

UPUMC

SENIORS

SENIOR *Spotlight*

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A MESSAGE FROM DEDE

Dear Friends,

For Texans, we had a what I would call a slow start to summer. However, I heard no one complaining about the cool mornings in early June. Of course, it turned positively tropical after that! Like they say: "Don't like Texas weather? Just wait 5 minutes!"

As summer changes our rhythms, we often have to adjust our schedules and even switch out duties. So, for a time, I will be editing and publishing the SPOTLIGHT. Stephen is working hard on the School of Essential Wisdom as well as hosting the school and the weekly podcasts. Therefore, I'll do my best to keep you informed on the many changes and daily opportunities that arise.

First, let me start on the concept of the School of Essential Wisdom. Months ago, in meeting with Joe, he asked us to emphasize 'loving God with our minds.' Both Stephen and I loved the idea, and this is when The Academy and the School of Essential Wisdom were born.

The Academy is now an umbrella with four pathways to 'loving God with our minds' under its canopy: The School of Essential Wisdom, the SPOTLIGHT, EQUIP 2022 and the University Park Press.

The School of Essential Wisdom is an interdisciplinary, interdenominational, and intergenerational learning center that presents a speaker every Thursday at 11 am and 8 pm, via Zoom. We have just completed the first semester (March, April, May) and started the summer term on June 3rd. This program is for everyone: members of the church, members from other churches, friends, and community. We had 57 participants for the spring semester and we intend to grow throughout the year.

For our summer semester we had Dr. Chuck Aaron in June, teaching on the Old Testament and Suffering. For July, five legal minds will dig into the Mosaic Law and the Laws of Relationships, of Justice, and of Mercy. And then four one-act plays will be presented in August. The fee is \$30.00 a semester (all 3 months). You can find the REGISTER HERE link on our website at: www.upumc.org/upacademy.

The school will continue being virtual even though the church is now open, so let me encourage you to join us. This congregation is a well-educated body of people who want and need in-depth studies and information. Our fall months are already set with Mary Jacobs discussing Journalism in today's world, a stockbroker discussing the country's financial profile, and Bill Matthews with the director of Thanksgiving Square, presenting its purpose and history. In January we have Dr. Craig Hill, Dean of Perkins School of Theology reviewing the State of the Church; and in February we will have Dr. Terry Parsons, a psychotherapist will be our guest presenter.

You are familiar with the SPOTLIGHT and EQUIP, which will again be held in January of 2022 (25th & 26th). The UP Press has already produced one booklet, I WITNESS, a collection of stories we called "Jesus Sightings." If anyone wants one, they are \$1.00. Simply call or e-mail me and one will be reserved for you at the

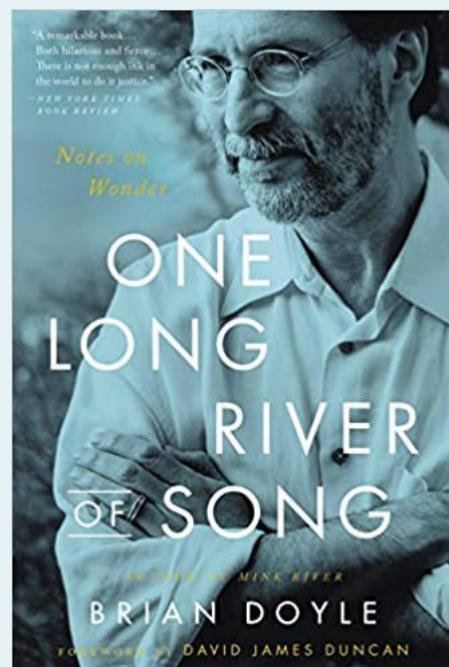
reception desk. We are currently seeking some grant funds to continue our production of books that inspire and educate.

Now, that the church is finally opening up, we encourage you to return to your church on Sundays and then enjoy the programs that are available to you. As many have said before me, 'it's your job to show up'. It's our job to have something for you to show up for. God is in this place, so we hope to see you and renew our friendship as soon as possible.

