



38th Annual Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival



UCC members and an audience from far and wide have thrilled to the BHYLEF story for the past thirty-seven years. We have marveled at the detailed period costumes, the diverse cast that inspires awe and humor without speech, and the glorious mix of handbells, organ and orchestra that accompany the story of Jesus' birth. This January 4 and 5, the festival will be special indeed because the composer and arranger of the music, Randol Alan Bass, has been commissioned to both update the musical score and conduct!

Through gifts from individuals and the Boar's Head Guild, Mr. Bass was hired

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* will still be heard in the production, but you will sense a freshening of the parts and hear many beautiful surprises.



Mr. Bass, as composer-arranger, has achieved an impressive array of performances and commissions by highly-respected and prestigious ensembles; among these: the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the National Symphony of Washington, DC, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. His special Christmas arrangements have been recorded by the New York and Boston Pops.

Mr. Bass, a graduate of UT, composed

the former Boar's Head musical score while in his early twenties at the request of his teacher and mentor, Ronald Shirey. He is excited to have the chance to hone and polish this project with all the musical wisdom gained in his career since 1976. We are blessed to be able to give his immense gifts back to the community for years to come.

Performances & Ticket Sales

The 38th Annual Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival will be held in the Sanctuary on January 4 and 5 at 3 and 5 p.m. each day. Mark your calendars and plan on attending this UCC tradition.

Plenty of free seats are available and patron tickets for reserved seating are available for \$15 per seat. All proceeds go to sustaining the festival in future years. You may order your patron tickets through our website at www.universitychristian.org, call the ticket office at 817.926.6631 ext. 141 or email boarshead@uccftw.com.

Happy Anniversary Prayer Shawl Ministry



The Prayer Shawl Ministry of University Christian Church will celebrate its nine year anniversary in worship on Sunday, January 12. Over 1,735 prayer shawls have been knit or crocheted since this ministry began at UCC in January 2005.

Each prayer shawl is lovingly knit or crocheted, held by the group as they pray for its recipient and then presented to someone who needs to be wrapped in God's loving embrace.

Prayer Shawls are given in gratitude, to those undertaking a new journey in life, and to those facing surgery, treatment or loss. For several years, our Room in the Inn guests have received warm prayer scarves and caps thanks to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Baby blankets have also been given to families at the occasion of the Blessing and Dedication of their children.

Open to the wonderful working of God's Spirit, this ministry welcomes all who wish to participate. Join us on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. or Sundays at 4 p.m. in Room 206.

Stay Connected!

Traditional Worship
Sundays, 9 & 11 a.m.

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

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



The Vision of University Christian Church

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



With a Song in Our Heart

by Rev. Larry Thomas, Senior Minister

Christmastide will soon give way to Epiphany. In a couple of weeks, we will be able to say that we celebrated both with faith and fanfare. This finishing touch to both will be upon us in a few days. This will be the thirty-eighth consecutive year in which we have shared our version of The Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival with our community. This year promises to be special as our choir and orchestra will be led by Randol Bass. Mr. Bass was the original composer

and arranger of much of the music that comprises our Epiphany festival. He has been refreshing much of it for this and next year's celebrations.

The pinnacle moment of our festival is the opening of the Triptych. It is then that we find what we have sought. In that moment, we, with the Magi, worship the new born king. This is the "aha" moment of Epiphany. It will certainly not be the first time we have recognized God in our midst, but as always, will serve to remind us that faith should not leave our senses dulled. We

need to be constant in our expectation of re-discovering God in our midst.

Perhaps that should be our New Year's resolution. There may not be a star to guide us to Bethlehem, but isn't there a particular song in our heart, one that says God's Son is with us always? Interesting word always; it denotes proximity, means and circumstance—often overlooked.

May 2014 be a year filled with epiphanies; small but significant reminders that God is with us, in us, and working through us to bless all of creation.

Chapman University Singers in Concert



Wednesday, January 22, at 7 p.m. in the UCC Sanctuary, hear the Chapman University Singers, under the direction of Stephen Coker, as they present a wide variety of choral repertoire ranging from the Renaissance era to modern day composition. Included are works of Victoria, Brahms, Benjamin Britten, Eric Whitacre and Hyo-won Woo.

This highly-select, thirty-four voice mixed choir will also perform international folk songs and opera selections from the Bel Canto era. Founded in 1963 by William D. Hall, the University Singers have been acclaimed throughout the world, performing at venues from the Vatican to the Hollywood Bowl.

The all-undergraduate ensemble is comprised largely of vocal performance and music education majors from the university's heralded Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music. Traditions of the University Singers include annual national tours, semi-annual international tours, participation in the choral-orchestral presentations of the Conservatory's spring Sholund Scholarship Concert, and a yearly appearance in Chapman's Holiday Wassail Concert.

Chapman University is one of California's oldest and most respected private universities as well as the second largest Disciples of Christ school. It offers undergraduate and graduate

degrees in the context of a liberal arts and sciences university. Founded as Hesperian College in 1861 in Woodland, CA, by members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Endowed by the Valencia orange magnate Charles Clarke Chapman, the institution changed its name to Chapman College in 1934, and in 1954 moved to Orange, California. Chapman has grown into a highly regarded university attracting high-achieving students from all over the United States, and around the world.

Stephen Coker, Director, assumed the post of Director of Choral Activities at Chapman University in the fall of 2009. Coker received his Bachelor and Master of Music Degrees from Oklahoma City University and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Music from the University of Southern California.

Hye-Young Kim, Accompanist, is active as a collaborative pianist in a wide variety of repertoire and ensembles. Dr. Kim began her career in Collaborative Arts at the University of Southern California and then completing her graduate studies in Keyboard Collaborative. Currently Dr. Kim is an adjunct faculty member of the Chapman University Conservatory of Music.

We hope the UCC congregation will join us for this very special concert!

Greetings from Ghana



Kristine Tisinger arrived safely in Ghana and shares these photos of her first day of work.

