

Behold!

Spring Valley United Methodist Church / Dallas, Texas



Vol. 9, No. 9 March 3, 2003

Finance Chairman addresses congregation

During all three services of worship on Sunday, March 2, Finance Chair Will Tucker addressed the congregation regarding financial projections for 2003. Because Will's appeal on behalf of the Finance Committee is of great importance to the whole church, it is summarized here.

First of all, *thank you* for your current and past gifts. You are the only source of funding for the mission and ministries of SVUMC.

Secondly, we have a problem, one that we can overcome with faith and commitment. Under current projections, our pledge income will not fund our 2003 operating budget. We need to close a \$135,000 gap between revenues and expenses.

Since there is no single source for the entire \$135,000, the Administrative Board has approved a multi-faceted plan to address the deficit, a plan which includes these last-resort options:

1. The use of part of our meager cash reserves to fund operations.
2. Reduction in the amount provided for building upkeep and major repairs.
3. Delayed payments for Vision 2020 and Wesley Hall debt.
4. Reduction in our apportionments remitted to the annual conference.

Obviously, none of these are desired options; in fact, they only push our financial problems into the future. Therefore, current plans also include:

1. Working to better allocate costs incurred for programs housed and events held in our building.
2. Holding a major fundraising event this fall.
3. Coordinating a campaign or event to raise funds to pay down the debt on Wesley Hall renovations.

4. And finally, asking each member and continuing visitor prayerfully to make a pledge to support the missions and programs of Spring Valley; or, if a pledge has already been made, to consider increasing that existing pledge.

While none of us has the ability to fund our church single handedly, together we can make a difference. Consider this: If just 10 of us made a new pledge or increased our pledge by \$4 a day, those 10 could fund an entire year of either children's or youth programs!

Pledge cards are available in the church office daily and from the ushers on Sunday morning. **This is a time and an opportunity to make a difference.** Thank you for your consideration and your new or additional gifts.

Our Lenten schedule

At the heart of the Christian faith is our participation in the life, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ as Lord.

During the season of Lent, our focus is on the suffering and death of Christ, as we seek a deeper personal commitment to the lordship of Christ and a deeper sense of what it is to be the church, the people of God. Lent is a time for spiritual growth through repentance, fellowship, prayer, fasting, and concentration upon our baptismal covenant. In addition to weekly worship, please join us - and invite others - for these special Lenten offerings:

Wednesday evenings,

March 12-April 9, 6:30pm

"Wesleyan Spirituality: The Sermon on the Mount in John Wesley's Sermons," led by Dr. Scott Somers

Wednesday, April 16, 6:30pm

Taizé Service for Holy Week

Thursday, April 17, 6:30pm

Maundy Thursday Drama and Meal

Friday, April 18, 6:30pm

Good Friday "Behold the Darkness"

Service of Shadows, led by the Chancel Choir
Childcare is always available for church-wide services and celebrations, but please call to let Connie Miller know the number and ages of children to expect (972-233-7671 x20).

A Thought for Lent

Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hate. It is a power that breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness.

Corrie ten Boom

What's new with **YOUth...**

Sunday, March 9

9:45am Common Ground Worship Service

11am Youth Sunday School

1:30pm Group Dynamics with Confirmation Class
(until 5:30pm)



Sunday school

This Sunday, we renew our series on WORK. The lesson is “How Do I Maintain My Balance?” Read Luke 10:38-42 this week to prepare.

Attention: Confirmation class & ALL youth

On Sunday, March 9, we will all go together to Group Dynamix. Meet at the church at 1:30 p.m. We will return about 5:30 p.m. Bring \$10, signed permission slip, and closed-toed shoes. It's a blast and a great way for the confirmands to get to know the youth and vice versa.

Service Saturday is Saturday, March 15

Meet at the church at 8:45 a.m., bring a sack lunch, wear work clothes and closed-toe shoes. We'll be back at the church about 3:30 p.m.

Best Wishes to:

Amanda Nicholas & Melissa DeFoe, who have cheerleader tryouts this week. Rachel Hartman, who has a Girl Scouts project coming up; and everybody who has exams, research projects, and papers due this week!

RETREAT!!!

Our annual Spring Spiritual Retreat is only a few weeks away. It's going to be terrific this year, and it's priced right too! (Only fifty bucks!) Look for registration forms in your mailbox, or visit the youth office. Registration forms are requested by April 1 (no fooling).

Mark Your Calendars!! Wow!! There's a lot going on!!

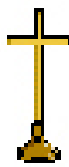
March 9 Group Dynamics, with the Confirmation Class

March 15 Service Saturday for March

April 4-6 Spring Spiritual Retreat – planned and led by Srs. '03. (Seniors planning and leading is a new tradition at Spring Valley!)

April 26 Amigos Days (Service Saturday for April)

Crosses for display



Do you have an interesting cross that you would like to share with the congregation? We would like to have crosses that are different or that have a story to display in the curio cabinets located in the church loggia. The crosses would be displayed during the months of April and May. If you have a cross or crosses of interest, please contact Gloria Smith at 972-234-6483. Thank you!

