

Annual Children's Choir Musical

Table for Five Thousand, The Miracle of the Loaves and the Fishes, will be presented on Sunday, April 28, at 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The performance will be preceded by a free lunch also in Fellowship Hall at noon, directly following 11 a.m. worship.

The account of Jesus feeding the five thousand is the only miracle, apart from the resurrection, that is reported in all four gospels. This musical version focuses particularly on the narrative as it appears in John, where one young boy with a small amount of food is the catalyst for everything that follows. The

young boy's willingness to share creates an event so startling that members of the crowd were moved to declare Jesus as King. Later in the story, the miracle leads to a greater revelation as Jesus tells his Disciples, "I am the Bread of Life. Those who come to me will never go hungry."

This musical stays true to biblical accounts while having an underlying message that the most humble among us, especially children, can do great things with God's help. The work appeals to all ages and incorporates humor with beauty and life lessons.

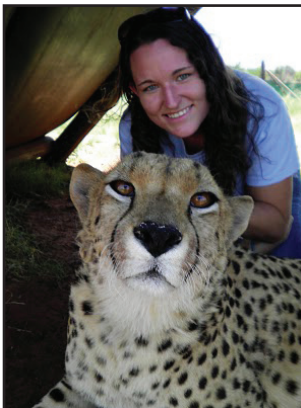
In the forward, lyricist and composer, Tom Long and Allen Pote, quote Mother

Teresa saying, "We can do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful." What a life lesson for our children as well as the adult congregation. Wouldn't it be wonderful if one day, everyone in the world did a daily act of kindness?

The Children's Choir, directed by Mary Farmer, has worked all semester to bring this musical to life. The choir consists of forty-five children K-5, assistant directors Kat Mangum and Philip Antinone and accompanist, Wanting Zhao.

Please plan to join us for this wonderful event and to support our young children through their journey of faith.

UCC Welcomes Kristine Tisinger



Kristine Tisinger, TCU graduate and long-time member of UCC, returns for a U.S. visit from her service as a Global Ministries Intern in the library at the Theological Education by Extension College (TEE) in Johannesburg, South Africa. She will be at UCC on Sunday, April 21, participating in all three worship services and leading a noon program.

Save the date and join the Koinonia Class sponsored luncheon following the 11 a.m. service. Kristine will share insights regarding present day life in southern Africa, the mission of TEE to train students for the ministry and her role as an Intern there, plus a few exciting personal adventures. The meal will be catered so reservations are necessary. Sign-ups will take place in The Arches on April 7 and 14.

For additional information contact Alice Phillips at 817.205.9564.



Stay Connected!

Traditional Worship
Sundays, 9 & 11 a.m.

The Search **Alternative Worship**
Sundays, 5 p.m.

Live broadcast of 11 a.m. service
on KTCU FM 88.7
or on our **website**
at www.universitychristian.org





Not to be Taken for Granted

by Rev. Larry Thomas, Senior Minister

Wedding receptions are great opportunities to meet new people. Last month, I attended a reception at which I knew only a few people. I soon struck up a conversation with a couple from out of state. They were two of about a dozen individuals who had worked with the father of the bride for many years. It was that continued friendship that motivated them to make the trip to Texas to attend the wedding.

We had not been visiting long before the wife began to tell me about the many things that they had done while in Fort Worth. They had visited the Amon Carter and Kimbell museums and were very complimentary of both. The Bernini exhibit at the Kimbell proved to be a magnificent experience for both of them.

The husband was an avid golfer and

having watched the PGA matches at the Colonial, had always wanted to play a round of golf on that world-famous course. A couple of friends, who held memberships, arranged a round on Saturday morning for him. He indicated that it had been as enjoyable an experience as he had imagined it might be.

The couple also spent some time on the Northside. They enjoyed their tour of the stockyards and were impressed with the shops and restaurants they discovered there.

One of the things they mentioned was the impressive architecture of our Sanctuary and the quality of the music, vocals and instrumentals, at UCC. I shared with them that UCC had a historical commitment to producing exceptional classical music for nearly every worship service one could imagine. I shared with them that we are so accustomed to that quality of music

that I sometimes fear we might take it for granted.

The last thing they mentioned made me laugh. They said that they were surprised by the prevalence of the color purple in our fair city. Seriously, they said they had never in their lives seen so many people, homes and businesses adorned in purple. I smiled and told them about my first experience with our TCU obsession, the one that involved my being told that the only appropriate attire for Fridays was purple...period! We had a good laugh before moving on to visit with other guests.

As I drove home later that evening, I began to think about how fortunate we are to live and work in such a magnificent place and how blessed we are as a congregation to play such an important role in the lives of those who call the sixteenth largest city in the United States their home.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!