Olivia, pictured left in the red blouse and green and yellow skirt, began the program for abandoned "street kids" with whom Kristine works. They are clearing rocks from the construction site of a new church.

Mime Performance Boot Camp



Enclave of the Arts with special guest Dr. Lou Campbell and the Joshua Squad will conduct a one-day workshop Saturday, February 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. for people interested in communicating God's love through theatre. During the workshop introduction to mime and pantomime techniques will be explored, as well as physical theatre and other performance media.

The Joshua Squad will also demonstrate several scripture-based performance pieces and teach them to participants. Participants (aged 15+) are invited to perform in *The Search* worship the following Sunday using materials learned.

Funds from this workshop support the mission outreach of the Enclave of the Arts. Dr. Lou Campbell is a recipient of the Distinguished Achievement award from Cambridge University Men in Cambridge, England for his work in performing arts medicine and physical movement for theatre. As Director for Joshua Squad, he has performed and taught in twenty-seven countries for over thirty-five years and is one of the last people to study with Marcel Marceau.

This workshop is open to the public and space is limited. Make reservations online, or call Marsha at 817.926.6631. Cost is \$45 per person, with lunch provided with advance reservation. Student discounts (\$30 per person) available for high school and college students with valid id.

Life of the Church

Deaths

Jean Booth Bonnell, December 2
Grandmother of
Laura Bonnell Alexander

Kathy Thompson, December 3
Sister of Marian Nelson

Bill Davis, December 3
Husband of Jo Davis

J.W. Skolaut, November 25

Margaret Summy, November 23
Wife of Bill Summy
and Mother of Myra Buis

Juanita Leadford, November 17
Grandmother of Alice Phillips

James Lockard, November 17
Nephew of Jean Walbridge

Peg Thornton, November 17
Mother of David Thornton

Dana Kay Matson, November 14
Daughter of Kathryn
and Morris Matson

Louise Wood, November 9
Mother of Randy Jordan

Births

none this month

Weddings

none this month

UCC Journal

Carol Ann Fewell, Editor • Michelle Groom, Circulation

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Baby Dedications



Mason Warren Cox, Tatem Marie and Tristin Leilani Cox, son and twin daughters of Liza Cox. Grandparents are Phil & Judy Davis. Great-grandparents are Ethel Carson and Betty Davis.



Colleen Jane Millns, daughter of Matthew & Lindsey Millns. Grandparents are Melinda Duncan, Frank Duncan and John & Jennifer Millns. Great-grandparents are Theola Duncan, Betty Gilmore, Ed Martin and Sandy Millns. Shown with big brother, John Patrick.



Adam William Silva and Stella Ann Silva, son and daughter of Al & Erin Silva. Grandparents are Bill & Lisa Dishman, Al & Sharon Silva, and Joanne Lyle. Great-grandparents are Martha Dishman and Sam & Marcy Ford.



Louise Coe Manuel, daughter of Edward & Haddy Manuel. Grandparents are Herrell & Bonnie Flynt and David & Betty Coe Manuel.



Thomas Dalton Price, son of Paul & Katie Price. Grandparents are Alan & Mandy Teichelman and Tom & Betsy Price. Great-grandparents are Ken & Joy Noel.

Newcomers Class



All are welcome to be a part of the Newcomers Class! Join us Sundays, January 5, 12 and 19, 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) and tour the building. Questions are always welcome.

For more information, please contact Michelle Groom, Ministry Assistant to Rev. Cyndy Twedell, at 817.926.6631 ext. 138, or email mgroom@uccftw.com. The next Newcomers Class will be offered in March.

Wish to Schedule a Baby Dedication?

Dedications take place during 11 a.m. worship or *The Search*. Upcoming dates are: January 19, February 23, and March 16. The baby dedication is a blessing of the child and a promise from parents to their child to raise them in a Christian home. But, it is also the public acknowledgement of a covenant with the people of UCC that we as a community of faith will surround the child with the spirit of Christ as they grow in our midst.

In order to affirm these provisions, parents will participate in a Baby Dedication class to learn about some of the intricacies of a child's faith journey and about how UCC can help foster their family and child in the process of understanding Christ's love. The next classes offered begin March 30 at 10 a.m. Contact Susan Henry in the Children's Ministries Office, susan@uccftw.com, or ext. 165 for details.

Save the Date!

Labyrinth Training on Saturday, February 22, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Topic: *Ceremonies for Opening and Closing the Labyrinth* • Communal meal included.

UCC Women



Regift Game Night
Friday, January 10
6 p.m.

Bring a \$10ish gift to regift and a snack to share to Diane Hawley's house and enjoy an evening of games regifting fun.

Women's Retreat

Friday, February 28–Saturday, March 1
Cost \$35 (See sidebar for details)

Quadrennial Assembly



June 25-29, Atlanta, GA.
Women from around the world come together every four years at the Quadrennial Assembly to be renewed, inspired and transformed. Join us!

Register online at www.discipleswomen.org.

Women of Valor

Usually the second Sunday evening of each month, 6 p.m. in Room 204. On Sunday, January 12, we will gather for fellowship and continue conversation of the book, *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor.



Cup of Blessing Bible Study
Each Thursday at 11:30 a.m. bring your bag lunch and join the group as they

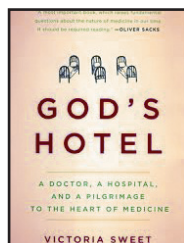
explore the Acts of the Apostles. We will begin meeting again January 9.



Latte with the Ladies
Saturday, January 11
Beginning at 9 a.m. at Brewed (801 W Magnolia-76104)

WILD Women Book Club

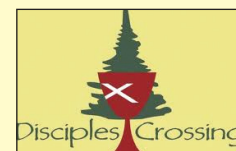
Evening Edition
Monday, January 20
6 p.m. at Cat City Grill
or Tuesday, January 21
11:30 a.m. in the UCC Library



We will discuss the book *God's Hotel* by Victoria Sweet (both evening edition and Tuesday WILD will discuss the same book).

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.

