



Fall Kickoff at UCC



Join us August 24 as we celebrate the start of the new school year!

- Children and Youth will be promoted to their new grades in Sunday school.
- Our College Sunday school class resumes in the College Lounge (Room 223).
- Following 11 a.m. worship, grab lunch from a food truck, then head inside to Fellowship Hall to eat with friends, play on inflatables and get your picture taken at the photo booth. (College students eat free with a voucher available in The Gallery on August 17 and 24.)

Prayer Shawl Knit-In



Are you looking for a creative way to share God's love with others? Members of the Sunday evening Prayer Shawl

group invite you to join them for a "Knit-In" on Sunday, August 17, from 12-5 p.m. in Room 206. If you want to learn to knit, we will teach you. If you already knit or crochet, bring whatever you are working on or we will help you get started on a prayer shawl. Along with knitting, we will spend time praying through our church directory. Come and go as you please.

A light lunch and snacks will be provided. All are welcome.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been actively knitting and crocheting prayer shawls and baby blankets since 2005. In it's nine years, 1,790 shawls have been blessed and given to people. We currently have two groups that meet on a regular basis: Wednesday mornings from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and Sunday evenings from 5-6 p.m. in Room 206.

If you have questions or want more information, contact Rev. Cyndy Twedell at 817.926.6631 or email her at cyndy@uccftw.com.

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



Celebrating Summer

by Rev. Larry Thomas, Senior Minister

It was a busy summer for UCC families and staff. We experienced a successful season of youth programming and worship attendance was a little better than I had expected. I trust we will continue to remain engaged and even ramp up our interest as Kickoff Sunday approaches (*see related article on page 1*).

As you may recall, we prepared a series of four sermons that spanned the better part of July and into August. The theme was drawn from questions asked by our Chi-Rho Sunday School class. They were intriguing questions; some we may have considered, and probably continually consider, and some perhaps were original. (Most of these messages remain available on our website should you want to revisit them.) The primary feedback from this experience is that it was very well received by those who were in attendance or from those worshipping with us through our KTCU broadcast—so well, in fact, that we would like to repeat the experience, with different content, in the not too

distant future. It may be that we attempt to do a series prior to Advent and then another during January and February, in preparation for Lent.

We would like to engage you in the process. Sunday school leaders might take a few moments with your class within the next few weeks to generate some ideas or questions that you would like to have addressed from the pulpit. They could be topical in nature, or they could focus on a particular passage of scripture. They can be as broad ranging as something you would like affirmed to something you always wanted to ask but have not, whatever the reason.

Of course, you do not have to be a member of a Sunday school class to participate. Those who are not members of a Sunday school or those who worship with us from their homes are encouraged to join in. You may develop your ideas and/or questions and email them to my assistant, Thelia Chaffin, at thelia@uccftw.com. You may also mail them to UCC to Thelia's attention or drop them off at the Reception Desk any time. I will compile all of the input and discuss it with the staff to develop

one or more series to share with the congregation. While we will not be able to address every question or idea, rest assured all will be considered.

As a parting word, please allow me to share with you a recent experience of mine. I was one of the parents who transported children to church camp at Athens on July 21. There were four vehicles filled with kids who upon arrival all piled out at once. Someone from another congregation was present to take pictures of kids as they arrived. She said, "My goodness where are all of you from? We are going to have to find a different spot to take your picture as there are so many of you!"

One of our college-aged youth who was part of the group of twenty-four UCC folks (kids and adults combined) who would be spending the week at camp, said proudly, "They are from my church, UCC. This is how we like to do things."

I would never want to take anything from anyone else by means of comparison; even so, I felt proud. I hope you do too.



The Marriage Well...Save the Dates

The Marriage Well, a monthly couples enrichment program for adults in married, partnered, or committed relationships, resumes its monthly gatherings on September 5. Hosted in Room 207 from 6-6:45 p.m., this is an opportunity for couples to form new friendships with other couples as they discuss a variety of relationship topics presented to the couples throughout the year.

