

## Discovering God's love in Guatemala

By Neil Moseley  
Minister to youth and families

An adventure to a new place, to meet new people, and to try new things is always a little daunting. There are a million variables that can be guessed at but not really known. I've done 20-plus mission trips in my time, but add to the standard unknowns the newness of my role at UPUMC and the rather significant fact that I am little more than a stranger to the majority of the youth that would be going, and it's easy to see that there was a lot riding on this trip going really well.

But, no pressure. Well, at least no pressure that God and the people of God can't handle. We stepped off the plane in Guatemala after a pleasantly uneventful, if delayed, flight to find our two missionary contacts in Guatemala eagerly awaiting our arrival. Mary and Ashley, sisters from Colorado working in Guatemala, would be our constant companions, guides, and interpreters for the rest of our journey. The joy and love that we found in them was theirs, no doubt, but it undoubtedly grew from the extraordinary hearts of the indigenous Guatemalans.

I could write for days about the individual Guatemalans with whom we worked, ate, served, and played, but words would no doubt prove insufficient. Let me just say: they wanted to talk to us; they wanted to know us—where we were from and how and why; they wanted to hear about the U.S. and compare our lives; they wanted to understand us; they wanted to give and to share their possessions and their culture.

See "Youth return from Guatemala," page 8



The UPUMC youth group met a Guatemalan youth group on the beach of Lake Atitlan (top). Mary Catherine Hosch spent hours scraping stucco off the roof of the clinic (above).

## Start date set for building project

July 13 is the official start date for construction on the parking lot and landscaping phase of our building project.

This portion of the project includes an 80-car parking lot at Colgate and Pickwick, landscaping of the parking lot and along Colgate property, installation of new signage, and the addition of ramps at sanctuary and tower entrances.

The parking lot should take about 90 days to complete.

## Last chance to join the Mystery Trip

By Larry Ravert  
Associate pastor

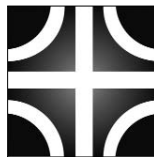
I visited someone in his office recently and saw a desk sign which read, "My decision is MAYBE... and that's FINAL!" In talking with many of the friends and members concerning whether they are going to join us on the Mystery Trip on Thursday, Aug. 13, many have said "maybe." I hope that is not final!

We will leave the church at 9 a.m. on a deluxe charter bus and travel through several little-known gems of Texas. We will have a special guide who will lead us around through the various sights, and share curious and interesting stories and episodes that happened there.

The cost of this trip is \$59 per person, which includes lunch, entrance fees, guide and escort. The non-refundable fee is due Friday, July 10, in the church office. Don't let your "maybe" be final!



The Rev. Bill Matthews is elected to UNA office. **8A**



Welcome report for June

**8A**

### IN WORSHIP JULY 12, 2009

Traditional, 8:45 and 11 a.m.  
"Walking in the Dark and Stepping on Toes," 1 John 1:5-10  
the Rev. Leighton Bearden

The Bridge, 11 a.m.  
"Jesus, Lord of the Sabbath"  
Matthew 12:1-8  
Jeff McCormick, preaching

### IN WORSHIP JULY 19, 2009

Traditional, 8:45 and 11 a.m.  
"Judging or Forgiving?"  
Matthew 18:15-20  
the Rev. Leighton Bearden

The Bridge, 11 a.m.  
Jeff McCormick, preaching

## UPUMC NEWS AND NOTES

**Young adults bound for Arkansas**

On Aug. 14-16, young adults are traveling to Mt. Sequoyah Retreat Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas. The trip is designed as a mission trip and spiritual retreat. Cost for the trip is \$85. Applications (due July 12) are available in the Welcome Center, on our website, or by e-mailing Blair Thompson at [bthompson@upumc.org](mailto:bthompson@upumc.org).

**Enrich your child's summer**

UPUMC Weekday School offers summer enrichment programs for ages 3-9 from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 3-6 and Aug. 10-13. Youngsters can learn about science, nature, manners and more. There also will be physical fitness activities and crafts. For more information, call 214.361.4626 or e-mail [relder@upumc.org](mailto:relder@upumc.org). You may also learn more and register at [www.upumcwds.org](http://www.upumcwds.org).

