



The Methodist Messenger

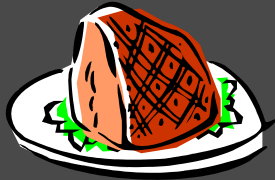
Leander United Methodist Church

107 S. West Drive, P.O. Box 281
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leanderumc@sbcglobal.net

Office: (512) 259-1284
Mother's Day Out: (512) 259-0544

Christmas Luncheon

Tuesday, Dec 8th
11:30 am
Dorroh Fellowship Hall

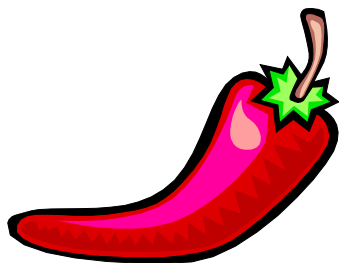


(Details on page 4)

December 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 1 Chili Chow Down & Auction; Christmas Eve Service Schedule
- 2 Prayer Requests; 3rd Sunday Lunch; Preschool Sunday School Class; Celebrate Advent with Your Children; T-shirts for Sale; Pastor's Perspective; Fa-La-La-La Youth Lock-in; Church Conference; Walk to the Manger; Angel Tree
- 3 Calendar; Birthdays; Perfect Attendance
- 4 Christmas Luncheon; Advent Study



5th Annual Great Chili Chow-Down & Auction!

December 6, 2009
5:00 pm

- * CHILI TASTING *
- * TALENT SHOW *
- * BAKE-OFF AUCTION *
- * SILENT AUCTION *

\$5 per person at the door
(\$20 family maximum)

As always, the much-coveted
"Floury Apron" Award
will be given to the individual
whose baked item which earns
the highest bid in the auction.



Christmas Eve Service Schedule

Join us for any of our three different services on Christmas Eve this year:



- 3:00 pm: Traditional service with communion, oriented towards families and children
- 5:00 pm: Christmas praise service
- 7:00 pm: Candlelight communion service

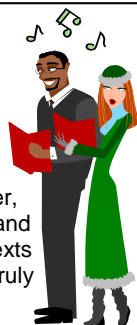
BEREAVEMENTS:

- **The Quintana family** for the loss of Rosemary, friend of TQ Klein
- **The family of Earl Hamburg**, a neighbor of the Deed's who passed on Thanksgiving morning

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **Vicki Farrar**
- **John Stiles**
- **Susan Widmer**, Martha Mellott's daughter
- **Nell Donovan**, health concerns
- **Ron & Sandy**, neighbors of the Grochowski's
- **Jack & Norma Catal**, cousins of the Grochowski's
- **John Koepf, Sr.**, John Koepf's father
- **Blackburn family**, friends of Barb Farris
- **Boswell family**, TQ Klein's sister-in-law
- **May Lin Chang**
- **Sharon Benson**, Virginia McNally's daughter
- **Joni Balderas**, Jesse Vargas' cousin
- **Bill Field**
- **Desmon Lunelli**
- **Kim Schulte**, co-worker of Frances Darden
- **Joseph Brandimarte, Sr.**
- **Cristie Martne**, cousin of Stephanie Lyles
- **Doyle**, Gary Annis' son
- **Jack & Norma Catal**
- **Tom McSpadden**, Sharon Webster's uncle.
- **Lori Dise**, cancer
- **Chris Havens**, friend of Russ & Liz Adkisson

Christmas Cantata "How Great Our Joy"



On Sunday, December 20th the Choir will be presenting a cantata at the 8:30 and 11:00 am worship services. This cantata, a collaborative work by Lloyd Larson and Douglas E. Warner, presents the Christmas message in a fresh and powerful blending of familiar carols with new texts and tunes. This cantata promises to be a truly joyous experience!

Preschool Sunday School Class

We welcome Mary Kenyon as the new teacher of our 3 and 4 year old Sunday School Class. Mary will begin teaching this class on December 6 at 9:45 a.m. She will be using Group's Hands On Bible curriculum that includes many fun and funny gadgets to grab and keep these young one's attention.