Additionally, a variety of couples that are farther along in their relationships will be invited to share their experiences with the group.

Following the gathering, couples are encouraged to go out to dinner together, or enjoy a date night with their significant other. Childcare is available until 9 p.m. Contact susan@uccftw.com to make a reservation.

In the meantime, please save the 2014-2015 dates in your calendar and contact Rev. Jessica Vacketta with questions at jessica@uccftw.com.

Marriage Well 2014-2015

Tentative Dates

September 5	February 6 & 7
October 3	(Couples Retreat)
November 7	March 6
December 5	April 10
January 9	May 1

UCC Journal

Carol Ann Fewell, Editor • Michelle Groom, Circulation

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

New Members



Gerald "Joey" Jernigan and Archie Bailey have been friends and business partners for twenty years. Joey has degrees from Auburn University, University of Memphis and Amber University. He is Director of Professional Development for the Tarrant County College District. Joey has more than thirty years in teaching and educational administration. Together they currently own Bailey & Associates Real Estate located in North Richland Hills. Archie is the broker/manager of all operations for the company with eighteen years experience in the field. Archie is also a long time board of directors member and the current executive director of Schola Cantorum of Texas, Inc.



Joan Levitan is retired from the Fort Worth branch of the Fort Dearborn Company where she worked as a Receptionist/Secretary. She is the mother of UCC's Richard Alfie. She has another son, a grandson, a granddaughter, and one great granddaughter. Her main interest has always been music and she plays the piano and organ. She enjoys listening to classical music and hearing the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition on the TCU radio station. She is especially happy to be back in the Christian Church where she started out when she was ten years old. Joan has been active in several other denominations over the years and she's glad to be back where she started.

Newcomers Class



All are welcome to be part of the Newcomers Class! We invite you to join us Sundays,

September 7 and 14, at 10 a.m. in Room 201. Take this opportunity to invite a friend to learn more about University Christian Church.

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

For details, contact Michelle Groom, Ministry Assistant, at 817.926.6631 ext. 138., or email at mgroom@uccftw.com.

Bring a Friend



Are there people in your life you think might benefit from a

connection with the UCC community of faith? Invite your friends, neighbors and family members to join us on Sunday, September 7, for worship, Sunday school and coffee fellowship following each service.

In order to make this year's Bring a Friend Sunday just a little easier for you, special cards have been printed with helpful information about the church. The invitations will be available during August at the Reception Desk, The Arches Information Desk and during the Fall Kickoff so grab a few and pass them out!

Life of the Church

Births

Miller Kanning Humble & McGwire Stephen Humble, May 21
Todd & Elizabeth Humble, parents
Steve & Mary Ann Humble, grandparents

Everly Katherine Edmondson, June 16
Candice & Kevin Edmondson, parents

Kelan Lee Drennan, June 30
Kristi & Chad Drennan, parents
Paula & Terry Drennan, grandparents

Lindsey Kate Lewis, July 9
George & Tracy Lewis, parents
Jane Lewis, grandmother

Deaths

Roy Chandler, May 30
grandfather of Jack Stewart

Betty Smith, June 11
mother of Morgan Fillingim

Joe Hays, June 15
husband of Roxy Hays

Dennis Orth, June 15
husband of Ginny Orth

Ann Williams, June 20
mother of Malcolm Williams

Dough Horn, July 5
brother-in-law of Kathy & Lee Nicol

Jim Williams, July 6
father of Coni Hennersdorf

Mary Jane Mize, July 14
mother of Karen Holcomb

Weddings

Jennifer Palmer and Chris Slimmer
July 12

Karen Fedri and Alan Thomas
July 19

Back to School Week at The Children's Closet



September 8-14 is a super time at the Children's Closet. We will give out 4,000 uniforms to children in need. Every Elementary School in the Fort Worth ISD (86 schools) will have an opportunity to order uniforms for their students. This

important outreach ministry to children attempts to ensure all children have a uniform to wear so they can attend school with dignity and confidence.

