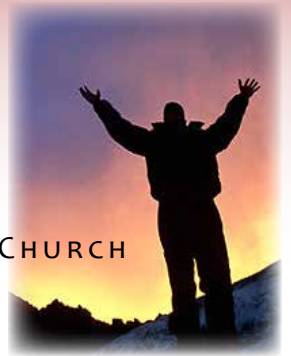


The Spirit News

A PUBLICATION OF ACTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 6, 2017



2017

Christmas Worship Services

ACTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 17

Chancel Choir, accompanied by Full Orchestra presents "International Carol Suites"

Sunday ♦ 8:15 & 11:00 am services ♦ Sanctuary

Pastor Wade will be preaching at the 9:45 am service.

December 20

Advent Noon Communion

Wednesday ♦ 12:00 - 12:30 pm ♦ White Chapel

Youth Christmas Party

Wednesday ♦ 5:30 - 7:30 pm ♦ Youth Building

December 22

Traveler's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion

Friday ♦ 6:30 pm ♦ Youth Building

Will you be traveling on Christmas Eve? Join us for a traditional service with Cocoa and Carols.

December 23

Blue Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion

Saturday ♦ 6:30 pm ♦ White Chapel

Hope for those who hurt this Christmas or have experienced loss.

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services with Communion

9:45 am: Contemporary Family Worship

7:00 pm: Traditional Worship with Orchestra

11:00 pm: Contemplative Worship

December 25 - January 1

The church office will be closed for the Holidays. If there is a pastoral emergency, call 682-703-0507.

December 31

New Year's Eve Services

Sunday ♦ 9:45 & 11:00 am ♦ Sanctuary

Check out page 3 for more "Advent at Acton" Events!

WHAT'S GOING ON AT ACTON UNITED METHODIST?

Now - December 20 - Book Study **"A Decembered Grief"**

Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 in the White Chapel Parlor. Blue Christmas Book Study: "A Decembered Grief" by Harold Ivan Smith. It touches on topics from "Guard Your Heart" to "Remember Realistically" and "Unplug the Christmas Mania", among many others. Books: \$12.00 available through the church office. Facilitated by Amy & Danny Dwight. Questions? Email the Dwights: thedwightsintexas@gmail.com OR call 817-578-8772 (land line - do not text).

December 9 - Grief Support Group

Meets the 2nd Saturday of the month at Fuzzy's Tacos on the Square from 9:00 - 10:30 am. An informal get together for anyone experiencing grief and loss. Join us for conversation, coffee and/or breakfast tacos. No need to call ahead, just show up. Questions? Email Amy Dwight at alane1814@gmail.com.

December 10 - 3's Company: Farina's Wine Bar & Grill

After the 11:00 am worship service. All single senior adults are invited. Come join us for great food and fellowship! To make reservations or if you have questions, contact Dolores Guinn at 817-326-2342.

December 12 - Acton Preschool Christmas Program

7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Come and enjoy the Preschoolers as they perform their Christmas Program. Cookies and punch will be served in the CLC following the program.

December 14 - Rancho Brazos Community Center's Live Nativity - Christmas Dinner - Blanket Distribution

Check out page 3 for more information. ➔

December 17 - Chancel Choir, accompanied by Full Orchestra presents: "International Carol Suites"

Check out page 3 for more information. ➔

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services

Check out page 3 for more information. ➔

December 25 - Merry Christmas!

December 25 - January 1

Church office will be closed for the Holidays. **If there is a pastoral emergency, call 682-703-0507.** The Church Office will reopen on January 2, 2018.

December 27 - There will be no Wednesday Noon Communion Service

There will be no Wednesday Noon Communion service on December 27. We will resume Wednesday services on January 3.

December 31 - New Year's Eve Worship Services

There will only be two services on this Sunday at 9:45 and 11:00 am.

January 1 - Happy New Year!

January 14 - 3's Company going to Garcia's

After the 11:00 am worship service. All single senior adults are invited. Come join us for great food and fellowship! To make reservations or if you have questions, contact Dolores Guinn at 817-326-2342.

January 16 - Mystery Dinner Bus

More information to come! Questions? Contact Evelyn Guerin (817) 326-2355 or guerin528@gmail.com

January 25 - Sainly Sightseers

More information to come! Questions? Contact Evelyn Guerin (817) 326-2355 or guerin528@gmail.com

January 28 - Stalcup Seminar

Watch for more information in the worship guides.

Rancho Brazos Community Center
4th Annual Blanket Drive

November 1st - December 12th

Distribution of Blankets will be on December 14th at the Rancho Brazos Community Center's Live Nativity.

Drop off your blankets at:

- Acton United Methodist Church
- Rancho Brazos Community Center
- To have your blankets picked up, contact Sharla Caro
817-326-5747 • sharla@actonumc.org

Five years ago, while processing Christmas for Children applications, we couldn't help but notice how many children asked for blankets. This is the inspiration for our blanket drive.