*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below!*

This month, thousands of religious leaders are busy preparing sermons for their congregations in celebration of Earth Day. April 28 is Earth Stewardship Sunday at UCC. All three worship services will highlight our shared blessings from God's creation and our

responsibilities for its care. *The Search* service will be held outdoors in the midst of God's creation. We will celebrate our newly installed *Growing Up Green Community Garden* with guided tours of the garden following each service. Special activity kits on Earth care will be available for younger church goers. Also check out The Arches Bookstore suggested reading below!



Arches Offerings for Earth Day Celebration

In conjunction with the April emphasis on caring for God's creation, The Arches offers the following bibliography of Earth care literature:

For Younger Children - *How to Help the Earth - By the Lorax* by Tish Rabe

For Older Children - *Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95* by Phillip Hoose

For Parents and Teachers - *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv

For Families - *Let's Go Outside: Outdoor Activities and Projects to Get You and Your Children Closer to Nature* by Jennifer Ward

For Youth and Adults - *A Rich Spot of Earth: Thomas Jefferson's Revolutionary Garden at Monticello* by Peter J. Hatch

On your way out to enjoy the warm weather, stop by The Arches and take a look.



Suzanne Castle Sabbatical

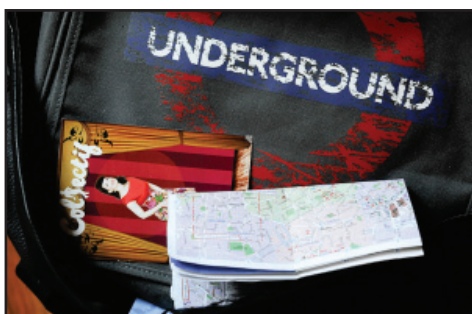
Dr. Suzanne Castle has been granted a sabbatical that will begin May 7 and run through August 17. Her sabbatical will be a focused time for scholarship and exploration in ministry that will be a combination of rest, reflection and renewal. She indicated that she believes “a successful sabbatical energizes the minister and pushes her creative goals forward in ways that are not possible in the day-to-day ministries of the church.”

During her sabbatical, she will focus on the intersection of creativity, culture and church, with a focus on the best practices for daring, dreaming and doing church in a landscape that is changing at a rapid

pace. She will be reading no less than thirty books on creativity in a variety of marketplaces and settings, as well as journey to the Disney Institute to work with an Imagineer. When she returns, no doubt she will have a variety of interesting ways in which to engage the Holy. She will also be a featured speaker in a variety of large conferences and festivals over the summer. This will not be a sabbatical of “rest” in the traditional sense, but a creative renewal for her!

In her absence, various members of the College Ministry CORE team, *The Search* Advisory Team and staff are stepping up to assist in the ministries she is setting aside. If you have any questions about her sabbatical, or how sabbatical policies are established at UCC, please contact the Personnel Committee.

Sunday Night Adult Programming: A Different Approach



Did you know that we have a group of adults that meets every Sunday evening around 6:30 p.m. in local venues in Fort Worth? Did you know that lay people

and ministers who engage in culture, faith and religion lead this group? Did you know that all are welcome?

What is it? The Underground.
When is it? 6:30 p.m. Sunday evenings
Where is it? You have to show up at UCC to find out.

Come and be with those seeking to live out faith in meaningful ways with us! For more information, please contact Suzanne Castle (suzanne@uccftw.com) or Karen Parker (misskatee@yahoo.com).

Camp Registration Sunday



Stop by Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 7, between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to register children and youth for summer camps at Disciples Crossing and mission trips to Houston and Memphis. Ministry assistant Sharyn Peterson will be present to process registrations and provide blank forms and tally sheets. Registrations completed that day will qualify for early bird discounts, saving as much as \$130 for some camps. For the full list of summer camps and mission trips by date and grade, or to download registration forms in advance, visit www.uccyouth.org.

Complete list of camps also listed on page 11.

Life of the Church

Births

Ford Marshall McMurrey, son of Lauren and Ben McMurrey, born March 13. Grandparents are Lana Hoover and Rick Ford.

William Jackson Bowling, great-grandson of Leah and Ron Flowers, born March 12.

Taylor Settle Harrison, granddaughter of Anne and Mike Harrison, born February 20. Parents are Lissa and Chris Harrison.

Eleanor Boyd and Graham Boyd, daughter and son of Sarah and Russ Boyd, born March 5.

Grace Cambron Reckamp, granddaughter of Mitzi and Don Mills, born February 19. Parents are Jessica and John Reckamp; great-grandmother is Wilma Jean Tade.