Bag-It Night is Wednesday, September 10, at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. UCC members will gather to bag up 2,300 uniforms. This is the best time for any groups that want to help as people of all ages work together to make this night a success.

But this year we will step up in our giving! Monday, September 8, through

Friday, September 12, the Children's Closet will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. so UCC folks can drop by and help fill an additional 1,700 orders.

Also the Children's Closet will be open Sunday, September 14, from 1-4 p.m. for people who might want to help. Sign up sheets will be available in The Arches several weeks ahead of the event.

Thank you UCC, for your mission to help children in our city. Let's step up and make this an awesome week!



Room in the Inn (RITI) is well under way. UCC volunteers are preparing meals, making beds and cleaning up afterwards. But this program for homeless men cannot exist without the very critical role of innkeeper.

Every Wednesday night in July and August, two volunteers spend the night.

Sleepin' on the Job

by Carol Stewart

Arriving at 7 p.m. and leaving as early as 6 a.m. innkeepers laugh, play games and visit with the men who come to us from the Day Resource Center.

Most importantly, our innkeepers listen. Often, when everyone else has turned in early after an exhausting day, one or two guests will remain in the RITI lounge. This is a time when they can talk about the challenges they face and the frustrations they experience. Without their buddies hearing, they can explore feelings, ask for prayers

and seek meaning in their lives. Our role as listeners enables them to talk through problems and think about their relationship with God and God's world.

We need the help of men and women who have attended a RITI training any time since this ministry has started. Please help keep this wonderful program alive by volunteering to spend a night with our guests. You'll find it to be meaningful and rewarding beyond your expectations. And you get to sleep on the job!



Miawezo (Greetings) from Ghana! Since November, I have been working with our partners in Ho, Ghana, as a teacher at the Activity Centre School for Teenage Mothers and as a co-manager of the Nenyohaborbor Street Children Project.

Classes at the Activity Centre are in full swing even though it is summer in Ghana. The students currently have classes in entrepreneurship, English,

Greetings from Ghana

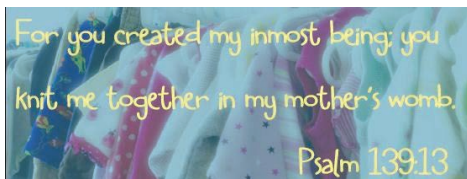
by Kristine Tisinger, UCC-sponsored Disciples of Christ Missionary

math, social studies, health sciences, cooking, dressmaking, craft making and batik (fabric dyeing). We are now up to eleven students in our one-room school. Their ages range from fifteen to twenty and all were forced to drop out of their former schools in order to support their families, either as a result of a pregnancy or through the death of a parent. All of our students are mothers, but some are mothers to their siblings rather than to their own children. They are diligently working to prepare for the national exams in October. This is the first year that the school has been nationally accredited, so this will be the first group of students from the Activity Centre to take the test. Wish them luck!

Big changes have been happening at the Nenyohaborbor Street Children's Project. In April, a United Church of

Christ group from Pennsylvania arrived to dedicate the new boys' dormitory. The dorm isn't quite finished yet, but we hope that 60 street children will be living in it by the end of the year. In addition, we've just received news that Global Ministries has approved a grant to build a water reservoir on the property. This means that the older boys won't be forced to walk miles to fetch buckets of water during the dry season, and we'll be able to cook food for the children during droughts rather than shutting the program down and sending the kids away hungry as we've had to do in the past. This grant was made possible because of donations Global Ministries has received from United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ churches across the nation, and it will make a huge impact on the lives of these children.

Diaper Drive this Month!



