 Lorena United Methodist Church  
205 South Bordon St.  
PO BOX 86  
Lorena, TX 76655

We're on the Web @  
[www.lorenaumc.org](http://www.lorenaumc.org)

### Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 AM Casual Service

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:45 AM Traditional Service

## Upcoming Events and Activities

### January

**15**—UMW District Officers Meeting  
9:00 AM at Lorena UMC

**16**—Ladies' Bible Study Begins  
Lineage of Grace at 5:30 PM

**31**—Emmaus Reunion is at  
6:30 PM

**February 5**—UMW Charter for Racial Justice will take place in Burleson

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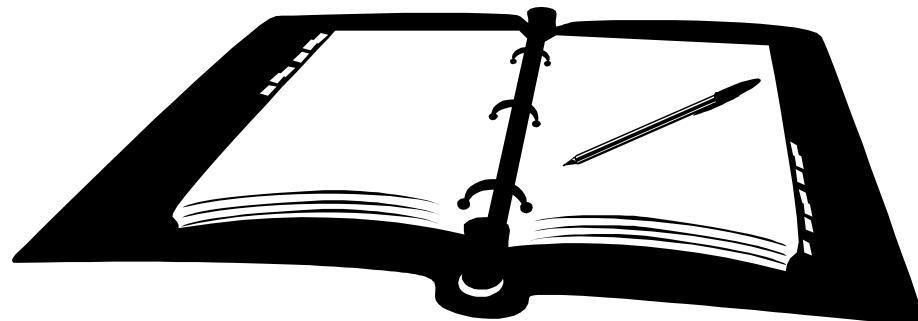
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### FYI:

**Lou Albertson will be leading a MORNING BIBLE STUDY.**

**If anyone is interested email Lou Albertson at:  
[lekalou@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lekalou@sbcglobal.net)  
or call the church office.**

**This Bible Study will begin Mid January.**



Lorena United Methodist Church

# The Methodist Message

January 1, 2010

## Striving for Greatness in 2011

By: Rev. Ron Albertson

What a blessed Advent and Christmas season we have experienced. I hope you all had the time and love of your precious ones this year, though it is not always possible. I am writing this before I leave to join my family, together again after a year. We are celebrating the gift of new life for both our children's families, first Joey-Marie in March to our son, Paul and his wife, Marianne, and then Nate's arrival to our daughter, Dannete Page and husband, Jonathan in December. Such blessings are beyond words. Even though we will be in frigid Massachusetts the warmth of our hearts will melt away all cares. We'll see you all on Sunday, January 2. We will be fully thawed out by then. Please keep us in your prayers as you will be in ours.

### It's Hard to Tell Stephanie Good Bye

The end of 2010 marks a change of a relationship with one who has become dear to us all, Stephanie Schmidt. We were blessed by her excellence in computer publishing skills as well as a willingness to do whatever it takes to get the job done in the office. She was gracious and willing to help anyone with whatever they needed and always a great help to me as your new Pastor, even though she had only been there a few weeks when I arrived. Also as the Youth Director, I know she shared her love and faith with our youth while having a fun time. She blessed them and all of us in so many ways.

Now we must bless her on her way to further education following her call to ordained ministry in the UMC as a Christian Family Counselor. God's call is certainly on her life and she demonstrates it in so many ways. Our prayers and love will always go with you, Stephanie.

### Welcome to Meghan

**Meghan Mullens**, our new Youth Director, is a life-long United Methodist, graduate of McGregor High and Texas A&M. She is employed full-time as the Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for the City of McGregor. She has a beautiful testimony of the powerful impact the years she spent in the youth group had on her life that she wants to give back some of those blessings to other youth. She has served previously on staff as both Children's and Youth Director in her home Church. She brings lots of enthusiasm and creativity with her to engage our youth and draw others too. We are so blessed to have such a fine and dedicated Christian woman to assist us in our mission of "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World."

We received word from **Nancy Stricker** who was to be our new Administrative Assistant that her mother died unexpectedly the week before Christmas. She has taken on additional family responsibilities that require her full attention, so she will be unable to fill the position at this time. We express our love to her and her family and will be praying for her through this difficult time. She is the kind of fine person who rises to such an occasion to provide the necessary support in a time of need for her family. We hope we may support her and her family through this loss and change in life plans.

### Bold New Beginning

As we enter into another year we do so with great confidence and conviction that God is leading and we will be following in the way we are called to serve our members, our community, and our world to the

glory of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We ask everyone to be in prayer for our Church. God has much for us to do and it will be exciting to see how God will use us as we rededicate our lives to give our best in our "Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness."

Blessed to Serve Along Side You,  
Pastor Ron



## Joy To The World!

By: Doris Ann Stanford

'Joy to the world, the Lord is come!' A special baby is born to save us from our sins and to save the world! Wow! We have gone through the anticipation and the joy of our Savior's birth. Isn't it great that we do this every year and celebrate his Amazing and Awesome birth! My wish is that we could keep the awe and the joy and the wonder of his birth with us throughout the year. Wouldn't that be great? Can you imagine how awesome our lives would be?

The season of Advent celebrates the beginning of the year in the church calendar. It was great to have so many members of our LUMC family involved in the Hanging of the Greens, Lighting the Advent candles, 'This is the Night' Christmas program, the 'hay less' Hayride and Caroling, and Christmas Eve with Candlelight and Communion.

