

# GATHERED WORSHIP SERVICE

for the  
**Glory of God  
and the**

**Renewal of His People**

**December 4, 2011**

**The Second Sunday of Advent**

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(If the temperature of the building is too cool, please avail yourself of shawls in the lobby near our water fountain)

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort;  
to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior;  
to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;  
and to all who will come, this church opens wide her doors  
and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*



Southside Community Church exists as a *community*  
*redeemed* by and *dependent* upon *God's grace*,  
that we might be  
engaged in and renewed by the *worship* of the triune God,  
*matured* by His truth, as evidenced by *love*,  
and engaged in His *mission of renewal* to *His world*.

## REFLECTION and PREPARATION

I have climbed highest mountain, I have run through the fields  
Only to be with you, only to be with you.

I have run, I have crawled; I have scaled these city walls, these city walls  
Only to be with you.

*But I still haven't found what I'm looking for.*

I have kissed honey lips, felt the healing in her fingertips;  
It burned like fire, this burning desire

I have spoke with the tongue of angels, I have held the hand of a devil  
It was warm in the night, I was cold as a stone

*But I still haven't found what I'm looking for.*

I believe in the kingdom come, then all the colors will bleed into one, bleed into one  
Well, yes, I'm still running

You broke the bonds and you loosed the chains;  
Carried the cross of my shame, of my shame  
You know I believed it

*But I still haven't found what I'm looking for*

*U2, 1987*

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"I never had the experience of looking for God. It was the other way around: He was the hunter (or so it seemed to me) and I was the deer. He stalked me...took unerring aim, and fired. And I am very thankful that this is how the first (conscious) meeting occurred. It forearm one against subsequent fears that the whole thing was only wish fulfillment. Something one didn't wish for can hardly be that."

*C. S. Lewis*

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"Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart."

*Charles Wesley*

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## BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT... THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM

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(\*Indicates where congregation is invited to stand, as able)

### **\*CALL to WORSHIP**

*from Psalm 24 and Micah 5*

*Leader: The Lord, the King of glory, is coming!*

**People: O come, let us adore him!**

*Leader: Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.*

**People: Glory be to God in the highest! Alleluia! Amen!**

### **SONGS of ADORATION**

#### **Angels, from the Realms of Glory**

Words: James Montgomery, 1825 Music: Henry Smart, 1867

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in His temple shall appear:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;  
Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

## **Be Unto Your Name**

Words and Music: Lynn DeShazo and Gary Sadler

We are a moment, You are forever,  
Lord of the ages, God before time;  
We are a vapor, You are eternal,  
Love everlasting, reigning on high.

*Chorus:*

*Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain;  
Highest, praises, honor and glory  
Be unto Your name. Be unto Your name.*

We are the broken, You are the healer,  
Jesus, Redeemer, mighty to save;  
You are the love song we'll sing forever,  
Bowing before You, blessing Your name.

*Chorus Twice*

Be unto Your name.

**\*PRAYER of ADORATION**

**AFFIRMATION of FAITH**

*from the Westminster Confession of Faith and  
the First Catechism for Children*

*Leader: Children and youth, why did God make you and all things?*

**Children: For his own glory.**

*Leader: What is the chief end of man?*

**People: Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.**

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**BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN... FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED**

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**CONFESSION of SIN**

*from Isaiah 53*

But he (Jesus) was wounded for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;

All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned — every one — to his own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

*(please confess your sin silently in prayer, then pray the following in unison)*

**Heavenly Father,  
our thoughts and motives cannot be hidden from your sight.**

**Our self-pity and pride,  
our cowardice and sloth,  
our anger and envy are exposed to your eyes and ours.**

**Forgive us, Father,  
and cover us in Christ.**

**Let us hear your voice saying:  
his blood is our peace,  
his death is our freedom,  
his Spirit our power,  
his smiting our safety.**

**And let our hearts know that your service is perfect freedom. Amen.**

### *Advent Candle – “Bethlehem Candle”*

*Lighting the Advent wreath originated in Germany in the nineteenth century, based on a Roman custom of the ceremonial entrance of a ruler to a province or city as his ‘advent’ (from the Latin adventus: ‘arrival’). The wreath consists of four candles on the outside of the wreath and one candle in the center. One candle is lit the first Sunday of Advent. Two are lit the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, and so on. Each of the candles has special significance: The first is the prophecy candle; the second is the Bethlehem candle; the third is the Shepherds candle; the 4<sup>th</sup> is the Angels candle; and the center candle is the Christ candle, lit at Christmas.*

### **SONG of RENEWAL**

#### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Words: Phillips Brooks, 1868 Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting Light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years, are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep, their watch of wond’ring love.  
O morning stars, together, proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv’n!  
So God imparts to human hearts, the blessings of His heav’n.  
No ear may hear His coming, but, in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

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**BLESSED ARE THE MEEK...FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH**

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**\*WORDS of ASSURANCE and the PEACE of CHRIST**

*Micah 5:2-5*

"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."  
Whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

And he shall be their peace.