**Youth return from Guatemala**

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And whether intentional or not, they shared their joy; smiles a mile wide with consideration and kindness and laughter and sincerity; a real, pure joy that comes from deep down and doesn't have to be intentional; it just is, and it just spreads.

We enjoyed our work with kids at a sports camp that kept them off the streets and out of trouble. We painted and painted and painted and a few bare walls of a simple clinic were a little less stark and a little more inviting. We moved dirt with shovels and bags and sore backs and super muddy blue jeans. We carried construction materials and taught ultimate Frisbee and scraped dried stucco from a roof that needed patching, and the joy we took in our work was that of our Guatemalan hosts.

I will not speak for everyone who went, but I saw God in Guatemala, in the abundance of love and joy in which we were bathed. I saw God in the youth and the adult leaders whose energy



The UPUMC group climbed a steep hill overlooking San Juan for a quiet time and devotional.

and patience and openness and spirit manifested in hugs and pats on the back and long conversations and inside jokes and words of encouragement. It was a magnificent experience, and thanks to God's revelation therein and thereby, the trepidation that comes with a certain newness has been assuaged and made way for the joy of living in the present newness and enjoying the new people, the new

place, and the new work. For me, the revelation was not anchored in Guatemala but was something to bring back, a souvenir of sorts, a reminder and an inspiration to bring that same spirit to UPUMC and to my new work here.

I thank you for your prayers and support before and during our mission. Know that they were felt and contributed greatly to our service.

**Bill Matthews elected to UNA-USA office**

The Central Region of UNA-USA elected Bill Matthews to the CCD Steering Committee at the annual National Conference of the United Nations Association of the United States of America in Washington. The CCD, or Council of Chapters and Divisions, guides 135 chapters in cities and areas throughout the United States.

Bill, retired in 1997 in the North Texas Annual Conference, was ordained in 1956 in the Central Texas Conference. Having served churches and agencies in Texas and New Mexico, he and wife Norma were appointed missionaries of the General Board of Global

Ministries from 1964-73, serving in the Philippines and the South Pacific islands.

Bill has chaired the Interfaith Council of Thanks-Giving Square since 2007, is president of the UNA-USA Texas Division, and on the board of DFW International Community Alliance.

After retirement Bill and Norma returned to UPUMC, where he was youth minister from 1958-62 while completing studies at Perkins School of Theology, SMU. They sing in the choir, play bells in the Overtones, teach classes and volunteer in UMW and on committees.

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

Pam and David Dean joined June 28. Pam is the director of the UPUMC Weekday School. They both transferred their membership from St. Mary's Cathedral in Memphis, Tenn.

**JUNE ATTENDANCE REPORT**

	Attendance	Visitors
June 7	465	47
June 14	509	45
June 21	488	34
June 28	379	31
Totals:	1841	127

Of the total visitors in June, 55 were first-time visitors.

**PRAYERS**

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

**Hospital - Sofia Conshafter****Deaths**

- Margaret Patterson on June 25. Service was July 6 in Kilgore.
- Henry Lee Griffin on July 2. Services were July 9 in Canyon Lake. The Rev. Griffin was the grandfather of Rachel Baughman and great-grandfather of Griffin, Bekah, Sylvia and Thomas.
- John Meyer, father of Gary Meyer, on July 2. Service was held in Littleton, Colo.
- Adeline Grant on July 3. Services were July 8 at Wildwood Chapel. She joined the church in 1955 and was the wife of Charles and mother of the Rev. David Grant.

**Prayer Requests**

Amy Engleman; Barbara Isaacs; Mary Hanna, mother of Beth Hosch; Bethany Dean, daughter of David Dean; Bob Shaw; Doug Yancey Hale, son of Jo Hale; Edna Chambers, mother of Mark Chambers; Ella and Tony Luna; Eva Guest, niece of Linda Durbin; Gary Isaacs; Homer Jones, father of Mary Jacobs; Jarvis, nephew of Constance Harp; John Fisher, brother of Mary Cox; Laura Gibbs, niece of Gay Iglehart; Layden Stroud, friend of Lu and Tommy Turner; Linda Rudy, aunt of Lydia Rudy; Marsha Tanner, friend of Linda Durbin; Mary Cox; Melissa Self; Nick Holt, father of Roxane Holt; Vera Umana, wife of Fernando Umana; Wanda Knight, sister of Blue Harris and aunt of Paige Flink