

University Park United Methodist News

An Edition of

The United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A | 072285 | Vol. 153 Num. 44 | March 23, 2007

UP WORD

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Making Disciples of Jesus Christ
Through Worship of God, Covenant Relationships and Service to Others.

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FAITH MATTERS

¡Por Declaración!

Note: The Rev. Rebecca Frank serves on the board of Amor Ministries (see www.comebuild-hope.com). During the week of March 12, she was part of the support team for a group of college students who built seven homes for families in Juarez, Mexico. These are a few of her reflections from the experience.

On a bright Saturday in March, 10 vans lined up to cross the border between El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. The vans were loaded – *crammed tight* – with 80 students from Texas A&M’s AIM (Aggies in Mission) group. Ready to spend their spring break building homes for the poorest of the poor in Juarez, they had filled the passenger vans with peers and the cargo vans with the food, water, tools and camping gear necessary to create a small community on the high desert.

As the caravan approached the Mexican customs gates, our representative from Amor Ministries (the ministry with whom we work and build in Juarez) told us that we needed to be attentive to which lane we used. As a non-commercial group, he said, we would go through the “Nada por Declaración” (nothing to declare) lane.

The next Wednesday morning, these same students – a little tired, a little dusty and more than a little changed – packed up the vans for the return trip, eager to cross back into El Paso for their first hot shower since the mission began.

Before we loaded up, the student leaders gathered everyone together for a time of prayer, song and sacrament. Student after student shared their experiences: “I saw God in the gentle spirits of the family that we were building with.” “God’s power was so evident in the way this diverse group was able to work together.” “Did you see how God opened the

by the Rev. Rebecca Frank

heart of that young father at the house we worked on?” “I can’t quite put my finger on it, but I know things will be different now because I’m different now.”

Luke’s gospel tells a story about a young man being healed of a multitude of problems, and at the end of that story he begs to stay with Jesus. But Jesus sends him home: “Return to your home and declare how much God has done for you.” (Luke 8:38-39)

After breaking the bread (tortillas) and sharing the cup (Welch’s), after giving thanks for all that God has done and saying *Yes* to the invitation to get out of the boat again and again and again, this amazing group of young adults got back in the vans and headed home. And, regardless of the Customs lane through which they rolled, they have some great things to declare!

As people of faith, we all have something to declare. Even in the most challenging experiences, we can declare that God is, indeed, with us. Even in the most confusing circumstances, we can declare that God’s faithfulness is eternal. Even in the most discouraging or painful moments, we can declare that God’s love never fails.

In these next few weeks, as we move through Lent toward the Easter celebration, we’re reminded in vivid ways that “*nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord!*” (Romans 8:39)

I hope you’ll join us in worship in these holy days, as we remember the infinite reach of God’s love: a love that reaches beyond the cross, beyond the tomb, beyond death. A love that makes hope real. A love that transforms hearts and lives. A love that cannot end!

We have *much* to declare. See you in worship!



Holy Week 2007

April 1, Palm Sunday

- Traditional Worship: 8:30 and 11 a.m., Sanctuary. Featuring combined choirs at 11 a.m. Thomas Q. Robbins preaching.
- The Bridge: 11 a.m., Fellowship Hall. Rebecca Frank preaching.
- Easter Egg Hunt and Family Picnic: noon, Colgate lawn

April 5, Holy Thursday

Holy Communion: 7 p.m., Sanctuary. With Stripping of the Altar liturgy and music by the Chancel Choir.

April 6, Good Friday

- Stations of the Cross: noon-6 p.m., Fellowship Hall and Caldwell Room. This is a time for meditation as you walk the journey that Jesus walked on his way to Calvary. Self-directed meditation materials available for all ages.

- Music for the Mind and Spirit: 7 p.m., Sanctuary. A concert of music by Johann Sebastian Bach performed by the Chancel Choir, soloists and an orchestra of period instruments. Reception following in Fellowship Hall.

