

**SMALL GROUPS**

Study: *"The Life Of Jesus For Today"*

Sunday Morning Small Group  
When: 9:30 am  
Where: Adult Classroom  
Leader: Golden Shook

**New Study: *The Life and Writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer* (4 Week Study)**

**Starts Sunday, December 6th**  
Hosted by: Late Sunday Morning Small Group  
When: 10:45 am  
Where: Adult Classroom  
Leader: Gary Potter/409-938-0607

Study: *"The Story"*

Hosted by: Monday Night Small Group  
When: 6:30 pm  
Where: Adult Classroom  
Leader: Tony Aguilar  
taguilar1300@aol.com / 409-770-3776

Study: *"Presenting the Book of Revelation through Art and Music"*

**12-week Adult Study**  
**Began Tuesday, November 3rd**  
When: 10:00 am  
Where: Adult Classroom  
Leader: Rev. Stephanie Hughes

**New Study: *"Mastering Our Passions"***

Hosted by: Tuesday Night Small Group  
**Starting Tuesday, January 5th**  
When: 7:00 pm  
Where: Adult Classroom  
Leader: Andy Lailhengue at  
texascitylaura@yahoo.com

Pick up a list of available ministry opportunities off the information table.

Tithe & Offerings	
2015 Income Received YTD	\$381,694.91
2015 Budgeted Amount YTD	\$390,887.73
2015 Income YTD	
Surplus/Deficit	-\$ 9,192.82

**SERVE**

**STAFF LOVE OFFERING**

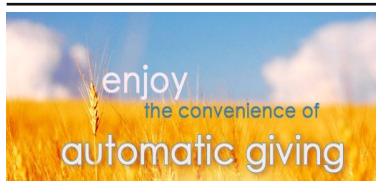
Can you believe that we are into our busy Christmas holiday season already again? This has been another busy and exciting year for St. John's, and our staff has shown their love and support of our church by their dedication and performance during the year. As an expression of our appreciation we would like to take up a special offering for our staff. The St. John's SPR Committee requests your participation in a love offering for our church staff members. You may put your offering in the offering plate on Sunday, mail it or drop it by the church office - please mark it "Staff Love Offering". **Offerings will be accepted until Wednesday, December 16th.** Also, please take the time to send a thank you note or card to our staff for all they do during the year for our St. John's Family.

Thank You  
Dee Clough, SPRC Chair



**Year End Tax Deductible Contributions**

Thank you all for your generosity through out this year. To help make sure you get credit for your gifting this year all donations must be in by December 31 to receive tax credit for 2015. **If you wish you can mail your donation to the Church Office. Please note that the office will be closed December 24th-31st. However, as long as your contribution is mailed and postmarked by the 31st, you will receive credit for 2015.** You may also place your year end donations in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.



If you pay any of your bills on-line, please consider **Electronic Funds Transfer** using your checking account or a credit card for your tithes and offering. It is safe and secure. Your contribution is automatically deducted from the account of your choosing. There is no cost to you. You can select having funds transferred once or twice per month. It is easy to sign up. For information or forms, please contact Ingrid Clark in the church office at 409-655-5348.

**Worship Attendance**

Worship 11/1/15	9:30	97	Worship 11/22/15	9:30	80
Worship 11/1/15	11:00	64	Worship 11/22/15	11:00	49
Worship 11/8/15	9:30	98	Worship 11/29/15	9:30	89
Worship 11/8/15	11:00	58	Worship 11/29/15	11:00	45
Worship 11/15/15	9:30	91			
Worship 11/15/15	11:00	46			

**The Monitor**

December 2015



**ST. JOHN'S**  
A United Methodist Congregation



**8200 25TH AVENUE NORTH**  
**TEXAS CITY, TX 77591**  
**409-655-5348**

**Sunday Worship Services**

**9:30 am—Contemporary**  
**11:00 am—Traditional**

Checkout the calendar at  
[www.stjohnsumctc.org](http://www.stjohnsumctc.org)  
Inviting People to  
Experience Amazing Love!

Find us on Facebook @  
stjohnsumctcexascity

**A Word From Our Pastor**

Season's Greetings and Happy Advent! Advent is a four week period in the Christian calendar that leads up to Christmas. It is a time we reflect on God's presence among us. Sometimes it is hard to find that quiet space in the midst of the hustle and bustle of Christmas. And it is hard to find the time in the midst of hurried schedules. That's the story for a few. There are those that are lonely this season with a lot of time on their hands. And then there are some that are sorrowing over a loss. The holiday season brings many emotions. Through it all, God whispers to each one of us to be still. It is in the still quiet that God's gift of peace is found.

The holiday season also brings many memories of Christmases past. I have so many memories of family gatherings and traditions. I remember the first year my grandparents decided to hang their Christmas tree upside down from the ceiling. Their house was small and they didn't want to give up space for the tree, so my grandfather simply found a way to suspend it from the ceiling. My grandmother was tickled. She was so proud of that tree. They even made the local paper. My grandmother loved everything about Christmas – the lights, the music, the food, the festivities and especially her family gathering in her small home. These are the kinds of things I think about in still quiet places.

I also remember why we do all we do during this crazy bus season. In the still quiet, I think about that first night, when Mary and Joseph's life were turned upside down. The rush to find a place to rest, before everything else was booked up and occupied. Hoping and praying that they would have enough time to prepare before the arrival of their son. They were probably missing family members, too. And they may have wondered about God's presence, as they cradled the baby in the stillness of the night. In those still quiet moments God whispers, "I am with you."

