



Lenten Mid-Week Worship Opportunity



Perhaps this year, as we journey through the season of Lent, we need to stop and consider our own crying. Consider how we cry—or don't cry—about our sins and our involvement in the evil ways of the world; for the pain that is being inflicted on the world—the many by the few; and consider the crying out to those inflictors, whether they be our own people or those labeled as the enemy. We have cried for ourselves, our past, the cries of self-pity, the cries of the future, and the cries for our injuries; but how do we cry during Lent as followers of Christ in the wilderness in the midst of covenant?

Maybe we do so in the midst of worship and exercise our prophetic voices, lungs, hands and hearts.

You are invited on our journey in worship on Wednesday evenings during Lent to experience a simple meal in community and then join in a worshipful act of prayer, communion and song each week in the Fellowship Hall from 6-7 p.m.

We are asking for various groups in the church to volunteer to provide simple meals of soup/bread for the community

from 6-6:30 p.m. All ages are encouraged to participate. A nursery will be provided for children five and under.

Please come and cry, pray and sing with us this Lenten season.

March 5: Ash Wednesday service around the Labyrinth, 6:30 p.m.

March 12, 19 and 26 and April 2, 9 and 16: 6 p.m. meal, 6:30-7 p.m. worship

Contact suzanne@uccftw.com with questions or sharyn@uccftw.com to schedule your group to help with the meal.

Lenten Reflections



We are constantly discerning ways to find a healthy balance of work and rest; however, during the season of lent we feel the need to make additional time for prayer and renewal. In an effort to help create sacred space in the Lenten journey, the ministry staff will email a

Lenten Reflection every Monday, March 10-April 14, to aid you in this spiritual time. If you do not have email or internet access, copies of the week's reflection will be available in The Arches on the Sunday prior to the Monday distribution.

Fred Craddock once said that, "the destination is meaningless to those who do not make the trip." We hope you will join us on this forty-six-day journey to Easter. Continue to check your inbox, *Journal*, and bulletin for ways you can take part in the Lenten journey at University Christian Church.

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



Moments of Truth

by Rev. Larry Thomas, Senior Minister

During this Lenten season, we will be exploring seven texts which share the common theme of revelation. The title

for the series is *Moments of Truth*, which will also serve as our guiding theme for other Lenten related activities.

This is admittedly different from traditional, penitential approaches to Lent. Disciples have, for quite some time, opted for a more reflective approach to the marking of Lenten time. I trust you will find the texts and the conversation that they engender in keeping with the spirit of our Disciple heritage. I also hope that you will discover something new about the text, our faith, or perhaps

yourself, as we gratefully move toward our celebration of Easter.

I would also like to take just a moment to share with you some rather sobering news about our budget. As you know from my previous article, we were left with some interesting challenges based on the outcome of our most recent stewardship campaign. The pinch we were feeling from an increased rate of non-responding pledges was exacerbated by decreased attendance due to extreme weather conditions. We annually receive somewhere in the neighborhood of \$330,000 in non-pledged giving. The bulk of that is received on Sunday mornings. When attendance is down, so are receipts. Attendance was off significantly during

January and early February and the resulting decrease in offering has heightened our concern.

Ours is a large church with a multifaceted ministry. We touch thousands of lives over the course of a year with the love of Christ and the affirming and helpful gestures of those who have placed their trust in Him. Carrying out all of these ministries in the spirit of hope and with an eye to excellence is an expensive undertaking. Now more than any time in our most recent past, we need everyone to prayerfully consider our current state of affairs.

Thank you for your consideration and for all that you do for Christ and the Church, and especially for UCC.



iFaith 2014: Lent

Find Me in the River

During *The Search* worship gathering our Lenten worship time will be spent in the water, so to speak with Jesus. We will be exploring scripture and music that recalls the stories of Christ speaking to us living differently on the banks of the river, and using songs from our current time to see what intersection our faith, our theology and our time has to say to Lent.

Join us in the river. 5 p.m. Sunday evenings in Fellowship Hall for the following glimpse:

March 9: *Water to Wine*

March 16: *Calming the Storm*

March 23: *Come to Me & Drink*

March 30: *Walk on Water*

April 6: *Washing Disciples Feet*

April 13: *Pilate Washing His Hands of Jesus*

Sing to God!



