

CURTAIN CALL



The Aldersgate Chorale has completed the *Final Act* tour. See more photos on page 4.

Reflections from departing friends

Jeff McCormick, formerly director of Connecting Ministries, and Jessica Nelson of Children's Ministries, wished to share the following thoughts upon their departures from UPUMC.



It's hard to believe that it's been almost three years since I began my ministry at UPUMC and the overriding feeling I have is gratitude. I'm incredibly grateful for everyone who has supported me on this journey.

I came to UPUMC as an intern finishing my degree at Perkins School of Theology and through the help of my internship committee learned so much about ministry and myself. I want to give a huge thanks to my entire internship committee, especially the chair of that committee, Pam Bush.

After graduating, I was pleased to come back and work full time at the church. Thanks to all the staff for being wonderful colleagues in ministry. I especially want to thank Rev. Rebecca Frank, who has been a wonderful mentor and friend.

I will always hold a piece of UPUMC in my heart. As my wife, Sarah, and I start new ministries and careers in Nashville, Tenn., we will always remember the people of UPUMC.

We will remember UPUMC because it is there that I learned so much about ministry and learned more about who God is calling me to be (as God is continually calling us all). I will pray for you all and hope for a bright future. Continue to dream big, make room for growth—always looking for ways to bring in other people, and allow God to guide you in all that you do.

Last, Paul's words to the Philippians are words that I will carry with me and I hope that you will carry with you as we leave each other:

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let
See "Reflections," page 4

FRUITS OF RETREAT: growing closer to God and church community

By Melissa Cuellar

Last weekend, the Young Adult group made our second annual trip to lovely Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville, Ark., for a retreat filled with work and reflection.

For me, it was a perfect weekend that gave me an opportunity to become closer to God and closer to our church group. Mt. Sequoyah has been a United Methodist retreat and conference center for around 80 years. Being there, we could see why this place has remained an ideal location for a spiritual retreat. The mountain is a peaceful, beautiful and mystical place.

For the past two years, we've been very lucky to be able to take advantage of what Mt. Sequoyah has to offer, while also helping improve the grounds so that they can be available for retreat groups for years to come.

This year, for our work portion of the trip, we leveled dirt around a circle of newly laid road and planted some grass seeds. While the task may sound simple, digging dirt all day in the heat can sure wear you out! For me, there is little more satisfying than putting in an honest day's work all to honor God.

See "Retreat," page 5



On the Road Family Camp 5A



Building update 5A

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP, 8:45 and 11 a.m.
Services led by the Rev. Leighton Bearden

July 4: "Grace and the Wounded"
Luke 10:25-37

July 11: "A Surprising Guest List"
Luke 14:15-24

THE BRIDGE WORSHIP, 11 a.m.
Services led by the Rev. Rebecca Frank
Sermon series: *The Balanced Life*

"In God We Trust! Faith in the Land of Fear"
James 1:5-8

"Encouragement in the Hard Times"
James 1:2-4, 5:7-11

REFLECTIONS

Continued from page 1
 your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." – Philippians 4:4-7



It is with both sadness and hopeful anticipation that I am leaving UPUMC. As the final step of my Masters of Divinity program at Perkins School of Theology, I will be

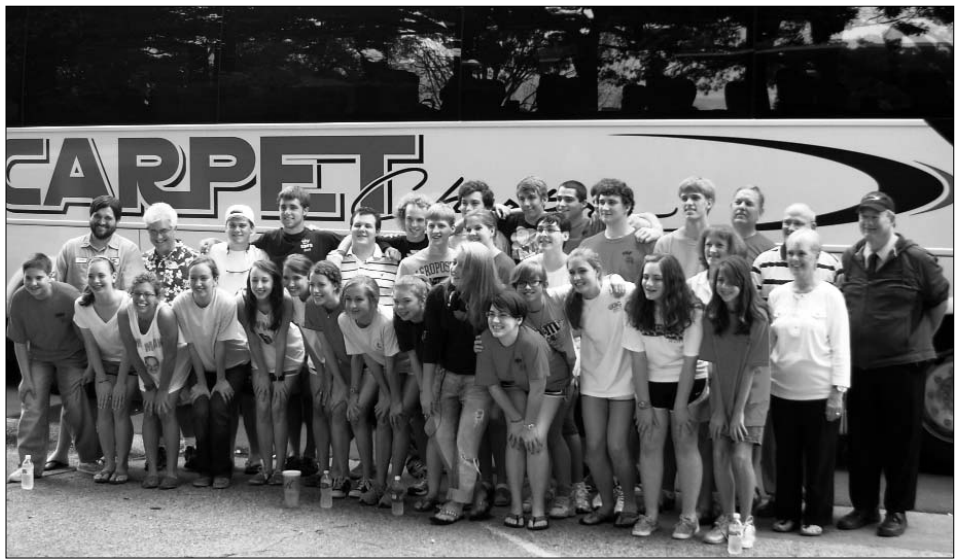
serving as intern associate pastor at First United Methodist Church in Boulder, Colo.