Thank you for your generous support!

Questions? Contact Sharla Caro, Director of Rancho Brazos, at 817-326-5747 • sharla@actonumc.org.

2017

Advent at Acton

ACTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 10 Jericho Youth Choir presents Allen Pote's "Share the Good News! He is Born!"
Sunday ♦ 8:15 & 11:00 am services ♦ Sanctuary

New Partner Dinner

Sunday ♦ 5:00 - 6:30 pm ♦ Youth Building

Ready to call Acton Methodist your new faith home? Taught by Pastor Wade and Staff. They will answer your questions and help you get connected. Dinner and childcare will be provided.

December 12 Acton Preschool Christmas Program

Tuesday ♦ 7:00 pm ♦ Sanctuary

Cookies and punch will be served in the Christian Life Center (CLC) following the program.

December 13 Advent Noon Communion

Wednesday ♦ 12:00 - 12:30 pm ♦ White Chapel

December 14 Rancho Brazos Community Center's Live Nativity - Christmas Dinner- Blanket Distribution

6:30 pm ♦ Rancho Brazos Community Center

December 17 Chancel Choir, accompanied by Full Orchestra presents "International Carol Suites"

Sunday ♦ 8:15 & 11:00 am services ♦ Sanctuary

Pastor Wade will be preaching at the 9:45 am service.

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Saturday ♦ 6:30 pm ♦ White Chapel

Hope for those who hurt this Christmas or have experienced loss.

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services with Communion

9:45 am: Contemporary Family Worship

7:00 pm: Traditional Worship with Orchestra

11:00 pm: Contemplative Worship

December 25 - January 1

The church office will be closed for the Holidays. If there is a pastoral emergency, call 682-703-0507.

December 31 New Year's Eve Services

Sunday ♦ 9:45 & 11:00 am ♦ Sanctuary



Off the Shelf

by Bobbie Brownlee, Librarian

*“No man can be called friendless who has God
and the companionship of good books.”*
– Elizabeth Barrett Browning

TITLE: The Lord Is My Strength
AUTHOR: Lynn N. Austin
CALL #: Fic/Aus [Currently shelved with New Books]

The Hebrew people had found themselves wallowing in violence, treachery, and infidelity to Yahweh. Austin’s Book One in Chronicles of the King series features this exciting story of young Hezekiah and his quest to find the strength of save himself and his community.

TITLE: 1 2 3 Dream
AUTHOR: Kim Krans
CALL #: E/KRA

Find five fish in the ocean waves, or nineteen nuts for the squirrel to save. How many thorns are on the rose? This wonderful counting book features pen and ink illustrations and is one of the best children’s books I’ve seen. Don’t miss this one...

TITLE: Bobby Kennedy: A Raging Spirit
[audio CD format]
AUTHOR: Chris Matthews
CALL #: B/KENNEDY
[Currently shelved with New Books]

Drawing on extensive research and interviews, Matthews shines a light on important moments of Kennedy’s life – his upbringing, his start in politics, his crucial role fighting for civil rights, and his tragic run for president. This 8-disc unabridged audio book is read by the author.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Experiencing Grief or Loss? Saturday Breakfast Group.
An informal get together for anyone experiencing grief and loss. **We meet the 2nd Saturday at Fuzzy's Tacos on the Square from 9:00 am - 10:30 am.** Join us for conversation, coffee and/or breakfast tacos. No need to call ahead, just show up.
Questions? Email Amy Dwight alane1814@gmail.com.

Alzheimer's Support Group
We meet the 1st Monday of every month from 10 am - noon in the church parlor. Questions? Contact Evelyn Guerin at 817-326-2355.

ATTENDANCE & TITHES/OFFERINGS

Attendance:
2017 November Average Worship Attendance: 706
2016 November Average Worship Attendance: 701

Tithes/Offerings:
General Giving
2017 November General Giving: \$112,657
2016 November General Giving: \$100,469

Designated Giving
2017 November Designated Giving: \$60,926
2016 November Designated Giving: \$69,370

2017:
January - November: **General Budget:** \$1,208,638
January - November: **General Expenses:** \$1,406,519

FINANCIAL NEWS

****End of the Year Statements for 2017****
For contributions to be included in your 2017 giving statement:
Checks must be dated no later than December 31, 2017, and in to the church by Wednesday, January 3, 2018.
Thank you for your cooperation.

Fundraising Policy
This is a reminder that it is the policy of Acton United Methodist Church that any fundraising to be conducted on a Sunday, must first have the approval of the Fundraising Sub-Committee and will be restricted to the CLC. Request forms are available at the Welcome Center and the Church Office.

