

New Visions

Guest Commentary from Rev. Mark Downs

February is often thought of as the month of love, as it contains Valentine's Day. Love is something we Christians know about! Paul, in writing to the Corinthians, defines what love is and is not. Please take a moment and read I Corinthians 13 for yourself from your own Bible or find it online.

It inspires and motivates us.

I'm so impressed with JKPC's passion for each other-- your love for each other. The other day I brought Donna to a weekday gathering and when the door opened, everyone greeted her with such joy that I was deeply moved. The joy and energy in your worship is nurturing. The way you do so much to help various mercy ministries in our community manifests such love.

This comes of course from your love of God.

What really strikes me after all the years of reading and reflecting upon this love passage is that after listing what love is and is not, Paul ends with this – "Love never fails". Knowledge, words, good deeds or intentions- they can fail us, but never love. If you act in love, you cannot do wrong. When love is pure and from God, it sustains us even in the hardest of times, in our fears and insecurities, in our own humanness; love never fails.

At my Oaks Presbyterian Church, like at many of our Presbyterian churches, we get anxious about our future. But they have taught me that love is enough.

We pray for more people in worship, a budget to fix the potholes in the parking lot, and the admiration of all; but they know they have love, a love that does not fail, so that is enough.

I appreciate the care you give my dear wife Becky and her mother Donna. You all inspire me in my calling and life. Keep the love going.

Rev. Mark Downs

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

- The first annual OktoberFest, held on October 14, was a big success with food, games, and a variety of booths.
- New carpet was installed in the sanctuary in November. The church received a \$5000 grant from the Presbytery towards this project.
- A new self-propelled mower was purchased.
- 17 Thanksgiving bags were donated to the East Spring Branch food pantry.
- On January 14, Robin Henry was ordained, and she, Dave Jantzen, and Scott Kerns were then installed as ruling elders in the class of 2026. Pastor Becky thanked Venetta Godwin, Sue Kessler, and Scott Kerns for serving the past 3 years. Scott will be serving a consecutive 3-year term.
- Elizabeth Shelenhamer, Corinna Smith, and Lynn Wolff Lopez will serve on the Memorial Committee in 2024.
- The value of the investments as of December 31, 2023, was \$603,290, up 39% for the year!

OKTOBERFEST 2023



From the CCF Committee

Conclaves

Calling all youth! Conclaves is being held at Trinity Pines in Livingston, TX February 23-25. If you would like to attend, please fill out the registration form and turn it in along with your \$50 deposit to Pastor Becky. For more information, please see Pastor Becky or get a Conclaves information packet/application from the church office.



- **Ash Wednesday, February 14** – Pancake dinner at church, 5:30 PM
- **Tuesday, February 20** – meet at Backyard Grill, 5:30 PM
- **Tuesday, March 5** – meet at an area restaurant (to be announced)
- **Tuesday, March 19** – at church, 5:30 PM
- **Saturday, March 23** – Game Night and Burgers at church
- **Thursday, March 28** – Maundy Thursday Soup Dinner, 5:30 PM
- **Tuesday, April 2** – at church, 5:30 PM
- **Tuesday, April 16** – meet at an area restaurant (to be announced)

Presbyterian Women



Our Circle Bible study group meets in the church parlor on the 2nd Thursday of each month from September through May at 9:30 AM. Please contact Sue Kessler if you have questions.



2024 SPRING Gathering

at

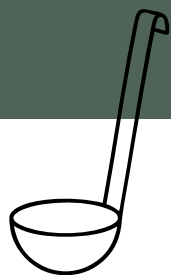
First Presbyterian Church of Pasadena
4647 Preston Avenue
Pasadena TX 77505



- PLUS:** Teachings on the “Gospel” messages in the TV Show Ted Lasso
- SPEAKERS:** Rev. Dr. Fran Shelton, a founder of Faith & Grief Ministries
Rev. Dr. Joseph Moore, Ministry Relations Officer of the Presbyterian Foundation
- WORSHIP LEADER:** Rev. Laura Grice, Associate Pastor of Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church

2023 PW Christmas Dinner





Outreach Committee

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



For over 30 years, the Souper Bowl of Caring Movement has been inspiring people across the nation to tackle hunger in their local communities. It all started with a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" was delivered to a small youth group at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC led by Brad Smith, who was serving as a seminary intern at the time.