*Minister:           The peace of the Lord be with you!*

**People:           And also with you!**

\*SONG of CELEBRATION

**The Joy of The Lord**

Words and Music: Twila Paris

The joy of the Lord will be my strength.  
I will not falter, I will not faint.  
He is my Shepherd, I am not afraid. The joy of the Lord is my strength.

*Chorus:*  
*The joy of the Lord,*  
*The joy of the Lord,*  
*The joy of the Lord*  
*Is my strength.*  
*(REPEAT)*

The joy of the Lord will be my strength.  
He will uphold me all of my days.  
I am surrounded by mercy and grace. And the joy of the Lord is my strength.

*Chorus*  
*(REPEAT)*

The joy of the Lord will be my strength.  
And I will not waver, walking by faith.  
He will be strong to deliver me safe. The joy of the Lord is my strength.

*Chorus*  
*(REPEAT)*

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## BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS...THEY SHALL BE SATISFIED

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### MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

*Fellowship Books.* Please take a moment to fill out the information on the attendance pads located underneath the seat on the inner aisles, providing any information to enable us to better serve you. When you finish, please pass the pads down the row so everyone has the opportunity to do so.

### EXTENDING GOD'S KINGDOM

- RUF International, Texas A&M, College Station - Justin Pickard

### PRAYER of COMMITTAL for our OFFERINGS

### GIVING of OFFERINGS

#### *The Jesse Tree*

The Jesse tree, at the center of our stage, is an artistic tradition, dating to the 11<sup>th</sup> century, and can serve as tool to visibly wed history and the story of God's redemption in the coming of Jesus Christ. Its name comes from the biblical book of prophecy, *Isaiah*, which offers this metaphorical description of the descent of the Messiah from Jesse of Bethlehem, through his son David.

*"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him..." -  
Isaiah 11:1*

#### Today's Themes:

Moses and the Ten Commandments  
Promise of Canaan, the Promised Land

#### Symbols:

Tablet with 10 Numbers  
Cluster of Grapes

*Childrens' Worship.* We welcome children in our entire worship service. However, if you feel a child would benefit from a setting specifically designed for 4-8 years of age, you may escort them to Children's Worship down the west hallway of our building after our offering.

### PRAYER for GOD'S PEOPLE and HIS WORLD

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**BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, PURE IN HEART,  
PEACE MAKERS, PERSECUTED...**

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**READING of GOD'S WORD**

*Ecclesiastes 2*

*The Vanity of Self-Indulgence*

<sup>1</sup>I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself." But behold, this also was vanity.

<sup>2</sup>I said of laughter, "It is mad," and of pleasure, "What use is it?" <sup>3</sup>I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine – my heart still guiding me with wisdom – and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life.

<sup>4</sup>I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. <sup>5</sup>I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. <sup>6</sup>I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. <sup>7</sup>I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. <sup>8</sup>I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the children of man.

<sup>9</sup>So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. <sup>10</sup>And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. <sup>11</sup>Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

*The Vanity of Living Wisely*

<sup>12</sup> So I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly. For what can the man do who comes after the king? Only what has already been done. <sup>13</sup>Then I saw that there is more gain in wisdom than in folly, as there is more gain in light than in darkness. <sup>14</sup> The wise person has his eyes in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. And yet I perceived that the same event happens to all of them. <sup>15</sup>Then I said in my heart, "What happens to the fool will happen to me also. Why then have I been so very wise?" And I said in my heart that this also is vanity. <sup>16</sup>For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. How the wise dies just like the fool!

<sup>17</sup>So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind.

*The Vanity of Toil*

<sup>18</sup>I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, <sup>19</sup>and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. <sup>20</sup>So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, <sup>21</sup>because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. <sup>22</sup>What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? <sup>23</sup>For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

<sup>24</sup> *There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God,* <sup>25</sup>*for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment?* <sup>26</sup>For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God.

