



## Grateful Hearts



How grateful we are for the ministry of Rev. Larry Thomas and the legacy of love he leaves with us. Larry, Vickie, Lucas, Clayton—our words are inadequate in expressing our deepest gratitude to you. Thank you!

Larry was willing to meet us where we are and stepped out of the pulpit to be with us. He preached from the Chancel steps on Sunday and spent the rest of the week caring for us in our deepest need. Intelligent and impassioned, he gave from his head and his heart. His

astute administrative skills assisted in our becoming a more healthy, vibrant community of faith. In countless, unnoticed ways, he worked tirelessly to help us be the church God calls us to be.

In his ministry with us, Rev. Thomas affirmed UCC's welcoming spirit. He risked naming our inclusiveness and encouraged us to move toward more fully embracing all of God's people. Larry invited us into thoughtful theological engagement and gave voice to UCC's hospitality as we welcome all to Christ's table of love.

Rev. Thomas has led us with integrity, courage and compassion. He lives the Good News of God's love every day and invites us to walk with him along that path.

One of Larry's favorite authors is Anthony de Mello. In his book *The Way to Love: Meditations for Life*, De Mello describes love and in doing so, describes the way Larry Thomas lives and loves this church:

*"God's kingdom is love. What does it mean to love? It means to be sensitive to life, to things, to persons, to feel for everything and everyone to the exclusion of nothing and no one. ...It does not matter that you will never know the person who will benefit from this gesture and you will receive no reward or recognition. You just do it from a feeling of benevolence and kindness."*

And in Larry's case, you do it because God's love claims and calls you. The seeds of Rev. Thomas' ministry will continue to come to life among us for years and years. We give thanks to God for the Thomas family and Larry's faithful ministry.

*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*  
-John 13:34-35

### Farewell Reception for Rev. Thomas

Sunday, April 10, you are invited  
to offer your gratitude and good wishes  
to Rev. Larry Thomas  
at a reception in Walker Hall  
following both the 9 and 11 a.m. worship services.

### Stay Connected!

Sunday Worship at 9 & 11 a.m.

Live broadcast of 11 a.m. service  
on KTCU FM 88.7  
or on our website  
at [www.universitychristian.org](http://www.universitychristian.org)



## New Choirmaster Coming June 1



The UCC music program is pleased to announce the addition of a new staff member on June 1. Dr. Todd Prickett will move here from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, with his wife, Amy, and two children, Ethan and Maddie. Todd will be full-time on our music and ministry staff with the title of Director of Music/

Choirmaster. He will also oversee our handbell program and all aspects of our choral music.

Kyla Rosenberger will assume a new position of Director of Worship and Arts/Senior Organist. She and Todd will work collaboratively with the ministerial staff in planning all aspects of worship.

Todd Prickett will be familiar to many UCC members as he assisted Ron Shirey and Betty Boles in the UCC music department in the late 1990's while obtaining two degrees from TCU. He eventually received a doctorate in choral conducting from Michigan State University and led the choral

departments at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) and the University of Arkansas. Todd is also well versed in church music, leading programs at First Presbyterian Church, Arlington, TX, First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas and First Presbyterian Church, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

While the Chancel Choir looks forward with excitement to Todd's tenure as the UCC Choirmaster, they also gratefully offer a debt of gratitude to Eric Mullins and Jackson Yandell for fine Assistant Choirmaster leadership the past two years. There will be a reception to thank them on Sunday, May 22, in the Gallery after worship services.



## Earth Stewardship Sunday, April 17

*On either side of the river is the tree of life. ... and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.*

- Revelation 22:2

Throughout our history, people of faith have seen in the natural world manifestations of the divine. This year, Caring for God's Creation invites you to commemorate the forty-sixth anniversary of Earth Day with a celebration of life-giving Trees on April 17. We are also thrilled to welcome Elena Huegel to the pulpit on Earth Stewardship Sunday as we celebrate the importance of trees to our environment. Elena is one of UCC's mission partners and she returns to

Fort Worth after completing sixteen years of service in Chile, most recently as chaplain and consultant for peace and environmental education, trauma healing and community development at the Shalom Center (in the foothills of the Andes) and its international program. A group from UCC traveled to the Shalom Center in January to learn from Elena and the people with whom she works. The logo for Centro Shalom is a tree—Elena shares a passion for the Earth and the trees that inspire and beautify our world.

Also scheduled for Earth Stewardship Sunday—a butterfly release and the dedication of a peace pole. Following in the footsteps of last year's pollination theme, we will once again have a

butterfly release immediately following the 11 a.m. service in the Memorial Garden. This simple, yet powerful, symbol of new life and giving back to the Earth inspired children and adults alike last year, so we decided to make it a tradition.

There is so much to hear, learn, and experience at this year's Earth Stewardship Sunday! We hope to see all of you as we celebrate God's creation on this important Sunday.

