

Love our endless Story

*You are invited to
a reception honoring
Richard and Judith Aslanian*

Thursday, December 20

4:00-5:30 p.m.

Lake Shore Sanctuary

*in gratitude for their
seventeen years of sharing
their creative gifts with
Lake Shore Baptist Church*

Advent and Christmas 2007

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23

"The Story of Love"

Matthew 1.28-35

Dorisanne Cooper

Sending Service for Richard and Judith Aslanian

Christmas Eve

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6:00 p.m.

Christmastide

December 30

No Sunday School

"The Story of Incarnation"

Let love be our story.

Let love be our song.

*God's love lifts the weak,
and it humbles the strong.*

*Let love be our offering
to stranger and friend.*

*God's love is our story,
beginning to end.*

Hymn tune: CRADLE SONG

Words: Sharlande Sledge
for Advent worship 2007

A Letter to Lake Shore from Richard Aslanian

After almost seventeen years of service at Lake Shore, it is with both regret and great anticipation that I announce my calling to be Director of Music Ministries at Strawbridge United Methodist Church in Kingwood, Texas, a Houston suburb. I look forward to a very active music ministry at Strawbridge, and my duties there will begin in January. My last Sunday at Lake Shore will be December 23.

Judith and I have experienced the warm friendship of Lake Shore and are very appreciative of the love shown us here, especially during my illness.

We are not saying "goodbye," but "auf wiedersehen" as we will continue to reside in Waco for the foreseeable future, and hope to visit occasionally to share in the joy of worship through music.

There are too many memories to list, but know that we cherish them all. My love and thanks to Dorisanne, Sharlande, and the wonderful choir members.

With gratitude and in Christ,
Richard

Prayer Concerns . . .

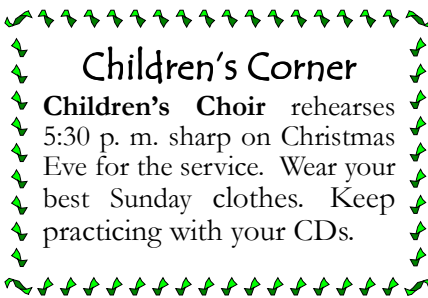
Rachel (Jumper) and Wes Taylor, have a new baby girl. Addison Grace was born very early Thursday morning in Tulsa. Early tests showed that she has seven of the markers for Down's Syndrome. Rachel and her brothers grew up at Lake Shore. You can send cards to her and Wes at 123 W. 125th Ct, Jenks, OK 74037, and to her grandparents, Lake Shore members JoAnn and David Jumper, 992 Taylor Oaks Drive, Waco 76705.

Beth McIntyre, Dorothy Lynn's sister, is in serious condition at Providence.

Coke Held is back from Houston after radiation therapy at MD Anderson.

Linda Olson is recuperating at home from a serious car accident, and she welcomes your visits. Her address is 392B Richland in Landmark Apartments.

Deb Vardiman's father, Boyce Vardiman, had a heart procedure Monday.



Children's Corner

Children's Choir rehearses
5:30 p. m. sharp on Christmas
Eve for the service. Wear your
best Sunday clothes. Keep
practicing with your CDs.

Libby Bellinger says
Central Texas Senior
Ministries needs
volunteers to package
"cold weather meals"
for Meals on Wheels
clients. For more info,
e-mail Sharlande.

Love . . . Our Endless Story

Each Sunday during the Advent and Christmas seasons, Lake Shore members will tell a different story about how they have experienced God's hope, peace, joy, or love in a different place in our world. On the Sunday of joy, Sharlande read this story from Gaza by Nancie Wingo.



Friends in Gaza tell me that celebrations at the end of Ramadan have not changed since I lived there. Children chase each other with plastic machine guns in a mock street battle or line up for the horse and camel rides. On the corner, a rusty little hand-cranked Ferris-wheel-of-sorts has them screeching in delight for their 25-cent ticket. But for the majority of children in Gaza, fun of any kind is rare.

Half of Gaza's 1.5 million people are children under 14. After recent political strife, harsh measures were imposed on the people: embargos, closed borders, almost total isolation from the outside world. The consequences are obvious: loss of property and life, massive unemployment, poor nutrition/malnutrition, fragmentation of families. It is not easy to be a Gazan these days: no cement to repair a toilet or build a building, no plastic sheeting to keep out the cold and rain, grocery shop shelves getting emptier by the day, no blankets in the market.

One place in the center of Gaza never ceases to make my heart sing -- Atfaluna School. Last spring when I walked through the doors again, color and life flooded out of the building and into the city. Inside children are busy. Adults are engaged in their work. Hundreds of hands move never quite moving. In spite of all the gloom beyond its doors, Atfaluna brings joy to many deaf children and their families. One of those children is six-year-old Khalid.

