

A KING'S WELCOME



Children and youth reenacted Jesus' arrival to Jerusalem in a palm processional during the Sunday school hour on March 16. See page 5A for a full schedule of Easter activities and worship.
Photo courtesy of Quentin Dudley

Can you see Easter all around you?

by the Rev. Leighton Bearden

As we approach Easter and the glorious worship traditions that accompany it, I asked myself — What does Easter mean to most people? Why are churches more full on Easter than other Sundays?

I quickly realized I can't speak for most people; I can only speak for myself. So what does Easter mean to me? It means HOPE.

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The other day, a young couple in their twenties sat on the bench near the prayer labyrinth outside my window. They sat there for over an hour. Each time I glanced out the window, two things were obvious — they cared for one another, and they were struggling over some major issue in their intertwined lives.

I began to speculate, "Why are they having their conversation here rather than in the park across the street?" I think I know. I think they sat in the shadow of the church because they had come to a point in their relationship that they needed hope, and, if only subconsciously, the church — the church of the risen-from-death Jesus — represented HOPE.

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More than 1,000 people were gathered at the prayer breakfast for a ministry in the heart of Dallas that serves the

hungry and the homeless of our city. Why would so many people arrive before dawn for such an event? I believe it's because Jesus did not die and go away. Because the living Jesus keeps poking and prodding those of us who aren't hungry or homeless to do something about the injustices in our world so that HOPE trumps hopelessness.

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A young single woman gets the call on her cell phone that her father has died suddenly from a heart attack hundreds of miles away. She could have been all alone to face that jarring, jolting reality. But she wasn't. She was in the midst of her covenant group meeting here at the church. She was surrounded by the six or so other women who gather weekly to pray for one another. She was able to affirm with

See "Hope," page 4A

Jurisdictional delegates to consider nine candidates for four bishop positions

This is the last in a series of articles about the upcoming General Conference in Fort Worth and Jurisdictional Conference in Dallas.

Delegates to the 2008 General Conference have a huge responsibility to help shape the discipline of the United Methodist Church. But they also have another responsibility: to elect the bishops who lead the church.

UPUMC member Richard Hearne is a delegate to this year's General Conference, which will be April 23-May 2 at the Fort Worth

Convention Center. And that means he'll also participate in the South Central Jurisdictional Conference July 15-19 in Dallas.

In addition to General Conference delegates, there are six clergy and six lay delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference, as well as two alternates. The South Central Jurisdiction contains 11 Episcopal Areas presided over by 11 active bishops. Four of those spots need to be filled this year, and there are nine candidates who

See "Bishop," page 5A



UMW annual House and Table Tour tickets are on sale now

4A



Looking for a fun way to serve?

5A

IN WORSHIP MARCH 23, 2008

Sunrise Service, 7 a.m. and The Bridge, 11 a.m.
Questions of Purpose: What Does This Mean for My Life, John 20:1-18
the Rev. Rebecca Frank

Traditional, 8:30, 9:45 and 11 a.m.
CSI Jerusalem: Evidence of the Resurrection, John 20:19-23, 30-31
the Rev. Leighton Bearden

IN WORSHIP MARCH 30, 2008

Traditional, 8:30 and 11 a.m.
Encountering the Risen Christ, John 20:19-31
Jeff McCormick, preaching

The Bridge, 11 a.m.
Believing Is Seeing, John 20
the Rev. Rebecca Frank

AND ONE TO GROW ON ...



The Bridge contemporary worship service celebrated its first anniversary on Feb. 22, and the congregation marked the occasion with two big birthday cakes on March 9. The Bridge continues to grow and develop, and there are plenty of opportunities to get involved. Volunteers are needed for tech support, liturgists, ushers, greeters and overall worship planners. Contact J Jessica Nelson at jessicanelson@gmail.com to share your talents.

Hope springs from Easter's fertile ground

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them her assuredness that earthly death was not the end for her father but the beginning of life in direct fellowship with his Lord. Easter means HOPE.

These are just three examples of how I've seen the Easter Lord - the Easter Church - represent HOPE in recent days. I'm fairly sure you've seen this, too, so I invite you to take a few moments of silence in this Holy Week to ask, "Where have I seen the HOPE of Easter?"

