

WHITE'S CHAPEL

HERALD



Please join us [online](#) or in person this weekend as we continue our sermon series "Hope is Here." We hope to see you soon!

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 28

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026

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Updates
on Building
Project

Shared in Sunday
Town Hall

By Debbie McKellar

White's Chapel members are invited to a Town Hall meeting on Sunday, Jan. 18, at 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary, immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service. The gathering will provide an update on the church's ongoing building project and offer an open, welcoming space for questions and conversation.

"We just want to update everybody on where we are with the building project," said Dr. John McKellar. "It's always been important for us to keep people informed and answer questions personally."

The meeting follows a November *Herald* article that outlined several revisions to earlier project plans. Most of those changes remain in place, and any new developments since that time will be shared during the Town Hall.

"Whoever would like to come—it's just wide open," McKellar said. "And if people don't have any questions, that's a good thing! Hopefully, it means the information has been relayed, understood and embraced."

The update comes as part of the church's broader *Now & Always* campaign, kicked off in late 2024. At that time, the congregation was invited to imagine what God might build through the White's Chapel community—to dream boldly and look toward the future

BUILDING cont'd on page 2



Abundant Surprises

By Dr. Judy Hunt

I knew he meant it as a great surprise—and it was! Just not the kind he envisioned OR one I fully appreciated at the time. You see, *my* tucked away television was a lifeline to the outside world. It was a place where I could get my local news when I wanted it, *Murder She Wrote* when I needed it, and almost everything in between during my daily routines. And, all of this without satellite, cable, apps or anything more than a \$29.99 bargain store antenna.

But, he decided that it was way too small and much too antiquated.

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SUNDAY MORNINGS AT WHITE'S CHAPEL

With the holidays behind us, Sundays are back to normal albeit busy! Choir and Orchestra musicians arrive early to warm up, members converse over coffee and snacks (always fresh donuts!), questions are answered at the information kiosk, and children continue enjoying the wonder of the Pyramid in the concourse. Welcome to 2026!

Intentional Sabbath Bears Working On

Creating Space for Wisdom to Interrupt Our Worry

By Debbie McKellar

While listening to a very recent sermon, I couldn't help but chuckle a bit. I was listening to both Todd and John talk about taking a full 24-hour Sabbath, and all I could think was, (eyes rolling) *I'm so sure they are planning to practice what they preach.* Not because the idea was unrealistic—but because I know them. I know their schedules. I know how much they carry. And, I know how sincerely they believe what they were saying.

But the facts remain: Both work on the day we usually think of as the *traditional* Sabbath. Sunday, for them, is not a day of rest; it is the most demanding day of the week. The sermon lives with them practically 24/7 in the days leading up to it—Thursday is writing day, while Friday and Saturday are spent thinking, praying, refining, memorizing. Sunday begins early and stretches late, filled with worship services, conversations in hallways, pastoral moments, and evening preparation for the upcoming Bible studies on Monday and Tuesday mornings. Monday and

Wednesday bring church business in the office in addition to teaching Bible studies, Tuesday circles back to teaching and collaboration for the upcoming sermon. Thursday is sermon-writing day all over again.

Which means that, by most conventional definitions, Sabbath should be impossible.

That thought stayed with me until we arrived home after church. The house was quiet. The day was finally beginning to exhale. I turned to John and asked, not

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Spring Confirmation Classes

Underway at White's Chapel

Spring Confirmation classes are underway at White's Chapel, offering students an intentional journey through the history, practices and beliefs of the Christian faith. Designed as a formative step in spiritual growth, Confirmation invites students to profess their belief in Jesus Christ and explore what it means to live as a faithful disciple and member of the church.

Classes for sixth, seventh and eighth graders, as well as high school students, began Sunday, Jan. 11. Sessions are offered on select Sundays and Wednesdays, with participants attending one class per week. Recognizing the demands of busy family schedules, additional options—including online, parent-led classes—may be available by contacting Denise Bennett.

"Confirmation is a time when young

people are offered the opportunity to claim their faith," said Bennett, co-director of WC Kids. "In the Methodist Church, when we baptize infants or young children, we acknowledge that this is not the end of their faith journey—it's only the first step. Through Confirmation, the faith handed down by family and friends becomes their own."

