



GOOD SOIL, GOOD SEEDS, GOOD NEWS!



LENT AND EASTER

As the sun's light lingers in the sky, the lengthening of days begins. The word lent comes from the Old English word *lencten*, meaning "spring"; literally, lent is the lengthening of days. At University Christian Church this Lenten season, we will be focusing on the process of the growth that occurs as our days lengthen and the time for growth begins. By preparing the ground and sowing the seeds of the fruits of the spirit, we anticipate receiving the Good News!

The inspiration for the Lenten theme, *Good Ground, Good Seeds, Good News!* grew out of the positive feedback received from the January 11 sermon. The idea of torn skies and broken ground as a means of making room for change resonated with those present. In light of this response, we will seek to build upon the ideas introduced in that message. Paul offers in Galatians 5 the fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. We intend to offer, for consideration, the gifts of the Spirit as good seeds to be planted in the rich soil of our lives, all the while nurtured by the Good News of God's love.

As you prepare to walk through the Lenten season, be aware of these experiences that will provide opportunities for you to grow and move toward resurrection.

Lent at UCC

Lenten Devotionals

Children will receive by mail *Let's Grow Into Lent Daily Lenten Devotions* and *Let's Grow Into Lent Mobile* to take children from the Garden of Eden to the garden tomb of Easter in a prayerful experience of growth during Lent. Additional copies will be available in The Arches.

A selection of **Adult Lenten Devotionals** will be available in The Arches. Take time to choose a daily devotional that will spark your growth during Lent. (*more on page 2*)

Weekly Lenten Reflections, written by our ministry staff, will be emailed each Monday during Lent. If you are not already a subscriber to the our weekly email update, email "*subscribe*" to lentendevo@uccftw.com.

Lenten Sermon Series

Our Lenten sermon series is based on our Lenten theme: *Good Ground, Good Seeds, Good News!* Each Sunday, one of our ministers will explore the gifts of the Spirit as described by the Apostle Paul in Galatians. The sermons will be based upon the premise that these gifts are signs of the Spirit's presence in our lives and thus in our world, while at the same time, acknowledging that for many, they remain ideas rather than realities. We hope to draw upon the examples of others, biblical and historical characters, and perhaps contemporary personalities as a means of moving beyond the position of an observer of the qualities of the spiritual life, to that of experienter. Our ultimate example will be found in the good news of God's love made known in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We hope you will join us each Sunday

during Lent. As means of preparing for a most satisfying worship experience, you might want to become familiar with Galatians 5.

Fallow Time will take place 8:15-9 a.m. each Sunday morning in Room 206. A time of sacred silence when we prayerfully wait for God to restore the ground of our spiritual lives and prepare us for growth.

Again this year, Sunday worship at 9 and 11 a.m. will include **silence during the sharing of communion** to provide for added reflection and meditation.

Lenten Lunch Bible Study will meet weekly from 12-12:45 p.m. in Room 312. (*see article on page 6 for details*)

Week of Compassion Special Offering is February 18-22. (*details on page 12*)

(*Lent article continued on page 3*)

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



Gratitude

by Rev. Larry Thomas, Senior Minister

I want to begin this month's note with a genuine expression of gratitude. During the months of November and December, I was the recipient of numerous expressions of gratitude for my service at UCC. I have long since lost track of the number of thoughtful cards and letters that arrived weekly in my church mailbox and at home. Your kind words and specific expressions of thanks were well timed and deeply appreciated. I am humbled and indebted to your kindness.

The second thing I want to share has to do with our finances. First, I want to thank those of you who made our Red Envelope special offering the most successful in recent history. We received \$58,700 in special Red Envelope gifts this year, \$27,300 more than last year, and \$20,700 more than the year prior. In addition, our Gifts of Hope Special offering was up by \$3,800.

Our 2015 stewardship results fell a little short of our goal, which was basically last year's goal. Even so, we are able to move forward with this year's programming budget and are looking

forward to a great year of ministry. Of most concern is the continued loss of pledging units, down twenty-five this year from last. On a positive note, we added 61 new pledging units this year, and 219 increased their pledges to the tune of \$126,600.

As we move gratefully into this New Year, we will be prayerfully considering how to increase our stewardship efforts while remaining exemplary stewards of the gifts that we have received. To be sure, we are grateful to each and every one of you for your generous support of the work of University Christian Church.



