

GOOD NEWS

Volume x, Issue 3

March 2010



HOLY WEEK AT CHRISTCHURCH

Lenten Study on Forgiveness Yields a Rich Easter Celebration

Following our Lenten Sunday School series, Learning Forgiveness, ChristChurch will enter Holy Week with a renewed appreciation of the path Jesus walked for our salvation and a fresh commitment to walk together in the journey of forgiveness. Invite a friend to walk with us through these unique events of Holy Week.

Palm Sunday, March 28

Palm Sunday invites us to begin the most significant week of the Christian Year by recalling Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.

On March 28, at 10:15 am, the congregation will meet in the Gathering Space, wave our palm branches, and place ourselves in the crowd as Jesus enters Jerusalem to fulfill God's work of redemption. Once the Triumphal Entry Scripture is read, the Chancel and Bell Choirs will process us into worship to lay down our palm branches, and our lives, before Jesus. The Young Singers will then sing their praises as our worship proceeds. As we relive Jesus' passion, we will be challenged to know and claim our part in the events that lead to Jesus' crucifixion.

Maundy Thursday Seder, April 1

Maundy Thursday receives its name from the Latin word for "mandate." On that evening, Jesus commanded his disciples to wash one-another's feet as a symbol of the forgiveness we are called to extend to our hurting world.

A very special evening is planned, starting at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall, as Amy Gremillion and Coby Scher lead us in an observance of the Passover Seder. After a delicious meal and a recitation of the Jewish ritual, we will conclude with prayers at Gethsemane and celebrate Holy Communion.

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**Newsletter Deadline
March 19**

Vision Statement:
*Trusting in God's guidance,
 ChristChurch Presbyterian
 invites all to join us as we
 Gather joyfully,
 Grow spiritually and
 Give passionately
 in service to Christ,
 each other and our
 community.*

FORGIVENESS

Learning to be honest with yourself

We're having a good time in our Lenten Sunday School Series, Learning Forgiveness. The topic of forgiveness is stretching each of us to live the Christian life more faithfully. The author, Marjorie Thompson, writes clearly and succinctly about our need to both give and receive forgiveness, and the crucial role forgiveness plays in living the Christian life in our complex world. Come join us each Sunday at 9:00 am in West Wing #2/3.

I began learning about the importance of forgiveness as a young boy when, one day, our dog escaped from his fenced-in area in our back yard and began digging up our neighbor's flower bed. When my parents asked me who forgot to secure the gate, I immediately blamed my sister. After all, it was her week feed and care for the dog. I'm sure it was her fault since she was always blaming me for things I had done. For once I was able to catch her in a mistake and pay her back!

That's when I was reminded that my sister had a practice after school that day and hadn't even arrived home to take part in the incident. I suddenly remembered that I had played with our dog on the way home from school, and that I was the only one who could have left the gate unsecured. Uh-Ohh!

There is no secret formula to forgiveness. It's some of the hardest work you'll ever do. But if you're really interested in forgiving someone for a wrong you have experienced, or learning how to approach someone with whom you disagree, then the first place to look is to yourself. Before you start judging someone else for their behavior, look at your own. We must remember that, being human, each of us holds feelings and pre-judgments that are less than admirable. As Christians, we must seek to view the other person from a similar point of view.

Have you ever noticed those Psalms that speak quite explicitly about vengeance against our enemies? Every feeling you

can ever imagine is expressed in the Psalms. Sometimes when I get upset, I sing my frustration too! It helps me come to grips with my anger and my need to forgive. Such Psalms don't give us permission to hold grudges, but they do allow us a way to express them and get them off our chest.

Now, hear Jesus' words from the Sermon on the Mount: "Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?" (Matthew 7:3). Can you place yourself in the shoes of the person who hurt you? Can you not see something of yourself in them? What good does it do to withhold forgiveness when you may soon need the same forgiveness yourself? Marjorie Thompson quotes Mother Teresa of Calcutta who was asked why she gave so fully of herself to others. Mother Teresa replied that it was because she knew that a little Hitler lived inside her. As Thompson says, "Only by God's grace do we escape falling, and only by grace can we do what is truly good."