Do you recall singing with our guest orchestra on All Saints Sunday? It was thrilling to join our voices with strings to the heartrending melody of *Wondrous*

Love. Please plan on singing with our choir and four others at Broadway Baptist Church on Sunday, March 23, at 7 p.m.

A Festival of Hymns is a special evening of celebrating the hymn arrangements of Sterling Procter, a North Texas composer and arranger. The choirs of Broadway Baptist, First Methodist, First Presbyterian, Arborlawn United Methodist and UCC will combine with

the Orchestra at Broadway, brass choir and the Rilda Bee O'Bryan Cliburn Organ for a most amazing night of praise.

This is a Christian experience not to be missed. Plan on singing to God with the 250 voice choir, orchestra and the largest organ in Texas. Broadway Baptist Church is located downtown at 305 W. Broadway. More info at www.broadwaybc.org.

UCC Journal

Carol Ann Fewell, Editor • Michelle Groom, Circulation

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

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

Annual Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

Mark your calendar! UCC's annual Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper is March 4 in Fellowship Hall, sponsored by Men's Ministry. Join us for pancakes, sausage, fruit and all the fixins. Bring the family to Fellowship Hall for food, fellowship and music around festive

tables. Activities for kids! This year we welcome the ten-member *Bucket List Jazz Band* for our entertainment.

We begin serving at 6 p.m. and will wrap up around 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person (\$3 for children under twelve).

Ash Wednesday Labyrinth



Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.-Psalm 51:10

Annual Ash Wednesday Labyrinth Walk, March 5. Attend the 6:30 p.m. service and walk afterwards or join the walk at any time after the service.

Decorative Arts Exhibition

Church & the Arts

March 30, 2014
Sunday

Room 207
University Christian Church

**Come and view
ceramics, glassware,
basketry, jewelry,
pottery, metalware,
furniture, textiles,
and clothing in a
unique display from
UCC artists!**

Life of the Church

Deaths

Bonnie Peacock Fogle, February 5
Daughter of Judy Vick; sister of
Jennifer Peacock Gutierrez

Martha Granger, January 28

London Bradley, January 26
Cousin of Avis Herndon

Eula Bernice Stapleton, January 23
Mother of Kaywin Roberts

Homer Wetsel, January 23
Father of Wayne Wetsel
and Malcom Wetsel

Michie Brous, January 22
Brother of Margaret Puckett

Arthur T. Ted Mosher, Jr., January 17
Cousin of Steve Mosher

Ruby Pate, January 16
Aunt of Lisa Blackwell

Eddie Lee Nowell, January 11
Father of Jimmy Nowell

Births

Andrew Joseph Smid, son of
Elizabeth and Matt Smid,
born January 23.
Grandparents are
Katherine and Michael Johnston.

Sydney Margaret Blakewell,
daughter of Allison and
Scott Blakewell,
born December 24.
Grandparents are
Margaret and David Motheral.

Weddings

Kacee Baker/Brandon Baker
February 15



Easter Egg Hunt

Save the date for our annual
UCC Easter Egg Hunt
on April 12 at 4 p.m.

Musical Musings

by Kyla K. Rosenberger



A dictionary definition of Lent says this: "the period preceding Easter that in the Christian Church is devoted to fasting, abstinence and penitence in commemoration of Christ's fasting in the wilderness. In the Western Church it runs from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday and so includes forty weekdays."

These forty days begin for us this year on

March 5. There are several opportunities for our members to remember Christ's time of suffering with special services and music. First, gather around the Labyrinth at 6:30 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, March 5, for a candlelit service devoted to setting the tone for this special time of the Christian calendar.

Then each Sunday morning the exultant *Gloria Patri* we typically sing to God will be replaced with a more contemplative tune from the Taizé Community called *Bless the Lord*. The text is simple, but profound:

*Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless
God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.*

The music from the ecumenical Church

of Reconciliation in the village of Taizé, France is world-renowned for its peaceful spirituality. Other tunes by its composer, Jacques Berthier, will be sung at our Mid-Week Lenten services starting Wednesday, March 12, in Fellowship Hall.

