

New Visions

In 1930, after the horrors of World War 1, facing the immense struggles of the Great Depression, and sensing the danger of the rising Nazi party in Germany, Baptist pastor Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick wrote these words:

*Cure Thy children's warring madness,
Bend our pride to Thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.*

In that same year, Fosdick became the founding pastor of the Rockefeller-funded Riverside Church in New York City, an inter-denominational church that is prominent even today for its work in lifting up the poor and the oppressed.

The words of the hymn (and not only this verse) were decidedly political, and were certainly offensive to many church people. Why couldn't he just stick to spiritual topics? Why didn't he just "preach the Bible"? Fosdick believed, as many of us today believe, that God is not interested in pie-in-the-sky spirituality. He believed, instead, that this world where God has put us is ours to care for— every person, every place. And that human topics— political topics— ARE spiritual topics. Fosdick fought against fundamentalism— the idea that unless one ascribes to a few very specific tenets, one cannot be called a Christian. He had a more modern view of scripture: He presented the Bible as a record of the unfolding of God's will, not as the literal "Word of God". He saw the history of Christianity as one of development, progress, and gradual change. Fundamentalists regarded this as rank apostasy, and the battle-lines were drawn.

Are we still fighting this battle, 100 years later? Do we still, in our minds, separate the spiritual and the "worldly"? Do we still want to reduce our unfathomable faith to a few specific points? It would sure be easier in many ways. But I believe Jesus calls us to something more complex and more encompassing all of our lives. It's not just about specific acts or particular words. It's about every prayer, every decision, every movement. All for God's glory.

The hymn ends with the following words— may we take them to heart:

*Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Thy salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving Thee whom we adore,
Serving Thee whom we adore.*

Pastor Becky

Our Staff

Rev. Becky Downs
Pastor

Sayaka Seki
Music Director

Katie Grant
Office Manager
Newsletter Editor

Corinna Smith
Marina Pensamiento
Child Care Providers

Sunday School for all ages
9:15 AM

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

You may reach us at
713-462-5448 if you have questions
or concerns.



Join us for in-person Sunday School
at 9:15 AM and worship on Sunday
mornings at 10:30 AM. For those
who are not comfortable with
attending in person, we also offer
online worship. See our facebook
page, or our website at:
www.johnknoxhouston.org

Session Notes

- There was a leak in the roof above the Education building; Craddock Roofing patched it and so far, that is holding and a new roof is not needed at this time.
- Pentecost was celebrated on May 28, and included lunch after church. Graduates (Jessica Gonzalez, Kate Downs, and Katherine Mendoza) were recognized and given a Bible.
- VBS was held July 17-21 with “Who Me?” stories about Moses, as the theme. “Moses” (aka David Lewallen) made several appearances! Attendees tied blankets for the pets at CAP, mixed up bread for Mission of Yahweh, and packaged water and crackers for people on the streets. Field trips were taken to CAP and to Special Cheers.
- Dave Jantzen has volunteered to join teachers Susan Smith, David Lewallen, and Allen Keese in leading the adult Sunday School class.
- Our office manager, Katie Grant, is expecting a baby in October, so the Personnel Committee is developing a maternity leave policy.
- The Outreach Committee has done a lot of planning for the OctoberFest fundraiser to be held October 14. Tickets for the dinner are now being sold, and volunteers are needed.
- The annual fee for our property and liability/workers comp insurance increased from \$26,564.72 to \$27,363.27, approximately 3% from the prior policy year.
- The Income and expense reports show they are both in line with the budgeted amounts. In addition, the investment account has continued to grow this calendar year.



Spring Branch Presbyterian Church collected \$360
that went towards the disaster relief fund for Turkey
and Syria earthquake victims!



From the CCF Committee

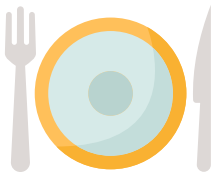


Work Day

All women are invited to a work day at the church on Thursday, Aug. 17 from 10-2. Lunch will be provided. We will be cleaning kitchen cabinets, the pantry, and cleaning windows. More depending on how many sign up. Contact Debbie or Shirley; or sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

Saturday Night Out

All are welcome to join in the fun for Saturday Night Out's game night, August 5 at JKPC at 6:00. Our master griller Steven Smith will grill hamburgers and hot dogs. Donations are \$5 per person. Please feel free to bring a side dish or chips. Iced tea, lemonade and ice cream will be provided. Please sign up in the Fellowship hall.