Grace and Peace,

*Stephanie Hughes*

Rev. Stephanie Hughes



Advent Sermon Series –  
Preparation of the Heart  
Sunday, Nov 29th - Prepare  
Sunday, Dec 6th - Wait  
Sunday, Dec 13th - Reflect  
Thursday, Dec 24th - Receive



## INVITE

Please see our "Getting Plugged In" brochure for a complete and detailed list of Outreach & Missions opportunities.

### ELMCROFT/HOMEBOUND CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Edna Day is heading up a group whom will be going to Elmcroft Assisted living on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> to carol and minister to the residents and they are making gift bags to hand out. Please see the list below for ways you can help. There is a collection bin located in the front entry of the church.

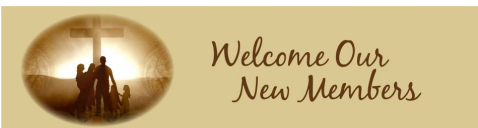
#### WE NEED SMALL SIZE ITEMS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS (100):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Colorful bandanas to wear or put on wheelchair   | 5. Plastic drinking glasses with ridges to hold them better while drinking |
| 2. Games (Crosswords, playing cards, dominos, rubber balls for exercising hands are helpful for hands and mind) | 6. Combs, brushes and Nail clippers  |
| 3. Individually wrapped hard candies in various flavors   | 7. Cute door decorations, decorations for tables                           |
| 4. Writing tablets-small or address books or small note pads  | 8. Cookies   |
|   | 9. Cards are nice too  |

ITEMS ARE NEEDED BY NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>.

God loves you  
Edna Day, 409-948-3673

## EXPERIENCE



Donna Henson  
3405 Palm Ave  
Texas City, TX 77590

**Christmas Cantata.**  
Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>  
**ONE SERVICE ONLY**  
AT 10:30 AM (Nursery available)  
Featuring The St. John's Traditional Music Ministry  
Presenting  
*What Sweeter Music*  
*A Festival of Carols*  
Mark Hayes  
Followed by a Potluck Lunch  
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

**Christmas Eve Services**  
5:00 pm & 7:00 pm  
**Communion & Candlelight**

## GROW

### A Word From Our Director Of Contemporary Worship & Youth Ministry

This past month has been a lot of fun! This past month we have been looking at "Identity", a study by Eric Mason. The youth have responded well to it. Over the next few months, we will be doing a study based on Prayer and Adam Hamilton's "Why? Making sense of God's Will".

We are now done with regular youth group meetings for the year. However, we still have a few events that we would love for your kids to be active in! The schedule for December is as follows:

#### **December 6**

##### Christmas Party

4:00 – 7:00 at The Foundry, White elephant gift exchange. A gift \$5 or less, I will have extras for those who forget to bring one.

#### **December 13**

##### Caroling at Elmcroft

3:00 – Meet at the church and we will go across the street to sing Christmas Carols to the residences of Elmcroft Nursing Home

#### **December 18-19**

##### Holiday Hoopla!

Meet at the church at 8:15, leave by 8:30. An all-night district event. \$30 for Youth, \$15 for Adults who are not participating at Main Event. We will be back by 5:30-6:00 AM

The next few weeks we will not be having youth due to the Christmas Holidays. We will meet back on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our new schedule will be as following:

- 4:00-4:30 – All Arrive
- 4:30-5:00 – Dinner
- 5:00-6:00 – lesson
- 6:00-7:30 – Games and parent Pick-up

#### **Other events to schedule in:**

- February 7 – Super bowl Party at The Foundry
- February 19-21 – Ignite! Midwinter – \$115
- March 11 – Lock-in at the Church

We are also starting a Wednesday Night Youth program. This will start off as the last Wednesday of every month starting at 5:00 going till 7:30 with times of fellowship and learning.

If you would like to volunteer your time for the youth group we have many ways for you to get involved. We need more leaders to help with group discussion, people to cook Sunday night dinners and Wednesday nights, as well as supervisors for the church.

Hope to see you soon!  
Cameron Losoya

### A Word From Our Director Of Children Ministries

There is something so beautiful about this time of year. The pretty Christmas decorations, the fancy Christmas lights, the yummy foods and so much more. I don't know about you but my December calendar is filling up quickly. We have parties left and right, a parade, Christmas program, and so much more. I tend to get overwhelmed and stressed this time of year. With so much going on, we forget the true meaning of Christmas. Baby Jesus doesn't care if we make it to the Nutcracker or that we get a Christmas presents for the neighbors that are three doors down on the right, that honestly we can't even remember their names. There is so much more to Christmas than beautiful decorations and parties every night of the week. My continual prayer every day is that I remember the real reason for this month. Things can be crazy, things can be stressful but I pray that I will see above the trivial things and look to Jesus. That I think of the true meaning of Christmas. I pray that you all have the same prayer as well! Merry Christmas!

See you on Sunday,  
Jessica Dean

#### Upcoming Dates for Children Activities

- Sunday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> –Be An Angel Tree gifts are due.
- Sunday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> -Children's Caroling at Elmcroft Assisted Living 3:00 pm
- Sunday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> -Children's Christmas Program 6:00 pm