



University Park WORD

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UNIVERSITY PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Sharing greetings and gratitude upon welcoming the New Year



As we roll into 2009, I do want to wish everyone a fruitful and fulfilling new year. I also want to reflect a moment on Christmas. Many things go together to make Christmas a season of joy, but chief among them for me is the music.

Here at UPUMC our music program is consistently among the best in the Metroplex. You just can't top the service of Lessons and Carols followed by "The Messiah."

So, I know you join me in saying to all the choirs, the musicians, and Jody Lindh and his staff, "Thank you. You bless us!"

In some workplaces things begin to taper off near Christmas. In churches, however, this becomes an exceptionally busy time, so please join me in thanking our entire church staff for their extra efforts. I've never worked with a group of people who give more tirelessly and go the extra mile as joyfully as our staff. The Dallas Cowboys could learn a thing or two about teamwork from our team.

On behalf of that team, it's time to say "thank

you" to all of you for your smiles and pleasant good wishes; your Christmas cards; your many acts of thoughtfulness; and for the gifts and goodies you brought.

You are truly a remarkable congregation and I am blessed to be your pastor. Now as we enter the New Year, my prayer is that God will shower us with opportunities to grow in our ministries. As we reach out to our neighbors with God's love, may our bonds of affection grow even stronger for one another.

Blessings,
Leighton Bearden

Discover what's new and fresh at The Bridge

It's a new year! If you haven't been to The Bridge in awhile or haven't invited someone to The Bridge recently, it's a perfect time to do so. Things are fresh and new in The Bridge worship service! Since the beginning of Advent, the set-up of the worship space has changed. The moving of the band and stage to the front of the room has allowed for more vibrant worship and better sight of our worship leaders.

The structure of the service has also changed slightly. The Bridge worship team is constantly working to create a meaningful worship experience that bridges faith and life. This new year in The Bridge will also bring a variety of voices. Throughout 2009, you will hear sermons from the Rev. Rebecca Frank, the Rev. Rachel

See "The Bridge," page 4A

MINISTRY OF MEMORIES



Marilyn Hamilton is among the volunteers responsible for organizing materials for UPUMC's Heritage and Archives Room. Read more about the church archives on page 4A.

Rev. Larry Ravert to go across the pond to preach

Associate Pastor Larry D. Ravert and his wife, Carol Ann, will travel to England in mid-January where Larry will preach at three small Methodist churches for four Sundays. The Pastor Keva Green, a member of the North Texas Conference who has served as a part of the Circuit Staff for the past four years, will be coming to Dallas for surgery.

The parsonage where Larry and Carol Ann will be living is in the small village of Wath-upon-Dearne, which means "ford across the Dearne River." The village is located in the middle of the

See "Raverts," page 4A



Spots available for Travel Ministry's Big Bend journey. 4A



Young adults enjoy study, fellowship and service. 5A

IN WORSHIP JAN. 11, 2009

Traditional, 8:45 and 11 a.m.
"Striving to Arrive or Arriving to Strive?"
John 1:29-42
the Rev. Leighton Bearden

The Bridge, 11 a.m.
"New Year, New You: Baptism of the Lord," Mark 1:4-11
Jeff McCormick, preaching

IN WORSHIP JAN. 18, 2009

Traditional, 8:45 and 11 a.m.
"Who Knows You?"
Psalm 139:1-14, 23-24
the Rev. Leighton Bearden

The Bridge, 11 a.m.
"New Year, New You: Relationships,"
John 4:7-29
Jeff McCormick, preaching

Help UPUMC preserve its history

What does a 1947 church cookbook, a plowshare used on June 6, 1954, to break ground on a new educational building and an undated panoramic 3-D photo of the church that's mounted on wood all have in common? They are part of UPUMC's living history in the Heritage and Archives Room.

UPUMC's first worship service was held on Nov. 12, 1939, in the Highland Park High School auditorium. This year marks the church's 70th anniversary, and a lot of history has accumulated in bits and pieces over the years – thus organizing it is an ongoing and challenging effort.

