

Building plans take shape as funds come in

By Leighton Bearden



At the close of October, the UPUMC congregation pledged almost \$6.3 million toward new construction and renovations in the church. The proposed payout of those pledges was over a three-year period beginning January 2009. While some people made lump sum gifts and others will make annual or quarterly gifts, most will make monthly payments over the 36-month period.

George O'Reilly, church business administrator, says the flow of regular gifts to the building fund has begun. O'Reilly reminds the congregation that there are several ways to handle those payments. You can mail your check (specially marked offering envelopes are provided), drop your check off at the church when you come to worship, or instruct your bank to automatically send your contribution. Members can also make contributions by credit card and, in many cases, earn bonuses offered by their credit card company. The church benefits from not being charged a fee for credit card transactions in these cases, but does not want members accumulating credit card debt to make a church pledge.

Building Committee chairman Mike McKinley anticipates beginning construction this spring on the parking lot and the landscaping of the property on Colgate Street. Because there were several gifts made at the beginning of the campaign, the current building fund balance is adequate to begin this portion of the project. In the meantime, the building committee is working with F&S Partners to finish the design work on the renovations and the new construction, which includes a multi-purpose center and a new education wing.

FIRST STEPS



Building committee chairman Mike McKinley anticipates beginning construction this spring on the parking lot and the landscaping of the property on Colgate Street.

Volunteers needed in various areas for this year's Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be June 8-12 from 9 a.m.-noon daily. The theme is "Camp E.D.G.E." (Experience and Discover God Everywhere).

It is a fun, camping-themed curriculum where your children will become closer to God when they discover that God is with them at all times, in all places and in all circumstances. The week will show them that God is always ready to help them and

guide them.

All children who are 4-years-old (by Sept. 1 of this year) through completion of 5th grade are welcome to be part of VBS. Online registration will begin on March 26.

Registration fees will be \$20 for the first child and \$15 per each additional sibling. Cost for children of VBS volunteers will be only \$10 per child. For an

See "VBS," on page 4

Take a moment to connect with Fourth Sunday Fellowship

By Jeff McCormick

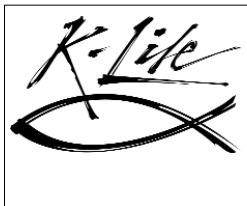
Life moves so fast. We often find ourselves moving from one thing to another so quickly.

Even Sunday mornings can feel this way. We rush to get to church on time, find a parking place, and head to worship or Sunday school. We then find ourselves moving from one end of the building to the other. We are either leaving Sunday school for worship, dropping off or picking up the kids, or just trying to make sure we get a cup of coffee.

We move so fast that we miss connecting with people. We miss the beauty of making new friendships. We miss the love and grace God gives to us through other people.

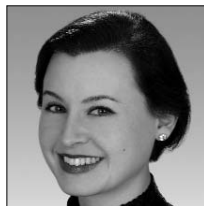
In The Bridge worship service, each fourth Sunday we are making an intentional effort to slow down and be present with one another through Fourth

See "Fellowship," page 5



Youth program
being offered at
UPUMC

4A



Meet Damin Spritzer

5A

IN WORSHIP FEB. 8, 2009

Traditional, 8:45 and 11 a.m.
"A Day in the Life of Jesus"
Mark 1:28-39
the Rev. Leighton Bearden

The Bridge, 11 a.m.
"The Gospel Grammar Lesson"
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Jeff McCormick, preaching

IN WORSHIP FEB. 15, 2009

Traditional, 8:45 and 11 a.m.
"A Through the Roof Demonstration of Authority," Mark 2:1-12
the Rev. Leighton Bearden

The Bridge, 11 a.m.
"Stretching Exercises"
Mark 1:40-45
the Rev. Rebecca Frank

K-Life programs offered at UPUMC for youth fellowship

By Ryan Nixon

K-Life is a community-wide, interdenominational Christian ministry of discipleship and fellowship for youth and their families. Through a variety of activities (weekly clubs, small group Bible studies, mission trips, ski trips, and monthly events), K-Life kids grow in their faith and have lots of fun in the process. They learn that following Christ and discovering His plan for their life is the most exciting adventure of all and that they can count on friendship and support from leaders and peers who care.