*"Even if I knew the world would end tomorrow, I would plant a tree."*

-Martin Luther

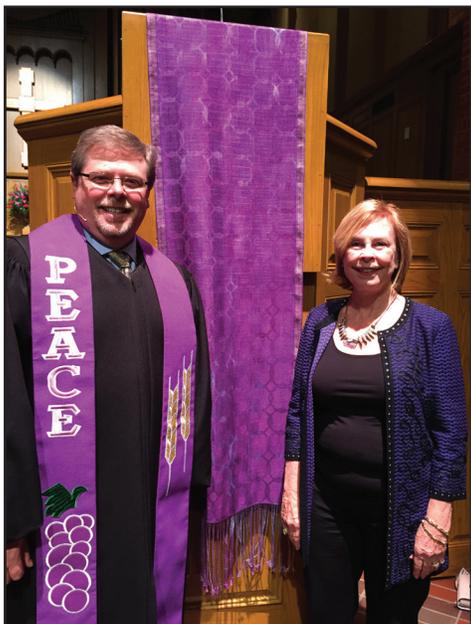


## Pentecost Worship

On the fiftieth day of the Easter season, UCC will celebrate Pentecost with all other liturgical churches in the world. We do this to remember the special time Jesus' followers were given the gifts of power by the blessing of the Holy Spirit. Thus, the church began and thus it continues.

Join us in worship on May 15 at 9 and 11 a.m. Wear red.  
Sing with brass and organ. Delight in bells and chant.  
Be inspired by liturgical dancers in the aisles.  
Come, Holy Spirit!

## A Special Gift



On Sunday, March 13, beautiful new purple paraments adorned the pulpit and lectern. Margaret Forsyth Humphries designed, dyed and wove them as a gift to University Christian Church.

They are woven using Bombyx silk with borders of Tussah silk and fourteen carat gold thread. Each hanging is just over five feet in length including the hand-twisted fringe. The circular pattern shown in the twill weave structure mirrors the circles stenciled on the Sanctuary ceiling and the Tussah and gold borders pick up the beauty of the Chancel cross.

Margaret is a life-long member of UCC

and is also a member of the Fort Worth Weavers Guild which meets monthly at UCC.



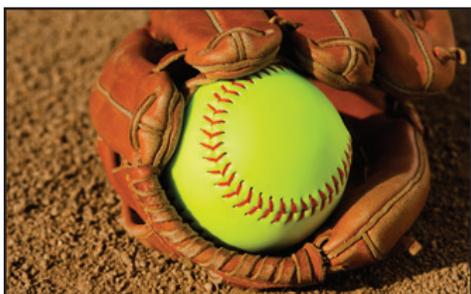
Sherri Coffey, another FWWG member, is currently weaving 'common Sunday' green paraments, so watch for those.

## Thank You Christi!



On behalf of a grateful congregation, we say "thank you" to Rev. Christi McDowell for her service to the church. Christi stepped up to help out with the ministry of pastoral care when we needed her most. Christi has also been an important part of congregational life in so many other ways, especially, but not limited to, worship and pastoral care. The members of the staff are especially grateful to Christi and will miss her tireless presence and keen sense of humor.

While March 24 was Christi's last day in the office and the sunrise service on Easter morning was her last official worship service, you will be seeing her around church, after a couple of weeks of resting up, as she and her family plan to continue to worship and serve as members of University Christian Church. Please take a moment to thank Christi for her kind and compassionate service to all of the members of UCC.



## UCC Spring Softball Schedule

Come cheer on the UCC softball team! All games are played at Gateway Park Field #5, 751 Beach Street in Fort Worth on Friday nights.

Contact Jessica Vacketta for details! Game schedule is as follows:

Friday, April 1, 7:45 p.m.  
 Friday, April 8, 7:45 p.m.  
 Friday, April 15, 6:45 p.m.  
 Friday, April 22, 9:45 p.m.  
 Friday, April 29, 8:45 p.m.  
 Friday, May 6, 7:45 p.m.  
 Friday, May 13, 8:45 p.m.

## 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.

**POSTMASTER:** Please send address changes to *UCC Journal*, 2720 S. University Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76109. The \$15 annual subscription to the *UCC Journal* is paid through members annual tithes and individually paid subscribers. Visit us on the web at [www.universitychristian.org](http://www.universitychristian.org) for more information.

## Important Summer Dates for Children's Ministries



You've been planning your summer calendar and already have these dates penciled in...now it's time to register and make it official!

### Vacation Bible School, June 21-24



Be a part of *UCC Surf Shack VBS* (ages two to third graders) or *Mission VBS* (fourth and fifth graders).

VBS online open registration begins April 1. Visit [ucckids.org](http://ucckids.org) to register your child or to register to volunteer. We need you to volunteer to make VBS happen!

### Camps for Children and Families at Disciples Crossing

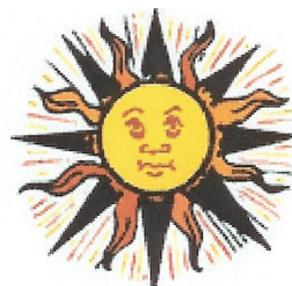
Grand Camp—May 20-22  
(children ages 4-10 with a grandparent)

Discovery Camp—June 3-5  
(completed first-second grade w/parent)

Family Camp—Session I: May 27-29 and Session II: August 12-14  
(families with at least one child under 18 and an adult over 21)

YF Camp I—July 4-8  
(completed third, fourth or fifth grade)  
\*UCC's Anne Darr will be co-directing

YF Camp II—August 1-5  
(completed third, fourth or fifth grade)



### Summer Fun

(for children two months to entering K)  
Mondays and Wednesdays  
9 a.m.–12 p.m.

Session I – June 6, 8, 13, 15, 27, 29  
Session II – July 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27

Visit [ucckids.org](http://ucckids.org) for details and information on how to register. Hurry! Limited spaces are available.

