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## President's Corner

It seems like we're all so busy around here at DignityHouston. The off-year election is behind us, but a move and new Liturgy is up ahead. Following in Jesus' footsteps means always moving ahead, sometimes into the unknown. It can be scary, but it's also exhilarating. The kind of thing that keeps you alive!



## Win Some, Lose Some

The last few weeks have sent Houstonians on an emotional roller coaster ride. The HERO (Houston Equal Rights Ordinance) campaign left many of us aghast at the kind of overt deceit so many of our neighbors are willing to engage in. Much more than the lies and obfuscation was the degree of total fear and panic so many of our neighbors felt. What was very clear is that the majority of Houstonians, like so many of us, have little basic understanding of what *transgender* means.

Lack of knowledge always creates some fear and uncertainty. It also

## On the Move

When you look around you and find that politics is all dirty and dank, the weather is dismal, and there's just way too many cobwebs about, it's high time to make a few changes. That's right, DignityHouston is moving! And not just moving forward, although we're always doing that. Yes, starting in January, we will have a new home at The Havens @ [St. Stephen's Episcopal Church](#).

The Montrose Center has stood us well for these past few years, but many of you have been longing for a place that's a little homier, a little less business meeting style. A place



leaves a wide opening for fear- and hate-mongers to rush in, and rush in they did. When you drive people to the limits of fear and uncertainty and fill it in with defensiveness, they close their minds, they just won't hear you.

Our mistake was to think that we could educate people about something as sensitive as gender identity with a few posters and 30-second ads. Instead, what we did was raise their level of anxiety.

Walking in the steps of Jesus means to be a Rabbi, a teacher, an educator. In our case, Catholic Action means to obtain a deeper understanding of gender identity ourselves, roll up our sleeves, and help our neighbors understand. In doing so, we help to put social justice on a firmer foundation, a far better foundation than what a law can provide alone.

Our fellow Houstonians are not cold, rigid ogres trying to expel the vulnerable among us. They could rise above their fears to elect Sylvester Turner. They're just waiting for us to do our job, to educate them about the wonders of transgender identity.

Just remember: A few citizens of Houston may have defeated HERO out of ignorance, but you will always remain Houston's greatest heroes!

## Sing a New Church

You gotta admit it.

Worship benefits greatly from song and music! Now that we've got our move in progress, our next big challenge is finding a musician. We have an electronic keyboard, we've



with all the atmosphere of a church yet allows us to have our interactive Liturgy. And yes, you wanted to stay in the 'hood.

We wanted a place that's a bit more accessible by public transportation, easier to find, perhaps a bit safer after dark. Just when all that seemed impossible to find, the Holy Spirit led us to The Havens.

Helen Havens, our new home's namesake, embodies many of our core values. Check out [the story of the first woman rector](#) in the Episcopal Diocese of Texas for a little inspiration and find out a little of St. Stephen's history. (Have no fear. We Catholics will get there eventually, we'll have our own Helen Havens. And we'll wonder where she came from!)

Mark the date on your calendar! Our first Liturgy at The Havens will be on Saturday, January 9, 2016 at 5:30 pm. We'll send you more information as the date comes nearer. The Havens Center is located at [1827 West Alabama, Houston, TX 77098](#), between Woodhead and Driscoll.



## New Liturgy?

Frank, our antique

dealer/Secretary often says, "What's old becomes new again." That's what our Liturgy Committee, George, Frank, and Daniel, did for us with our Liturgy. They took our old, well-worn

enjoyed guitar music, our singing isn't all that great, but it's fun and joyful. What we need is some creative accompaniment! So, if you know anyone who might be a good candidate, [send them our way](#).



## Rumors Are Flying

Rumors have it that someone

may hold a pot luck social on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at The Havens. A kind of housewarming. You'll want to save that date on your calendar just in case. Wonder if Kelly will do some of his famous focaccia bread? February is usually pretty dismal. Some pot roast just might hit the spot. With some roasted vegetables for the vegetarians among us. If you've got any ideas about who to invite, send them our way. Maybe some folks we've haven't seen in a while, some folks we'd like to see or meet? If you've got some ideas, [drop us a line](#).

## Holiday Services

We will be having our usual services on December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup> at the [Montrose Center, 401 Branard St., Houston, Texas 77006](#) at 5:30 pm. Be sure to join us!

Liturgy, polished it up a bit, added some new sparkles, and gave it back to us, fresh and alive. They borrowed a little from the New York/Dignity Liturgy, took some from our own experiences, looked around at what they knew about early Christian Liturgy, and came up with something we think you'll love. Just enough different to keep you awake, but not so foreign as to jar you. The guys deserve our eternal gratitude for all their hard work!

What better way to christen our new home? You'll see it first on January 9<sup>th</sup> at our first Liturgy at The Havens. You won't want to miss that!

## Christmas Day

We'll be gathering at



[Katz's, 616 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX 77006](#) for lunch on Christmas Day. If you're planning to join us, please [send us an email](#). Katz's doesn't take reservations, but they won't seat us until all our party is there. So, be sure to let us know if you're coming so that we can sit as close as possible.

At this point, we don't have any specific plans for New Year's Day. If you have any suggestions, feel free to [send them our way](#).



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