



Rev. Jon D. Lowry
Senior Pastor

Letter of Jon

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (*Romans 1:7b*)

Well, the time has come for me to write the last “Letter of Jon.” It’s very hard to put into words what I’m feeling right now. But first, I am one of the eight pastors serving churches who will be retiring at the session of our Southwest Texas Annual Conference in Corpus Christi next month. The clergy members of the conference will have to vote on our retirements on Wednesday afternoon, June 2nd!

The official “change of the guard” will be at noon on Thursday, June 10, but I will vacate “my” office the week before to give our Property Committee and staff time to dust, clean, fumigate and otherwise get the office ready to receive your new pastor, Rev. Jim

McClain as he arrives that week. His first Sunday will be June 13, and I hope you will all be here to greet him and his wife Kercida. S.P.R. is planning a welcoming reception for that day.

As I look back on 42 years under appointment by several bishops, I have served eight churches and as a District Superintendent. Three of these appointments, including Laurel Heights and the Kerrville District, have each been for seven years. I thank God that the best has been saved for last!

When I asked to be appointed here in the spring of 2003, the bishop and D.S. said I couldn’t go because the salary was too low. I told the district superintendent, “Did I say anything about money? I want to be appointed to a church that needs my gifts and graces, where I can make a difference.” They reluctantly conceded, and here I am!

Now it’s time for new pastoral leadership and time for me to retire. I am leaving your new pastor a church that is much different from the one to which I came, and I thank you and God for that.

As I look back on the past seven years, I remember so many of the “saints” who have died; I remember an even greater number of babies who I have baptized; I remember the happy couples who I joined in marriage, and I thank God for all the new members we have received. I have preached over 350 sermons, participated in several choral productions and enjoyed more classes, meetings and programs than I care to count.

I also look back on new and effective programs and ministries that have taken place here. I even had a part in some of those. But, in all these things, I have received much more than I have given: your love, acceptance and forgiveness in the spirit of hope, joy and true friendship. Your friendship is the greatest treasure that both Anna and I have received, and we will cherish it always.

But now Jim McClain will be your “Pastor-in-Charge” and I will do all I can to enable him and his family to be loved and accepted as was Anna and I. Yes, we’ll miss you, but we leave you in very capable hands. You can show your love and respect for Anna and me by continuing to be the very special congregation that we love so much, by helping Jim and Kercida continue the wonderful and multiple ministries that make Laurel Heights such a vital part of the “Body of Christ.”

As Anna has said so many times, “Laurel Heights is the most ‘Christian’ church we have been in.” My prayer is that you continue to be just that.

God bless,

Papa Jon



Farewell to Pastor Raquel

Join us at fellowship time (9:30 am) in the dining room on Sunday, May 23 as we say our sad farewells to Rev. Raquel Cajiri Feagins. The two years since Raquel’s coming to Laurel Heights to serve as associate pastor have passed quickly; it seems much too soon to have to say “good-bye.” A basket for cards and love offerings will be available at the fellowship time “celebration.”

Jim McClain: New Pastor-in-Charge

Jim McClain and his wife Kercida have been in ministry together for over 20 years. They share three wonderful children, two fantastic grandchildren, several “grand dogs” and two precious foster children who now serve admirably in the role of grandchildren.

Reverend McClain received his M. Div. from the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in 1991 and his Bachelors from Texas Tech. He has continued studies in Leadership through Family Systems, Leadership in a Post-Modern Culture, Preaching Methods and Applications, Benedictine Liturgy and Monastic Life and has performed in a couple of musicals since graduation.

The McClains grew up in The United Methodist Church and since ordination have served churches in Austin, Seguin, Victoria, Mason, Elgin and now Laurel Heights.

Reverend McClain feels the church is called to be in ministry with the community and plans to live in Alamo Heights. Jim says if you asked him to share the one gift he has shared with the congregations and communities he has served, it would be a personal knowledge of “The Peace of Christ that passes all understanding.”

Reverend McClain’s first Sunday in the pulpit at Laurel Heights will be Sunday, June 13, but he will be moving into the senior pastor’s office before then.

