

Reflections: Exploring the map of your life during Lent



The Rev. Rebecca Frank contributes this perspective on Lent.

In *Too Soon Old, Too Late Smart*, author Gordon Livingston describes his experience as a young lieutenant at Fort Bragg. He was trying to read a map, and he was puzzled. When his platoon sergeant asked

him where they were, Gordon responded, "Well, the map says there should be a hill over there, but I don't see it." His superior responded with, "If the map don't agree with the ground, then the map is wrong."

In life as well as topography, sometimes our "maps" are just wrong, and we get lost if we try to follow them. Some of our "maps," for example, tell us that if we follow the trail of consumerism, we will find ourselves in a place of peace, or happiness, or fulfillment. Some maps try to lead us toward achievement or success.

But what happens? We discover that the map was wrong; it failed to lead us to the desired destination, because that place is not found at the end of the path of acquisition, or the road to success. Sometimes the maps are wrong, and we get lost.

This Lenten season is an invitation to make a "course correction." The prophet Joel implores: "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart." It's an invitation to listen for God's voice, calling us back home. It's a call to get a new map, and check our spiritual compass, and assess our journey. And it's a call to repentance, which means to turn, to choose a new direction.

So, this Lent, I'm asking God to unfold the map and lead us "in paths of righteousness," back home to the heart of God, the destination of our deepest longings.

YUMMY, YUMMY, YUMMY!



There were lots of cooks, like Lydia Rudy, above, lots of pancakes eaten and lots of money raised for Project Transformation. See related article on page 4A.

Stewardship program runs through March

University Park UMC launches an annual stewardship program this month that takes the place of the traditional fall campaign, which was not held last year because of the Generation to Generation building campaign activity.

Barry Edwards, finance committee chairman, will update the congregation on church finances and the stewardship campaign during the March 8 services. Additionally, commitment cards have been and continue to be distributed to church members.

"We are very sensitive to the challenging and uncertain economic environment and its potential, as well as real impact on all of us," Edwards explains. "At the same time, we want to make available, for those who choose to do so, the opportunity to recommit or increase their giving for the remainder of 2009."

Church leaders emphasize that one of the hallmarks of this church is the ability to fund many ministries for those less fortunate. Contributions to maintaining these commitments demonstrate Christ's love to all. Members are asked to please fill out and return commitment cards. Doing so will give the finance

See "Stewardship," page 4A

Raverts share memories from ministry in England

Larry and Carol Ann Ravert share these experiences from their visit to participate in Methodist churches in South Yorkshire, England.

Cheerful, smiling faces

peered over the white placard bearing our names. What a welcome sight after flying eight hours from the Chicago airport and trekking through customs in Manchester,

England.

The gracious couple had driven over an hour-and-a-half to be at the airport before 7:30 a.m. to welcome us. They were the first

See "England," page 5A



Don't be late to church - set your clocks ahead an hour before going to bed Saturday night



Cinnamon roll sale coming March 15

4A

IN WORSHIP MARCH 8, 2009

Traditional, 8:45 and 11 a.m.
"Finders Weepers, Losers Keepers"
Mark 8:31-38
the Rev. Rebecca Frank

The Bridge, 11 a.m.
"I Am the Light of the World"
John 9:1-12
Jeff McCormick, preaching

IN WORSHIP MARCH 15, 2009

Traditional, 8:45 and 11 a.m.
"Landing in the Hudson: When Foolishness is True Wisdom"
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
the Rev. Leighton Bearden

The Bridge, 11 a.m.
"I Am the True Vine"
John 15:1-11
Blair Thompson, preaching

UMW Circles meet to expand mission concepts

Circles 1, 2, and 3 met together in February in order to review the four areas of books that Marilyn Hamilton has provided for the Unit covering these concepts: mission, social action, nurturing for community and social action. This meeting was held as part of UMW's goal to expand concepts of mission.



Four books representing each area were highlighted by Marie Head, shown at left with Jan Stark, who also gave a review of *Amish Grace* in which the author explained the story behind the 2006 around the world e-mail message — "Amish.

school shooting." Through the media, the world learned how the Amish, the "sheltered from the world peoples," were struck by the tragedy of the shooting of 10 of their girls. Amazingly, however, the real story that emerged from this tragedy became the forgiveness of the Amish people—a gift to the shooter, his family, and even to the world.

Join a UMW circle any time and be a part of this vital group.



Also attending this combined meeting were Diane Brooks, Sandy Ladewig and Laurie Latson (top) and Ruth Winkler, Lynn Erickson, Jo Ruth King and Norma Vardeman (above)

UMW'S annual caladium sale is back

Please help support UMW missions while ordering beautiful caladiums for your yard. Many varieties are available and order forms are located in the Welcome Center. The deadline to order is April 3. Call Lynn Erickson at 214.824.6648 with any questions.



