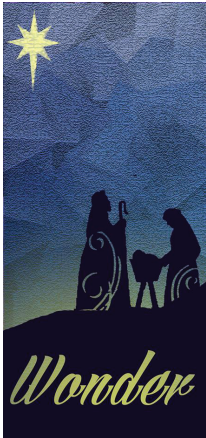




Journey With Us



As we celebrate the Wonder of the Advent season at University Christian Church, take time to follow the star to the many meaningful Advent opportunities. Look within this *Journal* or visit universitychristian.org for more detailed information about each event.

Advent Devotionals for adults and families are available in The Arches. Weekly Advent Reflections from ministry staff will begin on December 1. Subscribe at adventdevo@uccftw.com.

Room in the Inn, Wednesday nights and Thursday mornings in December,

January and February. This year, we will truly provide a room in the inn as we open our doors on Christmas Eve night and Christmas morning for guests who do not have a home.

Christmas Cantata, December 7, during worship at 9 and 11 a.m., in the Sanctuary featuring John Rutter's *Gloria*.

Gifts of Hope, UCC's Alternative Gift Market, begins Sunday, December 7, in The Gallery.

Special Christmas Offering envelopes available December 14 and 21 to support the ministry of Disciples in the Southwest Region.

Christmas Angels Wrap Night, Sunday, December 14, at 5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, preschool child care provided (but even our youngest are welcome to participate).

Of Many Colors Concert, Monday, December 15, at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Students Away Christmas Break Reunion Brunch, December 21 at 10 a.m. in the College Lounge.

Christmas Eve Worship, Wednesday, December 24—four services: noon (preschool childcare available), 5 p.m. (childcare for children infants-two), 8 and 11 p.m.

Christmas Sunday Worship, December 28, at 9 and 11 a.m. Join with your family to celebrate the *Wonder* of Christ's birth. There will be no Sunday School; instead, join together for an all church **Holiday Potluck Brunch** at 10 a.m. in Room 207. (Preschool childcare provided all morning).

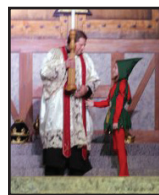
Come to the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival!



Our unique celebration of the birth of Christ is here again. Though UCC has been producing this Epiphany pageant since 1976 there are delightful changes, small and large, every January.

Join the Boar's Head Cast, UCC Chancel Choir, UCC Bell Ringers and the Fort Worth Civic Orchestra for the thirty-ninth annual Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival. This ancient English festival, the largest in the U.S.A., rings in the New Year with wonderful music, beautiful costumes, the message of good over evil and the sharing of Christ's light with the rest of the world.

Performances January 3 and 4 are at 3 and 5 p.m. each day. Bring a friend and experience the magic of the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival with us!



Ticket Sales

The Festival is free with reserved seating available for purchase. Tickets for all BHYL performances go on sale on Monday, December 1. Tickets are \$15 per seat and all proceeds go to sustaining the festival in future years. Order tickets by visiting universitychristian.org, call the church at 817.926.6631 ext. 141 or email boarshead@uccftw.com.

(more on the festival on page 4)

Stay Connected!

Worship

Sundays, 9 & 11 a.m.

Live broadcast of 11 a.m. service

on KTCU FM 88.7

or on our **website**

at www.universitychristian.org



The Vision of University Christian Church

Living the Good News of Jesus Christ with open minds and loving hearts



A New Forum in Faith

by Rev. Larry Thomas, Senior Minister

Some time back, a small group of UCC members started talking about establishing a new organization to benefit the business community of Fort Worth. The genesis moment came when Michael Johnston and I were having breakfast. He had been talking about some of the challenges he faced as a business person who happened to also be a person of faith. He wondered what it would be like to have a network upon which one could call to discuss the particularities of faith, business and ethics. Over the next few months, several UCC members (Jerry Conatser, Urbin McKeever, Michael Johnston and I) met to discuss the need for such an organization and the possibility of UCC being the sponsoring organization. The Faith Business

Forum, an interfaith-based gathering of spiritual and business leaders, is the outcome of that process.

We held our first breakfast forum on Thursday, November 6, at Ashton Depot. Ricky Dickson, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Blue Bell Creameries, was our first guest speaker. There were sixty people from a variety of businesses and faith communities in attendance, a majority of whom have committed to joining and supporting the endeavor. We plan to meet in mass three times a year, while creating opportunities for smaller groups to gather around topics of specific interest on a more regular basis. Having completed a very successful trial run, we will be opening the membership to any interested parties in the Fort Worth area, and especially to the members of UCC.

We owe a great deal of thanks to Jerry Conatser and Conatser Management Group for sponsoring our first gathering. My assistant, Thelia Chaffin, and Michael Johnston's assistant, Diana Broadwater, are due our thanks as well. As you might imagine, they made everything happen as planned and on schedule.

This is the sort of creative endeavors that we, as members of this faith community, are able to accomplish because of the history and support of this congregation. It is one more way we engage our community with open minds and loving hearts. I do hope you will join us at our next forum. We will provide you with ample information well in advance. Additional information can be accessed at www.faithbusinessforum.org.



Adopt-A-Student

by Drew and Kalen Ruiz

Kalen and I have participated in the program multiple times over the last few years. On a scale of 1-10 (with 10 being the best), we have had some 10 experiences and some 1 experiences; however, we always kept one thing in mind...this is an outreach ministry and it serves the college student. When it is good, we get "fed," and it is a wonderful experience for our entire family. When it is on the lower end of the spectrum, it gives us an opportunity to reach out and simply offer ourselves to the student as a connection to our UCC community.

We have had students ask to use our kitchen at home so that they, and their friends, could come over and bake cookies. Students have asked if they

can come over and do laundry. We have had them over or take them out for dinner. We have invited them on family outings. They have sent thank you notes, Christmas cards, introduced us to their parents and some even kept in touch for a period of time after they graduated.

Bottom line is that we were there for them whether they needed us or not and that felt like the best place to be!

