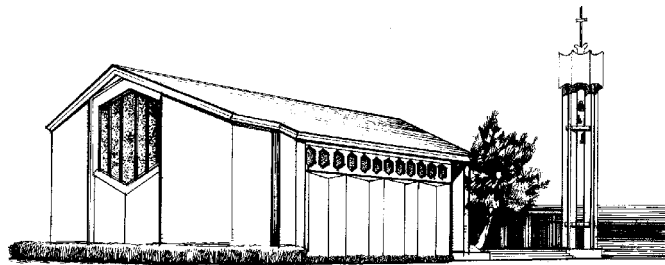


Behold!

Spring Valley United Methodist Church / Dallas, Texas



Vol. 8, No. 44 November 25, 2002

Preparing for Advent

Advent is a special time, a time of waiting and watching in hope-filled anticipation. Advent marks the beginning of a new church year as we celebrate anew the old, old story of the light of God's love being born in our world.

Please join us in these opportunities to share this season of joy:

First Sunday of Advent, December 1

Hanging of the Greens Services ~ 8:30, 9:45, 11:00am
Birthday Party for Jesus (2 yrs. – 5th grade) ~ 9:45am

Second Sunday of Advent, December 8

"Gloria" by Antonio Vivaldi ~ 8:30 & 11:00am
Weekday Preschool Choir ~ 9:45am
Youth and Family Christmas Dinner ~ 6:00pm

Monday, December 9

United Methodist Women's Christmas Luncheon,
"A Cup of Christmas Tea" ~ 11:30am

Third Sunday of Advent, December 15

Children's Choirs ~ 9:45 & 11:00am
Parsonage Open House ~ 2 – 5 pm

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22

Christmas Caroling ~ 6:00pm
Hot Chocolate Social ~ 7:30pm

Christmas Eve, December 24

Children & Family Service ~ 5:00pm
Carols, Candlelight, and Communion ~ 8:00 & 11:00pm
Handbell Concert ~ 10:30pm



In addition to these special services and activities, there will be **hot apple cider and cinnamon rolls** to welcome you as you arrive at church each Sunday morning! And you are invited to pick up from the loggia Welcome Center a copy of the **Advent devotional booklet** prepared especially for the churches of the North Texas Conference.

"Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart."

Christmas Cantata to be offered

December 8 at 8:30 and 11:00

Christ's coming among us will be celebrated in a beautiful way on Sunday, December 8. Our Chancel Choir members will be joined by Seasonal Singers and orchestra in offering Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria."

Soloists will be Jeanne Larranaga, soprano; Andrea Trent, soprano; and Nancy Meier, alto. Jeanne and Andrea will sing the duet, "Laudamus Te" (We praise you, Lord), and Andrea will offer "Domine Deus" (Lord God Almighty). Nancy will sing "Domine Deus, Agnus dei" (Lamb of God) and "Qui Sedes ad Dexteram" (Christ sits at the right hand of God).

This year's rehearsals of the "Gloria" have been enhanced through the contributions of Andrea Trent, soprano section leader, and Susan Denzer, accompanist; Jo Martens, alto section leader; Rusty King, tenor section leader; and John Tarver, bass section leader.

The Chancel Choir began preparing the Vivaldi work in August and will offer it as the Witness to the Word during morning worship. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us on Sunday, December 8, as the choir leads the congregation and together we sing "Gloria"!

Carillon Ringers perform at Old City Park on December 7

The Spring Valley United Methodist Church Carillon Ringers will play two one-hour programs at Old City Park, located at 1717 Gano near downtown Dallas from 6-7pm and 8-9pm. This is a wonderful time of year to visit the park, so come and support our ringers on December 7!



Visiting Nurse Association

holiday project

Workshop scheduled in Wesley Hall December 11 & 12

Spring Valley UMC will host the annual VNA Holiday Project for the 14th consecutive year! Dedicated volunteers from the community and our church walk into what looks like a drugstore warehouse filled with supplies and boxes. They magically transform plain and ordinary personal care items into pretty gifts for elderly, isolated, ill, and disabled persons in our community who might not receive other gifts. Gift bags are assembled for nearly 2,500 Meals on Wheels clients and 500 homebound patients, including hospice patients.