April 8, Easter

- Sunrise Service: 7 a.m., Colgate lawn. Rebecca Frank preaching. Acoustical music and refreshments.
- Traditional Worship: 8:30, 9:45 and 11 a.m., Sanctuary. Featuring choirs, organ and brass. Thomas Q. Robbins preaching.
- The Bridge: 11 a.m., Fellowship Hall. Rebecca Frank preaching.

April 9, Monday

Shane Claiborne: 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall. “Jesus Wrecked My Life,” an evening with the author of “The Irresistible Revolution: Living As An Ordinary Radical.”

Dare to share your faith with a yard cross

Crosses for the front yard are available without charge in the Information Center. Please take one for yourself and one to give to a neighbor – and more, if needed. These crosses are provided free of charge to give you an opportunity to share your faith with your neighborhood.

Put the cross in your front yard by Palm Sunday, with the plain white side facing the street. On Easter Sunday, turn it around to say “He lives!”



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Sunday, March 25, 2007
The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Thomas Q. Robbins, *preaching*
 Scripture Lessons: Philippians 3:4b-14 and John 12:1-8
 Liturgists: Phil Mercer and Dick Wilson

Music
8:30 a.m.

Handbell Voluntary, "Haleluya" (Tanzanian melody)
 arr. Tyleen Stults, played by the New Generations
 Handbell Choir.

Anthem, "Surely He Bore Our Grievs" by David diVidal,
 sung by the Aldersgate Chorale.

11 a.m.

Handbell Voluntary, "Fantasy on Lenten Hymns" by Fred
 Gramann, played by the Overtones Handbell Choir.

Anthem, "Kyrie" by Louis Vierne,
 sung by the Chancel Choir.

Anthem, "Lord, You Are Near Me" by Mark Patterson,
 sung by the Wesleyan Choir.

The Bridge contemporary worship, Fellowship Hall
 Rebecca Frank, *preaching*

On the Road to the Cross: Red-letter Questions from
 Jesus "What Are You Arguing About?" The Question of
 Greatness. Mark 9:30-36

Featuring The Bridge Band with Leslie Williams-Blum,
 worship leader

Radio Broadcast

UPUMC Sunday morning broadcast: 9-9:30 a.m.
 on WRR-FM (101.1) featuring preaching by Thomas Q.
 Robbins and music by the Chancel Choir of UPUMC.

Thomas Q. Robbins on the Internet

Hear sermons by Thomas Q. Robbins on the Internet.
 Visit our church's Web site, www.upumc.org and click on
 "Sermons Online" under the Worship & Pray section.

The necessary software may be downloaded
 directly from this page.



First House and Table Tour home an example of casual elegance

The United Methodist Women's annual
 House and Table Tour will be 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 on Tuesday, April 17, and the theme this year
 is "Homes of Gracious Living."

The first home on the tour, 2921 Stanford,
 is a showcase for casual elegance. Collecting
 French antiques and old tapestry and trim
 pieces has been a passion for the homeowner
 for many years. This love is apparent upon
 entering the lovely home, which has been
 updated recently.

Wonderful old French paintings, furniture,
 French majolica and pieces of Oriental rose
 medallion porcelain adorn the home. Sofas
 and chairs are covered with gorgeous pillows
 made from antique tapestry fabrics and trims,
 all designed by the owner.

This beautiful home is warm, inviting and
 most important for the family, very livable.

See the next issue of UP Word to learn
 more about the next home on the tour.

Tickets for the tour are \$10 until April 10.
 Buy them at the Information Center desk or
 by sending a self-addressed, stamped enve-
 lope with check made out to UPUMW to
 House and Table Tour, c/o Lu Turner, 625 W.
 Northwest Highway #105, Dallas, TX 75225.
 Advance tickets also are available at the
 Wicker Basket flower shop, 4715 West
 Lovers Lane in Dallas. Tickets will be \$12
 at the door.

Proceeds from the tour benefit UMW
 missions. For more information, contact
 Diane Williamson at 214.363.0018.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Baptism:



We rejoice with Kirk & Kathy Dreyer on
 the baptism of their daughter, Genevieve
 Dailey, on Sunday, March 18. Also
 pictured are older brothers Kyle, Luke and
 Mark.

