



# Common Ground April 2008

“Pointing People to Jesus through Reaching, Teaching, Celebrating, and Serving.”



## Jonah and the Whale

Based on the sermon given on April 6th, and just like Jonah's three days within the belly of the whale were a time of personal evaluation and discernment for Jonah; as a community, we will be setting aside three days to evaluate, dream and discern God's will for our church.

### *Day 1*

It will all begin on Friday, May 30th with a time of focused prayer from 6 to 10 pm in the chapel. There will be time for individual prayer as well as specific prayers voiced together every fifteen minutes, focusing on the various aspects of our mission; Reaching, Teaching, Celebrating, and Serving. While you will be welcomed to stay for the entire 4 hours, this event is designed so you can come, share with the community in prayer for an hour, and then leave.

### *Day 2*

Our time of reflection and discernment continues from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm as the church council, deacons and staff join for a time of committee training, and brainstorming and discernment for the future of our ministries and how we can best fulfill our mission.

### *Day 3*

Pastor Walker will begin to share some of what the journey of discernment is bringing to our church. We will continue this process throughout our committees and ministries through our anniversary weekend in June.

## FLORAL COMMITTEE

First, a BIG “Thank You” to all who donated Easter Lilies!! Holy Week is a very meaningful and busy time at WRCC with observances of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and of course, Easter Sunday. It is always such a joy to prepare the sanctuary for a holiday or special occasion. That being said...

Got a birthday or anniversary coming up? Want to give a gift to the church in honor or memory of someone special? The Floral Committee is always happy to receive your donation in the form of altar flowers for worship services or other events. Donations for altar arrangements are typically \$75 - \$100, but more may be given with consideration to specific flowers (lilies, roses, orchids, etc.), number of arrangements, and overall size of arrangement(s) to be produced. Also, cost of flowers for holidays or seasons, or church celebrations (Advent, Christmas, Easter, WRCC Anniversary) may be underwritten by individuals, groups, or committees/ministries.

If you wish to donate flowers to the church, you may do so through the church office or by contacting Barry Batie, Floral Committee Chair, directly. Information needed from donors includes: date that flowers are to be presented, dollar amount of donation, any special request of color or specific flowers, and announcement to be placed in the church bulletin. Your monetary donation should be made at least one week prior to date of presentation. Checks should be made out to WRCC with a notation of “altar flowers” on the memo line. Donations may be received by Barry Batie, Linda Watson (church office), or Shawn Casaba.

Thank you for blessing me with the opportunity to use one of my gifts to serve my Creator and His children...

Happy Spring!  
Barry

# A Message from Pastor.....



## God is Goodness, Truth, and Beauty

I had a professor in seminary that began every class with the statement, “God is Goodness, Truth, and Beauty.” Identifying the Lord with the name Goodness is not unusual for God is good all the time. Identifying the Lord with the name Truth is also not unusual because Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.” But what about identifying the Lord with the name Beauty? That is a name that we rarely use for God. However, our Creator is the source of all beauty and is beautiful. The writer of Ecclesiastes says that, “God has made everything beautiful in its time.” Eccl. 3:11 David describes his desire to “gaze upon the beauty of the Lord.”

*“One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to see him in his temple.” Psalm 27:4*

We are drawn to beauty as humans. To gaze upon a beautiful sunset, a beautiful person, a beautiful flower or a beautiful work of art all brings us pleasure and uplifts us out of the ordinary to the extraordinary. So to identify the Lord with beauty is to move us to the place of appreciation, adoration, and awe.

C.S. Lewis says it this way in his book the *Weight of Glory*:

“We do not merely want to see beauty, though, God knows, even that is bounty enough. We want something else which can hardly be put into words—to be united with the beauty we see, to pass into it, to receive it into ourselves, to bathe in it, to become a part of it.”

As you enjoy the beauty all around you this spring, immerse yourself in the beauty and be reminded of its Source the beauty of the Lord. May you pass through the beauty of creation to gaze upon the Creator who is Beauty.

April 6, 2008  
Jonah 1:1-15  
“The Prophets:  
The Story of Jonah”  
  
Dr. James P. Walker

April 13, 2008  
John 1:1-18  
“The Living Word:  
The Word Became Flesh”  
  
Dr. James P. Walker

April 20, 2008  
Matthew 13:44-52  
“The Teachings of Jesus:  
The Kingdom of Heaven”  
  
Dr. James P. Walker

April 27, 2008  
John 11:32-44  
“The Miracles of Jesus:  
Raising Lazarus  
from the Dead”



**Prayer Ministry**  
Please remember our  
Committee groups for  
April’s prayer focus:  
Facilities and Grounds,  
Education, Singles