This gave birth to an idea. Why not harness the energy and enthusiasm of Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football, food and fun, to unite the nation for a higher good? Individuals and groups could collect dollars in soup pots and canned food for those in need and send every dollar and food donation **DIRECTLY** to a local charity of **THEIR** choice.

This Sunday, February 11 after worship, you are invited to meet in Fellowship Hall for a soup luncheon and a time to pool our resources to help fight hunger in our community. Canned foods and donations will be sent to Fair Haven Food Pantry!



BAYOU DINNER AND AUCTION



Come join us for a good time, a cup of café au lait and a beignet on Saturday, March 2 when we have our Cajun Bayou Dinner and Auction. The dinner will raise funds to split between JKPC's general budget and our chosen recipients for 2024. See flyer on next page!

Menu

Jambalaya (chicken and sausage)

Crawfish Pie

Cup of smoked turkey and andouille gumbo

Southern style green beans

Shrimp salad with remoulade dressing

Garlic bread

Beignets

Tickets are on sale now for \$25/person.

Please note:

For those who do not/can not eat seafood, we will offer more jambalaya and gumbo, no shrimp on the salad.

We will have a vegetarian plate available, but please order in advance.

A decorative border of red crawfish surrounds the central text. The crawfish are arranged in a repeating pattern, facing outwards from the center. The background is a light blue and white vertical stripe pattern.

Bayou Dinner and Auction

MARCH 2, 2024 AT 6PM

**GUMBO
JAMBALAYA
CRAWFISH PIE
SHRIMP SALAD WITH REMOULADE
SOUTHERN STYLE GREEN BEANS
GARLIC BREAD
BEIGNETS**

VEGETARIAN OPTION AVAILABLE BY PRE-ORDER ONLY

TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR \$25!

WINE PULL AND AUCTION

**FUNDS RAISED WILL BE SPLIT BETWEEN THE GENERAL
FUND OF JKPC AND THIS YEAR'S CHOSEN CHARITIES:**

***SEAFARER'S MINISTRY
WOODS GOODS***

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

WWW.JOHNKNOXHOUSTON.ORG

Gathering Place

DATES & THEMES OF UPCOMING MEETINGS:

November, 2023: Gathering Place celebrated Thanksgiving early with a traditional meal of home cooked turkey, stuffing and all the fixings. Entertainment was the always popular Quik Tones. We are so grateful for our volunteers who step up month after month to prepare the meals, get the entertainment, decorate the tables, greet our members, and, of course, clean up afterward. We are also so very grateful to all of our members. You are a blessing to us!.

December, 2023: Our theme for December was, of course, Christmas. We were thrilled to be entertained by the Celebration Singers, under the direction of Tracey Patterson. It's always great to have this group, and we love seeing Gathering Place volunteers in the choir. We had an additional treat this month – Sayaka Seki (Musical Director at JKPC) and her spouse, Kevin Hwang, provided additional entertainment during lunch. Speaking of lunch – we had a special lunch of baked ham, corn souffle and much more.

January, 2024: Happy New Year everyone. Our theme this month was winter – and we certainly had a taste of winter in the middle of January. After several days of cold, rainy weather, we were all glad to see the sunshine and our Gathering Place friends. We had wonderful entertainment and a wonderful lunch. Calvin Gainey entertained us and was rewarded with a lot of smiles and toes tapping – AND a lot of dancers. It was certainly a lively morning. This was all followed by a delicious lunch of Chicken Spectacular casserole, prepared by various women of the church.

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.



*Feb
22*

Mardi Gras

Grateful Geezers will entertain. You can expect a great Cajun meal – Chicken & sausage pastalaya, Cajun corn and more.

*Mar
28*

To be announced

Jay & Nina Cantu will entertain.