K-Life works alongside churches and families in the community to teach and encourage kids to be strong in the Lord in spite of all the negative pressures they face as teenagers. K-Life networks kids from different churches, and those without a church affiliation, to build positive, Godly relationships that can withstand the negative peer pressure so prevalent in today's youth culture.



The heartbeat of K-Life lies in the ability to build relationships with kids and bring the content of God's word to bear on those relationships. Our desire is that kids would choose to participate in one of our small groups led by our staff and volunteer leaders. The purpose of these groups is for kids to gain a greater knowledge of God's word, build Godly relationships with peers, and have access to a mentoring leader to come alongside them as they navigate those difficult adolescent years. Supporting and surrounding our small group strategy are

the more visible components of our ministry: weekly club meetings, activities, events, and retreats. Weekly meetings consist of songs, games, skits, and talks that contain a lesson with a relevant life application from the Bible.

This semester, K-Life has partnered with UPUMC to have its weekly meetings called Klub for the Jr. High on Thursday nights through April 23 and also the Super K (5th and 6th grade Klub) once a month on Friday afternoons. Super K will meet Feb. 6, March 6, April 17 and May 1.

Highland Park K-Life is blessed to be able to use the facilities of UPUMC's Youth Center to help build relationships with the youth of this area for the purpose of seeing them become more fully devoted followers of Christ.

For more information, go to <http://highlandpark.klife.com> or contact Zach Burgess, Director of Youth Ministries, at 469.916.9621 or Ryan Nixon, HP K-Life Area Director, at 214.528.5437 or Nixon@Klife.com.

Changes to church recycling program

It's easier than ever to drop off items for recycling at the church. The large bin previously available for paper products only is gone. In its place, you will find a blue bin on the north side of the alley that accepts all recyclables. Materials from this blue bin are picked up by the city six days a week.

Materials do not have to be separated before being bagged for the outside blue bin. Items accepted include: corrugated cardboard; glass, such as bottles and jars (caps included); plastics, such as jugs and bottles (caps included); tin and aluminum cans; and mixed paper, including items such as newspapers, junk mail, catalogs, magazines and



Within the building, blue-bagged receptacles and blue recycling containers have also been made available for everyday use.

If you have questions about the UPUMC recycling bin, please contact Greg Klugiewicz at 214.368.1435, ext. 119.

phone directories. Please do not drop off waxed paper or "contaminated" paper, such as diapers or paper plates that contained food. Styrofoam and packing materials also are not accepted.

The recycling program is no longer a fundraiser for the church, but is offered in support of community recycling efforts.



Continued from page 1

additional cost, there will also be afternoon care for children who want to stay all day.

Please let us know if you are interested in using your gifts and talents as a volunteer to make Camp E.D.G.E. a success. Volunteer opportunities include: Crew Leaders, Craft Team, Bible Storytelling Team, Recreation Team, Music Team, Snacks Team, Mission Team, Club 345 Team and Decorating Team.

Free childcare is available for infants and toddlers of volunteers.

Contact Julie Pascuzzi at jbpascuzzi@tx.rr.com or 972.781.0592 or Jenny Tabor at jennytabor@sbc-global.net or 214.341.1684 to volunteer or with any questions about VBS.

Cellist to perform at UPUMC Feb. 10



Russian-born cello virtuoso Yuri Anshelevich, associate principal with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10. The recital, with Gabriel Sanchez on piano, will feature the music of Brahms, Chopin, Faure and Franck.

Admission is free and no reservations are needed. This program is presented as part of the Spiritual Arts Series, which offers special events designed to uplift, inspire and reach out to the community. For more information, call 214.368.1435, ext. 115.

Welcome to Damin Spritzer in music ministry

By Jody Lindh

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Damin Spritzer as our new Organist/Associate Director of Music beginning in February, filling the position vacated by Kathy Johnson, who had served in this position since 2002. Spritzer will assume primary duties as our church organist (her first Sunday to play will be Feb. 15) and as assistant to the Director of Music Ministries, Jody Lindh.