In the hospital as of March 20:

Presbyterian Jack Swift

Visitors:

We welcomed 20 visitors on March 11,
 including these Dallas-area first-time
 visitors:

Lee Busby
 Aaron Gary
 Chrissy Pigg

Sympathy:

Our church family extends sincere
 sympathy and Christian love to the
 following members:

Melissa Weisend and family on the death
 of her mother Martha Weisend on March
 14. Services were held March 18.

Linda Lehman and family on the death
 of her father Robert Smith on March 17.
 Services were March 20 in Garland.

The Meaning of the Days

Ash Wednesday

The beginning of Lent

Ashes have been symbolic since early biblical times of
 repentance of sin or of grief in mourning.

The ashes used to make the sign of the cross on the fore-
 heads of believers are from the charred remains of the palm
 branches used on Palm Sunday the previous year.

The connection of Palm Sunday and Ash Wednesday is
 appropriate since Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem led
 him quickly to his death.

Our commitment to UPUMC

Sunday collections		Worship attendance	
		8:30 a.m.	11 a.m.
March 4	\$ 32,301	226	374
March 11	\$ 23,905	82	341
March 18	\$ 21,480	143	376
March. 25	\$ _____		
Total March	\$ 77,686		

Mary McElyea joins church staff

Mary McElyea has joined the UPUMC staff as a finance assistant, reporting to Finance Manager Constance Harp.

Mary and her husband, Joe, have been members of UPUMC since 2002. She has a background in accounting and will work three days a week.



19 people earn perfect attendance recognition for Dare to Share

University Park UMC recently wrapped up a seven-week curriculum called Dare to Share, which encouraged and challenged participants to share the good news of Jesus Christ everywhere, especially outside the church walls. Most adult Sunday school classes participated in the curriculum, and there were youth and children's versions offered, as well.

In the adult Sunday school classes, 19 people had perfect attendance throughout the seven-week study. Another 36 participants missed only one of the seven weeks.

During these weeks leading to Easter, there is no better time for all Christians to seize the opportunity to Dare to Share the good news of what Christ has done and is doing for us.

Those with perfect attendance:

Reggie Campbell	Carolyn Ballew
Scott Carpenter	Jack Ballew
Charles Cooper	Arlene Brantley
Howard Cox	Diane Brooks
Mary Cox	Allan Burns
Terry Darden	Ritchie Champion
Carol French	Jo Cooper
Everett George	Chrys Franklin
Gary George	Katrina Gray
Wade Griffin	Marie Head
Brandi Gruner	Bob Jackson
Sam Gruner	Russell Keith
Bennett Head	Kristin Kelley
Onni Koskinen	George Koontz
Pat Koskinen	Dana Manley
Rick Kraft	Steve Moore
Art Krueger	Becky Pearson
Kathy Krueger	Mary Elizabeth Porray
Robert Manley	Linda Taylor

Those with almost-perfect attendance:

Savannah McClure	Linda Adams
Jerry McCombs	Elizabeth Barlow
Mary Mercer	Jon Bjork
David Munson	Terry Boyd
Sharron Munson	Dan Bruce
Helen Peavy	Bettie Burns
Carol Ann Ravert	David Campbell
Jane Reardon	
Richard Wilson	

Special legislation allows charitable gifts from IRA

by George O'Reilly, director of administration and development

Thanks to the success of tax-deferred investments within qualified retirement plans, many people have found that they can have sufficient funds for retirement and that they will probably have funds left for distribution to heirs and charitable causes they wish to support. Recent changes in the distribution laws governing individual retirement accounts (IRAs) have made it easier to give a portion of your IRA to charitable organizations.

Under the Pension Protection Act of 2006, you may be eligible to make a gift from your IRA while you are living without incurring undesirable tax effects. Prior to the new law, you would have to report any amount taken from your IRA as taxable income, and then take a charitable deduction for the gift, but only up to 50 percent of your adjusted income.

Fortunately, from now through Dec. 31, 2007, these IRA gifts can be accomplished simply and without tax complications.

