

Handley Happenings

June 12, 2017

OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS
The People of the United Methodist Church



Our Gifts & Presence Sunday, June 11, 2017

Total Worship.....	31
Total Sunday School.....	12
Budget	\$1757

Greetings!

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful week!! By the time you read this, the 2017 Central Texas Annual Conference will be nearly completed. Among the many reports presented to the thousand or so clergy and laity, including your own **Paul Johnston, Wade Walker and Elvie Walker**, will be a presentation on Tuesday morning recognizing “**5 Star Churches**”. This year **Handley** will be one of the churches recognized for: paying 100% on Connectional Mission Giving; contributions to Advance Special offerings; an ongoing program of mission education; participating in a local mission; and making a contribution to a United Methodist Missionary. **Congratulations to this great congregation on a job well done in support of global and local missions!!**

Other reports presented during the three-day event will be the proposed Conference budget for 2018; amendments to the Book of Discipline voted on at General Conference last year; a retirement service for a large number of pastors who are retiring this year, including our own Judy Richmond, and, of course, the reading of appointments for the coming year. I’m very pleased to report that I will be appointed to serve Handley for the 5th year.

Please continue to keep the delegates of Annual Conference in your prayers as they return to their local churches and disseminate information gleaned from Annual Conference. Be in prayer for the leadership of the Central Texas Conference as they strive to move ever forward in the goal to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”.

Blessings,

Pastor Sally

682-213-2065 (home)

817-240-4042 (cell)

revsafleming@yahoo.com (e-mail)

Bruce's Bible Study

This week, as we continue to look at "where the Bible came from," we'll be moving into the New Testament. Before we get started at the contents, I'll say outright that there is a lot of absolute rub-bish running around today, in the bookstalls and on the Internet, talking about "secret gospels," "gospels that should have been included that were unfairly omitted," etc. The idea is that the compilers of the New Testament just sat around over tea and crumpets (or whatever) and decided casually which gospels they thought were "appropriate." When Shirley MacLaine began her search for spiritual meaning, she interviewed some very left-wing Protestant ministers out in California (and that state is full of theological extreme radicals), and they told her that the Bible was put together by men who just wanted to keep women in their place. That's not only lousy theology, it's bad history! Their replies, unfortunately, are what led Shirley to abandon interest in Christianity and to start looking at Eastern religions, getting her into her New Age ideas on reincarnation, etc. The early church fathers were *very careful indeed* about what they thought should be considered as authoritative. They wanted to make sure that the material was true, and that it was of apostolic origin. Incidentally, that's why *Hebrews* had a difficult time being accepted, because it's anonymous and therefore might not be of "apostolic origin"--but it was finally accepted, for which I am glad; it's one of my favorite New Testament books. Likewise, *Revelation* had a difficult time because of its "end-time" scenario. In the 2nd century, there was a wild group that originated in modern-day Turkey who were early representatives of what I call the "Raptureholics" today--thinking that they knew when the End Times were coming. They separated from the main Church, and that brought them into disrepute (and dispute!) with it. Consequently, since *Revelation* is written in that style without going nearly as far as the "separatists" did, the Church was suspicious of it--but it finally won out! *II Peter* also had some difficulties, because its Greek style is considerably different from that of *I Peter*--but it finally won out, too. What's interesting is that *by the end of the 2nd century almost all of the books in our current New Testament were already being quoted as authoritative*, apart from the exceptions just mentioned. J.B. Phillips, the English paraphraser of the New Testament (*The New Testament in Today's English*), wrote a book called, *The Ring of Truth*, in

which he told how, in his paraphrasing work, he was again and again impressed with the unmistakable "ring of truth" in the New Testament (in passing, I'll say that I think his paraphrase is far and away the best one available; I tend to be suspicious of paraphrases, because it's too easy for the paraphraser to slip in his/her ideas into the text, sometimes even accidentally. There speaks the musty old college professor!).