## UCC Youth Meet Alliance for Children

by Tyler Heston, Assistant Minister for Middle School

In January, Alison Nicoll, Assistant Minister for High School, and I met with Julie Evans and Shellie McMilon from Alliance for Children ([allianceforchildren.org](http://allianceforchildren.org)), Tarrant County's Child Advocacy Center program. Alliance for Children (AFC) is a non-profit organization that serves children and youth (up to age eighteen) who have suffered different forms of abuse and works hand-in-hand with other organizations like Cooks Children Medical Center, the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office and Child Protective Services. Alison and I found the work that AFC engages in to be fascinating and valuable, from their forensic screenings in which they gauge the forms of abuse suffered by youth and children, to the dynamic forms of counseling offered to both individuals and to families. We immediately saw potential for a partnership between AFC and UCC's youth program.

Later in the month, UCC Youth took a field trip on a Sunday afternoon to tour the facilities

and to learn more about AFC. Since then, we have conducted two service projects to support the organization's work. In February, we wrote over 125 notes of encouragement for AFC staff, CPS workers, detectives, attorneys

and others in order to show that the community indeed is grateful for the tough work they do. In March, we made homemade stress balls with balloons and rice to be used in AFC's "safety bags," which they gift youth and children that display self-harm behavior and suicidal thoughts. Currently, we are working on plans for a service project next month and plan on focusing on awareness, as April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

It is a blessing to support an organization that brings healing and wholeness to youth and children, and it is a blessing to know that we are making real the promise Christ made when he said "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). All of us involved with UCC Youth are excited to continue the relationships with AFC as a way to live the good news of Jesus Christ with open minds and loving hearts.



## Parents Night Out



Join us for fun activities and programs for children (infant-fifth grade).  
Friday, April 15, (reservation due by April 6), 6-9 p.m.  
(Kids eat dinner before or bring your dinner with you.)  
Cost is \$5 per child - \$10 max per family.  
Register online under "Events" at [universitychristian.org](http://universitychristian.org).

## Baby Dedications

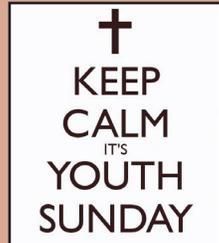


*Lisa-Raquel Isabella Natson,  
daughter of William & Stephanie Natson.  
Grandparents are Lorraine & Willie Stell,  
and Julianne Patterson  
and William Natson, Jr.  
Great-grandparents are William Natson, Sr.  
(deceased) & Eva Grace Jackson,  
Lillian Patterson (deceased),  
Elbert & Annie Smith (deceased)  
and Wilburn & Essie Stell (deceased).*



*Ben Guitar Witherspoon, Jr.,  
son of Ben & Lauren Witherspoon.  
Grandparents are Jim & Harriet Redwine  
and Brett & Brenda Witherspoon.  
Great-grandparents are Sally and  
Lambuth Tomlinson (deceased).*

## Youth Sunday May 1



Youth will plan and lead the worship services for UCC's annual Youth Sunday on May 1. Chi Rho youth in grades six through eight and CYF youth in grades nine through twelve will plan and lead the elements of the worship service, decorate the Sanctuary to match the theme and provide special music.

Don't miss this morning of memorable worship that allows the whole church to hear and see how our young people understand and express their faith.



## Wish to Schedule a Baby Dedication?

Dedications take place during 11 a.m. worship. Upcoming dates are: April 17, May 8 and June 19. The baby dedication is a blessing of the child and a promise from parents to their child to raise them in a Christian home. But, it is also the public acknowledgement of a covenant with the people of UCC that we as a community of faith will surround the child with the spirit of Christ as they grow in our midst. In order to affirm these provisions, parents will participate in a Baby Dedication class to learn about some of the intricacies of a child's faith journey and about how UCC can help foster their family and child in the process of understanding Christ's love.

The next class is April 10 at 10 a.m. in the Bride's Room. Email Susan Henry in Children's Ministries at [susan@uccftw.com](mailto:susan@uccftw.com) for details.

## Get Ready for Global



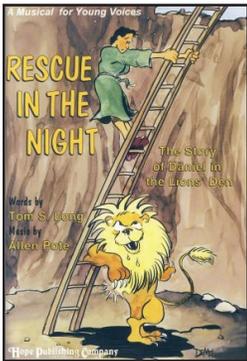
Children's Christian Fellowship (first-third grades) and Junior Youth Fellowship (fourth-fifth grades) continues taking our children on a journey of discovery through an adapted Global Ministries youth curriculum designed to broaden views of who we are, our place in the church, and our place in our community.

This curriculum is a wellspring of information and resources to equip youth with the tools to continually evaluate who they are in relation to their world and God's mission.

So far we have learned ways to challenge stereotypes and prejudices in our community and world, talked about how we can recognize other religions, and discussed the differences and similarities we have to people in

different cultures. In our final meetings, we will begin to discover that God's mission requires a constantly evolving worldview.

Join us from 5-6:15 p.m. in Room 211 for fun, fellowship, learning, service and worship on Sunday nights in April—and bring a friend! After CCF/JYF each week, we are invited to join the Youth on the third floor for an optional \$3 snack supper until 7 p.m.



## Spring Children's Musical

The UCC Children's Choir Spring Musical is almost here! This year our musical is called *Rescue in the Night* written by Allen Pote and Tom Long. It tells the

story of Daniel and the lions den. This musical is a light-hearted, but faithful rendition of the Biblical story of courage and obedience. Laughter always has a way of opening people to experience the presence of God and this musical definitely offers comedy as a way to experience Daniel's incredible story.