Tuesday Night Dinner

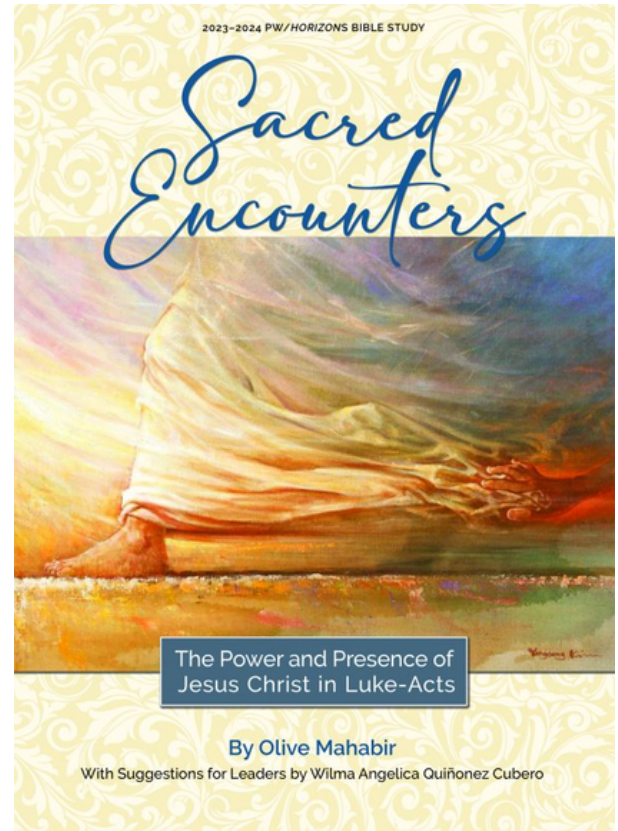
Tuesday dinners at church will start again on September 5 (1st Tuesday each month). Menus will be announced later



“SACRED ENCOUNTERS” BIBLE STUDY OVERVIEW

All women are invited to attend an overview of this year’s Circle study, “Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts.” This overview will be led by Patti Nanney from Spring Branch Presbyterian Church in JKPC’s Fellowship Hall on Saturday, August 12. Breakfast will be served at 9:30 AM followed by the overview from 10 AM to noon. The information provided will be helpful to those who would like to study the material but are not available to attend the Circle meetings as well as being a support plan for those who will lead our Circle meetings this coming year. Please contact Debbi Englade if you plan to attend so that we will know how many to feed. Please bring your Bible study book with you. There is no cost for this program.

PW CIRCLE



Our first Circle meeting for this semester will be on Thursday, September 14 at 9:30 AM. We meet in the parlor for fellowship and snacks followed by the lesson. If you have not yet purchased your copy of the Bible study book, “Sacred Encounters” and would like to participate, please see Sue Kessler or Jo Ann Zumwalt for a copy.

Outreach Committee

September 3 - Blood Drive!

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Link to Sign Up:

https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/366167

Donors receive
free socks!



GIVE BLOOD.ORG

John Knox
Presbyterian

Sunday, September 3
9:00 AM- 1:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

ALL DONORS WILL RECEIVE FREE
SOCKS!

Scan Below for Appointments:
sponsor code: 0238



Share your
donation story



@commitforlife | #commitforlife



EAT. DRINK. BRING I.D.

OKTOBERFEST JOHN KNOX

Tickets are now
available for
purchase for our
Oktoberfest
Fundraiser dinner!
Please see flyers
on the next page
for additional
information.



