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Join us online or in person as we begin our sermon series, "Who Do You Say That I Am." We hope you will join us.

**VOLUME 13, NUMBER 34** 

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Quilts were recently prayed over in Grace Chapel. Soon, they will be given to various people in need of comfort and support. The Art and Craft of Quilts

## Threads of Love

I look at the heavens, which You made with your fingers, the moon and the stars which You set in place. What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him?" **Psalm 8:3-4** (WC Quilters charter verse)

hose who come through the front entrance of the Sanctuary (the Narthex) are currently blessed with a vision of brightly colored textiles. Our latest exhibit, entitled "Threads of Love... the Art and Crafts of Quilts" features beautiful and artistic examples of what many of us equate to comfort, warmth and love.

The history of quilting, which is the stitching together of layers of padding and fabric, may date back as far as 3400 BC. For much of its history, quilting was primarily a practical technique to provide physical protection and insulation. There are very few homes, even in today's culture, that do not have at least one quilt. Quilts are often passed down through generations and are – in many cases – made of fabrics that were once the clothing of our ancestors. They are considered precious heirlooms.

The current White's Chapel exhibit consists of two parts: one is a compilation of the talents and love of the WC

Quilters. The other is a display of quilts specifically created as art. As with any beautiful quilt, both displays have stories.

#### White's Chapel **Quilts: Gifts of Love**

WC Quilters create quilts of all sizes to be given to those in need in different mission areas identified by the church. The quilts are distributed through WC Outreach and Missions.

The group currently has about 40 members who combine their talents, time, and love to create these comforting blankets. Catherine Sheffield is the founder and volunteer lead for the quilters.

Sheffield began the group several years ago.

"A friend helped me make 10 quilts to go on White's Chapel's Men's Mission trip to San Antonio in 2017," she recalled. "The delight the men experienced sharing those quilts with the people served

there was so powerful, they asked for 10 more quilts in 2018. My friend graciously agreed to make them with me and kindly suggested I come up with a more organized approach to this new opportunity!"

A White's Chapel quilting group did not already exist so a charter meeting was set for February of 2019. On the way to this meeting, Sheffield "had a chat with the Lord" about the few things needed for the group to make an impact: people with time on their hands, people with their own machines and fabric who quilted or wanted to learn how, and resources for free or low-cost quilting of our quilts.

"If you know the Lord," she said, "you know He was way ahead of it. Fourteen enthusiastic quilters with time, machines and loads of fabric plus four long-arm machine owners attended the first meeting! This was Godblessed before it started! But He didn't stop there – since that beginning we have received numerous donations of fabric and tools as well as grants

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## **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, "Who Do You Say That I Am?" is available at various kiosks at White's Chapel, or at the administrative building front desk. Written by White's Chapel Co-Pastors Dr. John McKellar and Dr. M. Todd Renner, the guide is available at no charge.

#### **Distant Jesus**

"God may thunder His commands from Mount Sinai and men may fear, yet remain at heart exactly as they were before. But let a man once see his God down in the arena as a Man - suffering, tempted, sweating, and agonized, finally dying a criminal's death -

and he is a hard man indeed who is untouched."

- J.B. Phillips

hristians have always claimed that Jesus was fully human and fully divine. Human minds struggle with what that means; and if it is tempting to focus too intently upon Jesus' humanity, it becomes equally

tempting to focus on Christ's divinity. In fact, there are some who take this Jesus and Paul's writing emerge of Super Man life exuding power.

"almost" image of add a good dose of to have a picture Jesus as a sort of who passed through this

This notion, however, does not match

LENT cont'd on page 3



## **WC Kids Prepare for VBS 2023**

By Cassidy Johnson

blast at church!

t's one of the most exciting events offered for kids during the summer, and online registration opens March 1. Vacation Bible School (VBS) is more than just a fun summer program; it's a chance for kids to learn about God, participate in missions, learn Scripture, and meet new friends - all while having a

This year's VBS, "Food Truck Party," will take place Monday, June 12 through Thursday, June 15, from 9 a.m. to noon each day. The "Food Truck Party" theme is based on Matthew 6:11, "Give us this day our daily bread."