Finally, plan on savoring prayerful time during Holy Week with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at 7 p.m. April 17 and 18. Maundy Thursday features the haunting sound of cello accompanying a dancer interpreting a Bible scene. The Good Friday service of darkness with full choir focuses our hearts on the Crucifixion. Yes, the music is more somber for the season of Lent. But isn't that necessary in order to experience the promise of Easter?

Lessons from Chile



We were graciously fed at tables overflowing with love. Our hosts gave up their own bedrooms to accommodate us. God's spirit of love and hospitality were generous gifts we gratefully received in our travels to Chile. In the Pentecostal Church of Chile, with whom Elena Huegel, our missionary partner, works, entertaining angels is taken seriously. They opened their homes and

their hearts to strangers, confident these folks from Texas would be blessings in their midst, angels in disguise.

One day while we were with our hosts in Sarmiento, a small community just outside Curico, we were invited to join them at an empty lot where their new church building will be built. At the site of their future, larger building, we gathered

in a circle and held hands as I prayed for their growing church. And I promised to continue to pray for them. I also promised that my church in Fort Worth would pray for them, too. I'm counting on you. Would you please join me in praying for the Church in Sarmiento? Pray in gratitude for their generous hospitality, for their faithful service to God, and for God's guidance as they and we respond to God's call to share the Good News of God's love from Sarmiento to Fort Worth to the ends of the earth.

Dios le bendiga,
Cyndy Twedell



Season of Invitation

The season of Lent provides an opportunity to share UCC with friends and co-workers by inviting them to join you for worship. Think of those who might benefit from a connection with the UCC community of faith and invite them to worship, Sunday School and Holy Week events.

UCC Women Celebrate Women's History Month



Church Women United will celebrate **World Day of Prayer** on Saturday, March 8, at 10:30 a.m. at St. James AME Church (5020 Ramey Ave. in Fort Worth). This year's theme is *Stream in the Desert*, with a community focus on United Community Center.



Special Event with the WILD Women Book Club as they celebrate the 2014 Women's History Month theme, *Women of Character, Courage and Commitment*. **Monday, March 24**, many of the 'regular' WILD Women will head to the University of Texas at Arlington to hear Pulitzer-Prize winning author, Geraldine Brooks, speak on writing and female heroes in literature and life. This 7 p.m. event is open to the public and all are welcome!



Trinity-Brazos Area Disciples Women's Ministry Spring Retreat at Disciples Crossing in Athens. Friday, April 4–Sunday, April 6. This year's theme is *Heal the Soul*. Keynote speaker is Rev. Renee Hoke. Cost \$80. Registration forms available at The Arches Information Desk. Form and payment due March 15.

Quadrennial Assembly
2014



Quadrennial Assembly in Atlanta, GA, June 25-29. Register at www.discipleswomen.org. Women from around the world come together every four years at the Quadrennial Assembly to be renewed, inspired and transformed. Join us! Scholarship available for first time attendees. Contact Cyndy Twedell for more info!

Women's Circles

First Tuesday October through May
Join us March 4 at 10 a.m.:

Lily of the Valley Circle, UCC Library

Rose Circle, UCC Room 211



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.

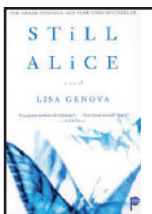


Latte with the Ladies

Saturday, March 8, 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. On Sunday, March 9, we will gather for fellowship and continue conversation of the book, *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor.



WILD Women Book Club

Monday, March 17, at 6 p.m. at Cat City Grill and Tuesday, March 18, at 11:30 in the UCC Library. We will discuss the book *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova.

For more details, contact Cyndy Twedell, Associate Minister, 817.926.6631.



My Quadrennial Experience

by Leslie Dell

I attended my first Quadrennial four years ago. I didn't know what to expect. I didn't grow up in the Disciples church and had never heard of Quadrennial. I was encouraged to go, and as a first time attendee I was given a scholarship from UCC (still offered to first timers).

Here's what I loved about it. I was surrounded by hundreds of Disciples women of all ages and races. I got a better picture of Disciples denomination nationally and internationally. I also learned some history about Disciples Women. There was an active high school/college contingency, as well as...the rest of us! There were dynamic speakers at the main sessions, where we also sang and prayed together. There were lots of break out sessions to choose, from yoga to spirituality to meditation to basket weaving. We all brought items to donate to a local women's shelter, and a Habitat build was an option for a day.