Nominations for Church Lay Leaders

Do you know someone who is active in the church in a number of ministries and who embodies what is meant by a "good leader?"

at the Reception Desk, The Arches or recommendations may be made online at universitychristian.org. Each completed form should be placed in a sealed envelope and returned to one of the drop boxes provided at those locations. Further details on the forms.

Questions may be directed to Troy Tuomey, CLG Chair, 817.239.2410, or troy.tuomey@att.net. You can find a list of current members of the Board of Deacons and Board of Elders on the UCC website and in the Reception Area. Remember: completed recommendation

forms must be returned to one of the two drop boxes or made on line by the end of the business day, February 15.

During the same timeframe, the CLG will be receiving recommendations from Assembly members to consider nomination of Board of Stewards members or officers. The Assembly consists of the current Board of Elders, Board of Deacons, Board of Stewards, Ministry Area Leaders and Youth Representatives. Information on this process is being mailed directly to members of the Assembly.

During the period January 15-February 15 congregation members may make recommendations for members to the Board of Deacons and Board of Elders who serve a three-year term beginning June 1, 2015. Recommendation forms for consideration by the Committee on Leadership and Governance (CLG) are available at drop boxes located

Lenten Devotionals Available

This year, UCC will have two daily Lenten devotionals available in The Arches on February 8: *Grace and Peace*, by David Miller, Jennifer Clark Tinker and Jennifer Baker Trinity and *Fellowship of Prayer*, by Traci Smith.



Grace and Peace guides readers through Lent with daily readings from Ephesians. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, quote, reflection and prayer.



In *Fellowship of Prayer*, Traci Smith compares the journey of Lent with the journey of life. All are invited to pick-up one of these devotionals and take time to listen for God in these words.

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.

(Lent at UCC—con't. from page 1)

Service of Ashes, Wednesday, February 18, at 6:30 p.m. in Walker Fellowship Hall. Join us for a candlelight service around the Labyrinth guided by Psalm 103, *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.*

Walk the Labyrinth on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 7:30-9 p.m. in Walker Fellowship Hall.

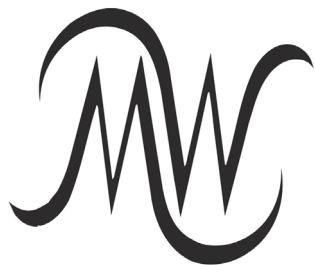
Agape Feast, Sunday, March 29, at 5 p.m. in Walker Fellowship Hall led by the children and youth of UCC. All are invited to join us for a time of prayer, contemplation and feasting together.

Holy Week Worship, Thursday, April 2, Walk the Labyrinth from 5-6:30 p.m. Candlelight Communion, 6:30-6:55 p.m. both in Walker Fellowship Hall

A Service of Darkness, 7 p.m. on Thursday in the Sanctuary featuring the Chancel Choir and strings presenting special Tenebrae music.

As Lent comes to an end, join us for one of our three **Easter services**:

6:45 a.m. Courtyard Sunrise Service
9 and 11 a.m. Sanctuary Worship



This year marks Brite Divinity School's 100th anniversary. In this centennial year, Ministers Week will focus on the challenges and opportunities before the twenty-first century church. As always, the members of University Christian

Ministers Week: February 9-12

Church are invited to take advantage of all that Ministers Week has to offer. The preaching, lectures, and short talks on this year's schedule will explore ways to navigate the cultural landscape of the twenty-first century in order to be Christ's transforming presence in the world. Featured speakers include Cynthia Hale, who will preach the *Wells Sermons*; Phil Snider; Elizabeth Drescher; Craig Van Gelder and John Shelby Spong.

One of the highlights of Ministers Week is evening worship at 7 p.m. on Monday,

Tuesday and Wednesday. This year, in celebration of Brite's history, all faculty, emeritus faculty, trustees, honorary trustees and graduates have been invited to participate in the processional opening Monday evening's worship service.

The order of events for Ministers Week 2015 has been modified from past years. You can find details about speakers, this year's schedule and the opening worship processional at <http://www.brite.edu/events/ministers-week-2015/>.