Rolly Kester Hart, granddaughter of Pam and Dick Skersick, born February 18.

Deaths

Anita Gorder, March 15
Sister of Vera Rowell

Hans Johann Mueller, March 6
Husband of Sara Mueller

Gladice Ollerenshaw, March 4
Mother of Sherri Cook

Leo Tate, March 2
Cousin of Laura West

Dorothy Estill, February 28
Mother of Jim Estill

Rev. Richard Don Brice, February 25
Brother of Dr. Gene Brice

Mary Kay Laughbaum, February 18

Shirley Kellerman Cunningham
January 7

Weddings

Kimberly Yates and Justen Murdock
March 2

Brooke Saunders and Kevin Sharples
March 16

Journey Land Psalms



Our Journey Landers studied Holy Week and Easter during Lent. Here are some beautiful examples of psalms our third

and fourth graders created in our www.kingdom.com Computer Room.

Third Grade

On the Cross

On a grassy hill;
They took You against your will.
On a cross made of stone;
They stuck nails through Your bones.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
You rose again;
To save our sins.
We will praise the Lord,
Forever and more.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

By Audrey Patty, Sadie & Emma Pardue

The Lord Goes Rhyming

The Lord goes in town
And the people bow down
The priests found out
And wandered about
They arrested the Lord
And got very bored
So they gambled for His clothes
From His head to his toes

By Stephen Coffey and Ryan Mills

Our Lord

Our Lord has come
Hosanna Hosanna!
Holy Week has begun
He died on a cross
For our sins
And got rid of our loss
Women came to the tomb
Found He was gone
There was no more doom!
Because He had risen
Alleluia! Alleluia!

By Mila Jones, Joye Hatter & Maria Gober

He died for our sins.
Though He was innocent.
Because the priests were jealous.
Three days later,
Mary Magdalene came.
She saw an angel before her,
The angel told her,
Jesus has risen.
So you can live forever.
Amen

By Gabriela Yarbrough,
Abby Ellison and Kendall Lehman

Fourth Grade

Lord you are awesome!
First Palm Sunday,
then the Last Supper,
then You died on the cross,
then You rose from the dead.
You are just plain awesome.

By Zachary Milton

Jesus our Messiah,
The King of all our kings,
You died for us,
You rose for us,
Let the angels sing!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the Lord, our King!
Jesus our Messiah,
Praise the Lord, our King!
By Janie Bradford

Jesus the Christ

The one and only
You were betrayed,denied
Nailed and killed on a cross
But You rose again for us
Praise to You!
Praise to God!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
May Your love be forever more.

By Bailey Harrell

Jesus, Jesus betrayed and denied
You died on the cross but You came back
to life
Jesus, Jesus a wonderful man
Because of You we do all that we can
We praise You at church , and we praise
You at night
We love You with all our might

By Abby McGehee

Pastoral Care: Alzheimer's Exploratory Committee

by Carol Ehlmann

More than twenty years ago while sitting at a table for a lunch event, I was taken aback when one of the persons shared quite openly that just the past week they had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Continuing in a very positive, cheerful manner this person talked about the fact that, thankfully, there were medicines and treatments available that could be helpful in delaying the process of this disease, so there was reason to be somewhat optimistic. That person is still alive and friends and loved ones have broken-heartedly watched as gradual diminishment in all abilities has occurred. That event of self-disclosure of diagnosis by an Alzheimer's patient and the ensuing developments were my first

introduction to this issue.

Even though my husband and I and our immediate family have not been touched directly yet, as time has passed it has become apparent to us that we, including our family, need information on resources available to help both those that are affected by dementia related-illness and their caregivers.

After conversations with Rev. Larry Thomas, an exploratory committee has been formed to address this need for members and friends of UCC. Those serving are myself, (Carol Ehlmann), Karen Boring, Carol Jane Lawrence, Judy Clinkscales, Vera Rowell and

Jennifer Cricchio, staff liaison.

From the beginning, we realized results of this work were not going to happen quickly. There are a lot of issues to be addressed regarding information to be made available and educational opportunities to be offered at UCC and elsewhere.

In the meantime, we, members of UCC, need to treat those dealing with dementia-related illness, their family members and caregivers with respect and dignity and allow them the privacy and support they need as we travel on this journey together. If you have questions and/or suggestions, contact Jennifer Cricchio, Pastoral Care Coordinator at 817.926.6631.

North Carolina Choir Trip Musings

by Marty Mills, Chancel Choir Tenor

- Love of Music
- Another way to talk with God
- Giving back to God a talent he has given by sharing it with others
- Fellowship with others with similar interest
- Helping to provide another way for people to hear and feel God's presence.