FOREVER BEGINNING ~ Dede

Book Review - by Sharon Christen

Our daughter-in-law just sent me a book, and I have fallen in love with the author. He was from Canada and is primarily known for his fiction for teens and young adults. (Hmmm - maybe that's why his writing appeals to me.) His name is Brian Doyle, and the book is ***One Long River of Song: Notes on Wonder***. It's a posthumous collection of short pithy essays that can range in subject matter from a hummingbird, the birth of his children, a first kiss, or to *"the staccato staggered music of my dad's old typewriter in the basement"* (which is one of the reasons why he was inspired to become a writer). His words easily invite you into the heart and mind of a very human being. In doing some research about Doyle, I learned that for four years before his death from brain cancer in 2017, he wrote a weekly column for the *American Scholar* titled ***Epiphanies***. Epiphany: a sudden insight or realization often brought on by an experience of the ordinary or commonplace. This seems to me an apt description of his work.



I'm going to quote from an essay, "The Look of Wonder on Her Face," from ***One Long River of Song***. It will give you just a taste of his words and ideas. I hope it will inspire you to search out one of his books. He was talking to a group of children and was engaged in conversation by an almost nine-year-old girl who had many questions for him. Toward the end of their interaction,

She said that one of her ambitions was to someday write a book with a really good pen, and I said that, by happy chance, I had a terrific pen on my person, in the shirt pocket where I always carry pens with which to start books if book-starting seems necessary, and that one thing authors should be with each other is generous with good pens. So I gave her my pen, observing that it might have a very good book in it, especially if the book was about minks, or otters, which are fascinating animals, as everyone knows. She accepted the pen gingerly, with great care, with a look on her face that I wish I could express in words. But even excellent words like astonishment and joy and gravity and awe and reverence do not quite catch the wonder of the look on her face. (page 62)

When I finish reading one of these "epiphanies," I feel like saying 'Amen' or 'Hallelujah' or 'So be it' or 'THE END'! I hope you will get to know Brian Doyle.

Bob Munroe's New Book

Fifty-three years ago, Bob Munroe wrote a book about Angels and Demons. A couple of years ago, he presented its content to the Senior Life audience. Now, Bob has made it available on Amazon, in Kindle format for \$6.00 and in paperback for \$8.00. You can get the Kindle version now, and paperbacks will be available on July 10. All royalties will be donated to the church. Check with Bob if you are interested in a paperback copy.

UPUMC has Podcasts?

Many of us know about podcasts, and some of us even listen to their favorites regularly. To others of us, podcasts are as unfamiliar as all the other new names that flood our vocabulary, like 'Yahoo,' 'Zoom,' and 'Google.' (One might think any of us could have found more attractive names for these new features in our world, but alas, not so.)

Podcasts, for University Park UMC, are 20-minute audio conversations with members of our church. They are produced for the sole purpose of learning more about each other. Stephen Fleming and I have been recording these podcasts for the last several months -- generally two a week -- and what we have learned is amazing. We have used as our theme: "Wisdom of the Sages." Our sages are people you see and know, but have never heard them express their life experiences, their spiritual journeys, or their love of the church.

The podcasts are posted weekly on our church's website. Each one stays current for two or three weeks and is then archived permanently in the cloud. We invite you to listen to these podcasts as often as you can and really get to know the people you think you know. To date, we have recorded some 30 podcasts and Stephen is busy editing them as fast as he can.

These are true treasures and will for years to come be part of the history of our church. Thanks to each one of you who has already come forth as one of our sages and each of you who are "waiting in the wings" to add your wisdom to the company of UPUMC sages.

How do you find the podcast? Below is an image of the UPUMC website page where you will find the link to our podcast website. The website has interviews of our church members that Dede and Stephen have recorded so far. Notice that from our website home page (upumc.org), the first time you get to THIS PAGE, you will click on "Our Ministries," then on "Seniors," then on "Senior Life Events." If you want to come back to it again in the future, you can "BOOKMARK" this page on your computer to access it next time without having to click so many times to arrive here. You can also go directly to the podcast site by typing www.upumc.podbean.com in your web browser.