Jesus' words challenge us to stretch beyond what we think is right or wrong, fair and unfair, and to walk the way of forgiveness. Jesus walked to the cross to make forgiveness possible despite our sinfulness. Lent is a season devoted to understanding Jesus' priorities and living God's kingdom. May God bless you as you seek to live the forgiving life.

-Lacy Sellars



1. Marjorie Thompson, *Learning Forgiveness: A Lenten Study* (The Thoughtful Christian.com, 2010) Lesson #3, page 3.

2009 Financial Statement

The Administration Committee has prepared the following summary of the 2009 Final Financial Statement to give you an overview of the finances of the church.

More detail will be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting at a date yet to be determined. If you want a copy of the full statement or have questions about this summary, feel free to contact Woody Speer or Ed Janes.

We thank you for your continued financial support of the ministry of ChristChurch Presbyterian.

	Actual Income	Budgeted Income	Variance
Church (1)	611,831	415,000	196,831
CDC	1,247,832	1,418,509	(170,677)
Total	\$1,859,663	\$1,833,509	\$26,154
	Actual Expense	Budgeted Expense	Variance
Church	609,726	738,361	(128,635)
CDC	1,262,468	1,180,391	82,077
Total	\$1,872,194	\$1,918,752	(\$46,558)
	Actual	Budgeted	Variance
Total Income (1)	1,859,663	1,833,509	26,154
Total Expenses	1,872,194	1,918,752	(46,558)
Net	(\$12,531)	(\$85,243)	\$72,712

(1) Actual Church Income includes transfer of \$235,697 from Vanguard Investment Account to fund 2009 operations.

Truing the Wobbles

In another lifetime far, far away, I was a service manager at a medical equipment company. We sold and serviced lots of equipment, but hands down, the most fun was definitely the wheelchairs. Every time a new model came in, my co-workers and I would “test drive” them after hours, putting them through their paces as we raced around the store. On the nicely balanced ones, we would actually race the whole distance doing “wheelies,” with only two wheels touching the ground.

When it came to repairing a wheelchair, the most common problem was with the wheels. In those days, wheels were only made of spokes and rims, and were very delicate — if you think about it, they are only two rings held together by very thin wires. And after being ridden day-in and day-out, off of curbs and over bumps, wheels take a beating.

The way to fix a wheel is called “truing.” You take the wheel off the chair and set it on two upright forks that allow the wheel to turn freely. By turning the wheel you can immediately see

“Balanced tension. Sounds like an oxymoron, doesn’t it?”

where the wheel wobbles away from the centerline. To “true” it, you loosen the spokes on the side that wobbles out, and then tighten the spokes on the opposite side where it wobbles in!

When you adjust the spokes correctly, the wheel is put back into balanced tension. In fact, it is the tension that gives the wheel its strength.



Our Newest Member

If you’ve been watching the Olympics on television, then you’ve seen the beautiful city where Gary Schmidt was born: Vancouver, British Columbia. Yet Gary can also claim to be fully Texan, moving to Sharpstown with his family at a young age.

Gary grew up across the street from Mary Ann White, a former administrator at Braeburn Presbyterian Church, and attended the Braeburn Presbyterian Preschool.

That was an excellent beginning, for now Gary is studying drafting and electrical engineering at the University

Balanced tension. Sounds like an oxymoron, doesn’t it? But its a concept that applies to the spiritual life as well. Many spiritual writers use this analogy in talking about spiritual formation. Richard Foster and James Bryan Smith talk about a model of the spiritual life that is made of five streams of the Christian tradition that I find is very valuable.



Mark Cooper
Co-Pastor

Their point is that there have always been traditions within the Christian faith that have been emphasized, all coming out of the life of Jesus. The five they see are the Contemplative tradition—a life of intimacy with God; the Holiness tradition—a life of purity and virtue; the Charismatic tradition—a life of empowerment through the Spirit; the Social Justice tradition—a life of justice and compassion; and the Evangelical tradition—a life founded upon the Word.