Celebrate Advent with Your Children

Celebrate Advent this year with your children. There are many ways that you can do this. Bring your children to worship and Sunday School. Put up an advent wreath in your home, light it regularly, and remind your children that Jesus is the reason for the season. We have an Advent activity book, Chase a Star, available for families which will guide you and your child in making an Advent chain with daily thoughts and activity suggestions to help you focus on Jesus' birth this season. You can pick these up in the fellowship hall and the gathering room.

LUMC T-shirts for sale!



Our youth group will be selling LUMC T-shirts in the fellowship hall on Dec. 6th. Orders can be picked up December 20th. All proceeds will benefit Nothing But Nets. This is a great opportunity to purchase a unique gift for someone and support a worthwhile cause.



Pastor's Perspective

I enjoy the Christmas season more than any other time of the year. I enjoy the anticipation of the holiday itself. I enjoy the music, both traditional and new. I love watching the "classic" renditions of Christmas movies either on television or on DVD, and yes, I even enjoy shopping for and selecting gifts that will find their way under the tree in our home.

As I look back on our family's experience of Christmas over the years, I must admit that there were some years that we went completely overboard on the material aspects of the holiday. At other times, we took a more modest approach. We enjoyed the season during those modest years just as much if not more than when we 'broke the bank.'

Giving is a part of the season. Giving gifts is a tangible remembrance of God's gift to us in Jesus Christ. There are many who believe that Christmas is too secular and has lost its spiritual base. That may be true for some, but I have come to believe that even through all the commercialization of the holiday, even those who have yet to develop a faith in God, know that Christmas is the season of the birth of Jesus Christ. In many ways, Wal-Mart, Lowe's, and other merchants are the modern messengers of evangelism – that it's Christmas.

Yet we, as the church, can never become complacent and let secular entities carry the message of the season. We must in our daily lives, encourage people to hear God's message of love and grace through the gift of his son. We must not be shy to invite people to worship with us, to sing the great songs of the season, and to celebrate as the gathered family of God.

Christmas Eve is now the one time of the year that people are apt to come to church over all other times. We need to be prepared to invite, to welcome, and to celebrate those who join us for our services on the 24th.

My favorite Christmas trivia question is this: "What is the name of the movie and who was the singer when 'Silver Bells' first appeared?"

Fa-La-La-La Youth Lock-in



Join us as we celebrate the Christmas season with a cold night of fellowship and fun! This district sponsored event is our last big event of the year. It will be Friday, December 18th at Austin Park & Pizza. This is an overnight event. We'll meet in the fellowship hall at 9:00 p.m. Friday night and return by 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning for parent pick-up. The cost is \$45 and includes go-karts, mini golf, laser tag, bumper boats, rock-wall, movies, pizza, and more. Checks should be made payable to Leander UMC and payments should be given to Cindy Kainu. You will need to bring extra money for the arcade games. Scholarships are available. Contact Cindy Kainu for additional info: 528-0915 or cjm kain@earthlink.net.

Church Conference: Church conference will take place on Sunday, December 6th at 12:00 pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome to attend.

Walk to the Manger

Walk to the Manger is our annual Christmas special offering. We will be able to participate in the special offerings on Sundays, December 13 and 20 and on Christmas Eve.

In a time of gift-giving; in a time when we celebrate that God has come into the world through the birth of Jesus, let us respond with generosity! If you are unable to participate in worship during December we invite you to participate in this act of worship – the Walk to the Manger offering.

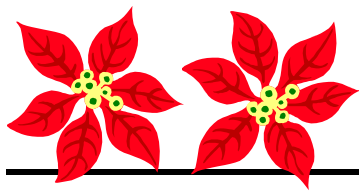


Angel Tree





This holiday season, we have adopted several families from our own community who are in need. We will provide them with gifts and a Christmas meal. Please consider pulling however many tags you can from the angel tree in the gathering room. Each tag has an item on it which needs to be purchased. Bring your gifts, wrapped (food should not be wrapped) with the tag attached and place them under the tree by December 20th.