Hailed as "elegantly assured" by *The Dallas Morning News* and featured as a "young talent" in interview and performances with nationally syndicated radio show *Pipedreams*®, Spritzer has performed organ recitals from coast to coast since receiving her first scholarship from the American Guild of Organists as a high school student. Her performances are notable for varied programs that champion unknown romantic works for organ as well as new compositions by living composers, and she often collaborates with other instrumentalists. She designed and performs an educational concert for teaching children about the organ that was featured as a "Best Bet for Children" in *The Dallas Morning News*.

As a performer, Spritzer has had the honor of being heard with Michael Barone's nationally syndicated "Pipedreams" radio broadcast on three occasions, including one at the Meyerson with a full house in 2005. She has competed and won awards in many organ competitions. She has received both first and second prizes in AGO chapter and regional competitions in Portland, Oregon, and Cleveland, Ohio, and was a finalist in the National Competition for Young Organists in Ottumwa, IO.

Since 2000, Spritzer has served at Saint Rita Catholic Church in Dallas, where she was Associate Director of Music and the Principal Organist. She is currently working toward the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of North Texas. She is also a recent graduate of two of the most prestigious music schools in the country, having received her Master of Music degree in Organ Performance from Eastman School of Music and her Bachelor of Music degree from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

She and her husband, James Francey, have two children, Soren (age 4) and Rowan (age 2). We welcome Damin and her family to University Park!

Others are also taking on new roles. Ryan Lungwitz has taken over the directing of the Overtones Handbell Choir. He has been a tenor section leader in the Chancel Choir since 2003 and recently received his Bachelor of Music degree from SMU and is currently working on his Master's. Jennifer Bollinger, who joined our music staff last year as Director of the Carol Choir (grades 2-3) has now added the directorship of the Joyful Ringers Handbells. She teaches music in the Arlington Independent School District.



Damin Spritzer



Ryan Lungwitz



Jennifer Bollinger

Vickery Meadow Learning Center Breaking barriers and building bridges



Illiteracy rates in Texas are on the rise, according to a survey by the National Center for Education Statistics. Dallas County

surpasses the national and state averages with a 21% illiteracy rate, making the need for literacy services in Dallas a critical concern. Vickery Meadow Learning Center responds to this need by providing literacy instruction to non-English speaking adults and early childhood education for their young children.

Since 1997, VMLC has provided English literacy and early childhood education classes for residents in the Vickery Meadow neighborhood. VMLC currently serves 600 adults and 150 children annually.

VMLC strives to break the most common barriers to learning by offering free classes, flexible scheduling, and a convenient neighborhood location. Daytime and evening classes are held Monday through Thursday, and are taught by teams of trained and dedicated volunteers.

With illiteracy rates on the rise across the county, VMLC is taking action by opening a new campus in West Dallas. Located at 1018 Gallagher, the West Dallas campus serves residents in the 75212 and northern 75208 zip codes. Improving literacy rates has a direct impact on employment, family life and the economy.

As demand for services continues to rise, VMLC will strive to address this critical community need and is optimistic that expanding our services will counter the currently rising illiteracy levels in Dallas County.

For more information about classes or volunteering, contact us at 214.265.5057.

Fellowship

Continued from page 1

Sunday Fellowships. These gatherings last about 15 minutes and have some type of refreshment for everyone to enjoy. The purpose: get to know someone you don't know or connect with someone in a deeper way.

We had our first Fourth Sunday Fellowship in January and it went great! Most of the congregation in The Bridge stayed and enjoyed the fellowship. It was time well spent. I can say personally that it was great to catch up with people, see how they were doing, ask about

their life, and feel like I left more connected with others than when I arrived.

The Bridge will continue to offer fellowship opportunities each fourth Sunday. This month, on Feb. 22, The Bridge will celebrate two years of worshipping during the Fourth Sunday Fellowship time. The Bridge community is invited to stay and connect with each other and the entire congregation is encouraged to stop by and celebrate The Bridge's second birthday.