The other thing I'll mention is the discovery of some Gnostic manuscripts in the sands of the Sahara in 1945; the Gnostics were a false-teaching (basically a very debased Platonism, with other things added in--what we might call the "casserole approach"--and today it's fashionable to say that they enshrine an "earlier tradition" than our current gospels. The manuscripts included the *Gospel of Thomas*, among others, and in theologically fashionable circles (I love C.S. Lewis' remark: "Drat all fashions.") it's regarded as "correct" to refer to the "five gospels." This is begging the question in the worst way, since there are parts of these Gnostic gospels that flatly contradict our accepted four, such as saying that Jesus told His disciples to run around naked to show their detachment from things of this world. Now, friends, the early Christians were accused of many things, but public nudism wasn't one of them! Also, these Gnostic manuscripts date from the *3rd century*, which is far later than our accepted four gospels, and that should make these manuscripts suspect, to say the least. A few years ago, there was a discovery of a *Gospel of Judas*, which received far more attention than it should have; **it's even later than the Gnostic manuscripts**, and yet some scholars were talking about its valuable contribution to New Testament study, which is an overstatement, to say the least. We all know that society goes through "fads"--do you remember the Cabbage Patch Kids of about 35 years ago? Grandmothers were punching each other out in order to get one of those dolls for their grandkids for Christmas! One of my New York parishioners made the remark, "If I had a kid that ugly, I'd drown it!" But now we hear nothing about the Cabbage Kids except as a historical note. Theology goes through fads, too, and I think that one of the current ones is the search for "lost gospels," etc. The Early Church had to fight through that stuff, too--but we'll have to wait till next week for that! I hope you find this interesting--it's obvious that I do!

Bruce

Good Morning Friends,

I would like to share with you all that Pastor Judy Richmond is retiring from active ministry from the United Methodist Church. We at Polytechnic UMC have had the honor of working under her leadership, bearing witness to her commitment and love, and seeing her faith in action. We are thankful we spent this time together and wish her the best on her next adventure.

To thank Judy and BJ, we are collecting cards of thanks and well wishes for them. We are also collecting a monetary gift for Polytechnic United Community Center to be given in her name. Please pass this on to anyone you know who's lives have been touched by these two beautiful people.

Send cards to:
Polytechnic UMC Judy's Card Box
1310 S Collard St.
Fort Worth, TX 76108.

May the peace of God be with you always,
Tricia Bowes
Polytechnic United Methodist Church

Philippians 4:7
And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

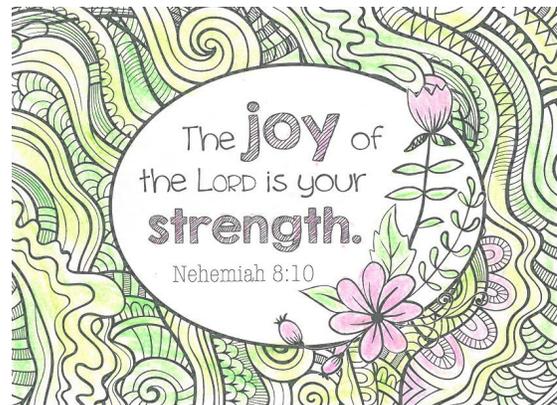


In Memory Of

Juanita Waddell
Bob & Carolyn Whitt
Kathy & Ken Sprinkle
Opal Butts

Bob White
Bob & Carolyn Whitt

Please continue to bring pantry, clothing, and hygiene items for Eastside Ministries. Thank you!!!



Love, Wanda



What are your favorite hymns??

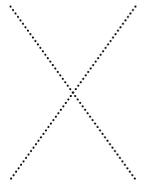
They can be from the Cokesbury hymnal or the current hymnal. We will be singing your favorites in July/August.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Handley Happenings

June 12, 2017

2929 Forest Ave
Ft. Worth, Texas 76112



Address Service Requested

Church Office: 817-451-4321
Church Fax: 817-446-4013

Handley United Methodist Church

www.handleyumc.org
handleyumc@sbcglobal.net

Meetings & Events Schedule



June 11-14
Annual Conference @
FUMC Mansfield

June 13
Mail Out Newsletter

June 14
Wonderful Wednesday



June 18
Happy
Father's Day!

Also
Installation Reception for
Rev. Ben Disney
as new East District
Superintendent
5:30pm New World UMC, Arl.

June 19
Finance and Trustee
Committees
WILL MEET

June 21
Wonderful Wednesday

June 27
Mail Out Newsletter & Calendar

June 28
Wonderful Wednesday

July Highlights

July 2
Communion set-up by
Friendship Class

July 3 & 4
Office closed
Happy 4th!!
(NO Newsletter this week)

July 13
Lifeline Screening
(all day—Fellowship Hall)

Sunday's Service:

"While We Were Still Sinners"
Romans 5:1-8

Usher Schedule

06/18—Bill Mann's Group
06/25—Glenn Estes' Group



*God proves his
love for us in
that while we
still were sinners
Christ died for us.*

ROMANS 5:8, NRSV