Let’s show our support by being in church that Sunday and by being in prayer for Rev. McClain and his family as they make the transition to San Antonio and Laurel Heights.

Look for a new pastor’s column to begin in the next newsletter (June 11, 2010).



Rev. Jim & Mrs. (Kercida) McClain



**Luncheon & Roast for
Jon & Anna Lowry**
Sunday, June 6, 2010, 12:15 pm
R.S.V.P. to Cherie by May 28
733-7156

Other LHUMC News on Pages 4A & 8A

Benson McGlone on staff this summer

It will be great to have Benson McGlone back in San Antonio for the summer, but especially nice to have him on staff at the church. Our Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) has asked Benson to serve as Interim Director of Children and Youth Ministries while he is in San Antonio this summer. Benson will be filling Sandra Jones's position on a temporary basis. Sandra left Laurel Heights recently to pursue other opportunities. We are grateful for Sandra's work with LHUMC's children and youth and we wish her well in her future endeavors.



Benson McGlone

Benson grew up at Laurel Heights and is the younger son of Mike and Ann McGlone. In March, 2009 Benson met with SPRC to formally declare his plans to pursue a career as a United Methodist minister. This past school year Benson has been working part-time at First United Methodist Church in Manhattan, Kansas. Benson is finishing his junior year at Kansas State University and will return for his senior year in the fall.

Keep Benson in your prayers as he prepares for this new journey. Although his arrival date is not set, he will begin the latter part of May.

Fundraising this summer?

Would your class or group like to host a Wednesday night meal this summer? Dates are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Call the Church Receptionist, 733-7156, to give your requested date and menu. When you call, please be advised that you cannot reserve a date until you can provide your complete menu. Menu prices are fixed at \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. Proceeds collected for meals will go to the group assigned to cook on a particular date.



Your group will be responsible for any condiments (lemons for tea) needed, as well as juice for the children, if desired. You will not be responsible for setting tables, washing dishes, or providing coffee and tea. For planning purposes, you can get a meal count from the Receptionist at noon on the Tuesday prior.

To see if a date is available, call the Church Receptionist or visit <http://www.mylhumc.org/summerwed.html>. Menus are added to the website in a timely manner.

Dates for June not reserved by May 27, 2010 will be assigned to Acadiana Café. July and August menus not reserved by June 23, 2010 will be assigned to Acadiana Café.

MESSENGER DEADLINES		
Issue Date	Coverage	COPY DEADLINE
6/11	6/13 - 6/26	5/27/10
6/25	6/27 - 7/10	6/10/10
7/9	7/11 - 7/24	6/23/10
7/23	7/24 - 8/14	7/8
8/13	8/15 - 8/28	7/29

Thanks, for the memories

How do you capsule seven years of Christian service and ministry? When Jon and Anna Lowry came to Laurel Heights in June of 2003, who knew what changes would occur, and whether they would be good or bad?

As it turns out, a wealth of good has come out of their ministry here since that time. Here are just a few: 1) Stephen Ministry begins in **2003**; 2) in 2003 Retired Clergy Norman Roe volunteers as staff liaison to the Evangelism Committee on an invite from Rev. Jon Lowry; 3) in **2004** Rev. Roe is appointed at Annual Conference to serve as part-time associate pastor; 4) **April 18, 2004** marks the groundbreaking ceremony for the Bridge to the Future Building Campaign. Most renovations are completed by **2006**: the opening of the new library, installation of a new elevator leading to the sanctuary level, a new foyer which once was a no-longer-used outside garden area, new furnishings in the offices, and numerous other updates, which seemingly is an on-going process; 5) April, **2005**, Rev. Alex Alvarez is appointed as Associate Pastor / Neighborhood Ministries Coordinator; 6) Centennial planning begins in **2007**; 7) purchase of new church bus in **2008**; 8) Centennial Celebrations in **2009**, including the church's participation in the 2009 Battle of Flowers Parade; 9) the "whew!" after Centennial Sunday on **Nov. 22, 2009**; 10) and then the bad news as Rev. Lowry announces his plans for retirement in **2010**.

