



# University Park WORD

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UNIVERSITY PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## Stewardship in Motion: Quarterly update from the Finance Committee

### YOUR FAITH AT WORK Guatemala Mission Trip

Once again, the church is supporting the mission work of the United Methodist Church in Guatemala. This year's team will be the fifth to travel there as a result of your financial support. While each member does contribute to their personal travel costs (primarily airfare), the church covers the additional requirements of lodging, meals and costs associated with the mission through budget and special gifts.

This year, our team will be traveling from July 31-Aug. 7 to help with construction on one (maybe two!) homes. There is a long waiting list for homes in the surrounding area of Lake Atitlan. The construction need is just one of the long-term needs where our congregation continues to support and partner with other visiting teams in Guatemala as we respond to Christ's message to love and care for those in need.

### FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

There has been an increase in the number of members/families who submitted pledges for our annual stewardship campaign. Pledges help our church staff and Finance Committee to be able to forecast planned giving against budget needs. While we have seen an increase in 2009 from 248 pledges to 323 in 2010, we are continuing to experience a shortfall in our overall contributions.

As of June 30, 2010, our church budget is currently behind in revenue (incoming tithes and offerings) by \$118,294. We currently project that we may have a potential shortfall of approximately \$200,000 by the end of the year. Why is there such a gap between incoming revenue against expenses and project expenses?

Our 2010 budget increase was primarily due to added staffing for our youth and children's ministry  
See "Stewardship," page 5

## NEW VIEW



New windows in the first and second floors of the education wing are the latest addition made during our renovation. See more photos on Page 8.

## MISSION MATTERS: Share the gift of learning



**Did you know...?**  
Wesley-Rankin Community Center has served the diverse West Dallas community for over 75 years with programs that reach chil-

dren, youth, adults, and families. This ministry is committed to fostering a caring, supportive community striving to face challenges with hope and grace.

Mi Escuelita Preschool is a vital service for low-income families that offers education and day care to children 3-5. Children and parents

receive the social education building blocks needed to make a healthy family and a better community. Call 469.364.8849 for more information.

An elementary after-school and summer program serves grades 1-5 with spiritual, educational and recreational activities. The children

participate in healthy-living classes, exercise, and even have an opportunity to tend their own garden. In all these programs, children learn a respect for self and others.

And that's why...we're asking everyone to bring school supplies through the end of July! When you  
See "Mission," page 4



Letters of appreciation

4A



Sweet opportunity to benefit Guatemala trip

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### TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

**July 25:** 8:45 a.m. - *The Balanced Life: "Body Language,"* James 1:19-27; the Rev. Rebecca Frank 11 a.m. - Dr. John Holbert, preaching

**Aug. 1:** 8:45 and 11 a.m. - "Heroes of the Faith," Hebrews 11:29-12:2, the Rev. Leighton Bearden

**Aug. 8:** 8:45 a.m. - "Prayers and Promises," Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, the Rev. Rebecca Frank 11 a.m. - Bishop Earl Bledsoe, preaching

### THE BRIDGE WORSHIP, 11 a.m.

*The Balanced Life: "What Matters Most? The Power of Word and Action,"* James 1:19-26, the Rev. Rebecca Frank

"What's in Your Backpack?," Luke 12:13-34, the Rev. Rachel Baughman

"Prayers and Promises," Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, the Rev. Rebecca Frank

## Youth choir tour's 'Final Act' touched hearts

*The youth choir tour in June was a joyous experience for many. Below, we share a few of the messages of appreciation from the many received during and after the tour of 'Final Act.'*

Thank you so much for your performance. My husband Bill, daughter Amy, and I were touched by the presentation of God's Word and the enthusiasm and talent of each performer.

I couldn't help but be especially proud of "my" Highland Park ISD students. Great job, everyone!

May God bless each of you as you grow in his grace and continue to use your gifts to bring glory and honor to Christ, our Savior.  
Gratefully,  
Karen Zukoski



I was blessed to attend your performance at our church. What a wonderful production and such a great message! I am thinking of you as you travel to share your talents.