The Rocky Mountain Conference is at the forefront of implementing Liberation Theology and social justice into the liturgical and social practices of the United Methodist Church. I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to work in this environment that shows such potential for the renewal in the United Methodist Church.

During my years here it has been wonderful to watch the children grow in their faith. They have taught me so much about the love of God. The Children's Ministry is on a wonderful path and being a part of that has provided learning experiences that I will carry with me into many future endeavors.

I am thankful for my years here and wish UPUMC all the best as you journey down the path of growth and change that is ahead.

Youth choir wraps 'Final Act'



They're back! The Aldersgate Chorale returned home to UPUMC this past Sunday to give their homecoming performance of *Final Act*.

The youth choir had toured with the musical on a journey that took them to New York and Washington, D.C., with performances in Little Rock, Baltimore, Greensboro, Birmingham and Shreveport.

The homecoming performance on Sunday marked Music Ministries Director Jody Lindh's 21st youth choir tour.

Save a seat for the Biltmore House and Gardens excursion

Join the UPUMC Travel Ministry for our holiday excursion to the spectacular Biltmore Estate, America's largest home and one of the largest holiday displays in the country.

More than 250,000 visitors see this home during the Christmas season and we hope you will be among the guests to tour this breathtaking mansion!

In addition to the magnificent Biltmore, we'll visit destinations around Atlanta such as Coca-Cola World, the Martin Luther King Center, Centennial Olympic Park and the Cyclorama &

Civil War Museum.

This three-night/four-day excursion will be filled with fellowship, sights and food. Our group will depart Dallas via Delta Airlines at 7 a.m. Monday, Nov. 29, and will return at 8:25 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2.

A \$50 non-refundable deposit by Sept. 30 will hold your seat. Full payment of \$975 is due by Nov. 1. Cost is per person, double occupancy.

For more information, call the Rev. Larry Ravert or Wynn Moore at 214.368.1435.

Summer schedule for church paper

The UP Word will publish every three weeks throughout the summer.

If you have photos or church news for the paper, please submit it according to this schedule: deadline of July 16 for July 23 issue; and deadline of Aug. 6 for Aug. 13 issue.

E-mail materials to Carolyn Washburn at cwashburn@upumc.org.

Our biweekly publishing schedule will resume with the Sept. 3 issue.

Blog has updates on building renovation



What's new with our summer renovation? One major element, asbestos abatement, has been completed. Workers are now tackling plumbing, electrical work and drywall in the education wing.

Additionally, the playground area is closed. Workers are drilling in this area in order to create a below-ground entrance to the boiler room, and to install a line for the water sprinklers used in case of fire.

We'll be posting additional updates and photos regularly on the renovation at the church blog, www.upumc.wordpress.com. So when you see something around the church building and wonder what's happening, just go to the blog to find out.

Buckle up! Families are bound for Lake Texoma



Join us for On the Road Family Camp, a spirit-driven weekend camp for the whole family held July 16-18 at Tanglewood Resort on Lake Texoma.

We'll begin by having dinner together at Tanglewood Friday night, followed by a family-friendly worship. Those who want to stay up can play games together in our meeting room, swim at the pools, play on the play-

grounds, or sing along for karaoke. Rooms will be ready for those wanting to rest.

Saturday morning, join us for breakfast and worship. After worship, there will be an opportunity to work on a family project in the meeting room. There also will be time for swimming and playing.

