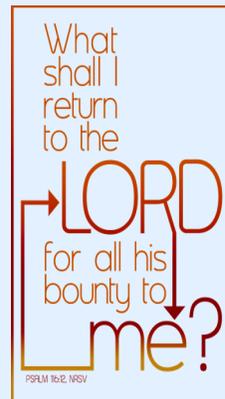


# Handley Happenings

Jan 22, 2018

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



## Our Gifts & Presence Sunday, Jan 21, 2018

Total Worship.....	44
Total Sunday School.....	19
Budget .....	\$1425

Greetings!

I've heard that some of you have been suffering from a variety of ailments. I do hope and pray that all are recovering toward full health. I'm slowly getting back on my feet after my pneumonia experience!

I owe a GREAT DEBT of THANKS to **Rev. Judy Richmond** for filling the pulpit the first two weeks of 2018. Even with her own issues to deal with, she stepped right up and helped to provide worship leadership and wisdom while I was not able to. We are SO fortunate to have Judy and BJ in our congregation and it is truly an honor to call Judy a colleague and a friend.

We have a big event this coming Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. The **Handley UMW** is hosting a luncheon of Vegetable Soup and Cornbread, with Dessert, of course, as a fundraiser for their many Mission Projects for the year. Since the Fifth Sunday fell on New Year's Eve, we opted to have our "Fifth Sunday Lunch" on the Fourth Sunday. That also means we will have a brief Administrative Council meeting following lunch. I encourage all of you to be here to enjoy a Delicious Lunch with Wonderful Fellowship, immediately after an Awesome Worship Service!!

Believe it or not, **Ash Wednesday** is just around the corner!! It happens to fall on Valentine's Day this year (**Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>**). We will have a brief Ash Wednesday service at **6:15 p.m.** in the sanctuary to help us set the mood for a time of reflection and repentance. I hope you can take time out of your busy week to attend the brief but meaningful service.

Please keep washing your hands!! This flu season has been taking a serious toll on many people. I do look forward to seeing you on Sunday for another celebration of Christ in our lives!

Blessings,

Pastor Sally

682-213-2065 (home)

817-240-4042 (cell)

[revsafleming@yahoo.com](mailto:revsafleming@yahoo.com) (e-mail)

## Bruce's Bible Study

This week (and for a few more) we want to continue looking at the familiar story of the visit of the Wise Men; there's a lot of detail in that story that we can easily miss. I mentioned in my article last week that it's very probable that the Wise Men didn't show up till Jesus was already a toddler, since Herod's horrible decree to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem who were up to **two years old** is probably an indication of that. Also, if the star didn't show up till Jesus was born, and the Wise Men had 1) to figure out what it meant, and 2) make plans to travel, would have taken considerable time. My own personal guess is that they came from Babylon, which is in modern Iraq, very near Baghdad. The reason for my guess? Remember, the Jewish people had been exiled there after the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC. After 70 years, they were allowed to return, but *quite a few did not want to*; they had begun to carve out a new life in Babylon and saw need to return to a ruined city and start from scratch. The Wise Men were probably Babylonian priests and scholars who would have been very interested in Jewish literature and legend, and they had probably learned about the promise of a Messiah ("anointed one") who was to come. It would have taken considerable time for them to get around the northern edge of the Arabian Desert and on into Palestine.

As for the star, there has been far too much ink spilled on this issue. Some try to describe it as a concatenation (how's that for a big word?) of two planets that looked like a new star, or maybe a nova, or maybe a comet (but this star didn't move the way a comet does) or a meteor (but those go by in a flash). I think that we are dealing with a miraculous event, period. It was something so unusual that it caught the Wise Men's eye. What is odd is that, once they had decided what it meant, they went on a journey, but the Jewish people in Babylon, who should have gone, too, did not. That's a reminder that there is a cost to discipleship. Maybe the Jewish people in Babylon didn't want to face up to the rigors of a big journey, or to leave off their business, etc., etc. But look what they missed out on! I have sometimes remarked that, if our dis-

cipleship has never cost us anything, it may not be worth much. Following Christ always has times of immense challenge (not every day, but every now and then), and we have to make the choice as to whether we're going to be true disciples or just stay merely "comfy." At any rate, the Wise Men, who were Gentiles (non-Jews) went, and the star guided them to the place where Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were staying in Bethlehem---to the very house! Meteors and comets are not that well-trained!