UPUMC NEWS AND NOTES

UMW Circle meetings for February

Circles 1, 2 and 3 will meet Monday, Feb. 9, at 10 a.m. in the Caldwell Room. Marie Head will do a book review of "Amish Grace." Everyone should bring donations for C.C. Young Welcome Bags or Bingo Prizes. Contact Kathy Krueger if you need more information or have any questions.

Circle 6 will meet Monday, Feb. 9, 7 p.m. in the Caldwell room. The leader is Reggie Campbell and the program is to be announced.

Wednesday UPLift Dinners continue

Come join your UPUMC family in Fellowship Hall for a great meal, fellowship and conversation before attending handbell or choir practice or going to your Cooper School class. Dinner is served from 6 - 7 p.m. in the kitchen and Youth Bible Study is held from 7 - 8 p.m. in Youth Center. The Children's activities will resume on March. 4.

Giving support to Proyecto Abrigo

Because of the current instability, UPUMC is temporarily suspending our hands-on work in Juarez. We pray for and anticipate returning with work groups in the not-too-distant future.

Proyecto Abrigo was founded in 1996 by Jose Luis Portillo in Tierra Nueva, Mexico. Since then, thousands of team members from around the country, including many youth and adults from UPUMC, have built houses for hundreds of families in the poorer communities outside of Juarez, Mexico. The houses, built of cinderblock, measure 12' by 24' and have a cement floor, providing warm and dry shelter - *abrigo* - for our neighbors south of the border.

Please keep our friends and colleagues in your prayers and consider additional financial support for these ministries until we can work together in person again.

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.

Director sought for Weekday School

The executive director at UPUMC Weekday School is responsible for supervising the staff, developing the curriculum, and supporting the ministry at UPUMC. A Bachelor's degree in children's education is a must and a graduate degree is a plus.

For a complete job description please visit our church website at upumc.org, click Discover, then Weekday School). Please submit a cover letter, resume and at least three letters of recommendations to: the Rev. Rachel Baughman UPUMC, 4024 Caruth Blvd, Dallas, TX 75225.

**Welcome Report****New Members**

Amanda and Greg Blankenship joined during the 11 a.m. traditional service on Jan. 11. He transferred from First Baptist, Seymore, Texas and she from a Catholic church in Lubbock, Texas. They have a one-year-old son named Gavin.

Baptism

We rejoice with Todd and Leslie Tucker on the baptism of their daughter Olivia Grace Tucker on Jan. 18. (Photo not available)

JANUARY ATTENDANCE REPORT

	Attendance	Visitors
Jan. 4	478	23
Jan. 11	534	51
Jan. 18	494	32
Jan. 25	517	23
Totals	2,023	129

Of the total visitors in January, 30 were first-time visitors.

PRAYERS

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

Birth

- Thomas Aiden Baughman was born Feb. 2. He is the son of Mike and Rachel Baughman and brother of Griffin, Bekah and Sylvia

Deaths

- Tammy Washburn, daughter-in-law of Carolyn Washburn, wife of Jason Washburn, on Jan. 18. Services were Jan. 23.
- Mearle Sloan, uncle of Sarah McCormick, on Jan. 22. Services were Jan. 24 in Middleton TN.
- Ed Slaughter, husband of Betty Ann, and father of Pam Bush and Kathleen Chaney, grandfather of Emily and Elizabeth Bush and Will and Ben Chaney on Feb. 2. Services were Feb. 5.

Prayer Requests

Sofia Conshafter; Kristen Tolson; Laurie Lang; Laurie Cox; Jane DeFord; Stephen Hagedorn; Wanda Knight and Ann Weaver, sisters of Blue Harris and aunts of Paige Flink; Sherri Schuetz, daughter of Joan Slaughter; Jarvis, nephew of Constance Harp; Lauren Hill, niece of Jack Brown; Doug Yancey Hale, son of Jo Hale; Ella and Tony Luna, friends of Ann Petty; Helen, friend of Mari Madison; Bill Byxbee, father of John Byxbee, Sally Reilly, friend of Greg Klugiewicz; Louie Buzek, uncle of Micah Reese; Chuck Oritz, son of Victoria Oritz.