Please consider this opportunity. Your support might just be the "family" a student needs. If you are interested in adopting a student, or want to learn more about this program, contact Rev. Jessica Vacketta, jessica@uccftw.com.

So, you are in college, in a new town, making new friends and you think you may have just found a church community that fits *you*! You miss your family, and every once in a while you just need to know some adults in that church community care and that they are there for you.

That's where UCC and *you* fit in—by adopting a college student during the school year.

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.

Home for the Holidays



Chestnuts roasting on an open fire... Jack Frost nipping at your nose... Holiday music sparks thoughts of celebration, laughter and gatherings of family and friends.

For some, however, the holidays can be a time of loneliness and depression—especially for those just getting back on their feet after a time of being homeless.

A wonderful event is happening December 16 at University Christian Church for formerly homeless people now off the streets and working to change

their lives. Tarrant Churches Together and University Christian Church are partnering with the City of Fort Worth to provide a holiday meal for those placed in housing through the *Directions Home* program. This holiday tradition has been a wonderful celebration for guests and hosts alike.

Can you provide a 9" x 12" roasting pan of mashed or sweet potatoes, green beans and/or stuffing for the 11:30 a.m. lunch on December 16? To participate call Linda Dyer at Tarrant Churches Together 817.737.5554 saying what you will bring. You may also bring new Christmas cards in a stamped envelope, or household items such as dish towels, cooking utensils, etc. to the UCC Reception Desk by December 8.

If you would like to extend our University Christian Church hospitality by greeting these guests, serving, or helping with clean up or set up, contact Lynn Cross 817.926.6631. You are welcome to stay to eat and celebrate!

Holiday Bazaar Update



Thank you to all of our faithful vendors and shoppers, for twenty-five wonderful years of participation and support. We are taking a "break" this year to assess and determine the future of this great holiday event.

To support the school (and have a great evening!) make plans to attend the second annual WDS Spring Party on March 20!

Gifts of Hope



UCC celebrates its fifteenth year of creative and caring gift giving through Gifts of Hope. Join us in The Gallery to do your holiday shopping on Sunday, December 7. The Gifts of Hope Market will be offered following both services. You will benefit charitable organizations such as The Children's Closet, Tarrant Area Food Bank, Heifer International, Doctors Without Borders

and many more. The gifts range in price are meaningful and fun! Your friends and family will feel honored that food, medical supplies or even farm animals will be purchased with your gift dollars.

Order form on pages 7-8 of this issue of *The Journal*. Forms are also be available at The Arches Information Desk December 14 and 21 for those who missed the Market or wish to purchase additional gift cards for friends, family, teachers, colleagues, etc.

Life of the Church

Births

James Alexander Kramer, July 3
Parents—Stephanie & Scott Kramer

Deaths

Joey Jernigan, October 18
partner of Archie Bailey

Virginia Ashcraft, October 21
mother of Keith Ashcraft

Kathryn Matson, October 26
wife of Morris Matson

Wanda Page, October 26
mother of Danny Page
and Derek Page

Christine King, October 30
mother of Karen Barr
grandmother of Katherine Smith

Carolyn Baird, November 1
mother of Kathy Coleman,
Laura Grudzinski, Becka Elbert
and Greg Baird

Weddings

Marianne Tarbox & Joseph Brawner
November 1

Alison Robinson & Andray Downs
November 15

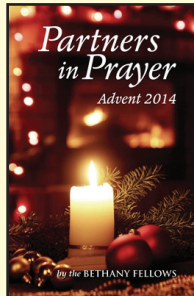
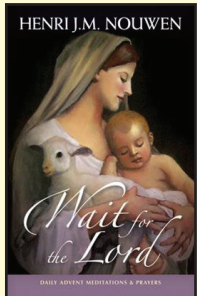


Season of Invitation

Give the gift of Emmanuel, God with us, this Advent and Christmas. Invite a friend or family member to join you in worship or one of the many opportunities offered at UCC to enjoy beautiful music, share in fellowship or give life to your faith in service to others.

Advent Devotions

This year, UCC will have two Advent devotionals currently available in The Arches:



Henri Nouwen's, *Wait for the Lord*, and *Partners in Prayer*, by Bethany Fellows, a group of young, newly ordained ministers in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), in which our own Rev. Jessica Vacketta is a contributor.

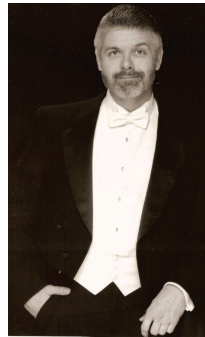
All are invited to pick up one of these devotionals and take time to daily draw near to God and experience the wonder of the season.

Additionally, the ministry staff will email a weekly Advent reflection, where we offer thoughts on the themes of:
Wonder of the Season,
the Promise, the Message,
Hope, Christmas,
Incarnation
 and *Discovery.*

If you would like to receive this weekly email, please subscribe to adventdevo@uccftw.com.

Come to the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival (BHYL)

(con't. from page 1)



About the Composer

One of the most special treats of the 2015 BHYL Festival will be the return of Randol Alan Bass to conduct the orchestra and choir and continue to teach his updated musical score. Through gifts from individuals and the Boar's Head Guild, Mr. Bass was hired in 2013 to enhance the instrumentation, rework the organ and bell parts, and redo all the music scores. Every favorite tune such as *Let All Mortal Flesh* and *Angels We Have Heard on High* is still heard in the production and the orchestral parts

are freshened. Additionally, for the 2015 performances, our senior organist, Kyla K. Rosenberger, will debut two new organ pieces composed by Mr. Bass.

Mr. Bass composed the former Boar's Head musical score while in his early 20's at the request of his teacher and mentor, Ronald Shirey. He is excited to have had the chance to hone and polish this project with all the musical wisdom gained in his career since 1976. Mr. Bass regularly composes for major symphony orchestras here and in Europe, and his choral works have been recorded numerous times by professional and college choirs. We are blessed to have him travel from Austin to lead and inspire our Epiphany music.

