

University Park United Methodist News An Edition of The United Methodist Reporter

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UPUMC WORD

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

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UP-Dates

New Member Luncheon
12:15 p.m.
Sunday
Caldwell Room

An invitation to The Bridge by Alan Hamilton

Our congregation will soon embark on a new journey in faith.

The Bridge, a new addition to the worship service offerings of UPUMC, will launch Sunday, Feb. 25 at 11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The service will be diverse, welcoming and have a more relaxed, contemporary atmosphere.

The goal of The Bridge is not to take away – either in attendance or in emphasis – from our current traditional services. The vision is to reach out to our congregation and community and offer a service to people seeking to worship God in a different way.

The Bridge is not aimed at any particular age group. A common misconception is that alternate or contemporary services are designed for young adults ages 18-35. A good contemporary service will attract people of all ages and will challenge us to be a true intergenerational worshipping community.

View The Bridge service as our congregation's next step toward growing the Body of Christ, inviting those who seek a different experience to enter into worship, into relationship, into community and into membership with us in a new way.



What's for dinner? Pancakes!

There's still time to sign up to attend the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, which will be 6-8 p.m. Feb. 20 in Fellowship Hall and will feature music by The Bridge Band.

The dinner is sponsored by the Singles Ministry, and tickets are \$5 per person with a \$20 maximum. Register at the Information Center desk.

Proceeds benefit Project Transformation, a grassroots, faith-based nonprofit based in Oak Cliff. Project Transformation provides socially conscious leadership training and ministry exploration for youth adults, and it offers community-oriented programs for children and youth living in Dallas and surrounding low-income neighborhoods. Read more at www.projecttransformation.org.



2004 kitchen crew

Leslie Williams-Blum joins The Bridge team

UPUMC excitedly introduces Leslie Williams-Blum, the worship leader for The Bridge, the new contemporary worship service that will be each week at 11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall beginning Feb. 25.

Williams-Blum (pronounced "bloom") comes to UPUMC from Fellowship Bible Church Dallas, where she served as an assistant worship leader and young adults worship pastor for the past 10 years. While there, she helped prepare the weekly contemporary service and occasionally served as the primary worship leader. She also was previously the director of Trinity Christian Academy's theatre department, where she created sets, designed lighting and directed full-scale musicals.

She is an experienced vocalist, having sung backup for performers such as BJ Thomas and Collin Ray, as well as serving as the lead soloist at Fellowship Bible Church Dallas for six years. She has also arranged and produced her own CD.

She earned a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Baylor University, and she also studied at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Williams-Blum lives in Richardson with her husband, Matt. She teaches private lessons in voice, piano and guitar during the week and keeps part-time office hours at the church. To contact her, e-mail lblum@upumc.org or call 214.368.1435, ext. 106.



UPUMC offers three Ash Wednesday services

UPUMC, along with Christians around the world, begins the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21, with two services in the sanctuary at noon and 7 p.m. This service of repentance and commitment will include preaching by Rebecca Frank and the imposition of ashes on the worshippers' foreheads as a sign of our mortality and penitence.

There will be an Ash Wednesday Service for children and their families at 6:30 p.m. in the Caldwell Room. This is a short service to help children understand the beginning of Lent and to have ashes placed on them.

UPUMC follows the tradition that dates from at least the 12th Century of using ashes made from burning palm branches that were used as a part of the Palm Sunday procession the year before. They form a part of the continuing cycle of repentance and rebirth that defines this great Easter cycle of our worship life.

WORD IN THE Home

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Sunday, Feb. 18, 2007
The Last Sunday after the Epiphany
Transfiguration Sunday

Thomas Q. Robbins, *preaching*
 Scripture Lesson: II Corinthians 3:18
 Liturgist: Rebecca Frank

Music
8:30 a.m.

Anthem, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" arr. by Hal H. Hopson, sung by the Aldersgate Chorale

11 a.m.

Handbell Voluntary, "Toccata" by Michael Helman, played by the Joyful Sound Handbells.

Anthem, "The Heavens Are Telling" (from *The Creation*) by Franz Josef Haydn, sung by the Chancel Choir – JoNell Lindh, Ryan Lungwitz and John Carver, *soloists*.

