



# Seventh Notes

SEVENTH & JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH

June 2011

## A NOTE FROM ERIN

I grew up skiing near Durango, Colorado, at a resort called Purgatory. We would spend Christmases there with my Meme and Poppie. They would rent a place for us to all stay together. Cousins, aunts, uncles, and occasional guests would all pile into a condo and share a snuggly family Christmas. Then a few days after, our Youth group from Midland would come up for a youth ski trip at Purgatory—I always loved that name because I thought the perfect place to spend post-earth, pre-heaven time would be on a ski slope with family and friends. My best friend, who was Catholic, would always try to tell me that it didn't work that way and that we were not supposed to be happy about spending time in Purgatory.

Not in the strict Theological sense, but only as an adjective for between time—I am feeling like I'm living in Purgatory these days. The weekend we were there was such an incredible embrace by you all and it just keeps getting better and better as I remember our time together. We are excited to be with you and to begin our journey together, but we have things to do here in Houston that must be done. So we are working hard at saying good-bye to our dear friends and family, holding down the fort while Steve is away on his Sabbatical, and busily getting our house ready to sell. All the while I have this melody of you in my mind—like a favorite song you heard on the radio and can't wait to hear again. We know that as August 1st grows ever closer, we will be even more ready to join you in work and fellowship. As Virgil



Sam, Carmen, Erin, and Alex Conaway

said to Dante, “This mountain's of such sort that climbing it is hardest at the start; but as we rise, the slope grows less unkind. Therefore, when this slope seems to you so gentle that climbing farther up will be as restful as traveling downstream by boat, you will be where this pathway ends, and there you can expect to put your weariness to rest.” (Purg. IV, 88-95) See you soon!

Grace & Truth,

Erin

Each summer, our regular Sunday school classes disband for the summer months and we offer a variety of short-term classes. We hope you will find these classes exciting and thought-provoking.

### **Suddenly Everything's Different: A Viewer's Guide to the Recent Developments in the Middle East – Lynn Tatum**

*June 5, 12, 19, 26*

More has changed in the last five months in the Middle East than in the previous five decades. Our Chautauqua discussion will begin with a basic background to the Middle East: Who are the key players? What are the competing religious ideas? What events shaped the current religious/political climate? We will then review the recent developments. We will also discuss what role religion plays as we move forward.

### **Themes for Interpreting Christian History and Experience – Jonathan Lindsey**

*June 5, 12, 19, 26*

Too often Christian history and experience are treated chronologically without looking at the significant themes that are evident in the birth of Christianity and then in its development now into the third millennium. I suggest that an understanding of the roles these five themes have played in the creation and continuing formation of Christian history and experience allows us to move into the 21st Century of Christian experience on sounder footing. Themes: Conciliarism, Monasticism, Reform, Renewal, Pluralism.

### **Contemplative Prayer – Blake Burleson**

*June 5, 12, 19, 26*

In recent years Christians across denominational lines have begun to practice contemplative ways of praying together which incorporate ancient ways of reading scripture (lectio divina), chanting of the sacred texts, and engaging in silent meditation (Centering Prayer). These worship forms, rooted in the long tradition of the Church, are being re-discovered by many Christians today. Blake Burleson is co-editing a book of contemplative readings from the Baptist heritage and will focus the theme of each session on these Baptist selections as he leads participants in contemplative prayer.

### **Why Bother with Ruth? – Rosalie Beck**

*July 3, 10, 17, 24*

This class will study the Book of Ruth to discover why this woman was so important to the history of the Hebrews and what her life-story might teach men and women today. Come and enjoy an in-depth look at the culture of the ancient Hebrews. Join us as we read an ancient text to see if it has anything to say to our own lives.

### **A New Christianity? What Are They Talking About? – Gayland Sims**

*July 3, 10, 17, 24*

There are a number of people writing about what they see as a major change in Christianity--change on the scale of the Reformation! We'll see what they mean, and where they think Christianity is going.