To be eligible for the special tax treatment, you must be at least 70½ years old on the day you make the gift. The maximum amount you can give from your IRA is \$100,000 for 2007.

You can make a gift simply by contacting your IRA custodian to make a direct transfer from your account to UPUMC or the church's Foundation. Be sure to have the custodian send the funds electronically or by a check made payable to UPUMC. If the custodian makes the check payable to you and you deposit it into your bank account and you write a personal check for

the charitable gift, you will not be eligible for the special tax breaks.

Please note, if you are younger than 70½, you can make a charitable gift from an IRA during your lifetime, but the gift creates income tax issues.

Example 1: Betty, age 75, has \$290,000 in two separate IRAs. She made a pledge to give \$10,000 to UPUMC this year. She has the choice of giving cash, appreciated securities or other assets to fulfill the pledge. Betty checks with her tax advisor, who explains that under the new law, she has yet another option to fund her pledge. If Betty transfers \$10,000 from one of the IRAs directly to UPUMC before Dec. 31, 2007, she will avoid paying income tax on the \$10,000 withdrawal. She will not, however, be able to use it as a charitable deduction – it is a pure “wash.”

Example 2: Martin, age 71, lives comfortably on his pension, savings and Social Security. He is required to take minimum distribution from his IRA and is taxed on those funds. This distribution also causes more of his Social Security to be taxed. However, by directing part of his mandatory IRA withdrawal to UPUMC or the church's Foundation, he avoids reporting that amount as income and does not pay taxes on those funds. He also prevents additional tax on his Social Security benefits.

Example 3: Jane, age 81, has a taxable estate and is concerned by the fact that, upon her death, the combination of income and estate taxes could consume the majority of an IRA that was funded through assets from her husband's retirement plan. She decides to make a \$100,000 tax-free distribution to the UPUMC Foundation in 2007 to take full advantage of income and estate tax savings opportunities provided under the new law. As a result, she makes a special gift while assuring these IRA funds, which she does not need for herself, will never be subject to income or estate taxation.

For additional information on the Pension Protection Act and how you can make a donation to UPUMC or the Foundation, contact me at 214.368.1435 ext 148.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 25

8:30a Worship Service
8:45a Library Open
9:45a Sunday School
11:00a Worship Services
12:30p Wedding Ring Class Luncheon
3:15p New Generations Handbells
4:00p Aldersgate Chorale
4:15p Joyful Sound Handbells
5:00p SNL - Youth Children's Choirs Men's Covenant Womens' Covenant
5:15p Women's Covenant
6:00p Children's Chimes Youth Snack Supper
6:30p Confirmation
7:30p Chamber Choir

Monday, March 26

7:00a Men's Covenant
10:00a Communion & Prayer UMW Executive Board Parent/Infant Music Class
5:15p *What It Means...*
6:00p Boy Scout Troop 72
6:30p Spiritual Direction
7:00p *Mere Christianity**

Tuesday, March 27

7:00a Men's Covenant
7:30a Men's Covenant
8:15a Women's Covenant
9:00a Weekday School (T-F)
2:00p Library Open
6:30p Usher Dinner
7:00p Women's Covenant Youth Spiritual Gifts Discovery

Wednesday, March 28

7:00a Men's Covenant
8:30a Womens' Covenant
9:30a *Disciple 3** Parent/Child Music Class
10:00a Pastor's Bible Study
11:30a Womens' Covenant
12:00p Brown Bag Book Group
4:00p Parent/Child Music Class
5:45p Wednesday Night Dinner
6:30p Financial Freedom*
6:45p Overtones Handbells
7:00p Pastor's Bible Study* Women's Covenant Synago - Sr. High Bible Study
UPSTREAM - Jr. High Bible Study
7:50p Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 29

6:15a Men's Covenant
7:30a Men's Covenant
2:00p Library Open

Friday, March 30

7:00a Men's Covenant
7:30a Men's Covenant
9:15a Women's Covenant
12:00p Men's Covenant

Saturday, March 31

10:00a Confirmation Mission

* *Childcare by reservation only. Please call 72 hours ahead to 214.368.1435, ext. 325 and give names and ages of the children for whom you need care.*

YOUTH STUFF

Robin Wilson director of youth activities & programs rwilson@upumc.org
Garth Allen assistant youth director gallen@upumc.org

All youth need to sign up for **Disciple Now!** You can do it online at www.upumc.org on the Youth Page. Everything else this week is normal.

