



Experience the Advent Season at UCC



Be Still this Advent season and take time to participate in meaningful Advent opportunities. Look within this *Journal* or go to [universitychristian.org](http://www.universitychristian.org) for details!

Advent Devotionals for adults and families are available in The Arches.

Weekly Advent Reflections from the ministry staff began November 30.

Email subscribe to adventdevo@uccftw.com. (more on page 4 and 9)

Room in the Inn—Wednesday nights and Thursday mornings December-February. (more on page 12)

December 6 • *Be Still and Know God's Peace*—**Christmas Cantata**—sermon in song
Chancel Choir presents John Rutter's *Joy to the World* at 9 & 11 a.m. (more on page 9)

• **Gifts of Hope**, UCC's Alternative Gift Market, in the Gallery. (more on page 7-8)

December 13 • *Be Still and Know God's Joy*—Worship at 9 & 11 a.m.

• **Christmas Angels Wrap Night**, 5 p.m. in Walker Hall, preschool childcare provided
(but even our youngest are welcome to join this service opportunity) (more on page 14)

• **Special Christmas Offering** collected December 13 and 20.

December 14 • *Have Yourself a Merry Little Finals Feast*—5 p.m., Room 207.

We prepare a home cooked meal and brief respite for our college students as they prepare for semester finals. (more on page 6)

• **Of Many Colors Christmas Concert** at 7 p.m. (more on page 3)

December 20 • **Christmas Sunday Worship**—Join with your UCC family to *Be Still and Know God's Love*.

December 24, Christmas Eve—*Be Still and Know God is Here*.

12 p.m. Worship—noon service with communion

5 p.m. Family Worship—Children's Choir, bells, Nativity & carols (childcare for children infants-two)

8 p.m. Traditional Worship—Choir, bells, liturgical dance, communion & candles

11 p.m. Traditional Worship—Chancel Choir, bells, liturgical dance & candles

Enjoy a 30 minute **instrumental concert** prior to each of these services! (more on page 3)

December 27 • **Holiday Potluck Brunch**—10 a.m., Room 211 (Preschool childcare provided all morning—No Sunday school).

Arches Bookstore—Open for Advent Holiday Shopping

Sunday, November 29, through Sunday, December 20, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



The Arches offers UCC note cards—just right for BOOKSTORE holiday greetings—depicting the Chancel beautifully decorated for Christmas or the Bell Tower blanketed in snow. There are also a variety of special Christmas ornaments in glass, ceramic or tin; all unique to UCC.

The Boar's Head Guild is pleased to offer commemorative items for sale to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the festival. Stop by *The Arches Bookstore* on Sunday mornings to purchase either a Boar's Head long-sleeved t-shirt, a fortieth anniversary ornament or the children's book *The Boar's Head Festival* written by UCC's, LaLonnie Lehman and Susan Halbower.

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



Appreciate the Gifts of Advent

by Rev. Larry Thomas, Senior Minister

Last month we began publicizing information about our Advent season in the *Journal*. We did not, however, share with you any information about the theme; *Be Still*.

We chose the theme based on our mutual appreciation of the traditional German carol, *Still, Still, Still*. We have planned a wonderful arrangement of music and messages to complement the theme. Each week will be exploring the importance of staking our clear minded time to appreciate the gifts of Advent; Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. We are excited to be joining with so many talented and dedicated members to share this very special season with you. We do hope that you will participate as often as you can and that you bring guests so that they may share in this moving and beautiful season of expectation.

As we move into Advent we are attempting to wrap up our Stewardship

campaign and finalize our budget. As you may have noticed, we relaxed our approach to the campaign this year. Instead of three weeks of telephone follow-up that we had employed over the last three years, we depended on notes and periodic updates. All in all, we had a good response, but we are looking for a few more commitments to come in before Christmas. As soon as we are satisfied that the bulk of respondents who are going to respond, have, we will provide you with the campaigns' outcome.

While we are on the subject of stewardship, allow me a word or two about the Red Envelope gifting opportunity. For some of you, this will be your first Christmas at UCC. As you have probably learned, we have been on this block for a long time, and in that time, we have been blessed by a number of people who have helped us through some difficult times and who in doing so, helped us establish some lasting traditions; one of these traditions is the Red Envelope holiday offering.

As I am told, over two-decades ago now, a man waited patiently outside the Senior Minister's Office for an opportunity to visit with Dr. Pennybacker. It was a busy day for Penny and it was a good while before the man was able to see him. Penny was both surprised and a little embarrassed when the man handed him a very generous gift tucked into a red envelope. It was a much needed and greatly appreciated gift as it helped the congregation conclude its business year in a more favorable financial condition than it would have otherwise finished.