Getting to Know Your New Minister of Pastoral Care



Hello, I am your new Minister of Pastoral Care, and I am very excited to be a part of the UCC family. I would like to introduce myself as well as ask that as you see

me in the hallways to please stop me and introduce yourself. I am a life-long member of the DOC church, and am a

Brite Alumna (Go Frogs!). My ministry background and passion lies in the field of pastoral care. I have served as a chaplain in local hospitals for over eight years, most recently as a staff chaplain at John Peter Smith. I am excited for this transition back to church ministry to offer care and compassion to UCC.

My family includes my husband, Michael, and our four-year-old son, Nathan. You will most likely see him

running through the halls on Sunday morning, excited for Sunday school. My mother, Connie Keesal, also attends church and sings in the choir.

My office is on the second floor and if you see that my door is open, please stop by and say hello!

Many Blessings,
Rev. Christi McDowell

February Organ Recital



Thomas Helms, the organist who is well known at UCC because of his silent film accompaniments (*Laurel and Hardy*, *Harold Lloyd* and *Phantom of the Opera*), will be the featured organist for the Hymn-Sing-Recital during Ministers Week, February 11, at 3:30 p.m.

Helms is not only recognized nationally for silent film accompaniments but also as a concert organist and composer. He is a master hymn accompanist and knows how to capture an audience with his innate ability to perform works that are enjoyable, exciting and beautiful. He is a graduate of TCU with a degree in Organ Performance where he was a student of Emmet Smith.

Baby Dedications



*Eleanor Elizabeth and
Graham David Boyd,
daughter & son of
Rev. Russ & Sarah Boyd.
Grandparents are
Dwight & Gloria Boyd and
Rob & Nancy Jack. Great-grandparents
are Peggy Wilson and
Charles & JoAnn Terry.
Big sister is Bell Boyd.*



*Lindsey Kate Lewis,
daughter of
George & Tracy Lewis.
Grandparents are Jane Lewis
and Greg & Sheila Carlson.*

Want to Schedule Your Baby's Dedication?



Dedications take place during 11 a.m. worship. Upcoming dates are: February 22, March 15 and May 10. 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 details.

Rosemont Elementary Spelling Bee



Fifth grader Maria Kim won the 2015 Rosemont Elementary School Spelling Bee in the thirteenth round of competition on Friday, January 9. Fourth grader Jeffrey Owens was runner up. Thirty-five students began the morning's competition in the bee-theme decorated gym as excited parents and students watched and cheered on their classmates.

Kids Hope Mentors Lisa Tillman and Cyndy Twedell served as judges and enjoyed the chance to observe the anxious energy, poise and hard work of

the students. They also had the honor of verifying the winner! Fortunately Lisa and Cyndy were given copies of the correct spelling of each word!

UCC's Kid's Hope touches the lives of young students at Rosemont Elementary School in varied and powerful ways. Thank you for your continued prayers for the students, teachers and staff, as well as the UCC mentors.

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.

Men's Ministry

Annual Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper is February 12, Walker Fellowship Hall, 6-7:30 p.m. Join us for pancakes, sausage, fruit and all the fixins'. Great fellowship and activities for kids! Live music! \$5 per person, \$3 for children under 12.

Home on the Range: A Day with Clays. Saturday, February 28, 8:30 a.m.-noon. The event is a gathering at Alpine Shooting Range, 5482 Shelby Road, for

Clergy Women Breakfast

February 11 at 8 a.m.

Again this year, the Women of UCC will host the Clergy Women Breakfast during Ministers Week. Women ministers from across the Southwest Region will be treated to a delicious breakfast and an opportunity to spend time together.

CCSW Leadership Conference

February 27-March 1

Azle Christian Church

Log on to the Christian Church in the Southwest website, <http://ccsw.org/disciples-women>, and click 'registration information' link under Leadership Conference for details.

Women's Circles

First Tuesday October through May

Join the Rose Circle February 3 at 10 a.m. in the UCC Library

Latte with the Ladies



Saturday, February 14, beginning at 9 a.m. at Buon Giorno (915 Florence Street, 76102).

Women of Valor

Meet Sunday, February 15, for fellowship at 5 p.m. in Room 204 as we 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

Monday, February 16, at 6 p.m. at Cat City Grill and Tuesday, February 17, at 11:30 in the UCC Library. We will discuss the book *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee (both will discuss the same book).

a clay shooting competition (cost is \$25) followed by lunch at Babes in Burleson. We would be honored if you would mark your calendar and join us for this fun and exciting event. Sign up in The Arches or register online.