Sunday

5-8 p.m. Sunday Night Live (off-site)

Tuesday

7 p.m. Spiritual Gifts Discovery (Room 263)

Wednesday

7 p.m. Jr. High Bible Study (Club 345)
7 p.m. Sr. High Bible Study (off-site)



Have a great week!

UPUMC NEWS and NOTES

Ushers needed for both Sunday worship times

Twelve people – both women and men – are needed to fill open usher positions at the 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship services. Sign up now so you can be on board before the usher appreciation dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday in Fellowship Hall. A short meeting will follow, and the points of ushering will be covered. If interested, contact Ed Slaughter at 214.361.5243.

Giving blood helps in more ways than one

The next UPUMC blood drive will be Sunday, April 15. Please sign up this week at the Information Center desk or call 214.368.1435. Sign-up sheets also will be included in the Sunday school folders.

When you give a unit of blood, you not only provide much-needed blood products to as many as three individuals, but you also help patients reduce the cost of uninsured blood service fees. These are fees that Carter BloodCare must charge to health care facilities such as hospitals, home health organizations or physicians' offices for the collection, testing and processing of blood products. Health care facilities pass these costs on to patients who receive transfusions.

Carter BloodCare has Life Plans for individuals, families and groups for the purpose of helping reduce these fees. UPUMC participates in the Group Life Plan, which allows our church to help patients who do not have their own Life Plan coverage.

When you give blood at our church, if you do not make a choice otherwise, your donation will be credited to the church's account. UPUMC receives a \$10 account credit for your donation. Each credit is valid for one year after it was given.

Your credits and those of other group donors accumulate in UPUMC's account and can be applied to the health care bill of one of our members or other person who requests help.

Donations, workers needed for Spring Carnival

The UPUMC Weekday School's annual Spring Carnival and Silent Auction will be April 21. All are invited to participate, volunteer or donate an item for the auction. This is the school's main fund raiser for the year, and in years past money has been used to buy playground equipment, updated classroom supplies, and teacher appreciation events and bonuses.

Please help by donating a silent auction item. No item is too big or small, and you or your business will be widely advertised in flyers and signage promoting the event. Also consider volunteering your time to set up, work or clean up the event.

The Weekday School is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, and any contribution will be tax-deductible. For more information or to sign up to work, contact Samantha Scott at 214.750.5366 or Whitney Whitehead at 214.342.4545.

Volunteers needed to provide family dinners in May

Friday Night Fiestas provides a great service opportunity for a Sunday school class, Wesley Covenant Group or other small group. Volunteers are needed to provide a family meal for approximately 50 adults and children on either May 4, May 11, May 18 or May 25.

Friday Night Fiestas is an event of Christ's Foundry, a cooperative outreach of UPUMC and other United Methodist churches. Christ's Foundry supports worship and many services for Spanish-speaking communities in the Bachman Lake area of Dallas.

For more information, contact Marcia Wilson at 214.692.1075 or mcwmed@yahoo.com.

Help repair a home through Amigos Days

Sign up now to help make improvements to the Oak Cliff home of Frances Villegas as part of Amigos Days on April 20-21 and April 27-28. Volunteers are needed for both the construction team and the hospitality team, which provides refreshments at the work site. Signup sheets are in the Information Center. For more information, contact Kristin Kelley at 214.801.9454.

Rose-Mary Rumbley to entertain at meeting

Humorist, author, playwright, actress and historian Rose-Mary Rumbley will entertain with "The 'Ears' of Texas Have Never Heard These Stories" at the United Methodist Women meeting at 10 a.m. March 29 in the Family Life Center at First United Methodist Church of Richardson, 503 North Central Expressway.