I cannot speak to the veracity of every detail that I have received and in turn shared, but I can speak to the generosity that I have witnessed in conjunction with this special opportunity since having arrived over four Christmases ago; it has been nothing short of amazing! I trust that this year will be even more so than last.

Season's Greetings, (it is too early for Merry Christmas!)

Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival

Fortieth Year and Grand Feast Buffet



Celebrate the fortieth annual Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival (BHYLEF) with us the first weekend of January. The festival is a wonderful and unique way to celebrate Epiphany and ring in the New Year with beautiful music, costumes and pageantry that you won't want to miss!

Additionally, for this special anniversary year the Boar's Head Guild is providing a celebratory feast in Walker Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 2. This elegant dinner is catered by Eurocater and has a menu to appeal to all ages.

The menu includes:

Roasted Pork with Rosemary Garlic Sauce
Apple Cider Chicken Breast
Creamy Mashed Potatoes
Fruit Salad
Green Beans Almondine
Artisanal Crusty Breads
Petite Pastries and Cookies
Lemonade, Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee

Tickets for this meal have been graciously subsidized and are only \$10 per person. Tickets are available starting November 30 in the Music Office, Room 239, during business hours and in *The Arches Bookstore*, Sundays from 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. starting December 6.

The BHYLEF Festival is held on Saturday, January 2, and Sunday, January 3. Performances are at 3 and 5 p.m. each day. Limited reserved seating will be on sale for \$15. Tickets are available starting November 30 at universitychristian.org or 817.926.6631 ext. 141. As always, there are hundreds of free seats, too.

UCC Journal

Carol Ann Fewell, Editor • Michelle Groom, Circulation

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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 for more information.

Christmas Eve Worship at UCC



Christmas Eve at UCC will provide opportunities to *Be Still*. Join us for a time to focus on and celebrate the coming of the Christ Child on December 24 at 12, 5, 8 or 11 p.m.

Our noon Christmas Eve service will include a thirty minute prelude of instrumental music, traditional worship, Christmas hymns and communion.

Our Family Worship at 5 p.m. will also begin with a thirty minute prelude of instrumental 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 beauty of Christ's light will be shared as children are presented with a special gift of light to take into the world as they leave.

Those attending our 8 p.m. Christmas Eve service will experience a seasonal prelude with harp music and special liturgical dance beginning at 7:30 p.m.

This traditional worship service will include Christmas hymns, communion and candlelight. Our Chancel Choir Chamber Choir will provide music and the UCC Ringers will play.

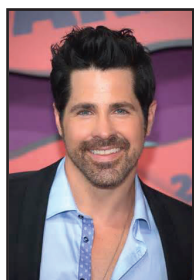
The 11 p.m. Candlelight Worship service will begin with a 10:30 p.m. prelude incorporating harp and liturgical dance. The Chancel Choir will sing and the Ad Deum Handbells will ring. The service will focus on our Advent theme of *Be Still* with traditional worship, Christmas hymns and candlelight.

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

Of Many Colors Christmas Concert



On Monday, December 14, at 7 p.m. come hear a special, original presentation of Christmas music in jazz-gospel style, backed by an instrumental quartet and directed by UCC member, Jim Hodges. *Of Many Colors (OMC)* has a fun, appealing sound. This year's concert theme is *Joy to the World* and will feature JT Hodges, guest artist from Nashville, who is the son of UCC members, Marsha and Jim Hodges.



In 2013, JT was featured as one of the lead actors in a Hallmark Channel movie titled *Finding Christmas* which turned out to be the top rated Christmas movie of the season. He also wrote a special arrangement of *Joy to the World* which he sang in the movie. Jim Hodges has announced that he will add the vocalists and rhythm section of *Of Many Colors* to his son's arrangement especially for the Christmas concert this year!

As many UCC members are aware, OMC provides a completely different platform

for performance, one with jazz and rhythm and blues rhythms, harmonies and instruments along with the singing of Jim Hodges' inspired arrangements and original choral works. The concert is complete with fine professional studio musicians who make up OMC's jazz/gospel instrumental ensemble. Most importantly, OMC has shown a special connection with audiences in its sharing of music that connects with joy, love, praise and worship of our God.

This varied choral and instrumental concert is free. An offering will be collected to support future musical performances at UCC.

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.

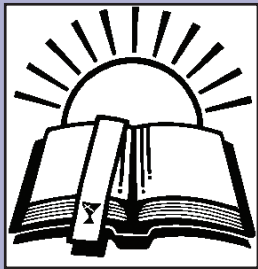


Advent Devotionals for Children and Families

Sing a Song of Christmas! An Advent Chain and daily devotional lessons have been mailed to all of our children ages two through fifth grade. Extra copies of these resources are available in The Arches.