August is Diaper Drive month for *Berry Sweet Babies* month at UCC. *Berry Sweet Babies* is a ministry of University United Methodist Church which provides gently used infant and toddler clothing, educational resources and guidance to pregnant teens and teen moms in the

community. Diapers are a relatively expensive item, and the Logos Sunday school class is sponsoring the drive to support this important ministry. Collection receptacles can be found across from the Reception Desk.

Students Away Ministry

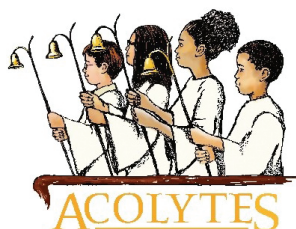


Are you or someone you know headed off to college? Have you transferred schools or moved out of the dorm

and into an apartment or house since May? Then we need your information. UCC is committed to staying connected and supporting our students away as they navigate the challenges of college life.

A beloved part of our Students Away Ministry are the cards and care packages sent to students throughout the year. Please send your mailing address and a current email address to Rev. Jessica Vacketta at jessica@uccftw.com to ensure we have accurate information.

Be an Acolyte!



Youth in grades four, five and six are invited to be candle lighters at our Sunday

morning services. Those new to this acolyte experience will receive personal training in the correct use of robes and candles and service order.

To sign up contact Kyla Rosenberger at kyla@uccftw.com. Watch the lovely

job that our current acolytes do for our ministry of worship and join them! Your child will hear more about how to be an acolyte during the Sunday school hour on Promotion Sunday, August 24.

Attention Children's Ministry Parents, Grandparents and Friends—We Need You!



Summer is sailing by, but it's not too late to say a big *thank you* to all the parents, grandparents and friends that helped to make this past year in Children's Ministries an amazing place

for our children to learn and grow in their faith and to feel the presence of God's love each and every Sunday with dedicated teachers, shepherds, workshop coordinators and classmates. We appreciate all of you!

Indeed, we are blessed at UCC to have a myriad of resources, talented staff and committed families. Each and every one of us can and does make a difference in sharing faith with our children. In that spirit, will you now consider how you will make a difference in Children's

Ministries this year? We are in need of teachers (Preschool and Journey Land Rotations) to start off our year which begins Promotion Sunday, August 24.

Contact Kera Watts at kera@uccftw.com if you are interested in teaching. Early teacher sign-ups for Journey Land rotations will be in the Arches on August 10 and 17. Bring your calendars and get first pick for your rotation preference. Remember, our Children's Ministries rely on *you*, and in turn, your heart will be broadened by the children you serve!

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.



Journey Land Appreciation

Have you made popcorn in Parable Pictures, baked cookies in Soul Food, been brave enough to get the paint out in Innovation Station, dressed up like Joseph in Damascus Road Playhouse, played four square in Expedition, experienced kids on computers in www.kingdom.come, or coordinated twenty kids in song in the Maestro Room, all to teach elementary-aged children a faith to live by? Then we would like to say thank you!

If you have participated in teaching any of our Journey Land rotations over the previous year, please drop by the Synagogue (Room 233) on August 17, at 10 a.m. for breakfast snacks, and a chance to sign up for your favorite Journey Land rotations for the coming year.

Would You Like to Have Your Child Dedicated?



Would you like to schedule a dedication for your infant? Dedications take place during 11 a.m. worship. Upcoming dates are September 14, November 23 and December 14. 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 are September 7 or November 9 at 10 a.m. Contact Susan in the Children's Ministries Office, susan@uccftw.com, or ext. 165 for further information.

Back-to-School Retreat for Middle and High Schoolers



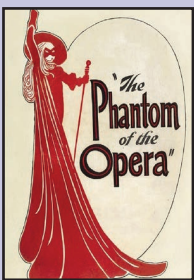
Crossing, our church camp in Athens, where they will grow closer to God and one another through teambuilding activities, prayer, fellowship, worship and grade-based small groups. The group will depart UCC at 6 p.m. on Friday, August 8, and return in time for Sunday school on August 10.