Get tickets for UMW House and Table Tour

Tickets are on sale now for the United Methodist Women's annual House and Table Tour. This year's tour promises to be one of the best, with three homes that depict Gracious Living and impeccable style.

The tour will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, and will include three homes: a "Charming and Captivating" home at 3701 Marquette, an example of "Sophisticated Elegance" at 7210 Lane Park Drive, and an "Entertainer's Delight" at 7029 Prestonshire. Refreshments will be served at the Prestonshire house.

Tickets are \$10 in advance, available from a UMW circle or from the Information Center desk. You can also purchase via mail before April 16 by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to House and Table Tour, c/o Lu Turner, 6255 W. Northwest Highway #105, Dallas, TX 75225. Be sure to make the check payable to UPUMC UMW. Tickets are \$12 at the door.

Proceeds of the tour support UMW's local missions, so invite your friends and family to join you.



United
Methodist
Women

UPUMC Foundation offers two cemetery spaces for sale

The trustees of the University Park United Methodist Church Foundation are pleased to announce the donation of two local cemetery spaces by Majorie Westerlage and her daughter, Therese Crews. This property is being offered for sale by the foundation to UPUMC members.

The property is located at the Hillcrest Memorial Park Meadow of Reflection, lot 190, spaces C and D. Retail value of these lots, including endowment care, is \$29,670. However, the foundation is willing to negotiate the sale price.

The UPUMC Foundation is a Texas nonprofit corporation set up to receive gifts of cash and property through gift

planning and memorials. The foundation is a permanent fund that retains each gift that is contributed, and only the investment income is used.

Gifts can be made to the foundation at any time. Wills, life insurance policies, certain real estate, living memorials and cash donations continue to be the strength of the foundation. In cases where noncash gifts are received, the trustees liquidate the asset and invest the principal in the foundation's Memorial Fund.

For more information, contact Ed Slaughter, president of the foundation, at 214.361.5243, or George O'Reilly at 214.368.1435, ext 148.

Travel Ministry offers one-day trip to see highlights of Waco

Adults of all ages are invited to join the Rev. Larry and Carol Ann Ravert on the Travel Ministry's next trip: a one-day visit to Waco on April 19.

Travelers will peruse the extensive works of Robert and Elizabeth Browning at the Armstrong Browning Library on the Baylor University campus; enjoy a drive-through tour of the 130-acre Methodist Children's Home; and visit the 510-acre Homestead Heritage Traditional Crafts Village, a Christian agricultural settlement that

features many open buildings where residents are working as well as a deli bakery.

Lunch will be at the Heitmiller Family Steakhouse.

In case of rain, travelers will tour the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum rather than Homestead Heritage Village.

The group will gather in the church parking lot at 8 a.m. on April 19 and will return at 5 p.m. Comfortable shoes are highly recommended.

Cost for the trip is \$40 per person, which includes travel via deluxe motor-coach, lunch and guided tour.

Save your spot with a \$15 deposit. Be sure to put "Travel Ministry" on the note line of your check and send it to the church, attention Larry Ravert, at 4024 Caruth Blvd., Dallas, TX 75225, or turn it in at the Information Center desk.

If you have questions, contact Ravert or Wynn Moore at 214.368.1435 or wmoore@upumc.org.

Bishop election process can be 'grueling' for everyone involved

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have been lifted up as potential bishops.

The interview process is grueling, Hearne said.

"It's really exhausting," he said of his recent two-day bout of interviews with the nine candidates. "There were nine candidates who were flying between Dallas and Little Rock to interview with the Arkansas Conference. We started at 8 on Friday and went to almost 7, and then we started at 8 on Saturday and went until 6."

There are 15 Annual Conferences included in the Jurisdiction, which spans eight states:

Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, as well as the south border of the Navajo Indian Nation in northeastern Arizona. There are 118 districts in the Jurisdiction, which includes about 6,400 churches serving 1.83 million church members.