Visit ucckids.org for links to the carols and hymns featured in the daily devotional.

Children's Ministries hopes that as you build a Christmas Advent chain and sing Christmas carols that your family will be better able to refocus the craziness of the holidays back to the true meaning Christmas.

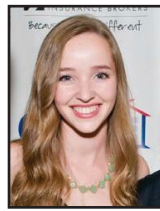


Third Grade Bibles

Third graders, save the date for the six week series, *Learning to Use My Bible*. The class begins January 10 at 10 a.m. and concludes on February 14 with the presentation of a Bible as a gift to each child during 11 a.m. worship.

Make plans now to be a part!

Heather Rodenberg to Serve General Youth Council



Heather Rodenberg has been selected to serve on the General Youth Council of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

General Youth Council (GYC) is an organization that plans youth programming for denomination-wide events and evaluates the overall effectiveness of youth ministry in the denomination. Heather was selected

from a pool of applicants from across the United States and Canada, and will join nine other high school youth and several adult sponsors on the council.

She is currently a junior at Trinity Valley School, and is the daughter of John and Tamara Rodenberg and older sister of Matthew Rodenberg. Be sure to congratulate Heather and wish her well as she represents University Christian Church on GYC!

JYF Mid-Winter Retreat, January 22-24, 2016



Third, fourth and fifth graders will have the chance 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 campfires, songs, games, and lots of free time to explore the beauty of Disciples Crossing.

Children's Ministries will alert families when Disciples Crossing registration is open. Scholarships available. Email Kera at kera@uccftw.com with any questions.

Young Adult Mid-Winter Retreat



January 8-10, 2016, Disciples Crossing Campground, Athens, TX

Join young adults (graduated from high school up to twenty-five 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 register online at disciplescrossing.org.

CCF/JYF During Advent

ccf-jyf
children's christian fellowship
junior youth fellowship

Children's Christian Fellowship (CCF, first-third graders) and Junior Youth Fellowship (JYF, fourth and fifth graders) will meet only on December 6 at 5 p.m. in Room 211 during the month of

December. We will celebrate Christmas together on this night.

On December 13, we encourage families to join together to participate in Christmas Angels Wrap Night at 5 p.m.

Home for the Holidays



On December 8, University Christian Church will once again host Home for the Holidays, the community meal shared by people who have worked

to get off the streets and into housing through the *Directions Home* program.

Will you provide a 9" x 12" pan of mashed or sweet potatoes, green beans or stuffing for this event? Contact Rachael Moffett at Tarrant Churches Together at 817.737.5554 to sign up. Dishes should arrive hot and ready to go at UCC by 10:45 a.m. on December 8.

Not able to bring a dish the day of? Gift bags are being assembled for the guests: dish soap, "pod-style" laundry detergent, and/or dish towels or dishcloths. Please bring these items to UCC the morning of December 7.

Help extend UCC's hospitality by greeting guests, serving, or helping with set up/clean up. Contact Michelle at 817.926.6631 ext. 138 to sign up. You are welcome to stay to eat and celebrate!

Seekers Class Celebrates Thirtieth Anniversary

The UCC Children's Closet sends their thanks to the Seekers Class. As part of the Seekers Class thirtieth anniversary celebration the class looked for a significant project to support and at that time the Children's Closet was undertaking a new online website where school counselors could easily order uniforms for children in need. The Seekers decided they could help fund the \$1,500 project and the Children's Closet could move ahead

knowing their project would be fully funded.

Tina Caliga chaired the project for the Seekers. Connie Montoya from the Seekers, and Closet Director, Heidi Reeder, worked with the church staff and Eric Clark to develop the website. It is expected to be up and running by January 2016.

Thank you everyone! A win-win for UCC!



MEN'S MINISTRY

Men's Ministry Movie Night

UCC Men's Ministry will gather Thursday, December 3, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 203. Join us for Linda Hunts' Academy Award winning performance in the film *The Year of Living Dangerously*. \$5 gets you a chicken dinner, the movie and great discussion.

Sign up at *The Arches* Information Desk or contact Tony Allred, at antonioramone2002@yahoo.com.

Friday Fellowship

Friday Fellowship's December gathering will feature Christmas readings by Merita Diebel and Rev. Dr. Eldon Irving, with special holiday music by UCC's very own Kyla Rosenberger! Join us Friday, December 11, at 11 a.m. in Room 207.

Following the presentation, all are invited to a catered lunch in Room 211.

Call Rev. Jessica Vacketta at 817.926.6631 or email Dan Smith at danlsmith@mindspring.com to make a reservation by Tuesday, December 8.