There are so many great characters in this musical including the comically flamboyant King Darius, three power seeking advisors who are only interested in becoming the King's most trusted advisor who will run the entire kingdom, and the modest and sincere Daniel. Other characters include the Heralds, Lions and the people of Babylon.

*Rescue in the Night* is such a fun musical and the children are excited to present the story! The music is fun to learn and very catchy. It is also very funny and the children spend much of rehearsal smiling and laughing as they rehearse for their performance. In the end, however, the performers and the audience alike

will learn a very important lesson. Wise Daniel teaches all of us that power and prestige can only get you so far. Faith in the one true God can set you free. The children have really related the story of Daniel to their own lives and are eager to present the story to an audience.

*Rescue in the Night* will be performed after worship on Sunday, April 24, in Walker Hall. A snack lunch will be provided for the audience at 12 p.m. and the musical will begin at 12:30 p.m. The musical will run about 45 minutes. *Rescue in the Night* is appropriate for all ages and will bring joy and laughter to all who attend. Please plan on supporting our UCC Children's Choir on April 24!

## 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 Los Angeles, California, on the CYF Mission Trip, where they will work at Loch Leven Camp and All Peoples Community Center. The group will fly to LAX on July 16 and return to DFW on

July 23 after a campus tour at Chapman University and a visit to Disneyland. The trip cost will be \$375 per person if registered by April 15, \$450 afterward.

The Chi Rho Mission Trip for 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 on Sunday afternoon, June 5 and return on Wednesday night, June 8 after a stop at Schlitterbahn Galveston Island Water Park. Trip cost is \$175 per person if registered by April 15, \$200 afterward.

Full and half scholarships for both trips are available upon request. For trip details and registration forms, visit [www.uccyouth.org](http://www.uccyouth.org).

## Music Makers Camp



UCC *Music Makers* Camp is almost here! This will be our fourth year to offer this camp lead by Mary Farmer, UCC Children's Choir Director, and Elementary Music Teacher, Annie Yandell. *Music Makers* will take place June 21-24 at 12-3 p.m., directly following VBS. *Music Makers* is for children who will be entering second grade through sixth grade in the 2016-2017 school year. The children will gain musical experience, have fun with friends and create together. The children will begin camp with lunch that will be provided. They will then continue making music together until 3 p.m.

This year the children will create their own musical that will center around Biblical stories that will be emphasized at VBS. The children will learn to relate to these stories through music and movement while creating their own way of retelling the stories. They will choose the characters they will play, they will compose the music and choose dances that will be included. *Music Makers* Camp will be a wonderful way for the children to create together and learn valuable musical concepts. The children will also incorporate different styles of music into their musical this year such as classical, jazz and folk.

The last day of *Music Makers* Camp will conclude with a performance presenting all of the musical stories they have created throughout the four days of camp. It will be an incredible experience the children will not forget.

If all children could have a positive musical experience, like *Music Makers*, in which they feel comfortable and gain confidence, we would have many more musicians and music appreciators in our world. Music should never be intimidating to children. It should be exciting, fun and a way to express emotion and I know that *Music Makers* Camp accomplishes just that feeling. Unfortunately, most children do not get enough musical experience in school unless they are involved in extracurricular activities such as Children's Choir, piano lessons or camps like *Music Makers*. *Music Makers* will be a wonderful way to involve your children in music and the arts.

The registration form is available at [universitychristian.org](http://universitychristian.org). The cost of \$60 per child includes lunches and a t-shirt. Come and make music with us!

## Empowering Women—Shop for a Cause



UCC's Stephanie Stoner has invited the Women of UCC to support our *Prom Dreams* Ministry as well as women artisans around the world as we shop for a cause with Noonday Collection. Join the fun on Monday, April 25, at

5:30 p.m. at Kent & Co. Wines (1101 W. Magnolia, 76104).

Noonday Collection is a socially responsible business that uses fashion to create meaningful opportunities around the world. They design and sell an inspired collection of jewelry and accessories made by Artisans across the globe to make a difference in some of the world's most vulnerable communities.

By developing artisan businesses through fair trade, they empower women to grow sustainably and to create dignified jobs for people who need them. Together we're building a flourishing world where children are cherished, women are empowered, people have jobs and we are connected.

A percentage of the proceeds from the sales April 25 will be gifted to UCC's *Prom Dreams*!

## Alzheimer's Facts

Many experts believe that controlling cardiovascular risk factors such as high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes may be the most cost-effective and helpful approach to protecting brain health.

## Palm Sunday at UCC

Baptism, egg hunts, Camp Sunday, processions of palms in worship, children singing, beautiful music and communion around the table at the Agape Feast. Palm Sunday at UCC was a glorious start to Holy Week!





## UCC Women

Women's Ministries engages women in meaningful enrichment, spiritual growth, study and worship while advocating for and reaching out to women in our community and around the world. Contact Rev. Cyndy Twedell, Senior Associate Minister, for details.

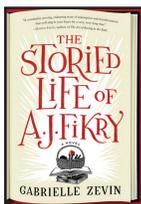
### The Rose Circle

First Tuesday October through May. Join us April 5 at 10 a.m. in Room 150.



### Latte with the Ladies

Saturday, April 9, beginning at 9 a.m. at Avoca (1311 W. Magnolia Ave., 76104)



### WILD Women Book Club

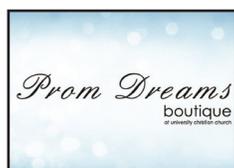
Meets on Monday, April 18, at 6 p.m. at Cat City Grill and Tuesday, April 19, at 11:30 a.m. in the UCC Library. We will discuss the book *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by

Gabrielle Zevin (both will discuss the same book).