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WC Kids Update
Chocolate Chip Toffee Squares Recipe



Military Box Packing
Jan. 23 | See Page 4

Musings

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So, I arrived home one night to find my perfectly sized electric fireplace/ tv stand combo dwarfed by a giant screen-enhanced television. It was Bluetooth-enabled and controlled by a remote so tiny that even the icons were almost impossible to recognize. After mastering the method of turning it on, I quickly discovered there were almost endless program possibilities—with only two drawbacks: no local channels *and* no logical way to get to most of the channels displayed. Sheer willpower or logic didn’t help either.

On the positive side, I will admit that my work day ‘out-the-door’ time was significantly decreased without the distraction of morning news and it’s accompanying “deals and steals.” Still...

After some six months of relative silence from my favorite corner, everything changed when my phone also got an upgrade. Suddenly, I was offered the opportunity to “cast” my phone’s content onto my television’s. Now, I knew what it meant to cast a fishing line into the water or yarn onto knitting needles, but throwing content from one device to another was—well—revelatory! All at once, I was connected to everything I needed for my viewing pleasure.

Then, it dawned on me! How often must *God* want to upgrade my day with abundant surprises: a bird in flight, sunshine bursting through the clouds, a chance encounter with an old friend? Instead, how many days do I experience obstacles, distractions, unmet expectations? All because through willfulness, hurry, or inattention I’ve failed to connect to the right Source or cast my cares on Jesus.

I haven’t taken the time to tune into the fundamental truths of the Bible—Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth. I’ve forgotten Jesus’ invitation, “Come to Me all you who are weary, and I will give you rest.” But, oh my goodness—when I do, joy abounds, gratitude pours forth, and I recognize that God has already provided, and will continue to offer, everything I truly need for the living of these days and the building up of others in *their* joy of knowing Christ. Perseverance for today and hope for tomorrow flourish.

In retrospect, he really *did* find a wonderful surprise—but it pales in comparison to the ones God offers us each day. When we slow down, tune in, and connect ourselves to Christ, the true Source, we discover that He has already been speaking, providing, and offering just what we need. May we remember to turn our hearts toward Him daily and in so doing, experience unending joy and hope!



Building

Cont’d from page 1

with hope. While much of that vision has been visible through worship and communication, much of the first year’s work has taken place quietly behind the scenes. Architects have refined plans, ministry teams have offered thoughtful feedback, and crews have patiently worked through city approval processes.

On Nov. 10, Co-Pastors McKellar and Dr. Todd Renner reflected together on how those early dreams are evolving.

“As we said from the beginning, we have limited campus space,” McKellar noted. “We need to dream for the future the best we can. And, literally every project in the dream booklet has grown. They’ve expanded to meet the needs.”

Those expanded ideas are expected to be presented to the congregation and church leadership throughout 2026. Among the most anticipated is the proposed Spiritual Care and Formation Center, which would include a welcoming parlor for gatherings of 50 to 60 people, refreshed spaces for AA and counseling ministries, and a 400-square-foot workshop designed for hands-on ministry and outreach. If approved, groundbreaking for this

project could begin in early 2026.

“Some of the concepts and designs we’ve seen are just stunning,” Renner said. “We’re excited about sharing these ideas with the congregation.”

