

Common Ground

A monthly
Publication of
White rock
Community
Church



NOVEMBER 2008

Time for a favorite White Rock tradition,
Thanksgiving Dinner!!
Sunday, November 23rd
at 6:00 pm

Please join us for lots of food and fellowship as we give thanks together this evening. The Deacons serve as our hosts for the evening, and the Special Services Committee will be responsible for the turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

We ask that everyone bring a *homemade* dessert (we let you off the hook for the cornbread dressing, so please give us your best effort!) As much as possible we hope to sit by deacon families, but there will be plenty of seating for **everybody!**

If you are not yet an official member, but are an active part of our church family please bake your pie and come.

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**Committee Leadership Equipping
Session Saturday November 8th
10:00 am to noon**

We are designing this time to be the most helpful 2 hours a committee chair and secretary can invest in their ministry for the coming year! We will cover agendas, minutes, communications, budgets, Roberts Rules of Order, and the sacred work of ministry by committee. We will also be discerning God's will and selecting a new Church Council Chair. All Committee Chairs and Secretaries, please mark your calendars.

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Are you prepared for flu

If you haven't received your flu shot for the season, we will have an on site representative from Tom Thumb pharmacy available **Sunday, November 2nd off the parlor from 9:30 to 11:00 am** to give flu shots. The fee for the shot is \$25.00 and the following insurances will be accepted:

- Medicare Part B—flu and pneumonia \$0.00 copay
- All Aetna Plans \$0.00 copay
- Secure Horizons & Texas Healthspring \$0.00 copay

Avoid this if
you can!!



A Message from pastor douglas.....a time for covenant renewal!

November 2, 2008
I Thessalonians 3:1-13
"The Faithful Church"
Pastor Douglas Shaffer

November 9, 2008
I Thessalonians 4:13-18
"The Risen Church"
Pastor Douglas Shaffer

November 16, 2008
I Thessalonians 5:1-11
"The Built-up Church"
Pastor Douglas Shaffer

November 23, 2008
I Thessalonians 5:12-18
"The Kissing Church"
Pastor Vivian Davis

November 30, 2008
Colossians 1:15-23
"It's All About Jesus"
Pastor Douglas Shaffer



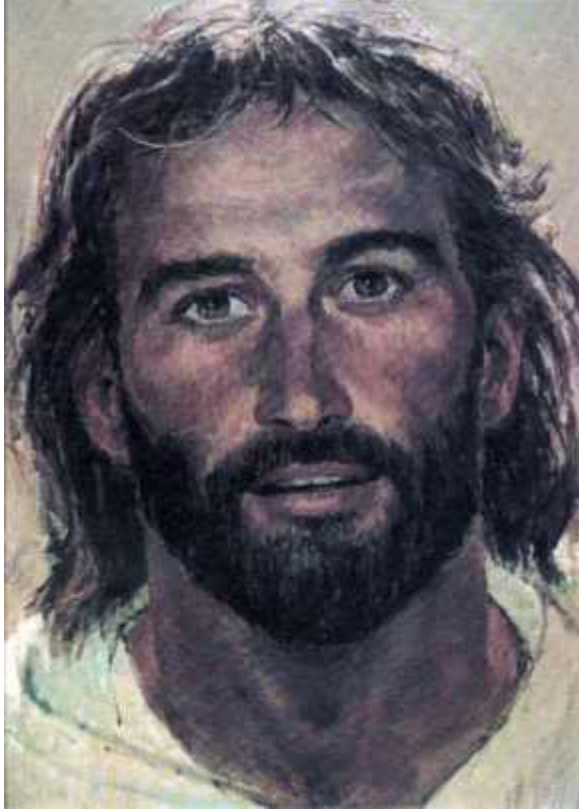
The picture you see here was taken during the Deacon Retreat held on October 24th and 25th in our activity center. What a powerful time of fellowship, team building, and inspiration. During one of our sessions we explored our Church's doctrinal statement

(I'm the farmer holding up the statement for review in the picture!) we broke into groups and opened our Bibles and worked to find the Scripture Texts that support what we believe. Everyone enjoyed the work of clarifying what we believe and affirming the Covenantal relationship we have with God through Christ Jesus. In theology, a covenant is a binding agreement, compact or promise. During this time of year, we are renewing the leadership of our church through adding new Deacons and choosing new committees for ministry and new committee leadership. Pastoral Covenants are being reviewed, and the committees are working on their anticipated activities and budgets. In the midst of all of this sacred "business" of the church, this work of *agreement and promise*, I discovered that on the website, along with our doctrinal statement is a covenant for the people of our church. As a Deacon board we decided to bring this covenant to our congregation during this month of renewal, agreement. We intend to speak it forth in one voice, as one body, and one promise!