"These words serve as a reminder that everything we have comes from God and our daily needs are met by God," WC Kids Co-Director Denise Bennett shared. "Through stories in both the Old and New

Testaments, this VBS opens kids' eyes to the countless ways God provides, loves, and cares for us, while inviting them to join God in providing, loving, and caring for others."

Throughout the week, participants will learn important lessons about God's ability to provide and learn how to depend on God to take care of them. Because God loves and cares for all of us, we, in

VBS cont'd on page 4

## Dancing **Through March**

By Cassidy Johnson

hough the coming weeks are typically a time of quiet reflection in observance of Lent, many also use this season to take on a new activity or practice to better themselves. So, if getting more exercise - or experiencing a little more joy - is on your mind this season, look no further! Line dancing classes are scheduled for the first three Thursday evenings in March, and people of all ages are invited to attend.

"This is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to have a little fun, no prior dancing skills required!" shared Director of Adult Discipleship Tracy Christensen. "Our hope is that this offering will bring people of all ages together and become a time that participants look forward to during the week – a time of just good clean fun."

Each class will be an independent offering. The sessions, held in Evans Hall on March 2, 9, and 16 at 6 p.m., will be led by dance instructor Donna Whiteley.

Whiteley was an elementary physical education teacher for 32 years, with six years at Central Michigan University. She began teaching dance in 1998 and has

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**INSIDE THIS WEEK'S ISSUE** 

**WC Students Update** Lysa Terkeurst Book Tour Info



**Easter Lily Form** Due by March 19 | See Page 4



## 'Just throw it in the Basket'

By Dr. John McKellar

n this President's Day, I was musing about one of my heroes, Abraham Lincoln. I was remembering the occasion a few years ago when I got to visit his Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois. Several times, through the years while driving to visit my daughter Chandler in Chicago, we passed through Springfield on the interstate and I made a mental note that I would love to visit the Library one day. It is just incredible, unlike any other Presidential Library I have visited. The displays are so engaging; it is like walking back in time to re-visit history. And it is another stark reminder of how incredible Lincoln was. In the darkest season of our national history, we had a leader who embodied the ethic and leadership manner of Jesus. As a little boy he had read and re-read the Bible. And he appropriated the Sermon on the Mount in the way that he lived. Doris Kearns Goodwin has written many books detailing his remarkable leadership sense that I highly recommend!

One of his most incredible traits was his ability to forgive his enemies. Under enormous pressure and horrific attacks, he showed grace, calmness and forbearance. One of his Cabinet

members became enraged at a Union general. Lincoln gave him some advice. Why don't you write a letter expressing your feelings. When the letter was finished the President asked his colleague, "what are you going to do with the letter?" "Why send it, of course," he responded. "I wouldn't" the President replied, "throw it in the trash can." The Cabinet member was horrified at that answer, "Why would I do that, it took me two days to write." The President responded, "Yes, yes and it did you ever so much good. You feel better now; that is all that is necessary. Just throw it in the basket." After some additional grumbling, the Cabinet member did that.

What a lesson we need to learn. With our technology, it is too easy to fire off a missile of anger on Facebook, Twitter, or in e-mail or text form. Once sent, the damage done cannot be retracted. We need ways to vent, to process, but have a 48-hour delay before our thoughts are actually sent. Once we calm down, we can find constructive ways to disagree and still love Jesus' way. I love the classic Lincoln quote, ""Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?"

I hope we re-visit the profound leadership lessons of Abraham Lincoln. Our greatest President has much to

## teach us! Come sing for Holy Week 2023!



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#### Imperiled Pollinator CAROLYN SKEI

22" x 28"

One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.

Psalms 27:4



## Threads

Cont'd from page 1

from Angels' Attic. Over 300 quilts have been given since 2017 to families and individuals seeking the comfort of the Lord."