If you imagine these streams as five spokes of a wheel, the analogy becomes clear — if we are unfamiliar with these traditions, the “wheel” of our spiritual life becomes “untrue” or out of balance, and we cannot live the way we are intended to.

So when my life feels wobbly or out of balance, I look at my “wheel” to see where it is out of balance. And invariably, if I dive into the tradition that I feel the most resistance to, or the one that feels most unfamiliar, I find God speaking to me and truing me back to the centerline.

I hope that is ‘true’ for you during this season of Lent.

of Houston. He came to ChristChurch last summer at the invitation of Bob and Anne Young, and quickly found Christ’s welcome in our members and friends. Gary says that he likes our emphasis on both mind and heart as he learns more about the faith and what it means to serve Christ. In addition to TGIF and other church social events, he likes to participate in mission activities that helps him put his faith to work.

The ChristChurch session heard his affirmation of faith following worship on February 14 and approved his public profession of faith and baptism at public worship coming up soon.

When you see Gary in worship or at TGIF, make sure you introduce yourself and welcome him to ChristChurch.

Music Notes

WHAT I'M READING FOR LENT

I most recently read "Have a Little Faith" by Mitch Albom. This book chronicles Albom's rediscovery of the faith he was taught as a child, as a result of the relationships he forged with his former rabbi as well as a minister he grew to know who provided outreach to the poor and homeless in Detroit.



Sondra Tucker
Music Director

Both men provided powerful witness to the love of the Lord, and set an example of that love that enabled others to grow closer to God as well.

Albom examines the common issues that each of the two men deal with in their leadership roles as well as the individual problems and concerns that they face in their unique roles.

Next I plan to read "Franz Schubert: A Biography" in preparation for our spring cantata, which will be Schubert's Mass No. 2 in G Major. The cantata will be presented by our chancel choir with orchestral accompaniment in April.

Attention Singers: The Chancel Choir invites one and all to join the preparation and performance of Franz Schubert's Mass in G. The performance is May 2, and rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7:30 – 8pm.



CONCLAVES 2010:

Live out Loud!

LOL-most of us know what that means, but for those of you who don't text, chat online, or speak teen this is an acronym for "Laugh Out Loud." The weekend of Conclaves, however, it took on a new meaning- Living Out Loud: Transforming in God's image. That was our theme for the weekend.

In our small groups, we looked at stories about people who had been transformed by God-Paul and King Nebuchadnezzar. Our keynote presentation was a skit that included our very own Jamie Townsend! Throughout the weekend we watched as the characters made revelations about themselves and some of their negative habits. Eventually they began to rely on God to transform them.

The weekend also included great worship led by PYCC youth, time in the Spirituality center and a Christian rock concert on Saturday night. Not only did we get to know each other better, but we also met about 75 other students and leaders from area Presbyterian churches. It was such a great experience meeting other Christians and enjoying worship, fellowship and fun together.

The weather was beautiful, the company was great, and God was definitely present! It was a wonderful weekend, and we'd like to thank our Christ Church family for their prayers, support, and resources which make this weekend possible.

THANK YOU MOLLY!

For the past year and one-half, Molly Martin has been your first contact when you called, e-mailed, or stopped by the church. Last month, Molly accepted a new position as Communications Director at Emerson Unitarian Church in Houston. Molly brought many skills to our church including her knowledge of Internet technology, web design and development, and creativity in the development of our website and newsletters. She accomplished all this while also greeting members, visitors, and vendors who came by the church for business or to rent our facilities.

Thank you, Molly! You'll be greatly missed around the church. The staff and Personnel Committee join in thanking you for all you have given us, and wish you well in your new position.

Support Our Youth

It's almost that time again! Grab your aprons and your best chili recipe because it's time for the 2nd Annual CCP Chili Cook Off!

Come challenge our reigning champion Geoff Carleton to win the "Best Chili" title and have your name engraved on the plaque of champions! Don't feel like cooking? Then just show up to sample all the delicious recipes and vote for your favorite.

