

University Park WORD

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UNIVERSITY PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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WWW.UPUMC.ORG

So ... What's this Link UP stuff about?

It's about just that: linking ourselves to each other, to the community, to visitors and, of course, to Jesus.

Link UP weekend is Sept. 22-23, and it will include a variety of activities to help us celebrate God and our church, and share them both with others.

Beginning on Saturday, Sept. 22, we'll begin by putting up the first walls of our next Habitat for Humanity Build, which will benefit the Carriere family.

Leo and Demitres Carriere were born and reared in New Orleans, and they were forced to relocate to Dallas after Hurricane Katrina. Leo is employed with Conn's Appliances, and Demitres is a substitute teacher with Lancaster ISD. They and their three daughters enjoy reading together, taking walks and watching movies. And they look forward to having a new

place to call home.

Also on Saturday, Sept. 22, we'll take part in a service project of a different sort: a volleyball tournament to benefit Nothing But Nets.

Nothing But Nets is a grassroots campaign cofounded by The People of the United Methodist Church to save lives by preventing malaria, a leading killer of children in Africa.

With each \$10 donation, an anti-malaria bed net can be purchased for a family to help save their lives.

Start now getting your volleyball team together. (No skill or experience required – we're all friends here.) Each co-ed team should consist of four to six players, and the entrance fee is \$60 per team, due the day of the tournament. To sign up, contact Keith Wiley at



From left are Ed Clark, Kristin Kelley and Rebecca Frank, who are working on the mission aspect of Link UP weekend. Ed will be leading the build on UPUMC's house for Habitat for Humanity, which will benefit the five-member Carriere family.

keithlwiley@gmail.com.

The winners of the tournament will receive special recognition on Sunday, Sept. 23, when we have our big Link UP celebration. The day will kick off with one, combined, exciting worship service at 11 a.m. under a tent on the Colgate Lawn. The Rev. Leighton Bearden will preach, and we're hoping to have a guest speaker, as well. There are also big plans for some wonderful

music. More to come on that.

After worship, we'll enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs, dessert, bounce houses, a chance to shoot baskets for Nothing But Nets, and general fun and fellowship with our church family.

See why this is something to which you'll want to invite your friends and neighbors? Invite everyone you can think of, and let's Link UP!

Is Stephen Ministry calling you? Apply today for the next training class

Sunday, Aug. 19, is the deadline to submit your application for the next round of Stephen Ministry training at UPUMC.

This unique ministry couples those in need with those who care. UPUMC started with about 20 Stephen Ministers, and over the past five years, many people have benefited.

Each potential Stephen Minister goes through a 28-week training course, which equates to

roughly 60 hours of total training. The course covers the basics – how to begin and end a relationship, build trust and respect boundaries – as well as develops the skills required for being a good caregiver: listening, praying, dealing with anger, controlling empathy.

Caregivers lend Christian love and support for any number of needs, such as grief from loss, divorce, financial crisis or broken relationships.

Once a Stephen Minister and a care recipient are matched, they meet weekly until both agree that there's no need for the relationship to continue. But Stephen Ministers are not counselors, they're not replacements for pastors or trained health professionals, and they're not trained for crisis response.

If this appeals to you, visit the Information Center or call the Hamiltons at 214.221.2201.



UP Word
Readership
Survey

4A



Back to
school ...
Cooper style

5A

IN WORSHIP AUG. 12, 2007

Traditional, 8:30 and 11 a.m.
Can You Be Too Good For God? Luke 18:9-14
the Leighton Bearden

The Bridge, 11 a.m.
The Three Rs: Risk, Reflection and Response
1 Samuel 17:32-49
the Rev. Rebecca Frank

IN WORSHIP AUG. 19, 2007

Traditional, 8:30 and 11 a.m.
Who Needs To Be Led? John 10:11-15
the Rev. Leighton Bearden

The Bridge, 11 a.m.
The Three Rs: Risk, Reflection and Response
Matthew 26:6-13
the Rev. Rebecca Frank

UPUMC NEWS AND NOTES

Tiffany to sing her appreciation

On Aug. 26, Tiffany Roberts will give a concert of appreciation for the support she received from the church for her summer study in Italy. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. There will be a reception following in Fellowship Hall.

Lovell Baker to teach Sisters

The Sisters of Susanna Sunday school class invites you to hear Lovell Baker as she teaches this Sunday. Lovell is a 10-year member of UPUMC and a wonderfully entertaining speaker. The class meets at 9:45 a.m. in room 233.

Shop for Quarterly Food Drive

Don't forget to pick up your grocery bag on Sunday, Aug. 19, for UPUMC's Quarterly Food Drive. The third-quarter drive will benefit the North Dallas Shared Ministries, which annually provides a variety of services for more than 52,000 people living within 20 North Dallas ZIP Codes.