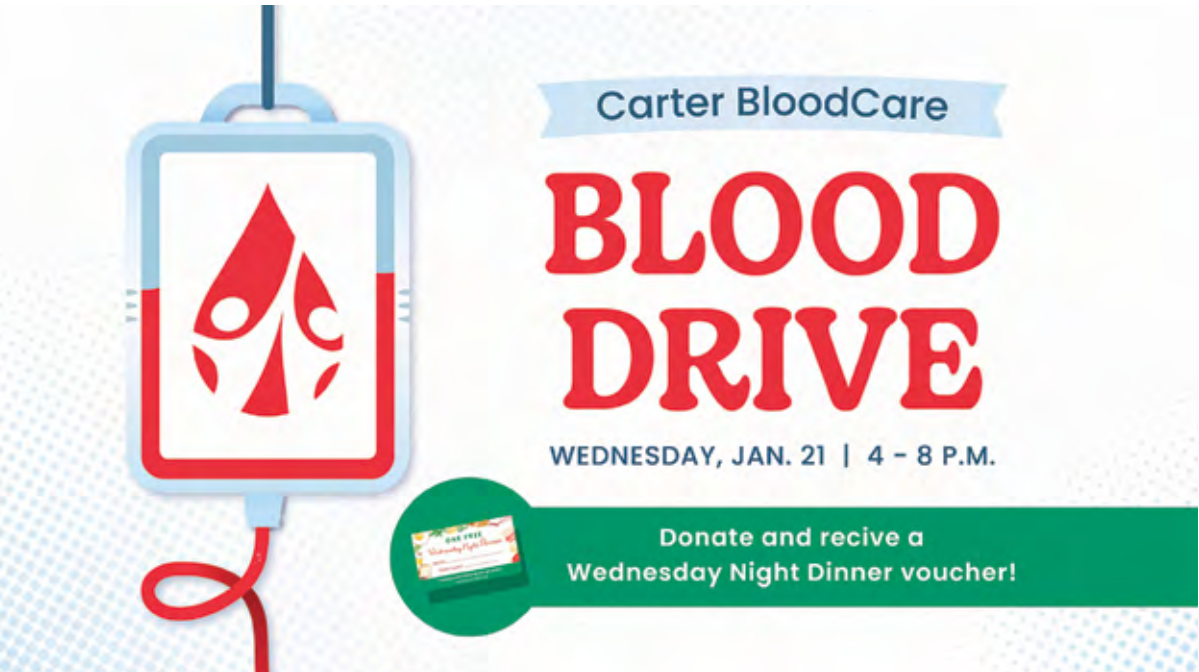
Additional plans include a newly envisioned Foundry near the Sanctuary that would seat approximately 580 people and offer improved accessibility. The current Foundry would then transition into a flexible, multipurpose space for programs, events and fellowship gatherings.

Throughout the planning process, church leaders have remained focused on a central purpose: ensuring that buildings serve ministry, not the other way around. From supporting the La Mesa community center in East Fort Worth to expanding space for children, youth and worship ministries, leaders believe the evolving plans more fully reflect the original campaign goals.

The Jan. 18 Town Hall meeting is designed to bring that progress into the open—celebrating what has been accomplished so far and sharing what lies ahead as the church continues to move forward together.

For those who cannot attend, a designated room just inside Evans Hall will remain open on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights for ongoing questions and discussions. All are welcome to come by.

“Some of the concepts and designs we’ve seen are just stunning.”



WEEKEND PREACHING SCHEDULE			
SANCTUARY		THE FOUNDRY	
Sun.	8:20 a.m. Traditional Drs. John McKellar & Todd Renner	Sat.	5:30 p.m. Contemporary Rev. Lori Cotton
Sun.	9:30 a.m. Contemporary Drs. John McKellar & Todd Renner	Sun.	11 a.m. Foundry Service Rev. Lori Cotton
Sun.	11 a.m. Foundation Drs. John McKellar & Todd Renner	WALTON CHAPEL	
		Sun.	9:30 a.m. Traditional Rev. Lori Cotton