### **Going Deeper – Alex Geovanni**

*July 3, 10, 17, 24*

This study will follow the revised common lectionary focusing on the sermon text that morning. The purpose is to break down the text in context of the passage, the chapter, book and Canon; and look at the culture and issues related to the original audience to bring the text to life. This should prepare your heart and mind for the morning message, enriching the fullness of the life-transforming Word.

**The Brownings: A Story of Love and Faith – Carol Lowe***July 31, August 7, 14*

Session One will present the biographical love story of Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett Browning against the background of the Victorian controversy between faith and doubt. Session Two will discuss Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poetry, and Session Three, Robert Browning's poetry (no homework reading required!). All three sessions will include multi-media presentations.

**Jewish Interpretation of Scripture – Rabbi Mordechai Rotem***July 31, August 7, 14*

Rabbi Rotem is in his seventh year at Temple Rodef Sholom. He was the first Reform Rabbi to be ordained in Israel and served as a Rabbi there for more than 30 years.

**Dining on Scripture: Markan Sandwiches – David Wilkinson***July 31, August 7, 14*

Engaging several stories in the Gospel of Mark through the writer's creative use of bracketing -- inserting one story into another story -- as a literary device that serves a theological purpose.

## WITH GRATITUDE

Dear Seventh & James Bereavement Committee,

What I want to say requires more words that I can handwrite to each one of you, so please forgive this typed note.

Your kindness and loving care for the Swartz family was noticed by many. One friend said, "Oh, I want to tell my church about your Mother's reception, because they could learn a lot from the lovely way Seventh provided that day." She was specifically commenting on the idea of tasty finger foods rather than a sit-down meal. I let her know that Seventh graciously offered that choice as well. Her own belief is that when guests walk into a reception where there is a full meal buffet, they often flinch, maybe as though they ought to simply leave that for the family and not partake. An interesting perspective.

When Mother died, Daddy said, "Well, we've been gone from regular attendance at Seventh for some time, so I don't expect that many there will remember us." And truly numbers of their dearest friends from Seventh preceded them in death. Daddy has eulogized at many a funeral. Yet in our time of grief, we felt no lack of attentive and generous care from those at Seventh who ministered to us with their time and talents.

Certainly *you* had many opportunities to enjoy your Saturday otherwise. My impression is that you are not simply

committee members, but those who feel a call to support the mourning among you. Jesus said we would be comforted. And on the day of Mother's memorial service, you were His hands and heart, Jesus in an apron.

Gratefully,

Susan Swartz Cowley

also for Wilbur Swartz &

Sandi Swartz

Dear Friends at Seventh & James,

Thank you for the wonderful donations of clothing and staple goods sent to our orphanage in Uganda. Julie can tell you what a need you helped to fill, and the joy expressed by the children who received your gifts. Thank you for partnering with us as we serve God in this part of the world.

God bless you,

Janice and Tim McCall

Restoration Gateway, Uganda

Dear Seventh Kids,

Thank you for your prayers—I am much better. Thanks also for all your beautiful and unique cards.

Jean Ryther

## WITH GRATITUDE

Dear friends,

How you have enriched my life, and how I treasure the memories of each of you. The work we shared reflected your deep love for our church and each other, and remains vital for Seventh's future.

Though I leave soon for Virginia, please know I will be recalling your dear faces as I drive, and looking forward to your visiting me in Richmond.

You remain in my prayers,  
Lu Treadwell

Dearest Bereavement Committee and friends,

Thank you so very much for the lovely meal you served to my family the day of my mother's funeral. The outpouring of Christian love and support for me and my family during these most difficult of days has been most appreciated. Harper Hall was decorated so pretty, and all the food was delicious. It was a sad but sweet time of gathering and fellowship for us all. This church family has been such a blessing. Your acts of compassion and love will always be remembered.