After you pick up your bag, fill it with the items on the list attached to it, and bring it back to church on Sunday, Aug. 26.

Sign up to lead Club 345

Club 345 is getting ready for a fun fall semester, and now is the time to sign up to volunteer as workshop leaders. Club 345 is UPUMC's rotational Sunday school for third-, fourth- and fifth-graders. The fall semester runs September through December, and each month concentrates on a different theme: Creation, Noah and the Flood, Joseph and His Brothers, and Annunciation and Birth of Jesus. Workshop leaders commit to teaching the same lesson for three consecutive Sundays, and everything is provided, including the lesson, supplies and materials. To sign up, visit the table in the Information Center or call Dick Wilson at 214.368.1435, ext. 146.

Prayer request from Bratislava

The following prayer request comes from Lenka Prochaz at our sister church in Bratislava, Slovakia:

We thank God for the opportunity to minister to many children during the year. We ask for His blessing and for prayers for the week-long camp we will hold Aug. 13-17. We are thankful for the Brices, an American family who came to serve in Slovakia for two years and who will be helping us with the camp and teaching children English.

Teacher training is Aug. 19

Thirty-two people have volunteered to teach Sunday school for the 2-year-old through second-grade children's classes this fall, and three others have volunteered to serve as class shepherds for Club 345. They all will come together at noon Aug. 19 in the Caldwell Room for an appreciation luncheon

and teacher training.

Teachers of the UPUMC Weekday School will participate in a separate but simultaneous training on Aug. 19.

Let's remember to show our children's teachers how much we appreciate them this fall.

Promotion Sunday is Aug. 26

Promotion Sunday is Aug. 26, the date when all children in Sunday school at UPUMC will move up to the next class level.

As part of Promotion Sunday, the second-graders will officially move into Club 345, the church's rotational Sunday school. To kick off the year, incoming third-graders are invited to come to Club 345 for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on Aug. 26. Afterward, they'll take part in a variety of Bible games to help them learn how to use the Bible. At the 11 a.m. traditional worship service that day, each new third-grader will be presented his or her own Bible.

Women: Retreat with us

The 2007 Women's retreat – Amigas de Amor – will be Oct. 25-29 in Juarez, Mexico, where we'll build homes to help the needy people in that region. Cost for the trip is \$200 plus the cost of airfare to and from El Paso. Register by Sept. 15 online at <http://www.hpumc.org/pages/juarez-women>.

UPUMC will join women from Highland Park UMC as well as women from all over the United States on the trip, which is coordinated through Amor Ministries, which has been coordinating these trips for many years.

For more information, contact the Rev. Rebecca Frank at 214.368.1435. In the meantime, here are the basics:

- An all-women's build with Amor Ministries, Oct. 25-29, in Juarez, Mexico.
- \$200 covers everything except travel to and from El Paso.
- Connect and reconnect with amazing women from all over.
- See the world in a new way.
- Stretch your heart and your muscles. (Warning: You may be sore from laughing a lot!)
- Be amazed at what you can do.
- Be amazed at what God can do.

Join the Travel Ministry in Branson

A few spaces are still left on the Travel Ministry's fun-filled long weekend to Branson, Mo., Nov. 30-Dec. 3.

Cost is \$625 per person with double occupancy, and that includes transportation, accommodations at Comfort Inn and Suites, six meals, five shows, a local guide, escort, taxes and tips.

The group will leave UPUMC at 7 a.m. Friday, Nov. 30.

For more information about this trip, contact Carolyn Corrigan at ccorrigan@upumc.org or 214.368.1435, ext. 101.

UP Word Readership Survey

Dear UP Word readers,
We are conducting a survey of our readership to help us make decisions about format and content of the newspaper for 2008. If you are interested in what happens with the paper, then please answer this survey, cut it out and mail it to UPUMC, ATTN: Cheryl Brown, 4024 Caruth Blvd., Dallas, TX 75225, or e-mail your answers to cbrown@upumc.org. We would appreciate your response by Sept. 1.

(Circle the appropriate response)

1. I prefer to receive my newspaper ...
 - a. in the mail
 - b. pick it up at church
 - c. download it from the Web site
 - d. I don't want to receive a newspaper
2. To me, the most important part of the newspaper is ...
 - a. The information about UPUMC
 - b. The information about the North Texas Conference
 - c. The information about the United Methodist Church as a whole
 - d. All of it is equally important
 - e. None of it is important
3. Recently, I have noticed an improvement in the UP Word.
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
4. When I receive my paper, I read ...
 - a. All of it
 - b. Most of it
 - c. About half of it
 - d. Very little of it
 - e. None of it
5. If the UP Word's purpose is to inform me about church happenings and make me feel more involved with my church, I think it ...
 - a. Is doing a great job
 - b. Does an OK job
 - c. Could use some work
 - d. Does a poor job
 - e. Misses the mark altogether

Comments: What other feedback do you have about the church newspaper?