Men's Movie Night

March 21, 6:30 p.m. Room 207. Join us for the film *The Ultimate Gift* starring the late James Garner and Drew Fuller. \$5 gets you a chicken dinner, the movie and great discussion.

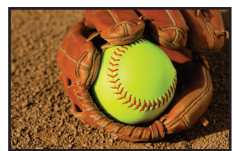
Sign up in The Arches or contact Tony Allred for more information.

Men's Night Out TCU-OU Baseball

March 24, 6:30 p.m. Tailgate in the North Parking. \$20 for the game, dinner and fellowship with UCCers. Sign up in The Arches.

For more information about any of these events, contact Tony Allred at antonioramone2002@yahoo.com.

UCC Spring Softball Team



Softball season is right around the corner! Women and men ages sixteen and up are welcome to join the team. Games are Friday evenings at Gateway Park in Fort Worth

from March 13 – May 15. The cost to play is \$25, which includes a team t-shirt.

Are you on injured reserve this season? We still need you! We are looking for a team manager, someone to coordinate with players (email) to make sure we

have enough people at each game, and a coach (line-up, coaching bases, coin toss, etc.). If you are interested in playing, coaching or managing, email Rev. Jessica Vacketta at jessica@uccftw.com.

UCC Journal

Carol Ann Fewell, Editor • Michelle Groom, Circulation

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

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to UCC Journal, 2720 S. University Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76109.

The \$15 annual subscription to the UCC Journal is paid through members annual tithes and individually paid subscribers.

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

Church & the Arts Scavenger Hunt II

Come and join the fun—again—as we bring back the popular Scavenger Hunt we held in 2013. This is great fun for all ages and it is also an educational venture through the lovely artwork in

our church collection. Great for teams of grandparents, parents and children who want some quality time together. Check out the clues, search for the works of art and win a prize. The fun

begins February 8 at 10 a.m. after the first service and continues through and until after the second service.



Calling All UCC Artists!

In art, the hand can never execute anything higher than the heart can imagine.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Fine art is a visual art considered to have been created primarily for aesthetic purposes and judged for its beauty and meaningfulness. It does not have to have any other purpose. Examples include painting, sculpture, drawing,

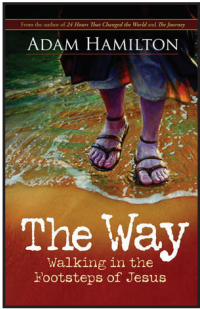
watercolor, photography and graphics. Church and the Arts is again sponsoring a fine arts exhibit to recognize the artists in our congregation. The exhibit is open to all who attend University Christian Church. The exhibit and a reception will be held on Sunday, March 22.

If you are interested in participating in our fine arts exhibit this year the deadline for entering is March 14. Registration forms and entry details are

located in The Arches Bookstore and at the Reception Desk. Art work delivery is on Saturday, March 21, between 9 a.m.-12 p.m. This exhibit will be a wonderful celebration of the artistic talents of our congregation. We hope you will be willing to share your art work with us!

If you have questions or need additional information please contact Camille Kerr at 817.428.6644 or cmgk@sbcglobal.net.

Lenten Lunch Bible Study



Beginning Thursday, February 12, you are cordially invited to a Lenten Lunch Bible Study featuring *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus* by Adam Hamilton. The group, led by Barbara Tucker, will meet each

week on Thursdays, February 12–April

2, from 12-12:45 p.m. in Room 312 (Third Floor Kitchen). Participants need to bring their lunch and a Bible. Coffee and water will be provided.

This weekly time of reflection and discussion follows Jesus' life and ministry, from his baptism to the proclamation of the Great Commission. Each meeting will include time for sharing reflections on readings from the

past week and a preview of the readings for the week ahead. The group is open to all adults who are interested in this biblical journey. The participant guide for *The Way* is available for purchase at www.cokesbury.com. If you have questions, contact Barbara Tucker at 817.713.9358 or btuckerlibrary@att.net. Come and join us on the way.



In recognition of
Brite Divinity School and University Christian Church's
historic partnership in theological education,
Brite Divinity School is pleased to dedicate the Harrison Building second floor common area
The University Christian Church Common

Please join us for a dedication ceremony on
Sunday, February 8, 2015
4:00 p.m.