WHITE’S CHAPEL

HERALD

Church office—(817) 481-4147

Editor

Debbie McKellar

Managing Editor

Sean Bogan

Graphics and Design

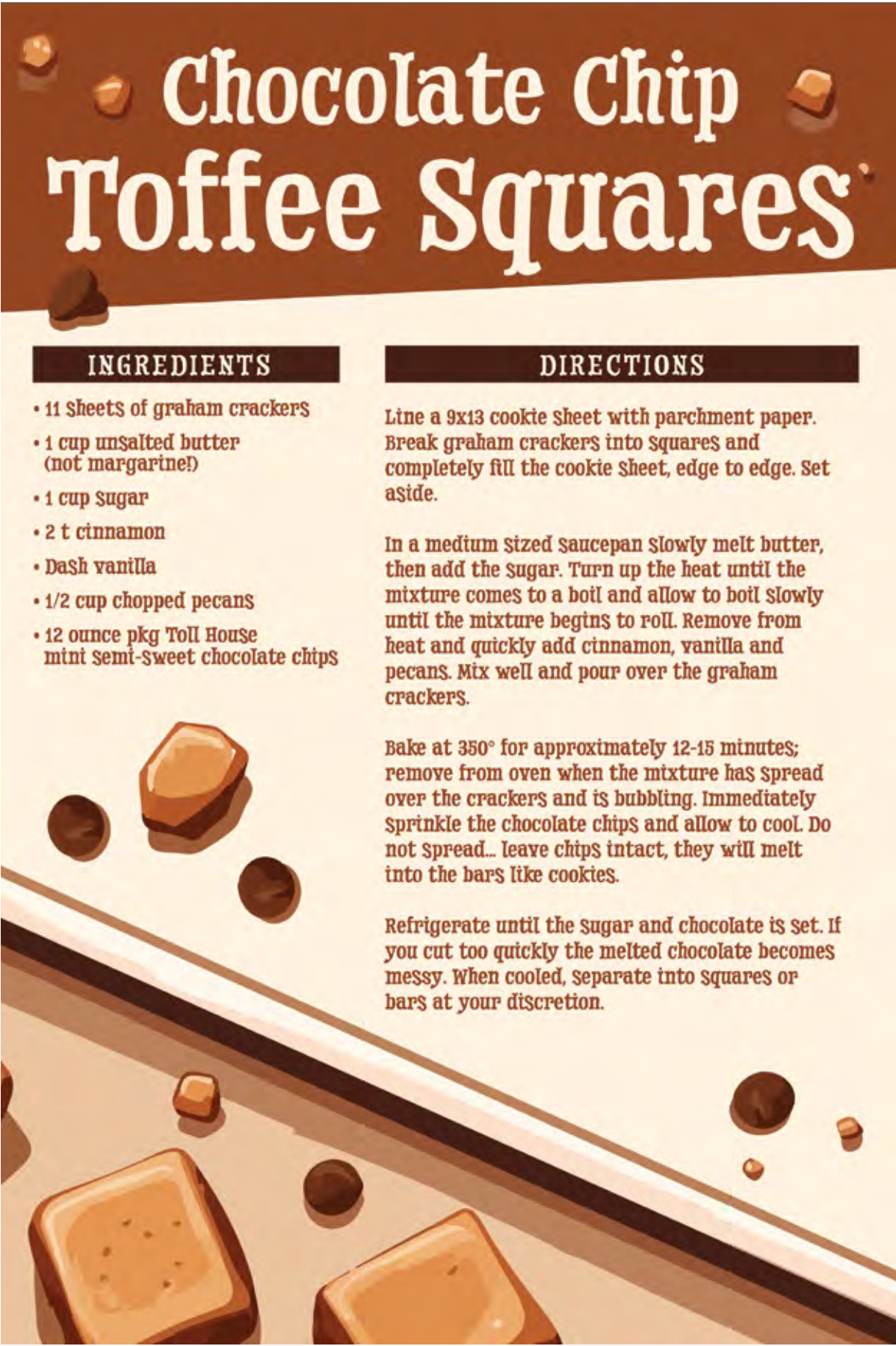
Susanna Cunningham

Graphics Consultants

Alec Hanson & Sarah Hamilton


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Club 56 at Galaxy Skate
Sunday, Jan. 25 | 1–3 p.m.
Roll Into the Fun with Club 56!
Come hang with us at Galaxy Skate on Jan. 25 for skating, friends, and nonstop fun!
Think disco lights, rockin’ music, and everyone rolling together—throwback ’70s & ’80s vibes with a fresh, modern twist. Whether you’re a skating pro or just there to vibe, it’s all about making memories and having a blast.
So lace up your skates, grab your friends, and let’s roll, Club 56!
Denise Bennett | dbennett@whiteschapel.org

**Mission Mania**
Sunday, Feb. 1 12:15 p.m.
Hey 3rd & 4th Graders—Mission Mania is for YOU!
Get ready for an awesome time on Sunday, Feb. 1 where we’ll have fun, eat pizza, and make a BIG difference!
With Valentine’s Day coming up, we’re turning kindness into a mission by creating RAK Sacks (Random Acts of Kindness)—special bags filled with supplies to help us spread smiles and love to people around us. You’ll work with friends, create together, and help make someone’s day brighter!
Pizza lunch is included, so bring your appetite, your energy, and your biggest heart!
Erin Zajac | ezajac@whiteschapel.org