Our gifts will make a difference in how these families celebrate Christmas this year as well as allow them to experience the love of Christ through the generosity of others.



December 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>3rd Sunday Lunch</p> <p>No 3rd Sunday Lunch This Month! During the month of December, we do not have 3rd Sunday lunch. We'll start again in January!</p>		<p>1</p> <p>9-2 pm Mother's Day Out</p> <p>9:15 am Advent Study</p> <p>6:30 pm Youth Council</p> <p>6:30 pm Advent Study</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30 pm Trustees (rm 7)</p> <p>7:00 pm Band Practice</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9-2 pm Mother's Day Out</p> <p>4 pm Weight Watchers</p> <p>7 pm - AA (rm 7)</p> <p>7 pm - Choir</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9 am Band Practice</p>
<p>6</p> <p>8:30/9:45/11:00 Worship/ Communion</p> <p>9:45 Sunday School for all ages</p> <p>10:00 Choir Practice</p> <p>11:00 Adult Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 Youth Sun. School</p> <p>12:00 TAC</p> <p>5:00 Chili Chow-Down</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30 pm Scouts</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9-2 pm Mother's Day Out</p> <p>9:15 am Advent Study</p> <p>11:30 am Mary Martha Christmas Luncheon (DFH)</p> <p>6:30 pm Advent Study</p> <p>6:30 pm - SPRC</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 pm Finance Committee (gathering room)</p> <p>7:00 pm Band Practice</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9-2 pm Mother's Day Out</p> <p>4 pm Weight Watchers</p> <p>6:30 7 pm - AA (rm 7)</p> <p>7 pm - Choir</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9 am Band Practice</p>
<p>13</p> <p>8:30/9:45/11:00 Worship</p> <p>9:45 Sunday School for all ages</p> <p>10:00 Choir Practice</p> <p>11:00 Adult Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 Youth Sun. School</p> <p>1:00 TAC</p> <p>5:00 Youth</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 pm Scouts</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9-2 pm - MDO</p> <p>9:15 am Advent Study</p> <p>11:30 am Mary Martha Christmas Luncheon (DFH)</p> <p>6:30 pm Advent Study</p> <p>7:00 pm - Scouts</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 pm Band Practice</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9-2 pm Mother's Day Out</p> <p>4 pm Weight Watchers</p> <p>7 pm - AA (rm 7)</p> <p>7 pm - Choir</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9 pm Fa-La-La-La Youth Lock-in</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9 am Band Practice</p>
<p>20</p> <p>8:30/9:45/11:00 Worship</p> <p>9:45 Sunday School for all ages</p> <p>10:00 Choir Practice</p> <p>11:00 Adult Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 Youth Sun. School</p> <p>12:00 TAC</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30 pm Scouts</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:15 am Advent Study</p> <p>6:30 pm Advent Study</p> <p>7 pm - AA (rm 7)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 pm Band Practice</p>	<p>24</p> <p>3:00 pm Children's Service</p> <p>5:00 pm Praise Service</p> <p>3:00 pm Communion Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas (office Closed)</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>9 am Band Practice</p>
<p>27</p> <p>8:30/9:45/11:00 Worship</p> <p>9:30 Choir Practice</p> <p>9:45 Sunday School for all ages</p> <p>11:00 Adult Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 Youth Sun. School</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30 pm Scouts</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:15 am Advent Study</p> <p>6:30 pm Advent Study</p> <p>6:30 pm Finance (rm 4)</p> <p>7 pm - AA (rm 7)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00 pm Band Practice</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9-2 pm Mother's Day Out</p> <p>4 pm Weight Watchers</p> <p>7 pm - AA (rm 7)</p> <p>7 pm - Choir</p>	<p>DFH: Dorroh Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Sanct: Sanctuary</p> <p>Upper Rm: Upstairs in the Education building</p>	

Happy Birthday!