Back to School ... Cooper style

School will soon be back in session for kids all across Texas. What better time to do a little learning of your own?

Each school semester, UPUMC's Cooper School of Discipleship offers an array of classes to help adults – and sometimes kids and youths – learn more, get more connected, gain insight and get perspective. Following is a list of classes offered this fall. There are a few more offerings on the way, and we'll announce those as soon as they're worked out.

To register for any of these classes, go online to the church Web site at www.upumc.org and click on "Cooper School of Discipleship" under the "Learn and Grow" tab. (For a direct link, type in

www.upumc.org/pages/Cooper_School_Current_Courses.)

If you don't like computers, you can sign up in the Information Center on Sign-up Sunday, which will be Aug. 26.

Disciple I

Becoming disciples through Bible study is an approach that emphasizes disciplined reading of and listening to scripture. During the 34-week course of this study, Disciple groups move through the scriptures from Genesis to Revelation. Participants will read more than 70 percent of the Bible.

Disciple I participants make a commitment to daily preparation (30 minutes per day) and weekly attendance and full participation in group study. Disciple aims at transformation, not just information.

Consider this opportunity to read and study the Bible in a small, committed group and be challenged in your discipleship.

When: 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Wednesdays for 34 weeks beginning Sept. 5 (Orientation session on Aug. 29)
Leaders: Teal Lang and Carol French
Course Fee: \$35

Ephesians Bible Study

In a modern world filled with text messages, e-mails and PDAs, the fine art of written correspondence has been replaced by convenience. A handwritten letter takes time, indicating a thoughtful and purposeful statement that lives long after it's crafted. This four-week class will review some of the greatest letters ever written. Paul's letter to the Ephesians provides words of counsel and notes of encouragement as well as the challenging questions as to whose you are and what life will you live.

The format will include time for small group discussion each week.

When: 7-8:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, Sept. 12 & 19, Oct. 3 & 10
Leaders: John & Alecia Jenkins
Course Fee: \$5

Invitation to Romans

It is difficult to overstate the importance of Romans in Christian tradition. Some of the great formers and reformers of church teaching were themselves formed by their reading of Romans. As a result, Paul's teachings in Romans come to us mediated through the history of the church's interpretations of his letter. The challenge of reading Romans, then, is to learn to have our own interpretive conversation with the text itself, in spite of centuries of commentary on the text.

One of the aims of this eight-week study is to invite us into conversation around several key themes: (1) Paul's emphasis on communal salvation; (2) the centrality of God's righteousness; and (3) the relationship between Jews and Gentiles and the relationship of both to God.

When: 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Wednesdays, Sept. 19 through Nov. 7
Leader: Tricia Carroll
Course Fee: \$15

When I Grow Up to Be a Daddy

This class, led by businessman and author Bodie Spangler, helps fathers and mothers alike find ways to instill Christian values in a world full of temptations which are not so Christian.

When Bodie Spangler's father unexpectedly passed away 17 years ago, he had no idea what kind of impact it would have on his future. Today, the 40-year-old Dallas businessman's personal loss has translated into a ministry to fathers.

Spangler's relationship with his dad was rock solid. He always assumed that most men enjoyed the same benefits throughout their childhoods, but over time he realized that was not the case. This inspired Spangler to pen his first book, "When I Grow Up to Be a Daddy." Come hear Bodie talk about his experience and receive a copy of his book.

When: 7-8:30 p.m. Nov. 7
Leader: Bodie Spangler
Course Fee: \$15 (includes book)

Sacred Parenting

Too pooped for parenting? Looking for a little help with how to approach it in a Christian way? Feeling like you're the only family in the neighborhood who hasn't got this mom-and-dad thing all figured out? Then join this small group experience that will encourage you, answer a few questions, and help you make some really good friends to share the journey.

The group will meet for 13 weeks and will incorporate readings from the book "Sacred Parenting" by Gary L. Thomas. Each Sunday night, the group will come together to share a meal and their experiences, questions and stories.

Limited to five couples on a first come, first served basis.

When: 6-8 p.m. Sundays, Sept. 9 through Dec. 2
Leaders: Jo and Charles Cooper
Course Fee: \$20
Where: 4024 Centenary (childcare at the church)

An Introduction to Methodism and University Park UMC for New and Prospective Members

Are you new to Methodism? Or do you just need to brush up a little? This class will walk you through the beliefs and structures of the United Methodist Church, as well as get you better acquainted with UPUMC and the many areas where you can get involved.