Brite Divinity School
Harrison Building
2925 Princeton Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76109

New Members



Welcome to Darlene Roth! Darlene grew up in Michigan and is an alum of Texas Christian University with a degree in Interior Design. While working for a prestigious interior design firm in Dallas she worked on the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas, TX, and the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas, NV. She started her own residential business, Darlene Roth Interior Design, in 1999 in Fort Worth. She enjoys world travel, running, yoga and spending time with her dog, Denny. Go Frogs!



Tracy Lewis came from Minnesota to attend TCU where she studied nursing and met her husband, George (a long-time UCC member). She worked as an RN at Cooks, then studied nurse anesthesia at Texas Wesleyan and now works as a CRNA at Plaza Medical Center. Daughter, Lindsey, was born last July. Tracy likes to travel, bake and spend time with family and friends. She loves that UCC offers a wide variety of opportunities for spiritual growth. She says, "Every member of UCC I've met has been very warm and welcoming. I'm so excited to finally be a member of this amazing congregation, and I look forward to where it will take me on my spiritual journey."



Welcome Dr. Sarah Hardy and Mitzi Lemons! Sarah is a Psychiatrist with MHMR Tarrant County and Mitzi is an HR consultant. They were both raised in Arlington and now reside in Fort Worth. Mitzi and Sarah enjoy spending time with friends and they love to travel including camping, and other outdoor activities. They are excited about their new church home and looking forward to engaging in the ministries of UCC!



Welcome Kay Tillis and Renee Rial! Kay has worked as a nurse for over thirty years and is currently a nurse at Fem Center. She and her daughter Renee enjoy baking and spending time with family and friends. Renee works in arts and crafts and is an animal activist and volunteers at the Tarrant County Animal Adoption Center. She enjoys going to estate sales and has a Chihuahua named Priscilla. Renee and Kay are very happy to be at UCC and say it feels like home.

Life of the Church

Births

Henry Dylan Spradley Moore
January 14
Parents—Kendall & Geoff Moore
Grandparents—
Stephanie & Fred Spradley

Deaths

Jimmy Jones Kilpatrick, Jr., November 29
grandson of Katherine Wallach

Barbara Friedman, December 11
sister-in-law of Corky Friedman

Barbara Barnes, December 23
mother of Brad Barnes

Pat Holmgren, December 25
mother of Julie Johnston,
Mark Holmgren and Laurel Holmgren

Joyce Bailey, December 26
aunt of Pepper Ackers

Paula Kilgore, December 28
mother of Kirk Kilgore, Terry Kilgore

Dr. Robert Bell, December 28

Joy Weaver, December 29
mother of Joy Ann Havran

Jean Stow, January 6
mother of Robert Stow

Vesta Jackson, January 10, mother of
Pam Pipkin and Michael Jackson

Carolyn Smith, January 10
sister of Edith Nichols

Evelyn Lee Winchester Day, January 12
grandmother of William Butler

Weddings

Becca Meyer and Andrew Kane
January 10

CCF/JYF in February



Children's Christian Fellowship (first through third grades) and Junior Youth Fellowship (fourth and fifth grades) will meet February 8, 15 and 22. Join us at 5 p.m. in Room 211 for fun, service,

learning and fellowship. CCF/JYF is a great opportunity for kids to bring a friend to church. We are also invited by the Youth to join them for the optional \$3 snack supper from 6:15-6:45 p.m.

Third Grade Bible Presentation on February 15



The third graders of UCC have been enjoying a special six-week class on *Learning to Use Your Bible*. The series will

continue through February 15, during the 10 a.m. Sunday school hour. The class culminates that day with the presentation of Bibles during 11 a.m. worship. The Bible gifts are made possible by the generous giving of the following: an endowment, created in memory of Mrs. May Henson, a beloved teacher who taught children in Church School at University Christian Church for over forty years, and a foundation created in loving memory of Jeff D. Conatser.

Please extend your thanks to Anne Darr who helped provide leadership and expertise during the Bible series. Our goal for third graders receiving Bibles is to help children view the Bible as more than a book with big words; and instead, help children feel confident in navigating through the pages with knowledge and inspiration. It truly takes our entire church family to mentor our children in faith. We are blessed to have adults sharing their time and talents in this way.