For more information about Women's Ministries please contact Cyndy Twedell, Associate Minister, 817.926.6631.



Women's Retreat

The Women's Ministries retreat is Friday, February 28–March 1. \$35 covers overnight stay and breakfast (vegetarian options available if requested ahead of time) at Disciples Crossing! After an evening of fun and fellowship the group will head to Canton for a day of shopping and more fun!

We will carpool from UCC at various times on Friday, February 28, so please let us know when signing up if you are able to drive and how many passengers you can take. Be sure to factor in how many people can fit after the shopping trip to Canton.

Sign up at The Arches Information Desk Sundays February 9, 16 and 23, or contact Michelle Groom.

Space is limited so make your reservation soon!

College Lunch Bunch Says Thanks a Bunch!



A big thank you to these individuals who provided food and/or money for Lunch Bunch, a weekly gathering of TCU students on Wednesdays at 12 p.m.

If you are interested in providing lunch or financing a lunch, please contact thelia@uccftw.com for more information.

God Talk

Bob and Carol Stewart

Bridges SS Class

Seekers SS Class

Logos SS Class

Genesis SS Class

Roundtable SS Class

Peoples Bible Class

Board of Stewards

Karen Parker and Mary Jane Alland

Avis Herndon

Sandra Soria

UCC Staff

Jubilee Theatre Presents The Mountaintop

The Mountaintop is an award-winning play which imagines the last night in the historic life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The play takes place in the infamous Lorraine Motel.

The Church and Arts Committee is sponsoring a group from UCC to Jubilee Theatre for a Saturday Matinee at 3 p.m., February 8.

Mark your calendar!

MLK Day of Service

Make It A Day On–Not A Day Off

The fourth Annual Tarrant Area Community of Churches MLK Day of Service is January 20, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. We'll meet at Baker Chapel A.M.E. Church for sign-in and a brief worship service, then head to work at one of more than forty community agencies that reach out to the elderly, the homeless, at-risk youth, children in need, prisoners

re-entering society after serving their sentences, families living below the poverty level, people recovering from alcohol and drug addiction, and more. The day of service will conclude at 1 p.m. with a time of fellowship and lunch at Broadway Baptist Church.

Through this ministry effort, hundreds

of lives are touched. What a way to honor Dr. King and to become a blessing to others while being blessed as a participant. University Christian Church will let TACC know how many persons to expect. Please contact Lynn Cross, 817.926.6631 or lynn@uccftw.com if you plan to be a part of this exceptional experience.

Mission Pilgrimage Opportunities



Spring Break Mission Pilgrimage

El Paso, March 9–15

Families, youth and adults will return to El Paso for UCC's Spring Break Mission Pilgrimage, but our work in El Paso will take us in a slightly different direction this time. In partnership with Rippling Hope, we will work together with residents of some of El Paso's 350 colonias* to renovate and repair homes as we meet the people who live in the United States along the Texas border and learn about the chronic poverty there.

The UCC group, along with a group from Midway Hills Christian Church in Dallas, will stay at Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey. The cost is \$300 per person, \$175 for youth twelve and under. Completed registration form and \$50 deposit are due January 22. Orientation meetings will be held Sunday at noon on February 9 and 23. For more information contact Cyndy Twedell.

*"Colonias can be found in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California, but Texas has both the largest number of colonias and the largest colonia population. Approximately 400,000 Texans live in colonias."

"The development of Texas colonias dates back to at least the 1950s. Using agriculturally worthless land, land that lay in floodplains or other rural properties, developers created unincorporated subdivisions. They divided the land into small lots, put in little or no infrastructure, then sold them to low-income individuals seeking affordable housing. Colonia residents

generally have very low incomes. Per capita annual income for all Texas counties bordering Mexico--where most of the colonias are located--tends to be much lower than the state average of \$16,717." (From the website of Texas Secretary of State, John Keen, Colonias FAQs)



Nicaragua Mission Pilgrimage

July 20–27

UCC will travel again to Nicaragua to work with 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 information.

Third Annual Sack Lunch Chuck Wagon

The Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo runs from January 17 through February 8.

Each year homeless day laborers are hired to work this large event.

They are paid an hourly wage but it is not very high and the cost to them of buying lunch at the show is prohibitive.

For the third year, Tarrant Area Community of Churches has committed to providing 300 sack lunches per day to be made available at no cost to each worker.

Look for information in our weekly bulletins and on the web site for the day(s) UCC will commit to providing these nourishing lunches.

Friday Fellowship



Swedish-American Mystery Presentation and Swedish Smorgasbord Luncheon

How did a 135 year-old cloth, smuggled into America in 1878, come back 'alive' to Sweden in 2013? And, how did it

serve as a trail leader in locating family roots in Sweden; unique architecture of Swedish churches; Swedish-American family roots in Iowa and to new Swedish weaving adventures? Find out Friday, January 10, at 11 a.m. in Room 207.

Picture presentation by Dr. Ruth Taylor, UCC member and Professor of Marketing at Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas.

Smorgasbord Lunch Menu: Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, Lingonberry sauce and dessert.

R.S.V.P. needed by Wednesday, January 8. Call Jennifer at 817.926.6631.



Be Part of Something Great!

You can save three lives by donating one pint of blood! January is Volunteer Blood Donor Month. Carter BloodCare will be here Sunday, January 26, in Fellowship Hall, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Please consider helping with this much needed ministry by donating blood. Minimum age requirement is sixteen.

Some quick facts: We have ten-twelve pints of blood. It takes the body twenty-four hours to replace the volume of blood donated and one month to replace the red cells. In three-four days, after your blood is tested, you will receive a reading of your cholesterol level, blood type and blood pressure.

Nurses Notes

"Flash" and his Therapy Dog buddies will be there to thank you!

Better Choices, Better Health

Are you trying to cope with one or more chronic diseases? These would include heart disease, lung disease, cancer, arthritis, depression, diabetes, dementia and many more.

A new *Better Choices, Better Health* class concentrating on diabetes will begin Thursday, January 23, from 6-8:30 p.m., in Room 203 and continue every Thursday through March 6.