### Empowering Women—Shop for a Cause

Join the fun on Monday, April 25, at 5:30 p.m. at Kent & Co. Wines (1101 W. Magnolia Ave., 76104). *see more on pg. 7*



## Prom Dreams Boutique Donations Needed

Thanks to the generosity of UCC and friends, *Prom Dreams* once again opened its doors on Thursday, March 31. The boutique will be open Thursday

evenings from 5-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. through Saturday, May 7.

The ministry is currently in need of jewelry and formal dresses sizes twelve

and up. Donations may be dropped off at the Reception Desk at any time.

Email [promdreams@uccftw.com](mailto:promdreams@uccftw.com) to learn more and/or to sign up to serve as boutique “sales” associate.



## Rosemont Elementary Gift-a-Book Challenge

For the past four years UCC has done an awesome job of insuring every student at Rosemont Elementary School receives a new book to take home for the summer and call their own. Many of us are unable to participate as a *Kids Hope* mentor- to commit to weekly meetings with a child at Rosemont during the school year—but

all are able to be a part of this vital ministry by purchasing a book and praying for the student who will receive it.

Join us Sunday, April 24, in The Arches to take the Challenge! How many books can you gift? You will have the opportunity to sign a book plate for each book purchased and leave a personal message for the child who will receive the book. (An online donation option is also available on our website.)

On Thursday, May 19, at a special Star Wars themed school-sponsored celebration, each child will pick up a copy of their summer reading challenge along with a new book the student will have for his or her very own.

Thanking all in advance for caring for and encouraging our Rosemont Elementary School students to read! May the Books Be With You!



## Send a Finals Care Package to a Student Away

The end of the semester is quickly approaching and your help is needed to send a little love and support to our students living away from home.

On April 10, 17 and 24, there will be a table in The Gallery where you can select a student's name and sign-up to send a care package. Thank you for your continued support of our students!

## 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 Members



*John & Frances Tomlinson moved to Fort Worth from Sammamish, WA, in 2014. John returns to Fort Worth and UCC after a 50-year absence which included college, twenty years in the USAF, thirteen years at the Boeing Company and thirteen years in the banking industry. Frances is from Norwich, England. John and Frances have been married for twenty-four years this November. In the Seattle area they were very active in their church and community. They currently are members of the LOGOS Sunday class, active participants of Faithfully Fit Forever and Church Friends Committee. They also "tidy up" the Sanctuary every Monday morning.*

*Royanne Kerr grew up in the Church of Christ and comes to UCC from Southside Church of Christ. She is a school administrator serving the special programs in Eagle Mountain Saginaw ISD. She loves to attend the symphony and concerts in the park, travel, antique and work in her garden. She has two spoiled poodles, Axel Rose and Fergie, and a grown daughter in Dallas who is her "favorite shopping gal!" Royanne says, "The warm and welcoming people who love to serve God are what brought me to UCC. I am so happy to be here!"*



*Sharon Richey is self-employed as a real estate agent and formerly worked and remains licensed in the counseling field. She served as Executive Director of the Concho Valley Home for Girls and later the Samaritan Pastoral Counseling Center, both in San Angelo. More recently she worked in the Special Education Department, first at Castleberry ISD and then Everman ISD. Raised in the Church of Christ, Sharon has been affiliated with Disciples since the 1970's in Big Spring and San Angelo. At that time she was married to ordained Disciples minister and chaplain, Foy Richey, now deceased. She has already taken an active role in Caring for God's Creation and the Logos Class.*



## Newcomers Class

All are welcome to be a part of the Newcomers Class! Join us Sundays, April 3, 10 and 17, at 10 a.m. in Room 201. The Newcomers class is a great introduction to UCC. Invite a friend to come to the class and experience the welcome of UCC. The Newcomers Class offers an opportunity

to get to know others, learn about UCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Questions are always welcome.

For details, please contact Michelle Groom, Ministry Assistant to Rev. Cyndy Twedell, at 817.926.6631 ext. 138 or email at [mgroom@uccftw.com](mailto:mgroom@uccftw.com).

## Life of the Church

### Births

*Boaz Isaac Johnson, February 11*  
Parents, Rachel and Jonathan Johnson  
Grandmother, Angela Johnson

*Addison Marie McIntosh, February 23*  
Parents, Ashley and Dustin McIntosh  
Grandparents, Kristi and John Otto

*Tucker Anderson Wells, March 4*  
Parents, Kate and Brice Wells  
Grandparents, Jan and Bob Scully  
Great grandparents, Jean and Bill Tucker

*Olivia Losch Thomas, March 8*  
Parents, Katherine and Sean Thomas  
Grandparents, Leslie and Vance Dell

*Tessa Everett Buchanan, March 14*  
Parents, Kristen and Dave Buchanan  
Siblings, Olive and Isla  
Grandparents, Paula and Terry Drennan  
Great grandfather, Paul Madeley

### Deaths

*Jim Spillane, February 9*  
brother-in-law of  
Mary Margaret and John Clay

*H. C. (Rog) Rogers, Jr., February 10*  
grandfather of Emily Mooney

*Laura Bell Hagseth, February 11*  
mother of Paul Hagseth  
grandmother of Paul, Jr.,  
Mary Katherine and Lauren Hagseth

*Mary Adams, February 22*  
grandmother of Brian Gibson

*Dolores Williams Lightfoot, March 8*  
mother of Michael Williams

*Julie Bilberry, March 17*  
Sister of Jim Redwine  
Step-sister of John Tomlinson

### Weddings

*Brittney Gallagher and Andrew Pipkin*  
March 5

*Erin Redwine and Bryce Givens*  
March 5

## Disciples Crossing Calls New Programming Director

by Matt Chandler, Disciples Crossing Executive Director



It is with great excitement that I am able to announce Emily Renee Williams as the new Director of Programming. Emily comes to Disciples Crossing from Havana, Illinois, where she served as Senior Minister of Central Christian Church.