After lunch, the time is yours. Do crafts, work on your family project, play games or swim. For dinner, we are having an outdoor pizza party near the pools. S'mores will be the desert of choice followed by worship and then some family games outside.

Sunday, we will have worship and a brunch before heading back to the city. This will be a fun-filled, family-centered weekend. We hope you can take part!

Register online at www.upumc.org/familycamp. The camp is \$200 per family or \$50 per individual (includes two-night stay, all meals and activities). Contact the Rev. Rachel Baughman at rbaughman@upumc.org for more information.

RETREAT

Continued from page 1

As a token of gratitude for our hard work, the lovely people at Mt. Sequoyah let us jump in their pool at the end of the day (note: none of us brought swimsuits so we swam in our dirty shorts and T-shirts.) That was pretty satisfying, too! Even though I was a little tired and sore the next day, I felt very blessed to be able to do my part in improving beautiful Mt. Sequoyah. In fact, this week is Bishop's Week, Mt. Sequoyah's busiest of the year, so I know the work we did will have an immediate impact.

Aside from work, this retreat was also about turning inward and listening for God in our lives. Blair Thompson put together a wonderful devotional guide based off of Celtic liturgy that we all participated in together. We also broke off into small groups to delve further into the themes of the liturgy and to study and discuss scriptures.

As we talked, many of us realized we were at a sort of starting line in our lives. We are starting new jobs or positions at work, moving to new homes, moving forward in school, or, for me, beginning a marriage. It's very exciting, but also daunting to realize that the decisions we make now will affect so many down the road.

But a weekend like this, where we are given the opportunity to be closer to God and our church community, is what we all needed to give us some valuable perspective.

We had so many moments to be still and

listen to God - either through the natural symphony being provided by the birds, insects, and frogs of Mt. Sequoyah, or through the thoughtful insights on scripture and faith from our peers.

Through events like this, our Young Adult group grows stronger by the year. Last weekend we prayed together, worked together, worshiped together, ate (a lot) together, and laughed (a WHOLE lot) together.

Two moments from the weekend in particular are very meaningful to me. During our devotion on Saturday evening, we all recited aloud a variation of Wesley's covenant prayer, then each lit a candle and gathered them together. It was very special to hear everyone in the group make that promise. Also, seeing all our candles glowing together reminded me that our group is here to hold each other up as well as hold each other accountable to that promise.

The second such moment came later that night. As we were making s'mores by the campfire and watching a lighting storm in the distance (gorgeous!), Larry, the groundskeeper at Mt. Sequoyah who had been our supervisor during our work project, came over and started playing his fiddle for us. That moment was so serene and still and so unlike most moments in our busy lives. I felt then connected in so many ways - to Mt. Sequoyah and all who had enjoyed it for so many years, to our church group as we all sat still and listened, and to God who reveals His

love and joy in the simplest of ways.

Melissa Cuellar is a member of UPUMC.



Summer speakers for July

Our Summer Speakers Series, open to all and sponsored by the Cooper School of Discipleship, continues at 9:45 Sunday mornings through August. Come, and be inspired and challenged! Below, our guests for July:

July 4: *How Cheap Grace Distorts Patriotism*

Bishop John Wesley Hardt

"This is one of the most remarkable men of grace and intellect you'll ever have the opportunity to meet," says our pastor, Leighton Bearden. Bishop Hardt is Bishop-in-Residence Emeritus at Perkins School of Theology.



July 11: *Love Letters from India*

Colleen Brinkmann of North Texas Food Bank

Colleen Townsley Brinkmann lives out her faith daily in her position as Chief Philanthropy Officer for the North Texas Food Bank. Some of you will remember Colleen's father, the Rev. Hendrix Townsley, who was an associate pastor here at UPUMC after his missionary service in India.



July 18: *Surveying the American Worship Scene Through Third World Eyes*

Rev. John Thornburg of A Ministry of Congregational Singing

John Thornburg will share his experiences in developing a hymnal/worship book for the Church in Cameroon. Rebecca Frank says, "We have sung some of his hymns in worship, and we will be blessed by his story of bringing encouragement through music to the people of Cameroon."