This policy is to make sure that we do not have too many fundraisers going on at the same time. The hope is that the group doing the fundraising will get better results. Thank You!

*Blessed are they which do
hunger and thirst
after righteousness:
for they shall be filled.*
Matthew 5:6

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN WOMEN IN MISSIONS

Circle groups meet in the White Chapel and/or Parlor.
Please join us! Women of all ages are welcome!

Circle of Love - December 8 at 10:00 am.

Our Youth Director, Blake Britt will be sharing his vision for our youth program.

(Meets every 2nd Friday of the month at 10:00 am.).

Questions? Contact Evelyn Guerin, Circle of Love Leader, at 817-326-2355 or guerin528@windstream.net.

Next Meeting: January 12

Mary Martha Circle - December 11 at 6:00 pm.

Join us in the White Chapel for a light supper and program. Free Baby-sitting is available upon request. Contact the Director of Children's Ministry to make arrangements at 817-326-4242 or call the circle leader. (Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 pm). Questions? Contact Nancy Seilheimer (817-994-4965 or nancy@seilheimer.us) or JJ Mainord (817-279-1969 or jjmainord@att.net)

Next Meeting: January 8.

Eileen Lindley Circle - December 19 at 1:00 pm.

Join us for dessert and program in the White Chapel. We would love to invite all women interested in joining us. (They meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm.). Questions? Contact Ruth Smith, Eileen Lindley Leader, at 817-579-5306 or fds56@live.com. Next Meeting: January 16.

Literary Circle - January 17 at 1:00 pm.

Meets on the third Wednesday in March, May, September, and November. Questions? Contact Janece Barker, Literary Circle Leader, at 817-326-3841 or janecebarker@yahoo.com
Next Meeting: March 21, 2018.

Questions about United Methodist Women and their events?

Please contact Ann Schmidt, President, at apschmidt@charter.net or (817) 326-2352.

Dear Acton United Methodist Volunteers -

We would like to thank all of the volunteers for your dedication and hard work in making Acton United Methodist Church a successful church! Without you, we would not be able to succeed in all of our ministries.

We could not do it without you!!

Thank you again for all of your help!

Sincerely,

Acton United Methodist Church Staff



A Note from SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee)

Dear Fellow Church Members,

What a joyous season this is as we enter Advent and prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus! With the sanctuary decorated and the music selected, it is time to prepare our hearts to move into the spirit of giving.

It has been the tradition of the Acton United Methodist Church for years to honor our pastors and staff with a love offering at Christmas. As you prayerfully consider your gift giving during this special holiday, please consider what you might want to add to this love offering.

Contributions can be made at any time between now and December 20th. Checks should be made payable to Acton United Methodist Church with the note of "Staff Love Offering" in the memo section. Cash should be placed in an envelope and a notation should be made on the outside of the envelope designating your intent for it to be part of the "Staff Love Offering".

Please join us in this special acknowledgement of the staff and their efforts on our behalf during this rather interesting year of transitions.

May all of the joys of knowing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior give you special blessings this year.

Staff/Parish Relations Committee -

Billy Brassell

Ross Carnes

Linda Frossard

Barbara Herrington

Kim Payne

Winston Polley

David Weyandt

Laura Wood Ferrell



RANCHO BRAZOS NEWS



Merry Christmas from the Ranch Brazos Community Center! We have had a wonderful year and are so grateful for your continued support.

- * Our Fall Festival was one of the biggest events that we have ever had at RBCC. We had a record turnout, and the kids talked about it for days afterward. It was cold (so cold!) but people left with warm hearts.

Thank you to everyone who donated a delicious side or dessert for our community Thanksgiving dinner. Everyone had a great time and was stuffed!

- * Our friends at Quail Park sponsored Pasta For a Purpose on November 14th. It was a wonderful night full of food and friends! Thank you so much for your support.

Upcoming Events:

- Our **Blanket Drive continues through December 14.** Please donate a new blanket to help keep our community warm this winter. Blankets can be dropped off at Acton United Methodist Church or Rancho Brazos Community Center.
- Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus at our **Annual Live Nativity on December 14 at 6:00 pm.** We will have food, music and a performance of the Christmas story performed by Community kids!

If you would like more information about any of our programs or events, or would like to volunteer (We would love to have you!), please contact Sharla Caro at (678) 602-1037 or email at sharla@actonumc.org.

ACTON PRESCHOOL

Acton Preschool Is Growing!

The preschool is currently:

- Accepting children for our 3-5 year old classrooms

Employment Opportunities

- Hiring teachers for our afternoon shift

For more information, contact Carmen, Preschool Director, at 817-326-3615.