This year's candidates for bishop include:

- Cheryl Jefferson Bell, district superintendent of the Kansas West Conference
- Earl Bledsoe, district superintendent of the Bryan/West District of Texas
- Tim Bruster, senior pastor of First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth

- Jim Dorff, area provost of the North Texas Conference

- Roberto Gomez, pastor of El Mesias United Methodist Church in Mission, Texas

- Mike Lowry, executive director for New Church Development and Transformation for the Southwest Texas Conference

- Steve Rankin, professor of Religious Studies and campus minister at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kan.

- Rodney Steele, district superintendent of the North Central District of the Arkansas Conference

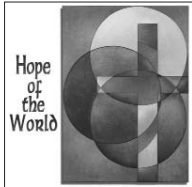
- Jim Welch, superintendent of the Central South District of the Texas Annual Conference

The biographies for these candidates is available online at <http://scj.umportal.org/main/section.asp?id=722>.

The delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference elect the bishops, but they do not elect them to fill particular roles. The appointment process occurs separately.

"We know we'll get one of these four bishops," Hearne said of the North Texas Conference.

Hearne will share his perspective on being a delegate – as well as receive input on issues – during two question-and-answer sessions hosted by the Collage Sunday school class. The sessions will be at 9:45 a.m. April 6 and 13 in Fellowship Hall.



CELEBRATING A LIFETIME



UPUMC member Otis Willingham celebrated his 102nd birthday earlier this month, and the Rev. Leighton Bearden invited the congregation to help commemorate the occasion by contributing to the Africa University Lenten Offering in Willingham's honor. On Willingham's birthday, Bearden was joined by the Rev. Rebecca Frank, the Rev. Larry Ravert and ministerial intern Jeff McCormick in presenting Willingham with a birthday cake and birthday card filled with the names of families who contributed a total of more than \$5,000 to Africa University in his honor. Willingham shared with the pastors some favorite stories of his life and said simply, "I certainly have been blessed."



EASTER WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

7 a.m., Easter Sunrise Service, Tent on Colgate Lawn

The Rev. Rebecca Frank, preaching

"Questions of Purpose: What Does This Mean for My Life?"

John 20:1-18

Celebrate the risen Christ as the sun dawns on a new day.

Acoustical music by The Bridge Band.

8:30, 9:45 and 11 a.m., Traditional Easter Worship, Sanctuary

The Rev. Leighton Bearden, preaching

"CSI Jerusalem: Evidence of the Resurrection,"

John 20:19-23 and 30-31

Music will be by the Aldersgate Chorale at 8:30 and the Chancel Choir at 9:45 and 11. All services will include festival brass.

9:45 a.m., Children's Easter Celebration, Tent on Colgate Lawn

Children and their parents are invited to join us for a butterfly release followed by an eggstravaganza. We will have eggs for all the children. Bring your basket and hunting spirit to church this morning! We encourage parent participation for this event as there be will some great photo opportunities. Drop your children off at their regular Sunday school class and wait for them outside under the tent.

9:45 a.m., Youth Easter Brunch, Youth Center

All sixth- through 12th-graders are invited to join us for this time of food, fun and fellowship. Contact Kathy Champion at kchampion@upumc.org to sign up to bring a dish.

11 a.m., The Bridge Contemporary Worship Service, Fellowship Hall

The Rev. Rebecca Frank, preaching

"Questions of Purpose: What Does This Mean for My Life?"

John 20:1-18

Want a turn to serve? Rotate in

Children's Ministries is seeking volunteers to teach the third-, fourth- and fifth-grade rotational Sunday school, also known as Club 345.

In rotational Sunday school, lessons are taught in a rotation schedule. Teachers are provided the lesson and supplies, and they teach the same lesson to different groups of children two or three Sundays in a row, depending on the material. Each rotation is assigned shepherds – adult volunteers who know the children and can help the teachers with whatever they need. All classes meet at 9:45 a.m.

If you're looking for a fun way to serve without making a long-term commitment, being a Club 345 teacher is a perfect opportunity.

Visit the Information Center or contact Jeanette Smith at 214.696.5178 or

smithrancher@sbcglobal.net for more information or to sign up.