Rumbley was head of the drama department at Dallas Baptist University for 12 years and served as single adult minister at First Baptist Church, Dallas for seven years. As an actress, she had had roles in the Dallas Summer Musicals and at Casa Manana in Fort Worth.

Refreshments will be served at 10 a.m., and the program will begin at 10:30 a.m. A collection will be taken to assist the C.C. Young Auxiliary fund-raising efforts to provide lifts for residents in health centers.

Order forms available for Caladium Sale

You can help support United Methodist Women missions and receive some beautiful caladiums for your yard. Many varieties are available, and order forms are located in the Information Center. All orders are due by March 30. For more information, call Meredith Zevallos at 214.263.3957.



Sign up for Travel Ministry Mystery Trip

The annual Travel Ministry Mystery Trip will be 7 a.m.-9 p.m. on Saturday, May 5. Don your detective's cap and get ready to do some sleuthing. The first clue: little-known juicy stories and historical gems of Texas.

The cost is \$75 per person and includes deluxe motorcoach transportation, lunch, entrance into sights, guide, escort, taxes and gratuities. Breakfast and dinner are on your own. Registration is due April 1 and is nonrefundable, but name changes are allowed until the day of departure.

This trip involves very little walking, and the dress is casual. Only 40 spaces are available, so register today by e-mailing Carolyn Corrigan at ccorrigan@upumc.org or calling 214.368.1435, ext. 101.

Easter egg hunt set for April 1

Bring your loved ones and join your church family for the 4th Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic on Palm Sunday, April 1, on the Colgate lawn following the 11 a.m. worship services.

All children through fifth grade are welcome to participate in the hunt. Bring 12 stuffed plastic eggs for each child who will participate to the Information Center desk before 10 a.m. on April 1.

You may bring your own picnic lunch or order a box lunch from Central Market. Order forms are available at the Information Center desk, and all orders are due by noon on March 28.

Shane Claiborne to speak at UPUMC

Shane Claiborne, author of "The Irresistible Revolution: Living As An Ordinary Radical," will speak at UPUMC at 7 p.m. April 9. Claiborne, a prominent activist and sought-after speaker, helped found The Simple Way, a community of faith in inner-city Philadelphia. Read more about him at www.thesimpleway.org.

Get your art ready for Member Art Exhibit

The Spiritual Arts Series Member Art Exhibit will be May 20, and submissions will be accepted April 15 through May 13. All mediums are welcome, and artists will need to submit, along with their art, a written explanation of how their art piece is a reflection of their faith. If you have questions, contact Tracy Hodges at 214.373.9830.

Register now for Vacation Bible School

Registration tables for Vacation Bible School will be open in the church hallway before and after this week's 11 a.m. worship services. Deadline to register is May 27.

This year's Vacation Bible School will be the week of June 11. Morning VBS will be 9 a.m. to noon, and a new extended day VBS will be offered from noon to 5:30 p.m. each day. The theme for this year is Lift Off: Soaring to New Heights with God.

Cost is \$35 per child for the morning session (\$100 maximum per family), and \$150 per child for both the morning and afternoon session.

VBS is open to all children who will be 4 years old by Sept. 1 (and to children of any age whose parents volunteer to help out). If interested, contact Kathy Dreyer at kathydreyer@sbcglobal.net or Dick Wilson at dwilson@upumc.org or 214.368.1435, ext. 146.

Get your UPUMC James Avery cross

Are you yet a proud owner of the UPUMC James Avery cross? This is a perfect gift for Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day or any occasion.

To purchase a cross, contact Candy at 214.841.0895.



Easter Lilies
for
the
Sanctuary

On Easter Sunday, April 8, the Altar Guild will sponsor the festive decoration of the church sanctuary with Easter lilies. The plants will be available to the donor following the 11 a.m. worship service.
The final day to order is Sunday, April 1.

Donor's Name _____
Donor's Phone _____
I am enclosing \$ _____ to provide _____ lily (lilies) at \$14 each.
In memory of _____
In honor of _____
I do I do not plan to pick up my plant(s) on Easter.