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.

Full circle: A graduate's perspective on the Youth Center renovation

by Rex Alexander

Seven years. That's nearly one-third of my entire life. And for seven years, I spent almost every Sunday in the Youth Center at UPUMC. During that seven-year period, I made best friends, met mentors, traveled the country and, most importantly, developed my faith.

Six years. It's been nearly six years since I graduated from high school and graduated from the youth group at UPUMC. Life has changed a lot during these last six years. I've left Dallas, gone to college, graduated from college, come back to Dallas and joined the work force. By most definitions, I've grown up. And as a grown-up, I've had the great fortune of being able to work with an incredible group of youth and adults from our church currently raising money to renovate the Youth Center where I spent so many Sundays.

Over the past year, these youth and adults have given of their time and their talents to design, plan and prepare for a major renovation of our Youth Center. I've been fortunate to be able to sit in on several meetings with this dedicated group, and their excitement about this project is both contagious and well deserved.

Plans currently call for drastically improv-

ing the aesthetics, accessibility and possible uses of the Youth Center. And by committing to these renovations, our church is updating a space that will continue to enrich the lives and the spiritual development of the youth that use that space every week.

The seven years I spent in our church's youth center were the most formative years of my life. Because of the knowledge I gained, the friendships I made and the experiences I gathered within the walls of our Youth Center, I left for college strong in my faith and confident in myself.

The time I invested in our youth group paid personal and spiritual dividends that I still greatly benefit from today, and for that reason, I am incredibly excited to be able to give back to the Youth Center by giving in the *Extreme Makeover: Youth Center Edition* fund-raising campaign.

If you haven't had the chance to see the plans for the Youth Center renovation yet, I encourage you to take a look and to talk to our youth about the importance of the Youth Center in their lives. By investing in the Youth Center, we are investing in our youth. And I encourage each of you to make that investment with me.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

New members:



We welcome Burke and Karen Barclay, who joined Sunday, Feb. 11.

Baptism:



We rejoice with Mike and Kathryn Selby on the baptism of their daughter, Brynn Addison, on Sunday, Feb. 11. Also pictured is big sister Paige.

In the hospital as of Feb. 6:

Presbyterian Bob Lewis
 Dick Zumwalt

Visitors:

We welcomed 24 visitors on Feb. 4, including these Dallas-area first-time visitors:
 Sarah Ingham
 Laura Virtue
 Marcus Wentreck

Sympathy:

Our church family extends sincere sympathy and Christian love to the following people: Martha Squibb on the death of her mother, Mary Williams, on Feb. 6, for whom services were held Feb. 10; Keith Evans on the death of his mother, Martha Irene Evans, on Feb. 7, for whom services were held Feb. 9; and Rhett Miller on the death of his mother on Feb. 8, for whom services will be held Feb. 19 in Tallahassee, Fl.

Congratulations

Congratulations go to Martin and Karen Cude on the birth of their granddaughter, Sienna, on Feb. 9.

Help needed to lead Amigos Days

Someone with handyman-variety construction skills is needed to serve as construction leader for Amigos Days projects the last two weekends in April. We're doing

fix-up work, not building houses. You don't need to be an expert at construction. Contact Kristin Kelley at 214.801.9454 or luladybugs@aol.com.

Our commitment to UPUMC

Sunday collections	Worship attendance		
	8:30 a.m.	11 a.m.	
Feb. 4	\$ 30,161	178	379
Feb. 11	\$ 26,982	227	329
Feb. 18	\$ 0		
Feb. 25	\$ 0		
Total February \$ 57,143			

2006 Budget Year

Year to Date (as of 12/31/06):

Income	\$2,109,694
Expenses	<u>\$2,102,624</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 7,070

The above includes even application of prepaid pledges.

Finding a church for missionary kids

An update from the Rev. Wes Magruder in Cameroon, Africa

This morning, I preached to an unusual congregation ... the International Christian Church of Yaounde (ICCY). It's an interdenominational fellowship that meets in a second-floor conference room at the Hilton in downtown. We know most of the people at the church from Rachel's school.