Khalid's mother, Najwa, was devastated when her seventh child was born severely deaf and with serious heart problems. Through Atfaluna's Early Intervention Program, she and her son learned sign language. Khalid received hearing aids. By the time he entered kindergarten, Khalid was an expert lip-reader. He was on the way to becoming a fluent signer. Now he loves school and soothes and "tutors" new children who have a hard time adjusting.

Because of the desperate economic situation of Khalid's family, Najwa joined Atfaluna Culinary Arts Program; last year she graduated with honors. Social workers helped her make a simple business plan for home production of sweet rolls and cakes. She purchased baking equipment and a small canopied vending cart. Very early every morning, before she takes Khalid to Atfaluna, Najwa is in her kitchen baking delicious fresh rolls which she neatly stacks in the cart. Her husband, who was seriously disabled when caught in cross-fire during the First Intifada, wheels the cart off to the busy intersection two blocks from home just in time for the morning rush hour. Najwa said she believes in miracles and that her family will be okay now -- provided that flour, too, doesn't disappear from the marketplace.

Atfaluna is a sacred space of joy in a desperate place. Even in the silence, I think I heard singing. I saw hands dance in curiosity and wonder, and I heard fingers flying in laughter.

It's a huge hope to hope, I know, but still I pray that the spirit of Atfaluna will break out in joy to the rest of Gaza.

The Gift of Poinsettias for Our Sanctuary

Given in honor of:

Richard & Judith Aslanian, *Sam Hastings*
Richard & Judith Aslanian, *The Church Staff*
Mary Louise Baker, *The Philia Sunday School Class*
Alicia Butler & Phil Duprè, *Judy Bowman*
Burl & Catherine Davenport, *Brent & Ellen Brown*
Michelle Dupree, *Celia Dupree*
Barb & Barry Francis, *Elizabeth Dell*
Mike, Kathy, Kate & Laura Goodrich,
Ken & Ladye Ruth Casner
Pattie Herbert, *The Church Staff*
Barbara Johnston, *Elizabeth Dell*
David & Faith Kopplin, *Ellen Brown*
Faith Kopplin & Donovan McNeil, *Kerry & Loeen Irons*
Bruce & Dorothy Neatherlin, *Hazel Henderson*
The Philia Sunday School Class, *Mary Louise Baker*
Maria Reyna, *Hope Rouse*
Mike, Rachel, Anastasia, & Zoe Sciretti, *Annette Brister*
Margaret & Sharlande Sledge, *Nancie Wingo*
David Tatum, *Bill Ingold*

Given in memory of:

Lydia Sauter Berg, *Vern & Martie Sauter*
Marie & Noley Bice, *Carol & Noley Bice*
Kenny Casner, *Ken & Ladye Ruth Casner*
Minnie Cole, *Carol & Noley Bice*
Vernon Cole, *Tillman & Carolyn Rodabough & family*
Patsy Fairchild, *Vern & Martie Sauter*
Martha & Galley Feagin, *Carol & Noley Bice*
Becky Henderson, *Matt & Micah Henderson*
Reagan Noel Henkener, *Kerry & Loeen Irons*
Fred & Hazel Hill, *Beverly & Dennis Hill*
Jack Hudson, *Gladys Hudson*
Hank & Edi Lankford, *Donna Casstevens*
Ralph Lynn, *Mary Louise Baker*
Malcolm & Vivian Nall, *Beverly & Dennis Hill*
June Osborne, *Sharlande Sledge*
Jim Randles, *Sarah Randles & their children*
Ron Rouse, *Hope Rouse*
Dottie Scott, *Vern & Martie Sauter*
Rupert Sledge, *Sharlande Sledge*
Waymon R. Spence, *Donna Spence Slette*
Mary Helen VanZandt, *Jack VanZandt*
Mary Helen VanZandt, *Janet Bass*
Alex Ware, *Pat & Nathan Stone*

Celebrating Pattie Herbert's

20 years of caregiving ministry
at a lunch reception
Thursday, January 3, 2008
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
at the home of Sandy Sadler
4924 Brooks— 776-3461

Congratulations to Mike Sciretti!

He passed his comprehensive exams and is now officially a candidate for his Ph.D. in religion! We're proud of you, Mike. Happy dissertation!

Housing for the Housers

Scott and Ana Marie Houser and their daughters will live in Waco next fall semester while Scott teaches in the department of religion at Baylor. The Housers are CBF missionaries to South Africa, focusing their ministry on the HIV/AIDS population. If you know of someone who will be on sabbatical or who has a place available space for the Housers to live while in Waco, let Sharlande know. It would be wonderful to have them in our church next fall.