Sunday Morning Bible Study



Have you wanted to engage in a Bible study, yet can't seem to find time during the week? Well, you're in luck! Beginning Sunday, January 10, the *Common Ground* Sunday school class will begin a new class format: a discussion-based Bible study led by class members and guest speakers. Open to adults of all ages,

the class will meet weekly in Room 313 (across from the third Floor Kitchen) at 10 a.m.

This winter and spring, the group will take an in-depth look at the New Testament. Email jessica@uccftw.com for more information.

Have Yourself a Merry Little Finals Feast!



Have Yourself a Merry Little Finals Feast is a celebration of fellowship and food for our college students during the first night of finals. This year, students will enjoy a classic Christmas feast with a chance to swing by Santa's workshop for some sweet treats and an early Christmas gift from their University Christian Church family. All college students are welcome to attend this event for free on Monday, December 14, from 5-7 p.m. in Room 207. Information cards are available at the Reception Desk; please take one and pass it along to any college students you know of who may need a good meal and a break from studying during this stressful time.

For more information on how you can help with this event please email Rev. Jessica Vacketta at jessica@uccftw.com.

College Happenings in December

December 2 - Lunch Bunch, Noon, College Lounge

December 6 - *Gifts of Hope* & First Sunday Lunch following 11 a.m. worship, meet in Gallery
Shopping for Christmas Angels, 5 p.m., meet in Front Reception area

December 9 - Lunch Bunch, Noon, College Lounge
Volunteer with *Room In the Inn*

December 13 - Christmas Angels, 5 p.m., Walker Hall

December 14 - Finals Feast, 5-7 p.m., College Lounge

December 16 - Volunteer with *Room in the Inn*

December 20 - Christmas Party, 6 p.m., Home of Bob and Carol Stewart

December 23- Volunteer with *Room in the Inn* - check Facebook for the most up to date information

Sunday School meets weekly in the College Lounge at 10 a.m.

Gifts of Hope Alternative Gift Market



University Christian Church celebrates its sixteenth year of creative and caring gift giving through Gifts of Hope. Do much of your holiday shopping at the Sunday, December 6, Gifts of Hope Market in the Gallery, before and after worship. Your gifts will benefit charitable organizations such as The Children's Closet, Tarrant Area Food Bank, Heifer International, Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries and many more. Your friends and family will feel honored that food, clothes or even farm animals will be purchased with your gift dollars.

The gifts are inexpensive and fun!

See the order form on page 8. Addition forms will be widely available.

We will be at The Arches Information Desk December 13 and 20 for those who missed the market or wish to purchase additional gift cards for friends, family, teachers, colleagues, etc.

Descriptions of organizations below!

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.

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.

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

The Middle East Initiative invites the whole church to focus on the Middle East for a two-year period. It offers an opportunity for North American churches to become familiar with issues our partners face in the region.

Mission Pilgrimages are part of UCC's commitment to walk with others as we participate in God's mission in the world. 2016 Mission Pilgrimages include groups working with Rippling Hope in El Paso, Texas and La Misión Cristiana and Project Chacocente in Nicaragua.

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.

Tarrant Churches Together is a nonprofit network of diverse Tarrant County churches, working together to resolve community needs especially related to high-school completion for students of all ages, homelessness and poverty.

Gifts of Hope 2015

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		
• Page Scholarship: a college scholarship award to local students in need	\$25		
• Room in the Inn: laundry services at the Day Resource Center	\$25		
• Christmas Angels: gift bag (coat, clothing, shoes, toy & book)	\$80		
The Children's Closet			
• Children's underwear	\$6		
• A school uniform	\$15		
• Two school uniforms (khakis, jeans and two shirts)	\$30		
Global Ministries			
• Portion of a water pump for a new well in the Congo	\$15		
• Nurse training supplies – Christian Hospital of Mungeli, India	\$15		
• Roots in the Ruins: Hope in Trauma materials – Shalom Center, Chile	\$20		
Heifer International			
• Share of a goat	\$10		
• Share of a llama	\$20		
• Share of a water buffalo	\$25		
The Middle East Initiative			
• Support for educational supplies in Palestine	\$15		
• Aid for refugees fleeing Syria	\$25		
• Part of future pastor's education in Lebanon	\$40		
Mission Pilgrimage			
• School Supplies for children in Nicaragua	\$8		
• Supplies for bio fuel project in Nicaragua	\$15		
• Paint supplies for home renovation projects for Rippling Hope	\$10		
• Electrical/plumbing fixtures for home improvement for Rippling Hope	\$20		
North Texas Refugee Services			
• One day bus pass for refugee in Fort Worth	\$5		
• Portion of food for a week for a newly arrived refugee family	\$10		
• Coat, gloves and a hat for a newly arrived refugee	\$25		
Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries			
• Food for an orphan at Casa Betel for a day (including clean, drinkable water)	\$4		
• School kit for an orphan at Casa Betel	\$8		
• Large bags of beans and rice	\$10		
Tarrant Area Food Bank			
• 30 meals for seniors living on fixed incomes	\$6		
• 60 meals for impoverished working families	\$12		
• Food for 5 children in the Backpacks for Kids program	\$25		
Tarrant Churches Together			
• 3 months of afternoon snacks at Ready, Set, Go! Centers	\$5		
• After school supplies for 1 year for 1 child at Ready, Set, Go! Centers	\$12		
• Books for a scholar for 3 weeks of Children's Defense Fund Freedom School	\$16		