This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

## HOMILY

***"What Insures Enjoyment in Life? – pleasures , good decisions, hard work?"***

*from the series,*

*"Waiting for Jesus to Come –  
What Gain is there from What I Do in the Meantime?"*

*Based in Ecclesiastes*

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...FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

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**CELEBRATION of HOLY COMMUNION**

*Feel free to bring children forward. If they are not partaking the bread and wine/juice, they may indicate simply by clasping their hands. Upon request, our servers will gladly pray for and with your children.*

*If you are unable, physically, to process forward but do wish to partake, servers will come to your seat with the elements.*

*Minister: Bethlehem means “house of bread.” He who was born in Bethlehem came to be the “bread of life.” As we prepare to feast in our hearts upon this life-giving bread, let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

**Words of Institution**

*Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.*

**People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Minister: Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed for us.*

**People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

*Minister: The gifts of God are for the people of God.*

**Serving of the Elements** *(wine is in the outer ring of the trays; juice in the inner)*

**Prayer for Those Searching for Truth**

*Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.*

**Prayer of Belief**

*Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior. Amen.*

## Blessed Be Your Name

Words and Music: Matt & Beth Redman

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful,  
Where Your streams of abundance flow,  
Blessed be Your name  
And blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place,  
Though I walk through the wilderness,  
Blessed be Your name.

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise.  
And when the darkness closes in Lord, still I will say,  
"Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your glorious name."

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me,  
When the world's "all as it should be."  
Blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering,  
Though there's pain in the offering,  
Blessed be Your name.

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise.  
And when the darkness closes in Lord, still I will say,  
"Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your glorious name."

You give and take away, You give and take away.  
My heart will choose to say, "Lord blessed be Your name."  
*(Repeat)*

"Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be Your glorious name."  
*(Repeat)*

**\*BENEDICTION**

from Romans 15

Minister: *And again Isaiah says,*  
*"The root of Jesse will come,*  
*even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;*  
*in him will the Gentiles hope."*  
*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,*  
*so that by the power of the Holy Spirit*  
*you may abound in hope.*

**People:** **(Loudly) Amen!**

Minister: *Rejoice, the King has come and is coming again!*

**All:** **(Very loudly sung)**

**O come, let us adore him,**  
**O come, let us adore him,**  
**O come, let us adore him,**  
**Christ the Lord!**

**\*POSTLUDE**

*We praise the Lord for our accompanists this morning*  
*– vocalists and instrumentalists and audio and video technicians.*

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Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version, © 2001 Crossway Bibles,  
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*The artwork of the bronze cross and Jesse Tree on our cover and throughout the guide is used with permission of Creator Mundi.*  
*You may view more of their art at [www.creatormundi.com](http://www.creatormundi.com).*



**Opportunities to Know, Connect, and Serve**

*Today*

**Jason Pickard visit, RUFInternational minister, Texas A&M, College Station.** A new ministry from which we have much to learn of and support in various ways. Jason taught during our 9:15 educational hour on Sunday, will share during our worship service, and help lead our liturgy. This is a tangible way in which we may be a part of joining God’s mission in sending the gospel to all nations.

**Lord’s Supper.** A practical encouragement to prepare -

*"before they come, prepare by examining themselves of their identity in Christ, of their sins and their wants, of the truth and measure of their knowledge, faith, repentance; love to God and the brethren, charity to all men, forgiving those that have done them wrong; of their desires for Christ, and of their new obedience; and by renewing the exercise of these graces, by serious meditation, and fervent prayer." (Westminster Confession of Faith)*

Such preparation can make the Lord's Supper very meaningful for you. It reminds us of our deep need for a Savior and of the deep love of God that He would give his body and blood to forgive us and make us whole.

**Handel’s Messiah concert. 3:00pm, First United Methodist Church, Corpus Christi, 900 South Shoreline Blvd.** Free concert in the sanctuary complete with choir and orchestra.

**Lunch Bunch.** The congregation is invited to join the lunch bunch at Jason’s Deli 5325 Saratoga, following our worship service.

**Nursery Volunteers Needed.** Currently we have 10 volunteers for Sunday Worship. If you would like to volunteer for this ministry please contact LaVaughn Lundgaard at [lt\\_1@cobridge.tv](mailto:lt_1@cobridge.tv) or 361.727.1527

*Upcoming*

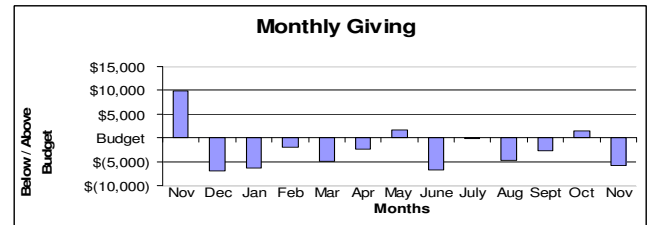
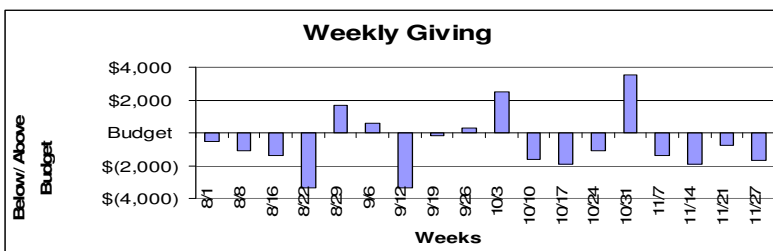
**Mens’ Steak Lunch, December 6<sup>th</sup>.** REACH ministries, under the leadership of our members, has organized a steak lunch for all men featuring Tom Campbell of Austin, to share his testimony of life and faith, and encourage you to invite other men who may not know a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Cost \$15. Location: First United Methodist Church. Flyers are available through our office and the narthex. **RSVP Greg Hood at 361.548.4298.**