Depending on your perspective, Number 10 can be a "good thing" as Jon and Anna will finally have the opportunity to spend oodles of time with family, and especially their grandchildren. We wish them and their family well at this juncture in their life. And, we thank them for their labor of love at Laurel Heights these past seven years.

If you would like to write a note of appreciation to Jon and Anna, here are a couple of opportunities. Place your card or letter indicating Rev. Jon Lowry on the envelope and enclose it in another envelope addressed to Rev. Leighanne Brechin, P. O. Box 858, Somerset, TX 78069. These need to be received by Monday, May 24, 2010 and will be given to Jon at Annual Conference next month. If you miss that, you can write a note and place it in the basket at Jon's Retirement Luncheon at the church on Sunday, June 6. Please take a few moments to express your appreciation as these will go into a "book of memories."

USDA Summer Food Service Program offers free meals for kids

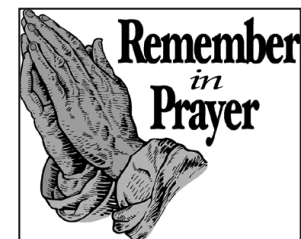
Summer means no school!!! For many children who receive a reduced-cost or free breakfast and lunch at school, summer means no breakfast or lunch. In an effort to continue meal service throughout the summer and help close the hunger gap for children ages one to 18 years, LHUMC in partnership with San Antonio Youth at Laurel Heights UMC is participating as a feeding site for the USDA Summer Food Service Program.

Volunteer opportunities are available Monday through Friday 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm to welcome the children, serve a prepared lunch, and supervise meal time. If you would like to become part of this new community outreach ministry, contact Judy Davis, 733-7156 ext. 18.



Rev. & Mrs. Jon D. Lowry

"...and then the bad news as Rev. Lowry announces his plans for retirement in 2010."



Healing: Vane Hugo; Roxane Darnell; Harold & Juanita Souder; Mindy Lanoux; Richard Jackson; Clay Skinner; Larry & Sidney Thompson; Gary Rine; Cora Nell Fournier; Nancy Fassnidge.

God's Presence: Shelley McMullen and new guide dog.

Remember our shut-ins and those in the military.

Get the news delivered to your inbox twice monthly.

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MAY

23 Pat Ewing; Barb Kurtz; Ella Sanders

24 Charles Davis; Charles Ferguson; Annabelle Oleson

27 Bertha Basil; Randolph Macias

28 Louise Lange

29 Luke Farias; Lester Koerlin

30 Ginger McKay; Meredith Williams

31 Jeanne Redmond

JUNE

1 James Verette

2 William Campbell

3 Mick Davis; Tertia Emerson; Paul Kinnison

5 David Saylor; Chad Wood

6 Stacy Campbell; Joe Haggard; Katina Huron

7 Kim Grossett; Nancy Wood

8 Lydia Powell

9 John Evans; Benjamin Reed

10 Mrs. Dick Thiesen

Our mission

...is to offer Christ to those we encounter and to nurture, equip, and enable persons to become committed Christians in our community and the world beyond.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Haven for Hope Tour

Sunday, May 23, 2-4 PM

Van departs
from LHUMC @ 1:30 PM

Contact

Deaconess Judy Davis
733-7156 ext .18
to reserve a seat

To prepare for the experience, you are invited to a Bags of Grace Lunch (or bring your own lunch) **12:30 PM in Room 313-B**
Drinks provided.

*Childcare available.

SUNDAY, MAY 23

PENTECOST SUNDAY

8:30 & 11:00 *Worship (Rev. Raquel C. Feagins) - *Sanctuary*
9:30 Farewell for Rev. Raquel Feagins and Fellowship Time-DR
9:45 Sunday School
9:45 Efid Study on Revelation-312
12:30 Bags of Grace Lunch - 313-B
1:30 Leave to Haven for Hope- Van
2:45 Children's Ministry Team - *Parlor*