Distributions have been made to the Oncology Unit and the Breast Center at Baylor, Scott & White Hospital in Grapevine, Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center, ACH Child and Family Services in Fort Worth, Grapevine Housing Authority's Transitional Housing through our WC Home with a Heart ministry, the Gladney Center in Fort Worth (private maternity home for unwed mothers), and the WC Refugee Initiative. Additionally, multiple distributions were made though Quilt Country in Lewisville (families affected by the Kentucky tornadoes, Project Linus, and Joy Meadows Foster Care in Kansas). Many quilts have also been taken on various WC Men's Mission Trips, WC Women's Mission Trips as well as WC Adult Mission Trips.

For the most part, quilters use their own fabric, machines and tools. Angels' Attic has twice given grants to pay for the quilting of the quilts (a substantial cost). The group quilts together every second

San Antonio on My Mind CAROLYN SKEI

Texas Boy with Fish

And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to beco fishers of men.

CAROLYN SKEI

Mark 1:17

Isaiah 42:10

Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth....

Thursday at church, noon to 4 p.m. They additionally sew on their own at home. Their goal is to create quilts of all sizes to be given to those in need, in different mission areas identified by WC. The quilts are distributed through WC Outreach with Kim Stinson as staff liaison and Rev. Joy Roberson as the pastoral link for scheduling.

"We have a show-and-tell at each meeting

and enjoy hearing why the quilter chose the pattern, where the cloth came from, etc.," explained Sheffield. "We love finishing our own and someone else's UFO (UnFinished Object) and making good use of fabric from quilters who have retired from the hobby. A friend and I are currently completing several projects that were in my mother's stash when she retired from quilting. Others have rescued quilt tops from antique or consignment stores to complete them."

The group recently had a quilt donated that was the unfinished project of a loved one who had recently passed. "That quilt went into the quilt inventory with a lot of love attached to it!"

A few years ago, the quilters had a voluntary group project to make Drs. John McKellar and Todd Renner reverse quilts to represent their vocation and their friendship. "They selected complimentary colors of green and purple because green is a color of Todd's team (Baylor) and purple is a color of John's team (LSU). For the block pattern they selected current, modern cross blocks. Several WC Quilters contributed five blocks each following these guidelines and using their own fabric. (These quilts are on exhibit in the Narthex.) Enough blocks and scraps

were created to make quilts for Rev. Dara Austin, who distributed them at the time, and Rev. Joy Roberson.

"Because quilts can comfort in any situation, a handmade quilt is a tangible, long-lasting comfort to people," said Sheffield. "In addition to blessing the receiver, the quilter is living with the quilt while creating it, putting in their time and resources, thinking and praying about the person or family receiving it. Every person in the chain of events is blessed! The shop owner who knows the quilt will be donated, the quilt maker, the quilter, the receptionist who receives it for Kim's office, Kim and then the recipient."

#### The National Artists

The "art side" feature of the exhibit features the work of two nationallyknown art quilters, Carolyn Skei and Deborah Boschert. These quilts are smaller than a normal quilt, and each of their quilts have Bible verses incorporated into the design.

Skei describes herself as "a dabbler" in art – one whose work ranges from art quilts to digital photographs to mixed media. The work includes collages in fabric or paper, as well as structures like handbound books. The images in her art are sometimes figurative and often very colorful. Improvisation is central to

her approach, whatever the medium. She spent 30 years of her adult life in California, working for most of those years as a university editor and publications director. In 2000, she retired and returned to her native Texas, where she has continued to edit but has also found time to enjoy art-making. In the last several years, her art quilts have been juried into major

shows, have traveled beyond the North American continent, and have won a

number of awards. Boschert is an artist, author and teacher. She creates art quilts with layers of fabric, paint and stitching. The personal symbols and details in her work reflect her experiences and feelings about places she's lived and the things she's done. In her art quilts, the tiny details are as important as the overall design. As in life, every-day little joys compliment the bigger adventures.