Just Say Know: Comprehensive Sexuality Education



University Christian Church is pleased to offer the *Just Say Know* sexuality education program for children and youth in grades four through eight. Details on topics covered in the curriculum can be found on the CLER Ministries website at clerministries.org.

2015 workshop schedule is as follows:

Middle school (grades 6-8 with a parent)
Sundays, February 15 & 22, 12:15-3:15 p.m.
Cost: \$20 per youth participant

Elementary (grades 4-5 with a parent)
Sunday, February 8, 12:15-3:15 p.m.
Separate workshops for boys and girls
Cost: \$20 per child participant

Fee includes lunch, course materials, and a copy of Kate Ott's book *Sex+Faith: Talking with Youth Child from Birth to*

Adolescence. \$10 discount for each additional child registered per family or if you attended a course last year (since each family only needs one book). Scholarships for all courses available upon request.

Register online at uccyouth.org/justsayknow and spread the word to friends and neighbors who would like to take advantage of this important program!

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
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 ucckids.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, 17
Session II-July 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22
Details coming in the months ahead.

UCC's Support of the Day Resource Center



Mayor Price

University Christian Church is pleased to partner with the Day Resource Center in serving our Room in the Inn guests each week. The DRC supports a portfolio of solutions that help people leave the streets behind—for good. It pioneered day services for the homeless in Fort Worth and today is home to innovative programming like

the Victims Advocacy Project, one of the first in Texas created to help homeless victims of violent crime seek justice and safe shelter.

It is also a part of the Healthy Community Collaborative, an alliance of seven agencies that will expand homeless outreach, mobile crisis outreach, intensive case management, peer support and housing placement to help men and women escape the

streets. The center also boasts one of the most successful housing programs funded through the City of Fort Worth Directions Home program.

Breakfast with the Mayor, Friday, February 6, benefits the Day Resource Center. UCC will host a table as our support of the DRC and the significant role they play in screening individuals for the Room in the Inn ministry held here at our church and elsewhere in Fort Worth.



February Toiletries Drive for South Central Alliance

During February UCC will collect toiletries for South Central Alliance of Churches. The Alliance serves

families in need in our neighborhood. Individuals, Sunday school classes, and other UCC groups are encouraged to select one or more of the following items to collect and deposit in the blue bin

which is located near the Reception Desk: shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, bar soap, toilet tissue, deodorant, razors and shaving cream. Regular size containers, rather than travel size, are requested.

Hope

by Kay Higgins, Room in the Inn Volunteer



UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

I have often wished that there were different words for the word, "hope." There are four Greek words for "love" and each has a different meaning. There is only one Greek word for "hope," *elpis*. Since there is only one word in English or Greek, I think about the word "hope" as *hope* or *Hope*.

"I hope that I get an A on that paper!" "I hope you are coming to my party!" "I hope that I get that sweater for my birthday!" The little "h" is wishful thinking.

"I Hope that I will be able pay for my child's medicine." I Hope that there is still room in the shelter tonight. It's twelve degrees out here." "I Hope that my mother's cancer will not come back." Biblically, the capital "H" is

confident expectation. In our daily living, "HOPE" is also a "yearning prayer" of expectation.

As you know, our congregation participates in an important program called Room in the Inn. It was started in Nashville, TN, and it continues to move across the country. There are now twenty-three congregations in Fort Worth who, once a week, house people who are homeless during the two warmest and three coldest months of the year. They are our guests. We share a meal, engage in conversation, play games, help our guests write resumes and encourage. The men shower, sleep comfortably and safely for the first time in weeks or months. In the morning, they rise, have a big breakfast, depart with a prepared lunch, and return to the Day Resource Center of Tarrant County by 7 a.m.

I frequently drive our guests from the Day Resource Center to our church. I am always impressed with the positive conversation in the car. December 3, 2014 was our first day of Room in the Inn for the winter program. As our guests were getting into the car for the short trip to the church, Milton, sitting in the front seat asked, "How was your Thanksgiving?" I was somewhat

embarrassed to answer. "It was good, how was yours?" I asked. The conversation among the men moved from family to places they had lived to anticipated work in the future. We arrived at the church, they thanked me for the ride, and we said our good-byes. Room in the Inn has always reminded me of the Christmas story, the "confident expectation" of the impending birth, a warm place to sleep, and the assurance that there is a loving God who cares about each of us. This year, we hosted our guests on December 24. It was an awesome night—much like the night that Mary waited in "confident expectation" that her son would be born. She did not know what the future would hold, but she knew that God was a God of love and God would not disappoint.