Will There Be Room in the Inn?

by Carol Stewart, RITI Volunteer



UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, they were homeless. They must have been quite relieved when an innkeeper was kind enough to give them a place to stay. When our homeless guests knock at the door on Christmas Eve, we want to welcome them gladly, assuring them that there is indeed room in the inn.

This year, Christmas Eve falls on a Wednesday, UCC's night for hosting ten men for dinner, a peaceful night's rest and a hearty breakfast the next morning. It will take more than our enthusiastic affirmation that we want to open our doors on the day we celebrate the love of Jesus coming into the world. We need drivers to transport our guests

to or from the Day Resource Center, cooks to prepare food, hosts to make all feel welcome, people to serve the meal, innkeepers to spend the night, breakfast chefs and people to set up and clean up.

If you'd like to provide warm greetings for our Room in the Inn guests on Christmas Eve, spend the night with them, or help to serve them a festive Christmas Day breakfast, sign up now to take a shift on December 24 or 25. If you're receiving RITI emails from Dean Pauley, click on the link to pick your spots. Your help is needed throughout December, January and February. If you aren't on the RITI list but would like to sign up, email carolmstewart@sbcglobal.net or deanop1121@gmail.com.

We must have a full slate of volunteers by December 10 in order to inform the Day Resource Center that we will receive guests on Christmas Eve. Help us keep our inn open and our Christmas tree glowing for those who need it most.

Holiday Potluck Brunch

Join us for an all church Holiday Potluck Brunch on December 28. No Sunday school classes will meet the Sunday after Christmas. Instead, join us from 10-11 a.m. in Room 207. Bring a breakfast dish to share, beverages provided. All ages welcome. Preschool childcare is available. Email thelia@uccftw.com with questions.



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 Cyndy Twedell, Associate Minister, for more information.



Church Women United Christmas Celebration is Friday, December 5, at 10:30 a.m. at Baker Chapel AME Church (1050 Humbolt Street-76104). All are welcome to attend.



Latte with the Ladies will meet on December 13 at 2 p.m. (instead of the usual 9 a.m.)



Theme: Gateway to *The Five Love Languages*

Christmas Poinsettias



Beautiful red poinsettias complement the greenery in our Sanctuary during Advent and are a

wonderful way to celebrate, remember, honor or appreciate the special people or events in your life. Plants are \$25 each and orders may be placed through December 14. Poinsettias are available

to take home following the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Order online or pick up an order form at the Reception or Arches Information Desk. Email pam@uccftw.com for assistance.

Mission Pilgrimage 2015

Plan to be part of a life-changing experience in 2015 and sign up for a UCC Mission Pilgrimage. Contact Cyndy Twedell for additional information.

El Paso—Spring Break, March 8–14 (families, youth, students and adults)
Info Meeting on January 11, 12:15 p.m.

Nicaragua—July 26–August 2
Watch for more information!

time) at the Montgomery Street Antique Mall Secret Garden Restaurant. Please contact Michelle Groom to reserve your place for this event—r.s.v.p. early since the restaurant seating is limited for special groups.



Regift Game Night—Friday, January 23, at 6 p.m. Bring a \$10ish gift to regift and a snack to share to Carol Stewart's house and enjoy an evening of games regifting fun.

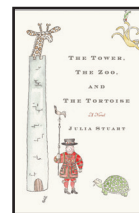
Women's Circles

First Tuesday October through May
Join us December 2:

Lily of the Valley Circle—UCC Library at 10 a.m. with Dr. Bobby Wayne Cook

Rose Circle—Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.
Christmas carols with Betty Boles

Women of Valor will not meet in December. On Sunday, January 18, 2015 we will gather for fellowship at 5 p.m. in Room 204 and continue the study on the *Women of the Bible: Seeking Justice from Just Women*, an international Disciples Women's Ministries publication.



WILD Women Book Club meets again on Monday, January 19, at 6 p.m. at Cat City Grill and Tuesday, January 20, at 11:30 a.m. in the UCC Library. We will discuss the book *The Tower, The Zoo, and the Tortoise* by Julia Stuart.

Give the Gift of UCC's Annual Couple's Retreat

Date: Friday evening, February 6 through Saturday afternoon, February 7
Location: Dallas/Fort Worth Marriott Solana, Roanoke, Texas
Cost: \$225 per couple
Includes continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday

Can you think of a better gift to give your partner than a weekend get-away? You

and your loved one are encouraged to spend time together to reflect, relax and reconnect as you explore the primary ways we express and determine love, engaging Dr. Gary Chapman's book, *The Five Love Languages*.

\$100 deposit is due by Friday, December 19. Mark your calendar and register online or email thelia@uccftw.com today!

UCC Journal

Carol Ann Fewell, Editor • Michelle Groom, Circulation

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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 for more information.



Christmas Cantata

On Sunday, December 7, the Chancel Choir will present one of their favorite works, John Rutter's *Gloria*, with brass, organ, and percussion.

The text of the *Gloria* can be traced as far back as 380 A.D. as an early prose hymn, and is also known as the hymnus angelicus (hymn of the angels) since it begins with the hymn sung by the angels at Christ's nativity ("Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men of good will"—Luke 2:14). In a liturgical sense, the *Gloria* is the second part of the Ordinary of the Mass, the Catholic ritual consisting of five parts (Kyrie, Gloria, Credo,

Sanctus, Benedictus) whose text remains constant each day the Mass is said. Since the text of the Mass of the Ordinary never changes, it has been a favorite vehicle for composers to set to music for centuries. Some composers set all five parts of the Mass to music (Mozart *Mass in C*, Beethoven *Mass in C*, Bach *B minor Mass*, to name a few) while others choose to set only a portion of the Mass, such as Rutter's setting of the *Gloria*. While many musical settings of the Mass are actually used in worship services, most such compositions are intended for performance only, and over the centuries hundreds of such compositions have been created and performed.