Cost for each participant is \$50 (covers lodging, meals, activities and transportation) and scholarships are available upon request. Register for the retreat at www.uccyouth.org or email Susan Henry at susan@uccftw.com.

UCC's youth ministry will kick off a new year of programming with the annual Back-to-School Retreat on August 8-10. All youth entering grades six through twelve are invited to come away for a special weekend at Disciples

Cost for each participant is \$50 (covers lodging, meals, activities and transportation) and scholarships are available upon request. Register for the retreat at www.uccyouth.org or email Susan Henry at susan@uccftw.com.

Silent Movie Night



UCC's Third Annual Silent Movie Night is Thursday, October 30. Don't miss returning theater organist, Thomas Helms, bringing the silent movie classic, *The Phantom of the Opera*, to life on the big screen in our Sanctuary!

Refreshments at 6:30 p.m.
Movie at 7 p.m.

Community Class



Community, a new Sunday school class for adults in their 20s and 30s, will begin in Room 315 on August 3. This class is for couples and single adults who are in graduate school, beginning careers, transitioning relationships or starting families. Room 315 is located just above the Gallery on the third floor. You can get to the classroom from the stairs

adjacent to the Gallery on the north side of the Sanctuary.

In addition to meeting during the Sunday school hour, the class plans having social events, meeting for lunch after church, and anticipates participating together in the outreach ministries of UCC. If you are interested in being part of this class, or know of someone who might be interested, join us on August 3 or contact Rev. Jessica Vacketta at the church or via email at jessica@uccftw.com for more information.

UCC Children's Ministries Spark 2014 Opportunities

Check out ucckids.org for all of our Children's Ministries Program Details



Promotion Sunday, August 24

teaching a faith to live by

Be watching for your child's Sunday school promotion day information. Each family will receive a mailing which provides new room assignments for kids and information on yearly registration at ucckids.org.



Journey Land Multi-age Kick Off

Journey Land kicks off a new year on Sunday, August 24. Our *Spark* Rotation curriculum will spark curiosity, faith development and fun as we study a year of Covenant. Children will begin in their assigned new classrooms and have an opportunity to play fun, get-to-know-you games with their new Shepherds. Then, all Journey Land kids will travel to the Sanctuary to celebrate a new year, a new theme, and new opportunities. Parents will pick up their children at 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary. We invite you to stay with us in worship while First Graders start *Welcome to Worship* and second and third graders participate in *Worship and Wonder*. Don't forget, to join us for the Fall Kickoff lunch following 11 a.m. worship as we gather around food trucks and fellowship together.



In-Betweens Class

Our fifth graders are in a unique place in the world. Depending on their school, some are in Middle School and many are still in Elementary School. Additionally, our fifth graders are ready for a few new opportunities as a part of Journey Land. Therefore, be on the lookout throughout the year for special Bible study opportunities on Sunday mornings, unique Journey Land rotations, and chances later in the year to transition smoothly into Chi Rho (our Youth programming for Middle Schoolers).



Worship and Wonder

In order to allow our children to fully experience worship, they must be active participants in worship. Hearing, reading, singing and observing a body of faith praise God is a primary aspect of faith development; however, children must also have the opportunity to interact with worship on their own developmental level. In an effort to meet both goals, children in first through third grades are invited to join a *Worship and Wonder* leader in the Gallery during the hymn following Communion (see *bulletin*). This group of children will have an opportunity to read the scripture, hear the story of faith on their own level, and will then return to worship to participate in the Hymn of Discipleship. We will rejoin the congregation during the final hymn, sitting together in reserved space. Parents can pick up their child from the Sanctuary following the service.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Kera Watts at kera@uccftw.com.



