

Behold!

Spring Valley United Methodist Church / Dallas, Texas



Vol. 9, No. 1 January 6, 2003

New Bible study

Rev. Don Barnes will be teaching a 14-session class on Philip Yancey's bestselling book, *The Jesus I Never Knew*. The class costs \$20, and includes the book and participant's guide. Yancey offers a different, new perspective on Christ's life, his work, teachings, miracles, death and resurrection, and ultimately who he was and why he came. *The Jesus I Never Knew* reveals a Jesus who is brilliant, creative, challenging, fearless, compassionate, unpredictable, and ultimately satisfying.

You are invited to this intriguing and thought-provoking class which looks into the life of Jesus. The class begins on January 16, and will meet on Thursdays from 10-11:30am. Call Sara Pair at 972-233-7671 to sign up.

United Methodist Women

The first UMW meeting of 2003 will be on Monday, January 13. Lunch is at 11:30 and the program begins at 12:15.

Our new president, Betty Hopper, and our new program chairman, Barbara Zoeller, are planning some great things for the coming year. Myrna Ridings will present the program about the VNA and Meals on Wheels. Come and hear how SVUMC supports these services. Please join us for lunch, fellowship, and inspiration for the New Year.



Beacon class news

The Beacon class will start a new year with a new teacher. John Dvorak will take the podium on Sunday, January 5, to lead the class in a new journey. The enterprise is a six-part series called "Exploration Into God."

Tentative itinerary for the journey:

Six Messages about the Journey

Traveling through "The Beginnings"

(12 stops in Genesis)

Traveling through the Life of Jesus

(4 main stops)

Exploring an Early Church Creedal Statement

Surveying the "Spiritual Gospel"

(The Gospel of John)

Exploring the Book of Acts

Those of you who know John and have heard him speak know that this will be a very inspirational study. So join the Beacons as John leads the class in "A Wise Man's Journey, A Journey Into God."

The Beacon class meets in Asbury Hall at 9:30 for fellowship and refreshments; the program starts at 9:45 with singing and the lesson. Join us!



Amelia Monique Hughes, baptized December 29. Parents are Andrew and Jennifer Hughes; grandparents are Roger and Jeanette Nail.

Slany worships in church Christmas Eve

Spring Valley's sister church, Slany UMC in the Czech Republic, needed to replace and repair windows because their sanctuary was too cold in the winter for worship. We, through your generosity, provided that money! The following is their "thank you."

"The hearts of all the brothers and sisters here at the United Methodist Church in Slany are overflowing with gratitude for the generous help you accorded us. December 15 we had an Advent concert and all of our guests could enjoy the wonderful Christmas songs in warmth and comfort because the window replacement was done by December 12.

We are looking forward to a December 24 Midnight Mass in the sanctuary after so many years. There will be a full house of people from Slany and environs, enjoying wonderful Christmas songs, music, and the Good News.

We are getting ready a gift for you to express our gratitude in a more personal manner. In the name of all of us in the Slany UMC, we wish you blessed Christmas and that God may be near you in every step you take in 2003.

In Christ's love, Pastor Pavel Kuchynka

Noteworthy news . . .



Question: How much fun can you have in one evening?

Answer: Tons!!!

Bonus: You can help support the Youth Singers for their choir tour to California with *Godspell*

Date & time: Sunday, February 9, 5pm

Place: Wesley Hall

Cost: \$10, children eat free (pizza), extra can be purchased

Entertainment: *Jazz INC*, Jazz Band from Custer Road UMC

Tickets on Sale: January 19

Sound of Music auditions

Tuesday, January 21, 6:30 until 9:00

Our summer musical will be a dinner theater on August 7, 8 and 9. There are places for children, youth and adults in the cast of *Sound of Music*.

Special Youth Singers' rehearsal, Friday, January 17

Youth Singers will have a Friday night rehearsal from 7 - 12:30 on January 17. We will rehearse music for *Godspell* and take publicity pictures. Frank Rahm and Rusty King will provide shuttle service to take the youth to their homes so parents don't have to come to the church at 12:30am!

We'd love you have you!