The full text of the *Gloria* is (along with the *Credo*) one of the longest texts of the Mass, and it addresses itself to each

Person of the Holy Trinity: God the Father—*Gloria in excelsis Deo*, translated "Glory to God in the highest"—God the Son—*Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe*, translated "Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son"—and the Holy Spirit—*Cum Sancto Spiritu*, translated "With the Holy Spirit."

Though the text comes from our ancient Christian services, the setting and instrumentation is fresh, contemporary and appealing to all. Please join the Chancel Choir in praise to the newborn King by coming to morning worship at 9 or 11 a.m. on December 7 to hear *Gloria* by the renowned English composer, John Rutter. A ten-piece instrumental ensemble of TCU music students and faculty will accompany this sermon-in-song.

Of Many Colors—This Christmas Season!



The evening of December 15, hear a special, original presentation of Christmas carols in jazz-gospel style, backed by an instrumental quartet and directed by UCC member, Jim Hodges. OMC has a fun, appealing sound.

Hear these words from UCC member and tenor singer, Rick Hill: "OMC provides us with a completely different platform for performance, one with jazz and r&b rhythms, harmonies

and instruments. Our rehearsals and performances are full of fun and laughter, and we have the privilege of singing Jim Hodges' truly inspired hymn arrangements and original choral works. Plus, we get to perform with fine professional players who make up OMC's jazz instrumental ensemble. Finally, and most importantly, we connect with our audiences in the joy, love, praise and worship of our God."

Additionally, hear this testimony from UCC member and alto, Robin Davis: "What is it like to sing with *Of Many Colors*? Well...it's like being part of a wonderful, crazy, mixed-up family. Each voice is distinctly beautiful and unique. Each singer brings a colorful style from a variety of music backgrounds. Yet when

we sing together, we are one—coming together to sing for the glory of God. Our music, written and arranged by the incredibly talented Jim Hodges, conveys the many stories of God's love through Jesus Christ and our yearning for peace in a hurting world. I have sung with OMC since its beginning, and truthfully, I look forward to singing with my OMC brothers and sisters more than anything I know. What happens when we sing together, whether it's in rehearsal or in concert, always hits me right smack dab in the middle of my heart. I like to think that's God's way of telling me that he's listening...and that it's good."

This varied choral concert is in the UCC Sanctuary, Monday, December 15, at 7 p.m. Free admission.

Would You Like to Schedule a Dedication for Your Child?



Would you like to schedule a dedication for your infant? Dedications take place during 11 a.m. worship. Upcoming dates are: December 14, January 25 and February 22.

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 University Christian Church 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 University Christian Church can help foster their family and child in the process of understanding Christ's love.

The next class offered will be on February 8 at 10 a.m. Please email Susan Henry in the Children's Ministries Office at susan@uccftw.com for further information.



Gifts of Hope

Program Descriptions

University Christian Church Signature Outreach Ministries offer help and hope to individuals and families within our community.

The Children's Closet, a ministry of University Christian Church, provides new uniforms, clothing and school supplies to disadvantaged children in Fort Worth.

The Congo Initiative, an 18-month emphasis of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), offers awareness and assistance through projects that increase the amount of available farmland through the Ikengo Agricultural Center, expand the Water Project providing additional wells for potable water and build empowerment of girls through elementary and secondary education opportunities.

Doctors Without Borders–Médecins Sans Frontières provides assistance to populations in distress, to victims of natural or man-made disasters and to victims of armed conflict. They do so irrespective of race, religion, creed or political convictions.

Global Ministries, in mission in more than 90 countries and in covenant with more than 160 partner churches and ecumenical bodies around the world, is the joint global mission outreach effort of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.

The Heifer Project International provides families with income-producing plants and animals and training in their care. HPI educates partners in community building and sustainable agriculture, providing daily nutrition and additional income for basic needs and education of children.

Nicaragua Mission joins in the work of Project Chacocente (Out of the Dump) in Managua as they move families from the city dump to the clean air and fertile soil of rural Masaya, learning skills for living independently AND La Mission Cristiana (The Christian Mission Church of Nicaragua), working to offer care and assistance "from the poor to the even more poor."

Rippling Hope helps plan and resource domestic, ecumenical, short-term mission experiences rooted in the vision of a just society by "connecting communities, channeling hope, changing lives!"

Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries provides assistance to hundreds of people in need, especially Central American political refugees, and individuals from other countries in political and economic turmoil. Their ministry is to teach the love of Jesus Christ by building a renewed wholeness and dignity in those who are broken, disenfranchised and displaced.

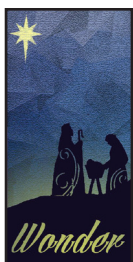
Tarrant Area Food Bank empowers communities to eliminate hunger by providing food, education and resources through innovation and collaboration.