Pancake flip draws a large crowd in support of Project Transformation

By Blair Thompson

Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was a great success! Over 230 people ate delicious pancakes, raising nearly \$1,700 for Project Transformation.

The event welcomed church members and parents and children from the Weekday School's Open House to fellowship together, learn about Project Transformation, and listen to great music. Eric Lindh and Kristin Kelley showed a video and explained how Project Transformation, a United Methodist affiliated organization, provides community oriented programs for children and youth living in low-income neighborhoods of North Texas as well as ministry exploration and leadership develop-

ment for college-age young adults. All of the money donated will go to support this wonderful cause.

Thank you to everyone who came and gave so generously. Special thanks to Leslie Blum, Andrew Hamilton, and Sarah McCormick for providing music and to the young adults and staff who helped organize and run the event: Meredith and Nicholas Akins, Leighton Bearden, Matt Blum, Zach Burgess, Melissa Cuellar, Linda Durbin, Michael Fleetwood, Rebecca Frank, Jessica Holloway, Roxanne Holt, Shannon Jenkins, Marynell Jones, Kristin Kelley, Karen Lewis, Sarah and Jeff McCormick, Leila and Hollis Merwin,



Shannon Jenkins, Kristen Kelly and Rebecca Frank, above, helped serve.



Pancake lovers Lee and Betty Merwin, left.

Samantha Palma, Meaghan and Robert Rohlf, Lydia Rudy, Samantha Palma and Brian Sargent.

Look for this great tradition to continue next year!

March UMW Circle Meetings

Circle 1

Monday, March 9, 10 a.m.
Leader: Diane Williamson
Location: home of Ruth Winkler, 6307 Lavendale
Speaker: Jeff McCormick

Circle 2

No meeting in March

Circle 3

Monday, March 9, 10 a.m.
Leader: Kathy Krueger
Location: Church Parlor
Program: TBA

Circle 6

Monday, March 9, 7 p.m.
Leader: Reggie Campbell
Location: Church Parlor
Speaker: Rebecca Frank

Cinnamon roll sale to benefit Proyecto Abrigo ministry

As you know, we've temporarily suspended sending groups to Ciudad Juarez, because of the escalating violence, but the needs of our ministry partners continues. We're committed to support and encouragement, and you'll have that opportunity March 14-15. Fred Christen and team will be making those world-famous cinnamon rolls on Saturday, March 14, for purchase on Sunday, March 15. All proceeds will go to Proyecto Abrigo, a ministry which serves the people of Tierra Nueva, outside of Juarez. Help bake (sign up in the Welcome Center) and/or purchase the yummys on Sunday morning.

Stewardship

Continued from page 1
committee and church staff the opportunity to more effectively manage current expenses and plan for the future.

The church's finances remain healthy and strong. UPUMC had a balanced budget in 2007 and 2008. Church staff anticipates similar results in 2009. This has been accomplished without significant compromises in existing

programming or staff reductions.

UPUMC is also in a strong position to move ahead with the building project, which is vitally important for the long-range growth and health of the church. The church was able to arrange a \$5 million bank line last year at borrowing costs under 3 percent currently, which has allowed for carrying the cost of the Colgate properties and the recent pur-

chase of the alley from the City of University Park.

Construction costs for the project have come down significantly in recent months. The building committee anticipates that the first phase, involving the parking lot, should begin in April or May and construction of the new building is expected to start later this year.

Commitment Sunday will be

March 29, concluding the stewardship campaign for the year.

"We are deliberately shifting to a single giving opportunity earlier in the year," says George O'Reilly, director of administration and development. "We have found that folks know better in January where their finances stand and are better equipped to plan for the year."

England as experienced by the Raverts

Continued from page 1

of a long list of lovely people who displayed many acts of kindness and hospitality during our month-long adventure in South Yorkshire, England.

The drive to our new home-away-from-home in the charming village, Wath-Upon-Dearne, Rotherham, took us over the Pennines, and through many round-a-bouts. The driver told us that when driving, to watch out for "sleeping policemen" (speed bumps), "zebra crossings" (pedestrian crossings), and cars parked partially on the pavement (sidewalk) on both sides of the narrow streets. We knew we had so much to learn in addition to driving on the "wrong" side of the car and on the "wrong" side of the road.

It had been just two months earlier, in November 2008, that we had responded to an e-mail sent by District Superintendent Larry George, telling about a United Methodist minister related to the North Texas Conference who was coming back to Texas to have surgery. Being one of seven ministers who have responsibility for 20 churches in a circuit, the Rev. Keva Green felt the need to have a minister preach in several of the churches and attend some of the meetings - an ecumenical service, prayer meetings and breakfasts, Sisterhood, and children's "Shell Group" activities - while she was away.