4:00 UMYF - 319

6:30 Emmaus - *Scott Chapel*

Monday, May 24

7:30-5:00 Aldersgate Day @ Southwestern Univ., Georgetown - *Church Bus*

9:00 Body Recall (M-W-F) - 312

3:00-7:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC (Mon.-Thu.) - *Gym*

5:00 SA Youth Advisory Council - *Parlor*

5:30 Stewardship - *Laurel Room*

6:00 Weekday School Board - *WDS*

6:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B

Tuesday, May 25

10:00 Staff Meeting - 313-B

10:00 Tobacco Coalition/Lunch-DR

11:00 WDS Teacher Appreciation Lunch - *Gym*

5:45 Missions - *Laurel Room*

7:15 Neighborhood Ministries - *Parlor*

Wednesday, May 26

4:30 Line Dancing - 312

5:30 Supper - *Gym*

6:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC Parents' Meeting - 312

6:15 *Service of Healing and Communion (Rev. Jon Lowry) - *Scott Chapel*

6:15 Handbells -*Sanctuary Balcony*

7:00 Chancel Choir - *Choir Room*

7:15 Bible Study - *Library*

Thursday, May 27

9:00 Super Adult Day - *DR, Gym*

9:00 Church Mice meet for fellowship and to do repairs around the church (open to all)

6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

Friday, May 28

Weekday School Closed

SA Youth Center Closed

5:00 Meal Reservations Deadline

for Rev. Lowry's June 6th

Retirement Lunch/Roast

Saturday, May 29

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

SUNDAY, MAY 30

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

8:30 & 11:00 *Worship (Rev. Jon D. Lowry) - *Sanctuary*

9:30 Fellowship Time - *Dining Rm.*

9:45 Sunday School

9:45 Children's Story Time with Bonnye Cavazos - *Library*

10:00 LHUMC Leads Worship

- *Chandler Center*

4:00 UMYF - 319

Monday, May 31

MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

All Buildings Closed

Tuesday, June 1

7:30-5:30 Weekday School ACE Program (Tue.-Fri.) - *WDS*

9:30 UMW Executive Committee - *Parlor*

10:00 Staff Meeting & Staff Lunch for Jon & Anna - *Dining Room*

3:00-7:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC

(Tue.- Fri.) - *Gym*

6:15 Stephen Ministry - 313-B

Wednesday, June 2

9:00 Body Recall (Wed.&Fri.)- 312

4:30 Line Dancing - 312

5:30 *Supper - *Dining Room*

6:15 *Worship/Communion (Rev. Robin Hiatt-Reed) - *Scott Chapel*

6:15 Handbells- *Sanctuary Balcony*

7:00 Chancel Choir - *Choir Room*

7:15 Bible Study - *Library*

Thursday, June 3

Weekday School Closed

9:00 Church Mice meet for fellowship and to do repairs around the church (open to all)

6:00 Church under the Bridge

- *Leave from Woodlawn Lot*

6:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

Friday, June 4

11:00 WDS Meet the Summer

School Teacher - *WDS*

6:30 Parents' Night Out (733-7156

for Reservations)

Saturday, June 5

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous - 313-B

4:00 Borg Bunch Study Group

- *Laurel Room*

SUNDAY, JUNE 6

8:30 & 11:00 *Worship (Rev. Jon D. Lowry) - *Sanctuary*

9:30 Fellowship Time - *Dining Rm.*

9:45 Sunday School

10:00 LHUMC Leads Worship

- *Chandler Center*

12:00 Retirement / Appreciation

Lunch for Jon & Anna Lowry

- *Dining Room*

Monday, June 7

9:00 Body Recall (M-W-F) - 312

8:00-5:00 SA Youth @ LHUMC

(Mon.-Fri.) - *Gym*

6:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B

Tuesday, June 8

7:30 Health Cabinet - *Ask location*

9:30 UMW Work Day - *Parlor*

Wednesday, June 9

10:00 Stephen Leaders - 313-B

10:00 Super Adult Steering

Committee - *Parlor*

11:30 Let's Eat Out - *Church Bus*

4:30 Line Dancing - 312

4:30 Property Committee - *Li-*

brary

5:30 *Supper - *Dining Room*

6:00 MOPS Book Group (*The*

Glass Castle) - *Laurel Room*

6:15 *Worship/Holy Communion

(Joe Tognetti) - *Scott Chapel*

6:15 Handbells-*Sanctuary Balcony*

7:00 Chancel Choir - *Choir Room*

7:15 Bible Study - *Library*

Thursday, June 10

9:00 Church Mice meet for fellowship and to do repairs around the church (open to all)