Gifts of Hope 2014

ORGANIZATIONS/GIFTS	EACH	QTY	TOTAL
University Christian Church Signature Outreach Ministries			
• Prom Dreams: help provide a prom dress and/or accessories	\$25		
• Kid's Hope: a year of teacher appreciation gifts	\$25		
• Room in the Inn: laundry services at the Day Resource Center	\$25		
• Christmas Angels: gift bag (coat, clothing, shoes, toy, book & Bible)	\$80		
The Children's Closet			
• Children's underwear	\$6		
• A school uniform	\$15		
• Two school uniforms (khakis, jeans and two shirts)	\$30		
The Congo Initiative			
• Assistance to farmers through the Ikengo Agricultural Center	\$15		
• A portion of a well to provide clean water	\$15		
• Education for Girls in the Equator Region project	\$15		
Doctors Without Borders – Médecins Sans Frontières			
• Vaccinations against deadly diseases for 25 people	\$25		
• A basic suture kit for minor shrapnel wounds	\$35		
• Supplies for Ebola treatment efforts in West Africa	\$40		
Global Ministries			
• Nurse training supplies – Christian Hospital of Mungeli, India	\$15		
• School supplies - Nenyio Habobo Street Kids Program in Ghana	\$15		
• Roots in the Ruins: Hope in Trauma materials – Shalom Center, Chile	\$30		
Heifer International			
• Share of a flock of ducks and geese	\$6		
• Share of tree seedlings	\$15		
• Share of a water buffalo	\$25		
Nicaragua Mission: Project Chacocente & La Mision Cristiana			
• School Supplies for children	\$8		
• Supplies for bio fuel project	\$15		
• Scholarship for a young adult on mission pilgrimage	\$25		
Rippling Hope			
• Building supplies for home renovation projects	\$6		
• Garden tools for yard cleanups in Detroit and El Paso	\$15		
• Youth scholarship for Spring Break Mission to El Paso	\$20		
Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries			
• Food for emergency needs in the Rio Grande Valley	\$10		
• Emergency care and services for refugees and asylum seekers	\$15		
• Supplies to assist with home repairs	\$20		
Tarrant Area Food Bank			
• 30 meals for seniors living on fixed incomes	\$6		
• 60 meals for impoverished working families	\$12		
• Food for 4 children in the Backpacks for Kids program	\$24		

YOUR NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER (_____) _____



Christmas Eve at UCC

Christmas Eve will be filled with *Wonder*! Join us for a time to celebrate the coming of the Christ child on December 24 at noon, 5, 8 or 11 p.m.

Our **noon Christmas Eve service** includes a thirty minute prelude of organ and flute music, traditional worship, Christmas hymns and communion.

Our **Family Worship service at 5 p.m.** begins with a thirty minute prelude of organ and flute music. Our children's choirs will sing and the Whitechapel Handbell Choir will play. The Christmas story will be retold through scripture,

traditional hymns and live nativity with animals and our own UCC children and youth serving as the angels and shepherds in the amazing story of Christ's birth. The *Wonder* of Christ's light will be shared as children are presented with a special gift of starry light.

Families with small children: We want your children to participate in bringing the Christmas story to life! Please let Kera Watts know that your child will be a part via email to kera@uccftw.com.

Those attending our **8 p.m. Christmas Eve service** will experience a thirty minute organ and viola prelude. This traditional worship service includes

Christmas hymns, communion and candlelight. Our Chancel Choir Chamber Choir will provide music and the UCC Ringers will play.

The **11 p.m. Candlelight Worship service** begins with a prelude of organ and viola music thirty minutes prior to worship. The Chancel Choir will sing and the Ad Deum Handbells will ring. The service features the *Wonder* of the season with traditional worship, Christmas hymns and candlelight.

However you choose to worship at UCC on Christmas Eve, there is something for you, your friends and your family!

Christmas Angels



Christmas Angels Wrap Night is Sunday, December 14, at 5 p.m. in

Fellowship Hall. Join us as we assemble gift bags containing a coat, sweatshirt, jeans, shoes, socks, underwear, a Bible, a book and a toy, along with an Angel Blessing Card for 500 FWISD children

in fourteen different schools. Childcare provided for children birth through four years.

For over twenty years, Christmas Angels have brought joy to the lives of children and their families because of the donations of generous people like you. One gift bag costs approximately

\$80, but any donation amount will help make Christmas special for a child in our community. Order forms are available at the Reception Desk, The Arches Information Desk and on page 11 of this issue of *The Journal*. Donations can also be made through Gifts of Hope or online at universitychristian.org.



Christmas Special Offering

Matthew's story of the Wise Men who come seeking the newborn King is a familiar one re-enacted in countless Christmas pageants every year. Amidst the costumes, animals, shepherds and manglers crowded into most depictions of the Nativity, the gifts they bring often are seen as just props

for the Magi to carry. But they were extravagant gifts fit for a King.

We may think ourselves incapable of giving such gifts until we remember that the good news of Jesus' birth also came to common folk like the shepherds, and that extravagance comes in many forms. For the shepherds, it came in the form of praising God. For you, maybe

it will be in doing mission together in response to a disaster or going on an immersion trip to learn about another culture. Your extravagant gift to the Christmas offering, whether large or small, supports the many ways Disciples across the Southwest Region discover and share their gifts of ministry. Special offering envelopes will be available on December 14 and 21.



Musical Musings on Advent

By Kyla K. Rosenberger, Director of Music

We have a custom at UCC of having different individuals, families and groups light the candles in the Advent wreath at the front of the Sanctuary. With two Sunday services and four Advent Sundays and four Christmas Eve services, everyone attending worship in December will see, hear and partake in this added ceremony to our usual worship.

Our Advent wreath has five candles. Purple candles signify preparation and royalty. The rose candle signifies joy and Mary, the Mother of God. A white candle in the middle of the wreath symbolizes purity and light and is lighted on Christmas Eve. Watching the candles being progressively lit helps us mark the movement of time towards Christmas.

We are concentrating on *Wonder* this

Advent in scripture, sermon and song. You will notice themes of *Wonder of the Season*, *Wonder of the Word*, *Wonder of the Message*, *Wonder of Hope* and *Wonder of Christmas*. Notice the texts of the hymns each Sunday as they progress from themes of spiritual preparation to celebration of Christ's birth. We will also join together to sing a new candlelighting song composed by Joel Raney, *The Wonder of Christmas*, at every service.

Youth Participate in interfaith Trialogue

Youth in grades eight through twelve participated in an Interfaith Trialogue with our Muslim and Jewish neighbors over the course of four Sundays. October 26, Beth-El Congregation hosted the gathering and taught about the tenets, practices and traditions of the Jewish faith. November 2, participants from the three faith communities gathered for a showing of the short documentary film Jerusalem at the Museum of Science and History's IMAX theater. November 9, the Islamic Association of Tarrant County hosted the event at their mosque and provided a deeper understanding of Islam. The final event took place here at UCC November 16, providing youth and adults an opportunity to present the Christian faith in general and common beliefs and practices of Disciples in particular. In addition to tours of the houses of worship and presentations about the three faiths, each event included significant small group time for youth from the three faith communities to get to know one another better and learn about the respective faiths influence their lives as teenagers. T-shirts from the event are available for \$10 in three different colors. Email Rev. Russ Boyd, Associate Minister for Youth, at russ@uccftw.com to buy one of these iconic "Coexist in Cowtown" shirts.



