

## SMALL GROUPS

**Study: "The Apostles Creed For Today"**  
Hosted by Sunday Morning Small Group

When: 9:30 am  
Where: Adult Classroom  
Leader: Golden Shook

**New Study: "At The End Of The Day"**

Hosted by: The Late Sunday Morning Small Group

Began Sunday, Nov 20th

When: Sunday's at 10:45 am  
Where: Adult Classroom  
Leader: Gary Potter

**New Study: "Child of the Light"**

Hosted by: The Tuesday Morning Small Group

Began Tuesday, Nov 27th

When: Tuesday's at 10:30 am  
Where: Dianne Ho-Gland's Home in Texas City  
Leader: Dianne Ho-Gland

**New Study: "Advent Conspiracy"**

Hosted by: The Tuesday Evening Small Group

Began Tuesday, Nov 27th

When: Tuesday's at 7:00 pm  
Where: Adult Classroom  
Leader: Robin Bartholomew

**NEW GriefShare Group**

Began Thursday, Oct 4th

13 week course  
When: Thursday's 5:45 pm

Cost: \$15.00 Includes workbook

Where: Adult Classroom  
Leader: Donna Henson - 409-621-6210

**GriefShare Surviving the Holidays**

Saturday, Dec 3rd & Dec 17th

When: Saturday's 1:00 pm

Cost: \$5.00 Includes workbook

Where: Adult Classroom

Leader: Donna Henson - 409-621-6210

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

## STAFF LOVE OFFERING

As we move into our busy Christmas holiday season we would like to take a moment to recognize and thank our staff. They have been very busy working hard as it has been an exciting year for St. John's. Our staff has shown their love and support to our church by their dedication and outstanding 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's, mail it or drop it by the church office and please mark it "Staff Love Offering". **Offerings will be accepted until Wednesday, December 14th.** 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

Tomy Hamon, SPRC Chair



MAKE YOUR YEAR-END GIFT BY DECEMBER 31!

### 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 2016. If you wish you can mail your donation to the Church Office. Please note that the office will be closed December 26th-31st. However, as long as your contribution is mailed and postmarked by the 31st, you will receive credit for 2016. 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.

YTD 2016 Tithe & Offerings	
2016 Income Received YTD	\$ 356,310
2016 Budgeted Income YTD	\$ 393,543
2016 Income YTD Surplus/Deficit	<b>-\$ 37,232</b>

Worship Attendance		
Worship 11/6/16	9:30	106
Worship 11/6/16	11:00	53
Worship 11/13/16	9:30	83
Worship 11/13/16	11:00	44
Worship 11/20/16	9:30	83
Worship 11/20/16	11:00	37
Worship 11/27/16	9:30	79
Worship 11/27/16	11:00	55

# The Monitor



## 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 @ stjohnsumctexascity

December 2016

## A Word From Our Pastor

The holiday season is in full swing! For most, this means that there is more hustle and bustle than usual. Everyone is trying to find the perfect gift, so the stores are swamped with people. Traffic is heavy around the mall areas and parking is minimal. What should be the most peace filled time of the year, becomes the most stress filled. And as all this chaos is going on, the church, the body of Christ, sits and waits.

Even though the stores are pushing Christmas well before Thanksgiving, the church doesn't begin to observe Advent until after Thanksgiving. And even then, it isn't really the Christmas season. Did you know that the Christmas season doesn't officially start until the day of Christmas in the liturgical calendar? The liturgical calendar is a seasonal calendar that many churches follow. And churches that follow the liturgical calendar, like St. John's don't officially celebrate the Christmas season until the day of Jesus' birthday. And when many have taken down the tree and put up the decorations, the body of Christ continues to celebrate through Epiphany (January 6). The season we are in right now is not Christmas, it is Advent, a season of waiting.