And bring your friends, family and neighbors because all proceeds go towards Youth Summer missions. Come enjoy great fellowship, excellent chili, and support our youth.

The Cook Off will take place in the Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, March 25th. Sign up in the Gathering Space to bring a pot of chili and make a run for the title!

The Church Triumphant

JEANETTE P. TABB



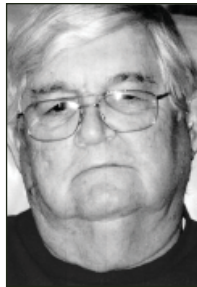
went to be with her Lord on February 4, 2010.

A loving wife, mother and grandmother, she found time to express her compassion for those who were in need.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years, William E. Tabb; son, Michael W. Tabb & wife Barb; daughters, Kathryn Jo TabbYaroslawski & husband Steve, Jeanne Ellen Tabb Kauppi & husband Ken, Annette Elizabeth Tabb Abraham & husband Lee; brother, Elwood Lloyd Probst and 9 grandchildren.

A Celebration of her life was held on February 9, 2010 at ChristChurch Presbyterian. Memorial donations may be made in Jeanette's name to Campus Crusade for Christ, World Vision, ChristChurch Presbyterian or Grace Bible Church, Bellville, TX.

JOHNNIE STONE



passed away peacefully on February 4, 2010. He retired from the U.S. Air Force and M.W. Kellogg Co.

He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Lou Stone; 2 children; 5 grandchildren; and 5 great-grandchildren.

Services were held at Houston National Cemetery on February 19, 2010.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the American Legion Post 77, P.O. Box 41883, Houston, Texas 77241-1883.

THE LECTIONARY FOR MARCH

March 7 (3rd Sunday in Lent)

Isa 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
I Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

March 14 (4th Sunday in Lent)

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 21 (5th Sunday in Lent)

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

March 28 (Palm Sunday)

Luke 19:28-40
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14-23 or
Luke 23:1-49



AVRIL THOMPSON

AVRIL DIANE PARSONS THOMPSON aka AVRIL AMES passed away Wednesday, February 10, 2010 following a vocal music career and advocacy for many causes in our community.

Born on February 5, 1931 in Atlanta, Georgia, she was raised in Florida by her great aunt and uncle who cultivated her singing talent. She had a

career as a club singer and performed with nationally known performers. In the mid 60's, she was the featured singer at Tony Vallone's café on Sage Road.

When her son Allen Schneider was found to be deaf, Avril moved to a life of advocacy. Her work for the deaf culminated in a ten year stint on the Texas State Board of Education for the Deaf.

When husband Bert Thompson invigorated the Restorative Justice movement, she used her talents to help incarcerated women prepare for the work force.

In recent years, she served on the board of Volunteer Inter-

faith Caregivers-SW, assisting the elderly with transportation services to enable independent living.

She was preceded in death by her husband Bert, and in Florida, by her adoptive parents Elsie and Harold Redfern Parsons and her sister Joan Parsons Allen. She is survived by her son Allen, two nieces Carol Brown and Joan Loughridge of Florida, brother-in-law Steve Thompson of Santa Fe, Allen's father Aaron Schneider and his wife Joyce, her almost sister Carol Dillman, and all who benefitted from her advocacy.

A memorial service was held February 24 at ChristChurch Presbyterian, with Rev. Arthur Craig of Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church and Rev. Mark Cooper officiating. Rob Landes and Julia Kay Laskowski performed special music in her honor.

Memorial donations may be made to Career and Recovery Resources, Inc., 2525 San Jacinto, Houston, TX 77002, Texas School for the Deaf Foundation, P.O. Box 42727, Austin, TX 78704, or Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers-SW, 5501 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire, TX 77401.