### April Dates and Information

- Apr. 2 Choir Council Meeting
- Apr. 2 Policies & Procedures Committee Meeting
- Apr. 5 Facilities Meeting
- Apr. 5 Worship Committee Meeting
- Apr. 5 Outreach Committee Meeting
- Apr. 6 Pasta with the Pastors
- Apr. 6 Education Committee Meeting
- Apr. 13 Nominating Committee Meeting
- Apr. 13 Women’s Ministries Meeting
- Apr. 13 Couples Meeting
- Apr. 16 Church Council Meeting
- Apr. 19 Friends Board
- Apr. 20 Prayer Committee Meeting
- Apr. 21 Finance Committee Meeting
- Apr. 23 Deacon’s Meeting
- Apr. 23 Personnel Meeting
- Apr. 24 Communications Meeting



- April 8 Brent W
- April 12 John L
- April 13 Arthur T
- April 14 Lynn H
- April 15 George H
- April 15 Christopher H
- April 16 Adam G
- April 17 April L
- April 21 Arthur C
- April 21 Rae-Rae R
- April 25 Jim B
- April 27 George H
- April 27 Craig T
- April 29 Bobby B
- April 30 Phoenix R

Our emergency Food closet is running low on canned meats, (tuna, chicken, etc.) soups, and ready to eat foods like stews or pastas. Peanut butter, jelly, and canned vegetables are always needed as well. Donations may be left in the kitchen down the hall from the parlor.

## It's Springtime!!

Ahhh...it's April and that means longer days, warmer temperatures, beautiful flowers bursting forth with new colors, freshly mowed grass and gorgeous trees showing their newest abundance of leaves. But, ugh, April also means IRS tax day on the 15<sup>th</sup>—a day most of us dread, wondering if we'll have to pay more taxes or be blessed with a refund. Many of us will spend lots of time over the next couple of weeks evaluating deductions in order to reduce our taxes any legitimate way.

When asked by the Pharisees about whether it was right to pay taxes or not, Jesus replied "Give Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." So we see that Jesus was not opposed to us paying taxes—that is our responsibility as good law abiding Christians. But additionally, Jesus clearly directed that we give to God as well. But the question remains as to how much?

The Old Testament helps us in a practical way by directing that we tithe. As we read in the third chapter of Malachi, "bring the whole tithe into the storehouse." And, by definition, a tithe represents 10% of our income. Therefore, a tithe of 10% to God is the benchmark in determining the level of our giving back to God just a small percentage of all He has given us.

Perhaps now is good time, in the midst of reviewing our taxes that we all review our giving to God and make sure He is getting the tithe we are commanded to give.

If you would like to know more about how you can help support White Rock Community Church and its ministries or if you have ques-



BLACK TIE DINNER, INC.

## Black Tie Dinner, Inc chooses White Rock Friends as a beneficiary for 2008!!!

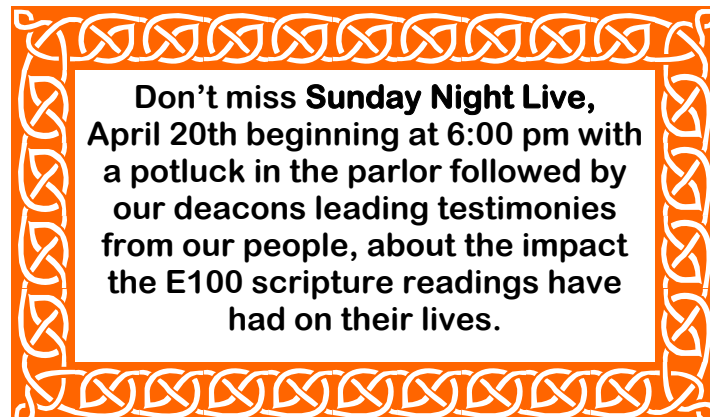
Once again, our Friends ministry has been chosen to partner with the annual BTD event and to be a final beneficiary of their fund raising efforts.

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 weekend 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](mailto: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.*





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



## White Rock Community Church

---

Senior Pastor	Dr. James P. Walker
Associate Pastor WRF Administrator	Douglas Shaffer
Pastor Emeritus	Dean Bishop
Assistant Pastor	Marianne Munde
Assistant Pastor	Vivian Davis
Administrator	Shawn Casaba
Pianist & Choir Director	Antoine Spencer
Choir Accompanist	Ken Dover
Sound Technician	Lori Martin

### 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

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.*



214-324-1193

### General Store Open

1st thru 3rd Tuesdays & Saturdays  
10 AM to 2 PM  
Lunch Served 11 AM to 1 PM

### Clothes Closet

1st and 3rd Saturdays  
10 AM to 2 PM