Her award-winning art quilts have been exhibited in quilt shows and art galleries throughout the United States and internationally. She has appeared on Quilting Arts TV and The Quilt Show. She is published in many books and magazines. Deborah is the author of "Art Quilt Collage: A Creative Journey in Fabric, Paint and Stitch."

If you have interest in being a part of this missional group, you may contact any of the following persons for additional information:

Catherine Sheffield | (907) 830-3983

Kim Stinson | kstinson@whiteschapel.org Rev. Joy Roberson iroberson@whiteschapel.org



Participate in Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday

& Easter.

Six Choir Rehearsals begin Sunday, Feb. 26 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.



## (WCStudents)

#### **High School Mission Trip**

All students of the graduating classes of 2023-2027 are welcome to register for this year's High School Mission Trip. The trip is July 9-14 in Memphis, Tennessee. This week-long trip will provide students with the opportunity to serve the people of Memphis while growing in their faith alongside their peers. This trip is known to fill up very, very quickly, so please sign up now. Over 130 people have registered since the first week of registration being open! Because space is limited, ALL students will initially be placed on a WAIT LIST on a first come first served basis and when an adult signs up, five students will be placed on the final roster. If a parent of a student on the wait list registers as a work group leader, their student will automatically be added to the final roster. Registration forms for this trip can be found at wcstudents.com.

#### **Middle School Mission Trip**

Those in the graduating classes of 2028-2029 are invited to join us on this year's Middle School Mission Trip to Little Rock/Conway, Arkansas. The trip will be June 12-16. These middle school students will get to learn about their faith as they serve the community together. Spots for this trip are filling up quickly, so take the time to sign up now. All students will initially be placed on a WAIT LIST and when an adult signs up, five students will be placed on the final roster in the order that they registered. If a parent of a student on the wait list registers as a work group leader, their student will automatically be added to the final roster. Registration forms for this trip can be found at wcstudents.com.

#### 7th Grade Trip

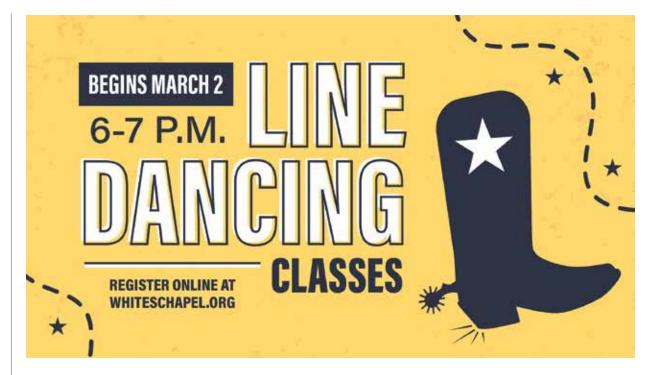
We have a jam-packed schedule for the class of 2029 on this year's 7th Grade Trip. The trip, which takes place June 5-7, will be three action-packed days of ridiculous fun. Students will travel around the metroplex, going from one adventure to the next. This trip is designed to provide an opportunity for students to become acclimated with WC Student Ministry as they prepare for life as a 7th grader. Every effort is made in helping students connect in friendships with each other and with our Student Ministry Team to lay a foundation of community. Registration for the 7th Grade Trip will open on Wednesday, March 1. Upon opening, registration forms for this trip will be found on wcstudents.com.

#### Leaders

In order for these trips to be a success, more than 75 adults are needed as work group leaders for High School Mission Trip alone! We hope you will consider joining us. We are happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Work group leaders are responsible for co-leading a team of students with one or two other adults in assigned projects and facilitating group discussion/ devotion times (provided). Because we are required to provide one work group leader for every five students, the number of students who can attend this trip is strictly determined by the number of adults who register for this role. This year, to keep work groups small, we will need adult leaders more than ever. If you have ever wanted a shot at being a hero for a week, this is definitely it!!







## **Dancing**

Cont'd from page 1

continued to do so throughout the years. She teaches line, country, ballroom, and swing dances, and she dances competitively in country western and line dancing. This is the fourth time she will lead line dancing classes at the church.