Another *Better Choices, Better Health* class concentrating on chronic disease will begin on Tuesday, February 25, from 1-3:30 p.m., in Room 203 and continue every Tuesday through April 8. Both classes are led by Parish Nurses, Joanie Grimm, RN and Carole Widmann, RN.

Calling All UCC Artists

Church and the Arts will sponsor the 2014 UCC Art Show to be held on Sunday, March 30.

This year the show will feature decorative arts (textiles, metalwork, ceramics, books, woodwork, costumes, and jewelry, to name a few).

More information in the February *Journal* or contact Carolyn Critz at carolyncritz1954@att.net or 817.292.6705.

Stanford University developed these courses on self-management of chronic diseases because people with these conditions have similar concerns and problems, and must deal not only with their disease(s), but also with the impact these have on their lives and emotions.

If you are over thirty-five and are struggling with one a chronic disease(s), please consider taking the course. It will help you and the others you share with in the class. To register for classes, contact Joanie at u4me71ar50@att.net or Carole at RNcarole@gmail.com.

Joanie Grimm, RN, and Carole Widmann, RN, received an award from Senior Citizen Services-Wellness Programs, *Better Choices, Better Health*, for the work they are doing at the Day Resource Center.

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.

Reel Religion Film Festival



Friday Evening Films

Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (2012) Starring: Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Maggie Smith. Rated PG-13 for sexual content and language. Comedy, Drama. British retirees travel to India to take up residence in what they believe is a newly restored hotel. Less luxurious than its advertisements, the Marigold Hotel nevertheless slowly begins to charm in unexpected ways. Discussion Leader • Jorene Swift, BBC

Cinema Paradiso (1990) Subtitled. Starring: Philippe Noiret, Enzo Cannavale, Antonella Attili. Rated R for some sexuality. Drama. A filmmaker recalls his childhood, when he fell in love with the movies at his village's theater and formed a deep friendship with the theater's projectionist. Discussion Leader • Kerry Neuhardt, BBC

Life of Pi (2012) Starring: Suraj Sharma, Irrfan Khan, Adil Hussain. Rated PG for emotional thematic content throughout and some scary action sequences and peril. Adventure, Drama, Fantasy. A young man who survives a disaster at sea is hurtled into an epic journey of adventure and discovery. While cast away, he forms an unexpected connection with another survivor: a fearsome Bengal tiger. Discussion Leader • Dan Freemeyer, BBC

Places in the Heart (1984) Starring: Sally Field, Danny Glover, John Malkovich, Ed Harris. Rated PG. Drama. In 1930's Southern US, a widow and her family try to run their cotton farm with the help of a disparate group of friends. Discussion Leader • Larry Thomas, UCC

Salmon Fishing in the Yemen (2012) Starring: Ewan McGregor, Emily Blunt, Amr Waked. Rated PG-13 for some violence and sexual content, and brief language. Comedy, Drama, Romance. A fisheries expert is approached by a consultant to help realize a sheik's vision of bringing the sport of fly-fishing to the desert and embarks on an upstream journey of faith and fish to prove the impossible possible. Discussion Leader • David Grebel, TCU

Waiting for "Superman" (2010) Starring: Charles Adam, Charles Adams, Jonathan Alter. Rated PG for some thematic material, mild language and incidental smoking. Documentary. Filmmaker Davis Guggenheim reminds us that education "statistics" have names: Anthony, Francisco, Bianca, Daisy and Emily, whose stories make up the engrossing foundation of *Waiting for 'Superman.'* As he follows a handful of promising kids through a system that inhibits, rather than encourages, academic growth, Guggenheim undertakes an exhaustive review of public education, surveying "drop-out factories" and "academic sinkholes," methodically dissecting the system and its seemingly intractable problems. Discussion Leader • Barbara Tucker, UCC

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Saturday Morning Films

A Place at the Table (2013) Rated PG for thematic elements and brief mild language. Documentary. Investigates incidents of hunger experienced by millions of Americans, and proposed solutions to the problem. Discussion Leaders • Becky Delaune, BBC and Linda Smith, UCC

Finding Neverland (2004) Starring: Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet, Julie Christie. Rated PG for mild thematic elements and brief language. Biography, Drama, Family. The story of J.M. Barrie's friendship with a family who inspired him to create *Peter Pan*. Discussion Leader • Jennifer Davis, BBC

Quartet (2013) Starring: Maggie Smith, Michael Gambon, Billy Connolly. Rated PG-13 for brief strong language and suggestive humor. Comedy, Drama. At a home for retired musicians, the annual concert to celebrate Verdi's birthday is disrupted by the arrival of Jean, an eternal diva and the former wife of one of the residents. Discussion Leader • Suzanne Castle, UCC

Smoke (1995) Starring: Harvey Keitel, William Hurt, Giancarlo Esposito. Rated R for language. Comedy, Drama. A Brooklyn smoke shop is the center of neighborhood activity, and the stories of its customers. Discussion Leader • Stuart Smith, UCC

Steel Magnolias (1989) Starring: Shirley MacLaine, Olympia Dukakis, Sally Field. Rated PG. Drama, Romance. Revolving around Truvy's Beauty Parlor in a small parish in modern-day Louisiana, *Steel Magnolias* is the story of a close-knit circle of friends whose lives come together there. Filled with humor and heartbreak, the movie's characters make us laugh and cry as the realities of their lives unfold. Discussion Leader • Scott Green, BBC

The Intouchables (2012), Subtitled. Starring: François Cluzet, Omar Sy, Anne Le Ny. Rated R for language and some drug use. Biography, Comedy, Drama. After he becomes a quadriplegic from a paragliding accident, an aristocrat hires a young man from the projects to be his caretaker. Discussion Leader • Cyndy Twedell, UCC

Saturday Afternoon Films

42 (2013) Starring: Chadwick Boseman, T.R. Knight, Harrison Ford. Rated PG-13 for thematic elements including language. Biography, Drama, Sport. The life story of Jackie Robinson and his history-making signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers under the guidance of team executive Branch Rickey. Discussion Leader • Charles Sanders, UCC