What really impressed me was seeing old friends reconnect. Some hadn't seen each other since church camp! It was such a wonderful time of fellowship, making new friends as well as getting to know fellow UCCers even better. I guess you could say it's kind of like camp for grown ups (and don't most of us have great memories of camp)? Only you get to stay in a nice hotel room and eat good food.

Go! You'll like it!

Alzheimer's Association 2014 Spring Symposium



Fact: today, an American develops Alzheimer's disease every 68 seconds. In 2050, an American will develop the disease every thirty-three seconds.*

The Alzheimer's Association Spring Symposium is the area's leading source for up to date information about Alzheimer's disease and related forms of dementia. The event features a full day of presentations by professionals whose expertise focuses on practical and legal concerns related to dementia care. In addition, representatives from over forty businesses and non-profit organizations who provide services for

families and professionals who care for people with dementia will be present. Other highlights of the symposium include sessions on managing difficult behaviors, progress in Alzheimer's research, the use of medication, getting a diagnosis, legal issues, and handling grief and sorrow.

The event is Thursday, March 27, from 8:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at the Riley Conference Center located on the campus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. To register or learn more about the Symposium, please visit www.alzh.org/northcentraltexas or call 1.800.272.3900.

UCC's Alzheimer's Committee is actively involved in promoting awareness and education about Alzheimer's and dementia diseases. We are currently

searching for facilitators to lead a support group at UCC for anyone caring for family members with Alzheimer's and dementia. Please contact Jennifer in the Pastoral Care Office at 817.926.6631 for additional information.

Those serving on the committee are: Mary Jane Alland, Karen Boring, Judy Clinkscales, Carol Ehlmann, Carol Jane Lawrence, Vera Rowell, Carol Widmann and staff member, Jennifer Cricchio.

In addition, the Pastoral Care Office has educational resources from the Alzheimer's Association at no cost. Contact Jennifer to make an appointment or visit during business hours to obtain these materials.

(*Fact obtained from alz.org)

New Member



A resident of Fort Worth for forty years and retiring to Mexico for eight years, Melanie Evans returns to her home town after the death of her husband. She has found her church home at UCC and looks forward to more fellowship and guidance with its members and staff.

Newcomers Class



All are welcome to be a part of the Newcomers Class! Join us Sundays, March 2, 9 and 16, 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, 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 May.

Spring Break Mission Commissioning

A group of fifteen adults and youth will be commissioned and blessed for service on Sunday, March 2, at 11 a.m.

In partnership with Rippling Hope, our University Christian Church representatives will work together

with residents of some of El Paso's 350 colonias to renovate and repair homes. Together they will learn about the complex border issues from people who live and work there. Please hold in your prayers our UCC participants, as well as those with whom they will be serving.

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.

Caring for God's Creation Earth Stewardship Events



Again this year UCC will join with faith communities across the country in celebrating Earth Stewardship Sunday, April 27, as we give thanks to God for the beauty and bounty of our earth home. Look for several opportunities to learn more about ways to care for God's Creation. (If you would like to be part of the Caring for God's Creation team, contact Cyndy Twedell.)

The tree blessing for our new red oak will also take place on April 27.

And on Saturday, April 26, Caring for God's Creation invites you to attend

Fifty Shades of Green: The Bible's Ecology of Wonder at Brite Divinity School, 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. As part of the Stalcup School of Theology for the Laity, William P. Brown, William Marcellus McPheeters Chair of Old Testament, Columbia Theological Seminary, will present this program to help reawaken our divinely endowed sense of wonder. "In this course, participants will explore how the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, evokes all sorts of wonder: from fear to fascination, from awe to desire. We will also explore how wonder links the ancient biblical text with contemporary, including scientific, understandings of our world."

Cost is \$35. Register at www.Brite.edu/Stalcup.

July Mission Pilgrimage to Nicaragua



A group from University Christian Church will travel to Nicaragua to share in the work of La Mision Cristiana and Project Chacocente in July. As in previous years the pilgrimage is recommended for people sixteen years and older who are willing to open their hearts and have their lives transformed as they learn from and connect with the people of Nicaragua.