After asking a few questions, we had started saving our pennies to bear the expense of the trip, bought two shirts with clerical collars, purchased a map of Great Britain, and gathered up our warmest clothing, including long johns. As it so happened, while we were there, England had its largest snowfall in over 18 years.

Upon arriving at the beautifully renovated and maintained manse (parsonage), we were greeted by church folk who had "popped" over for tea and to meet the old couple that would be celebrating their 50th anniversary while there. One brave soul said later that they had been hoping that the couple would not be too feeble and frail.

The next day, we spent the morning driving Keva's car, ending up in a destination opposite from the one we had planned. After driving through one-way lanes between hedgerows, frantic driving on round-a-bouts, asking numerous times for directions back to the manse, we were finally escorted "home" by a big red truck with a sign reading, "Royal Mail." We kissed the manse's front door upon our safe return. Larry vowed to give up driving in England for some other time, but not in his lifetime.

The Yorkshire folks loved to hear us talk.

They could understand what we said easier than we could understand them. When Larry preached "The word" (sermon), he enjoyed telling the congregation, "Ya'll sure do talk funny." They loved his humor, being a people who enjoy laughing.

In addition to the genuine hospitality and friendship of fellow Christians, we were awed by beautiful old churches, cathedrals and York Minster. Walking in the steps of the Wesleys and through the Old Rectory and Chelsea Psychic Garden was inspiring. Seeing historical sites - medieval castles and Wentworth, eating fish and chips (and even "mooshy peas" and "jacket potatoes"), walking through picturesque streets, were just a few of the delights of the trip.

British Methodists, we found, sing hymns with gusto - even those hymns with eight stanzas. Most orders of worship are described as "Hymn Sandwiches" - notices (announcements), a hymn, prayer, a hymn, scripture, a hymn, the Word, a hymn, prayer, a hymn, and benediction. They care deeply about their faith and are dedicated to sharing the "Good News" with a society that is largely indifferent to Christianity.

We also came away with a deep appreciation for the people called "Methodists" who are struggling to cover expenses for the upkeep of large and beautiful (however deteriorating) buildings, with dwindling congregations, while dealing with a severe shortage of ministers.

We agree with Bishop Monk Bryan who recently stated that perhaps it is time for the American United Methodist Church to offer clergy and financial support to the Methodist churches in England. For it was through the Wesleys and the English that we call ourselves United Methodists today. Hopefully, we will be able to help motivate United Methodist clergy to give time serving in the land where Methodism began and to offer support and encouragement.

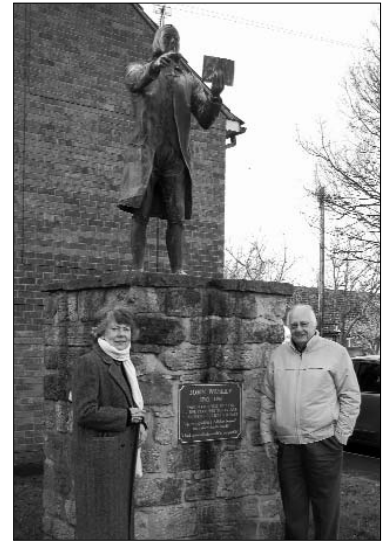
A part of us remains with those dear new friends and they with us. They will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. We are grateful to University Park UMC for allowing us to be away from our usual responsibilities to be in mission, representing the church to our fellow Methodists in England.

The words to the second stanza of Hymn #437 in our Hymnal reads:

*My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on clover-leaf and pine;
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover;
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
A song of peace, for their land and for mine.*



Carol Ann at Conisbrough Castle



Carol Ann and Larry at the Statue of John Wesley at Epworth.



York Minster

Ads and family updates wanted for guide book and directory

UPUMC has contracted Guide Book Publishing to publish a guide book and directory for our congregation that will be updated and delivered to your homes annually. This book will provide an overview of the mission, programs and people of the church.

Since the guide is being provided at no cost to the church, local businesses are being solicited to advertise in the book. Recent survey results by Guide Book Publishing show that more than 90 percent of families would rather patronize a guide book

and directory advertiser over a non-advertiser. If you own or manage a business and would like to get on the list for Guide Book to contact you about advertising in our directory, please call Carolyn Washburn at 469.916.9611.

In order to ensure the most up-to-date information is listed in the upcoming guide book and directory, please contact Wynn Moore at 214.368.1435, ext. 104 with any changes to your family membership record.

UPUMC NEWS AND NOTES

Weekday School Monthly Mission

During March the UPUMC Weekday School will collect gently used children's tennis shoes and athletic shoes for the Crossroads Community Center. Bring those "outgrown" shoes to the collection area outside the school office any time during March.