As we embrace the meaning of HOPE for our lives, may we be reminded of Mary's confident expectation as she awaited what was to come. As each of us snuggles warmly into our beds this night, may we be reminded that only because God has loved us are we able to love. We are the hands and feet of God on this earth, and we are called to live out God's message of love in our world. Every day, we must ask ourselves, "Whose answer to HOPE will I be today?"



The Marriage Well

Friday, February 27

Room 207, 6-6:45 p.m.

This month's topic:

Sabbath in our Families.

Childcare reservation needed by

Thursday, February 19,

email susan@uccftw.com.



The 1's

Friday, February 6

Room 207, 6-7 p.m.

This month's topic:

The Joy of Sharing.

Email jessica@uccftw.com

for more information.



Weekday School Enrollment 2015-16 Deadline

The UCC Weekday School Advisory Board is making plans for the 48th year of the school's program, which will begin in the fall of 2015. The school follows the High Scope Approach

to preschool education, an experiential, developmentally appropriate curriculum as well as the criteria outlined by the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children). The Weekday School offers morning classes from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. for cribs (eight weeks) through Kindergarten. Optional Early Bird and Discovery Time enrichment programs are also available.

Enrollment forms and fees for the 2015-16 school year will be accepted **Monday, January 26, through Wednesday, February 11.** If you are a church member not currently enrolled in the school and are interested in requesting a space for your child(ren), packets will be available in the Weekday School Office, Room 101, beginning Monday, January 26, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Accommodating church members is a priority, but please be aware of the demand for our program and that the number of church members turning in packets may be greater than the number of classroom spaces available in any given age level. *Requesting a space does not guarantee a place for your child.* Note that the church member must be a parent or legal guardian in order to pick up a packet.

WDS Priority Placement Guidelines:

Crib Room:

1. Church members' children—*Please note that the church member must be a parent or legal guardian.* (If all things are equal,

number of years of church membership will be taken into consideration.)

2. Siblings of current students
3. Children on waiting lists

One year olds-four year olds:

1. Students currently enrolled in the program (Priority will be given to those families with the most years in program.)
2. Number of years family has been enrolled in program
3. Siblings of current students
4. Church members' children who are not currently enrolled—*Please note that the church member must be a parent or legal guardian.* (If all things are equal, number of years of church membership will be taken into consideration.)
5. Children who have been placed on the waiting lists throughout the year

Kindergarten:

Placement of the Kindergarten Class will be determined using the same guidelines listed above. However, acceptance will also take into account girl/boy ratio and age balance within this class. Director discretion will be used in final placement. Additional information about the Kindergarten program is available in the Weekday School Office.

The Advisory Board invites all interested church members to come by the Weekday School office to learn about our outstanding program. Additionally, if you have any questions concerning Enrollment, please contact Alison Coffey, WDS Enrollment Chair, at alisongcoffey@gmail.com or Claire Graham, Director of the UCC Weekday School, at 817.926.3960 or claire@uccftw.com.

Newcomers Class in February



All are welcome to be a part of the Newcomers Class!

Join us Sundays, February 1, 8 and 15, at 10 a.m. in Room 201. The Newcomers Class is a great introduction to UCC. Invite a friend to come to the class and experience the welcome of UCC.

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

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

2015 Mission Pilgrimage Possibilities



El Paso Spring Break Mission Pilgrimage March 8–14

Families, youth, students and adults will travel to El Paso for UCC's Spring Break Mission Pilgrimage. Again this

year we will work in partnership with Rippling Hope to renovate and repair homes and churches as we meet the people who live in the United States along the Texas border and learn about the chronic poverty there.

We will travel in vans and sleep on the floor of the church. Along with the important rebuilding work each day, we will share in the duties of daily devotionals, cooking, cleaning and learning together. The cost is \$300 per person, \$175 for children twelve and

under. \$50 deposit is due February 1. An Orientation meeting for all participants Sunday, February 8, noon, in Room 211.