Paint & Play | WC Kids Family Event
Feb. 7 | 10 a.m.–Noon | The Commons
It’s a Paint Party! Calling all little artists! WC Kids is hosting a fun and creative morning where kids get to paint their

very own canvas masterpiece—and don’t worry, we’ll handle the mess! Let’s splash some color, spark creativity, and make joyful memories together! The indoor playground will be open, too, for extra playtime, laughs, and fellowship.
This is a come-and-go event for WC Kids families on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 10 a.m. to Noon in the Commons—stop by anytime!
Registration is free!
See ad below Column.
Erin Zajac | ezajac@whiteschapel.org



BINGO! Family Bingo Night is Back!
Feb. 20 | 6:30–8 p.m.
Join us for this fan-favorite evening of family fun! Make new friends, laugh a lot, shout “BINGO!” and win awesome prizes—including gift cards, games, novelties, and fun toys.
All ages are welcome, so bring the whole crew!
The fun kicks off at 6:30 p.m. in Evans Hall with dinner, followed by Bingo excitement.
Dinner includes Chick-fil-A sandwiches, chips, cookies, and water—yum!
Cost per family:
• \$15 if you register by Feb. 19
• \$25 starting Feb. 20
Come hungry, come ready to play, and come prepared for a night full of laughs and prizes!
Denise Bennett | dbennett@whiteschapel.org

**SAVE THE DATE!!**
VBS/VBX is coming June 8–11
Registration opens March 1.
You won’t want to miss it!



Confirmation

Cont’d from page 1
Bennett noted that Confirmation is open to students who feel ready to take the next step in their faith journey. While the program typically begins in sixth grade, flexibility allows for younger or older students to participate as appropriate.
“We’ve found that sixth graders often have the focus and maturity to begin taking ownership of their faith and studying the Bible on their own,” Bennett said. “It’s also a great time to help students get connected before middle and high school schedules become so full. We’ve had fifth graders participate, and students who missed Confirmation earlier are encouraged to take part before finishing high school.”
Throughout the semester, students explore topics such as Scripture, salvation and the role of the church. Each week begins with large group teaching that incorporates games, Bible study and discussion about what it means to be the church. Students then meet in small groups where they reflect on the lesson, ask questions and form meaningful connections.
“These small groups stay together throughout the semester and become

a place where students are known personally, encouraged and supported,” Bennett said. “The relationships formed here often last well beyond Confirmation.”
Small groups are led by parents and volunteers, adding an additional layer of connection and care.
“Because the primary teaching comes from our pastors, there are no special requirements for small-group leaders—just a willing heart to walk alongside our students,” Bennett said. “Each year we are incredibly blessed by both our students and volunteers. Over the last semester, we’ve seen small groups grow together in remarkable ways.”
Sixty-nine students completed Confirmation last fall.
“Confirmation has the power to be a life-changing moment,” Bennett said. “Students are at an age when they’re ready to ask big questions about faith and the church, and Confirmation provides a safe space to do that. Through learning, relationships and shared experiences, students are invited to make the faith so lovingly offered by their families and friends their own—not someday, but now.”
For more information about Spring Confirmation, contact Denise Bennett.

Denise Bennett | dbennett@whiteschapel.org

Sabbath

Cont’d from page 1
accusingly, just honestly, “When is your Sabbath?”
He didn’t answer right away. He paused, thinking it through, and then said simply, “I’m working on it.”
Which, of course, was the challenge to all of us in the sermon.
Sabbath, Todd and John reminded us, doesn’t happen accidentally. We don’t stumble into rest. We don’t just wake up one morning and find ourselves refreshed, grounded, and attentive to God. Sabbath must be chosen—and choosing it takes intention and planning.
The sermon framed Sabbath planning around three simple areas: body, mind, and worship.
For the body, Sabbath is about slowing the pace. There’s an old story Todd shared about American explorers traveling through Africa who pushed hard day after day. On the seventh day, their local guides refused to move. When asked why, one guide replied, “We rest today. Let our souls catch up with our bodies.” That image lingers, because so many of us are moving so fast our souls are far behind. Sabbath invites more sleep, maybe a nap, unhurried meals around a table, time to breathe and renew.
For the mind, Sabbath is about delight. John introduced a Hebrew word (that Todd taught him!) closely tied to Sabbath: *menuha*, which translates loosely to ‘celebration or delight.’ Sabbath is a day without to-do lists. A day when we don’t accomplish anything—and don’t feel guilty about it. Delight looks different for each of us. Sabbath invites us to lay aside agendas and celebrate the ordinary goodness of life.
And then there is worship. Sabbath is not simply a day off. Worship is the