One other thing: we sing the Epiphany carol, "We Three Kings;" tradition has said that they were kings, named Balthasar, Caspar, and Melchior. Highly unlikely! For one thing, kings can't just pack up and go gallivanting across a desert, leaving their kingdoms behind them! I think that they were Zoroastrian priests (some say "astrologers," but I think "primitive astronomers" might be closer). And we don't even know that they were three in number! We usually say "3" because of the 3 *gifts*; and that's as good a guess as any. All we know from the Greek text in *Matthew 2* is that more than one came (the plural is not specified). By the way, for your trivia item for the day: Kings' Canyon National Park in California (a gorgeous place) was named by early Spanish colonists after the tradition of the "three kings." So there! More next week.

*Bruce*



*In Memory Of*  
**Stanley Wilson**  
Nova Allison

Please continue to bring pantry, diapers, and hygiene items for Eastside Ministries. Thank YOU!



Dear Handley UMC,

Thank you so much for the Scholarship. It has furthered my ability in college. It means so much for me to finish my education.

Sincerely,  
Jillian Holcomb



Thank you Wade & Elvie for the tandem bicycle that you donated to our 2017 garage sale.

Pasty found a buyer and raised our Fall Festival totals by a whopping \$375. Again, thank you!!!

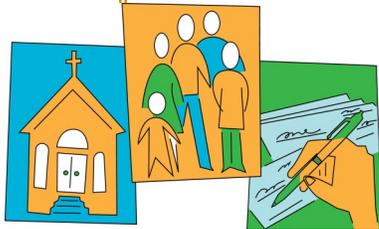
## Jan 1, 2018 -- Dec 31, 2018 Estimate of Giving

**Please fill out this portion and keep for your records.** Return the lower portion on or before Jan. 28, 2018. Your estimate helps the church to plan for the year's projects and needs.

I/We are going to estimate giving \$ \_\_\_\_\_, per week/month/year (Circle one) to the ministries of Handley United Methodist Church.

Date returned: \_\_\_\_\_

**(keep this portion for your records)**



Stewardship

## Jan 1, 2018 -- Dec 31, 2018 Estimate of Giving

**Please return this portion** to the church on or before Jan. 28, 2018. Thank you.

I/We are going to estimate giving \$ \_\_\_\_\_, per week/month/year (Circle one) to the ministries of Handley United Methodist Church.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

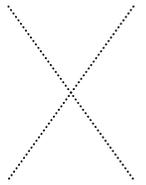
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# Handley Happenings

Jan 22, 2018

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](http://www.handleyumc.org)  
[handleyumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:handleyumc@sbcglobal.net)

### Meetings & Events Schedule

Jan 2018



**January 23**  
Grace Circle  
Mail Out Newsletter & Calendar

**January 24**  
Backpack Buddies  
Wonderful Wednesday

**January 28**  
UMW Fundraiser Lunch  
+ Admin Council meeting

**January 31**  
Backpack Buddies  
Wonderful Wednesday



**February 1**  
City of Fort Worth meeting

**February 4**  
Communion set up by  
New Horizons Class

**February 5**  
Police Captains meeting

**February 7**  
Backpack Buddies  
Wonderful Wednesday

**February 12**  
Handley Neighborhood Assoc.

**February 14**  
Valentine's Day  
Backpack Buddies  
Wonderful Wednesday  
Ash Wednesday Service

### Usher Schedule

01/28—Bill Mann's Group  
02/04—Glenn Estes' Group

### Sunday's Service:

**"Teaching with Authority"**  
Mark 1:21-28

**THE PEOPLE  
WERE AMAZED  
AT HIS TEACHING,  
BECAUSE HE  
TAUGHT THEM  
AS ONE WHO  
HAD AUTHORITY.  
MARK 1:22, NIV**