The dates are July 20-27. Contact Cyndy Twedell for more information.

Baby Dedications



Levi James Hendrix and Abigail Elaine Hendrix, son and daughter of Mike & Courtney Hendrix. Grandparents are Sue Ott, Mike & Kellie Morton and Vic & Martha Hendrix. Shown with siblings Madison and Sam.



Ryan James Gonzalez, son of Mark & Shannon Gonzalez. Grandparents are Duane & Sharon Barr and Daniel & Frances Gonzalez. Great-grandparents are James & Alice Barr, Inez Banda and Inez Gonzalez. Shown with big sisters Lauren and Katelyn.

Think About It!

Each of us uses an average of 65 cubic feet of wood every year — equivalent to six 12-14" trees — in paper and wood products.

World-wide tree harvesting far outstrips replanting, threatening the clean water, air supplies and livelihoods of many people. How can you help? Plant a tree! Replant the trees you use by shopping at a local nursery. Or join the 100% Replanting Program (www.replanttrees.org).

Reduce—Reuse—Recycle—Replant
It's easy as one, two, tree!

from www.yourtruenature.com



Thank You from Animal Mission OUTreach

"Our heating system is old and doesn't work well, so some days we don't have heat at all in the shelter," said William who came for the Animal Mission OUTreach donations. "Then we run for all the blankets we can find and go to each cage and cover the animals."

University Christian Church has a generous congregation and the outpouring of dry food, blankets, pet beds, and toys were gratefully received to enrich the lives of animals who wait for their forever homes. Some shelter attendants had tears in their eyes when they unloaded the goods.

Bless you all for your generosity.
You made a big difference!

Gallery Notes

The Madonnas

Arguably, the subject most often depicted in Christian artwork is the 'Madonna.' Mary is normally portrayed with the Christ Child and often other biblical characters. The earliest representations go back to the Catacombs, but more emphasis on Mary and her proclaimed status as "God-Bearer" in the fifth century, stemmed a continuous growth of art devoted to her.

Our Gallery is fortunate to have no less than eight works of art devoted to the Madonna. We have one thirteenth century Byzantine representation, two sixteenth century copies, one nineteenth century depiction and four twentieth century pieces. Lovers of Renaissance art should take time to view the *Madonna and Child with St. John the Baptist* (Alba Madonna) and the *Madonna Della Sedia* (Madonna of the Chair) both on the north wall of the Gallery. In both cases the artist is Raphael (Raphaello Sanzio 1483-1520), a contemporary of Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo. Raphael painted no less than twenty-six Madonnas—commissioned works for the rich and famous of the time.

The two works in our Gallery were created between 1510 and 1514 during the period Raphael worked in Rome and was at the peak of his career. The compositions were more complex, warm and colorful. The Madonnas were less formally dressed and presented robust characteristics in comparison with his early career.



The *Alba Madonna* shows Mary, Jesus and John the Baptist all with their gaze focused on a cross held by the youthful John and the Child Jesus touching his destiny.



The *Madonna della Sedia* (Madonna of the Chair) has Mary and the Child Jesus looking out of the painting at us with questioning gazes while John the Baptist is focused on Jesus and Mary. A small cross at the bottom right is an ever present symbol of the journey Christ will make for us.

Take the time to view all of the Madonnas in our Gallery. The collection is impressive and inspiring.

Adult Ministries Important Dates

March 7

The Marriage Well
6-6:45 p.m., Room 207

March 7

The 1's
(UCC's Singles Group)
6-6:45 p.m., Room 203

March 26

Childcare deadline
for the April meetings of the
Marriage Well and *The 1's*

April 4

The Marriage Well
6-6:45 p.m., Room 207

April 4

The 1's
6-6:45 p.m., Room 207

Suzanne Castle Featured on Blog Talk



From our first prayers, to baptism, to learning how to 'be' in a church service, we all have some kind of experience that we could talk about or relate to when it comes to church.

How we navigate that experience to where we are today in our faith journey often looks very different from where we started.

Where has faith taken you? Where has faith deterred you? What molds your faith?