A Muslim woman shows Allison Ruiz how to put on a hijab (head scarf) before entering the prayer space at the Islamic Association of Tarrant County.



Rabbi Ralph Mecklenberger provides a closer look at the Torah scrolls used in worship at Beth-El Congregation.



Trialogue participants receive an orientation to the prayer space at the Islamic Association of Tarrant County.



Rabbi Ralph Mecklenberger orients the group to the Sanctuary at Beth-El Congregation.



Christmas Angels, UCC's long standing outreach ministry serving economically disadvantaged children in our community provides a new coat, sweatshirt, jeans, shoes, socks and underwear, as well as an outdoor toy, book and Bible. 500 children benefit from this ministry every year!

Your donations fund this vital project.

Approximately \$80 provides a gift bag for a child, although donations of all amounts are appreciated.

Questions? Contact 2014 Christmas Angels Chair, Kate Williams at katecwilliams@yahoo.com

Mark your calendars for **Wrap Night**
All are welcome and encouraged to help assemble the gift bags
Sunday, December 14, at 5 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Christmas Angels Ministry at University Christian Church

I (we) will support the Christmas Angels Ministry by sponsoring ____children at a total of \$_____.

I (we) will support the Christmas Angels Ministry through a contribution of_____.

Name/Group: _____ Phone _____

Address: _____

Please remit this form, along with your contribution,
to the Reception Desk or to The Arches Information Desk.

CCF/JYF During Advent



Children's Christian Fellowship (CCF, first—third graders) and Junior Youth Fellowship (JYF, fourth and fifth graders) will only meet on December 7 at 5 p.m. in Room 211 during December.

On December 14, we encourage families to join together to participate in Christmas Angels Wrap Night at 5 p.m. Children want to be a part of all aspects of Christmas Angels Wrap Night—during our December 7 CCF/JYF, all children will have the opportunity to learn more about Christmas Angels and

will also be trained to help in specific jobs during Wrap Night the following week.

If your child can't make it on December 7, we hope to see your family at Wrap Night the following Sunday—putting together gifts for children in our community.



Advent Devotionals for Children and Families

Tidings of Comfort and Joy An Advent Wreath of Light and Love, Stickers and Devotionals for Children and Advent Calendars have

been mailed to all of our children ages two through fifth grade. Extra copies of these resources are available in The Arches along with additional *Seek and Find* devotional books for children.

Children's Ministries hopes that these engaging devotions will help your family refocus the craziness of the holidays back to the true meaning and wonder of Christmas.

JYF Mid-Winter Retreat



Who: Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders
Where: Disciples Crossing, Athens, TX
When: January 23-26

What is it? JYF Mid-Winter Retreat is a chance for our third through fifth graders to experience Disciples Crossing in Athens, TX, develop and strengthen relationships with friends from UCC, develop new friendships with kids from the Tri-Area and to grow in faith. All worship and learning opportunities will be created by kids and for kids. Of course, the weekend will also be full of time around the camp fire, songs,

games and lots of free time to explore the beauty of Disciples Crossing.

Children's Ministries will email registration information and details to families. All registrations will be completed online through Disciples Crossing and will begin in December. Scholarships are available. Email Kera Watts at kera@uccftw.com with any questions.



Third Grade Bibles

Third graders are invited to save the date for the six

week series, *Learning to Use My Bible*. The class begins January 11 at 10 a.m. and concludes on February 15 with

the presentation of a Bible as a gift to each child during the 11 a.m. worship service. Make plans now to be a part!

Important Summer Dates for Children's Ministries



Ignore the cold...families are already making plans for summer! Please put these important dates on your calendars now.

Vacation Bible School, June 23-26, 2015
Mark your calendars to be a part of UCC VBS (ages two to third graders) or Mission VBS (fourth and fifth graders).

VBS online registration for UCC members at uackids.org will begin March 1 and continue through April 1.

Camps for Children and Families
at Disciples Crossing in Summer 2015

Grand Camp

I: May 29-May 31 or II: July 31-August 2
(children ages 4-10 and a grandparent)

Discovery Camp

June 5-7
(completed second or third grade and a parent)

Family Camp at Disciples Crossing

I: May 22-24 or II: August 7-9
(families with at least one child under 18 and an adult over 21)

JYF Camp I, June 29-July 3
(completed fourth or fifth grade)

JYF Camp II, August 10-14
(completed fourth or fifth grade)



Summer Fun

(for children two months to entering K)

Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 a.m.–noon
Session I—June 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 16
Session II—July 6, 8, 13, 14, 20, 22
Details coming in the months ahead.

Just Say Know Sexuality Education for Children and Youth



University Christian Church will again offer sexuality education courses for children and youth in 2015 utilizing *Just Say Know*, a comprehensive curriculum that provides a faith-based approach to understanding human sexuality.

Many at UCC have encountered this curriculum at Disciples Crossing, where “Eighter’s Camp” provides rising ninth graders with a deeper understanding of sexuality and spirituality in a week-long church camp setting. *Just Say Know* offers a way for churches to expand that important program to additional age groups within the congregation, and

includes a one session class for older elementary students (genders separate, with a parent), a two session class for middle school students (with a parent), and a ten session class for high school students. This year, UCC will offer the elementary course on the afternoon of February 8 and the middle school course on the afternoons of February 15 and 22. We will offer the high school course again in 2016 in a weekend retreat format.