OKTOBERFEST

AND MARKET AT JOHN KNOX

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 14 | 1-6 PM

**Benefitting Mission of Yahweh and
the Spring Branch Color Run**

**BEER | TO-GO AND IN PERSON
DINNER | GAMES**

VENDOR BOOTHS WILL BE \$40

**COME OUT AND ENJOY SHOPPING,
BEER AND WINE, OUTDOOR GAMES,
AND DINNER**

**JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2525 GESSNER RD
HOUSTON, TX 77080
713-462-5448**

WWW.JOHNKNOXHOUSTON.ORG

**Hot food will be served from 3:00 to 5:30
PM. Pre-packaged to-go dinners will be
available during the entire event.
Please let us know by October 8 if
you need a Vegetarian or Child's meal.**





OKTOBERFEST MENU



German Pork Roast
Bratwurst & German Mustard
Sweet & Sour Red Cabbage
German Potato Salad
Cucumber Salad
Pumpernickel Bread

Ticket - \$20/person

Vegetarian Menu

Sweet & Sour Red Cabbage
German Potato Salad (no bacon)
Cucumber Salad
Pumpernickel Bread

Ticket - \$15/person

Child's Meal

Hot Dog
Mac & Cheese
Green Beans
Cucumbers & Ranch Dressing

Ticket - \$10/child

Desserts will be available as well for \$3.00 each. Choice of Cherry or Apple Crumb Cake.

Hot food will be served from 3:00 to 5:30 PM.
Pre-packaged to-go dinners will be available during the entire event. Please let us know by October 8 if you need a Vegetarian or Child's meal

Gathering Place

DATES & THEMES OF UPCOMING MEETINGS:

May, 2023: We celebrated Cinco de Mayo with a delicious Mexican casserole, followed by a equally delicious sopapilla cheesecake. Entertainment was provided by the QuickTones, four very talented men. Dancers and non-dancers alike loved the music.

June, 2023: We recognized the summer patriotic holidays. From the decorations to the members, the Fellowship Hall was a sea of red, white and blue. Entertainment was The Grateful Geezers, and to quote from their website: "The Grateful Geezers create a fun atmosphere wherever they play." Amen to that!

July, 2023: The theme was very appropriate this month – beach! We enjoyed a cool pasta salad and a wonderful strawberry dessert. (Recipe will be available next month.) . After many months/years, Dignity Gospel Quartet returned to Gathering Place to share their music and love of God. They have a very busy schedule, and we were very fortunate to have them with us.

Mark your calendars now for these upcoming meetings. We hope you can join us each month at 10:15 a.m. for coffee and fellowship, followed by the program at 10:30 a.m. Bring your friends. No reservations are necessary.



Aug 24

Back to School

Menu will consist of the always popular "Patsy's famous chicken salad". Entertainment will be always popular singer/story teller, Floyd Callen.



Sept 28

Fall/ Autumn

Summer is over so we will return to home-cooked meals. On the menu for September is chicken spaghetti casserole and much more. Jay Cantu and Nina was so popular in March, he is returning to entertain...



Oct 26

Halloween

We will have a spooky menu to celebrate Halloween. Ghou-lash (goulash), Spook-tacular green salad, and more will be served. Entertainment will be Lisa Whitley

Gathering Place

May 2023 - July 2023

As we all know, the pandemic closed activities all over Houston, including Gathering Place. Since reopening, our attendance has slowly but steadily increased. We happily announce that attendance was the highest in June that we have seen since February of 2019! We are very happy to see the Fellowship Hall full again after so many months. On a similar note – we have quite a few very accomplished dancers. Thanks to Jan Thomas for encouraging our members to dance and enjoy the music.



Serving God as we Serve John Knox

Officer of the Day

Aug 6	Susan Smith
Aug 13	Lynn Wolff
Aug 20	David Lewallen
Aug 27	James McElhinney
Sep 3	Sue Kessler
Sep 10	Jim McGough
Sep 17	Scott Kerns
Sep 24	Cheri Jantzen
Oct 1	Lynn Wolff
Oct 8	Venetta Godwin
Oct 15	David Lewallen
Oct 22	Dave Jantzen
Oct 29	Mary Lou Crestani