All of the above happen in a unique way when we perform as a choir on our trips. Some are felt individually and others as a group. The various responses from those to whom we sing, manifested in smiles, tears, keeping time with the music, mouthing the words with us and glorious facial expressions all help to produce truly inspired performances.

On our Spring Break tour to North Carolina, we sang in two Disciples of Christ congregations: First Christian Church of Charlotte and First Christian Church of Asheville, one whose choir numbered a dozen on a good Sunday and the other who had no choir. One had a congregation made up of a large number of Vietnamese who spoke little or no English but still worshipped our same Lord and were moved by the

music. The other congregation, though quite small, had many non-members in attendance. In both churches, the responses made it apparent that our ministry of music was meaningful and much appreciated.

We had the opportunity to become better acquainted with other choir members and became more aware of our strengths and weaknesses, and also the burdens and talents which help us

to become a better "tuned" choir. The talent and energy of our TCU students bless and strengthen us.

Of course, we met some great people, saw some wonderful sites, stayed in amazing places and felt God's presence in amazing ways.

Those to whom we sing inspire us!
We uplift them! We all are blessed!



Of Secrets and Identity Theft



UCC joins with Brite Divinity School and First United Methodist Church to bring scholar and author Paul H. Jones to Fort Worth for a two-day *Jesus Seminar on the Road*, April 19-20, in the Bass Conference Center at Brite Divinity School. The program is part of the *Jesus Seminar on the Road* series presented in the spring and fall throughout the country by Westar Institute.

Jones recently published *The Church's Seven Deadly Secrets: Identity Theft From Within*. The professor maintains that faith formation does not happen by accident. Unless the church deliberately and willfully passes on the tradition, its mission will be gradually compromised. The seminar will empower church members to rediscover the church's meaning and mission and to regain the church's vigor and vitality.

This will be a homecoming for Jones,

who received his Master of Divinity degree from Brite. He also holds a Bachelor's degree from Yale University, and his Master's and Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University. He is currently professor of religion at Transylvania University in Lexington, KY.

Seminar cost is \$60 for registrations by April 12, and the student rate is \$35. Register online at westerinstitute.org. Questions? Contact Bronson Davis at Bronko43@att.net (817.763.8589).

UCC Journal

Carol Ann Fewell, Editor • Michelle Groom, Circulation

The UCC Journal (USPS 019-016) is published monthly for \$15 per year by University Christian Church, 2720 South University Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76109-1197. Periodicals Postage Paid at Fort Worth, TX, and additional mailing offices.

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Visit us on the web at www.universitychristian.org for more information.



Important Summer Dates for Children's Ministries

Put these exciting opportunities for children and families on your calendar!

VBS online registration for UCC members began March 1. Open registration begins April 1.

Family Camp • June 7-9
(families with at least one child under 18 and an adult over 21)

Vacation Bible School



June 25-28

Be sure to mark your calendars now so you can be a part of *God's Backyard Bible Camp* (ages two to third graders) or *Backyard Mission VBS* (fourth and fifth graders).

God's Backyard Bible Camp is \$20 per child or \$40 per family; however, four day volunteers receive half-price registration. *Mission VBS* registration is \$35. Visit www.ucckids.org to register and pay online or pick up forms in The Arches. All volunteer forms can be found at www.ucckids.org.

JYF Camp I • July 8-12
(completed fourth or fifth grade)

JYF Camp II • July 15-19
(completed fourth or fifth grade)



Summer Fun

(for children two months to entering K)

Camps for Children and Families at Disciples Crossing in Summer 2013

Grand Camp • May 31-June 2
(children ages 4-10 and a grandparent)

Discovery Camp • May 24-26
(completed second or third grade and a parent)

Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 a.m.–noon
Session I–June 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19
Session II–July 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24
\$120 per session

We will focus on serving our family, serving friends, serving community, and serving Jesus.

Contact Joy Milton at cjoym@yahoo.com for information and availability.

Music Makers Camp



Get excited about summer youth music at UCC! Our new Music Makers Camp will provide all types of musical

activities for our second-fifth graders. No matter what their interest, whether it be singing, music history, playing percussion, composing or just being with their friends, this camp has it all. Music Makers will meet from 12-3 p.m., June 25-28, right after VBS.

This camp is an incredible opportunity for our children to gain confidence

socially, grow musically and have a great time with their friends. Please visit our website and follow the links to sign up. Space is limited! If you have any questions, you can contact Marsha Hodges at marsha@uucftw.com or Mary Farmer, Director of Children's Choirs, at maryelizabethfarmer@yahoo.com.