YOUR NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER (_____) _____

PAID BY: Cash _____ Check _____ Credit Card _____

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.



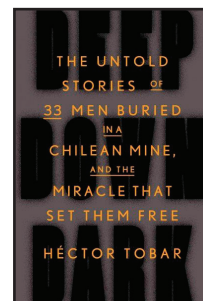
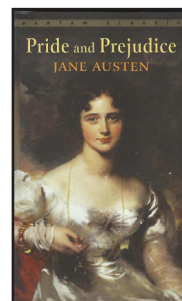
Special Latte with the Ladies will meet on December 12 at 2 p.m. (instead of the usual 9 a.m. time) at the Montgomery Street Antique Mall Secret Garden Restaurant. Register and make your \$15 payment on the UCC website early as the Secret Garden Restaurant has limited seating for special groups.



Regift Game Night—Friday, January 8, at 6 p.m. Details to follow on where this event will be held and what to bring!

WILD Women Book Club will not meet in December so plan to join the **WILD**

Women again on Monday, January 18, at 6 p.m. at Cat City Grill and/or Tuesday, January 19, at 11:30 a.m. in the UCC Library. The evening group, meeting on January 18, will discuss *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. The morning group, meeting on January 19, will discuss *Deep Down Dark: The Untold Stories of 33 Men Buried in a Chilean Mine, and the Miracle That Set Them Free* by Hector Tobar.



Christmas Choir Cantata



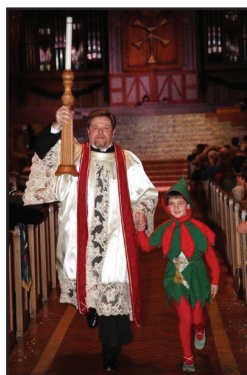
On December 6, the UCC Chancel Choir continues its tradition of gifting the

congregation with a Sunday morning cantata. This year our sermon-in-song will be *Joy to the World!* by John Rutter. Come worship at 9 or 11 a.m. by listening to and participating in the singing of fifteen sacred carols and Christmas hymns interspersed with scripture.

Internationally known English

composer, John Rutter is a favorite of musicians and audiences everywhere and UCC has presented his Gloria with brass. *Joy to the World!* will be festively accompanied by a TCU string ensemble and organ. Come, worship, bow down! Experience the true meaning of the Advent season with our Chancel Choir music on December 6.

Tell Us Your Boar's Head Festival Story!



The Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival is dear to the hearts of all University Christian Church members. Your personal remarks about your experience of participating in or

attending the festival can be included in a collection of stories being created for the fortieth anniversary of this celebration.

We want your favorite stories from past years now. Briefly write the story/incident that is dearest, funniest or most meaningful to you. All stories need to be received by December 7. Email Marsha Hodges, Music Ministry Assistant, at marsha@uccftw.com for

more information or submit your stories by email to boarshead@uccftw.com. It could be as short and simple as "At the BHYL Festival, I saw an encouraging twinkle in a six year old child's eye. Does a tiny knowing twinkle now influence our future with hope?"

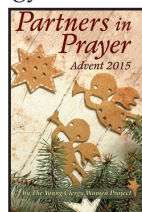
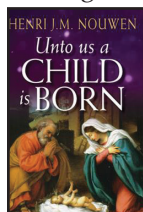
Thank you for participating in this compilation of history unique to UCC's Epiphany festival.

Advent Devotionals

As we begin Advent, our daily devotions are an opportunity to take time, be still and reflect on the season through prayer, scripture and meditation.

This year, we offer two Advent devotionals available in The Arches: Henri Nouwen's, *Unto Us a Child is Born*, and *Partners in*

Prayer, by The Young Clergy Women Project, an ecumenical organization supporting female clergy under the age of forty.



All are invited to pick one up 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. If you would like to receive this weekly devotional, email subscribe to adventdevo@uccftw.com.