This covenant speaks of our care for one another and our commitment to the health of our church. November is the universal month of giving thanks, but is also the historical time when we look at our understanding and commitment to stewardship. This is the time we agree together to hear God's will as Church and also in our individual giving. The state of the economy and the fear of what could happen next make it all the more important that we set apart time and space from all the incessant 'noise' in our news and society.

It is in this place that we feel the presence of God. It is in this space that we hear the voice of God. It is in this space that we respond to God and renew our Covenant. This in turn prepares us to renew our covenant with one another as members of this wonderful church God has entrusted to us. As we move into this two month season of busy schedules, may your find that quiet sacred place where God can be heard and you can be renewed.

Blessings to you all,
douglas



Please sign up now for the Essential Jesus Bible Study

Scripture Union, the organization that developed the Essential 100 (we know it as the E100) bible study, have developed a new 20 week study that we will be engaging in as a church community at the end of this month. Once again, all bible studies will focus on this same curriculum and new home groups will be formed as we look at what the Old and New Testaments have to say about Jesus purpose, power and ministry. Once again there is a companion study guide that will be available, so we need you to sign up in the parlor to assist us with ordering enough study materials. Once again, the assigned texts will serve as source materials for Sunday Sermons, beginning on November 30th, the first Sunday of Advent, and will run for 20 weeks , finishing on Easter Sunday. What a powerful way to celebrate Easter having just concluded an Essential look at Jesus life and ministry!

Please sign up now in the parlor if you'd like the study guide, and be watching the bulletin and the website for further details as they become available.

“ Pointing People to
Jesus through...

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Prayer Ministry

Please remember our Committee groups for November's prayer focus:

- ◆ Finance
- ◆ Women's Ministry
- ◆ Policies and Procedures
- ◆ Floral



The Prayer Committee has created a colorful bookmark for the month of November that includes a prayer for all of these committees and ministries. If you didn't receive a bookmark in morning worship, you can pick one up in the parlor.

Following is the treasurer's report for the first nine months of 2008.

For the period ended September 2008, we have been blessed to be able to keep our expenses below budget by more than \$XXXXX. The hard work of the church staff and volunteer leaders has definitely shown strong stewardship efforts. During the same nine month period, our income from tithes and offerings is below budget by almost \$XXXXX. Should the current trend in giving continue, we could be looking a budget shortfall of more than \$XXXXX.

If you've been struggling with tithing on a tight budget or if you have stopped tithing altogether, I encourage you to start again as soon as you can. Even if you start with only a small percentage and work your way up, it is still something. God knows things are tough and that tithing isn't always easy, but He also knows it works and that it blesses you and leaves you better in the end. Remember, when things get tough, you can find encouragement through God's Word and remind yourself of the good things to come. *"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."* Galatians 6:9

As your new treasurer, my promise is to continue to provide accurate and transparent financial information, just as my predecessor David Gibbons did. I'm sure you will agree with me that it will be a tall order to fill David's shoes, but with God's help I promise that I will give you my best!

If you have any questions about our current financial condition, our budget or how you can help our church continue to grow and minister to the needs of our community, please let me know. I'll be happy to visit with you, pray with you and encourage you to financially support the extraordinarily important needs of our church and its ministries.

Rick Marshall
Church Treasurer

November "Dates and Information"

November 1	Facilities Meeting
November 1	Outreach Committee Meeting
November 2	Pasta with the Pastors
November 2	Policies and Procedures Meeting
November 2	Special Services Meeting
November 2	Prayer Committee Meeting
November 2	Personnel Committee Meeting
November 5	Choir Council Meeting
November 8	Worship Committee Meeting
November 8	Committee Training for Chairs and Secretaries
November 9	Education Committee Meeting
November 9	Nominating Committee Meeting
November 9	Women's Ministries Meeting
November 9	Couples Planning Meeting
November 15	Friends Board Meeting
November 17	Finance Committee Meeting
November 18	Deacons Meeting
November 19	Church Council Meeting
November 20	Communications Meeting
November 23	Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner
November 27	Happy Thanksgiving

**Note: Meetings are subject to change.
Please check with your committee chair if there is a question.**

Emma's Dilemma

As many of you know, my little dog, Emma has grown up in the church. For the last couple of years she has greeted visitors at the door, and shot out the front door to chase "Church Cat," the kitty who has lived under the church and in the front yard for years. I think over time they became good friends through the chase.