Have you seen...?

a dark brown, pocket-size datebook called a DayMinder? It belongs to Gerry Broome, and she would love to have it back. It was lost during the UMW sale. If you have any ideas where it could be, please call her at 972-235-6638.

Noteworthy news...

Spring break schedule

Sunday, March 9 - No Youth

Singers or Carillon Ringers

Monday, March 10 - No Carillon Ensemble

Tuesday, March 11 - No Youth Singers Bible
Study or rehearsal

Wednesday, March 12 - Children's Choirs WILL
meet at 6:30-7:30; no orchestra or chancel choir

Thursday, March 13 - Spirit Choir will meet



Habitat for Humanity

Construction on the Habitat house was great on Saturday. We were represented by Bill Escarre, Nancie DeCourcy, Dave Platten, Greg White, Courtney Jackson, Bill Boyer, Mark and Heather Johnson, and their friend, Alexis McDougal. We also work next Saturday. The sign-up sheets, maps, and construction schedules are available on Sunday at the Habitat table. For more information, call Bill Boyer, 972-661-2570.



SVUMC is responsible for providing the food, drinks, set-up, and sign-in on Saturday, April 5. We need volunteers to work and provide snacks and lunches (sandwiches, chips, etc.) that day.

Dimes-a-Day, March 16

Spring Valley is involved in mission programs world-wide. You as a church member, through the Mission Core, can select programs to support through our Dimes-a-Day second-mile offering. Thousands of oppressed persons are becoming refugees and fleeing their homes for safety. In most cases, they have almost nothing to take with them. We can help in one small way through the *General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM)* with prepared health kits. They contain personal hygiene items for displaced persons. Please give generously.

Spring bazaar and bake sale coming soon!

It's that time of year once again! Mark your calendars for the annual Spring Bazaar and Bake Sale on Sunday, March 30, from 9:30am-12:30pm. Busy hands have been creating that special spring item just for you. Be thinking about what delicious goodies you will be wanting to contribute to the bake sale. We will have more details as the date gets closer!

United Methodist Women meeting



The March meeting of the United Methodist Women will be on Monday, March 10. Lunch is at 11:30, and the program will be at 12:15. The program will be presented by Neil Williams, who will give us an update on our partnership with the Slany United Methodist Church in the Czech Republic. We will also have a report on the results of the UMW used-clothing and white elephant sale. We'll see you there!

Thank you!

Thank you to this great congregation for making our garage sale such a success.
The United Methodist Women

Aldersgate class program

Sunday, March 9 - Margaret Zaho, Ph.D, will present "Renaissance Art in the Old Testament." She is an art historian who lectures at area universities and studies frequently in Europe, notably Italy. Please come and enjoy this visual, lively lecture as Margaret explains how artists preserved Bible stories and brought scriptures to life!

Seeker class programs

March 9 - Guest speaker will be Dr. Don Renshaw.

March 16 - Guest speaker will be Nancy Sperando from the Baha'i Faith of Richardson.

March 23 - Dr. Don Barnes will present a program entitled "When you pray, say..."

March 30 - Our guest will be Susan Madison from First Unitarian Church. She will speak on "Unitarian Beliefs and Practices."

Come join us in Room 201. Refreshments and fellowship begin at 9:30am.

The F.A.I.T.H. class invites you!

We love our class and our members and know you will too. If you are in your 20s or 30s and are looking for a Sunday school class, please come visit us.

We meet in Room 216 from 9:45-10:45 on Sunday mornings. Currently we are doing a Lenten study, *Dying to Live*, by James A. Harnish. We provide a supportive environment for spiritual growth and fellowship.

Spring Valley Travelers trips for 2003

April 17 - DART rail to the zoo

April 24 - Titanic, the Artifact Exhibit, Ok. City

Sept. 27-October 5 - Niagara Falls & Toronto

November 5-7 - Ozark Fall Foliage

Call Chris Parton for details at 972-239-3369.

Children's Chatter



March into Sunday School

During the 9:45 Sunday School hour, three- and four-year olds are learning about the ten lepers, a cheerful giver, Jairus's daughter, Jesus's washing feet, and the Lord's Supper. They are learning these Bible stories through songs, games and activities. Kindergarten through fifth graders are learning about how Jesus calms the storm. Boys and girls are learning that God helps and cares for us. The March centers are Science, Music, Video, and Computer.

During 11:00 Sunday school, preschoolers are learning about Jacob's Ladder, Joseph, Ruth, Hannah and Samuel. This is exciting, hands-on learning of these favorite Bible stories through game and storytelling props. School-age boys and girls are learning all about the worship service. We have talked about prayer, scripture, the church bulletin and worship leaders' responsibilities. This class has had many tours of Wesley Hall to see first hand how worship items are used.

The Confirmation Class (sixth graders) are learning about The Holy Spirit, Life after Death, Our Historical Beliefs and Life as a Christian. We need your help: If anyone has information about the stained glass windows in Wesley Hall, please come to 11:00 Sunday School and fill us in. We have lots of questions.

March is the time to be in Sunday School. Don't miss out!