*Apr
25*

To be announced

Bill Parrish will entertain

Gathering Place

August 2023 - January 2024



Serving God as we Serve John Knox

Officer of the Day

Feb 4 Venetta Godwin
Feb 11 Lynn Wolff
Feb 18 Jim McGough
Feb 25 David Lewallen
Mar 3 Cheri Jantzen
Mar 10 Scott Kerns
Mar 17 Susan Smith
Mar 24 James McElhinney
Mar 31 Dave Jantzen
Apr 7 Venetta Godwin
Apr 14 Sue Kessler
Apr 21 Lynn Wolff
Apr 28 Jim McGough

Liturgist*

Feb 4 Robin Henry
Feb 11 James McElhinney
Feb 18 Dave Jantzen
Feb 25 David Lewallen
Mar 3 Robin Henry
Mar 10 James McElhinney
Mar 17 Debbi Englade
Mar 24 Dave Jantzen
Mar 31 David Lewallen
Apr 7 Robin Henry
Apr 14 Alan Keese
Apr 21 James McElhinney
Apr 28 Dave Jantzen

Sound Technician

Feb 4 Wendell Zumwalt
Feb 11 Susan Smith
Feb 18 Shirley Williamson
Feb 25 Scott Kerns
Mar 3 Lynn Wolff
Mar 10 Wendell Zumwalt
Mar 17 Susan Smith
Mar 24 Shirley Williamson
Mar 31 Scott Kerns
Apr 7 Lynn Wolff
Apr 14 Wendell Zumwalt
Apr 21 Shirley Williamson
Apr 28 Susan Smith

Ushers

Feb 4 Zumwalts
Feb 11 Nancy Holcomb
Ann Eldredge
Feb 18 Lynn Wolff
Venetta Godwin
Feb 25 Connie Powell
Mar 3 Scott Kerns
David Lewallen
Mar 10 Zumwalts
Mar 17 Nancy Holcomb
Ann Eldredge
Mar 24 Lynn Wolff
Venetta Godwin
Mar 31 Connie Powell
Scott Kerns
Apr 7 Zumwalts
Apr 14 David Lewallen
Venetta Godwin
Apr 21 Alan Keese
Apr 28 Lynn Wolff
Scott Kerns

Coffee servers

Feb 4 Lynn Wolff
Bob Lopez
Feb 11 Zumwalts
Feb 18 Clara Jenson
Sandy Abdou
Feb 25 Lisa Pena and family
Mar 3 Sue Kessler
Maru Stogner
Mar 10 Zumwalts
Mar 17 Debbi Englade
Jan Thomas
Mar 24 Clara Jenson
Sandy Abdou
Mar 31 Bob Lopez
Apr 7 Lynn Wolff
Apr 14 Zumwalts
Apr 21 Debbi Englade
Jan Thomas
Apr 28 Lisa Pena and Family

Money Counters

Feb 4 Connie Powell
Feb 11 Zumwalts
Feb 18 Jim McGough
Feb 25 Shirley Williamson
Mar 3 Connie Powell
Mar 10 Zumwalts
Mar 17 Jim McGough
Mar 24 Shirley Williamson
Mar 31 Connie Powell
Apr 7 Zumwalts
Apr 14 Jim McGough
Apr 21 Shirley Williamson
Apr 28 Connie Powell

Elder of the Day

Feb 4 Angela Speer
Feb 11 Dave Jantzen
Feb 18 Robin Henry
Feb 25 Scott Kerns
Mar 3 Angela Speer
Mar 10 David Lewallen
Mar 17 Debbi Englade
Mar 24 Dave Jantzen
Mar 31 Robin Henry
Apr 7 Scott Kerns
Apr 14 David Lewallen
Apr 21 Debbi Englade
Apr 28 Angela Speer

Communion Servers

Feb 4 Connie Powell, Amber Vale, James McElhinney, Lynn Wolff, Jim McGough (Choir)

Mar 3 Connie Powell, Venetta Godwin, Amber Vale, Robin Henry, James McElhinney (Choir)

Apr 7 Venetta Godwin, Scott Kerns, Lynn Wolff, Robin Henry, Cheri Jantzen (Choir)

John Knox Presbyterian Church
2525 N. Gessner Road
Houston, TX 77080
713-462-5448

office@johnknoxhouston.org ~
www.johnknoxhouston.org

DATED MATERIAL



Newsletter Articles are due April 25th for the May newsletter.

**Save
The
Date**

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

SPRING MARKET DAY AT JOHN KNOX

10am - 2pm

FREE to the public!

Join us for shopping, visiting with neighbors, and getting out in the spring weather under our beautiful oak trees. There will be a variety of vendors with homemade items as well as estate sale items. Check our web site for more information!