A River Runs Through It (1992) Starring: Craig Sheffer, Brad Pitt, Tom Skerritt. Rated PG for momentary nudity, and some language in a family drama. Drama. Two fly-fishing sons of a Presbyterian minister—one reserved, one rebellious—grow up in rural Montana. Discussion Leader • Judy Stempel, UCC

In a Better World (2011) Subtitled. Starring: Mikael Persbrandt, Trine Dyrholm, Markus Rygaard. Rated R for violent and disturbing content, some involving preteens, and for language. Drama. In this 2011 Academy Award winner for Best Foreign Language Film, the moral commitment of two Danish families is put to the test. The blind spots and contradictions in our ideals of justice and non-violence are painfully revealed through this esthetically graceful film. In Danish and English with English subtitles. Discussion Leader • Marty Marion, UCC

Lincoln (2012) Starring: Daniel Day-Lewis, Sally Field, David Strathairn, Tommy Lee Jones. Rated PG-13 for an intense scene of war violence, some images of carnage and brief strong language. Biography, Drama, History, War. As the Civil War continues to rage, America's president struggles with continuing carnage on the battlefield and as he fights with many inside his own cabinet on the decision to emancipate the slaves. Discussion Leader • Brent Beasley, BBC

The Flim-Flam Man (1967) Starring: George C. Scott, Michael Sarrazin, Harry Morgan, Sue Lyon. Not Rated. Comedy. Mordecai Jones (Scott) is a rural con artist (a 'flim flam man') who takes on a young army deserter Curley (Sarrazin) as his protégé and teaches him the tricks of the trade, while Sheriff Slade (Morgan) is in hot pursuit of the pair. The film features a great automobile chase scene for those who appreciate this kind of cinema hijinks. Discussion Leader • Joe Ahearne, BBC

The Secret In Their Eyes (2010) Subtitled. Starring: Ricardo Darín, Soledad Villamil, Pablo Rago. Rated R for a rape scene, violent images, some graphic nudity and language. Drama, Mystery, Thriller. A retired legal counselor writes a novel hoping to find closure for one of his past unresolved homicide cases and for his unreciprocated love with his superior—both of which still haunt him decades later. Discussion Leader • Eldon Irving, UCC

All synopses and information come from The Internet Database (imdb.com) and Netflix.com.

Reservations: Online at www.lifelong.tcu.edu • Phone at 817.257.7232 • Email at lifelong@tcu.edu

Snacks throughout all the film showings, Free popcorn, coffee and bottled water will be available in The Arches area at UCC.

Lunch, catered by Potbelly Sandwich Shop, will be available on Saturday, January 25, starting at noon. Cost is \$8 per person and includes a sandwich, choice of chips, cookie and drink. Paid reservations must be made by Wednesday, January 22. Please make a note if you would like a vegetarian selection.

It's a Wrap!

Thank you to all who participated in December's Christmas Angels project and helped make Christmas merry for 542 students in the Fort Worth ISD. A special thank you to Kristin Carmichael, Christmas Angels Chair, and her hard working committee. UCC's love and generosity continue to touch the lives of children in our community!



Sadie and Gracie Willams checked out the book selection for the boys and girls.



Adelaide Elliott assists by holding open a soon-to-be-filled gift bag.



Mary Jane Alland and Alice Phillips at the blue jean station.



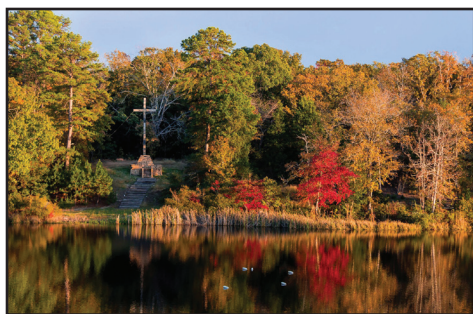
Jack Carmichael lends a hand as well.



Senior minister, Larry Thomas, Rev. Jessica Vacketta and member Sandie Conner have a little fun as they work.



JYF Mid Winter Retreat



Who: Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders
Where: Disciples Crossing, Athens, TX
When: January 25-27

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

Learning to Use My Bible

A Special Class for Third Graders



Families of third graders will receive a letter giving details about the special class, *Learning to Use My Bible*, that

and in our Trinity Brazos Area and to grow in faith. This year our theme will be *Unscriptured*, a look at the Bible and scripture. We will fill the weekend with creative ways to encourage children to be active participants in using their Bibles. All worship opportunities will be created by kids, for kids. Of course, the weekend will also be full of camp fires, songs, games and lots of free time to explore the beauty of Disciples Crossing.

Children's Ministries will email registration forms, as well as have them available in The Arches. Registration is due by January 8. Scholarships available. Contact Kera Watts, kera@uccftw.com, with any questions.

begins January 12. The six week class will conclude on Sunday, February 16, with a special moment in the 11 a.m. worship service when each child will receive a Bible as a gift from UCC.

Please be sure your third grader is with us each Sunday at 10 a.m., in Room 218, to participate in engaging lessons and activities that will give them the skills they need to be able to use their new Bibles, now and for a lifetime. If you have questions, please contact Kera Watts in Children's Ministries.

ccf-jyf

children's christian fellowship
junior youth fellowship

CCF/JYF Goes Camping in January

Children's Christian Fellowship (first through third grades) and Junior Youth Fellowship (fourth and fifth grades) will kick off 2014 with a month focusing on camp songs, games and fun from Disciples Crossing in Athens, TX!

This will give us a small taste of the fun possible at our JYF Mid-winter Retreat at Disciples Crossing in Athens, TX, January 24-26 (see JYF Mid-winter article to left for details).

We begin each week at 6 p.m. in Room 211 with a snack supper (\$3). Join us for fun, fellowship, learning, service and worship Sunday nights in January—and bring a friend!