Dr. Suzanne Castle was featured on Blog Talk Radio sharing some of her faith journey. Tune in for more over the next twelve months. Listen to her story:

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/herstory/2014/02/14/herstory-suzanne-castle-the-god-of-the-cosmos-begs-us-to-follow>.

Men's Ministry Events

Men's Third Thursday Lunch

Join us on Thursday, March 20, at 12 p.m. at Café Bella on South Hills Avenue as we continue our series, *Christianity: The Early Years*. As part of this monthly series, we are exploring some significant events in the history of Christianity that shape who we are as people of faith.

Men's Night Out TCU Baseball Game

Join us Friday, April 4, for barbecue and baseball as TCU battles West Virginia. Barbecue tailgate begins at 5:30 p.m. and first pitch is at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person, and includes dinner and a ticket. Sign up begins on Sunday, March 9, in The Arches Bookstore or email sharyn@uccftw.com.

Register Now for Youth Mission Trips



UCC's middle and high school youth will be learning and serving on two mission trips this summer.

Youth in grades nine through twelve will travel to White Swan, Washington, on the CYF Mission Trip, where they will work at Yakama Christian Mission, a Disciple ministry center dedicated to serving others on the Yakama

Reservation. The group will fly into Portland on June 29 and return to DFW on July 6 after stops at Mount St. Helens and Cannon Beach. The trip cost will be \$375 per person.

The Chi Rho Mission Trip for grades six through eight will spend four days in Austin helping feed the hungry by working at the Capital Area Food Bank. The group will depart on Sunday afternoon, June 15, and return on Wednesday night, June 18, after a stop at Schlitterbahn Water Park in New Braunfels. Trip cost is \$175 per person.

Full and half scholarships for both trips are available upon request. For trip details and registration forms, visit www.uccyouth.org.

Camp Registration Sunday

Stop by Fellowship Hall Sunday, April 6, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. to register children and youth for summer camps at Disciples Crossing and mission trips to Austin and White Swan, Washington. Ministry assistant Sharyn Peterson will process registrations and provide blank forms and tally sheets. Registrations completed that day qualify for early bird discounts, saving as much as \$190 for some camps. For full list of summer camps and mission trips by date and grade, or to download registration forms in advance, visit www.uccyouth.org.

Backpacks for Kids Now Every Wednesday



Weekends can mean hunger for children who depend on school meals for their primary nutrition. Backpacks for Kids, a program of the Tarrant Area Food Bank (TAFB), supplies backpacks filled with child-

friendly, nonperishable and nutritious food which are handed out discreetly at school each Friday to counselor identified students most at risk of being hungry on the weekend. This growing

TAFB program is now being supported by the Outreach budget of UCC with a three year commitment which will enable the introduction of one additional school.

Packing the Backpacks takes place every Wednesday at TAFB, 2600 Cullen Street. This is a great ministry for the whole family or for a group of friends before going out to dinner. Call Linda Smith, Director of Volunteer Services at 817.332.9177 ext. 118. Choose a Wednesday (6-8 p.m.) and see for yourself how much fun you can have helping feed the children in our community.

Wish to Have Your Child Dedicated?



Would you like to schedule a dedication for your infant? Dedications take place during 11 a.m. worship or *The Search*.

Upcoming dates are: March 16, May 11 and June 15. 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 class is March 30 at 10 a.m. Contact Susan Henry in Children's Ministries, susan@uccftw.com, or ext. 165 for further information.

Summer Camps for UCC Youth and Children

at Disciples Crossing in Athens
(grade completed in parentheses)

Grand Camp 1

(Pre K-3 w/adult): May 30-June 1

Grand Camp 2

(Pre K-3 w/adult): August 1-3

Discovery Camp

(2-3 w/adult): May 23-25

Family Camp

(kids and parents, all ages): June 6-8

JYF Camp 1

(4-5): June 30-July 4

JYF Camp 2 (4-5): July 21-25

Chi Rho Camp (6-7): July 7-12

Eighter's Camp (8): July 6-12

Niner's Camp (9): June 23-28

CYF Conference (10-12): June 16-21

MAD (Music/Art/Drama)

Camp (6-9): June 9-14

Equine Camp (6-12):

July 28-August 1

Racial Reconciliation Camp

(grades 9-12): July 14-18

CCF/JYF for March—David the Shepherd and Psalms



Children's Christian Fellowship (first through third grades) and Junior Youth Fellowship (fourth and fifth grades) will explore David the Shepherd and Psalms in fun CCF/JYF fashion.