Metroplex breakfast dialogues

(formerly the Men's Interfaith Bible Breakfasts)

Friday, March 14, at 8am

Canyon Creek Country Club

625 Lookout Drive, Richardson

There will be a breakfast discussion with Edward Thomas on "Managing U.S. Power: Looking Back to Look Ahead."

Breakfast Menu Selection \$8 (tax & tip included)

Important: RSVP by March 10th to:

Paul Slavik, 972-690-1479, or

Jerry Middents, 214-369-1981

**A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE 2003
APPORTIONMENTS OF THE NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE**

G E N E R A L C O N F E R E N C E

WORLD SERVICE:

the basic benevolence fund of our church, distributed to various program agencies by a precise formula to support their missional responsibilities. These agencies serve both as a resource to local churches and an extension of local churches in action on a national and world level primarily through World Service budgets.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND:

money for theological seminaries and continuing education programs with 75% being administered by the general church and 25% by our Annual Conference.

BLACK COLLEGES FUND:

financial help to upgrade the standards of buildings, facilities and operational expenses of the ten Black Methodist colleges and one Black Methodist medical school.

AFRICA UNIVERSITY FUND:

funds for the development of the first private university in sub-Saharan Africa.

INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION FUND:

the support for general church activities, ecumenical in nature, so that United Methodism might be in mission and ministry with other Christian communions.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND:

the funding of administrative work on the church's general level, including the cost of holding General Conference and financing church agencies administrative in nature.

EPISCOPAL FUND:

the salary, travel, and office expenses for the bishops of The United Methodist Church.

J U R I S D I C T I O N A L C O N F E R E N C E

LYDIA PATTERSON INSTITUTE:

a special project of the South Central Jurisdiction for the Mexican-American School in El Paso, Texas.

MT. SEQUOYAH ASSEMBLY:

support for our jurisdictional facility in Fayetteville, Arkansas, used as a retreat and training center.

JURISDICTIONAL ADMINISTRATION FUND:

funds for the support of the South Central Jurisdictional office located in Dallas.

SMU CAMPUS MINISTRY:

financial support, along with other annual conferences in the jurisdiction, for personnel and programs for the campus ministry at Southern Methodist University.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCES:

funds for the mission of the annual conference which includes creating congregations, equipping disciples and sending servants, as well as conference communications.

TEXAS METHODIST COLLEGES:

our financial contributions, together with those from other annual conferences in Texas, for financial aid for students and faculty at United Methodist colleges in Texas.

CAMPUS MINISTRIES:

financial support for programs and personnel in the link between our congregations and students on college campuses, including teaching Bible courses on state campuses.

INSURANCE SUBSIDIES:

supplemental funds for health insurance premiums for retired ministers and pastors and dependents whose salaries are below the denominational average compensation.

CAMPING & RETREAT FUND:

funds for camp and retreat programs including summer camps, as well as operating support and improvements of the Bridgeport Camp & Conference Center and the Texoma Retreat Center, both of which are owned and operated by our Annual Conference.

AREA AND CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION:

the operating budgets for the professional ministries and administrative agencies of the North Texas Conference and the Dallas Episcopal Area.

BOARD OF PENSIONS:

current pension payments for retired ministers who have served prior to 1982 in our Conference, the Comprehensive Protection Plan (disability and life insurance) for those currently serving, and Board of Pensions operating expenses.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS FUND:

the salaries, expenses, and benefits for the six district superintendents in our North Texas Conference, as well as the Cabinet Emergency Fund.

EQUITABLE COMPENSATION FUND:

financial support to enable ministers serving a local church appointment to have at least the minimum income with which to live and support their families.

MOVING FUND:

funds to assist congregations when there are moving expenses involved with a pastoral change. Guidelines are found on pages 213-216 of the 2002 Journal.

DISTRICT

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION FUNDS:

the source of income for the expenses and operation of the district offices and programs as well as providing upkeep on district parsonages. This amount is decided upon by individual districts.

Joys and concerns

Call Alice Cromwell, 972-239-7332, or email her at dallasal@swbell.net for any prayer concerns. These concerns will stay on the list for two weeks unless otherwise requested.

Hospitalized

Jasper Wright, Baylor,
Richardson
Kay Kee, Mesquite
Community

SVUMC Church Family

Gene Mundy
Bob & Darlene Twiss
Bob Hitch
Gwen Watson
Charlotte Muskopf
Sandra Guthrie
Georgie Ann Davis
W.L. Rowland

Extended Church Family

Louise Miller's father
David Mendoza's brother
Gary Stephens' son-in-law, John Patterson
Alice Cromwell's friend, Paul Grzybowski
George and Barbara McVay's friends,
Eddie Buford and Karl Young
Judy Hitch's friend, Bill Burch
Frank Rahm's uncle, Jack Rahm
Max and Betty Taylor's son, Jeff
Paula Huffaker's neighbor, Bev Johnson
Padmashree Pandey, Preschool student
Homebound members
Family and friends of SVUMC military
Those with ongoing concerns
Our Missionaries, the Savutos
Slany United Methodist Church

Congratulations to:

Jill and Paul Curbo in the birth of their
second daughter, Alexandra Grace "Alexa,"
on February 28.