Just Say Know: Comprehensive Sexuality Education

UCC is pleased to offer the *Just Say Know* sexuality education program for children and youth in grades four through twelve.

Details on topics covered in the curriculum can be found on the CLER Ministries website at clerministries.org. The 2014 workshop schedule is as follows:

High School Course

(grades 9-12)
Sundays, January 12-March 2
12:15-2:30 p.m.
Capstone lock-in Friday night, March 21,

hosted by Gladney Center for Adoption
Cost: \$40 per participant

Middle School Workshops

(grades 6-8 with a parent)
Sundays, February 16 & 23
12:15-3:30 p.m.
Cost: \$20 per youth participant

Elementary School Workshops

(grades 4-5 with a parent)
Sunday, February 9
12:15-3:15 p.m.
Separate workshops for boys and girls
Cost: \$20 per child participant

Registration cost includes lunch, course materials and a copy of Kate Ott's new book *Sex+Faith: Talking with Youth Child from Birth to Adolescence*. \$10 discount for each additional child registered per family (since each family only needs one book). Scholarships for all courses will be available upon request.

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

Come Monday

by Margaret Puckett



At a recent Sunday morning worship service, a very talented soloist sang a moving Duke Ellington song titled "Come Sunday." That song inspired the title for this devotional.

It is an ethereal moment—walking into our Sanctuary on Monday morning. It is empty; overhead lights are off; the only sound is that of our footsteps on the tile floor—footsteps guided by the sunshine's light refracting all the colors of the rainbow through the beautiful stained glass windows. The refracted lights bounce off the brass appointments on the communion table. There is light that beckons at the opposite end of that long center aisle—it is Monday morning making its way through the big Romanesque doors that invite and welcome to our church anyone, everyone, anytime. One can be quite moved by this moment in time and place. It conveys its own spirituality.

As the lights are turned on, the spirit, like a silent echo, lingers—it lingers in many ways. Let me share some with you:

There are three of us, Jim Smith, my husband Wes and myself. We arrive around 10 a.m. at our "Monday Morning Sanctuary" and go busily about collecting stray worship bulletins, replacing attendance and prayer cards and pew envelopes. How can anything so mundane be a spiritual experience? Well, somehow it is.

Only hours ago, grand organ music called us to worship. We sang with joyful and hopeful hearts. We bowed our heads together in both silent and spoken prayers. We joined together in breaking bread at Christ's table. We offered up our gifts. We caught our collective breath after the choir's unmatched musical exultation. Words from the Holy Scripture were read to us. We pondered them and anticipated the sermon. We reflected on our spiritual lives and the sermon's meaning. We welcomed and dedicated ourselves to babies and their families; and we

welcomed new members with open arms and hearts.

Come Monday...

each pew offers up its own reminder that something very special has just recently occurred. Each pew is a reminder that someone sat there, sang there, prayed there, and communed there just a few hours ago. We can almost put an age and a persona on the traces of their presence.

There is what Rev. Thomas refers to as "pew art:"

- the scribbles on the bulletin of a toddler who can barely manage the little red fountain pen;
- the distraction of a teen-ager whose drawings belie his preference for video game entertainment;
- the imaginings of a kid as seen in the figure \$1,100,100,000 scrawled on a pew envelope;
- the love note to a fiancé: "...only two more weeks..."

There appear to be moments for gentle discipline:

Q: Printed on a prayer request card: "Can we go out to eat today?"

A: "When you cooperate getting ready and are on time, we are more likely to do something like that."

There appear to be others who are hungry. A note written on the bulletin just after the *Gloria Patri* says, simply: "Lunch?"

And there are prayers that don't quite make it to our clergy—derived at any age from lived experiences and rising from deep within the heart.

A child's spelling reads:

"You gome my angle
You gome see my God
Please don't you say no
You will gome my angle.
Thank you!"

Another child attempts to write a prayer for a friend:

"Make her haden good tim."

And of course, there are assorted items

trying to tell us who was there—umbrella, sunglasses (Oh! These are mine!), scarf, Sunday School handout, personal Bible.

But this is my favorite:

A child has depicted with bright yellow highlight pen, a glowing light surrounding the bulletin's graphic of the Sanctuary Cross.

Come Monday...

these are simple reminders that this place binds our hearts and steadies our lives. This is a holy place—a place where we grow into our sense of belonging to God and to one another.

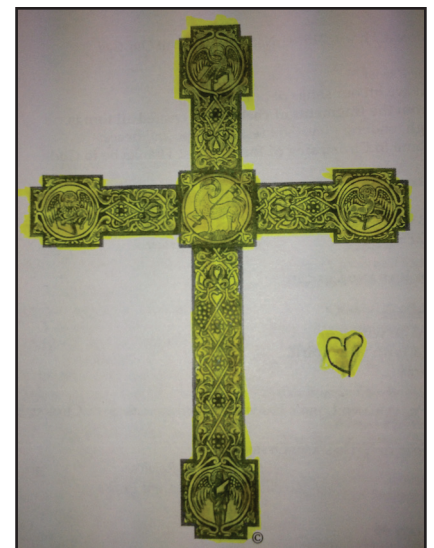
Come Monday...

one believes that those who occupied the spaces of this magnificent Sanctuary on Sunday are spiritually buoyed to carry on God's work of providing to others throughout the days to come the joys of love, acceptance and good humor; the pleasures and comfort of beautiful music; prayers of hope and peace; gifts of food and fellowship; and the assurance that God's spirit is reachable, touchable, and always with us.

Find your "Monday Sanctuary"; savor it, and let the teachings of Christ, the spirit of a loving and accepting God, guide you throughout the rest of the week.

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit. Amen.

Thank you to Margaret and our dedicated Monday morning team!



Boar's Head *Behind the Scenes* on January 5



Ever find yourself wondering, “What’s a yule log?” or “Why do those men stomp down the aisle in the Sanctuary?” Have you experienced the “awe” of Boar’s

Head, yet don’t know how to explain the event to friends? Are you new to UCC and have heard stories about this annual event, but want to learn more?