Liturgist*

Aug 6	Alan Keese
Aug 13	Robin Henry
Aug 20	James McElhinney
Aug 27	Debbi Englade
Sep 3	Dave Jantzen
Sep 10	James McElhinney
Sep 17	David Lewallen
Sep 24	Dave Jantzen
Oct 1	Alan Keese
Oct 8	Debbi Englade
Oct 15	Robin Henry
Oct 22	Dave Jantzen
Oct 29	James McElhinney

Sound Technician

Aug 6	Wendell Zumwalt
Aug 13	Scott Kerns
Aug 20	Shirley Williamson
Aug 27	Lynn Wolff
Sep 3	Susan Smith
Sep 10	Scott Kerns
Sep 17	Lynn Wolff
Sep 24	Wendell Zumwalt
Oct 1	Scott Kerns
Oct 8	Shirley Williamson
Oct 15	Susan Smith
Oct 22	Scott Kerns
Oct 29	Lynn Wolff

Ushers

Aug 6	Lynn Wolff
	Bob Lopez
Aug 13	Nancy Holcomb
	Mary Lou Crestani
Aug 20	Lynn Wolff
	Venetta Godwin
Aug 27	Zumwalts
Sep 3	Connie Powell
	Alan Keese
Sep 10	Lynn Wolff
	Nancy Holcomb
Sep 17	Scott Kerns
	Debbi Englade
Sep 24	David Lewallen
	Venetta Godwin
Oct 1	Zumwalts
Oct 8	Connie Powell
	Nancy Holcomb
Oct 15	Mary Lou Crestani
	Scott Kerns
Oct 22	Lynn Wolff
	Alan Keese
Oct 29	Zumwalts

Coffee Servers

Aug 6	Lisa Pena and family
Aug 13	Sue Kessler
	Maru Stogner
Aug 20	Lynn Wolff
	Amber Vale
Aug 27	Zumwalts
Sep 3	Debbi Englade
	Jan Thomas
Sep 10	Sue Kessler
	Maru Stogner
Sep 17	Lisa Pena and family
Sep 24	Zumwalts
Oct 1	Debbi Englade
	Jan Thomas
Oct 8	Sue Kessler
	Maru Stogner
Oct 15	Lisa Pena and family
Oct 22	Zumwalts
Oct 29	Lynn Wolff
	Amber Vale

Money Counters

Aug 6	Shirley Williamson
Aug 13	Connie Powell
Aug 20	Zumwalts
Aug 27	Jim McGough
Sep 3	Shirley Williamson
Sep 10	Connie Powell
Sep 17	Zumwalts
Sep 24	Jim McGough
Oct 1	Shirley Williamson
Oct 8	Zumwalts
Oct 15	Connie Powell
Oct 22	Shirley Williamson
Oct 29	Jim McGough

Elder of the Day

Aug 6	Sue Kessler
Aug 13	Angela Speer
Aug 20	Scott Kerns
Aug 27	Jim McGough
Sep 3	Sue Kessler
Sep 10	
Sep 17	Angela Speer
Sep 24	Scott Kerns
Oct 1	Venetta Godwin
Oct 8	David Lewallen
Oct 15	Jim McGough
Oct 22	Debbi Englade
Oct 29	Angela Speer

Communion Servers

Aug 6 Lynn Wolff, Venetta Godwin, Susan Smith, Scott Kerns, Dave Jantzen (choir)

Sep 3 Alan Keese, Connie Powell, Mary Lou Crestani, Lynn Wolff, Jim McGough (choir)

Oct 1 Scott Kerns, Susan Smith, Venetta Godwin, Connie Powell, Cheri Jantzen (choir)

John Knox Presbyterian Church
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713-462-5448

office@johnknoxhouston.org ~
www.johnknoxhouston.org

DATED MATERIAL



Newsletter Articles are due October 26th for the November newsletter.

Rally Day and Blessing of the Backpacks



Join us on **Sunday, August 20** for Rally Day! We'll meet in Fellowship Hall for a light breakfast and activities as well as a presentation from our Sunday School leaders regarding what they will be teaching in the coming months. We will then go to the sanctuary for the worship service and Blessing of the Backpacks. All school age children are invited! Bring your backpack, briefcase, tote bag, diaper bag, etc for a special blessing.