Seeds in CCF/JYF in April



Children's Christian Fellowship (first through third grades) and Junior Youth Fellowship (fourth and fifth grades) will continue our year of fun, service and learning in April. Look forward to movie night and a full celebration of springtime through a focus on seeds

(seeds on the path, seeds on the rocks, seeds on the thorns and seeds on the soil). We begin each week at 6 p.m. in Room 218 with a snack supper (\$3). Join us for fun, fellowship, learning, service and worship on Sunday nights in April—and bring a friend, or two!

Fit Worth Competition Winners!



Fitness competition winners are the Flamingos! Jerra Tillman, Joanie Grimm, Mary Ruth Jones, Debbie Powell, George Runnion, Jim Smith, Susan Smith and Ernie O'Donnell received four points out of four possible points every week of the competition. Points were received if the entire team, each week, drank eight glasses of water per day, ate at least five fruits or vegetables a day, exercised for thirty minutes, four days a week and memorized one Bible verse per week. Their prize was free tickets to the Day Resource Center Jazz Concert. Congratulations Flamingos!

Parish Nurses will soon be holding sign-ups for a walking team, dance lessons and yoga. Stay tuned for more details.

UCC Kids Hope First Annual Summer Reading Book Drive

By Alice Phillips, Chair, UCC / Rosemont Elementary Kids Hope program



It is hard for me to believe that it has been over six months since UCC began the process of working with teachers, counselors and administrators at Rosemont Elementary School as part of the Kids Hope child mentoring program! Powerful personal stories, from our mentors, teachers and parents are beginning to flow my way, and it is deeply uplifting and moving to know

that we are already making a difference in the lives of these kids.

In talks with the librarian at Rosemont, we have identified a need that UCC can help with—books for their summer reading program. We are organizing a book drive to help offset the cost of an estimated 550 books needed for Rosemont school kids' summer reading. This is a great opportunity for those who cannot provide the hour per week of mentoring time, but want to help these local kids in some way.

During the month of May, we will have a display area set up in The Arches so that any who wish may provide financial assistance with this book drive. The Rosemont librarian has identified books that will be assigned to each grade level. Those who wish to help may review a list of the books, and choose which book(s) they wish to purchase. With each purchase, the supporter will have the opportunity to sign a book plate and leave a personal message to the child if he or she wishes.

2013 Project Homeless Connect

April 11, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Calling all interested volunteers to assist at the Sixth Annual Fort Worth Homeless Connect.

This annual event provides ways for the homeless to connect with social services and supportive help as they seek to move off the streets. Hosted by First Presbyterian Church, 1000 Penn Street,

Fort Worth, volunteers serve as hosts and guides. Last year over 300 homeless guests attended. In preparation for Homeless Connect, UCC will collect shoe laces, lip balm, foot powder and nail clippers (in the bin near the Reception Desk) which will be assembled along with other "goody" bag items for each guest. For information contact Donna Laminak at 817.927.3090.



Nicaragua Mission Pilgrimage

For a third summer, a UCC mission group will travel to Nicaragua to

work with Project Chacocente and La Mision Cristiana, where our missionary partners, Laura Jean Torgerson and Tim Donaghy, serve. As in previous years,

the trip is recommended for people sixteen years old and older who are willing to work hard and have their lives transformed as they learn from and connect with the people of Nicaragua. Dates are July 21–28; cost is \$1,350. Registration and \$150 deposit are due by April 15. Contact Cyndy Twedell for further information.



Backpacks for Kids

Tarrant Area Food Bank's (TAFB) Backpacks for Kids program ensures that children in low income families do not go hungry on weekends, when

they do not receive a free or reduced-cost breakfast and lunch at school. In operation since 2003, school counselors

discretely distribute backpacks filled with nutritionally sound, kid-friendly, nonperishable food to these children each Friday afternoon. UCC has the opportunity to fill backpacks on the fourth Wednesday of each month (April 24) from 6-7:30 p.m. at TAFB located at 2600 Cullen Street. This is a great ministry in which the entire family can participate. For more information contact Lynn Cross at 817.926.6631.



Newcomers Class

If you've been looking for a good way to invite a friend or family member to UCC, the Newcomers Class provides a wonderful opportunity. The next class is offered Sundays, May 5, 12 and 19, at 10 a.m. in Room 201. All are welcome.

The Newcomers Class provides an opportunity to get to know others, meet Rev. Thomas, learn about UCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and tour the building. Questions are always welcome.

For more information, please contact Michelle Groom, Ministry Assistant to Rev. Cyndy Twedell, at 817.926.6631 ext. 138., or email her at mgroom@uccftw.com.

The next Newcomers Class will be offered in September.