New Baptist Covenant Meeting Atlanta: January 30-February 1, 2008

An historic first time meeting of over 20,000 racially, geographically and theologically diverse Baptists from around the world. A primary focus will be working together on social justice issues surrounding the text of Luke 4.18-19. Speakers will include Bill Moyers, Bill Clinton, Jimmy Carter, Lindsey Graham, Julie Pennington-Russell, Marian Wright Edelman. Contact Sharlande if you are interested in going with a Lake Shore group. See newbaptistcelebration.org



Shalom children's center, Ghana

The needs of the world can be overwhelming, but beginning with one village in Africa, in one school, the world turns toward peace and justice. Mission tree ornaments gave people a chance to continue the ministry in Ghana that began with the vision of Christiana Owusu and Lake Shore four years ago. Because of your help, over 200 boys and girls will have a safe, nurturing place to learn: a school uniform; and a good lunch each day in 2008. Over fifty Lake Shore members and friends already sponsor children at Shalom Children's Center.

If you would like to become a sponsor or renew your sponsorship, contact Annette Brister at abrister@hot.rr.com. You can donate \$120 per year through a monthly bank draft, monthly checks, or a check for the entire year. You may make your check to Lake Shore Baptist Church, designating Shalom Children's Center. In this Christmas season, may Christ's Light shine through each child at Shalom and through you.

Our Church Staff

Richard Aslanian, Music Director
Charles Conkin, Interim Minister to Youth
Dorisanne Cooper, Pastor
Emily Gist, Interim Director, Lake Shore Baptist Children's Center
Pattie Herbert, Custodian
Jo Polansky, Financial Secretary
Sarah Randles, Interim Office Manager
Rachel Sciretti, Minister to Children
Sharlande Sledge, Associate Pastor



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Waco, TX 76710
254/772-2910
254/772-2914 (fax)
www.lakeshorewaco.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MINISTRY AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, December 23

9:30 — Sunday School
10:45 — Worship

Monday, December 24

6:00 — Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Week

The Church Office will be closed from noon Monday, December 24 until Wednesday, January 3. We will stop in to check messages and emails. If you have an emergency or important news, please call the ministers at home.

Looking Ahead

December 30 — No Sunday School
10:45 — Worship

January 3 — Celebrating Pattie

January 8 — Interfaith Dinner

January 13 — Deacons Meeting

Wednesday Night Supper

December 26, 2007

*No Supper or Other
Wednesday Activities
They will resume on January 16*

**Extended Care
Visitor Cards/Offering
Sunday, December 23**

Infants: Pam Allen
Toddler: Sarah Randles
Preschool/K: Henry Kari, The Miller-Compton Reynolds Family

Visitor Cards: April Scales
Chandler Evans

Offering: Judy & Jeff Davies
Judy & Buddy Prather

Ushers: Annette Brister
Joyce McKee

Youth News

Breakfast – Davis

Save the Date: We will be attending Passport in Macon, Georgia during the week of July 13-18.

Sign up for the **Mid-Winter Retreat** on January 18-20. The cost is \$95. Please sign-up and start getting your money in. If you need a scholarship please let Charles know. If there are any **adults** that would like to volunteer to attend the **Mid-Winter Retreat**, I am in need of some chaperones.

No youth meetings on the following dates:

December 23: No evening meeting
December 26: No Wednesday night activity

December 30: No Sunday School or evening meeting

January 2: No Wednesday night activity

Meredith will be hosting a **movies night** from 6:00-8:00, December 30, at her house, 4200 Erath St. 235-4135 Take New Road east, turn on Erath, in 3 blocks the house will be right on the corner. Bring snacks and drinks.

These last two weeks are vitally important as we stretch to make our 2007 budget. Please try and complete your giving for the year, or consider an additional gift. Remember that the checks must be **postmarked or brought by hand to the office by December 31** in order to be counted for 2007 contributions. Thank you for all that each of you does throughout the year to make Lake Shore the kind of church we are, where we surround others with God's kind of love.

Yours truly, Don SoRelle, Finance Chair

Weekly Budget Report

Your contributions to our budget help fund our mission work, church programs, human resources, and physical facilities. Weekly budget needs for our 2007 budget of \$435,456 are \$8,374.15.

<u>Year to date needs</u>	<u>Year to date received</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$418,707	\$369,043	\$(49,664)

Fontaines Selected as Humanitarian Family of the Year

by Waco Interfaith Conference

Tuesday, January 8

Tickets are \$20.

Knox Hall

See Ray Cannon, Jay Losey, or the church office by January 3