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 on Sunday nights in March—and bring a friend!

Children's Choir Spring Musical



The Children's Choirs Spring Musical this year, *Once Upon a Parable*, was written by Tom Long and Allen Pote. The children have been working hard and having lots of fun learning the music, memorizing their lines and getting ready to share their presentation with the congregation.

Jesus was a storyteller and a look at the Gospels reveals Jesus constantly telling tales. These stories were meant to teach, amuse, puzzle and even irritate. Even now in our modern time His words are still fresh and the double meanings and surprise endings challenge us and enlighten us.

In this musical, the children become the storytellers and capture the humor and flavor of the parables. *Once Upon a Parable* includes the stories of *The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock* as well as *The Good Samaritan*, *The Mustard Seed*, *Zaccheus*, *The Prodigal Son*, *The Parable of the Vineyard*, and how Jesus was crucified and rose to heaven.

Our group of thirty-seven children range in age from kindergarten to grade six. The children are so excited about all of the stories that they are going to tell during this musical and have related to them and taken them to heart. The musical presentation will take place on Sunday, April 6, in Fellowship Hall.

A snack lunch will be provided for the audience at 12 p.m. and the musical will begin at 12:30 p.m. and will last around forty minutes. *Once Upon a Parable* is appropriate entertainment for all ages, so bring the whole family. The Children's Choir would love to share their theatrical and musical work with a great crowd. See you there!

Important Summer Dates for Children's Ministries



Vacation Bible School • June 24-June 27
Be a part of UCC VBS (ages two to third graders) or Mission VBS (fourth and fifth graders).

VBS online registration for UCC members at ucckids.org begins March 1 and continues through April 1.



Summer Fun
(for children two months to entering K)

Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 a.m.–noon
Session I – June 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18
Session II – July 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23
\$120 per session

Open registration will continue until all classes are filled. For more information, contact Joy Milton at cjoym@yahoo.com.

Camps for Children and Families at Disciples Crossing this Summer

Grand Camp I • May 30-June 1
(children ages 4-10 and a grandparent)
or Grand Camp II • August 1-3
(children ages 4-10 and a grandparent)

Discovery Camp • May 23-25
(completed second or third grade and parent)

Family Camp • June 6-8
(families with at least one child under 18 and an adult over 21)

JYF Camp I • June 30-July 4
(completed fourth or fifth grade)

JYF Camp II • July 21-25
(completed fourth or fifth grade)

Children's Ministry Family Lenten Devotionals

These Stones Will Shout Daily Lenten Devotions, Mobile and Lenten calendar have been mailed to all UCC families.

Begin this Lenten tradition on Ash Wednesday, March 5, with your children and continue through Easter.

Also, be on the lookout for special *These Stones Will Shout* Sunday worship bulletins for children during the Lenten season. Extra copies of the Lenten family devotions are available in The Arches.



Nurses Notes

March is National Nutrition Month. Since March is

between winter and spring and just past the holidays, many of us are troubled with unwanted weight gain.

Here are some important facts to know: When you are fit, you:

- improve your mood
- reduce stress and increase your energy
- reduce your risk for heart disease
- can look and feel your best

- have the physical strength and endurance to do the things you want

Some recommendations from the American Dietetic Association are: use a smaller plate, fill a "to go" container at the beginning of your meal, make half of your plate veggies and fruit and order small versions of dessert or share.

Also remember our *Better Choices, Better Health* classes, developed by Stanford University for people living with

chronic diseases such as heart disease, hypertension, COPD, depression, arthritis, diabetes and more. There is currently a class in progress, however, a new class will be offered in April. These sessions are for six-weeks and meet once a week at no cost. We also offer a class that is specific for diabetes.

For more information and to register for a class, contact Carole Widmann at RNcarole@gmail.com.