New Members

What a joy it is to welcome new faces to the UCC family of faith!
Please take time to get to know these who make our community richer by their presence.



Paul and Paula Allred recently moved to Fort Worth from The Woodlands when Paul's job as a reservoir engineer for Exxon Mobile (now XTO) was transferred. Paula was a Latin/English teacher there. After meeting so many wonderful folks at UCC and discovering that Ernie and Judy O'Donnell are here, the decision to join UCC was an easy one for them. Paul and Paula were married by Ernie O'Donnell at First Christian Church in Richardson thirty-five years ago, almost to the day! UCC already feels like home and Paul and Paula feel blessed to be here and look forward to worshipping and serving.



John and Stephanie Pierce married and moved to south Fort Worth in 2012. Educators for Burleson ISD, John teaches tenth grade English at Centennial High School and Stephanie teaches fourth grade at Frazier Elementary. They share a love of books and travel. John and Stephanie began visiting UCC last fall and immediately felt comfortable here. They were "compelled to join UCC because of the quality of the worship services, the friendliness of the members and staff, and the many opportunities for spiritual growth and service."



Welcome the Vestals. Lyndon and Amanda & their daughter Avery (eleven months old) are proud to call UCC their new "home." Lyndon works with Ryan Directional Services and Amanda is a stay-at-home mom. They enjoy spending time together, traveling and making new friends. The Vestal's are grateful for their encounter with Bobby Wayne Cook who invited them to UCC. They met in Costco and Lyndon and Bobby shared their Navy/Marines connection.



Aaron Griffith was born in Fort Worth and graduated from Paschal High School. He attended TCU until he transferred to College of Charleston in 1996. He worked for Honey Baked Ham for ten years before deciding to move back to Fort Worth in July. Currently he works for State Farm Insurance as a sales associate.



Scott and Stephanie Kramer are very excited to part of the UCC family. Five years ago they made a marriage commitment to each other in this very church. Scott is currently a pilot with American Eagle Airlines and Stephanie works as an Assistant Principal in Keller ISD. This past September they welcomed their beautiful baby girl Hannah to their family. They look forward to beginning this journey as parents with their new church community.



Baby Dedication

John Sherman Rutherford V, son of Kara & John S. Rutherford IV. Grandparents are Betty & John S Rutherford III and Lonna & Thomas Souther. (Dedicated on December 16, 2012)

Register Now for Youth Mission Trips

UCC's middle and high school youth will be learning and serving on two mission trips this summer. Youth in grades nine through twelve will travel to Memphis, TN, on the CYF Mission Trip, where they will work at a variety of ministries and agencies serving the city's most vulnerable residents and visit

landmarks like the National Civil Rights Museum. The trip will take place June 30–July 6 and the cost is \$350 per person.

Students participating in the Chi Rho Mission Trip (grades six through eight) will spend four days in Houston helping feed the hungry by working at

the Houston Food Bank. The group will depart Sunday afternoon, June 9, and return Wednesday night, June 12. Trip cost is \$150 per person. Full and half scholarships for both trips are available upon request. Trip details and registration forms, at www.uccyouth.org.



Youth Garage Sale

Spring cleaning time is here, so let UCC help you clean out your house for a good cause! Donate your tax-deductible items to the UCC Garage Sale benefiting our youth program. We have lots of fun while raising thousands of dollars for our youth! Preview sale is

Friday, April 12, 4-7 p.m. (\$5 admission) and the public sale is Saturday, April 13, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (\$1 admission). Drive up to the north entrance of the church and our youth will help unload donations from your car every Sunday from 8:30 -11 a.m., except on Easter, March 31. Large item pick up is available (no large appliances).

This event requires many volunteers to make it happen! We need your help! Questions? Contact co-chairs Cyrena Allen (817.692.2099) or cyrena@lawrence-allen.com or Kellie Morton (817.296.9818) or krmorton@sbcglobal.net. Want to volunteer? Contact Robin Nelson at 817.207.0158 or robin.nelson69@yahoo.com.

Third Grade Bible Thank You!

Thirty Bibles for third graders were given as gifts by UCC following our Third Grade *Learning to Use My Bible* class. These Bibles were made possible by the generous donations of Steve and Amy Shineman, Jeff D. Conatser Foundation, and May Henson Fund. Jake and Lynita Yarbrough, Jeanne

Duke and Meg Lehman led our third graders in their six-week Bible class. In this class, our children learned the basics of their Bible; but they also gained an understanding that the Bible is a library of treasures to be studied, discerned, and sought after in good times and bad. The studying our third graders did allowed

them to take on (and handily defeat) the High School juniors and seniors in an intense game of Bible Bowl. Thank you to all who helped to make our 2013 third Grade Bible experience a complete success!