When one of the elders discovered I was a preacher, they asked if I would occasionally come and preach. This Sunday was open, so I agreed to come and preach, *sans* interpreter! I loved the experience. It's a nice break to be able to preach to people who share the same cultural references.

The ICCY also happens to be the church that the girls usually attend on Sunday mornings, which brings up an interesting dilemma that many missionaries face - where to attend church!

Yes, we live in Cameroon, and our mission is to support, build up and even start United Methodist congregations in the country. We are missionaries to, and with, the people of Cameroon. For the first several months in-country, we dragged the

children along with us to our various United Methodist churches, in and out of the city. But they began to resist - and resent - the church experience. After all, going to church in Africa is a radically different event than in the States. The services can be extremely long; they are always in a foreign language; the weather can be unpleasantly hot and sticky; and children with blond hair become the focus of a lot of attention!

We talked to other missionaries about our dilemma, and they reported the same problem with their own children. We knew we would have to find one church to attend on a regular basis. But which church? Our Yaounde-area Methodist church, which was strictly French-speaking, and which the children found extremely uncomfortable? Or something else?

One other option was the international, English-language church at the Hilton.

We resisted this option for a while since it felt like we would be betraying the very people we had come to serve. Why would we want to separate ourselves on Sunday

mornings from the people we had come to serve?

But over time, we could tell that the children were learning to hate church. They began to cry and complain, no matter where we took them. It became quite a struggle to get them into the car!

So we made the decision to try the Hilton. It was an instant success. The kids loved their Sunday School classes, got to make new friends, and hear and sing some of their favorite praise and worship songs. Ever since we discovered the Hilton church, we go our separate ways on Sundays. I head to a United Methodist church, where I preach or serve Communion, while Leah and the girls head across town to the Hilton.

For now, it is the best way for our family to make sure that our kids are growing spiritually and finding Christian fellowship, even though it still seems a bit odd. But our prayer and hope is that as our churches grow and mature, our family will find its place in one of our own United Methodist churches so that we can be as supportive and helpful as possible.

Read more about Wes Magruder's experiences in Cameroon at preachpeace.blogspot.com.

Update on Helping Tiffany from Jody Lindh

We have been bowled over by the outpouring of support for our project to help Tiffany Roberts attend a month long course of study in Rome, Italy, this summer.

To date, more than \$5,000 has been contributed to send her on her way. This will entirely cover her course of study tuition, help with the round-trip air fare and even help with some expenses for

a vocal institute in upstate New York before boarding the plane for Rome.

What a great way to thank Tiffany for all she means to us. We thank everyone who has been so generous in supporting this project. Tiffany hopes to plan a "thank you" recital sometime after her return. Again, thank you to so many who have contributed to this cause.

Mission morsel

"We pray? Read Bible?" Ibrahim places the Bible on the desk in front of me. At morning devotions, a group gathers to read a few Bible verses, talk about them a little, and then pray. Ibrahim was raised Muslim and learned to read the Koran in Arabic when he was young. "Do you want to pray today?" I ask him. "My English no good," he says. "Pray in Krio [Creole]." I encourage him. He prays and I catch some words: "We tell ye tanki. Keep we from trouble. Keep we from accident." When he finishes, he has a big smile on his face. "Now day is good," he says and points up. "I with Him."

-Barbara Jacobsen, UM missionary, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Note: Through the United Methodist connectal system, we at UPUMC support all missionaries assigned through our General Board of Global Missions. - Kathy Johnson, minister of outreach

YOUTH STUFF

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

We will be continuing our dating series this week at Sunday Night Live. Don't forget to let Garth know if you can serve as a greeter at The Bridge. Here is what is coming up this week.

- Sunday**
4:30 p.m. Sunday Night Live (Club 345)
- Tuesday**
7 p.m. Spiritual Gifts Discovery (Rm. 263)
- Wednesday**
7 p.m. Jr. High Bible Study (Club 345)
7 p.m. Sr. High Bible Study (off-site)



Have a great week!

Help build The Bridge

Volunteers are needed for UPUMC's new contemporary worship service, The Bridge, which will be each Sunday at 11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall beginning Feb. 25. To volunteer in any of the areas below, contact Melanie Hoffman at 972.239.9292 or Rebecca Frank at 214.368.1435.