cornerstone that anchors Sabbath in grace. It reminds us that grace is not something we earn after everything on the list is finished. It is a gift we receive. When we neglect worship, it’s easy to slip back into measuring our worth by productivity. Sabbath gently pulls us back to the truth that we are more than what we produce.
During the sermon, Todd shared a moment from Christmas Eve. In the middle of a beautifully full and slightly anxious day, a line from a devotional stopped him short: **“You worry too much for someone God has never failed.”** That’s what Sabbath does. It creates space for wisdom to interrupt our worry. It gives us pause long enough for truth to sink in.
After the sermon, Todd mentioned something else that made me smile. Several people had approached him and said, “You need to give us a guide for this.” A graph. A template. Something concrete. As a retired teacher, I immediately recognized what they were really asking for: homework—a written way to follow through.
And, because Todd is exactly who he is—thoughtful, responsive, and eager to help people live what they’re learning—he created it. A simple worksheet to help each of us think through our own Sabbath plan. Not an assignment to be graded. Not a box to check. Just a tool to help move Sabbath from a good idea into a lived practice. For those who want to follow the sermon with that kind of intentional reflection, the worksheet is available via the QR code provided.
“I’m working on it,” John said.
Maybe that’s the most honest Sabbath statement of all. Not perfected. Not mastered. Chosen again and again, one intentional pause at a time.
Because Sabbath isn’t about getting it right.
It’s about making room.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Ready to Get Involved?

OFFERED ON ANY OF THE DATES BELOW:
JAN. 28 | FEB. 25 | MARCH 25 | APRIL 28
6 P.M. | ADULTED ROOM 3103

Explore opportunities at White's Chapel to find your niche to serve others. Register online at whiteschapel.org.
Dorothea Christ | dchrist@whiteschapel.org

Ready to Get Involved?
Jan. 28, Feb. 25, March 25, or April 28 6 p.m. | Rawlins Hall
God gives us gifts, talents and passions that make us unique—and uniquely qualified to reach out to others! Come explore opportunities at White’s Chapel to find your niche to serve others—whether it is within an existing ministry at WC or it is a new ministry fueled by your passion! No registration necessary.
Dorothea Christ | dchrist@whiteschapel.org



HAVING THE Conversation

A five week presentation where speakers will address spiritual and medical issues surrounding legal decisions, dying, death and planning the Christian funeral.

Thursdays, Jan. 22 – Feb. 19
7-8:30 p.m. | Rawlins Lecture Hall (Room 3103) | Free
(Sponsored by Southern Baptist Convention, Texas, Memphis, TN, GA, SC, NC, and VA)

Having the Conversation—A Dignity Dialogue
Thursdays, Jan. 22–Feb. 26 7 to 8:30 p.m. | AE Room 3103
Care & Support’s Health and Wellness ministry is pleased to again sponsor

this important and informative six-week presentation “Having the Conversation—A Dignity Dialogue” which provides a safe place to learn and ask questions about a variety of mature adult life issues. We will address practical, spiritual, legal and medical issues, as well as planning the Christian funeral.
Join us in AE Room 3103 (Rawlins Hall) for each presentation. There is no cost and all are welcome.
Alynn Rivers, RN
arivers@whiteschapel.org

PreSchool Moms Bible Study: Habits of the Household Begins Jan. 26 | 9:30 a.m. AE Room 3102
You long for tender moments with your children, but do you ever find yourself too busy to stop, make eye contact, and say something you really mean? Daily habits are powerful ways to shape the heart—but do you find yourself giving in to screen time just to get through the day? Award-winning author and father of four Justin Whitmel Earley understands the tension between how you long to parent and what your daily life actually looks like. In “Habits of the Household,” Earley gives you the tools you need to create structure—from mealtimes to bedtimes—that free you to parent toddlers, kids, and teens with purpose.
Join facilitator Courtney Meeks for this Bible study. Register online.
Courtney Meeks | CourtneyGiffin@gmail.com