Upcoming needs are:

- March 30 – Two people to help with the Mission and Outreach project
- April 6, 13 and 20 – Five people to help with three workshops about the Resurrection: cooking, games and art
- April 27 – Two people to help with a group activity
- May 4, 11 and 18 – Six people to help with three workshops about Pentecost: art, games and writing
- May 25 – Two people to help with a group activity
- June 1 and 8 – Four people to help with two workshops about the early church: art and cooking
- June 15 and 22 – Four people to help with two workshops about Peter: art and games
- June 29 – Two people to help with a Mission and Outreach project

Get Youth Auction/Luncheon tickets

Tickets for the Youth Auction and Luncheon on March 30 are now available in the Information Center or online at www.upumc.org/pages/youth_luncheon_tickets. The tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, and the lunch will be a wonderful homemade meal by UPUMC member Kim Wooldridge.

This year's auction is already under way. Bids are now being accepted in the online portion of the auction. Visit www.upumc.org and click on "online auction site" under "Help support our youth." The in-person silent auction will begin at 9:45 a.m. on March 30, and the luncheon and live auction will be at noon.

Not the bidding type? You can still help the youth by making a financial donation. Put "2008-09 Youth" on the note line of your check or donate online at www.upumc.org/pages/Online_Giving_One_Time.

Buy caladiums through UMW

Please help support United Methodist Women's missions while ordering beautiful caladiums for your yard. Many varieties are available, and order forms are in the Information Center. Orders are due by April 4. Call Meredith Zevallos at 214.263.3957 with questions.

Amigos: Get your work gloves ready

Mark your calendars for this year's Amigos Days work projects, which will be April 18-19 and 25-26.

Since 1998, Dallas-area Methodist churches have partnered with People Helping People and the Dallas Housing Authority for Amigos Days. This year, UPUMC members will reach out and share God's love in dressing up the home of Gladys Hogg, which is located in the Christ Foundry UMC area near Bachman Lake.

The main duties will include washing the home's siding; painting trim, shutters, the front porch and foundation; and installing an exterior handrail and storm door.

Sign up or get more information in the Information Center. Makeup dates in case of rain-out are May 2-3.

Weekday School celebrates 50 years

The UPUMC Weekday School is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, and there are plenty of celebration plans in the works.

First, everyone should mark their calendars for 11 a.m.-2 p.m. April 26, when the Weekday School will have its annual Spring Carnival and Auction. The festivities promise to be better than ever, so don't miss it!

Then, all current and retired teachers and staff from the Weekday School are invited to a birthday party at 12:30 p.m. on April 27. If you or someone you know is a retired teacher from the school, please contact Kathy Champion at kchampion@upumc.org or 214.368.1435, ext. 138 or register at the Information Center desk to be put on the invitation list.

Early worship moving to 8:45 a.m.

Beginning April 6, the early traditional worship service will move from 8:30 to 8:45 a.m. This will leave less time between the early service and Sunday school, enabling more people to attend Sunday school. To find a class, call the Rev. Dick Wilson at 214.368.1435, ext. 146.

SAS presents Donna Bearden display

Mark your calendar for the next Spiritual Arts Series event, which will be a display of photography by Donna Bearden. Donna's art will be on display in Fellowship Hall from 4 to 6 p.m. on April 6, and she will give guided tours of her work.

As with all Spiritual Arts Series events, this display is free and open to the public. Feel free to invite your friends.

Rumbley speaks at C.C. Young benefit

Come hear one of the most sought-after speakers in Dallas as the C.C. Young Auxiliary presents Dr. Rose Mary Rumbley at 10 a.m. April 30 at St. Andrew UMC in Plano.

Rumbley will present "The Book of Romans to the Declaration of Independence." Her brand of humor and in-depth research make for a delightful event. Refreshments will be at 10 a.m. and the program will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Piro Room of the church, which is located at 5801 W. Plano Parkway.

The event, which is \$15, will help the auxiliary purchase portable oxygen concentrators for C.C. Young's residents. Donations are also needed for welcome bags for new residents, so please bring travel size personal items such as soap, lotion and shower caps; combs; pens; notepaper; etc. Contact Kathy Krueger at 214.363.1761, and she will pick up your donation or you can leave it at the UPUMC Information Center desk.