"I love moving to the rhythm of several different songs," she shared. "Dancing keeps me physically and mentally active."

The upcoming classes will teach participants specific steps that are repetitive. Whiteley will try to keep the moves simple and easy to learn so people of any age and ability are able to do them. Each class will start with a brief warm up that includes a variety of common line dance steps. Then, Whiteley will teach the group a dance.

"The Cupid Shuffle," "Stuff Like That" (Quincy Jones), and "Up in Your Giddy" ("Giddy Up!" by Shania Twain), and a barn dance mixer are just some of the dances Whiteley has planned. Additional dances may be taught, depending on the group's progress at each session.

"Dancing helps people's physical, mental and emotional health," she said. "I love helping people with this part of their life."

Participants should bring a water bottle to each class, and they should wear comfortable clothes and shoes they can easily move in. Singles, couples, and families are welcome. The cost is only \$5 per person (per class) to attend, for those 13 years old and older. Please register and pay online through the church website. For more information, please contact Tracy Christensen at tchristensen@whiteschapel.org.



## Lent

Cont'd from page 1

the Biblical record. The Scriptures teach us that Jesus was fully human. He laughed, cried, hurt, got tired, and bled. He suffered and endured.

We must all come to grips with the truth of Jesus 'nature to discover our own response of faith. If Jesus were only divine, we could let ourselves off the hook. We could say about the challenging Scriptures, "Jesus doesn't really expect for me to follow this; I am not fully God like He was." But, if Jesus knew every moment of pain and suffering that we endure, his way models for us how to live. There is no place we can go, no struggle that we can face that He has not been through.

He lived his life in poverty. He taught without academic credentials or standing. He had no political connections to pave the way. He didn't wait until the conditions were favorable; rather, he conducted his ministry without the resources or power we assume a leader must have. His example shows us how the faith must be lived. Right now - with all our shortcomings and limitations, with all of our flawed humanity.

Remember the legend of the Fisher King? When the Fisher King was a boy, he was sent out to spend the night alone in the forest as a test of his courage to be king. During the night, he had a vision of the Holy Grail (the cup used by our Lord at the Last Supper), surrounded

by great flames of fire. Immediately, he became excited by the prospect of the wealth and glory that would be his by possessing such a great prize. Greedily, he reached into the flames to grab the Grail, but the flames were too much, and

he was severely wounded. As the years went by, the Fisher King became more despondent and alone, and his wound grew deeper. One day the Fisher King, feeling sad and depressed and in pain, went for a walk in the forest. He came upon a court jester. "Are you all right?" the jester asked. "Is there anything I can do for you? Anything at all?" "Well, I am very thirsty," the Fisher King replied. The jester took an old dilapidated cup from a bag, filled it with water from a nearby stream, and gave it to the Fisher King. As the Fisher King drank, he suddenly felt his wound healing for the first time. And incredibly, the old cup he was drinking from had turned into the Holy Grail. "What wonderful magic do you possess?" the Fisher King asked the jester. The jester just shrugged and said, "I know no magic. All I did was get a drink for a thirsty soul."

When we do our best to follow, with all of our flawed humanity, Jesus will inhabit those moments of our straining faith. Our job is not to let ourselves off the hook, but to enter the frays of life right now with Jesus!

Excerpt from Almost Christian a Lenten study published in 2017 and written by White's Chapel Co-pastors Dr. John McKellar and Dr. M. Todd Renner. All rights reserved.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

## "Unplugged Gamers" Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 22 & 29 6 to 7 p.m. | Evans Hall Room 2235

This fun and engaging group for teens (ages 12-15) will utilize board games and card games to promote and build healthy relationships, self-esteem, and social skills. Join facilitator Lyn Neisius, LPC, LSSP and Michelle Suttles, who is finishing her LCDC certification. The class is limited to 10 teens. Register online.