So many good voices – "Mary" and "Pilate" were outstanding and we also liked "Gabriel."

I hope that you can return to Huntington in the future.

Sincerely,  
Donna Griffith

We at First UMC in Huntington, WV, would like to thank you so much for the exceptional experience of your musical based on the liturgy of the mass.

What a joyful evening. God bless you all and do come see us again.

Pat Thabit

We attended the presentation of 'FINAL ACT' performed by your Aldersgate Chorale at Bethany United Methodist Church in Ellicott City, MD.

It was certainly an uplifting experience. We were so impressed by the energy, enthusiasm, and talent of your Chorale members — they and the leaders accompanying them are terrific ambassadors for your programs and teachings at University Park Methodist Church.

In addition, we had the pleasure of hosting two of the Chorale members, John Jenkins and Will Popsick. What fine young men — true credits to their parents and to your church community.

Please accept the enclosed donation for The Aldersgate Chorale as our appreciation for their ministry.

Thank you for sharing your faith with others with this wonderful musical based on the liturgy of the mass. We hope you continue this for many years.

Sincerely,  
Mike and Rosemary Noble



## Chill out with pals at August youth retreat

Join us for the UPUMC Youth Back-to-School Retreat Aug. 13-15. The retreat is open to youth entering grades 6-12.

Meet at the church in the parking lot at 5:30 p.m. on Friday and we will return at noon on Sunday.

This weekend is a time for us to hang out before school starts. There will be great food, music and lots of water games. Bring your friends!

Cost is \$65. Register and pay online at [www.upumc.org/back-to-school](http://www.upumc.org/back-to-school). After registering, you will receive an e-mail with more information.



**UPUMC**  
YOUTH

## MISSION

Continued from page 1  
purchase school supplies for your own kids or grandkids, or when you walk by that aisle in the store, please share the gift of learning with the kids of West Dallas.

The 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. Place your donations in the wooden bin in the Children's Welcome area.

### Opportunities to love the world with God!

#### Looking ahead:

Oct. 9 and 10: Breakfast at Austin Street Centre

Oct. 9 (prepare) and Oct. 10 (serve). If you've never served at Austin Street Centre, please con-

sider this! You can help prepare the meal on Saturday, and/or serve the breakfast bright and early on Sunday morning (well, it's not that bright at 4:30 a.m., but it's early!).

To participate, please contact Janie Henderson ([jhhwth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jhhwth@sbcglobal.net)). We'll arrange a visit to ASC sometime in late September for this group of participants so that we can learn more about the ministry of Austin Street before we arrive in October.

### Save the date! Women's mission retreat

Save the date, and mark your calendar! Oct. 28-31, we'll travel to Heifer Farm, one of Heifer International's working farms and teaching villages, for a weekend of serving, learning, and growing. This experience is open to women of all ages. Watch this space for details, and save your spot by contacting me at [rfrank@upumc.org](mailto:rfrank@upumc.org).

*The Rev. Rebecca Frank is senior associate pastor and oversees missions at University Park UMC.*

## SAVE THE DATE! Opening Doors celebration in September



Come celebrate all that God is doing in the life of UPUMC during the Opening Doors celebration on Sept. 26!

All are invited to join the fun as we give tours of the newly renovated education wing, and enjoy a cookout and other activities. Invite friends and join your church family for good food, good fun and good fellowship on Sept. 26. Watch for more details in the paper and at [www.upumc.org](http://www.upumc.org).

# QUARTERLY UPDATE

Continued from page 1 programs; and planned debt servicing associated with our construction loan.

Our church staff has done an excellent job controlling cost. Expenses are within budget and through mid-year have helped to off-set the revenue short-fall.

Our program budgets are lean and our ministry areas have performed amazing work within their budgeted amounts. Budget underruns include such areas as salaries and benefits, program expense, occupancy and maintenance and administrative expense.

As of June 30, revenues are currently 11 percent under expected receipts while expenses are tracking 10 percent under budget. See chart below.

*Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have.* 2Corinthians 8:12 (New Living Translation)

## Generation to Generation Building Campaign

Gifts from the Generation to Generation Campaign continue to support our building activities. Below is an overview of pledges and expenses paid to date. Note that pledges were for a three year period from January 2009 through December 2011.

Pledges received to date equal 328, which represent a total pledged amount

of \$6,736,394. Pledge gifts received through June 30 this year are equal to \$4,013,342 which represents 60 percent of the total amount pledged.

Pledged giving for the Generation to Generation campaign is on track – thank you for your faithfulness in meeting your pledge!

## FINANCIAL MILESTONES AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Please continue to support the church through your prayers. We will continue to keep you updated on our financial condition during this exciting time. God is doing amazing things through UPUMC!

## About Stewardship in Motion

This quarterly update explains how your tithes and offerings are being used by University Park United Methodist Church to further the kingdom of God.

The Finance Committee serves as the stewards of your tithes and offerings. We work in partnership with our finance department, staff and other church committees to assist with budget development and management. We ensure that there is accountability with how funds are used and that controls are in place to protect what you entrust to the church.

If you have questions that you'd like addressed in a future update, please send an e-mail to Yvette LaCroix at [yvette0124@yahoo.com](mailto:yvette0124@yahoo.com).

# Sweet opportunity to support UPUMC Guatemala mission

"Now that you've taken the bread, what are you going to do?" writes Sara Miles in her book *Take this Bread*. She reminds us that we who have been fed must feed others. There is a connection between communion and mission; the bread that we receive in church moves us out to be the bread of Christ for the world.

So as Miles says, "go out and, you know, be Jesus," and support others as they go out too.

This Sunday, July 25, you're invited to support our team going to Guatemala. Stop by the table near Fellowship Hall, meet our team, and show your support by picking up a prayer and some of Fred Christen's famous cinnamon rolls for \$5.

Enjoy this sweet bread throughout the week and remember to keep those breaking bread with the people of Guatemala in your prayers. Bound for Guatemala are: Donna Bearden, Carrie Campbell, Tricia Carroll, Rebecca Frank, Melanie Hoffman, Stephanie Master, Greg Porray, Jennifer Stevens, Blair Thompson, Rich White, and Diana Wilson

Don't miss this sweet opportunity to support our team!

## Summer outings

In June, UPUMC youth volunteered with Project Transformation's reading program. Get more information on youth activities at [www.upumcyouth.org](http://www.upumcyouth.org).



| Budget as of June 30, 2010 |             |             |  |               |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|--|---------------|
|                            | YTD Actual  | YTD Budget  | Difference between YTD Actual and Budget | Annual Budget |
| Total Revenues             | \$1,037,331 | \$1,155,624 | (\$118,294)                              | \$2,427,409   |
| Total Expenses             | \$1,108,757 | \$1,226,264 | (\$117,507)                              | \$2,427,409   |
| Net Total                  | (\$71,426)  | (\$70,640)  | (\$787)                                  | \$0           |

# A WEEKEND OF FAMILY FUN AND FELLOWSHIP



A dozen families enjoyed the On the Road Family Camp held at Lake Texoma in July. They played and worshipped together during this spirit-filled weekend. From left: singing around the campfire, Nathan Gray and his hula hoop, and Mary Elizabeth Porray and Eloise Wilcox.



## Guest speakers coming soon

Our Summer Speakers Series, open to all and sponsored by the Cooper School of Discipleship, continues at 9:45 Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall. Some of our guests also will preach at the 11 a.m. traditional services in addition to their 9:45 presentations.

Come, and be inspired and challenged! Below, our guests through early August:

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

#### Dr. John Holbert of SMU's Perkins School of Theology

Few people in the world can make the Old Testament come alive the way John Holbert can. Our pastor, Leighton Bearden, 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." He is the Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics at Perkins School of Theology. Dr. Holbert also will preach at the 11 a.m. traditional service.