Emily is a graduate of Eureka College and received her Master of Divinity at Brite Divinity School. While at Brite, Emily served as youth minister at First Christian Church Cleburne. She has spent time at Disciples Crossing as a counselor and a director.

Emily will work with the Tri-Area committee to plan and implement Tri-Area sponsored camps and continue the work of creating camp curriculum that is impactful and built on a Godly foundation.

Emily will oversee summer camp and

retreat registrations. She will help summer camp and retreat directors budget and plan their camps, ensure counselor credentials are in order, and help manage the summer intern program.

Emily was one of ten candidates that applied to be the Director of Programming and the search committee, which was made up of members from the three Areas, unanimously recommended Emily to the Board of Directors as the next Director of Programming.

Emily brings a wealth of experience and excitement to the position. She will begin work fulltime on May 5. Please keep her in your prayers as she moves from Illinois to Texas.

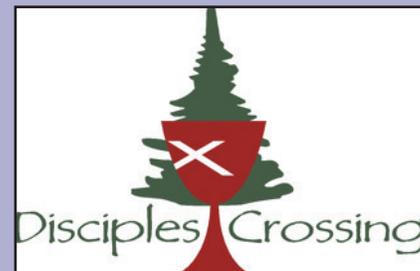
Here is a word from Emily about her transition to Disciples Crossing:

"Hello Disciples Crossing and the Christian Church Disciples of Christ Family in the TriArea! Four and a half years ago I left my heart in Texas and I am excited to finally come home. I'm ready to get to work making a Kingdom difference at Disciples Crossing! From six weeks of age up I have *loved* camping ministry. I love the sights and the smells and the sounds that come with camp. I love watching the children of God light up when they experience their sacramental moment while at camp. I have been praying and dreaming about this for some time and I know that together we are going to do extraordinary things for the Kingdom of God."

### JUST SAY **Know** High School Retreat

**KNOW!** Our high school youth have an opportunity to learn more about the connection between sexuality and spirituality on the *Just Say Know* retreat, April 22-24 at Riverbend Retreat Center in Glen Rose. Over the course of the weekend, ninth-twelfth graders will work their way through a comprehensive sexuality education program that prepares them for challenges they will face in high school, college and beyond.

Jennifer Lanter is directing the retreat, and sessions will be led by UCC adults who have completed training to serve as *Just Say Know* instructors. Adult leaders are committed to creating an environment where youth can get accurate information and have frank, affirming and open discussions in a setting where they can enjoy the beauty of God's creation. The retreat cost is \$50 per person and scholarships are available upon request. For details and registration visit [uccyouth.org/justsayknow](http://uccyouth.org/justsayknow).



### Register Now!

**Summer Camps for  
UCC Youth and Children  
at Disciples Crossing in Athens**  
(All grades indicate grade to be completed in the 2015-16 school year.)

**Family Camp**  
(ages 0-18 w/adult)  
Session 1: May 27-29  
Session 2: August 12-14

**Grand Camp**  
(ages 4-10 w/grandparent)  
May 20-22

**Discovery Camp**  
(Grades 1-2 w/adult)  
June 3-5

**JYF Camp**  
(Grades 3-5)  
Session 1: July 4-8  
Session 2: August 1-5

**Chi Rho Camp**  
(Grades 6-7)  
Session 1: June 20-25  
Session 2: July 4-9

**Eighter's Camp**  
(Grade 8): June 26-July 2

**Niner's Camp**  
(Grade 9): June 13-18

**CYF Conference**  
(Grades 10-12): June 13-18

**Adventure Camp**  
(Grades 6-12): June 8-11

**Water Sports Camp**  
(Grades 6-12): July 25-28

Register online  
at [uccyouth.org/camps](http://uccyouth.org/camps)  
by April 15 for earlybird pricing!

## Be a Part of *The Homeless Connect*



*The Homeless Connect* is a one day “fair” where homeless people may receive

on the spot services and hospitality. Information on housing, jobs, social services and pastoral care are provided. Last year, over 3,000 homeless guests received care with the help of more than 100 volunteers.

Guests are greeted and offered a volunteer “guide” to help navigate the many services offered including a hot meal, haircut, health services and

‘goodie bag’ of practical yet compact items that may be easily carried.

Help make this event a success by giving your time on Thursday, April 21, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. (partial shifts available) at First Presbyterian Church (1000 Penn Street, 76102). Contact Donna Laminack at 817.927.3090 or [dlyn22@hotmail.com](mailto:dlyn22@hotmail.com) for more details or to sign up.

## Blue Zones Update

By Elaine Becker, *Blue Zones* Ambassador for UCC



On February 29, many of us took a “Leap into Good Health” by eating at the newest *Blue Zones*-approved restaurant, Terra. Thanks to UCC’s Women’s Ministries for hosting another fun *Blue Zones* event! As always, taking the *Blue Zones* pledge means choices, and the Terra restaurant provided a

special menu, along with the regular one. The entrees were very tasty and well presented.