**Christmas Caroling Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.** Join us as we gather to sing Christmas Carols with the residents at Andy Beaver’s home, Harbor Place Retirement Residence, 5518 Lipes. We’ll meet in lobby there at 5:45 p.m.

**Womens’ Christmas Ornament Exchange. December 11<sup>th</sup>.** We will gather at 6pm at the Sigler home, 441 Santa Monica Place. Bring a wrapped ornament and either a dessert or appetizer.

**Closure (partial) of Airline Road, beginning December 5<sup>th</sup>.** Airline will be closed between Cousteau and Saratoga, still allowing access to Brooke Road and SCC from Airline to its southwest and from Rodd Field Road.

**Financial Update**



*Giving Month-to-Date: \$ 18,516.00*  
*Budget Month-to-Date: \$ 26,350.00*

*Giving Year-to-Date: \$ 192,737.00*  
*Budget Year-to-Date: \$ 210,800.00*

**Save the Date**

- **Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>** – Session of elders stated meeting, 6:15pm
- **Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service, 6pm.

Also please note we will not gather for the monthly Fellowship Luncheon in December.

## **\*\*Ongoing Bible Study and Opportunities for Service with Groups**

### **Sunday Christian Education Classes – 9:15 - 10:15**

|                     |                                                            |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Ages 2 - 3</b>   | <i>A Sure Foundation</i>                                   |
| <b>Ages 4 - 9</b>   | <i>Camp Southside – “...so they set their hope in God”</i> |
| <b>Ages 10-13</b>   | <i>Serve Camp Southside</i>                                |
| <b>Ages 14 - 18</b> | <i>Serve Camp Southside</i>                                |
| <b>Adults</b>       | <i>The Pauline Epistles</i>                                |

### **Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:30 am**

4-8 Years, Children's Worship (children dismissed prior to Homily)  
Staffed nursery for newborns - 3 years for Education Hour and Worship Service

### **Weekly Meetings**

#### **Tuesday Morning @ Town & Country Café**

**6:30 am Men's Study** “Sure I Believe - So What, How to Really Live Your Faith” by James Boice

**7 :00 am Women's Breakfast**

Contacts: Bill and Jean Newberry at 537-0549 or 537-9681 or Gordon and Linda Landreth at 992-3046.

### **Wednesday**

**Fall Midweek Study 11:00 am** Study *-Through His Eyes, God's Perspective on Women in the Bible* and meal.  
**Chapter 9 – Ruth and Naomi, a Portrait of Redemption.**

Contact Meredith Hood at MeredithHood730@yahoo.com or 361-232-1364.

**Youth Gathering** Fellowship with study and food, 7:00pm.

Contact Stephen Shepperd at 537.2281 or Shepshep3@gmail.com

### **Monthly Meetings**

**Women's Book Club** Contact Jeanie Cotten @ 991-6478 or jcotten@stx.rr.com

Our next Book Club gathering will be Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012!!!

Our newest book is *Wish You Well*, by David Baldacci.

It's the story of Louisa Mae Cardinal, a precocious twelve-year-old girl living in the hectic New York City of 1940 with her acclaimed but sadly underpaid writer father, her compassionate mother, and her timid younger brother, Oz. For Lou, her family's financial struggles are invisible to her. Instead, she is a daughter who idolizes her father and is in love with the art of storytelling.

**Tuesday Women's Noon Fellowship** Contact Andy Beaver @ 442-2721

The Women's Noon Fellowship will meet at the home of Mary Lou Swan at 6414 Whitaker Drive. Each will bring a salad to share with the group. If you have a short article you would like to share with all we will do that instead of a lesson from the book. All women in the church are invited to join us at noon on Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Mercy and Service Opportunities**

**Mission 911 “The Center Peace”** Contact Paige Peden @ 290.2174 or hydrangeasplendor@yahoo.com

Nutrition, Reading and Fun. If interested in volunteering please contact Paige for more details.

### **Elder on Call**

Gordon Landreth

Dec 4 – 10

Johnny Cotten

Dec 11 – 17

Rob Sigler

Dec 18 – 24

Ed Arvin

Dec 25 – 31

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