New Members



Welcome the Landrum family! Scott is a Hospital CEO for Quorum Health Resources. Kay is Executive Director of Student Outreach Programs and Student Success at Weatherford College. Scott enjoys going to the gym and Kay enjoys reading, cooking and yoga. Both enjoy time with their family. Caroline is a Program Manager at Health Management Systems in Irving and is an active member of Cowtown Tridelta alumnae association for Delta Delta Delta. She likes cooking, barre classes and spending time with family and friends. Sons, Patrick and Evan, and new daughter-in-law, Kaleigh, also join them at UCC when they can. Besides its wonderful, welcoming and inclusive church family, the thing the Landrums like most about UCC is the presence it has in the community with all its wonderful outreach programs and ministries.



Kris Bunton is a native of southwest Missouri, and she lived for the last twenty-two years in Saint Paul, Minnesota. She moved to Fort Worth to become Dean of TCU's Bob Schieffer College of Communication, which is just across the street from University Christian. Kris bought a home in the TCU neighborhood, and she's glad to have found her new faith home right in the neighborhood, too.



Harrell and Shirlee Bosarge moved to Fort Worth in August and have enjoyed reconnecting with TCU friends. Harrell received his Masters in Music Education from TCU and has toured professionally with Delbert McClinton, Vince Gill, Woody Hermans' Big Band and shared the stage with other talented stars along the years. He taught at the University of North Texas as well as the University of Southern Mississippi. Shirlee has dedicated her nursing career to caring for kidney patients. She received her certification in Nephrology Nursing in 1995. Their son, Kyle, is a freshman at TCU. The Bosarges feel blessed to have found a church home where they are comfortable and able to have their souls nourished.

Newcomers Class



All are welcome to be a part of the Newcomers Class! Join us Sundays, February 7, 14 and 21, at 10 a.m. in Room 201. Take this opportunity to invite a friend to learn more about UCC.

The Newcomers Class provides an opportunity to get to know others, meet

Rev. Thomas, learn about UCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Questions are always welcome.

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

Live Longer, Better



As UCC continues to work toward becoming a Blue Zones Project designated faith community, we offer the following suggestions for healthy practices in December.

- Start each day by taking time to be still and center yourself for the day.

- Give the gift of life and invite someone to church. Studies have found that people who attend church on a regular basis and truly feel a part of the faith community live an extra four to fourteen years.

- Slow down. Especially during the hectic days of December it's good to slow down, de-stress and take time to pray or call a friend.

- Drink more water.

- Give a Gift of Hope. Gifts of Hope not only assist in the work of local and international charitable agencies, they provide a welcome break from consumerism.

- Choose the veggies rather than the brownies at your next Christmas party.

Looking for that Perfect Gift for Your Spouse?



Give the UCC Annual Couples Retreat!
*Understand Yourself, Understand Your Partner:
 A Look at the Enneagram and Relationships*

Friday evening, February 5-Saturday afternoon, February 6 at The Cliffs Resort, Possum Kingdom Lake. \$225 per couple, includes continental breakfast and lunch.

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 at UCC's Annual Couples' Retreat. This year's retreat will revisit the ancient, yet growing in popularity, personality system, *The Enneagram*. We'll explore each of the nine personality types and the pairings of the types of couples in attendance. Register online at universitychristian.org.

A non-refundable \$100 deposit is due by Monday, January 4. Email jessica@uccftw.com for details.

Would You Like to Have Your Child Dedicated?



Dedications take place during 11 a.m. worship. Upcoming dates are: December 13, January 31 and February 28. 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 7 at 10 a.m. in the Bride's Room. Email Susan Henry in Children's Ministries at susan@uccftw.com for further information.

Holiday Potluck Brunch, December 27



All are invited to a Holiday Potluck Brunch from 10-11 a.m. in Room 211 on December 27.

Beverages will be provided and we ask that you bring a breakfast dish to share. Sunday school classes will not meet, but childcare is available. Email jessica@uccftw.com with questions.

Special Christmas Eve Liturgical Dance



In addition to lovely harp music for the prelude and choral anthems, the 8 and 11 p.m. Christmas Eve services will feature

a liturgical dance. Jennifer Chung,

award-winning soprano, will sing the classic *Gesù Bambino* by Pietro Yon.

Jenna Meador, TCU Dance Department alum, will lead a dance ensemble in an interpretation of this beloved Italian carol. Our congregation was blessed by their gift to God at our Pentecost services and we look forward to their offering on December 24.