5:30 SPRC - *Parlor*

6:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B

Friday, June 11

10:00 Church Women United

Executive Board Meeting-*Parlor*

6:30 Parents' Night Out (733-7156

for Reservations)

Saturday, June 12

8:30 Gamblers Anonymous- 313-B

10:00-11:30 Super Adult Volunteer

Brunch - *Dining Room*

Peace with Justice Sunday, May 30

Make a donation to the Peace with Justice Offering on May 30 and help enable justice ministries to continue to be a vital part of the SWTC. One-half of your donations stays in the SWTC and half goes toward national and global justice ministries.

Fifth Sunday Children's Story Time on Trinity Sunday, May 30

Hey, kids! Join us in the library on Sunday, May 30 as we celebrate Trinity Sunday. This is the time when Christians honor the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We will read stories, create a shamrock craft and eat yummy shamrock bread snacks. Children of all ages are welcome. Because there is no children's choir, activities will begin promptly at 9:45 am.

June Mission of the Month: Janet and Roy May

Roy and Janet May are assigned to San Jose, Costa Rica where each serves on the faculty of the Latin American Biblical University. They have been at that post for more than 20 years. Janet works in the area of pastoral care; Roy teaches theology and ethics. In addition to their academic work, both Janet and Roy serve through church agencies in that area. Some may recall Roy as he grew up in parsonages in the Southwest Texas Conference where he sustains his clergy membership. Our support helps enable this outstanding and dedicated couple a continuation of their effective service in that critical region of the world.

You can give at anytime, but your communion rail offerings and Wednesday night table offerings in June will go to help the Mays in their ministry.

GIFTS IN MEMORIAM

General Memorials

ERMINE ARMSTRONG

by

Betty Ann Janert

Membership Care & Concern

UNCLE SAM OJEDA

by

Andrea Celeste, Penelope & Graham Hemingway

by

Irene, Bobby & Natalie Ojeda

Organ Fund

REV. BEN H.

BOHMFALK

by

Bill Bohmfalk

by

Marjorie Bohmfalk Hardy

DR. JOHN H.

BOHMFALK

by

Marjorie Bohmfalk Hardy

MARTHA ODEN CROME

by

Nancy Diseker

JOYCE M. QUICK

by

Glenn B. Quick

MOPS Summer Calendar 2010

Moms! Fill your summer with fun and learning to help you be a better mom. Contact Katie Myers, 545-0312 or go to www.mylhumc.org/events/mopsalendarofevents.html.

GIFTS IN HONORARIA

Organ Fund

JON & ANNA LOWRY

by

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Heinrichs

JEROME MALEK

by

Jason Davis

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

CHRIS HURON

by

Mr. & Mrs. Tony Arredondo



CONTACT Us

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Fax 737-3920

School 732-6979

Super Adults 733-6482

Clergy

Rev. Jon D. Lowry x34

Senior Pastor

Rev. Raquel C. Feagins x35

Associate Pastor

Programming

Judy Davis x18

Community Outreach

Susan Holloway 733-6482

Super Adult Director

Geoffrey Waite x19

Director of Music

Dr. Anne Wier 732-6979

Weekday School Director

Elizabeth Woods x36

Wesley Nurse

Office

Cherie Burt x10, Receptionist

Louise Dudley x29

Bookkeeper

Cathy Everhart x13

Publications Editor

Elizabeth Jackson x12

Administrative Secretary

The issue date of this bi-weekly publication is the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. Deadline for submitting news is 5:00 pm on 1st & 3rd Thursdays. Mail to: Messenger Editor, 227 W. Woodlawn, San Antonio, TX 78212 or send an email to: cathy@mylhumc.org.