In His Love,  
Barbara Reis and family

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



**Alex Geovanni**

We are delighted to welcome Alex Geovanni to Seventh! Alex joins Seventh by Watchcare. Alex is a student at Truett Seminary and is completing her mentoring project at Seventh & James this summer. You will see Alex in a number of roles as she learns the ins-and-outs of ministry. Please welcome her when you see her.

Dear Seventh & James,

Thank you so much for hosting the Study Tables during finals! It has been such a blessing to be able to come to your church and be surrounded by friendly people and a loving, calming atmosphere. I hope you continue to provide this service in the future! Thank you!

Best wishes and love,  
Kaitti Lolie

Dear Seventh & James Family:

We would like to thank you all for the many kindnesses, cards, visits, and prayers, particularly during the past month. We cannot tell you how much it meant to have the constant support and love from all of you. As we looked down the reception row at Jo Ann's memorial service, we saw the long line of church family members who have been family to us for 22 years. What a blessing you are to us and to so many others. Our hearts are full. Thank you for being the loving, accepting, wonderful people that you are. Thank you for helping to lift us up as a couple, raise our children and encourage us to be our best. We miss you so very much. We think of you and pray for you often. We feel truly blessed.

With much love,  
Mary and Bob Darden

## DEACON OFFERING COORDINATORS

Date	Deacon
<b>May 22</b>	COMMUNION
<b>May 29</b>	Ashley Cruseturner
<b>June 5</b>	Ray and Ellen Deaver
<b>June 12</b>	David DeLoach
<b>June 19</b>	Daryle Echols

**XYZ • June 23**  
**10:30 • Potluck & Dominoes**

## GRADUATES

**James Paxton Boadu**, M.Div, *Truett Theological Seminary* (Aug 2011)

**Kerry Burkley**, Doctor of Ministry, *Truett Theological Seminary*

**Larkin Bratcher**, *Baylor University*

**Evan Burleson**, *Texas A&M University*

**Karen Caylor**, *Baylor University*

**Elizabeth Crowder**, *Texas Tech University*

**Sarah Dunagin**, *Baylor University*

**Morgan Deaver**, *Vanguard College Preparatory School* (*Baylor University*)

(*granddaughter of Ray & Ellen Deaver*)

**Zachary DeLoach**, *Manhattan High School* (*Manhattan Christian College*)

(*grandson of Bill & Bobbie DeLoach*)

**Kelsey Dodson**, *Midway High School* (*Austin College*)

**Amanda Leigh Segrest Dorris**, Master's, Library Science, *Texas Women's University*, Denton

(*daughter of John & Dawn Segrest*)

**Ashley Echols**, *Philadelphia University* (*University of Washington at Seattle*)

**Russell Edgerton**, *Texas State Technical College*

**Kristina Edwards**, *Baylor University*

**Suzanna Frey**, *Baylor University*

**Emily Hills**, *Washington State*

**Vanessa DeLoach Hoosier**, *University of Kansas* (*granddaughter of Bill & Bobbie DeLoach*)

**Keiara Jones**, *Baylor University*

**Sean Kamperman**, *University of Texas at Austin*

**Megan Kittner**, *Bosqueville High School* (*Cottey College*)

**Jessica Mendoza**, *McGregor High School* (*McLennan Community College*)

(*daughter of Al and Racquelina Mendoza*)

**Kerry Lynne Miller**, Doctor of Education, *University of Mary Hardin-Baylor*

**Lauren DeLoach Mulanax**, *Northwest Florida State College* (*granddaughter of Bill & Bobbie DeLoach*)

**Kelsey Parsons**, *Baylor University*

**Michelle Reis**, *Texas A&M University*

**Lauren Riddle**, *Baylor University*

**Sarah Shepard**, *Southern Methodist University* (*granddaughter of John & Jean Shepard*)

**Michelle Smith**, *Baylor University*

**Robert Thomson**, *Southern Methodist University* (*grandson of John & Jean Shepard*)

**Jessica Underwood**, *Wellesley College*

**William Underwood**, *Mount de Sales Academy* (*Brown University*)

# Won't you be my neighbor?

seventh & james baptist church

This summer our children will be learning about area agencies that help people who are in need. Each evening the children will participate in a simulation of the agency and then we'll discuss ways our children can help. At the end of each evening, each child will receive a shopping list of items that agency is in need of. Children will then have the opportunity to shop in our VBS General Store for these items. At the end of the summer we'll take a field trip to deliver the items to each agency. The agencies we are focusing on this summer are:

- Caritas
- Mission Waco
- The Gospel Café
- Talitha Koum
- Habitat for Humanity
- Compassion Ministries

We are asking for your help to stock the shelves of our General Store. There are three ways you can help:

1. Take a shopping list (see next page) and go shopping!
2. Buy a reusable grocery bag for \$5 each.
3. "Buy a Bag to Stock a Shelf" - If you would like us to do your shopping for you, you can buy a reusable bag for \$25 and we'll shop for the groceries. The bag is yours to keep.

I would like to buy a reusable grocery bag. Number of bags: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to "Buy a Bag to Stock a Shelf." Number of bags: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to Leslie Rosencrans. Items may be dropped off at the church.

Please make checks out to "Seventh & James Baptist Church"  
and include "VBS" in the Memo Line.

The reusable grocery bags will be available for pick-up at the end of May.



# Help Us Stock Our Shelves!

## Food Items

- Spaghetti, Ziti
- Large bags of noodles
- Macaroni and cheese
- Spaghetti sauce, other pasta sauces
- Tuna fish
- Chef Boyardee or pop-tab cans of food
- Canned vegetables
- Large or small can of cream of mushroom soup
- Large or small can of cream of chicken soup
- Large or small can of cream of celery soup
- Gallon cans of green beans
- Gallon cans of Bush's Baked Beans
- Cans of chili without beans
- Velveeta or house-brand boxed cheeses
- Sugar
- Pam-type spray for baking pans
- Graham cracker crusts
- Oreo cookies crusts
- Prepared snack items

## School Supplies

- Acrylic Paint
- Paint Brushes
- Water Colors
- Water Color Pencils
- Canvas Pads
- Pastels
- Thin Sharpies/Pens
- Markers
- Art Paper



*Won't you be my neighbor?*  
seventh & james baptist church

## Toiletry Items

- Shampoo and conditioner
- Hair products
- Disposable razors
- Toothbrushes/toothpaste
- Mouthwash
- Deodorant
- Chapstick or lip balm
- Sunscreen
- All-purpose lotion
- Comb/brush
- Band-Aids

## Miscellaneous

- Diapers, especially large sizes (4,5,6)
- Baby wipes
- Pacifiers
- CDs of children's music
- Washcloths
- One-size-fits-all visors
- Small totes (backpacks)
- Bar towels
- 9x9 Pyrex-type cake/casserole containers
- Large dispensers of hand sanitizer
- Paper towels
- Clorox wipes
- Dixie cups
- Dinner plates and silverware
- Small deck playing cards
- Small size crossword puzzle books
- Small size word-find books
- Sugarless gum
- Sugarless mints/peppermints



Thank you for supporting the  
Children's Ministry at Seventh & James.  
These items will be donated to area agencies  
as part of our summer Vacation Bible School.  
Items may be dropped off at the church.  
Questions? Please see Leslie Rosencrans.



*Special Concert by Angela Yoon, Soprano*

*Alumnae of the opera departments of McLennan Community College and Baylor University*

2 p.m.  
Sunday, June 26, 2011  
Ball Performing Arts Center at MCC

The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments following.

*Her performance includes:*

Quatre Chansons de Jeunesse  
Pantomime  
Claire de lune  
Pierrot  
Apparition

Claude Debussy

Zerbinetta's aria  
from Ariadne auf Naxos

Richard Strauss

Selections from Six Songs for High Voice  
Cradle Song  
Rondelay

Ned Rorem

Les Oiseaux Dans la Charmille  
from Les Contes d'Hoffman

Jacques Offenbach