First Graders

Welcome to Worship

Wiggle, wiggle, squirm, shhhhh, dropped pencil, bathroom trip, and repeat—if you have an incoming first grader that will be joining you in our worship services for the first time, your “big church” experience will soon change. However, we hope that by providing our new first graders a five week course on how to observe, participate and experience worship, the outcome will be rewarding and meaningful for both you and your child; we also hope the typical wiggle, wiggle, squirm sequence can be slightly altered.

Our own Barbara Tucker will lead *Welcome to Worship* with curriculum she created to introduce children to the intricacies of worshipping as a group. The class will provide children the ability to recognize the cues from our leaders and those around them for direction of their own behavior in a manner of worship. The children that have participated over the last three years in *Welcome to Worship* have truly experienced a simple

and meaningful transition into worship. The program will begin on August 24 at 11 a.m. (check mail for specifics) and will continue each Sunday for five weeks, when parents are invited to join their children in their final class on September 21. All of the learning and preparation will be celebrated during 11 a.m. worship on September 28 with the First Grade Inclusion ceremony. You and your first grader will benefit from this opportunity!



children's christian fellowship
junior youth fellowship

A Great Year Ahead for CCF/JYF

CCF (first-third graders) and JYF (fourth-fifth graders) will rev back up on Sunday, September 7, with tons of fun. CCF/JYF is a growing group of elementary aged kids playing and learning together each Sunday night. Our worship, service and fellowship experiences will enrich your kiddo's faith development. Bring your child and their friends so they can join the fun.

Opportunities to be a Part and Serve!



Journey Land Tour

Calling all almost first graders and their parents—join us August 3, at 9 a.m. for a behind the scenes tour of Journey Land. Parents and children, together, will have the opportunity to learn about what the coming years will hold for them on the second floor in our hands-on, rotational Sunday school program, Journey Land. Catch a glimpse of each of the classrooms and have all of your questions answered. We will meet in Expedition Room 211 from 9-9:45 a.m.

Training Opportunities

New and veteran preschool teachers and Journey Land Shepherds, it is time again to pass on our wisdom to new teachers, and brush up on skills for seasoned veterans.

Preschool Teacher Training Luncheon
August 17, 12:15 p.m., Room 227

Journey Land Shepherd Training
August 24, 9 a.m., Room 227

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!



Thank you to all forty-six adult volunteers and thirty+ youth volunteers who had fun as they helped children discover that God is a God who works wonders and we had fun imagining, creating, growing and walking with God.

VBS had 150 children, ages two to twelve participating this year. We had 128 children in our building and twenty-two fourth and fifth graders in the community learning about service and helping others. Forty-eight of the children attending VBS were not members of UCC—our evangelism at work!

All week we focused on service and missions through UCC's connection with Global Ministries and work in Africa. Through the generosity of our VBS families, two flatbeds of pet food was donated to the Fort Worth Animal Control Center and over 100 packages of both new socks and underwear were donated to help stock our UCC Children's Closet. Over \$630 was donated to help support UCC's Christmas Angels.

It was a great week! Thank you to all who worked gathering supplies, planning lessons and spending time with children. Vacation Bible School would not have happened without you.





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.

Latte with the Ladies

Saturday, August 9, beginning at 9 a.m. at Brewed (801 W Magnolia-76104)

Women of Valor

Usually the second Sunday evening of each month, 6 p.m. in Room 204. Join us Sunday, August 10, as we gather for fellowship and discussion of Barbara Brown Taylor's book *An Altar in the World*. We will also determine our next course of study.

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

A support group of caregivers of those suffering from Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia has been formed and will begin regular meetings at UCC. The group will meet the second and fourth Thursdays of the month beginning August 14 from 4:30-6 p.m. in Room 201.

Dr. Charles Sanders and Leslie Dell have been trained by the Alzheimer's Association to facilitate this group.

Alzheimer's disease is life-changing

for both those who are diagnosed and those close to them and a support group provides a place to connect with other caregivers who truly understand what another person is going through.