Nicaragua Mission Pilgrimage

July 26–August 1

UCC will travel to Nicaragua once again to work with our friends at La Mision Cristiana and Project Chacocente. Mark your calendars if you want to be part of this life-changing mission.

Contact Cyndy Twedell for more details on these mission opportunities!

Online Communications and Social Media Policy

Telling our story is important. The internet and social media have added new modes of communication, offering a new ways for engaging with those already part of UCC and the wider community. To help us make the

best use of online communications, the Communications Committee and Board of Stewards have approved an Online Communications/Social Media Policy. You can find it on our website by clicking on "Document Archive" on

the "Resources" drop down menu and typing Online Communication Policy in the search box or by contacting Carol Ann Fewell at 817.926.6631.

Friday Fellowship

What's all that shaking going on? Join us for Friday Fellowship, February 13, 11 a.m., Room 207, when Dr. Art Busbey, TCU's Geology Program Coordinator and UCC Elder, will talk

about what makes earthquakes, show examples of how they have impacted humanity, and shed light on some of the local earthquake activity that has been in the news recently, including the

likely cause. Potluck lunch following in Room 211.

Email danlsmith@mindspring.com for reservations.

UCC Quick Financial Summary - Unified Budget December 2014

Description	2013 YTD Actuals	2014 YTD Actuals	Budget YTD 2014	Budget Annual	YTD Variance
Income					
Pledges	\$2,163,910	\$2,101,545	\$2,047,567	\$2,047,567	\$53,978
Non Pledge Contributions	\$236,622	\$293,911	\$276,300	\$276,300	\$17,611
Offering	\$37,915	\$36,549	\$38,700	\$38,700	(\$2,151)
Misc. Unrestricted Income	\$161,664	\$182,479	\$161,605	\$161,605	\$20,874
WDS Income (Net)	\$104,256	\$71,603	\$86,595	\$86,595	(\$14,993)
Endowment Income	\$272,896	\$291,832	\$291,010	\$291,010	\$821
Participant/Restricted Income & Reserve Use	\$596,524	\$396,749	\$403,994	\$403,994	(\$7,245)
Total Income	\$3,573,785	\$3,374,667	\$3,305,771	\$3,305,771	\$68,895
Total Personnel Expense	\$1,804,893	\$1,752,767	\$1,760,791	\$1,760,791	\$8,025
Total Program/Admin. Expense	\$1,104,896	\$986,039	\$1,050,984	\$1,050,984	\$64,945
Total Mission/Outreach Expense	\$615,018	\$491,847	\$488,315	\$488,315	(\$3,532)
Total Expenses	\$3,524,807	\$3,230,653	\$3,300,090	\$3,300,090	\$69,438
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$48,978	\$144,014	\$5,681	\$5,681	\$138,333

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@uccftw.com.

Congregational Meetings

Personnel Committee

Tuesday, February 3, 5:30 p.m., Rm 202

Communications Committee

Wednesday, February 4, 5:30 p.m., Rm 202

Building & Grounds

Sunday, February 8, 12:15 p.m., Rm 202

Finance Committee

Tuesday, February 10, 5:30 p.m., Rm 203

Investment Committee

Wednesday, February 11, 11:30 a.m., Rm 202

Endowment Committee

Wednesday, February 11, Noon, Rm 203

Board of Stewards

Tuesday, February 17, 6:30 p.m., Rm 207

Elders Meeting

Tuesday, February 24, 6:30 p.m., Rm 207

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



Will You Put Your Compassion into Action?

2 Corinthians 8:13-15

When some of the earliest followers of Jesus experienced a famine in Jerusalem the Apostle Paul organized an appeal to respond to their needs. Christian communities in distant places put their Compassion into Action and gave to this ecumenical offering, much like we do today through Week of Compassion.

The Week of Compassion offering reaches widely, impacting lives in our own neighborhoods and those we may never meet but who are in need of our compassion. God provides the resources so we can give back. We're giving back to God what is already God's—so we might all thrive!

I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that their may be a fair balance. 2-Corinthians 8:13-15.

Our abundance becomes their need and their need becomes our abundance.

What if we all lived as if this is our call? We could change the world.

Will you put your Compassion into Action? The 2015 Week of Compassion Offering will be received February 15-22.