July 25: *Job: Will the Real God Step Up?*

Dr. John Holbert of Perkins School of Theology

Few people in the world can make the Old Testament come alive the way John Holbert can. Leighton says, "I can almost quote word for word some of his lectures from seminary in 1980. He was so captivating and has a way of drawing the listener's imagination into the ancient stories of faith." John is the Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics at Perkins School of Theology.



UPUMC NEWS AND NOTES

July mission: School supplies

Throughout July, we'll collect school supplies for the Wesley-Rankin Community Center. Supply list includes: clear backpacks, markers, spiral notebooks, pockets/folders, construction paper, pencils, three-ring binders, 12-count colored pencils, first-grade tablets, pencil sharpeners, pencil pouches/boxes, crayons, scissors, 12-inch rulers, glue sticks, bottled glue, large erasers, notebook paper, index cards, calculators and flash drives. Bring donations to the Children's Welcome area.

Missions for youth this month

Youth members are invited to do crafts, read and play with the kids at The Family Place on Thursday, July 8. Meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. and we'll be back by noon. On Monday, July 12, we'll read and do crafts with the children at Dallas Bethlehem Center. Meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. and we'll be back by 11:30 a.m. On Monday, July 19, we'll have a party at Pump It Up with children who are newly relocated refugees. Meet at the church at 12:30 p.m. and we'll be back by 3:30 p.m. For more information, contact Neil Moseley, nmoseley@upumc.org, or Hillary Barnard, hbarnard@upumc.org.

Church offices closed July 5

Church offices will be closed on Monday, July 5, in observance of the Fourth of July holiday. Happy Independence Day to all!

July sermon series: *The Balanced Life*

Sometimes life gets so busy, with so many demands pulling us in so many directions, and so many voices telling us where to go, what to do, and who to be. So, how do we stay centered (and sane!)? How do we find and keep our balance? This month in The Bridge, we'll be exploring the God-centered balanced life.

July 4: *In God We Trust! Faith in the Land of Fear*; James 1:5-8

July 11: *Encouragement in the Hard Times*; James 1:2-4, 5:7-11

July 18: *When More is Less and Less is More*; James 1:9-11

July 25: *What Matters Most? The Power of Word and Action*; James 1:19-26

WELCOME REPORT

New member



Welcome to Marie Fuhrken, who joined June 27 by transfer from her church in Watertown, New York.

PRAYERS

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

Birth - Sebastian Roger Bruce Karnes, son of Tyler and Avery Karnes, on June 6.

Hospital/Rehabilitation - Jo Yancy Hale • Joyce Hill • Patsy Crowell

Prayers - Allen Maxwell • Charlotte Webb • the Flowers family, friends of Hillary Barnard • Heidi Lindh • Martha Ann Adams, sister of John Jackson • Robert Mathis, father of Karissa Luckett • Ron Kerr • Terri Conway, niece of Keith Karnes • Vivian Meachum, daughter of Eloise and Robert Meachum, a family in the community • Willis Cowlshaw

Long-term Prayers - Betty Lang, stepmother of Joe Lang • Bill Barker • Bob Shaw • Carrie Gray, sister-in-law of Dan Gray • Charlie Hahn,

husband of Joyce Tucci Hahn • Cindy Lindley, friend of Rita Smullin • Claudia Vick, friend of Kathy Kruegar • Fred Conshafter, father of Todd Conshafter • Gary Isaacs • Jack Titus • James Grant, brother of Laurie Lang • Jarvis Goree, nephew of Constance Harp • Rev. Jim Olney, cousin of Marcia and Dick Wilson • Jimmy Williams, father of Leslie Blum • Joann Nelson, sister of Iris Lewis • Kim Anboubia • Mary Alice Williams and Pat Haywood, sisters of Virginia Wiley • Wanda Knight, sister of Blue Harris and aunt of Paige Flink

Deaths - Donald Kirk Enoch, father of Dawn Moore and grandfather of Brett, Clair and Brooke, on June 24. Service was held June 29 in Wichita, Kansas • Lovell Baker, mother of George Baker and grandmother of Paige and Evan, on June 27. Service is scheduled for 1 p.m. on July 3 at the church.