oh, how critical they are! Our souls and our spirits need those times of real connection we get to share with the trusted friends that God has placed in our lives, for they are the antidote to the loneliness and isolation that too many of us are enduring. And, as I think about it, our kids need to see us doing that, too...we need to have those sorts of conversations with our kids.

Though they rarely come on a convenient schedule, we need to be willing to engage our children (no matter their age) in great and deep and meaningful conversations. We need to be willing to meet them whenever and wherever they are – even in the dark late of night. And we need to be willing to start some of those conversations. Like Nicodemus, maybe we don't know what to ask... so, to help, here are a couple of possibilities:

- If I knew I couldn't fail, I'd try...
- One lesson I've learned the hard
- Some of the best advice I was given
- One unfulfilled dream of mine is...
- You would know me better if you knew that I...
- More than anything, I would like to be remembered as a person who...
- If I could have five minutes to meet with Jesus, I would talk about...
- Given one day to do anything I'd like, with money not a constraint, I'd...



Palm Sunday

Cont'd from page 1

Ranch as our donkey bringing Jesus down the center aisle for at least 13 years," Christensen recalled. "Sadly, she finally had to retire. One year she was pregnant and decided she was not going to go down the aisle. Several 'disciples' (and I) were pushing, coaxing, and bribing her to the best of our ability, but she was a 'no go.' Finally, we laid an extra rug down on the tile floor and that's all

it took. We like to think Jesus did a little of his own coaxing!"

Christensen related another year in which "we had an exceptional number of goats for our older kids to walk and/ or carry down the aisle during the procession.

(This is an honor reserved for the older students.) After everyone had waved their palms and celebrated the arrival of Jesus, three of the adult goats decided to chew through their ropes, so by the time the kids could even get them out of the sanctuary, they had broken free and were running rampant in our parking lot! They hid under cars, and it took several of us (including Jesus) to capture them before everyone started exiting from the service."

Christensen began participating in our Triumphal Entry services in 1995. White's Chapel had only done the reenactment for a couple of years at that time, so it was still in experimental stages.

"Southlake was a different, much smaller community then, and I feel sure that we were the first church in the area to insert this large of a project into a worship service," she explained. "For many years Beth Galloway, Brent Burford and I would get to lead in the procession. It was always such an honor to have the doors swing open with fabulous music and be the first to shout, 'Hosanna! He is coming!' to the eager crowd."

In one of those early years, a dove escaped the grasp of its keeper and flew into the rafters of what is now Grace Chapel. It remained there throughout the service, cooing and flying around. "It was a little harder that year to concentrate on the sermon," she laughed, "because everyone kept wondering if they were going to be 'gifted."

Unfortunately, this has happened more than once, including in the current Sanctuary.

The procession has grown into a larger production since that time, now including all the children's Sunday School classes

> filling the aisles and waving palms as well as many of the older kids carrying live animals.

"It is always one of my favorite Sundays!" said Christensen.

One of the biggest queries each year is who will be cast in the

role of Jesus. As one can imagine, it isn't an easy role to fill.

"Honestly, it depends on the script that is written for our Maundy Thursday Service," said Christensen. "The scripts are written in-house, and each year we try to bring something new to that service. At times, it has included Jesus singing as well as reciting lines. We obviously also strive to choose someone that resembles pictures of Jesus portrayed in paintings as well as movies."

Most of the costumes used (which includes robes, tunics, head wraps, sashes, and more) have been made and sewn together by faithful members of our church over the past 20 years. They are not only used for Triumphal Entry and Maundy Thursday, but for the Christmas Festival, Christmas Worship experience, and other Christmas pageants as well.

The Palm Parade has a different cast of characters each year and varies with the different services as well. Volunteers are always encouraged and welcome to join in the celebration.

Just don't be surprised if you are asked to "get the duck."







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Lessons

Cont'd from page 1

To be wholly and utterly consumed by God – this is the heart of every saint. Penned by the iconic Mother Teresa of Calcutta, these words echo the sentiment of her life's work: namely, to bring compassion and dignity and love to those who had been cast out from society. Here, on the margins of human existence, she labored and prayed; there, in the faces of orphans and the diseased, she, both, saw the face of Christ and became the face of Christ – shining for all the world to see, reflecting true faith and the love of God.

Now, let's bring this prayer a little closer...maybe too close for some of us. On the whole, we live blessed lives: comparatively speaking, if we have clean water to drink, then we ought to count ourselves fortunate. We live in a land of opportunity, a land of freedom and choices; we are comfortable. Now, in the face of such comfort, can we really pray (or, do we really want to pray) that we want God to consume us, that we are really willing to sacrifice it all for the sake

of shining God's light into the darkness of the world? Are we willing to be examples of God's compassion, Christ's love, and the Spirit's comfort at the cost of our own free will so that our very lives preach a

sermon?