Caregivers are looking for support from people who really understand because they've been there, too. An Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group offers just that—a place for caregivers, family and friends of persons with dementia to meet and develop a mutual support system in a confidential environment.

It's a place to:

- Exchange practical information on caregiving problems and possible solutions
- Talk through challenges and ways of coping
- Share feelings, needs and concerns
- Learn about resources available in your community

If you could benefit from this group or know someone who could, contact Pam Reeser at 817.926.6631 for details.

Handbells...What? Why? Did You Know...?

By Eric Mullins, Handbell Director



At UCC we have a very rich heritage of handbell ringing, but do you know why handbells are used in worship... or why they even exist? Handbells were invented in the eighteenth Century in England. The large bells in the towers of cathedrals and churches were rung by a pulley and tower bell ringers had to practice their art form. Unfortunately, it was difficult for the people that lived in the immediate areas of those parishes to sleep with the church bells ringing incessantly at night. The handbell was invented so that the tower ringers could practice

"change-ringing" without disturbing the neighbors. Fast forward several hundred years and across the Atlantic Ocean, and handbells have evolved into a very integral part of the church worship experience in America. What once was a method to practice had been discovered as a beautiful melodic/harmonic instrument that enhances the worship of God.

Handbell ringing has been used for many years as a way to give variety in worship. It can be used as a vehicle for meditation during communion and/or offertory, preparation during a prelude, as an aid to hymn singing (especially when a special soprano "descant" is included), as a joyful response in a postlude and many other parts of worship.

New studies show that handbell ringing has many health benefits, too. Handbell ringing, "boosts auditory skills such as

sound awareness and pitch perception; stimulates the brain and builds up memory, including musical memory; enhances gross coordination skills; and improves communication skills." (Malmark, Inc.)

Handbell ringing is unique and wonderful as it is a microcosm of the best of a faith community and our interdependence on each other and on God. It is something that can be experienced with people of all ages. We begin our new handbell year in August with the start of the FWISD school year. Students from sixth through twelfth grades are encouraged to sign up to be a part of the Whitechapel Handbell Choir or UCC Handbell Ringers. Adults with music reading or handbell experience are encouraged to sign up for the Ad Deum Handbell Choir. Come be a part of the UCC Music Ministry!



Working Together to Care for God's Creation

...And our Wonderful Church Building

It's once again summer, which means another season of high temperatures and even higher electricity bills is upon us. As stewards of both God's creation and the church's finances, the Building and Grounds Committee has made cutting back on electricity usage a top priority for UCC.

The committee worked diligently these past few months to secure an electricity contract that could keep electricity charges at a minimum, but, unfortunately, could not meet the record-low rates from previous years. One way the church has offset this cost is through the use of energy consultant Ideal Impact, who helped us reduce electricity usage from 1.5 million kW hours per year to 1.1 million kW hours per year, a 27% reduction.

However, with an unavoidable increase in energy rates and growing concern over electricity's negative impact on the environment, it's time to consider more clean energy alternatives. Caring for God's Creation is beginning a new campaign to explore the option of solar electricity, allowing the church to move toward self-sustainment.

One avenue for getting solar panels is through Green Mountain Energy's Sun Club, which awards grant money to non-profit organizations each year for the installation of solar panels. Past winners include the Fort Worth Zoo, Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, and the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, all of which helped educate the public on the importance of clean energy and caring for the environment.

Another avenue is to pay for solar panel installation through the church's budget. No matter how the funds are received, there are several committees that will be consulted before presenting any plan to the Board of Stewards. You can help play your part by contacting Emily Housley, emilyw@alumni.tcu.edu, if you have any questions or information regarding solar panels or the Sun Club grant application process.

In the mean time, please make use of our amazing new recycle bins, the reusable coffee mugs on Sunday mornings, and be intentional about electricity usage within the church. Look for Caring for God's Creation representatives in your Sunday school classes, sharing ways that you can make an individual impact on helping the environment.