2010 Session

ChristChurch Presbyterian

Class of 2010

Jay Bole, Judy Bucher, Liz Gentry,
Karen Persely, Pam Stoops, Remi
Van Campenolle

Class of 2011

John Becker, Amy Gremillion,
Priscilla Kennedy, Woody Speer,
Roger Tucker, Craig Wooten

Class of 2012

Homer Borgstedte, Sue Cox, Brad
Eaves, Aileen Fleming, Rebecca
McMahan

Clerk of Session

Sidney Holderness

Co-Moderators

Mark Cooper & Lacy Sellars

Visioning Transformation Team

Fred Cook, Aileen Fleming, Keith
Cox, Anita Bettis, Betty Harrison,
Robert Reed, Laura Shely, Priscilla
Kennedy, Pam Stoops, Dick
Akkerman, Amy Gremillion, Craig
Wooten, Jay Bole, Dana Barkley,
Gretchen Sparks

Facilitators

Diane Prevary & Jim Bushong

Building & Renovation Task Force

John Becker
Sue Cox
Ed Janes
Amy Gremillion
Bill Harrison
Dick Akkerman
Robert Reed, Chair
Woody Speer
Mark Cooper & Lacy Sellars

Adult Ministry

Parents' Night Out

Do you need a night out? Take advantage of our Parents' Night Out. Drop the kids off at the Fellowship Hall where they'll enjoy dinner, movies, and games, while the parents get to spend the evening together. The next Parents' Night Out is March 26 from 6-10 pm. Please advise by the 24th if your child is attending. Contact Sue Cox or Barbara Buckley for more information.

Presbyterian Women's Circle

All the women of the church are invited to the Presbyterian Women's Circle which meets the second Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9th at 9:45 am. We will be studying the book of Joshua.

Day Literature Circle

The Day Literature Circle meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 16th at 10:30 am.

Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfast usually meets on the first of the month and is a time for the men of the church to get together and hang out. The next Men's Breakfast is March 6 at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Better Bunch

Come join us on March 11 to go to the Museum of Natural Science and see the movies "Mummies – Secrets of the Pharaohs." The cost of the trip is \$9.00 plus lunch at Casa Adobe. The movie starts at 12:00 noon. We will have lunch AFTER the movie, so you may want to have a snack before we leave the church. The bus will leave from 3rd St. at 11 a.m. Invite your family and friends – the more, the merrier. Friends and family welcome!!

Friday Night Bridge

The church bridge group will meet on Friday, March 19 in the home of Keith and Sue Cox (7705 Oldhaven) at 7:00pm. Contact Sue for info at 713-774-6915.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study

Our Tuesday Evening Bible Study meets from 5:30pm-7pm in West Wing, #5, and we're studying "Joshua: A Journey of Faith." This is a ten week study led by Pam Stoops, elder and 2009 Presbyterian Women's Bible and Prayer Coordinator for New Covenant Presbytery. For more information contact Janette Hearne: janettehearne@gmail.com or phone: 713-772-1258 or Janice Schessler: janiceschessler@att.net or phone: 713-666-3209.

Book Club

Our next meeting will be Tuesday April the 6th at 7:00 at Lucy Seward's house. We will discuss Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder. May's meeting will be at Betsy Barkley's house 5242 Imogene and it will be Tuesday May the 4th at 7:00. We will discuss the Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson. If you have any question please don't hesitate to contact Lucy Seward at lucyseward@msn.com or Mylene Bole mbole@swbell.net

Youth Ministry

THE FIRST AND LAST

I remember writing my first newsletter article about a year ago. Now it is with great sadness that I write my last newsletter article (I'm sad about leaving, NOT about this being the last article I write!). Thinking back to that first article, I remember writing about the excitement of a new adventure, and anticipation about what the future held.

Well I can say it has been a GREAT adventure! From pumpkins to mission trips, Laser Tag to Fall Retreat it has been a wonderful year. It became evident in my first few weeks that the community here at ChristChurch is outstanding. I was overwhelmed by how welcoming and warm my reception was. I will always be thankful for that. I felt like I quickly became part of the family. I was planning to put down roots and be here indefinitely. But as I've learned many times, God's plans are different than our own sometimes.