Does God want us to sell all that we have, to live in poverty, to move to Calcutta? I don't believe so. But I do think that God wants us to be willing to give it all up. God desires for us to be so passionately sold out for his holy cause that nothing – no house, no job, no excuse – is more important than him. Further, God does not need a million Christians serving in Calcutta (though I'm sure it wouldn't hurt); instead, I think that God needs a million Christians to find their own Calcuttas – their own mission fields, their own places to serve, their own hands to hold and hearts to mend. God needs us to find our own cities of overwhelming need and stifling poverty (whether that be economic, spiritual, or emotional) to which we can spread the glorious fragrance of Jesus' love and

Excerpt from "The Heart of Giving," a Lenten study published in 2016 and written by White's Chapel Co-pastors Dr. John McKellar and Dr. M. Todd Renner. All rights reserved.

Easter Eggstravaganza

Saturday, March 23

ust like those eggs filled with candy and prizes, this year's Easter Eggstravaganza is sure to provide lots of 'egg'citement and fun for families this season! While there are many community Easter events offered throughout Tarrant County, we think there is truly something special about celebrating the joy of Easter here at White's Chapel.

Just before Palm Sunday, on Saturday, March 23, leaders will host this year's Easter Eggstravaganza – a fun comeand-go event offered from 10 a.m. to noon. It will feature the Easter story, egg hunts, creative crafts, face painting, snacks, inflatables, and games. The egg hunts will be available throughout the morning, so parents can choose the time that works best for their family.

The Family Egg Hunts (for all ages) will

be held at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. The Tiny Tots Hunt (for kids 3 and under only) will be at 11 a.m. The Eggsessible Hunt (for any child who has special needs or limited mobility) will be offered at 10:15 a.m.

"The egg hunts

are always a family favorite," shared WC Kids Co-Director Hannah Robbins. "Older kids run around in a hurry with excitement... while our littlest friends toddle slowly from one egg to the next... it doesn't get much cuter!"

Recognizing the true meaning of Easter and the ultimate hope we have in Jesus, leaders have planned to tell the Easter story in a way that is fun for kids and heartwarming to adults. WC Kids Rockstars will share the Easter story with participants throughout the morning at 10:15, 10:45, 11:15, and 11:45 a.m.

To help provide enough supplies for this event, leaders are asking parents to bring one dozen plastic eggs filled with wrapped candy, stickers, or other goodies (no nut products please) for each participating child. People can drop off their filled eggs at any of the church reception desks by Friday, March 17 at 1 p.m.

Easter Eggstravaganza is geared toward preschool and younger



elementary students. Adults and those fifth grade and older can also participate in the fun by volunteering.

With a few hundred expected in attendance, volunteers are still needed to help assist with this event. People can volunteer by signing up online through the link on the registration page. Student shifts will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Adult volunteers may sign up for a one-hour shift. Volunteer opportunities include assisting with crafts, hiding eggs, face

painting, helping with games, and overseeing inflatables.

Due to the nature of this event, families are asked to register online so leaders prepare enough eggs, snacks and supplies for everyone in

attendance. This event will be offered rain or shine; if it rains, activities will move indoors.

For more information, please contact WC Kids Co-Director Denise Bennett at dbennet@whiteschapel.org.



Register or sign up to volunteer (for Easter Eggstravaganza or VBS) by using the QR code. Information is also available at wckids.org.









VBS

Cont'd from page 1

choose their first and second choice of where they would like to volunteer."

"The Scuba theme and daily Bible Point is carefully integrated into each station's activities to reinforce Bible learning," said Bennett. "Each activity is an important part of kids' overall learning experience. The Bible Point is reinforced daily through Bible adventures, key Bible verses, songs, snacks, and handson activities that help kids explore what it means to have a relationship—a friendship—with God."

"I truly hope you will prayerfully consider being a volunteer," said Bennett.

Registration:
www.wckids.org
Denise Bennett | dbennett@whiteschapel.org

Almost everyone went to VBS as a child. In many small towns, it was one of the constants for keeping children occupied on summer days. It was also a great way to see friends and make new ones. Here are some memories from White's Chapel adults.

Michelle Joseph WC Students Co-Director:

I always looked forward to Vacation Bible School each summer. My hometown church always had incentives for Bible memorization. I remember getting more toppings on our ice cream sundae if we memorized the books of the Old and New Testament. I did some serious cramming at night to make sure my ice cream sundae was covered in sprinkles, whipped cream, syrup and more. Each time I flip through the Bible, I always find myself thankful for the way that sundae motivated me to learn how to navigate Scripture.

