



SCHOOL OF ESSENTIAL WISDOM WINTER TERM *continues...*

JANUARY: Dallas History Month

January 5 In the Beginning: The Early History of Dallas
Peggy Helmick-Richardson, along with her husband, Gene, serves as an Old City Park Historical Interpreter. Peggy and Gene are board members of the Dallas Storytelling Guild.



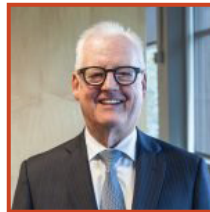
January 12 The History of Old City Park and Surrounding Areas
Peggy Helmick-Richardson
Learn about the early days of Downtown, Oak Cliff, and the area around the Zoo, and how they have developed.



January 19 A History of Faith in Dallas
Dr. Ted A. Campbell, Albert C. Outler Professor of Wesley Studies at Perkins School of Theology. Dr. Campbell's teaching specialties include the History of Christianity, the History of Christian doctrine and theology, and Methodist History.



January 26 The "Top 100" Historic Homes in the Park Cities
Larry Good is co-founder of the architectural firm GFF, and 2021 recipient of Dallas AIA's Lifetime Achievement award. An accomplished writer and editor, Mr. Good has authored a book entitled *A House for Texas*.



FEBRUARY: Service Leagues of Dallas

February 2 Salesmanship Club
Tommy Summers President, American Mortgage Advisers, Inc.



February 9 Masonic Lodge
Richard Schlaudroff Secretary of Dallas Lodge 760

February 16 Assistance League of Dallas
League Members



February 23 City Square
Larry James CEO Emeritus of City Square



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NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

If you are like me, in the last few weeks, you have eaten way too much. In fact, on Christmas Day I was nearly in a sugar coma.

The new year allows me to begin my healthy eating once again. More than a time to reset my diet, the new year can be a season of reflection, renewal, and hope. As Christians, we have the opportunity to approach the new year with confidence, knowing that God is with us through whatever challenges or opportunities we may face. In Jeremiah 29:11 the Lord says, "For I know the plans I have for you...plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and hope."

So, while setting my new year's resolutions, my main resolution will be to focus on my relationship with God. For me that will involve setting aside regular times for prayer, Bible study, attending church, & The School of Essential Wisdom. Also, it will involve seeking out opportunities to serve others in the name of Jesus.

I would suggest that we should all set our goals for the new year, perhaps even write them down. What do those goals look like for you? Hopefully those goals include spiritual growth, service to others, being open to the ways God may lead you and guide you in the coming year. By prioritizing our relationship with God, we can better align our hearts and minds with his will and purpose for our lives.

So, while what I put in my mouth is important, it is not as important as what I put in my soul and what actions I take in service to our Savior.

May peace be with each one of you, until we meet again,

Mary Jo McCurley

Lay Director Of Senior Ministry

LOOKING BACK TO CHRISTMAS at UPUMC



DEC. 11: Live Nativity performed by UPUMC Youth



Pictured ABOVE: FRONT, L>R: Clara Swarzendruber, Tolliver Youngblood, Redman Hume, Sam Stobaugh, Ellie Stobaugh, Beth Johnson, Jonah Johnson (Jesus)

BACK, L>R: William Tabor, Sam Montgomery, Drew Gregory, Knox Hickey



DEC. 12: United Women in Faith Christmas Luncheon and Silent Auction



The annual event was well attended and enjoyed by all. Mickey George, who has led UPUMC's unit for the past two years, presided. The auction netted over \$3800 to support missions benefiting women, children, and youth.



Fours and fives from the Weekday School charmed the audience with Christmas songs, complete with movements.



While some guests browsed, others gathered at tables to catch up with each other, talk about the items they'd bid on, and share holiday plans. After the meal, Reggie Campbell and Diana Wilson, who will jointly assume the presidency of the UPUMC Unit of UWF in 2023, thanked Mickey for her service.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

IT'S ABOUT TIME



The clock is ticking, and no one is more aware of that than I. Time has finally caught up with me and reminded me that there are certain limitations that come with age. For too long, I have ignored time's warning, pretending it would not happen to me. But it has, and I am thrilled to announce that Mary Jo McCurley is going to carry the heavy load of the Senior Life Ministry as Lay Director. Together with her colleague, Pam Breier, the Senior Life Ministry is in the most qualified, dedicated, and creative hands possible. I have watched them collaborate with each other and with other team members for the past several months and am thrilled they both have consented to carry on the work that has been started.

To further update you on the Senior Life Ministry, you should know that we have established, as an overall ministry, The University Park Academy. Under this umbrella are six missions: EQUIP (annual conference for Senior Life Ministry); The School of Essential Wisdom (Thursdays' programs); Podcasts; the *Spotlight*, University Park Press, and our emphasis on leaving a Legacy. The Chancellor of the Academy is Mark Parker. Mary Jo McCurley and Pam Breier will be responsible for EQUIP, The School of Essential Wisdom, and Podcasts. Maryam Mathis will remain as editor of the *Spotlight*; and I will tag along focusing on the Press and our Legacy programs.

So, you see, I am not going anywhere, I'm only stepping aside here and there for newer and fresher and brighter minds to take charge. I hope you will give Mary Jo, Pam, Maryam, and Mark all the encouragement you can muster; for it is a rewarding but demanding task. It is also vital to the nourishment and spiritual development of almost seventy percent of our congregation.

Forever beginning, *Dede*

4th ANNUAL EQUIP CONFERENCE: January 24-25, 2023 Designing an Environment to Engage Each Generation in Ministry

Mark Beese, leadership training and team building expert, is the EQUIP 2023 guest speaker. A highly sought after consultant, Mark will help attendees discover and cultivate the different gifts of their members. Whether you want to build up and enhance your ministry team, or help your company's staff find their unique strengths in a teamwork environment, this training is for YOU! You can register for the **2023 EQUIP CONFERENCE** today by going to: <https://www.upumc.org/equip2023.html> Then click in the **REGISTER HERE** box.



In February, join us for a Sunday afternoon Bible Study of Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews

led by **MIKE BENNETT**
at UPUMC

February 5, 12, 19, & 26
5:00 - 6:30 pm