### Aug. 1: *Can the Church Learn from Business?*

#### Fiona Butts of Southwest Airlines

Fiona Butts is a champion of performance management in her position directing talent development at Southwest Airlines. Fiona also has served on the Strategic Planning Committee for the North Texas Annual Conference. She is married to the Rev. Wally Butts who serves at Cornerstone UMC, Garland.



### Aug. 8: *A Vision for the Churches of North Texas*

#### Bishop Earl Bledsoe of the North Texas Conference

Bishop Earl Bledsoe is our bishop. Bishop Bledsoe came in 2008 to serve as spiritual leader for the 300 Methodist churches in North Texas. We are honored to have him preach at the 11 a.m. traditional service in addition to his 9:45 a.m. presentation.



Bishop Bledsoe served as a pastor and district superintendent in the Houston area for nearly 30 years prior to his election as a Bishop in 2008. We hope you will take this wonderful opportunity to meet the Bishop Bledsoe and Leslie!

## Renovation wraps in August



Windows have been installed, and additional improvements are on track to be completed as scheduled in August. Visit our blog ([www.upumc.wordpress.com](http://www.upumc.wordpress.com)) for additional photos and updates on our building renovation

And mark your calendar for Sept. 26 – that's when we'll invite everyone in the community to join us for a cookout and tours of the renovated building.



## UPUMC NEWS AND NOTES

### Youth invited to Mission Mondays

Youth members are invited to do crafts, read and play with the kids at Dallas Bethlehem Center on Monday, Aug. 2. Meet at the church at 11:30 a.m. and we'll be back by 2:30 p.m. For more information, contact Neil Moseley, [nmoseley@upumc.org](mailto:nmoseley@upumc.org), or Hillary Barnard, [hbarnard@upumc.org](mailto:hbarnard@upumc.org).

### Family Movie Night

Everyone is invited to a screening of *Wall-E* on Aug. 7 at the Studio Movie Grill on Royal and Central at 4 p.m. Bring money to order your family's dinner while you sit back and enjoy the movie. Contact Rachel Baughman for more information or register online at [www.upumc.org/children](http://www.upumc.org/children) by Aug. 2.

### Blood drive on Aug. 29

Our next quarterly blood drive will be at the church on Sunday, Aug. 29. Please consider donating – it is a simple way to help save a life! Carter BloodCare will take donations from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Contact Andrew Hamilton ([hamyjuniorgmail.com](mailto:hamyjunior@gmail.com)) for information.

### Upcoming journeys for Travel Ministry

Join the UPUMC Travel Ministry for our holiday excursion Nov. 29-Dec. 2 to the spectacular Biltmore Estate for 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! We'll also visit other destinations around Atlanta. Our next day trip will be to the State Fair of Texas on Oct 7. For details, call the Rev. Larry Ravert or Wynn Moore at 214.368.1435.

## PRAYERS

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

**Births** - Owen Hans Lindh on July 9, son of Eric and Heidi Lindh, little brother to Isaac and Clara, and grandson to Jody and JoNell Lindh • Vivian Claire Lemke on July 12, daughter of Brett and Ilana Lemke and little sister to Ryland.

**Hospital/Rehabilitation** - Joyce Hill • Linda Durbin • Patsy Crowell

**Prayers** - Allen Maxwell • Amy Steele, friend of Sandy Boutte • Christy Lederer Levy, daughter of Anne Pierce • Freda McQueen • Jo Yancy Hale • Martha Ann Adams, sister of John Jackson • Sandy O'Brien, cousin of Carolyn Washburn • 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 • Charlotte Webb • 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 Anbouba • Mary Alice Williams and Pat Haywood, sisters of Virginia Wiley • Vivian Meachum, daughter of Eloise and Robert Meachum • Wanda Knight, sister of Blue Harris and aunt of Paige Flink

**Deaths** - Juanita Massey on July 12. Service was held July 15 • Robert Flink, father-in-law of Paige Flink and grandfather of Mason Flink on July 15. Service was July 19.