When we were in sixth grade, our class got to visit our Senior Pastor's office during VBS. I remember we all squeezed into his office while he answered any question we had. He was always such an approachable guy, but there was something about that time in particular that will always be so special to me. I remember thinking we must really be growing up if our pastor was taking the time to give us wisdom and advice like this.

Dr. John McKellar, Co-Pastor:

I remember the cookies they always served would fit on your finger! We would go into the sanctuary and sing songs, go outside under the trees, make art projects, and try to raise money for the Methodist Children's Home. It probably hasn't changed a lot in all these years, but it is a great childhood memory.

Linda Spence Co-Pastors' Executive Assistant

I LOVED Vacation Bible School! We were a smaller church, so we were able to have it for two full weeks, (thinking back how exhausting that must have been on those teachers!!). I was always so proud as my mom and dad would supply the ice cream cups from Dairy Queen, the ones with the wooden spoon on top, to everyone on the last day. My mom always taught fifth & sixth grade and I could not wait until she was my teacher. Not only did she teach me and all my sisters, but also my children, Jennifer & Whitney, and now she has even had my granddaughter, Tatum!

We only lived one block from the church but was this was one of the only times we were able to ride the church bus! It went all around the neighborhood picking up all my friends, and I remember if you stayed seated in your seat you were given a piece of bubble gum when you got off!

The classes were fun, but what was really fun was big church when we always had a competition on offerings.... the boys vs. girls. I would save pennies for months just to take them up there and watch the scale tip from one side to the other. The pastor would always act out the sermon with puppets.

Ken Nelson Missions and Music Volunteer

learn a little more about Jesus.

I did attend VBS when I was a youngun' in our little town of Layton UT. I was probably 7 or 8 years old. While I don't remember all the details, I do remember the reason. You see, our parents 'made us' (I mean that affectionately) go to church (more specifically Sunday School). I think I figured VBS might be a way to

So, I was very happy to go. I remember it was so much fun to hang with some other kids, many of them who were my classmates. As a matter of fact, VBS was held at my elementary school. Like I said, to be honest, I don't remember the details, but I do remember the feelings of fun, comfort and belonging. We were a very diverse bunch of kids from all strata of life in our little neighborhood. Our VBS teachers made us feel so very welcomed. While I can't say for certain, I've got to believe I learned the reason I went to VBS. This may be why God put me here! To feel good about myself! Thank God!

Another 'Classic' Take on VBS

(For Those 55+)

s WC Kids plan for Scuba VBS this summer, so will Classic Adult Fellowship as they prepare to take on another Classic VBS program. That's right – kids and adults alike will share in this year's VBS theme, but Classic VBS will be specially-tailored to those 55 and older.

This will be the third year a Vacation Bible School for seniors will be offered at White's Chapel. Classic Adult Fellowship Director Laurie Williams is looking forward to offering this exciting program once again to the community.

"The idea behind doing a similar VBS program to what the children are doing is so that grandparents and grandkids can have similar conversations about Jesus and kind of bridge the age gap between them... and realize that the same Jesus who loves the kids also loves the grandparents, too," Williams said. "They may have started off with the kids VBS when they were kids, and now they get to enjoy it again on an adult level."

This year's Classic VBS will take place **June 18 & 19 from 8:30 a.m. to noon**, and it will focus on 'diving deeper into your faith.' The cost

to attend is \$25. After April 15, the price goes up to \$30. Participants can purchase t-shirts if they wish through information provided on the registration page. The registration cost includes snacks and various materials used for crafts and activities. A food truck will be on campus on June 18 for those who wish to purchase lunch after the first day. Food will be provided for registered participants on the last day.

Like previous years, the program will offer interesting and fun breakout sessions that include Bible stories, spiritual practices, games, and themed crafts. Each day will start in Grace Chapel with classic VBS worship songs/hymns and a short presentation by a guest speaker. From there, groups will move through different stations located on campus.

Volunteers will be needed to welcome guests, help set up/tear down rooms, lead groups, and instruct breakout sessions. Please contact Laurie Williams at Iwilliams@ whiteschapel.org for more information or to volunteer.

Registration for Classic VBS opened March 1 and is available on the church website.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Midweek Meditation: Journey Toward Jerusalem Each Wednesday During Lent 12:15 p.m. | Grace Chapel

Please join us for Midweek Meditation as we intentionally focus on those essentials for Jesus' journey – and ours – in these 40 days and beyond. Services will include worship, a message, and communion. A light lunch will be offered in Wesley Cafe following the service.