Marilyn Hamilton is one of the tireless volunteers who have been busy digging through the materials and organizing them. She calls it a "ministry of memories." The archives contain old and new doc-

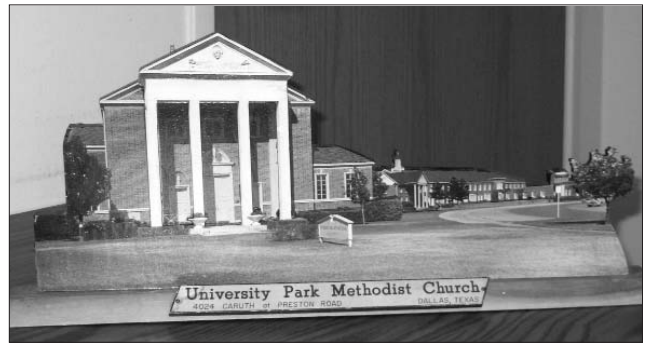
uments, books, artwork and photographs as well as historical artifacts like the plowshare that reveal the milestones of the past.

More volunteers are needed to help transcribe audio tapes; identify people and events in photographs; and visit church members and record their memories.

Several items are on a wish list, including a copy machine with a scanner so that photographs can be copied and displayed in the church. The archives can also use a flat screen computer monitor, archival boxes and a wooden bookcase.

If you have church-related invitations, menus, documents or photographs that you'd like to donate to the archives, contact Marilyn at archives@upumc.org.

"If we are to have a past for the future, we must save the records of today," said Marilyn.



A panoramic 3-D photo of the church is among the items featured in the Heritage and Archives Room.



This plowshare was used to break ground on a new educational building in 1954.

Spots have become available for you to join us for a visit to Big Bend National Park

The Travel Ministry of University Park UMC has planned a four-day trip to Big Bend National Park leaving on Monday, March 30, and arriving home on Thursday, April 2.

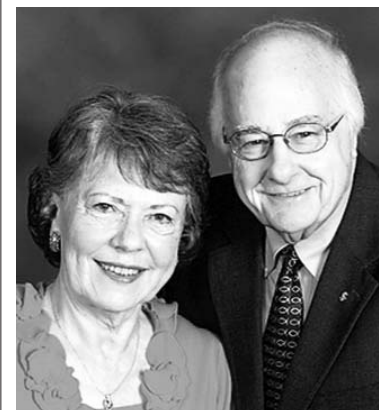
In addition to Big Bend, we will visit a number of other interesting places including the MacDonald Observatory and

enjoy a "Star Party." Due to the illness of three couples, we have six openings for others who might want to go with us. This trip is open to members and non-members alike.

We will be flying to Midland, Texas, and then travel to the park and other places by deluxe bus, until we fly home

on Thursday. An information sheet is available by calling Wynn Moore at 214.368.1435). The list of those going must be complete prior to Feb. 1.

The Rev. and Mrs. Larry D. Ravert will be the tour leaders. Join the many couples and individuals already signed up to go.



Raverts off to England

Continued from page 1
country in the borough of Rotherham, near Sheffield, and is two hours from London by train and very close to Epworth, the birthplace of John Wesley. The three churches are part of a 20 church circuit served by seven ministers and some lay preachers.

Larry and Carol Ann will leave Tuesday, Jan. 13, and return to Dallas on Tuesday, Feb. 10. You can keep in contact with them via e-mail at either lravert@aol.com or lravert@upumc.org.

University Park United Methodist Church is proud to have Larry represent them in these British Methodist Churches.

The Bridge makes changes to worship services

Continued from page 1
Baughman, Jeff McCormick, Blair Thompson, and others. It is important to hear and be challenged by a variety of voices and theological perspectives and The Bridge is bringing that to you.

The Bridge is also excited to continually add people to their worship team. It takes a team of people to put on The Bridge each week and we want to thank everyone who is working so hard to make this happen. Everyone who helps is greatly appreciated all the ushers, greeters, sound technicians,

slideshow operators, singers, those who help set up the room, or even those who might read scripture or say a prayer. We are always looking for more help, so if any of this sounds like fun—just let us know.