Without warning, a great opportunity fell into my lap. I will be joining the staff of another church and will continue to be a youth director, which is what I love to do, and at the same time will have the opportunity to work on continuing my education. This is something I've been wanting to do for years. As I look forward, I can honestly say my heart is torn. I am excited about what God has in store for me in this new part of my journey with Him. At the same time, I am sad to be leaving a community I have come to love, who welcomed me and has supported me so well. And I'm really sad to be leaving such an AWESOME group of students and young people. They are truly wonderful.

It seems there has been sort of an upheaval at ChristChurch in recent months. With four people, including key leaders, transitioning out it would be easy for the church to get discouraged. But I don't think that's the correct response. At least it's not for us as Christians. My prayer for ChristChurch is that you would trust God. My prayer is that you would not grow faint or weary, and instead move forward with the same excitement and anticipation I arrived with a year ago. The excitement and anticipation that comes from knowing that though things seem tough, God has a plan. The excitement and anticipation that happens when you realize God is up to something, and you are at the beginning of a new adventure with Him. This is a wonderful church, this is GOD'S church and He's not finished with it yet.

As I transition out, I sincerely want to express my appreciation, affection and love for ChristChurch Presbyterian. As I told the students, I won't be here every Sunday but I'll still be around. I'm only a call, email, text, or Facebook message away! Please do keep in touch, and I look forward to the future and being able to share the new things in my life as well as being able to hear about the wonderful new things happening at ChristChurch.

All that's left to say is THANK YOU ChristChurch! Thank you for all the laughter, tears, prayers, love and great memories. I will miss you!

--Mandy Jones



Mandy Jones
Youth Director



CHRISTCHURCH
Presbyterian

Good News is a monthly publication of ChristChurch Presbyterian, and is sent to members, visitors, and friends.

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ChristChurch Presbyterian
5001 Bellaire Boulevard
Bellaire, TX 77401

Bulk mail postage paid at Bellaire, TX
USPS #105.

All articles for submission should be sent to mmartin@ccpres.org. Issues deadlines are the 20th of the month. All material is subject to editing for space and content; every effort will be made to include all articles.

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Diana Lee

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Fax 713-667-6583

Child Development Center (CDC)

713-668-9869

VIC-SW

Volunteer Interfaith
Caregivers SW
713-772-8181

Website

www.ccpres.org

Presbytery of New Covenant

713-526-2585
www.pbyofnewcovenant.org

SUMMER MISSION TRIP REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN!

We are going to Managua, Nicaragua June 21-26th and to Birmingham, Alabama July 25-30th. Please talk to Mandy A.S.A.P. if you are interested in either of our mission trip opportunities!

HOLY WEEK AT CHRISTCHURCH

(continued from page 1)

Good Friday, April 2

Good Friday is a day of waiting and contemplation on the self-giving that is required of the forgiving life. Beginning at 12:00 noon, the Sanctuary will be stripped of all color and ornamentation in a brief service of readings. Tables will



be arranged in the Sanctuary set with Stations of the Cross. As you spend time at each table, readings will invite you to focus on the forgiveness required to live the resurrected life.

Elders will be available throughout the day to listen and pray with anyone who desires to discuss their faith or receive prayer. Come any time between 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm to grow in awareness of all that Christ did for us.

Easter Sunday, April 4

We tend to forget that Easter Sunday began in darkness as the women brought their spices to the tomb to complete the burial. At 10:15 am, worship will begin with a procession of the Sanctuary elements as we lift the lights and

sing "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" accompanied by a brass ensemble. Music will dominate worship as we sing our favorite hymns and enjoy the splendid sounds of our organ, the Chancel Choir and Bell Ensemble, and a full brass ensemble.

Easter is a wonderful day to enjoy your church family and to share Christ's love with neighbors and friends. In thanksgiving for our resurrected life, we will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering that translates our joy to those who experience disaster and suffering in the world, including our response to our neighbors in Haiti and Chile. Invite a friend and introduce them to our church family. Come discover the resurrection that lives in you by celebrating Holy Week at ChristChurch.

CHRISTCHURCH *Presbyterian*
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Bellaire, TX 77401

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Join us on Sunday!
Christian Education 9:00 am
Worship 10:15 am

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