Easter Outreach Saturday, March 16 | 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Join our church family as we host a community Egg Hunt for the families living near the GRACE food pantry. Volunteers are needed to help set up, hide eggs, facilitate games, monitor inflatables, and help cook and serve a hot dog lunch. WC Kids and WC Missions invite families and adults to help with this day of fun and play! wckids.org

Women's Bible Study "How Much More" by Lisa Harper Begins Monday, March 18 | 9:30 a.m.

Maybe your head knows that God is always good, but your heart is not so sure. Or perhaps while reading Scripture, you've wondered if our Creator Redeemer went through a personality change-from strictly enforcing the rules in the Old Testament to loving the outcast in the New Testament! Join facilitator Susann Smith in this seven-session Bible study and discover divine love in the often overlooked and misunderstood passages in Scripture. You'll be delighted to find that Jehovah of the Old Testament is the same redemptive and

compassionate God we see through Jesus Christ in the New Testament. Register online for class and childcare online.

Christians Facing Cancer Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 9

At the February meeting, the group welcomed Llewellyn Katrice Johnson, who discussed "Improving the Outcome of Cancer through Micronutrients." She was very well received. The next meeting will be held in April, as the group will not meet during Spring Break.

Christians Facing Cancer provides encouragement for cancer patients, caregivers, family members, and friends whose lives have been impacted by a cancer diagnosis. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month. All are welcome and registration is not required. For additional information, contact BJ Landers at landerscln@aol. com, (817) 683-6088, or supportgroups@whiteschapel.org.

Women's Mission Trip April 18-21 | San Antonio, TX

Join WC Women for a four-day mission trip to Blueprint Ministries in San Antonio this spring, April 18-21. All women 18 and older are welcome on this trip. No experience is necessary, just a willing heart. We will be repairing homes to make families warmer, safer, and drier. This is a terrific opportunity to serve Christ and meet other women from White's Chapel. The cost is \$250 and online registration is required.

Contact Rev. Joy Roberson at jroberson@whiteschapel.org.





or use the QR code.

Prayer List

Wayne Ackerman, Malta Akins, Sandi Attwood, Clint Bailey, Jack Bair, Ronnie Boyd, Kay Brandt, Susan Brischke, Terri Broom, The Bryce Family, Ryan Burns, Bobbie Cameron, Connie Center, Freddie Charles, Tim Cline, Kennedy Joy Coke, Ken Cole, Kenneth Coleman, John and Willene Corder, Steve Cullen, Jerry Dixon, Debbie Dreyfus, Wilma Dykman, Dennis Eaton, Alexandria Eberlein, Linda Evans, Ralph Evans, Jodi Feikema, Billie Jean Garner, Dexter Gatlin, Shelly Gillette, Ted Gillum, Kate Greinert, Judith Hallam, Elaine Hazleton, Thetis Hilliard, Larry Hoover, Bob Horn, Barb Idol, Joe Jeffries, Bill Lafavers, Derek Lang, Howard Lang, Eric Larson, Rich Lyon, Sande Lyon, Jonathan Martinez, Sue and Darrell McNutt, Thomas W. Morris, Lacey Muckleroy, Tammy Muckleroy, Robin Murphy, Joy Paprskar, Wren Parson, Barbara Pico, Kathy Pierce, Kathy Poe, Pat Powell, Maureen Punko, Jim and Mary Renner, Kristin Robertson, Megan Robison and Brayden Steele, Johnnie Ruth Rogillio, Dan Russell, Jeri Russell, Beatrice Scally, Bruce Schollmeyer, Linda Seedig, Jane Schultz, Brenda Singer, Bruce Slocum, Everett Conley Sturgess, Orville Summey, Steve Swanston, Myra Taunton, Ronnie Thomas, Carolyn Thompson, Donna Thompson, Robert Thompson, Shane Thompson, Bill Thornton, Bob Uzelac, Lance Venable, Hugh Wahl, Michael Wenger, Jackson Widaman, Dick Williams, Ida Wilson, Leigh Winzeler, Melinda Witt, Lynn Wolford, Jan, Tirol. Recent deaths: The Family of Arnie Brooks, The Family of Ruby Buffalo, The Family of Steve Easter, The Family of Clare Gatlin, The Family of Ron Golightly, The Family of Sam Lapp, The Family of Anna Lynn Lumpkin, The McCombs Family,

Winans.

You may submit prayer requests at whiteschapel.org/prayer-request.html or

The Family of Sandy Ohmstede, The Family of Mario Rodriguez, The

Family of Mary Sue Smith, The Family of Tonya Solomons, The Family of Somsak Trimas, The Family of Ruth Williamson, The Family of Larry