Nursing at Room in the Inn

by Carol Widmann

Last night, after everyone had showered and eaten dinner, we all sat around cozily, some talking, some playing cards. It was freezing cold outside, but inside it was warm and welcoming. It was Wednesday evening at UCC's Room in the Inn. The group relaxing inside were a mixture of sorts. A couple school teachers, a minister, a truck driver trying to get his diabetes under control so he can get back to work, a couple of retired healthcare workers, a man crippled by a knee injury who is awaiting knee replacement, another who sits by himself and lives in his own

world. This night there was a group of five TCU nursing students who are working with the homeless as part of their Community Health rotation.

A year ago TCU contracted with UCC to work with Parish Nurses and experience Faith Community Nursing. Each semester a new group joins us. They have interviewed the congregation, put on a Health Fair, made up posters to be used by Parish Nurses, set up an Excel program to track blood pressures and like that night, have volunteered at Room in the Inn.

As with anyone who visits with our homeless guests, the nursing students had to go through a brief training. But to watch these students that night, you would think they have been doing this forever. Actually, most of them have. When I first met them, they all shared with me how they have worked with the homeless with their churches, youth organizations and their own families. Talking with the guests that night was "just like talking to a new friend," said one. Exactly. Our future is in good hands.

UCC Quick Financial Summary - Unified Budget January 2014

Description	2013 YTD Actuals	2014 YTD Actuals	Budget YTD 2014	Budget Annual	YTD Variance
Income					
Pledges	\$313,564	\$292,373	\$320,216	\$2,115,000	(\$27,843)
Non Pledge Contributions	\$9,901	\$10,069	\$21,633	\$330,000	(\$11,564)
Offering	\$2,279	\$2,503	\$2,528	\$35,655	(\$25)
Misc. Unrestricted Income	\$6,966	\$5,653	\$5,401	\$161,605	\$252
WDS Income (Net)	\$3,273	(\$12,772)	\$2,636	\$86,088	(\$15,407)
Endowment Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$291,010	\$0
Participant/Restricted					
Income & Reserve Use	\$102,275	\$23,023	\$18,761	\$373,884	\$4,262
Total Income	\$438,257	\$320,849	\$371,174	\$3,393,242	(\$50,326)
Total Personnel Expense	\$181,729	\$192,362	\$198,925	\$1,842,526	\$6,563
Total Program/Admin. Expense	\$100,151	\$88,029	\$97,273	\$1,061,351	\$9,243
Total Mission/Outreach Expense	\$13,653	\$80,004	\$73,115	\$494,944	(\$6,889)
Total Expenses	\$295,533	\$360,396	\$369,313	\$3,398,821	\$8,918
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$142,724	(\$39,547)	\$1,861	(\$5,579)	(\$41,408)

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 please contact Michelle Ingram, Director of Accounting, at 817.926.6631 or by email michelle@uccftw.com.



UCC JOURNAL

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Congregational Meetings

Personnel Committee

Tuesday, March 4, 5:30 p.m., Rm 202

Building & Grounds

Sunday, March 9, 12:15 p.m., Rm 202

Finance Committee

Tuesday, March 11, 5:30 p.m., Rm 203

Communications Committee

Wednesday, March 12, 5:30 p.m., Rm 202

Board of Stewards

Tuesday, March 18, 6:30 p.m., Rm 207

Elders Meeting

Tuesday, March 25, 6:30 p.m., Rm 207

Deacons Meeting

Sunday, March 30, 12:15 p.m., Rm 205

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

Prom Dreams Boutique Opens March 20



Prom season is quickly approaching and University Christian Church is preparing to open the doors of our Prom Dreams Boutique for a fourth season on March 20. This ministry provides free prom dresses, shoes and accessories to girls who need assistance in obtaining attire for their prom.

Last year we distributed dresses, shoes and jewelry to over 125 girls from Fort Worth I.S.D. high schools.

Thanks to the generosity of University Christian Church and friends, Prom Dreams will once again open its doors from March 20–April 26.

The boutique will be open Thursday evenings from 5-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

This ministry is only possible because of dresses and accessories donated throughout the year, and volunteers who help young women and their families say “yes” to the dress. Donations may be dropped off at the Reception Desk at any time.

If you are interested in being a volunteer for Prom Dreams, please email promdreams@uccftw.com.