Need a gift? Consider a cross

Looking for a wonderful gift for a UPUMC member? How about a UPUMC James Avery cross? This is a perfect gift for Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day or graduation.

UPUMC commissioned James Avery Craftsman to create the cross in 1989 to celebrate the church's 50th anniversary. The inscription on the back of the cross reads, "UPUMC 1939-1989." Seven of these original crosses are available for purchase for \$60, chain not included.

The cross was re-released just prior to the 60th anniversary with the inscription "UPUMC est. 1939." The cost for this cross is \$65, chain not included. To purchase a cross, contact Candy Hearne at 214.841.0895.

Youth summer interns wanted

The UPUMC Youth Ministries is seeking interns to work with the youth of the church in our many summer programs.

Do you love Jesus Christ and desire to serve His people? Are you a college student and member of UPUMC? Would you like to be involved in all of the fun things we have planned for this summer AND get paid for it?

If you said "YES" to these questions, then you should apply to be a UPUMC youth summer intern. Contact Garth Allen at 214.368.1435, ext. 127 or gallen@upumc.org to get the application forms.

Bring items for annual Hat Sale

The Methodist Dallas Medical Center Auxiliary is gathering items for its annual Hat Sale, which will be June 6. Bring gently used, in working order donations (jewelry, purses, belts, toys, household items, decorative items, furniture, etc.) to the Information Center or contact Karen Cude at 214.942.2833 to have your item picked up. Please, no clothing or cassette tapes.

Bring children's books for UMW drive

Help United Methodist Women Circle 2 help the Dallas Bethlehem Center. The circle is collecting children's books - especially Dr. Seuss books - for a reading program at the center. Bring the books to the box in the Information Center before March 28. For information, contact Cathy Ogden at cathyogden@carrollco.com.

Looking for a chance to be needed?

UPUMC is one of 46 covenant congregations that support the North Dallas Shared Ministries (NDSM) in their efforts to provide clothing, food and health care services to about 50,000 needy people each year.

We support them with money and food drives, but right now NDSM really needs our time. Specific needs include:

- Volunteer pharmacists to work in the Free Medical Clinic one or more Tuesday and/or Thursday evenings a month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- A volunteer to make modifications to an SQL-based database. This application is for the medical records of the patients of the NDSM Free Medical Clinic for the working poor.

- Volunteers to assist NDSM clients with household budgeting and, on occasion, job search. Volunteers are asked to work a minimum of a half-day every two weeks, Monday-Friday.

For more information, contact Bob Munroe at 214.987.0759.

PRAYERS

(Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. To extend, call 214.368.1435, ext. 104.)

Deaths

Wanda McWilliams, sister of Jo Bryans, on March 8. Service was March 12 in Lubbock. • Lloyd Harvey, father of Angela Overman, on March 12. Service was March 15 in Pampa.

Hospital

Bill Kendrick, Julia Catherine Kennedy

Births

Emily Grace Saucedo, daughter of Julie and Frank Saucedo and sister of Madalyn, on March 9. Grandparents are Dick and Marcia Wilson, and uncle is Richard Wilson. • Liam Edwards Thompson, son of Brad and Brook Thompson and brother of Elle and Ava, on March 7. • Julia Catherine Kennedy, daughter of Wade and Lauri Kennedy and sister of Grace and Margaret, on March 12. She is the granddaughter of David and Sandra Kennedy, niece of Jill and Jay Burress and Jimmy and Ashley Holbrook, and cousin of Spencer, Wade and Annie Burress and Hank Holbrook.

Prayer Requests

Jane Hedges; Beth Burke, wife of Nathan Burke and daughter-in-law of Floyd and Johnetta Burke; the Rev. Kathleen Baskin-Ball; Johnnie Imah, friend of Leighton Bearden; Bervin Gaillaspie, uncle of Ricky and Sandra Flanagan; Bill Hodges, father of Tracy Hodges; Wes Magruder and his family; the Rev. John Shuler, friend of Blanche Turner-Hext and Ralph Turner