

## GOING ONCE, GOING TWICE ...



More than 200 people turned out Sunday for the 2008 Youth Auction and Luncheon benefiting the 2008 youth choir tour and 2009 youth mission trips. A variety of donated items were auctioned off, including several services such as babysitting, portrait drawing and party hosting from the youth themselves. Auditions begin Saturday for this year's youth choir production of "Godspell."

*Photo courtesy of Quentin Dudley*

## Focus on Fruitfulness: Five practices for our church

Beginning this Sunday, UPUMC will delve into an interesting question: Just what does it take to be a fruitful congregation?

For the next several weeks, sermons in both the traditional worship services and The Bridge will focus on answering this question with the help of a book written by United Methodist Bishop Robert Schnase, "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations." Each week, we'll focus on a different practice, and this Sunday will be radical hospitality.

Adults are encouraged to take part in one of three sermon discussion groups that will meet each week: 7-8 a.m. Mondays led by Jeff

McCormick and Wynn Moore; noon-1 p.m. Tuesdays led by Rebecca Frank and Rachel Baughman; and 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays led by Leighton Bearden and Dick Wilson. All groups will meet in the Caldwell Room.

Copies of Schnase's book are available at the Welcome Center for \$10 each.

A children's study of the series – Kids in Action – will be 5-6 p.m. each Wednesday in the Youth Center. Dinner for children, parents and youth will be 6-7 p.m. and costs \$3. A youth study of the series will meet 7-8 p.m. Please RSVP to Rachel Baughman at 214.368.1435, ext. 134 no later than Tuesday each week.

## What's the definition of an artist? A creator

*Let there always be a place for the toddler among us to try, to falter, to fail, to try again. Let us remember that in nature's world, every loss has meaning. The same is true for us. Turned to good use, a creative failure may be the compost that nourishes next season's creative success. – "The Artist's Way" by Julia Cameron*

Donna Bearden is just coming to terms with the idea that she, herself, is an artist.

It's been an eventual journey, probably first sparked by the prize she took as a teenager in her 4-H Club's photography contest. Her winning shot? A cowboy boot with a kitten coming out of it.

Many years and much experience later, Donna's photos and accompanying musings have a much more introspective feel. They depict the thoughts and perspectives of a woman – an artist – who has lived life ... seen things ... felt things.

"I love finding detail in everyday things – things you might walk by and never see,"

she said, explaining why she prefers to focus on landscapes and inanimate objects in her art. "I like pointing out details that in our hurried lives we don't take time to see."

She also has a gift of the written word, which is what brings her photographic abilities full circle. Every photo is given a deeper level of meaning through Donna's musings.

Donna has just self-published her first photography

book with her good friend and photographic colleague, Kathleen Martin.

And that book, entitled "I, Too. Me Neither. A Photo-Journaling Experience with my Friend," will be available as Donna takes on another first this weekend: her first photo exhibit.

The UPUMC Spiritual Arts Series will host the exhibit, "Wandering in Wonder: Outside Pictures/Inside Thoughts," from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday in Fellowship Hall. As with all Spiritual Arts Series events, the exhibit is free and

See "Bearden," page 4A



The Weekday  
School Auction  
needs you **4A**



Scenes from  
Easter **5A**

For the next several weeks, sermons will center on the book "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations" by United Methodist Bishop Robert Schnase.

**IN WORSHIP APRIL 6, 2008**  
**We practice Radical Hospitality**

Traditional, 8:45 and 11 a.m.  
the Rev. Leighton Bearden, Romans 15:5-7

The Bridge, 11 a.m.  
the Rev. Rebecca Frank, Luke 24:28-35

**IN WORSHIP APRIL 13, 2008**  
**We practice Passionate Worship**

Traditional, 8:30 and 11 a.m.  
the Rev. Leighton Bearden, Luke 10:25-28

The Bridge, 11 a.m.  
the Rev. Rebecca Frank, John 4:23-24

## Coming Soon: UMW House and Table Tour



The United Methodist Women's annual House and Table Tour will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 23. Tickets are \$10 in advance, available from a UMW circle or from the Welcome 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.

As always, the tour will include three nearby homes that exude Gracious Living.

### Charming and Captivating 3701 Marquette

There is definitely a WOW factor when entering this home. You are greeted by the hand-printed design on the walls of the entry and the warm terracotta of the dining room beyond. With its mix of country French and English furniture and antiques, this home is bright, cheerful, youthful, fresh and fun. It is the perfect home for the young family who live here. The creative children's rooms and playroom are not to be missed.

### Sophisticated Elegance 7210 Lane Park Drive

This home definitely reflects the personality and charm of its owner, who recently moved from the home where she raised her family. She has melded her many years of collecting English antiques into this home in a community of zero-lot-line homes. She has found room to display everything beautifully and has created a home that is gracious, warm and inviting.

### Entertainer's Delight 7028 Prestonshire

This home is perfect for entertaining family and friends with its music room, formal living room, relaxed family room and casual media room, all with easy access to the lovely landscaped yard. Family heirlooms are featured all through the home. There are lovely antiques and souvenirs from foreign travel, all of which are delightfully displayed. This lovely ranch-style home will be the point of the tour where refreshments are served.



## Can you help with Weekday School auction?

The UPUMC Weekday School is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, and this year's Weekday School Carnival and Auction promises to be better than ever. Mark your calendar for 11 a.m.-2 p.m. April 26, when we'll have games, food and lots of fun.

In the past, money raised at the carnival and auction has paid for teacher supplies, playground equipment, classroom updates and teacher appreciation.