Robert Koepf	12/4	Conor Murphy	12/15
Hardy Purvis	12/4	Korey Klein	12/16
Jeri Lynne Hillsabeck	12/6	Jennifer Greenstreet	12/21
Reed Shuffield	12/6	Trey Koepf	12/23
Glenn DeWolf	12/8	Nellie Smyth	12/23
Paula Allen	12/12	John Koepf	12/25
Brenda Saxon	12/13	Stephanie Lyles	12/27
Christine Wolessensky	12/13	Mitchell German	12/30
Joseph Brandimarte	12/14	Eric Peckham	12/30



For the
month of
November:

Roger Brandimarte
Linda Brandimarte
Tom Buckingham
Virginia Buckingham
Becky Cantwell
James Cantwell
Austin Cantwell
Stephen Chang
May Lin Chang
David Deeds
Boots Deeds
Larry Dunne
Harriet Dunne
Bill Field
Betty Franco

Donna Hendrickson
Audra Jezewski
Isabella Jezewski
Doyle Lee
Cindy Lee
Stephanie Lyles
Janice Murdoch
Chris Peckham
Brian Phipps
Jeannie Phipps
Victoria Phipps
Marge Schroeder
JT Watts
Lorena Watts



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Our Mission:

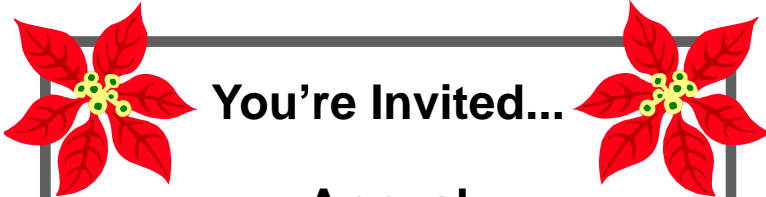
To bring people to Jesus Christ, to nurture relationships with Him, and to reach out in service to the world . . .to the glory of God.

Staff:

Ministers: All who worship & follow Christ
Pastor: Dr. Timothy Abel

Administrative Assistant: Stephanie Eason
MDO Director: Vickie Houk
Custodian: Linda Brandimarte
Musician: Russ Adkisson

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, kindly write "refused" and place it unopened in your mailbox.

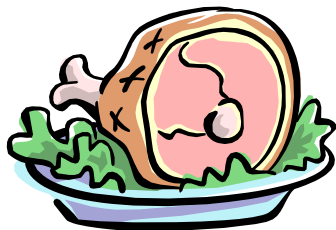


You're Invited...

Annual Christmas Luncheon

Hosted by:
The Mary Martha Circle

Tuesday, December 8th, 2009
11:30 am
Dorroh Fellowship Hall



Bring a side dish or dessert to share.
The meat, bread, and beverages will be provided by the Mary Martha Circle.

"Around the Manger" Advent Study



Many of us have manger scenes in our homes, with wise men, shepherds, angels, the baby Jesus, and various animals, to commemorate the Christmas season. Many of us even remember being in a 'live nativity' when we were growing up, sometimes with real animals. The manger scene which is so familiar to us, has a rich tradition and history, based on scripture, yet not quite the way we arrange the pieces in our homes.

Our Advent study this year will look at the various scriptures and traditions that surround these characters. Each week we will examine a different set of characters and how they have shaped our understanding of Christmas and Christ's birth.

Join us on Tuesdays, December 1-15th at 6:30 pm in the Rock House. Child care is provided.

- Tuesday, December 1st:** The Manger, Angels, and Animals
- Tuesday, December 8th:** The Holy Family
- Tuesday, December 15th:** Shepherd and Wise men

Mom's Breakfast and Advent Study

We are offering the "Around the Manger" advent study for moms on Tuesday mornings, Dec 1-15 at 9:15 am. Join us for breakfast in the upper room and a short fun study looking into the manger and what it all means. You'll be fully equipped to share your understanding with your children and answer all their questions about the nativity! Children are welcome, but child-care will not be provided. These are short, casual gatherings designed for fellowship and learning.



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