Life of the Church

Weddings

Lynn Dunlap & Bruce Teel
 November 7

Lindsay Legendre & Brandon Lutz
 November 22

Births

Lisa-Raquel Natson, October 9
 Parents, Stephanie and William Natson
 Grandmother, Lorraine Stell

Deaths

Christine James, October 16
 mother of Willie James

Diane Clark, October 20
 wife of Danny Clark

Clifta Lane, October 20
 grandmother of Rebecca Terry

Mary Margaret Belsford, October 24
 mother of Delia Shiflet

Jonathan Isaac Nelson, October 15
 great grandson of Carole Widmann

Bernice Shindall, October 22
 aunt of Pam Miller

Mary Ann Monroe-Moore, October 23
 sister of Bill Monroe and Glenn Monroe

John Graham, October 23
 brother of Hank Graham

Jack Brown, October 30
 nephew of Drew Brown

Zachary David Sotman, October 31
 son of Marsha Gormley
 and Steven Sotman
 brother of Kim Garrett and Tim Sotman

True Worship

by Carol Stewart



UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Isaiah tells us that true worship is to work for justice and care for the poor and oppressed. Wait. What? Worship? That's right. The 58th chapter of Isaiah tells that the people of Israel asked God, "Why do we fast, but you do not see?" God's answer was "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice...to share your bread with the

hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house?"

Sharing bread, bringing the homeless into our house—or church. That's *Room in the Inn!*

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 on our door this winter, we want to welcome them gladly, assuring them that there is indeed room in the inn.

Here's how you can be a part of this

wonderful ministry of University Christian Church: volunteer to make beds and set the table; or provide transportation to or from UCC; or take a shift in the kitchen or as a host; or spend the night; or join your Sunday school class in preparing a meal; or wash a load of laundry; or clean up after our guests leave. Our weekly emails, sent by Alana Greenwood, will give you the details of what each job entails, and what slots still need to be filled. If you're not getting these emails, contact carolmstewart@sbcglobal.net.

You are needed, you will be appreciated and you will find friendship and fulfillment. Come and worship with us!

December Trip to the Kimbell and Modern Art Museums

Mark your calendaring devices for December 10. The Church & the Arts Committee invites you to spend a few sparkling holiday moments inside the Kimbell and the Modern Art museums.

We will examine several selected pieces of art for their significance to the Christmas season, and some will choose to grab lunch after the tours. The featured collections are by artists

Kehinde Wiley and Castiglione. More details posted online and in Sunday school classrooms. Email marsha@uccftw.com if you are interested in attending.

Mission Pilgrimages 2016

Plan to be part of a life-changing experience in 2016. Mark your calendar and sign up for a UCC Mission Pilgrimage.

Contact Cyndy Twedell for additional information.

Watch for more information in next month's *Journal* and on the UCC website.



Mission to El Paso
FWISD Spring Break, March 13-19



Mission to Nicaragua
July 3-10

Chancel Flowers

Flowers enhance the beauty of our Sanctuary and worship on Sunday mornings. They are generously donated to remember, honor or celebrate an occasion or person. Following worship volunteers arrange the flowers into smaller bouquets that are delivered to UCC members in hospitals, care facilities or who are unable to worship with their UCC family.

Several dates for chancel flowers donations exist in the coming months. If you are interested in information about providing flowers for Sunday worship, please email Pam Reeser at pam@uccftw.com.

Ignatius Transposed! Retreat in Everyday Life

And Introductory Saturday Seminar



University Christian Church is delighted to offer this six-month, weekly “retreat” that has been revised, or “transposed” for the twenty-first century, according

to the teachings of the great mystic and scientist, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. Rev. Kathy Bowser and Kristin Robertson, Spiritual Director, will lead

this retreat on Thursday evenings beginning January 7 to June 30, 2016 from 7-8:30 p.m. in Room 206.

Ignatius Transposed is an ideal experience for people who:

- Wish to deepen their relationship with God and to see the Divine in all things
- Study the teachings of Jesus and allow them their transformational power
- Want a support group of Christians who seek a more intimate understanding of Christ
- Like to have a daily spiritual discipline and a group meeting to keep them accountable.

For more information contact Rev. Christi McDowell. To register email kristin@brioleadership.com or call 817.577.7030.

Trip to Crystal Bridges



Weekend Trip to Crystal Bridges
Bentonville, Arkansas
Friday, April 22-Sunday, April 24

Cost:\$275/per person for double occupancy room. Single occupancy available.

The Church and the Arts Committee invites you to join them on a trip to Bentonville, Arkansas, to visit Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the Frank Lloyd Wright Bachman-Wilson House. The trip cost includes transportation, hotel accommodations, museum fees, breakfast and two gourmet dinners at the museum and Bentonville’s famous 21c Hotel. Before heading back to Fort Worth, the group will worship at Waterway Christian Church. Email marsha@uccftw.com to reserve your spot today, trip space is limited.

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.