Just Say Know is rooted in the idea that sexuality is a gift from God that is intended to be shared responsibly, and that individuals need as much accurate information as possible to help them develop a healthy appreciation

for that gift. Each class focuses on topics appropriate for the intended age group, ranging from hygiene and body changes in the elementary course to dating violence and college “hook up” culture in the high school course. The curriculum is also designed to help participants become educators themselves, sharing what they have learned with friends who may not have attended a comprehensive course on human sexuality.

Read more about the curriculum and register online at uccyouth.org/justsayknow, and be sure to invite friends to attend so that even more people in our community are able to participate in this incredibly valuable class.



Rev. Russ Boyd Begins Sabbatical December 21

by Rev. Russ Boyd, Associate Minister

In October I began my eighth year as Associate Minister for Youth here at University Christian Church, and I am thankful that I will be allowed to take a three-month sabbatical this winter. Full time ministry leaders at our church are eligible to apply for a sabbatical after five years of service, and are expected to use the extended time away from work for rest, renewal and study. After reviewing my schedule and the church’s programming calendar, it became clear that the best time for me to take advantage of this opportunity would be after the youth-led Hanging of the Greens service and before Disciples Class participants make their confessions of faith on Palm Sunday. Based on that reasoning, I will be on sabbatical from December 21 through March 20.

There are many things I’m looking forward to during my time away. In December, my family and I will drive to Virginia for an extended holiday visit with my parents and extended family. We plan to stop and visit with friends in several Southeastern cities on the way there and back, and make a short trip to Washington, DC with my oldest daughter, Bell.

In March, I have booked a trip to England and Scotland where my wife, Sarah, and I will see the sights, explore some of my family history, and celebrate our tenth anniversary. I will also visit with several British faith communities that are providing vibrant ministries in a post-Christian society to see what I can learn for my own ministry.

Near the end of my sabbatical, I will be attending the Progressive Youth

Ministry Conference in Chicago, a gathering of youth workers from around the country serving churches that have much in common with our own.

During the weeks when I’m not traveling, I’m going to worship at some other congregations in the metroplex that are doing interesting things, and I’m thankful that I will be able to read more, exercise regularly, spend time with my family and take some cooking and home improvement classes.

If you need to reach someone in the youth ministry while I’m away, email Alison Nicoll at alison.nicoll@uccftw.com for middle school ministry, Michael Yandell at michael.yandell@uccftw.com for high school ministry, and Susan Henry at susan@uccftw.com for administrative assistance.

College Ministry December Calendar



Wednesday, December 3—Lunch Bunch, 12 p.m.

Sunday, December 7—First Sunday College Lunch, 12 p.m.

Wednesday, December 10—Lunch Bunch, 12 p.m.

Sunday, December 14—Christmas Angels Wrap Night, 5 p.m.

Monday, December 15—Finals Feast, 5-7 p.m.

Sunday, December 21—Students Away Reunion Brunch, 10 a.m.

Monday, December 22—Ugly Christmas Sweater Party and service project, 6 p.m.



The Marriage Well

The Marriage Well, a monthly enrichment program for adults in married, partnered, or committed relationships, will meet Friday, December 5. Hosted in Room 207 from 6-7 p.m., this month's topic is *Holiday Survival Guide for Families*.

Following the gathering, couples are encouraged to go out to dinner together, or enjoy a date night with their significant other.

Childcare provided until 9 p.m.*



The 1's

The 1's, a monthly gathering for single adults, invite single adults of all ages to a Christmas Party on Friday, December 5, at Tommy's Burgers (2455 Forest Park Blvd.) from 7-9 p.m. Wear your ugliest Christmas sweater and be prepared to spread holiday cheer.

Email Rev. Jessica Vacketta at jessica@uccftw.com for details.

Childcare provided until 9 p.m.*

*Childcare provided from 5:45-9 p.m.
December reservation deadline has passed, please email susan@uccftw.com to check for availability.

Friday Fellowship

Our December gathering features the reading of a favorite Christmas story by Rev. Dr. Eldon Irving, with special holiday music by a surprise guest! Join us Friday, December 12, at 11 a.m. in Room 207 for the program and a catered lunch at 12 p.m.

Lunch reservations are needed by Wednesday, December 10.
Please call Thelia at 817.926.6631.

Faces of Impressionism: Portraits from the Musée d'Orsay

From the galleries of the Musée d'Orsay on the banks of the Seine comes an extraordinary collection of portraits to the Piano Pavilion of the Kimbell Art Museum. This exhibition explores the development of portraiture among some thirty painters and sculptors during a period between 1860 and 1910.

Impressionists encouraged each other to go beyond simple likeness to convey a narrative, to display a moment of everyday life, to reveal a range of feelings. Every line, gesture, pose, and feature tells more about a subject than meets the eye. We glimpse moments of modern Parisian life, the fashions and attitudes of the times, and characters from different social origins. Come learn why Manet's *Balcony* created such a

scandal. Please your senses with no less than eleven works of Degas. Enjoy the luminous colors of Renoir, the passion of Van Gogh, the vision of Cézanne.

Larry and Orlew Lauger, docents at the Kimbell, invite you to join them for this special tour, scheduled for Friday, January 9, at 5 p.m. You may use your membership ticket or purchase a ticket for the exhibit. Half-price tickets are \$9 and go on sale precisely at 5 p.m. Meet in the Lobby of the Piano Pavilion to begin the tour at 5:05 p.m. Linger afterward in the Lobby Reception Area for a tasting of Texas wines. Call Orlew Lauger at 817.715.1192 or email o.lauger@sbcglobal.net to reserve your spot. Please request your reservation by January 2.

Third Thursday Bible Study



UCC Singles Ministry invites single adults of all ages to participate in our new, monthly Bible study. The group meets December 18, from 7-8:30 p.m.,

Room 203. This small group is a great opportunity to invite a friend you'd like to introduce to UCC.

Email Rev. Jessica Vacketta for details at jessica@uccftw.com.