The Bridge is also excited to announce that we will begin to have Fourth Sunday Fellowships. It is important as a church to find time to fellowship with one another so that relationships grow deeper. So, every fourth Sunday of the month, The Bridge will host a fellowship event following worship. It is simply a time to

get together after worship, meet those you may not know, and share life together. The first Fourth Sunday Fellowship will be Jan. 25. Remember to stay directly after worship for some good treats and some good times. Come check out The Bridge in 2009. Worship begins at 11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. It's an exciting time to be involved!

The Bridge Worship Team

If you want to volunteer, please contact Blair Thompson, bthompson@upumc.org or Jeff McCormick, jmccormick@upumc.org or call the church office at 214.368.1435.

Making a difference with Young Adult Ministries



Young Adults celebrated the season together through study, fellowship and service. Throughout Advent, the young adult Sunday school class explored "The Nativity Story," using the movie to discuss important questions and lessons surrounding the birth of Jesus. At the beginning of December, the group gathered for a potluck dinner at Blair Thompson's house. A few days before Christmas, young adults helped pack more than 400 boxes of food for seniors at the North Texas Food Bank. At the end of the month, the group met for dinner and a movie. To start off 2009, young adults worked together to make 200 sandwiches for the SoupMobile, an organization that travels around town delivering food to men, women, and children. From college and graduate students to young professionals, Young Adult Ministries continues to connect faith and life. Look for more great opportunities for spiritual growth and service in 2009!



Congregation provides helping hand to family in need after fire

by Jody Lindh

Members of UPUMC have responded to the call for help for the Brian Fieser family. The family of six lost their home and all their belongings to fire in November.

Brian is a co-worker of UPUMC member Brett Lemke, who sings in our Chancel Choir. (Incidentally, Brett and Ilana are now the proud new parents of a baby boy, Ryland Joseph, born Dec. 23.)

Donations of all sorts have been distributed to the Fieser family: clothes for the four girls, beds, mattresses, a sleeper sofa, television, linens and towels, decorative items, tables, pots and pans, other cookware and utensils, dishes, etc. In addition, more than \$2,500 in cash was also donated.

This is what it means to be the servant hands and feet of Christ to our neighbor in need.

Thank you, UPUMC, for your generous help for this family. They are now housed in a "temporary" home while they look for a place of their own.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Children of all ages participated in the Christmas Eve services led by the Rev. Rachel Baughman.



UPUMC NEWS AND NOTES

January toy and clothing drive

The Weekday School will be collecting gently used toys and clothing that your children are no longer using. This is a great time for you to help your child clean out closets. Items will be collected throughout the month of January and there will be collections boxes in the three main Welcome areas of the church. Collected items will benefit The Family Place.

UPLift Dinner has begun

The weekly UPLift dinner has resumed as well as the Youth Bible study. Come join your UPUMC family for fellowship and conversation. The Children's activities will resume on March. 4.

One UMW Circle meeting in January

Circle 6, lead by Reggie Campbell, will meet next Monday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. in the church Parlor.

Cooper School opens new class

In addition to the Tuesday evening class, Disciple 2 - Genesis will be offered on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30 a.m. This class will be taught by Teal Lang. Cost for the Disciple 2 classes are \$9 for Genesis or Exodus or \$18 for both classes. You may register for all Cooper School classes in the Welcome Center or on the church web site.

Weekday School registration begins

2009-2010 registration has begun and continues until Jan. 23. As last year, all registration will be online. For more information, please contact the Weekday School office at 214.361.4626.

Proyecto Abrigo trip set for February

UPUMC sends mission teams to Juarez each year to work with maestros to build a small cinderblock home for a family currently living in a cardboard shack. Teams serve God as they reach out to families in need of safe housing and Christian love. The need for safe housing is great, and the need for a little hope is even greater. You can be Christ's hands and feet in this amazing ministry bringing love to our neighbors. The next trip is scheduled to go over the Presidents Day holiday weekend, Feb. 13-16.

Calling all Young Adults

Plans are underway to gather a team of UPUMC young adult members to go on a Labors for Neighbors (L4N) trip on April 17-19. L4N is a weekend mission team of North Texas United Methodists who offer disaster recovery and is currently serving the local churches and communities along the Gulf Coast of Texas. L4N serves these communities by cooperating with local United Methodist disaster relief efforts to re-roof houses in the affected areas. L4N strives to build both roofs and relationships. The cost is \$95 and

includes all accommodations, meals, transportation, t-shirt and building costs. Register at www.LaborsForNeighbors.org and then email Blair Thompson at bthompson@upumc.org so that trip details can be provided to you.