Emma's dilemma is that she still charges through the door and dives head first into the bushes, but the kitty isn't around anymore. Don't worry, she was getting older and clearly more open to human contact; and she has found a new home with Tony, one of our members. She has adapted very well to the life of domesticity, where warmth, affection and medical care can be a regular part of her golden years.

Now if Emma can just learn the important lesson of adapting to change and not doing things the way she's always done them...p.d.



BLACK TIE DINNER, INC.

Ticket sales have begun! Please see the sign-up sheet in the parlor for advance ticket sales.

As beneficiaries, we will need to sell a minimum of 4 tables for the event on November 22, 2008. Tickets are \$300.00 to this premier event of the year.

We will also be selling raffle tickets for a 2008 BMW 128i convertible. Raffle tickets are \$100.00 and can be obtained from Pastor Douglas or any Friends board member.

We will also need TONS OF VOLUNTEER HOURS! - both throughout the months ahead, and the week-end of the Dinner in November. If you can be "on-call" to assist with stuffing envelopes for a mailing, or would like more information about the variety of volunteer opportunities available, please e-mail or call Pastor Douglas (douglas@whiterockchurch.org or 214-320-0043 ext 29) for further details.

Please remember, every ticket sold to the event or the raffle, every hour of volunteer time have a direct impact on the amount of funding White Rock Friends will receive after the event. So please start saving your money and making your time available to participate in this exciting event.



	Nov. 2	Cheryl R					
	Nov. 3	Bob R					
	Nov. 5	Antoine S					
	Nov. 5	John B					
	Nov. 7	Scott M					
	Nov. 8	Nancy H					
	Nov. 10	Gary R					
	Nov. 12	Harry S					
	Nov. 13	Shawn C					
	Nov. 15	Kathy S					
	Nov. 18	Konnie Ca					
	Nov. 23	Michael D					
	Nov. 25	Michael H					
	Nov. 27	David S					
	Nov. 28	Charlene S					
	Nov. 28	Linda L					
	Nov. 28	Richard A					
	Nov. 29	Donna C					
	Nov. 29	Kyla K					
	Nov. 29	Heidi W					
	Nov. 30	Deni S					



9353 Garland Road
Dallas, Texas 75218

www.whiterockchurch.org

Church Office Hours
10 AM to 4 PM
Monday through Thursday

Main Phone
214-320-0043

Fax
214-320-0098

Worship and Study Schedule
Sunday Bible Studies 9:00 AM
Sunday Worship 10:45 AM
Children's Worship 10:45 AM
Wednesday Bible Studies
10:00 AM
7:30 PM

Friday Night Home Bible Study
2nd & 4th Fridays at 7:00 PM

Sunday Night Live!
All church Potluck and innovative
Worship Program; 3rd Sundays at
6:00 PM

Pasta with the Pastors
1st Sundays after church
Choir Rehearsal
Wednesdays 7:30 PM

*For more details on any of the events listed
please call the church office.*



White Rock Friends

214-324-1193
General Store Open
1st, 2nd, 3rd Tuesdays & Saturdays
10 AM to 2 PM
Lunch Served
1st, 2nd, 3rd Saturdays
10 AM to 2 PM
Clothes Closet
1st & 3rd Saturdays
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Senior Pastor	Dr. James P. Walker
Associate Pastor WRF Administrator	Douglas Shaffer
Assistant Pastor	Marianne Mundee
Assistant Pastor	Vivian Davis
Pastor Emeritus	Dean Bishop
Administrator	Shawn Casaba
Executive Assistant	Linda Watson
Choir Director	Ken Dover
Pianist	Antoine Spencer
Organist	Charles Bridges
Sound Technician	Lori Martin
Webmaster	Laura B. Doscher