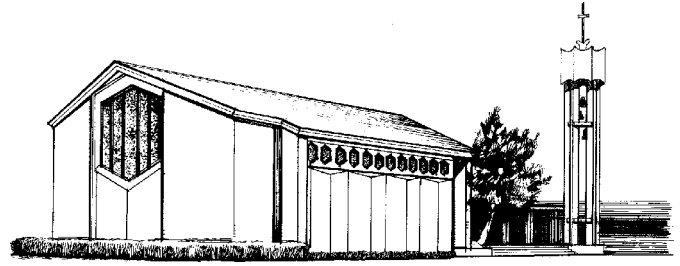


Behold!

Spring Valley United Methodist Church / Dallas, Texas



Vol. 8, No. 45 December 2, 2002

God seekers

"Thus says the Lord: Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it." --Jeremiah 6:16 (NRSV)

My trip out of the city was quite worrisome. After finishing my errand, I drove to where I thought the correct expressway entrance was. Instead, I saw a sign that read, "Freeway Ends." I was unfamiliar with that part of the city. As I searched for the correct expressway entry, I became nervous and confused. I felt lost. Finally, I saw the sign for the expressway I was looking for. In minutes I was home.

Being lost in the city made me think about people who are trying to find God but who cannot seem to find a way to connect. Worried, frustrated, confused, and hopeless, they look for a relationship with God. We can help these seekers find God by inviting them to a church service or activity, by allowing them to talk about the experience, and by including them in our circle of friends.

If you saw me driving my car that day, you might have thought I knew where I was going. Similarly, we may not know who is searching for God. In our everyday encounters, we may help a seeker find the way home.

Prayer: Lord God, help me to be obedient and useful in guiding seekers to you. Amen.

(This devotional was written by Spring Valley's own Lou Wilkin and appears as the December 16th reading in the November-December 2002 issue of "The Upper Room," a daily devotional guide published by The United Methodist Church in 44 languages.)



You are cordially invited to

Christmas Open House

*at the home of
Larry and Mickey George
7123 Winterwood Lane
Dallas, Texas*

**Sunday
December 15
2:00 -- 5:00pm**

***We've hung all the stockings,
and decorated the tree.
We've baked Christmas cookies
and brewed hot, spiced tea.***

***We've made preparations
and hope we will see
our friends and our neighbors
to greet merrily!***

This *open house* is our way of saying "thank you" for your love and support all year long.

Our home is only a mile and a half from Spring Valley -- two blocks south of Arapaho and three houses east of Hillcrest. We will look forward to welcoming you into our home Sunday afternoon.



Welcome new members!

Mike & Pam Metzger
Elizabeth (10)
Michael (6)
Emily (3)

6828 Meadowcreek
Dallas, TX 75254

972-385-9182

NET food collection

December 8

Anytime we come to Spring Valley we receive spiritual nourishment. A few of our neighbors seek out Richardson NETwork of Community Ministries for nutritional food. What an opportunity we have not only to drop a sack of food in the boxes, but also to do so with love and concern for those who are in need. Say a little prayer that the family who receives your food will indeed feel nourished.

Holiday gift for the person who has everything!

Dimes-a-Day Sunday December 15

As you offer your third-Sunday, Dimes-a-Day gift for missions on December 15, you may make your gift in a loved one's name. If you choose to do so, the Mission Core will acknowledge your gift in that person's name.

You may choose one or more of the following recipients if you wish:

- Bill and Jerri Savuto, our missionaries in Kenya
- Slany UMC, our partner church in the Czech Republic
- Austin Street Centre, a homeless shelter in Dallas
- Habitat For Humanity, builder of homes for low income families
- Meals on Wheels, a hot meal for elderly, homebound, and disabled
- Neighborhood Service Council, an after-school program for children

Thank you for your generosity and support in 2002 of these and other Dimes-a-Day programs.

Habitat

The Habitat house was dedicated on November 23. Thanks to all who participated in building the house. The annual Walk-a-Thon fundraiser is scheduled for February 22. The next house is scheduled to start on March 1, 2003.

December 8 - last day to get John Tarver's new CD

This coming Sunday, December 8th, will be the last Sunday you can purchase John's new CDs, "What Wondrous Love" and "Organ Favorites," recorded on the Thompson Organ. "What Wondrous Love" is \$15; "Organ Favorites" is \$6. The set can be purchased for \$19. A dollar from every purchase goes to the organ maintenance fund; the rest to defray the cost of producing the recordings. After Sunday, the CDs will be available through the music or main offices, or directly from John. Either or both would make wonderful Christmas gifts!

Giving update through November 24, 2002

January 1 - December 1 24, 2002 Pledge Commitments	\$846,000
Pledge income received through December 1	802,500
January 1 - December 1, 2002 Pledges Outstanding	43,500

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

New address for Doug and Roberta Tipton

Doug and Roberta Tipton

Atria Richardson

1493 Richardson Drive, #206

Richardson, TX 75080 Phone: 972-235-6882



Noteworthy news . . .

Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata

December 8, 8:30 and 11:00

Christ's coming among us takes many forms. Acts of kindness and love toward one another are one way. Singing Christmas carols together is another. Christ's coming will manifest itself in a beautiful way on Sunday, December 8. Our Chancel Choir members are feeling especially prepared which translates to a spiritual experience for all. They will be joined by Seasonal Singers and Orchestra. The orchestra will have six violins, two violas, two cellos, two string basses, trumpet, oboe and of course, our marvelous Thompson pipe organ so magnificently played by John Tarver.

Last day for poinsettia sales

Sunday, December 8

Youth Singers will have Poinsettias for sale for \$10. These can be purchased in memory or in honor of loved ones or may given simply to the glory of God. The profits help the youth for their summer choir tour. We will place the poinsettias in the sanctuary and Wesley Hall on December 15 and 22. They can be picked up after Christmas Eve services.



Carillon Ringers to play special concert Christmas Eve at 10:30

Preceding the 11pm service on Christmas Eve, our Carillon Ringers will play a thirty-minute concert. Some of the selections are: *West Indies Carol*, *Do You Hear What I Hear?*, *Coventry Carol*, *Silver Bells*, *Fum Fum Fum*, *We Three Kings*, and *Parade of the Wooden Soldiers*.

Craft items available December 8

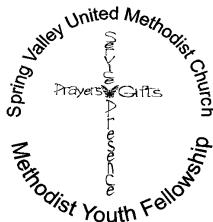
The Craft Room will be open Sunday from 9:30 - 12:30pm. We have a few Christmas wreaths and some great gift items. Stop by for some easy Christmas shopping!

Items will be for sale one last time after the UMW luncheon on Monday.

What's new with **YOUTH!**

Sunday, December 8

- 9:45am Common Ground Worship
11:00am Youth Sunday School
3:30pm Youth Ringers
4:30pm Youth Singers
6-8pm Youth & Family Christmas Dinner in Wesley Hall



MYF Info:

This Sunday, December 8, all youth and their families are invited to join us for a lasagna dinner in Wesley Hall to celebrate the season. It's our annual Youth & Family Christmas Dinner. There will be food, fun, fellowship, games, skits, singing, and more! All members of the family are welcome: parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, cousins, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces. There is no charge for this meal - just bring yourself and your family! We'll start serving buffet style at 6pm. The evening will conclude at 8pm. Please come. Please RSVP to the youth office right away at 972-233-7671, ext. 18.

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 11am this week. This Sunday, December 8, we will continue our series of lessons on Advent. We will discuss what Jesus taught about the new kingdom and relationships to each other. Read Romans 1:16-4:25 and 12:1-15:13 in your Bible to prepare.

Three Sundays ago, we established accountability groups for our spiritual disciplines. Be sure to pray 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 6 pm, return 10:30 pm. 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.

Children's Chatter!



For eBehold families

If you brought your toy donations to the Birthday Party for Jesus on Sunday. THANK YOU!!! If not, please bring them on Sunday. Remember we are weighing the toys to see if the toys outweigh our pastor, Larry George, before we take them to Dobie Primary.

Say "Yes" at Christmas

And Mary said, "yes" when the angel came. Not knowing all it would mean. For "Yes" was only the beginning. "yes" to giving birth in a cold, dark stable, while cows and sheep looked on. And Mary said, "yes, let it be." But do I? Do I say "Yes" when God calls to me? Oh, not through an angel who comes in the night, but maybe a pastor who asks if I'll teach a Sunday School class, or a former friend who calls to mend our broken relationship, or a stranger who wonders if I might spare some change for food. And for a moment as I ponder what to say, does God's purpose flicker like a flame in a sudden breeze, to be snuffed out by "no" or to burn even brighter with the power of "yes"? For "yes" is only a beginning. "Yes," I'll end a quarrel by forgiving another, and myself. "Yes," I'll share what I have with one in need. For somehow I know that even to the small questions, God needs to hear my "yes" as much as He needed to hear Mary's. Perhaps that's why Jesus comes to the world as a baby, a baby full of questions, needs and desires. When He asks to come into my heart this Christmas, will I say "Yes"?

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:

Tatyana Massaquoi,
Children's Med. Ctr.
Sandra Guthrie,
Kindred Rehab

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

Janey Pieper, former member
Tracy Rahm's uncle, Vernon Hart
Freda Clark's daughter, Sharon
Karen Sumner's mother, Rosa Elliott
The Baughn family friend, Terry Ternet
Lola Copeland's nephew, Eric; and uncle, Don
Adam Wood's father, Jack Wood

SVUMC Church Family

Dottie Cheek
Jerry Rainey
Ken Carter
George McVay
Kay Kee

Extended Church Family

John Tarver's friends, Dan & Arnoldo Terrazos
Eleanor South, former member
Paula Huffaker's neighbor, Bev Johnson

Deepest sympathy to:

The Mark Kearney family in the death of
Mark's father