So, while you are out and about, joining the hustle and bustle, do not forget who you are. You are a member of the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood, a saint, called out to represent Christ to the world. Make sure that you find time to experience the peace of Advent, the peace we find in waiting upon the Lord. Be intentional about carving out this time every day. The peace we long for only comes from Jesus, so we must wait for Christ's arrival that brings peace. Jesus told his disciples in the gospel of John, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid (14:27)." Christ does not give as the world gives. Right now the world is doling out stress and busyness by the bus loads. Christ offers us something very different that the world will never give us. So, be mindful about the time you spend worrying and the time you spend waiting. As the body of Christ, we wait. There is a reason we are commanded in the Book of Psalms to, "Be still and know that I am God (46:10a)!" So, as we wait together, may we all receive the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, that guards our



- Sunday, Dec 4th - An Invitation to the Journey
- Sunday, Dec 11th - A Bumpy Road Lies Ahead
- Saturday, Dec 24th Arrived Just in Time
- Sunday, Dec 25th Looking Back on the Journey

Stephanie Hughes

hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7). And may we have a very peace filled Advent!

Grace and Peace,

## INVITE

### ELMCROFT/HOMEBOUND CHIRSTMAS OUTREACH

Joyce Shanks & Jessica Dean will be taking our Mother's Day Out kids and anyone who wants to help over to Elmcroft Assisted living on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> to carol and minister to the residents and we are also making gift bags to hand out. Please see the list below for ways you can help. There is a collection bin located just outside the church office. WE NEED SMALL SIZE ITEMS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS (75):

- 1. Colorful bandanas      2. Games (Crosswords, playing cards, dominos, rubber balls for exercising hands are helpful for hands and mind)
- 3. Individually wrapped hard candies in various flavors
- 4. Writing tablets-small or address books or small note pads      5. Warm socks

ITEMS ARE NEEDED BY NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>.

### "BE AN ANGEL" TREE

Each year through the La Marque Elementary/Middle school, we receive names of children who could use our help with Christmas toys and clothes. If you wish to help, the information for each child will be available on a tree covered with red tags just outside the Treehouse. Choose a tag from the tree. Write your name on the sign-up sheet next to the number and letter on your tag. Buy clothes or a toy for your child.  
Please return your gift wrapped with the tag attached to it to the Church Office by Sunday, December 11th.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN US



*The Nativity  
Presented by Foundry Youth  
and Treehouse kids*

December 11th at 6:00pm  
Cookies and punch to follow



**At 5:00 PM &  
Christmas Eve Service  
7:00 PM  
Candlelight & Communion**

[www.stjohnsumctc.org](http://www.stjohnsumctc.org)



## GROW

### A Word From Our Director Of Children Ministries

Christmas is my favorite holiday. McConkeys (my maiden name is McConkey to those of you who don't know) don't really get excited about much but Christmas is one of those things that just gets me excited. Its such a beautiful time of year. The pretty Christmas decorations, the fancy Christmas lights, the yummy foods and so much more. It might also be that everything is red and red is my absolute favorite color! Things get so busy at Christmas. 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. I tend to be a little on the grumpy side because I don't sleep well with everything going on. Its also really easy to forget the true meaning of Christmas. Baby Jesus doesn't care if we make it to the Nutcracker or that we get a Christmas present 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 will think of the true meaning of Christmas. I pray that you all have the same prayer as well! Merry Christmas!

See you soon,  
Jessica Dean

### Dates for Children & MDO Activities

Sunday, Dec 11th –Be An Angel Tree gifts are due.  
 Sunday, Dec 11th - Children & Youth Christmas Program "The Nativity" 6:00 pm (Sanctuary)  
 Monday, Dec 12th - 10:30 am MDO Kids & Seniors to Elmcroft to Sing and hand out presents

### Foundry Youth Sundays & Up Coming Events:

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade will meet from 4:30-6:00  
9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade will meet from 5:00-6:30

### December 4th Christmas Party Last Foundry Youth For 2016

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm Foundry Youth Ugly Sweater & Progressive Christmas Party  
 (Meet at church)  
 White elephant gift exchange if you want to participate bring a gift that cost no more than \$5.

### December 16th-17th Holiday Hoopla!

Meet at the church at 8:15, leave by 8:30.  
 An all-night district event. \$25 for Youth/Adults  
 This event is free for those who are not participating at Main Event.  
 We will be back by 5:30-6:00 am Saturday morning.

The next few weeks we will not be having youth due to the Christmas activities and Christmas Holidays. We will meet back on January 8th. 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 & lead lessons and people to cook Sunday night dinners. Please contact Pastor Stephanie or Jessica Dean to volunteer.