Each month, I want to give you something to think about and I will say up front: I glean from articles that I read from all sources. I am not the author, but they speak to me. I hope they help you with your choosing a healthier lifestyle. So, this month’s wisdom is this from *Parade Magazine*, Goldman (February 26, 2016):

1. Try to go meatless for one meal a week.
2. Take the stairs (even if it is just one floor).
3. Fight for the farthest parking spot, not the closest.
4. Stand up at work.

Three of these thoughts are suggesting you be more active. You don’t have to register for a marathon right away, just choose the more energetic approach when you have a choice. As for number 1, you might be surprised how tasty a meal full of fresh vegetables can be (and just think how righteous you will feel afterwards!).

I met with a *Blue Zones* representative on February 26 to see how UCC was progressing towards accreditation. We are doing everything within the church to make it happen. What we need now is a few more pledges—we are so close! We have 23% of the required 25% membership pledges. Please consider pledging. It is a good thing.

## Sometimes It’s the Little Things

by Carol Stewart, *Room in the Inn* Volunteer



Our winter session of *Room in the Inn* has ended and we begin again in July. RITI is a large, well supported ministry of UCC, and we have much for which to be grateful. Our rooms have been remodeled and redecored; we have cared for ten men each Wednesday for thirteen weeks; many UCC volunteers

have eagerly welcomed, fed and visited with our guests.

But sometimes, it was the little things that warmed our hearts and reminded us of God’s many blessings:

Children—in aprons!—who showed up at 6 a.m. to help cook breakfast;

Hearing beautiful piano music, played by a guest;

Volunteers who spent their birthdays serving our guests the cake they brought;

A thank you message from a mom who

found that her kids had really connected with our men;

Many private conversations between guests and attentive UCC listeners;

A guest who entertained us with card tricks;

A man who had never tasted poppy seed chicken and liked it so much he ate three helpings;

The happy reactions of the guests to visiting therapy dogs.

Sometimes it’s the little things that make us thank God we’re RITI volunteers.

## Global Ministries Gathering



University Christian Church was pleased to welcome Rev. ELIKI Bonanga, General Minister and President of the Disciples of Christ Community in Congo, and Janet Helms who started Disciples4Water (a group from First Christian Church in Edmond, Oklahoma, working with an innovative water drilling project in the Congo) among others who gathered for dinner and a chance to hear about the work of the Christian Church in the Congo.

Pictured are Larry Alland, who served in the Congo from 1958 to 1960, Janet Helm, Rev. Bonanga, David Owen, serving with Global Ministries, and Kelsey Cobbs, TCU student.

## Friday Fellowship Field Trip, April 15



Friday Fellowship will take a field trip in April to visit Rebecca Low's Sculpture Metal Gallery and Studio, 7608 Camp Bowie West, Fort Worth, TX, 76116. Rebecca's sculptures are large, ranging from three feet in height to well over twenty feet. She has created pieces for the City of Fort Worth, Catholic Charities, local hospitals, churches, theaters and more. UCC will provide a boxed lunch; cost is \$5 per person. A reservation is needed by Tuesday, April 12. Call the church to make a reservation or email [barbara.rektorik@uccftw.com](mailto:barbara.rektorik@uccftw.com).

## Join Us for Pickleball!

Sunday, April 17, 4:30-6:30 p.m. in Walker Hall



Free! Just be sure to wear tennis shoes!

All are invited to swing by any time between 4:30-7:30 p.m. and try out one of the fastest growing sports in the country, pickleball! The game is somewhat like tennis and ping-pong: played on a court one-third the size of a tennis court, the ball looks like a whiffle ball and is hit with a paddle.

Pickleball can be learned in less than fifteen minutes and can be played from ages 9 to 90.

To see the game in action, visit [www.usapa.org](http://www.usapa.org).

For more information email Rev. Jessica Vacketta at [jessica@uccftw.com](mailto:jessica@uccftw.com).

## UCC Provides Support for Hospital in India

by Ken Hubbell



*A group of UCC folks and TCU nursing students gathered recently at the home of Diane and Bobby Hawley to hear about the work of Christian Hospital Mungeli in India, a Global Ministries partner. Among the group were Paige Rauterkus, 2015 TCU Nursing Graduate, Gayatri Ganesh, Director of Development at Christian Hospital in Mungeli, Diane Hawley and Ken Hubbell who have each traveled to India to see the important work of the hospital.*

Christian Hospital Mengeli (CHM) is a medical oasis in one of the most impoverished states in India. It also is a faithful example of the breadth of UCC's outreach ministry, serving a population that subsists on \$1.80 per day. Established in 1896, this Global Ministries-supported project continues to enlarge its mission to serve the people of Mungeli and surrounding

districts. Under the energetic and visionary leadership of Drs. Anil and Teresa Henry, CHM operates a 120-bed hospital with five doctors and forty-two nurses providing general surgery, orthopedics, physiotherapy, OBGYN and dental and eye care services. In 2015, the staff performed over 2,500 surgeries, treated more than 30,000 out-patients, and delivered two new-borns each day.

In response to India's acute shortage of health care workers, in 2010, CHM initiated a three-year nationally accredited school of nursing. Not only is the school meeting a critical health care need, but the program is empowering young women, all of who come from the desperately poor Chhattisgarh region. It currently has 150 students enrolled and all receive financial assistance. CHM also operates a K-12 English Media school with over 1,500 students.