Sticky Faith in Action: Our High School Youth competed against the third graders in an intense version of Bible Bowl.



UCC Mission Statement

University Christian Church is dedicated to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ through deeply spiritual worship, study, and service. Founded on the campus of Texas Christian University and shaped by our academic heritage, University Christian Church encourages a spirit of openness and freedom of thought. We are called to create a loving and caring community for all people, and work together for justice and peace in our world. Recognizing that our spiritual journeys are all different, we strive to be respectful and inclusive concerning each individual's relationship with God.

New Choral Anthem



Robert Lowry was a prominent American professor, minister and hymn writer of the nineteenth century. We have eight of his hymns in our *Chalice Hymnal* including such classic favorites as *I Need Thee Every Hour*, *Shall We Gather at the River*, and *Marching to Zion*. A Baptist congregation classic called *Christ Arose* is also by Robert Lowry.

The vocal ensemble *Of Many Colors*, plus additions from UCC's Chancel Choir, will present a brand new arrangement by Jim Hodges of this hymn at the Sunday morning services on April 7.

The author's inspiration for *Christ Arose* text, written in 1874, was Luke 24:6-8. Our congregation member and composer Jim Hodges says this about his musical inspiration: "There are special things about old hymns that are intrinsic, touch the heart and come from the soul of the composer. Hymns were written for 'the people'... hence the writing had to be simple." He added, "I have always relished the challenge of developing and hopefully adding dimension to an original hymn in authentic form. The hymn I chose to develop for this 'Low Sunday' service is, *Christ Arose*. The concept was to set up the original verses with two (2)

pre-verses and one (1) pre-chorus. The additional sections included written material from Biblical accounts. The idea of the additional compositional material was to provide a more vivid recollection of the incredible drama from the three days of The Crucifixion to The Resurrection. The intention was to make each section flow in and out of each other while providing a musical adaptation that brings the listener into the moment."

We hope this description of a brand new work with guest singers will inspire each of you to come celebrate the Second Sunday of Easter, April 7.

Men's Movie Night

Saturday, April 20, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 207, join us for the acclaimed 1996 film, *Lonestar*.

When the remains of a vicious and infamous sheriff are found after many

years, old wounds and buried secrets are visited upon the inhabitants of this Texas border town. The past haunts the present in this powerful film about race, identity and politics among diverse people trying to figure out how to

live together. \$5 at the door gets you a chicken dinner, the movie and great conversation.

Sign up at The Arches Information Desk on Sundays or email sharyn@uccftw.com.

Gallery Notes

by Judy Stempel



At Cana, Jesus Turns Water into Wine
Jesus Mafa

Have you noticed the print of Jesus turning the water into wine? It is set in an African village in Cameroon, and even though it is relatively small, it stands out from the other offerings in The Gallery.

The Jesus figure is just to the left of center, and we see him from behind. He is listening intently to a woman (his mother!) who is imploring him to "do something" about the crisis at hand. The host of the wedding has run out of wine.

The story is found in only one place—the Gospel of John 2:1-11. Jesus commands the servants to fill six large stone jars with water. When they draw some out and take it to the chief steward, it has turned into wine of superior quality—even finer than the wine served at the beginning of the celebration. This was not a miracle to astonish or amaze, but rather a sign, pointing to the presence of God in the person of Jesus.

While we have only one example in our collection, there are over 60 gospel stories interpreted by the Mafa people in Cameroon (West Africa). Each comes from a lectionary reading that is adapted and dramatized by the community members. Photographs are made and then transcribed to paintings by an artist. The Mafa people portray the gospel stories in an African village setting as they imagine them to be from the perspective of their culture, customs, dress, architecture and environment. Prints are used in teaching settings in Africa and throughout the world.

You can see the collection at www.jesumafa.com (click on Catalogue, then Mini-Posters).

Take time to appreciate what is going on in the picture. The bride and groom, their two attendants and four musicians are in the upper right quadrant. Villagers, children, even a goat, dot the scene. Do you see the baby being carried in a sling on its mother's back? Just to Jesus' left, a steward is pouring what appears to be the last of the wine into a guest's bowl. Jesus hasn't acted yet, but he will.

To the Mafa people, this story is not something that happened 2,000 years ago. It is a living reminder of the power and presence of Jesus. What if we were to interpret this story in our own time and setting? Where would the action take place? What would the characters be saying and doing? How would they be dressed? Where are you in the story?