Young Adult Mid-Winter Retreat

January 2-4, Disciples Crossing Campground, Athens, TX

Join young adults (graduated from high school up to twenty-six years of age) from North East Area, North Texas Area, Trinity Brazos Area (NEA, NTA, TBA) for a weekend of catching up with

friends and recharging your soul. Costs vary from \$50-\$90 and scholarships are available. Email jessica@uccftw.com with questions or to register.

Frozen Finals Feast



Frozen Finals Feast is a celebration of fellowship and food for our college students during the first night of finals. As we stream Disney's *Frozen*, we'll decorate Olaf and snowflake cookies, serve soup, sandwiches and hot cocoa,

and give our students a chance to chill out from the craziness of finals. Room 207 will turn into a winter wonderland on Monday, December 15, from 5-7 p.m.

All college students are welcome to attend this event for free. Information cards are available at the Reception Desk; please take one and pass it along to any college students you know who may need a break finals week.

For details on how you can help with this event, email Rev. Jessica Vacketta, at jessica@uccftw.com.



Our Stewardship campaign (classroom education, stewardship moments, pulpit messages, pledge mailer and calling campaign) was completed at the end of October. We would like to say thank you to everyone who participated in helping with the campaign and to everyone who has made a pledge commitment to UCC to support the 2015 budget.

Our goals in this campaign were to restore our pledges to 2013 pledging levels (711 pledges) and increase our pledge total by 5%. Additionally, we aimed to see 100% support from our Leadership (BOS, Administrative Committees and Assembly) as well as 100% participation from our Choir and Sunday school

Who We Are: God's Hands and Feet—Stewardship 2015

by John Andrus, Stewardship Chair

class members. Lastly, we strived to reiterate the message that our campaign is not solely based on financial giving, but is also based on congregational participation in ministries that fill our member's spiritual needs as well as our communities outreach needs.

As of submission of this article, we have received the following results for 2015:

- 494 pledged of our 711 pledge goal
- \$1,909,592 of our 2014 pledge total \$2,047,567 (without target increase of 5%)
- 81% of our Leadership commitment goal (123/151)

If you have pledged—thank you! If you still have intentions of pledging, please do so as soon as possible so the church can solidify what 2015 will hold.

Unless we see significant increases in participation at all levels to reach our goals (pledges, giving, and participation within ministry areas), church leadership will have to scrutinize our costs to ensure that we are fiscally responsible and not over extending our human and financial resources.

I can't reiterate enough what a critical time this is in the history of our church—a place that has helped shape so many lives and serves as God's hands and feet in our community.

It matters—every pledge matters, every time you come to church matters, every time you participate in a ministry matters. Supporting UCC is a responsibility entrusted to each of us and a responsibility worth supporting! It matters!

Online Directory Photo Day on Sunday, December 21

As we reach the end of 2014, we want to thank our church members for helping make the online directory a huge success! Reaching out to other church members has never been so easy. By having the means to access the online directory

on your computer, as well as on your smartphone, we hope to have provided an easier way for our UCC community to stay in touch with one another and enrich their fellowship experience.

We currently have 432 individuals and families listed and that number grows each week. We hope to end the year at 500 participants. So, if you've been thinking about it, come by after either worship service on December 21!

UCC Quick Financial Summary - Unified Budget October 2014

Description	2013 YTD Actuals	2014 YTD Actuals	Budget YTD 2014	Budget Annual	YTD Variance
Income					
Pledges	\$1,709,569	\$1,697,510	\$1,678,490	\$2,047,567	\$19,020
Non Pledge Contributions	\$150,413	\$186,777	\$196,500	\$276,300	(\$9,723)
Offering	\$28,067	\$25,805	\$28,973	\$38,700	(\$3,168)
Misc. Unrestricted Income	\$111,778	\$106,999	\$113,929	\$161,605	(\$6,930)
WDS Income (Net)	\$89,460	\$63,427	\$90,665	\$86,595	(\$27,238)
Endowment Income	\$203,954	\$218,149	\$218,878	\$291,010	(\$729)
Participant/Restricted Income & Reserve Use	\$407,130	\$322,388	\$336,334	\$401,010	(\$13,946)
Total Income	\$2,700,370	\$2,621,056	\$2,663,769	\$3,302,788	(\$42,714)
Total Personnel Expense	\$1,484,617	\$1,467,221	\$1,498,116	\$1,760,791	\$30,895
Total Program/Admin. Expense	\$914,011	\$805,728	\$889,602	\$1,048,001	\$83,874
Total Mission/Outreach Expense	\$395,307	\$391,984	\$373,830	\$488,315	(\$18,153)
Total Expenses	\$2,793,936	\$2,664,932	\$2,761,548	\$3,297,107	\$96,616
Net Operating Income (Loss)	(\$93,565)	(\$43,877)	(\$97,779)	\$5,681	\$53,902

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. Please note: End of year giving for tax purposes needs to be received by or post marked by December 31. Tax Statements will be mailed by January 31, 2015. If you have questions regarding this report please contact Michelle Ingram, Director of Accounting, at 817.926.6631 or by email to michelle@uccfw.com.



UCC JOURNAL

University Christian Church
2720 S. University Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76109-1150
817.926.6631

Periodicals Postage Paid

Congregational Meetings

Personnel Committee

Tuesday, December 2, 5:30 p.m.
Room 202

Communications Committee

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

Finance Committee

Tuesday, December 9, 5:30 p.m.
Room 205

Building & Grounds

Sunday, December 14, 12:15 p.m.
Room 202

Board of Stewards

Tuesday, December 16, 6:30 p.m.
Room 207

Elders

December Meeting Cancelled

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

Save the Date!



12th Annual Reel Religion Film Festival
at University Christian Church
featuring films of religious, cultural & philosophical significance
January 30-31, 2015
Registration opens November 18 at www.lifelong.tcu.edu
Movies are free and open to the public. Followed by a facilitated discussion.
Saturday box lunch available with your pre-paid reservation.
Sponsored by University Christian Church,
Broadway Baptist Church and TCU Extended Education.