To hear a podcast, you can click on one of these pale pink links to see a list:

[Listen here >](#) or visit upumc.podbean.com

Then, on the list, just click on the interview you want to hear.

The screenshot shows the University Park United Methodist Church website. The browser address bar displays the URL: upumc.org/our-ministries/seniors/senior-life-thursday-calendar.html. The website header includes the church logo and navigation links: Who We Are, Our Ministries, Get Involved, News & Events, Give, Members, Lent, and a search icon. The main heading is "Seniors". The left sidebar menu lists various ministries: Children, Youth, Adult Ministries, Seniors, Senior Sunday School, Senior Life Events, Senior Spotlights, Music, Pastoral Care, UPAcademy, and UMW. The "Senior Life Events" link is highlighted. The main content area features the "Senior Life Events" section, which includes the "Wisdom of the Sages Podcast" description and a link to "Listen here > or visit upumc.podbean.com". The "Listen here > or visit upumc.podbean.com" link is highlighted. Below the podcast description, there are two images: a tree with roots and a person practicing yoga.

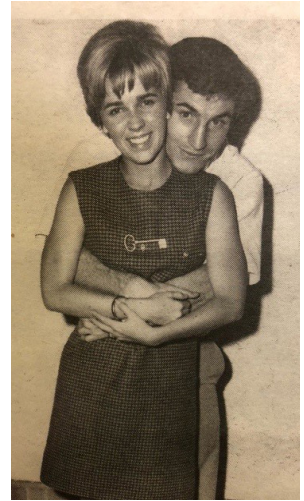
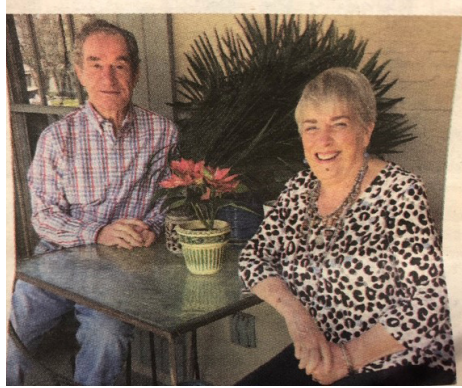
Shop may be closed but not forgotten.

Floyd and Johnetta Burke were recently featured in the May issue of People Newspapers. The below is an excerpt from the article.

The Burke's closed their store Wicker Basket, in 2019, but devoted patrons still call for poinsettias at Christmas, altar flowers for funerals, and unique blooming gifts during the year.

Floyd and Johnetta met at SMU in 1964 and married in April of 1968 then graduated together that May. Floyd and Johnetta decided they would purchase a business they could do together so they purchased The Wicker Basket. Johnetta said "I was inspired by Miss Cane's in Bossier City, Louisiana. It was an antique shop that had been a florist, and I thought I could use antique and vintage containers to create beautiful arrangements." She loves old things and loved repurposing them. Together they raised three children and have lived on Southern Blvd. since 1971. They still fill orders for custom arrangements so call 469-583-1532 to order something special for pick up or delivery.

(Evelyn Wolff, Shop May Be Closed, But Not Forgotten, People Newspapers, May 2021)



Welcome Jonah!



We joyfully announce the birth of Jonah Christopher Johnson, son of Beth and Philip Johnson, on June 6.

Beth is the UPUMC Minister to Youth and Families. Congratulations to the Johnson family!



Fiske Miles Library is open

The Fiske Miles Library within University Park United Methodist Church houses thousands of titles, from reference resources for Biblical study to popular fiction. Looking for a new book to study in Sunday School, a small group, or on your own? Come by the Fiske Miles Library and let us help you find the perfect study.

For more information about our library, please contact Diana Wilson at dianawilson@upumc.org.

You may also check out books online using the directions found at www.upumc.org/fiskemiles.

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FIND US ONLINE: To view detailed information about our Senior Life Ministry, please visit our website at www.upumc.org/seniors