Your help is greatly needed to make this year's auction a huge success. Do you have a talent or hobby you would like to share? Do you have sports tickets, airline miles, contacts with hotels, vacation homes or a service you would like to donate? Would you like to underwrite the cost of some carnival entertainment? Would you like to simply make a cash donation? Consider other friends, family members, and employers who also might be able to donate.

Once you have decided what to donate, please contact the Weekday School office for a 2008 Auction Donor Tax Contract. If you have questions, call the office at 214.361.4626.

## April UMW Circle Meetings

### Circle 3

Monday, April 14, 10 a.m.

Leaders: Kathy Krueger and Marie Head

Location: Caldwell Room

Speakers: Paige Flink from the Family Place and Bob Jackson/Justice for Families and the advocacy program

### Circle 5

Monday, April 7, 7 p.m.

Leader: Kelli Sander

Location: home of Sharon Christen, 4204 Caruth

Speaker: Rachel Baughman

Circles 1 and 4 will not meet in April.

## Bearden practices own teachings about creativity with her art

Continued from page 1

open to the public, and dessert and coffee will be served. So please come and invite your friends and family.

Childcare is available with a 72-hour advance notice by calling 214.368.1435, ext 325.

Donna became involved with the Spiritual Arts Series when she and her husband, senior pastor Leighton Bearden, first came to the church last summer. And when the group asked her to exhibit her work, her first response was an instinctual "No!" After all, Donna's more comfortable behind the camera.

"I told Kathleen, 'I'm not ready to do that!,' and Kathleen shook me and said, 'You have to do this! It will push you in new ways.' "

How could Donna argue with that? After all, she's a firm believer in the ideals taught in Julia Cameron's book, "The Artist's Way," which she used as a resource in teaching a

Cooper School of Discipleship class by the same name earlier this year.

"I really do believe that everyone is creative but that we get messages early in our lives that what we've created isn't good enough," she said.

"We have this habit of comparing ourselves to the very best rather than just looking at the next step - at our own improvement."

So Donna has followed her own teaching and taken the next step. "But it's still scary," she said with a shy grin.

And perhaps after Sunday's exhibit, she'll be one step closer to considering herself an artist the way others do.

For now, she's intent to just focus on improving, and she strongly encourages everyone to do the same with their creative callings, whether that's one of the more traditional arts or something less mainstream, like the ability to set a beautiful table



or make someone feel welcome in your home.

"If you do a little bit of photography every day and pay attention, you'll get better. The same goes for

writing or for singing. You've got to practice with anything.

"When people say to me, 'I'm not very good at art,' I say, 'How do you know?' "

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Thanks to  
Quentin  
Dudley for  
sharing your  
photography  
talents.  
UPUMC  
appreciates  
you!

**Buy UMW caladiums by Friday**

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 Welcome Center. All orders are due by Friday, April 4. Call Meredith Zevallos at 214.263.3957 with any questions.

**Join Travel Ministry on Waco trip**

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. Trippers will visit the Armstrong Browning Library on the Baylor University Campus, Methodist Children's Home and the 510-acre Homestead Heritage Village. Cost is \$40 per person, and a \$15 deposit is due now. Contact Larry Ravert or Wynn Moore at 214.368.1435 for more information.

**Sign up now for Amigos Days**

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 Welcome Center. Makeup dates in case of rainout are May 2-3.

**C. C. Young Auxiliary Benefit presents Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbley**

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.

**WELCOME REPORT****New Members**

Rex and Judy Weigand joined March 2 and attend the Collage Class. They are the parents of member, David Weigand.



Charlotte Webb joined March 16 by transfer from another local church. She is the mother of Kathy Champion.



Charles and Ann Kight joined March 2.



Marcella (Marcie) Sokol joined March 30 by transfer from FUMC McKinney. She is a member of the Mr. & Mrs. class.

**Baptism**

Please rejoice with Todd Conshafter and Valeria Whitehead-Conshafter on the baptism of their daughter Sofia Nicole on March 2.

**UPUMC ... WITH BELLS ON**

The Overtones Handbell Choir participated in the Greater Dallas Handbell Association's Mass Handbell Festival recently at Brookhaven College. The festival culminated with a free concert of combined bell choirs from all over the Dallas area.

*Photo courtesy of Bill and Norma Matthews*

**MARCH ATTENDANCE REPORT**

	Attendance	Visitors
March 2	547	40
March 9	478	34
March 16	638	33
March 20	181	Maundy Thursday
March 23	1,298	161
March 30	537	23
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,679</b>	<b>291</b>

Of the total visitors in March, 54 were first time visitors in our church.

**PRAYERS**

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

**In the Hospital**

Bill Kendrick

**Births**

Luke Michael Strickhouser, son of Lee and Amy Strickhouser, born March 3. • Taylor Marguerite Cook, daughter of Ashley and J.R. Cook, born March 19. She is the granddaughter of John and

Linda Lehman. • Lucy Wells Montgomery, daughter of Jeff and Rebecca Montgomery, born March 20. She is sister to Lewis and Sam, and great-granddaughter of Kay Montgomery.

**Prayer Requests**

Jane Hedges; Beth Burke, wife of Nathan Burke and daughter-in-law of Floyd and Johnetta Burke;

Bervin Gaillaspie, uncle of Ricky and Sandra Flanagan; Alice Saucedo, friend of the Rev. Dick Wilson; David Muegge, great-nephew of Gloria Thomas; Ann Griffin, friend of Johnetta Burke; Bill Hodges, father of Tracy Hodges; the Rev. Kathleen Baskin-Ball; Johnnie Imah, friend of the Rev. Leighton Bearden; the Rev. Wes Magruder and his family