In 2015, CHM was a successful applicant for an international award from the United States Agency for International Development. They were awarded \$720,000 to fund the construction of a neo-natal intensive care unit, a maternal ward for mothers and additional operating and intensive care rooms. CHM's cost-share is only nine percent of the awarded amount. Recognizing the significance of this generous matching grant in providing acute and chronic medical care to the vulnerable and under-served rural, minority, female and child population of Chhattisgarh, UCC provided a one-time gift of \$10,000 for its construction. This gift is one of the many ways our congregation expresses Christ's commandment to minister to the least amongst us.

### UCC Quick Financial Summary - Unified Budget February 2016

Description	2015 YTD Actuals	2016 YTD Actuals	Budget YTD 2016	Budget Annual	YTD Variance
<b>Income</b>					
Pledges	\$447,843	\$432,145	\$439,496	\$2,115,789	(\$7,351)
Non Pledge Contributions	\$26,661	\$59,080	\$25,297	\$289,584	\$33,783
Offering	\$3,851	\$5,503	\$4,491	\$36,193	\$1,012
Misc. Unrestricted Income	\$35,582	\$26,287	\$34,368	\$408,209	(\$8,081)
WDS Income (Net)	\$38,009	\$39,543	\$31,891	\$75,585	\$7,652
Endowment Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$313,191	\$0
Participant/Restricted Income & Reserve Use	\$140,548	\$56,171	\$59,690	\$393,486	(\$3,519)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$692,495</b>	<b>\$618,729</b>	<b>\$595,234</b>	<b>\$3,632,037</b>	<b>\$23,495</b>
Total Personnel Expense	\$258,709	\$275,460	\$282,591	\$1,813,685	\$7,131
Total Program/Admin. Expense	\$154,579	\$162,140	\$214,450	\$1,240,540	\$52,310
Total Mission/Outreach Expense	\$102,753	\$140,450	\$142,670	\$554,818	\$2,220
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$516,040</b>	<b>\$578,050</b>	<b>\$639,711</b>	<b>\$3,609,042</b>	<b>\$61,661</b>
<b>Net Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$176,455</b>	<b>\$40,680</b>	<b>(\$44,477)</b>	<b>\$22,995</b>	<b>\$85,157</b>

*This is a summary report of our Unified Budget. The full report is available for download from the UCC website or copies can be picked up or requested from the Business Office. If you have questions regarding this report please contact Michelle Ingram, Director of Operations, at 817.926.6631 or [michelle@uccftw.com](mailto:michelle@uccftw.com).*



## UCC JOURNAL

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### Congregational Meetings

#### Deacons Meeting

Sunday, April 3, 12:15 p.m., Rm 203

#### Personnel Committee

Tuesday, April 5, 5:30 p.m., Rm 202

#### Building & Grounds

Sunday, April 10, 12:15 p.m., Rm 226

#### Finance Committee

Tuesday, April 12, 5:30 p.m., Rm 203

#### Board of Stewards

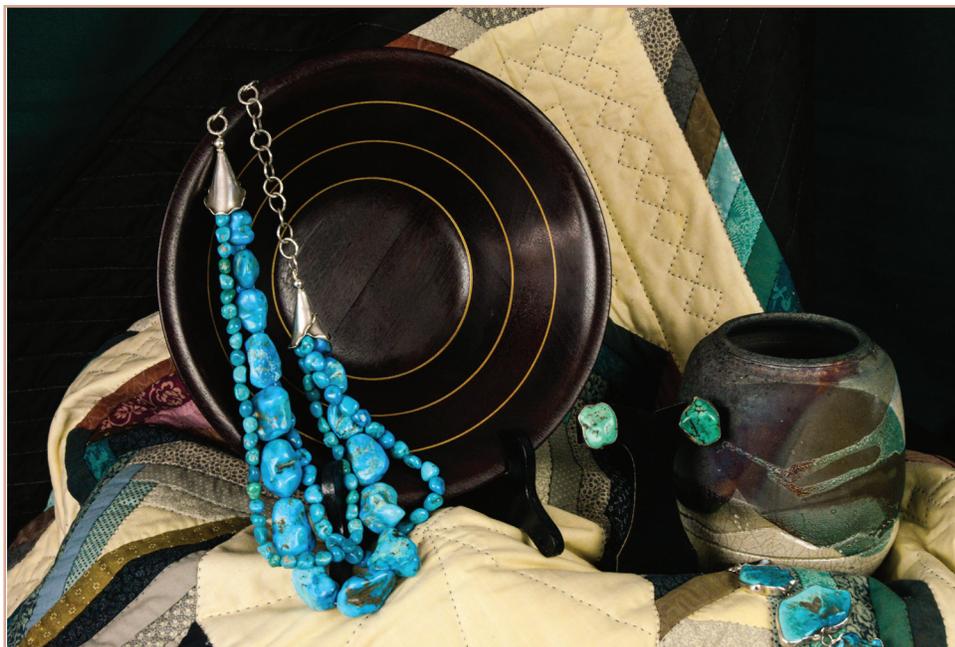
Tuesday, April 19, 6:30 p.m., Rm 207

#### Elders Meeting

Tuesday, April 26, 6:30 p.m., Rm 207

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

### Please Join Us for UCC's Decorative Art Show



Sunday, April 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Room 207

The exhibit will include needlework, carpentry, jewelry, clergy stoles and more.  
All items are made by UCC members and/or their family.

Questions? Contact Joyce Raessler at 817.738.2944 or [jrcompanyjoyce@gmail.com](mailto:jrcompanyjoyce@gmail.com).