Just for Women



Women's Ministries engage women in meaningful enrichment, spiritual growth, study and worship while advocating for and reaching out to women in our community and around the world. Women's Ministries work to bring together women of all ages and both a.m. and p.m. worshipping communities in creative opportunities to share the good news of God's love and the mission of Jesus the Christ. For more information about Women's Ministries, please contact Cyndy Twedell, Associate Minister, 817.926.6631.

Don't miss these upcoming events:

Women's Circles

First Tuesday monthly, October through May, plan to join us April 2, 10 a.m.

Lily of the Valley Circle
Home of Joy Noel
2601 Highview Terrace - 76109

Rose Circle
UCC Library (Room 150)

Cup of Blessing Bible Study

Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Room 211. Bring your bag lunch and join this spirit filled group for the book of Judges.

Church Women United Spring Celebration

Saturday, April 6, 10 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church. Judie Byrd, author of several cookbooks and food editor of *Fort Worth, Texas Magazine*, will share recipes, kitchen tips and tricks and inspire with great ideas for spring meals and entertaining during *In the Kitchen with Judie*. Tickets are \$15 per person or get two for \$20. Contact Gail Jensen at 817.924.0622 or gailsjensen@gmail.com for details or to purchase tickets.

Latte with the Ladies

Coffee and conversation the second Saturday each month at local coffee houses beginning at 9 a.m. and continuing for those who prefer to come at 10 a.m. April 13 at Brewed (801 W. Magnolia Avenue, 76104).

Sunday Evening Women's Group

Sunday, April 14, at 6 p.m. in Room 204

WILD Women Book Club

Third Tuesday each month from noon to 1 p.m. in the UCC Library. Join us April 16 as we continue our year of mystery with a discussion of *Dying for Chocolate* by Diana Mott Davidson.

May Friendship Day and Bible Study

Friday, May 3, 10:30 a.m. at Gethsemane Presbyterian Church, 960 W Bluff St., 76102. Celebrate passionate friendships that give form and reality to the work and vision of a just, peaceful and caring movement. Donations will be collected benefiting John Peter Smith Hospital: travel size toiletries along with layettes, blankets, booties, diapers and gowns for babies.

General Assembly 2013 in Orlando



If you are going to General Assembly and would like to be a voting delegate for UCC, please contact Thelia Chaffin for more information at 817.926.6631 ext. 132 or email thelia@uccftw.com.

Summer Camps for Youth and Children

at Disciples Crossing in Athens

Grand Camp (K-4 with an adult)
Option #1: May 31–June 2
Option #2: August 30–September 1

Discovery Camp (2-3 with an adult)
May 24-25

JYF Camp (4-5)
Option #1: July 8-12
Option #2: July 15-19

Chi Rho Camp (6-7) • June 24-29

Eighters Camp (8) • June 30–July 6

Niners Camp (9) • June 17-22

CYF Conference (10-12) • June 10-15

Equine Camp (6-12) • August 5-9

(grade completed in parentheses)

Friday Fellowship

Judith Oelfke Smith created our beautiful Sanctuary cross and many of UCC's stained glass windows. Her *Tree of Jesse* window illuminates the Sanctuary north balcony. For our fellowship program on Friday, April 12, Judith will present slides and discuss the making and symbolism of the *Tree of Jesse* and other stained glass windows in the church.

If you have a free Friday and are retired, we meet in Room 207 at 11 a.m., followed by a potluck lunch. Please bring a side dish to share.

Thank You!

The February toiletries drive was a big success. The South Central Alliance of Churches is the outreach arm of UCC in Fort Worth and serves families in need in our neighborhood. With many families in financial difficulty, ability to access these items will allow them to use their limited resources on food, rent and other necessities. Watch for the Canned Food Drive in May!



UCC JOURNAL

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Congregational Meetings

Communications Committee

Wednesday, April 3
5:30 p.m., Room 202

Personnel Committee

Thursday, April 4
5:30 p.m., Room 202

Deacons • Sunday, April 7

12:15 p.m., Room 205

Finance Committee • Tuesday, April 9

5:30 p.m., Room 202

Building & Grounds

Sunday, April 14
12:05 p.m., Room 202

Board of Stewards • Tuesday, April 16

6:30 p.m., Room 207

Elders Meeting • Tuesday, April 23

6:30 p.m., Room 207

All members of the congregation may attend these meetings with the exception of any portion of a meeting held in Executive Session.

El Paso Pilgrimage Highlights



Allison Ruiz and Carol Stewart enjoy time together as they plant onions at Jardin de Milagros farm outside El Paso.



Carter Wilken experiencing a meaningful moment at the border.



The UCC group gathers with Pastora Rose Mary (Iglesia Lutheran Cristo Rey) and Rev. Carl Zerweck (Rippling Hope) after a dinner with members of Cristo Rey.