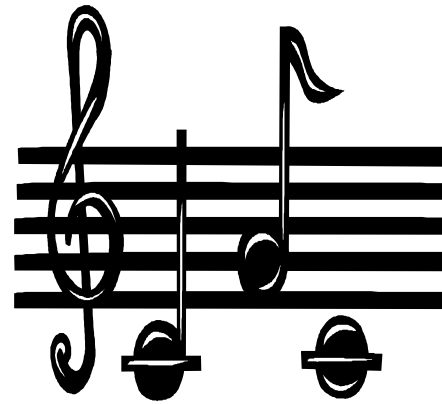
A big thank-you goes to all who shared their talents with us during the Advent season... Chancel Choir, Christmas Choir, Ms. Lou, Melanie Melton, Bobby Safley, Jan Bradford, Mary Mathias, Rev. Ron, Matt Ober-

helman, Judy Pledger, Becky Ritz, Stephanie Schmidt, Nikki Campbell, Bell Choir, & others. Thanks to all who participated and/or helped with the Christmas Program... Miss Linda, Miss Kynetta, Coach K, Tom Stott, Jeff Ferderer, parents and grandparents who brought children to rehearsals. A special thank you to Branda and Jake Pavlas for narrating "On This Very Night". Barry Carson, thank you for providing practice CDs for the choir. Many thanks go to Kaye Swain and Linda Stott for organizing the reception. If you think that this is an awesome list of people—you're right! Special blessings to all of you!

The Hayride and Caroling was lots of fun. We had two guitarists and many bell ringers as well as singers on the ride this year. Thanks, Ron and Matt for sharing your talent.

Thanks, Miss Linda, for organizing cider, cocoa, and goodies. It was a great evening!

Christmas Eve is always a very special time as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. It is just so awesome to



have so many people coming together to worship and celebrate together. Isn't it awesome that He came to save us? All we have to do is believe... believe in Him and His love for us.

There are spots open in Chancel Choir and Bell Choir. If your special talent is in music, join us for rehearsals or talk to Doris Ann.

May we as Christians and as members of Lorena United Methodist Church always strive to grow closer to Him and more like Him every day.

Singing praises to God with joy in my heart—Doris Ann



## LUMC Emmaus News

As 2010 is drawing to a close, I hope all Lorena Emmaus Reunion participants have had a great holiday and a great year! We have an especially exciting way to start the New Year with Jonda Liles going on her walk at Glen Lake on January 6. The Reunion Group (with our newest Pilgrim) will

meet on Monday, January 31, 2011, at 6:30 P.M. The Gathering will be on Thursday, February 3. I hope to see all of you at all of these events.

You are special people—keep the faith! De Colores—Doris Ann

## My New Path...

By: Stephanie Schmidt

As most of you know I am leaving prematurely. This news is not the news I wanted to share with the church a mere six months after my hiring. However, I know that I have a new path laid before me by the grace of God.

So you can all be rightfully informed of my abrupt leaving, I wanted to take the opportunity to explain my circumstances.

I had originally planned on attending Texas Wesleyan for my master's in Christian Counseling. Apparently this was more my plan than God's. I was not admitted to Texas Wesleyan, but did receive an offer to attend Hardin-Simmons Graduate program in Family Psychology.

Thus said, I will begin classes in January to begin my 2 year journey towards my goal of becoming a Deacon in full connection with the United Methodist Church and ministering through my Christian Counseling Practice.

I have felt God's call to ministry and have embraced the passion he has

given me to counsel those in need. Through my upbringing in the United Methodist Church as a PK (Preacher's Kid) I have developed the desire to do nothing but discern what God places on my life.

Lorena United Methodist Church, you are a blessing. Each one of you have made it a point to include me and make me feel so special. Please know that I will be praying for you. All of you.

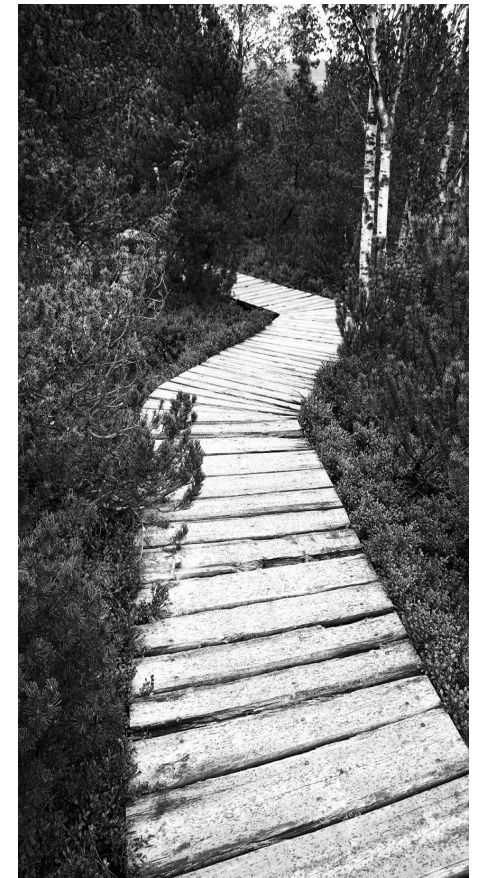
The kindness that has been bestowed upon me is a kindness I have never known before. You, as a church, have the gift of love and God is calling you to share that gift with the world. This church is beautiful. The people in this church are beautiful. I will miss you greatly, but I know that God has a new path laid out for me.

Board by board, step by step, he has prepared my way. I know Meghan will do amazing things with the youth group, and whomever replaces me as church administrative assistant will also do amazing things.

Trust in the Lord with all of your

heart, lean not on your own understanding. In all of your ways acknowledge him and he will make your path straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

God Bless,  
Stephanie Schmidt



## Choir Rehearsal Times for January 2011

### CHANCEL CHOIR:

Sunday, January 2—4PM

Sunday, January 9—4PM

Sunday, January 16—4PM

Sunday January 23—4PM

Sunday, January 30—4PM

**BELL CHOIR WILL BE  
ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE.**



**Join the Choir...**  
**You'll Be Glad  
You Did!**