Then you’re invited to a special presentation by Dr. Harry Parker, LaLonnie Lehman and others deeply involved with the production over the years.

The panel will discuss the history of Boar’s Head at UCC, the significance of the story, and will allow time for a question and answer session.

Join us in Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m. January 5, as we take a deeper look at this magnificent festival!

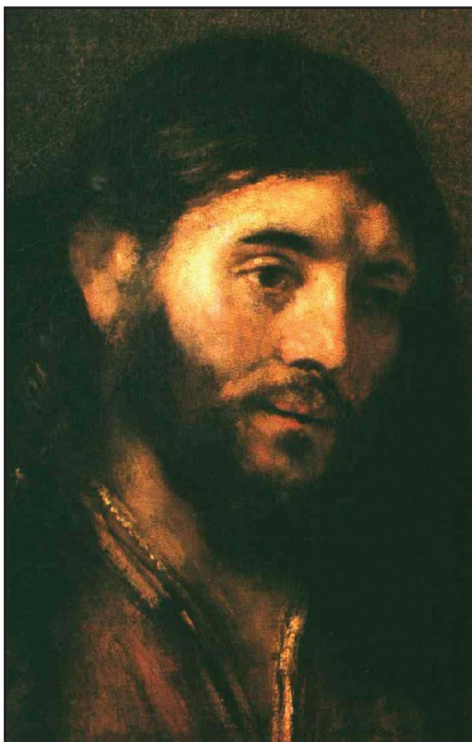


UCC Recycle Project

The Connections Sunday School Class has agreed to help with UCC’s recycling. Jana Nolan, class leader, joins Nancy Davis and Daniel Davis in gathering the plastic and glass from the blue receptacles to be recycled.

Gallery Notes

By Steve Mosher



Rembrandt’s Bold Statement

Stop by the entrance to the UCC clergy offices at the Northeast corner of our Gallery to behold the reproductions of two small images of the face of Christ. The one on the right, facing the viewer’s left, is by Rembrandt, painted in oil on

oak panel, probably 1645. The other image is a studio copy, oil on canvas, of a painting by Rembrandt, c. 1660, now most likely lost.

The two images are part of a set of ten small paintings—seven by Rembrandt and three that are studio copies—painted during the period 1638 to 1662. One interesting fact: in all but one of these paintings of Jesus his gaze is to one side—not toward the viewer—posing the question as to what is going on in Christ’s mind, or in his line of vision, out of our view.

But the dominant focus here is the face of Jesus, given such a lifelike expression by the use of a live model when they were painted. Rembrandt was clearly intrigued by what Jesus might have looked like in real life, perhaps as he pondered a question, or listened to another person. One may perceive contemplation, thoughtfulness, quietude, or any number of other meditative moods being portrayed in these faces. One senses that the humanity of Christ is in full view, drawing us in—inviting us—to experience his presence, and to welcome him into ours.

Rembrandt broke new ground in the iconography of Christ with these spare portraits. As so well stated by George S. Keyes in his essay *Perceptions and Belief: The Image of Christ and the Meditative Turn in Rembrandt’s Religious Art* on page one of *Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus*; Edited by Lloyd DeWitt; The Philadelphia Museum of Art, 2011: “Rembrandt’s bold redefinitions of Jesus [was] not as a heroic figure embodying suffering but as an inward, undemonstrative being who compels reverence by his very existence in the mind and imagination of the beholder.”

These portraits stand in clear contrast to many of the images of Christ that preceded the seventeenth Century. Those early depictions often appeared stylized, even embellished, perhaps as a way of portraying Christ’s divinity, but making it harder to accept him as a spiritual presence in our lives. The paintings of Rembrandt seem much more modern—modern enough to be real to persons of faith even today in the twenty-first Century. Each of us is invited to reflect on these images left for us to be drawn into the character and heart of Jesus the Christ.

Animal Mission OUTreach



We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals.

-Immanuel Kant

As Christians we believe showing mercy and kindness to all living creatures is something Jesus would have encouraged.

Now that the hub-bub of the holidays is over, let us think of those four-legged pets who are still waiting for forever homes in our local animal shelters. UCC's annual Animal Mission OUTreach is January 12-18. The recipient of our donations this year is the Fort Worth Animal Care and Control Shelter, 4900 Martin St. They are in dire need of dry pet food, blankets,

quilts, towels, petbeds, bathroom-sized rugs, cloth toilet seat covers (*cats love them*) and toys that are *not* stuffed. These items may be used, but should be clean and in good repair. Cleaning supplies (paper towels, Chlorox, Lysol etc.) also gratefully accepted. Donate at the collection bin on the first floor near Reception. Bless you and thank you.



We Need Your Recommendations for Lay Leader Nominations

Do you know members who would be good lay leaders of the church? Perhaps they would like to be more involved and have expertise that would greatly benefit UCC and are just waiting to be asked for the opportunity to serve. The period of January 15-February 15 is set aside for you to recommend committed members of the congregation for positions as Deacons or Elders for three-year terms beginning June 1, 2014. Recommendation forms for consideration by the Committee on

Leadership and Governance (CLG) are available at drop boxes located at the Reception Desk and in The Arches. Each completed form should be placed in a sealed envelope and returned to one of the drop boxes provided at those locations. Further details are provided on the forms.

Questions may be directed to Judy Jones, CLG Chair, 817.924.7266, cell 817.980.7190, or judy_secrest@yahoo.com. A list of current Assembly Elders and Deacons is located on the UCC website and on the bulletin board in the

Reception Area. Remember: completed recommendation forms must be returned to one of the two drop boxes by end of the business day, February 15.

During the same timeframe, the CLG will be receiving recommendation forms from current members of the Assembly (Elders, Deacons, Ministry Area Leaders and Stewards) for possible nomination as members and officers of the Board of Stewards. Information on this process is being mailed directly to members of the Assembly. Again, questions may be directed to Judy Jones, CLG Chair.