More Yoga in March - Exodus in April

Cooper School of Discipleship has two yoga classes beginning in March. Register in the Welcome Center or online at www.upumc.org/cooper. The schedule for the classes are:

- Yoga Session 3 begins Monday, March 23
- Yoga Session 4 begins Friday, March 27
- Disciple 2 - Exodus begins Wednesday, April 1

Wednesday UPLift Dinners

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. Lenten Kids Nights is from 5-6 p.m. for ages 2 through 6th grade. Dinner is served from 6-7 p.m. in the kitchen and Youth Bible Study is held from 7-8 p.m. in the Youth Center.

Sign up by March 8 for 'Created by God'

UPUMC will offer the human sexuality seminar "Created by God" on March 26-28 for all fifth and sixth graders. The purpose of this seminar is to educate children and parents in

the Godly principles regarding our sexuality and to affirm that growth and change in our bodies is part of God's perfect and wonderful plan for our lives.

The seminar will be held in the Youth Center at UPUMC. Cost for the "Created by God" seminar is \$25 per child, which includes the book used in the course. Registration deadline is Sunday, March 8. To receive a registration form or if you have additional questions, please contact Jessica Nelson at 972.839.7376 or jnelson@upumc.org.

Volunteers sought for VBS

Vacation Bible School will be June 8-12 from 9 a.m.-noon daily. This year's theme is "Camp EDGE" (Experience and Discover God Everywhere). It is a fun, camping-themed curriculum.

Please let us know if you are interested in using your gifts and talents as a volunteer to make Camp EDGE 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@sbcglobal.net or 214.341.1684 to volunteer or for information.

Chancel Choir springs birthday surprise

Jody Lindh and his wife, JoNell, celebrate at his surprise birthday party.

February birthdays had already been celebrated as a group, but Chancel Choir members wanted to give special recognition to Jody Lindh to mark his 65th birthday.

They did so on the evening of Ash Wednesday, surprising the director of music ministries at rehearsal that evening with a "Grim Reaper" cake decorated by Marilyn McKnight, balloons and song.

And yes, they really got him. Jody was surprised to see the decorations and the group of well-wishers, which included his wife, JoNell.

"I go back with a lot of these people a long time," Jody said, recalling another milestone birthday that involved choir members dressed in black and carrying candles. "They always come up with something to not let me forget it."

Welcome Report**New members and one birth**

Sloan and Sydney Teegarden joined on Feb. 1 by transfer of membership. Since joining, they have had an addition, Benjamin David, born Feb. 13.



Marynell Jones joined Feb. 1 at The Bridge service. She transfers her membership from another Methodist church. She is currently working on her MBA at SMU.



Kristen and Joel Tolson joined at The Bridge service on Feb. 8. They are involved in Young Adult Ministry events. Kristen is a graduate student at UT Southwestern, where Joel is employed.

We also welcome Bricker and Allyn Waid who joined Feb. 22 by transfer of membership. They have a 4-month-old son named Jack. (photo unavailable)

Baptisms

Lane Hartman Pope on Feb. 8. He is the son of Lloyd and Jamie Pope. He has a big sister named Maslan.



William Kennedy Holbrook on Feb. 22. He is the son of Jimmy and Ashley Holbrook. Also pictured is his big brother Henry.

PRAYERS

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

Hospital

Julia Fraze; Richard Hearne

Death

- Ethel Hill, mother of Skip Hill and grandmother of Jenni Hill, on Feb. 21
- Joe Lawrie, father of Bruce Lawrie, on Feb. 25
- David Muegge, nephew of Gloria Thomas, on Feb. 27

Prayer Requests

Toogie Elkins; Bob Shaw; Wanda Knight and Ann

Weaver, sisters of Blue Harris and aunts of Paige Flink; Jarvis, nephew of Constance Harp; Doug Yancey Hale, son of Jo Hale; Ella and Tony Luna, friends of Ann Petty; Bill Byxbee, father of John Byxbee; Ron Dyer, father of Ben Dyer; Louis Buzek, uncle of Micah Reese; Tessie Flanagan, mother of Ricky Flanagan and Sandra Flanagan; Amy Spence, mother of Kathryn Piazza; Christy Cummins and Cheryl Cummins, sisters of Dane Cummins; Cindy Hill, mother of Tiffany Luedtke; Mary Horras, mother-in-law of Paige Horras; Marsha Tanner, friend of Linda Durbin

FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE REPORT

	Attendance	Visitors
Feb. 1	479	35
Feb. 8	566	32
Feb. 15	483	35
Feb. 22	517	27
Feb. 25	205 (Ash Wednesday Services)	
Totals	2,250	129

Of the total visitors in February, 67 were first-time visitors.