Donations of the following items are needed to complete the gift bags:

white tube socks	wash cloth
3.5-4.5 oz bar soap	8-13 oz bottle shampoo
chapstick	8-13 oz bottle hand lotion

Soap bars, shampoo, and hand lotion are urgently needed! You are invited to Wesley Hall to help bring the spirit of the holidays to patients receiving the bags. The best thing about helping is feeling the spirit of the holidays for you as well! This is a come-and-go activity; bring your friends and family if you like. Refreshments will be served for anyone willing to lend a hand! If you would also like to bring a snack or drink item for the refreshment table, that would be appreciated. The times are

Wednesday, December 11	Thursday, December 12
10am to 9pm	1pm to 9pm

Bring Christmas wrapping paper, scissors and tape. Questions? For additional information, call Myrna Ridings, 972-231-4435.

John Tarver's CD recordings available on Sunday, December 1

After months of preparation, John Tarver's first recording on the Thompson organ, *What Wondrous Love*, will be available for purchase starting December 1. It features a variety of music that showcases the many beautiful tones and moods the organ can produce. Also available will be a bonus CD available only to this congregation, *Organ Favorites*, featuring some specific requests by you (including *Blessed Assurance*)!

What Wondrous Love sells for \$15. Both recordings can be purchased for \$19; *Organ Favorites* will be \$6 if purchased alone. The first \$1 of each sale will be donated to the organ maintenance fund; the rest goes to the expenses of creating this project. Look for the table near the office on December 1 and 8. After that, the CDs will be available from the music or church office.

Giving update through November 24, 2002

January 1 - November 24, 2002 Pledge Commitments	\$830,760
Pledge income received through November 24	784,656
January 1 - November 24, 2002 Pledges Outstanding	46,107

As you are able, please fulfill your 2002 pledge commitment. Your faithful financial support is vital to the ministries and mission of your church.



Noteworthy news . . .

Sunday, December 1

8:30 Men's Choir,

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

11:00 Chancel Choir, *Sing Noel, Noel, Noel*

Poinsettias on sale now and next week

The Youth Singers will sell poinsettias for \$10 December 1 and 8; the flowers will be in the sanctuary on December 15 and 22. They can be picked up after the Christmas Eve services.

Chrismons

Thank you to all who worked so hard on the Chrismons! Our trees are beautifully decorated with many lovely Chrismons. There are, however, still a few missing; so if a Chrismon is hiding out at your house, please bring it by the church office. We will see that it gets on the tree. Also, we would love to have the sewing kits back for the additional Chrismons.

Gail Pettigrew

Welcome to our new member

Didier Gnahoua

3950 Spring Valley Rd. #631

Addison, Texas 75244

972-387-0919

Aldersgate program

Sunday, December 8

Something about Mary Can you imagine being a 13 or 14-year-old Galilean girl, betrothed to a young man you hardly know? An angel visits and says you will give birth to God's Son. How could Mary explain this coming event? How did her family feel? Why did she leave her home for six months and seek comfort with Elizabeth, the soon-to-be mother of John the Baptist? Cynthia Pharr will offer introductory comments, then we'll view a video from Beth Moore's Bible study, *Jesus, the One and Only*.

Is your pledge in yet?

November 17 was Commitment Sunday; and through November 19, we have received 231 pledges totalling \$801,550. Thank you for your generous response.

If you have not yet returned your commitment card, please do so as soon as possible. We are hoping to conclude the stewardship campaign by December 1.



What's up for YOUTH!

Sunday, December 1

- 9:45am Common Ground, Hanging of the Greens
11:00am Youth Sunday School
12:10pm Youth Council meeting, Lunch provided
3:30pm Youth Ringers
4:30pm Youth Singers
until 7:30pm UMYF – Top Secret lesson brought to us by
Ann Michele and Melissa!



MYF Info:

This Sunday, Melissa DeFoe and Ann Michele King have a terrific MYF planned. They have asked that the topic not be revealed, so be sure to come to UMYF this Sunday for a great time.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters:

Be sure to call your confirmand this week! Pray with them and for them. Make plans to get together.

Announcing summer missions 2003:

- Appalachia Service Project July 4-13
(Fireworks on the Mississippi River in Memphis, very cool!)
- Colorado Easter Seals July 26-Aug 3
(Camp Festival, just like in 2002)

Sunday School news:

Youth Sunday school is at 11:00 this week. This Sunday, December 1, we will start our series of lessons on Advent. Two Sundays ago, we established accountability groups for our spiritual disciplines. Be sure to pray for and talk with your accountability partners this week.

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

Sunday, December 8, Youth & Family Christmas Dinner, Wesley Hall, Free.