#### Open Hearts Thursday, March 2 | 6:30 p.m.

Open Hearts resumes on Thursday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the living room of the Center for Spiritual Care. Our speaker will be Cathy Evans. Cathy will be presenting research on New Testament passages and sharing her personal epiphanies that lead her head and heart to align with the LGBT community.

Open Hearts is a group that respects and welcomes all people. We strive to support, both spiritually and socially, those in the LGBT community. We believe that God loves all and seek to provide a safe environment for discussion and fellowship.

Janice White I janicedwhite74@gmail.com

#### Agape Meal Volunteers Every Third Thursday

Be the hands and feet of Jesus as White's Chapel volunteers (ages 6 and up) serve a meal to the homeless on the third Thursday of each month during the

Agape Meal at Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth. Each Agape Meal service opportunity begins at 4:15 p.m. at the WC Welcome doors (east parking lot) with group introductions and a prayer. Then, the groups gets on the church bus. At 5:30 p.m., there is a short volunteer orientation in the Followship Hall at Broadway Baptist Church and then people get tables ready to begin serving the homeless. The doors open at 6 p.m. The worship service begins at 6:30 p.m. After cleaning up, the group heads back and arrives at White's Chapel at 7:45 p.m. WC volunteers can ride the bus for drive separately (and meet at Broadway Baptist at 5:30 p.m.). Please plan to eat before.

Please contact the WC volunteer lead, Kathy Abelanet at kaabel@verizon. net if you have any questions. Register through the sign-up page online.

#### New Mexico Adult Mission Trip April 23-29 | Santa Fe, New Mexico

Mark your calendars to join other White's Chapel adults on a mission trip to McCurdy Ministries. There will be a variety of work for all skill levels during the week including improvement projects, administrative work, and program support. Deadline to register is March 15. Check out their website at www.mccurdy.org. The trip is limited to 30 volunteers. Contact Larry or Karen Smith at smith4family@verizon.net. Register on the church website.





## **Prayer List**

Adriana Abbasi, The Family of Patricia Adams, The Family of Jack Agosta, Rex Akers, Sam Akins, The Family of Mario Alvarez, Libby Assenheimer, Jack Bair, Carol Barret, Walt Barret, Jerry Barron, David Baxley, Joyce Billingsley, Bethia Blomquist, Mindy Bogan, John Booth, The Family of Kaye Bounds, Brad Boyd, Kay Brandt, Marlin Brandt, Ernie Brashear, Walt Braun, Jeremy Brown, Ron and Carol Bryant, Bobbie Cameron, Nikki Campbell, Connie Center, The Family of Ric Coggins, Jimmie Nell Cook, The Family of David Cotton, Natalie Cramer, Levi Dietz, Andy Dillon, Jean Doricko, Cooper Dunaway, Bobbi Dunbar, Audry Dusendschon, Wilma Dykman, The Family of John H. "Trey" Edwards III, Nick Elizondo, Ralph Evans, Mark Fidler, Warren Ford, The Family of Crystal Ford, Lucile Frame, Alfred Fritsch, Joan Gaszak, Rick Gaszak, Debbie Grace, Jane Grazer, Alan Grey, Joshua Grimstad, Marilyn Hale, Tiffany Hall, Judith Hallam, Edith Handock, The Family of Royce Harber, Maxie Hays, Alberta Hays, Tommy Helton, Art Hill, Chelsea Hill, Jarrett Hodnett, Robert Hoke, Elyse Huettl, Tom Hutchison, Bill Jacobs, Doug Jenkins, Kevin Johnson, Ron Johnson, The Family of Russ Jones, The Family of Clifton Joseph, Debbie Kanavel, Helen Kimble Kutch, The Family of Imogene King, Dolores Kopesec, Steve Lallier, Connie Lamb, Caleb Graham Larson, Ann Lee, Rich Lyon, Jennifer Matchett, Kosse Maykus, Jared McAda, The Family of Maurice McAninch, Blair McLaughlin, The Family of Barbara McMillon, Leara Miles, Nancy Miller, Ed Molberg, Thomas W. Morris, Jim Murray, The Family of Ferry Anne Neal, Elida Parish, Kathy Pierce, Myrna Puls, Fadia Pyatt, Pamela Rhoads, Janet Richter, Beth Scoggins, Sharon Seago, Diane Shafer, Lou Sherman, Jeanie Shoop, Frank Sikes, Pat Skinner, Steve Swanston, Jasper Talley, The Family of Robert Tettleton, Jenny Thornell, The Family of Barbara Tipton, Gladys Van Horsten, Rollie Villaruel, Brenda Walker, The Family of Gerald Wallace, John Walling, Jeremie Wampler, Guy Warner, Pat Warner, Darles Watson, Terry Webster, Dick Williams, Ken Williams, Barry Wilson, Josh Withers, The Family of Paul Wright, Dave Zebriski, Joey, Pat, Jared and Family. Recent Deaths: The Family of Patricia Adams, The Family of Jack Agosta, The Family of Mario Alvarez, The Family of Kaye Bounds, The Family of Ric Coggins, The Family of David Cotton, The Family of John H. "Trey" Edwards III, The Family of Crystal Ford, The Family of Royce Harber, The Family of Russ Jones, The Family of Clifton Joseph, The Family of Imogene King, The Family of Maurice McAninch, The Family of Barbara McMillon, The Family of Ferry Anne Neal, The Family of Robert Tettleton, The Family of Barbara Tipton, The Family of Gerald Wallace, The Family of Paul