Wednesday Night Dinner

JAN. 21

— ENTRÉE —
Pot Roast with Carrots & Potatoes

— SIDES —
Roasted Cauliflower & Cheddar Soup
Field Peas
Scalloped Corn

— DESSERT —
Pineapple upside down cake

EVANS HALL | 5-6 P.M. | \$5 PER PLATE



Prayer List

Malta Akins, Brayden, Gaye and Sandy Anderson, Roland Anderson, Meryl Babcock, Carol Barret, Nathan Barrett, Brent Bedgood, Nancy Bradley, Bonnie Jo Bramhall, Bobbie Cameron, Andrew Campbell, Lola Cobb, Ruth Cochran, Carolyn Cockerell, Bill and Jimmie Nell Cook, Gary Cooper, Terri Craddock, Susanna Cunningham, Sam D., Elizabeth Davis, Barbie Derby, Carol Dominiec, Jim Dougherty, Jan Emory, Anna Ericson, Ralph Evans, Terry Fisher, Frank Forcelli, Jennette Forrester, Brandi Yellock Frugé, Don Gardner, Roger Gerlach, Paul Gidlund , Shelly Gillette, Betsy Godbold, Alice Hall, Buddy Hall, Tiffany Hall, Vernon Lee Harrity, Jim and Donna Houston, Michelle James, Joanne Johnson, Helen Kimble Kutch, Jennifer Kohan, Connie Lamb, Ashley Barret Leder, Mona Lewis, Jackson Little, Sharon Martin, Tycie Max, Tex McCarthy, Sue McNutt, Jeff Miller, Dave Mueller, Charmayne Myers, Olivia Mysliwiec, Kayla and James Oliver, John Phillips, Bobby Phipps, Helen Post, Norma Resendiz, Gale Rivers, Eddie Robertson, Jane Robertson, Johnnie Ruth Rogillio, Ashton Rone, The Schulers, Paul Sikes, Patsy Smith, LeGrand Spradley, Julie Stapleton, Steve Swanston, Cyndi Tait, Roger Trevino, Barry Wahrmund, Rick Warner, Joe Watford, Martha Weaver, Tom Webber, Carley West, Liz West, Lynn Will, Luke Williamson, Vicki Winn, Melinda Witt, Mark Wolfe, Will Zamudio. Recent deaths: The Family of Bobbie Barnes, The Family of Cheryl Brashear, The Family of Jill Burr, The Family of Harriet Colvin, The Family of Ron Fant, The Family of Renee Nicole Good, The Family of Patrick Green, The Family of Carmello Mega, The Family of Thomas Q. Robbins, The Family of Ken Thomason, The Family of Frederick Timmerman, The Family of Linda Wallace.

Submit names via QR code or www.whiteschapel.org/prayers.html. (Names will remain on this prayer list for two weeks unless otherwise notified via QR code or www.whiteschapel.org/prayers.html.)





Super Saturday Rise AGAINST HUNGER

SATURDAY, JAN. 24 8 - 11 A.M. | EVANS HALL

8 - 9 A.M.
Unloading Supplies and Station Setup

9 - 11 A.M.
Measuring and Packaging Meals

White’s Chapel is teaming up again with Rise Against Hunger to help people around the world who are food insecure. Approximately 30,000 meals will be packaged and shipped globally!
Register for this Super Saturday event with the QR code or online.
Families, friends and church groups are encouraged to attend.
Children four years old and older are welcome to help their parents serve.
All participants must wear closed-toe shoes.
Joy Roberson | jroberson@whiteschapel.org





Military Box Packing FOR VALENTINE’S DAY

Jan. 23 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. | Evans Hall

Register online at whiteschapel.org or by scanning the QR code.

Sign Up Now!





CHAPEL HILL CHILDREN’S SCHOOL

Preschool Open House | Jan. 25 | 2-4 p.m.

REGISTRATION DATES

FEB. 10
9:30 A.M. | GRACE CHAPEL
For Church Members (Before Jan. 1) & CHCS Alumni

FEB. 18
11 A.M. | TK REGISTRATION | GRACE CHAPEL
Non-student Church Member Registration

FEB. 21
9 A.M. | THE COMMONS
Open Registration

Please contact Marna Parker or Leslie Westerman with any questions at mparker@whiteschapel.org or lwesterman@whiteschapel.org



WC WOMEN’S MISSION TRIP

APRIL 16-19 | SAN ANTONIO, TX

REGISTER ONLINE AT WHITESCHAPEL.ORG

FOR QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT BEV CHERNOFF AT BCHER06@GMAIL.COM

WAYS TO GIVE AT WHITE’S CHAPEL



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