All youth are encouraged to bring parents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and cousins to this event. Please call the youth office at 972-233-7671, ext 18 to RSVP, so that we may have an approximate headcount.

Saturday, December 14, Dallas Mavericks game, tickets \$17, leave church 6pm, return 10:30pm. A waiting list is now forming for this event. It's church night at the Mavericks game, so we will be sitting with church youth from all over North Texas.

Friday, December 27, Ice Skating and Snow Day at the Rink in Addison. \$15. We'll leave the church at 12:30 p.m. and return about 3:00 p.m.

Friday, January 31-Sunday, Feb 2 – Human Sexuality Retreat for Junior High and Senior High Youth

Seeker class programs

- Dec. 1 Rev. Diana Holbert, Pastor to the Arts Community of Dallas
- Dec. 8 Rev. Owen Ross, former associate minister at Lovers Lane UMC,
now assigned as founding pastor of the Bachman Foundry Church
- Dec. 15 Christmas music by Max Taylor and Jeanne Larranaga
- Dec. 22 Our friends, Farouk and JoAnna Zaman tell of returning to Pakistan last spring and the necessity of coming back to the U.S.
- Dec. 29 Surprise! It's the last Sunday of the year, and you just never know what's in store for us!

Children's Chatter!

Sunday School in December



Our three and four year olds will be hearing the familiar stories of christmas; they will come to understand God's great redeeming love in the gift of Jesus. As children experience God's love for all people, they will be given opportunities to respond to God's gift of Jesus by sharing the Good News with others.

Elementary age children will be traveling to centers to learn about the gift of Jesus. They will experience the Christmas story from Luke's Gospel and create and recreate the story through a variety of age-appropriate activities that will incorporate all their "intelligences." Boys and girls will discover ways they can share this good news as a gift to others.

Birthday party for Jesus

On December 1st, two-year olds thru 5th grade will celebrate Jesus' birthday during the 9:45am Sunday School hour. We will eat birthday cake, sing, make an Advent craft, and hear the Christmas story.

Dobie Toy Drive

Please bring a toy for the Dobie Toy Drive. Dobie is a low-income school for Pre-K through 1st grade. Dobie will sort out the toys and give them to families that would not have gifts for their children. The best lesson we can teach our children is to give to others. Take your child with you to the store to purchase your gift. Let them help with the selection.

Suggested toys are board games like *Chutes & Ladders* and *Candyland*, dominos, balls, memory and learning toys, colors and colorbooks, etc. PLEASE, NO TOY WEAPONS. For more information, call Laura LaFrano, 972-788-2004.

A Cup of Christmas Tea

A Christmas luncheon, hosted by the United Methodist Women for all women of the church, will be December 9, 11:30am, in Wesley Hall. The cost is \$10 per person. Our guest speaker is the Reverend Valerie Knox-Mireb.

Buy your tickets now, one for you and one for a friend or relative. The lunch is catered by Cafe Max. We promise lots of fun, food, music, fellowship, and lots of door prizes!

Joys and concerns

Call Alice Cromwell, 972-239-7332, or email her at dallasal@swbell.net for any prayer concerns.

Hospitals:

Kay Kee, Mesquite
Community
Tatyana Massaquoi,
Children's Med. Ctr.
Ken Carter, Baylor
Sandra Guthrie,
Kindred Rehab
George McVay,
Presbyterian

W.L. Rowland
Georgie Ann Davis
Jan Andersen
Bob Hitch
Homebound members
Those with ongoing concerns
Our Missionaries, the Savutos

Extended Church Family

Eleanor South, former member
Paula Huffaker's neighbor, Bev Johnson
Anne Parrish's father
(Lauren Parrish's grandfather)
Janey Pieper, former member
Tracy Rahm's uncle, Vernon Hart

Karen Sumner's mother, Rosa Elliott
The Baughn family friend, Terry Ternet
Carol Baughn's aunt, Maggie Hammock
Carlos Nascimento's father and sister
Virginia Thomas' friend, Dolly Ockerstrom
Lola Copeland's nephew, Eric; and uncle, Don

Deepest sympathy to:

Nancy Troth & family in the death of her
daughter-in-law, Bren Troth
Mary Stocking and family in the death of her
husband, Sox
Greg Harris and family in the death of his
grandmother, Viola Craig
Roger Martens and family in the death of his uncle

SVUMC Church Family

Dottie Cheek
Jerry Rainey
Bob Morriss