You may submit prayer requests at whiteschapelumc.com/prayer-request.html



## **VBS**

#### Cont'd from page 1

turn, can love and care for the rest of the world. We care for others because God first cared for us. In this way, the Church becomes the hands of God, ensuring that everyone's needs are met.

Each day, students – or "chefs" – will rotate through stations on the White's Chapel campus. The stations will include Worship, Snacks, Games, Bible Time, Missions, and Crafts. The activities in each area will either focus on the theme or align with one of the Bible stories presented. This year's stories all relate to food and God's love in providing for us. The stories that will be highlighted include "God Provides Manna and Quail," "Daniel and Friends Eating the Good Stuff," "Jesus Feeds the 5,000," and "Jesus Cooks the Catch of the Day."

The goal of this year's VBS is to help children build on the practice of using daily prayer to turn to God for their needs. Leaders also hope to encourage kids to serve others throughout the program. This will be a focus at the Missions station, as the children help to feed those in need.

"We always want children to know that no matter your age, you can make a difference in someone's life... that a 'mission' project doesn't have to be building a house or feeding an entire community," Bennett said. "It can be you opening your piggy bank and giving a dollar to help feed one child lunch. We want children to know that they can be the hands and feet of God by helping meet the needs of others."

The WC Kids team is excited to present new songs this year, as they often hear parents say their kids sing the songs they learn at VBS for the whole next year. These songs help participants remember the things they learned about God as well as remember their time at VBS.

Parents and community members are encouraged to volunteer for this event. Leaders expect 900 or more kids to attend this year's VBS, so more than 250 volunteers are needed to help. 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 will be available at wckids.org beginning March 1.

"You can go into it thinking 'I'm here to teach this child about Jesus' – and you are, that's what we are all here to do – but the flip side of that is you don't know how much your heart is going to get filled up by volunteering with them," Bennett said. "VBS is one of my favorite things in the world; I have a passion for it, and most people that volunteer actually come back and do it again... and I think that's because they don't realize just how much it's going to fill them up."

While many kids may attend who already know the Gospel, this event often reaches those who have not yet been introduced to God – or His love. WC Kids leaders are excited to minister to children within the community, and they hope everyone involved will be moved by this year's VBS.

"I love that the whole theme is about God providing for us and we, in turn, providing for others," Bennett said. "This theme reminds me of the children's prayer 'God is great, God is good, let us thank Him for our food... By God's hands we all are fed. Amen."

Register or volunteer for VBS "Food Truck Party" at wckids.org.

Denise Bennett | dbennett@whiteschapel.org