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 2015 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 13, at 5 p.m., Walker 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.

In Remembrance

by David Nolan, Endowment Chair



Members of our church gather each week around the communion table, reciting the words of Christ and participating in the sacred meal “in remembrance” of Jesus. That gift has been handed down from generation to generation.

Last month, during All Saint’s Sunday, as we recalled the names of those who have passed from this life, our minds were filled with precious memories. We are their legacy, and much of what we have—in both material and non-material things—has been handed down to us from them. But what will we hand down to those who follow? How will we be remembered?

A gift directed to the UCC endowment made during your lifetime or through your estate is a way your faith can be transferred to the next generation. This,

and other types of planned gifts, can undergird our congregation’s ministry in perpetuity, providing resources that will allow future generations of Disciples to worship, serve others and continue the vital ministries of the church.

Please contact Michelle Ingram if you would like to know more about how you can help ensure the future and create a legacy.



Christmas Poinsettias

Beautiful red poinsettias complement the greenery in the 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. Place your orders November 29-December 16. Order online or pick up a form at the Reception Desk or Arches Information Desk.

Email pam@uccftw.com for details.

If you wish to take a poinsettia please do so after the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service. They will also be available in the hallway outside Walker Hall on Friday, December 27.

UCC Quick Financial Summary - Unified Budget October 2015

Description	2014 YTD Actuals	2015 YTD Actuals	Budget YTD 2015	Budget Annual	YTD Variance
Income					
Pledges	\$1,697,510	\$1,696,913	\$1,636,683	\$2,062,615	\$60,229
Non Pledge Contributions	\$186,777	\$213,184	\$175,491	\$274,468	\$37,693
Offering	\$25,805	\$23,789	\$26,768	\$37,202	(\$2,979)
Misc. Unrestricted Income	\$106,999	\$337,502	\$349,963	\$421,656	(\$12,461)
WDS Income (Net)	\$63,427	\$84,223	\$103,806	\$102,778	(\$19,583)
Endowment Income	\$218,149	\$228,837	\$227,911	\$305,518	\$925
Participant/Restricted Income & Reserve Use	\$329,613	\$497,921	\$555,906	\$650,814	(\$57,985)
Total Income	\$2,628,280	\$3,082,369	\$3,076,529	\$3,855,050	\$5,840
Total Personnel Expense	\$1,467,221	\$1,402,055	\$1,457,674	\$1,793,708	\$55,619
Total Program/Admin. Expense	\$805,728	\$1,014,413	\$1,232,917	\$1,496,056	\$218,504
Total Mission/Outreach Expense	\$396,984	\$370,862	\$391,950	\$547,168	\$21,088
Total Expenses	\$2,669,932	\$2,787,329	\$3,082,541	\$3,836,932	\$295,212
Net Operating Income (Loss)	(\$41,652)	\$295,039	(\$6,012)	\$18,118	\$301,052

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 Accounting, at 817.926.6631 or michelle@uccftw.com.



UCC JOURNAL

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

Periodicals Postage Paid

Congregational Meetings

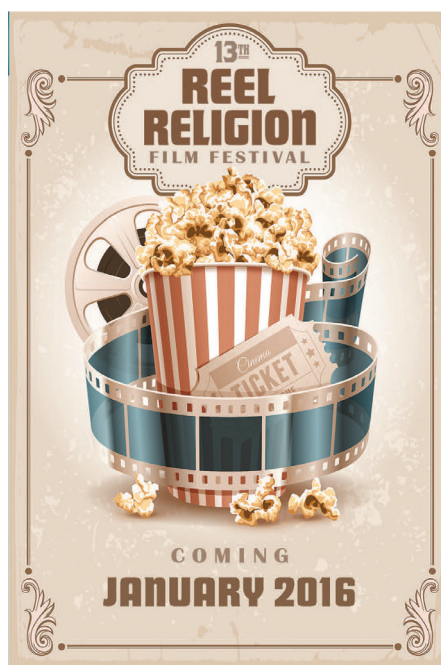
Personnel Committee
Tuesday, December 1
5:30 p.m., Room 202

Finance Committee
Tuesday, December 10
5:30 p.m., Room 202

Building & Grounds
Sunday, December 13
2:15 p.m., Room 226

Board of Stewards
Tuesday, December 15
6:30 p.m., Room 207

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



Reel Religion Film Festival at University Christian Church January 29-30, 2016

featuring films of religious,
cultural & philosophical significance

Registration opens December 21
at www.lifelong.tcu.edu

Movies are free and open to the public.

Followed by a facilitated discussion.

Saturday box lunch available with pre-paid reservation.

Sponsored by University Christian Church,
Broadway Baptist Church
and TCU Extended Education.