- Worship Coordinators
- Worship Aesthetics
- Technical Support/Media Experts
- Worship Liturgists
- Hospitality
- Prayer Support

THIS WEEK

- Sunday, Feb. 18**
 8:30a Worship Service
 8:45a Library Open
 9:45a Sunday School
Dare to Share
 11a Worship Service
 12:15p New Member Lunch
 Guatemala Team Interest Meeting
 Stephen Ministry Lunch
 3:15p New Generations
 Handbells
 4:15p Joyful Sound Handbells
 4:30p Sunday Night Live/Youth
 5p Children's Choirs
 Men's Covenant
 Womens' Covenant
 5:15p Women's Covenant
 6:00p Children's Chimes
 6:30p Confirmation
 Aldersgate Chorale

Monday, Feb. 19
Church Offices Closed - Holiday

- Tuesday, Feb. 20**
 7:30a Men's Covenant
 8:15a Women's Covenant
 9a Weekday School (T-F)
 2p Library Open
 6p Pancake Supper
 7p Women's Covenant
 Youth *Dare to Share*
 Administrative Council
 Staff Parish Relations

- Wednesday, Feb. 21**
 7a Men's Covenant
 8:30a Women's Covenant
 9:30a *Disciple 3**
 Parent/Child Music Class
 11:30a Women's Covenant
 12p Brown Bag Book Group
 Ash Wednesday Service*
 Parent/Child Music Class
 5:45p Wednesday Night Dinner
 6:30p Ash Wednesday for Children & Families
 Financial Freedom
 7p Ash Wednesday Service*
 Women's Covenant
 8p Chancel Choir

- Thursday, Feb. 22**
 7:30a Men's Covenant
 2p Library Open
 6p Stephen Ministry
 6:30p Stephen Ministry

- Friday, Feb. 23**
 7:30a Men's Covenant
 9:15a Women's Covenant
 12p Men's Covenant

* *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.*

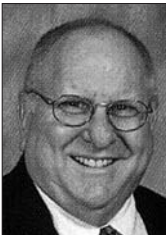
Help needed

Adults are needed to chaperone two youth mission trips in June. Adults with construction skills are helpful as we will be doing building work. Contact Robin Wilson at rwilson@upumc.org.

UPUMC NEWS and NOTES

Richard Hearne to speak to UMM

The United Methodist Men invite you to join them for a breakfast meeting at 8:30 a.m. Saturday in the Caldwell Room (Room 120). The speaker will be UPUMC's own Richard Hearne, who will talk about the Methodist Conference. Breakfast will be \$5 at the door. Reservations are helpful but not required. Call 972.733.5352 or e-mail mccombs@airmail.net.



Learn more about going to Guatemala

Thank you to all who attended last Sunday's Guatemala information meeting. The turnout was great, and the team happily added two new members.

If the thought of joining a UPUMC work team to go to Guatemala has ever crossed your mind, please join us at 12:15 p.m. Sunday in Room 229. A light lunch is provided.



This is an exciting opportunity to work alongside other brothers and sisters from the United Methodist Church.

Part of the team will provide medical services in villages near Chichicastenango, and part will form a construction team in connection with Guatemala Habitat for Humanity. The 10-day trip is July 5-16 and will have a per-person cost of \$600. A \$100 deposit is due by Feb. 25, and the remainder is due by May 15.

For more information about the trip or the question-and-answer sessions, contact Andrew Hamilton at 214.991.6453 or Hamyjunior@gmail.com. You can also learn more at the following Web site: www.guatemalavim.org.

Puppet show benefits Open Door Preschool

The Dallas Children's Theater presents Kathy Burks Theatre of Puppetry Arts in a performance of "Carnival of the Animals" at 4:30 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Rosewood Center for Family Arts, Dallas Children's Theater, 5938 Skillman (at Northwest Highway).