Chancel Choir performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City

Distinguished Concerts International New York City (DCINY) invited our Chancel Choir to participate in a performance of Mark Hayes' International Carol Suite in New York City. The performance at Carnegie Hall took place on Sunday, November 19. **The picture above is the Chancel Choir members with Mark Hayes (conductor, composer, and arranger) after the concert.**

The Chancel Choir will perform the same concert on December 17 at 8:15 and 11:00 am worship services, with a full orchestra. You don't want to miss this beautiful music!

PRAYER CORNER

Remember to "Pray without Ceasing"



December Prayer Focus: In the busyness of the Christmas season, remember to share Christ's love at every opportunity.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nursing Homes

Glen Rose

Ellen Jones (*J. Gentry's Mom*)
Mary Barbara Cook
Mable Chambers (*C. Redwine's Mom*)

Arbor House

Enid Davidson

The Royal Estates (Abilene)

Ione Fowler

Trinity Mission

Judy Stroud

Assisted Living

Lakestone Terrace

Carolyn Meier
Marolyn Pollard

Waterview (The Cove)

Burnis Henderson
Bill Skoog (*The Pointe*)
Norma Langdon
Pat West
June Cheek

Waterview

Robin Griffith

The Courtyards

Leeta Ficklin
Charlene Kay
Winnie Grantham

Vantage (Ft. Worth)

Mary Lou Cheek

Quail Park

Helen Shelton
Barbara Carrell
Virgie Davis
Jack Wilson

Longterm/Recouperating Home Care

Sally Cleveland
Ken Sanders
Perri Ann Thompson
Glen Harvey
Joe Fowler
June Buchholz
Kathy Beech
Bettie Hanna
Karen Murphy
Jo Sanders
Jean Hagood
Don Woods
Linda Dixon
Warren Ross
Marlene Carle
Sam Helsley
Susan Haberlin
Paul Skoog
Loren Nichols
Walt Cox
Rita Pelham
JC Campbell
Jenny Love
Carol Pipkin
Ann Trenton
Burt Preissinger
Stan Hubbard
Gwen Mathis
June Buchholz
Debbie Trenton

ACTON CARING SERVICES



Pastoral Care

If you know of someone (or even yourself) that needs pastoral care (surgeries, visit request, rehab, hospice, nursing home, death), please contact the church office at 817-326-4242. We want to make sure to capture as much information as possible, so no one will fall through the cracks. Thank you for your help in making sure we see to the needs of our church family.

Stephen Ministry Services Available

Do you know someone who is hurting and could use a caring individual by their side? A loss of a loved one, a job, an illness? We have trained Stephen Ministers ready to meet with that someone who is hurting. A Stephen Minister will listen, care and pray with that someone who is hurting. This confidential ministry is open to anyone who needs a caring person to meet with them.

Simply call the church office at 817-326-4242 and ask for Linda Hatfield (linda@actonumc.org) or Pastor Margret Fields (margret@actonumc.org).

Hospitalized

Dallas

Brad Lowack

Harris DT

Dan Klemp

Matt Gritz

Baylor All Saints

Jack Wilson

Condolences

...To Mary Ann Safford, death of her husband,
Andre Safford

...To Suzanne Walshe-Cooley, death of her son,
James Cooley

...To Jan Coker & Jackie Patterson,
death of their father, **Clarence Curry**

...To Suzanne Walshe-Cooley, death of her grandson,
Keaton Cooley



New Partner Class
December 10 ♦ 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Youth Building

Are you ready to call Acton United Methodist your new faith home? This class is taught by Pastor Wade and Staff. They will answer your questions and help you get connected. Dinner and childcare will be provided. Call the church office (817-326-4242) to sign up.



*Mystery
Dinner Bus*

January 16, 2018

More information to come!

**The Church Office will be closed
December 25 - January 1 in observance
of the Holidays. If there is a pastoral
emergency, call 682-703-0507.**

**The Acton Preschool will be closed on
December 25 & 26 and January 1.
in observance of the Holidays.**



Saintly Sightseers
January 25, 2018

More information to come!

Questions about the Mystery Dinner or Saintly Sightseers? Contact Evelyn Guerin (817) 326-2355 or guerin528@gmail.com

The next Newsletter will come out on January 10, 2018.

Next Newsletter Deadline: **Wednesday - December 13 by 8:00 am.**

We reserve the right to edit copy for space/content considerations.

website: www.actonumc.org

email: church@actonumc.org

Worship:

8:15 Traditional
9:45 Contemporary
11:00 Traditional

Sunday School:

8:30 Agape
9:45 Traditional Classes
11:00 Classes for all ages

Wednesday Communion Service

Noon - 12:30 pm in the White Chapel

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday ♦ 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Friday ♦ 8:00 a.m. - Noon

Acton United Methodist Church

3433 Fall Creek Highway
Granbury, TX 76049
Office: 817/326-4242
Fax: 817/326-5090

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