Share the Light Gift Giving Program

UPUMC's Share the Light program encourages members to make contributions to charitable organizations sponsored by the church to honor your friends and family. You can make the donation online at www.upumc.org or in the Welcome Center. You will receive special gift cards with a description of the charity to give the person you are honoring. During this difficult economic time, please consider helping others less fortunate and honor your loved ones.

Do you know someone in need?

If you know of someone who is homebound, in the hospital, in a nursing home or is otherwise in need of a visit from a pastor or a member of the Congregational Care team, please let us know. Contact Wynn Moore or the Rev. Larry Ravert at 214.368.1435, wmoore@upumc.org or lravert@aol.com.

Have tender hands and a loving heart?

C. C. Young needs volunteers for its Beauty Shop Monday through Thursday mornings from 9-11:30 a.m. to wash and set ladies' hair. You would be needed two to four mornings per month. Other volunteer opportunities are also available. Call Kathy Krueger at 214.363.1761 for more information.

Keep Stephen Ministry in mind

Our members are the front lines of caring ministry in our congregation. Throughout the week, as you meet and greet those around you, think Stephen Ministry. If you see people who are downcast or struggling through difficult times, think Stephen Ministry. Tell them about this special ministry in our congregation where they can receive the extra love and care they need to make it through the challenge or crisis they are facing. Please call the Rev. Larry Ravert at 214.368.1435.

Weekend marriage encounter

Married couples - have you made the resolution to start the New Year right? New romance, deeper communication, feeling even closer to your spouse? We can help you keep this resolution. Sign up today at www.encounter.org for a Marriage Encounter Weekend on Feb. 20-22.

Please contact Mickey and Linda Wheeler for more information at JamesW3681@aol.com or call 972.594.0232. There will also be an Engaged Encounter Weekend in the Dallas area on March 27-29.

Welcome Report**New Member**

Judy Casas joined Dec. 7. She is employed by Hillcrest HS and transferred from a local Methodist church.

DECEMBER ATTENDANCE REPORT

	Attendance	Visitors
Dec. 7	530	37
Dec. 14	470	24
	350 (Lessons & Carols)	
Dec. 21	750	75
Dec. 24	625 (Christmas Eve services)	
Dec. 28	405	31
Totals	3,418	167

Of the total visitors in December, 15 were first-time visitors.

PRAYERS

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

Births

- Adelaide Jean Latimer, daughter of Ann and Jake Latimer, and granddaughter of Bill and Teal Lang, born on Nov. 3.
- Katherine Anne Levy, daughter of Christy and Michael Levy, little sister of Sam, and granddaughter of Anne and Larry Pierce, born on Dec. 18.
- Ryland Joseph Lemke, son of Ilana and Brett Lemke, born on Dec. 23.
- Rowan David Hopper, son of Mark and Emily Gannon Hopper, brother of Avery and Grayson, grandson of Frances and David Gannon and great-grandson of Freda McQueen, born Dec. 29.
- Samuel Louis Shackelford, son of Rebecca and Mark Shackelford, brother of Wesley, grandson of Kelli and Don Sander and great-grandson of Gladys Mollett.

Deaths

- Willard L. Fitzgerald, Jr., father of Jim Fitzgerald, on Dec. 11.
- Dudley Wortham, father of Fran Farmer, on Dec. 18.
- J. B. Lowry, family friend of Randy and Carmen Emery, on Dec. 26.

Prayer Requests

Judy Casas; Richard Hearne; Mary Cox; Jane Hedges; Ed Slaughter; Jane DeFord; Maurine Grimes, mother of Jan Matise; Jarvis, nephew of Constance Harp; Lauren Hill, niece of Jack Brown; Doug Yancey Hale, son of Jo Hale; Wanda Knight, sister of Blue Harris and aunt of Paige Flink; John Crawford, brother of Forest Baker; Beau Burke, son of Nathan and Beth Burke and grandson of Floyd and Johnetta Burke