The Kathy Burks Theatre of Puppetry Arts is the Metroplex's premiere troupe of professional puppeteers. The show is appropriate for all ages, and tickets are \$25 (with \$10 from each ticket being donated). To purchase tickets, contact Sharon Christen at 214.369.9323 or Norma Matthews at 214.827.1047. For more information about Open Door Preschool, visit www.opendoorpreschool.org.

UMW Meeting features Methodist pioneer

Please join the United Methodist Women for their General Meeting at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 26 in the Caldwell Room to hear Bill Bryan as he portrays the pioneer Texas Methodist, David Ayres, in his one-man show.

William (Bill) Jennings Bryan III was appointed director of the Intern Program and Professional Formation at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in January 1998. As pastor and associate pastor in the North Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, he has served county seat, suburban, inner city and regional churches for 21 years. He is the current chairman of Archives and History for the North Texas Annual Conference and is a member of Leadership Dallas.

Bryan graduated from Rice University with a bachelor's degree in history in 1974. He earned a Master of Theology in 1977 and a Doctor of Ministry in 1986 from Perkins School of Theology at SMU. He is married to Corinne, a certified public accountant, and they have two children: Catherine is on staff at First United Methodist Church of Dallas, and Christopher is a student at the University of North Texas.

Lunch will follow the meeting. Please register for lunch in your circle or call the church at 214.368.1435 and ask to be put on the sign-up sheet.

Childcare is available with 72 hours advance notice by calling 214.368.1435 ext. 325. Leave the names and ages of the children needing childcare.

Boy Scouts open house coming soon

Boy Scout Troop 72 would like to invite all fourth-grade boys who are interested in scouting to come to its open house at 7 p.m. Feb. 26 in Fellowship Hall.

Troop 72 has been in existence since 1946 and has a history of success exemplified by its more than 200 Eagle Scouts. With approximately 60 scouts, the troop is just the right size to provide significant leadership opportunities as well as a broad array of merit badge opportunities in a friendly, supportive environment.

Boys must bring at least one parent with them to the meeting, which will consist of information about scouting and Troop 72 as well as the opportunity to visit one of the troop's regular meetings in progress. For more information, contact Scoutmaster Ray Clapp at 214.477.6442 or rmclapp@earthlink.net.



Good books and good conversation

The UPUMC Book Club will meet to discuss a new book at noon on Feb. 28 in Room 235. Bring your lunch and participate in an insightful discussion about "Life of the Beloved (About Spiritual Living in a Secular World)" by Henry J. M. Nouwen. The book is available for purchase at the Information Center desk for \$13.50. For more information on the Book Club, contact Linda Taylor at lataylor_tx@yahoo.com.

Attention seniors at UPUMC

The computer program for seniors is about to go into the **Recycle Bin!** If we can not get participants for either one or both of the classes by Feb. 28, we will **Close all Windows and Portals and Click on Shut Down.** Call Jim Lewis for details at 214.692.0641.

Two dates available for flower memorials

One wonderful way to remember someone special is to provide flowers for Sunday services in his or her name. We have two dates available: April 22 and 29. To order or to get more information, contact Chrys Franklin at 214.368.3992.

Get your UPUMC James Avery cross

Candy Hearne has received a new shipment of the UPUMC James Avery crosses, a perfect gift for Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day or any occasion.

UPUMC commissioned James Avery Craftsman to create the cross in 1989 to celebrate the church's 50th anniversary. It was re-released just prior to the 60th anniversary with the inscription, "UPUMC est. 1939" engraved on the back. The cost is \$60, chain not included.

To purchase a cross, contact Candy at 214.841.0895.



MDMC Hat Sale & Country Fair is March 23

The Methodist Dallas Medical Center Hat Sale & Country Fair is Friday, March 23, at David Hitt Auditorium. Please leave donated items in the box in the Information Center or call Karen Cude for pick up at 214.526.5009. Hats, toys, accessories, jewelry, designer and better items, glassware, pictures, dishes, household items, books, collectibles all are welcome.

Make your deposit for 2007 Women's Retreat

Register now for the 2007 Women's Retreat, which will be Nov. 9-11 at the Prothro Center at Lake Texoma. Put your \$25 deposit (made out to UPUMC and marked "2007 Women's Retreat") in an envelope for Marilyn Hamilton and leave it at the Information Center.