Children's choirs, for ages 4 through 6th grade, meet every Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30pm. Children are always welcome, at anytime throughout the year. Paula Huffaker, Nancy Guerra, and Michael McElroy would love to welcome new faces into the choirs as we celebrate our new year. Come to sing and ring, praise God, and join in the fun each week

Weekday preschool news

The Weekday Preschool/Kindergarten is back in full swing after the Christmas holidays. We'd like to introduce a couple of new staff members: Sara Guerrero is the new Lamb teacher (3-day 3s) and Janice Banks is the new Crayon co-teacher (along with long-time teacher Audrey Durante).

We're excited to have Sara & Janice on board.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, January 16 -- Chapel, 9:15 in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited.

Monday, January 20 -- No school (Martin Luther King holiday)

Thursday, January 23 -- Fun with Father night, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Monday, February 3 -- Fall registration opens to church members & current students. Be sure to check out the school web page at ww.svump.com. It contains great pictures and information on the school. As always, if you have questions, please call Carrilaine at 972-233-2317.



In the tunnel!

Children's Chatter!



Children's Council

Wow! I can't believe it has been one year since I became your Children's Director. It has been an incredible year. I love being in ministry with all of you. Spring Valley has taken steps to make Family and Children's Ministry a priority. We have lots of work ahead of us, and it will take all of us being involved with our children to make Sunday mornings the best! Sign up today on the Children's Ministry bulletin board to be part of Rotation Model Sunday School. It is the most fun of any ministry here at Spring Valley. There are two simple opportunities for you:

Center Leader - This is a one-month commitment to organize a center. Just follow the instructions in the curriculum and have fun.

Shepherds - This is a three-month commitment. We will assign you to an age group. The Shepherds show up on Sunday morning and follow their age group to the center and interact with the kids. There is no preparation. Sign up today and be a part of our wonderful Children's program on Sunday mornings.

Peace and Joy, *Connie Miller*

Seekers class

January 12 - Elzie Odom, director of Greater Dallas Community of Churches, will share how the GDCC works to bring all religious groups to work together on common interest projects.

January 19 - Ron Koo and his family have spent many years living in other parts of the world, especially Main Land China. Ron will share his church experience in other countries and cultures.

January 26 - Rev. John Ogden will be with us doing what he does best - telling stories of the church and of faith. John is now retired and the former pastor of First UMC, Richardson.

Aldersgate class

January 19 and January 26 - Jim Veach will teach Lesson 4, The Poetical Books and The Prophetic Books, from our study series, *30 Days to Understanding the Bible in 15 Minutes a Day!*

What's new with **YOUTH!**

Sunday, January 12

9:45am	Common Ground Worship
11am	Youth Sunday School
3:30pm	Youth Ringers
4:30pm	Youth Singers
5:30pm	\$3 Snack Supper
6-7:30pm	UMYF

What a great day we had in Youth Ministry on January 5! We had a big crowd at Sunday School with loads of enthusiasm. We had a tremendous Youth Council meeting with many new faces at Council for the first time. Youth Ringers & Youth Singers had awesome turnout and spirit. Our Winter Video Scavenger Hunt had so many people, not even two vans could hold everyone! There's a great spirit at Spring Valley Youth. With you there, it's even better!

Bible Study Announcement:

Starting January 14, a CHANGE is coming!! During the winter and spring months, Youth Bible Study will be part of Tuesday evening Youth Singers *Godspell* rehearsals. Dinner is at 6, Bible Study at 6:30, and rehearsal at 7. Even if you are not yet a part of Youth Singers, you are still encouraged to attend dinner and Bible Study. Bible Study will correspond to whatever *Godspell* scene is scheduled that evening. See you there!

MYF Info:

On Sunday, January 12th, Sarah Darnall will lead in a discussion on slavery in ancient Egypt, in American history and present day. Join us!

BIG BROTHERS & BIG SISTERS: Be sure to call your confirmand this week! Pray with them and for them. Make plans to get together.