France Trip Informational Meeting

The Church in the Arts Committee is putting together a trip to France in 2015. An informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 13, 6-7 p.m. in

Room 204. The tour will be May 8-17, 2015 and will include stops in Alsace, Normandy, Paris and Ile de France.

More information can also be obtained by contacting Marsha Hodges at 817.926.6631 ext. 152 or email her at marsha@uccftw.com.

UCC Quick Financial Summary - Unified Budget June 2014

Description	2013 YTD Actuals	2014 YTD Actuals	Budget YTD 2014	Budget Annual	YTD Variance
Income					
Pledges	\$1,085,027	\$1,141,561	\$1,103,698	\$2,047,567	\$37,864
Non Pledge Contributions	\$103,896	\$119,385	\$120,360	\$276,300	(\$975)
Offering	\$18,990	\$17,816	\$18,709	\$38,700	(\$893)
Misc. Unrestricted Income	\$80,808	\$76,182	\$76,978	\$161,605	(\$795)
WDS Income (Net)	\$41,467	\$7,955	\$33,059	\$86,088	(\$25,104)
Endowment Income	\$137,372	\$145,878	\$147,273	\$291,010	(\$1,395)
Participant/Restricted Income & Reserve Use	\$355,400	\$280,046	\$279,977	\$389,446	\$69
Total Income	\$1,822,959	\$1,788,824	\$1,780,053	\$3,290,716	\$8,771
Expenses					
Total Personnel Expense	\$870,237	\$875,840	\$896,261	\$1,760,791	\$20,421
Total Program/Admin. Expense	\$579,067	\$466,469	\$542,229	\$1,041,366	\$75,760
Total Mission/Outreach Expense	\$229,658	\$274,200	\$259,114	\$483,385	(\$15,085)
Total Expenses	\$1,678,962	\$1,616,509	\$1,697,604	\$3,285,543	\$81,095
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$143,997	\$172,315	\$82,449	\$5,174	\$89,866

This is a summary report of our Unified Budget. The full report is available for download from the UCC website or copies can be picked up or requested from the Business Office. If you have questions regarding this report please contact Michelle Ingram, Director of Accounting, at 817.926.6631 or by email to michelle@uccftw.com.

Congregational Meetings

Personnel Committee

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

Communications Committee

Wednesday, August 6, 5:30 p.m., Rm. 202

Building & Grounds

Sunday, August 10, 12:15 p.m., Rm. 202

Finance Committee

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

Investment Committee

Wednesday, August 13, 11:30 a.m., Rm. 202

Endowment Committee

Wednesday, August 13, 12 p.m., Rm. 203

Board of Stewards

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

Elders Meeting

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

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

Quadrennial Assembly in Atlanta, Georgia



Eight UCC women participated in the 2014 Quadrennial Assembly of Disciples Women. Pictured are Tamara Rodenberg, Phyllis Allen, Rachel Rebagay, Jennie Huang, Cyndy Twedell, Yeahwa Lee, Esther Lee and Judy O'Donnell. The six day event included inspirational worship and Bible study, helpful workshops, a pilgrimage to the MLK National Historic Site marking the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Acts and a special worship celebration with guest speakers active in the Civil Rights movement as the QA participants were encouraged to remember, celebrate, dream and move toward positive action.

This year's theme, *I See You — Through the Eyes of Grace, the Voice of Compassion With the Hands of Justice, With the Heart of Joy, Free, and Whole*, was reflected in the artwork of Yeahwa Lee. Her original art piece was projected above the stage in the assembly hall, visible during every worship, study and business session. Her piece, *I See You in Paradise*, not only reflected the theme of the event, but captured the beauty and spirit of the five women highlighted each day in the Bible study. She also shared her art in one of the booths set up during the QA. Yeahwa is pictured at her booth where she shared her artwork and hand painted silk scarves.