When: 7-8:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, Oct. 10-24
Leader: Leighton Bearden
Course Fee: None

Milk and Honey Cooking School

Learn the history of God's people through cooking and eating. Enjoy a fun hour and a half while participating in cooking and eating the foods of five different periods of Biblical history. This event is for adults and families with middle/older elementary children and youth. Limited to 36 people on a first come, first served basis.

When: 6-7:30 p.m. Oct. 21
Leader: Dick Wilson
Course Fee: \$15/family

Bible Basics: Introduction to Scripture

Whether you've never really read a Bible or you just haven't picked one up in a long time, this class will help get you started. Join the Rev. Rebecca Frank as she takes you on a six-week overview of the Bible, including many of the most memorable, most important passages. Consider it Bible 101.

When: TBD
Leader: Rebecca Frank
Course Fee: None

Spiritual Stocking Stuffers

Make your Advent celebration more joyful as you share time with your senior pastor discussing the scripture and traditions that shape our hearts at Christmastime.

When: 11 a.m. or 7 p.m.
Wednesdays, Nov. 28, Dec. 5-19
Leader: Leighton Bearden
Course Fee: None

Help lay down the welcome mat and open the door to God's House

by Diane Brooks, volunteer greeter

Being a greeter at church is not a whole lot different from welcoming a guest into your own home. The only difference is you are welcoming a guest into God's House.

Welcoming is what we do as Christians. Just as Jesus said in Matthew 25:35b at the Great Judgment, "I was a stranger and



Greeters Mary and Joe McElyea, left, and Gayle Barker greet churchgoers at the south sanctuary door.

you welcomed me."

Can you remember your first visit to UPUMC? Did you feel like a stranger? A family who joined our church recently thanked me for greeting them so warmly and taking them to visit a Sunday school class. It made a difference in how

they experienced our church.

We have a welcoming spirit at UPUMC, but we want to grow our greeter ministry

and invite you to join Joe McElyea, who is newly serving as the greeter chairman, and his team of greeters. Just call the church at 214.368.1435.

Beyond a genuine smile and warm handshake, a greeter tries to make a connection with a guest because sometimes a sense of belonging leads to believing. So if you can smile and extend a warm hand to another person, join us as a greeter one Sunday each month at the worship service of your choice.

"All guests who present themselves are to be received as Christ." - St. Benedict



Baptisms

We rejoice with the following families



Joe and Kate Sircely on the baptism of their son, Joseph Luker, on July 29.



Mike and Diane Swartzendruber on the baptism of their twins, Max Walker and Clara Dell, on July 15. Also pictured is older brother Nick.

Death

Bob Massey, husband of Lisa Massey, on July 26. Services were held July 30.

Prayers

Otis Willingham; Everett George; Carol Bennett; Dorothy Dorr; Linda Adams; Joe

McElyea; Alva Clutts; Norma Ward; Luther Pully; Amy Stephens; Ross Breckeen, son-in-law of Carol and Joe French; Virginia Trimble, sister of Carolyn Hubbard; Fern Box-Carr, mother of Don Box; Dorothy Crumley, Lauren Ricks and Casey Ricks, family of Doris Lankford; Gage Holmes, student at Weekday School

WELCOME REPORT

Welcome our newest members.

Todd and Dana Holder joined July 8 along with their two daughters, Kenna and Anna. They recently moved to the area from Florida. Todd joined by baptism and Dana by transfer.



Doug and Risa Woodward joined July 22 by transfer from another Methodist church in Dallas. They have two young children, Dylan and Maggie.



Lloyd and Jamie Pope joined July 29. He transferred from First UMC, Lake Jackson, Texas, and she from Holy Family Catholic Church in Brentwood, Ind. Daughter Maslan is 2 months old.



David and Whitney Weigand joined July 29 by transfer from a Methodist church in Plano. Their children are Abby, age 9, and Carter, age 5.



Garrow and Pat Wessendorff joined July 15 by transfer from another Methodist church in Dallas. They have three grown children. Photo unavailable.

Worship and visitor attendance in July

July 1	493	49
July 8	460	27
July 15	493	50
July 22	439	29
July 29	445	28

Of the total 183 visitors, 50 were visiting for the first time.

Births

Bailey Frances Lake born on July 23 to Mike and Chelsea Lake. She joins older sister Annabelle and big brother Benton.

Emme Sinclair Susan Krueger born on August 2 to Glenn and Caroline Krueger of Nashville. She is the granddaughter of Art and Kathy Krueger.