Sunday School News:

Youth Sunday school is at 11am, Sunday, January 12. This winter, we are looking at work. Work? Yes, work, and how work is a part of our Christian life. This study will build on the Spiritual Practices lessons we had in the fall. Remember, we are looking for ways to become closer to God. We'll discuss "Who's the Boss?", "The Abundant Life" that comes from work, and how "Work can be a Witness to our Faith." Colossians 3:23-24 reads, "Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ."

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

Friday, January 17, Youth Singers Pictures and Choreography party until 12:30 a.m. Rides home provided by your church staff.

Sunday, January 26, Super Bowl Party at the DeFoes! A-L bring your favorite snack. M-Z bring a 2-liter drink.

Friday, January 31-Sunday, Feb 2 - Human Sexuality Retreat for all youth
Service Saturdays Are Back! A Saturday a month in Feb, March, & April
March 15 (tentative), Ronald McDonald House (service Saturday for March)
April 26, Amigos Days (Service Saturday for April)

April 4-6, Spring Spiritual Retreat, planned and led by our Seniors of 2003.



"Thanks" from VNA

Once again, Spring Valley contributed greatly to the Visiting Nurse Association's successful annual holiday project with 3,000 gift bags for Meals on Wheels clients, Hospice, and Home Care patients.

In addition to four days' use of Wesley Hall, which is a generous gift, church members gave gifts and/or volunteered time to sort, wrap, and pack gift bags. They are: Gerry Broome, Forest and Sue Cummings, Chita Baladad, Dick Ridings, Jay Mundy, Pearl Struthers, Rachel Edwards, Betty Hopper, Bill Furry, Joe Culver, Beverly Whitley, Johnathon Dickerson, Rhonda Huser, Elizabeth Kilgore, Barbeece Copeland, and Jane Sooter.

Special thanks to Gerry Broome and Betty Hopper who served as Table Captains, and to Dick Ridings, who assisted from "start-to-finish" for the entire time. If the recipients could together say "thank you," they would certainly "make a joyful noise" in expressing their appreciation to each of you!

Myrna Ridings, Co-Chair

(Please notify me if I have omitted your name.)

Noisy food for NETWORK, January 12

The Mission Core urges you to participate in the first 2003 collection (2nd Sunday each month) of non-perishable food for Richardson NET. Collection boxes will be in the hall on January 12.

To celebrate the New Year, you might like to bring "noisy" food such as dry beans, pasta, rice, etc. Of course, several cans clanging together are music to the ears of the recipients. In 2002, Spring Valley donated 3,639 pounds of non perishable food, \$2,675 in cash donations, and nearly \$500 to Mitzi the cow's fresh milk for the children's campaign. Thank you for being SO generous!

Austin Street Centre volunteers needed!

Sign up now to help serve breakfast to 360 homeless persons on Sunday, January 19. If you would like to volunteer to serve or to donate any food items, there will be a sign-up sheet on Sunday, January 12. Call Dana and Steve Taylor at 972-234-9867 for details.



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.

Hospitals:

Beverly Whitley,
Jackson Building
Sandra Guthrie,
Kindred Rehab

SVUMC Church Family

Vickie DiFiore
Bob Hitch
Kay Kee
Ross Sanders
Georgie Ann Davis
Gwen Watson
Molly Schrader

Extended Church Family

David Clegg's mother, Grace Clegg
Janis and Ted Dumas' daughter, Emelia
Terri and Paul Hartman's friend, Ryan Hill
Alice Cromwell's friends, the Besedesky family
Lola Copeland's uncle, Don
Paula Huffaker's neighbor, Bev Johnson
Beth Copeland's friend, Parkes Dibble
Lynna Frazer's father, Ayo Harris
Mark Smith's friend, Chris Robinson
Tracy Rahm's uncle, Vernon Hart
Homebound members
Those with ongoing concerns
Our Missionaries, the Savutos

Sympathy to:

Mary Chancellor and family in the death of her
uncle, Gene Suttles, in Marion, Alabama
Family and friends of David Evans, who died on
December 21
Erin Rogers and family in the death of her
grandmother

Congratulations to:

Charles and Nippy McManus, who celebrated
their 50th anniversary on December 27
Glenna Dodson and family, on the birth of a
grandchild