The Choirmaster Search Process

The UCC Chancel Choir has been directed by Eric Mullins, Interim Choirmaster, and Jackson Yandell, Assistant Interim Choirmaster, since January, 2013. Their very helpful tenure is coming to a close and the music staff and congregation are most appreciative of their time and talent.

The Choirmaster position, though only a half-time position, is a crucial piece of our worship ministry at UCC. In order to best continue our legacy of rich, traditional sacred choral music, the Director of Music, Kyla Rosenberger, and the senior ministry staff formed a search committee patterned after a ministerial search committee.

In March, 2013, six members of UCC with diverse experience of leadership were selected to form this committee and these names were presented to the Personnel Committee and the Board of Stewards. They are Rev. Charles Sanders, Rick Hill, Barry Bloodworth, Curtis Wilson, Lynita Yarbrough and

Pam Miller. Over the past several months the committee devised a job description, posted employment ads with the American Choral Directors Association and the Association of Disciples Musicians, read and evaluated resumes from across the country and chose finalists.

The finalists will interview this month with our Senior Minister, Larry Thomas, the Search Committee, and the UCC Music Staff. They will also conduct a ninety minute rehearsal with the Chancel Choir. The committee will collect surveys from the choir members after each audition. Please join the Board and Ministry in thanking our Choirmaster Search Committee for their many hours of prayerful service to ensure a bright future for our Chancel Choir program.

In his own words, Eric Mullins, our Interim Choirmaster, says this about his experience this last year:

"I am lucky to have had the opportunity to do what I have been doing the last year and feel fortunate to be in the right place at the right time. God has blessed all of us richly with our time together, and will continue to do so as we move forward in this new chapter. Thank you for the opportunity to lead you in worship."

The Search Committee asked that I let you know that they will be moving forward with very qualified final candidates, and I will not be the permanent choirmaster at UCC. The committee has asked me to stay on as a Music Associate and resume the position that I previously held directing the adult and high school bells and supplying/subbing for the Choirmaster in his or her absence. I have decided that I will happily fill that role."

We truly do appreciate Eric's leadership this last year with the Chancel Choir rehearsal, worship services, trips and special events.



UCC Weekday School Registration Deadline Information

Members of the UCC Weekday School Board are planning for the forty-seventh year of the school's program, which will begin this fall. 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. to 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 2014-15 school year will be accepted from Monday, January 27, through Monday, February 10. 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 on Monday, January 27, between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday through 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. Please 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 considered.)
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 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 considered.)

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 previously. 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 UCC Weekday School 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 Registration, please call Megan Connally, WDS Registration Chair, at 214.499.5239 or Claire Graham, Director of the UCC Weekday School, at 817.926.3960.

UCC Quick Financial Summary - Unified Budget November 2013

Description	2012 YTD Actuals	2013 YTD Actuals	Budget YTD 2013	Budget Annual	YTD Variance
Income					
Pledges	\$1,821,161	\$1,845,759	\$1,860,719	\$2,136,134	(\$14,960)
Non Pledge Contributions	\$216,213	\$169,795	\$217,958	\$300,000	(\$48,163)
Offering	\$28,914	\$30,753	\$30,395	\$36,500	\$357
Misc. Unrestricted Income	\$100,002	\$119,682	\$114,353	\$156,176	\$5,329
WDS Income (Net)	\$85,164	\$92,852	\$92,259	\$94,127	\$593
Endowment Income	\$177,516	\$203,954	\$198,553	\$262,162	\$5,401
Participant/Restricted Income & Reserve Use	\$331,909	\$511,125	\$539,482	\$598,678	(\$28,357)
Total Income	\$2,760,879	\$2,973,918	\$3,053,719	\$3,583,777	(\$79,801)
Expenses					
Total Personnel Expense	\$1,628,936	\$1,628,295	\$1,670,582	\$1,814,346	\$42,287
Total Program/Admin. Expense	\$821,783	\$976,794	\$1,082,145	\$1,176,759	\$105,351
Total Mission/Outreach Expense	\$366,751	\$486,234	\$477,331	\$575,901	(\$8,904)
Total Expenses	\$2,817,470	\$3,091,324	\$3,230,058	\$3,567,006	\$138,734
Net Operating Income (Loss)	(\$56,591)	(\$117,405)	(\$176,339)	\$16,771	\$58,933

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.

Note: End of year Statements for tax purposes will be mailed by January 31, 2014. You may contact Michelle Ingram, Director of Accounting, at 817.926.6631 or by email michelle@uccftw.com with any questions or comments.



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, January 7
5:30 p.m., Room 202

Communications Committee
Wednesday, January 8
5:30 p.m., Room 202

Building & Grounds
Sunday, January 12
12:15 p.m., Room 202

Finance Committee
Tuesday, January 14
5:30 p.m., Room 203

Board of Stewards
Tuesday, January 21
6:30 p.m., Room 207

Assembly Meeting
Tuesday, January 28
6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

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

Be Part of the New Online Pictorial Directory

**STOP.
LOOK.
LISTEN.**

A new pictorial directory is coming!

The Communications Committee and staff are working together to create a new pictorial directory of the congregation that will be online, accessible to members through the church's website. We'll tell you more about how it will work (and how we plan to make the directory available if you're not a computer person) once the directory is ready. Right now, we need your picture.

What do you need to do? If you haven't already, be sure to have your picture taken. Communications Committee members and volunteers will be taking pictures on Sunday, January 5 or January 12.

Look for one of the three picture stations set up around the building —just follow the signs—and get your picture taken.

It couldn't be easier.

If you want to do more, volunteer to help as a photographer or photographer's helper

by contacting Meg Lehman at meg_k_lehman@yahoo.com or go to VolunteerSpot and follow three easy steps:

1. Go to our invitation page on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/97LoME>
2. Enter your email address:

(You will not need to register an account on VolunteerSpot)

3. Sign up! Choose your spots - VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Note: VolunteerSpot does not share your email address with anyone.

If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact Meg Lehman (meg_k_lehman@yahoo.com) and she can sign you up manually.