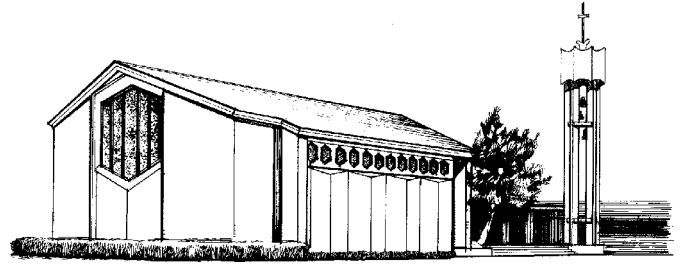


Behold!



Spring Valley United Methodist Church / Dallas, Texas

Vol. 11, No. 16 April 25, 2005

The following is the devotion for April 26, 2005 from the United Methodist devotional publication, "The Upper Room" and is written by Spring Valley member Lou Wilkin.

Welcome, new members!

Mark & Martha

Jacobson

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The God of Reconstruction - Read Micah 41:7

We are fortunate that our God has always been in the reconstruction business. In this passage, Micah records God's promise to rebuild Judah after its destruction by invaders is complete. The nation that has strayed from God's commandments and depended on its own wisdom and willful choices now faces ashes and death. God did not protect them from the consequences of their misdeeds. However, God, through Micah, gives a message of hope: after the destruction, God will rebuild.

We are a lot like Judah when we make selfish choices without consulting God. When we do so, we have a propensity to ruin what is good in ourselves, in others, and in our world. When our faith connection to God is broken, our perspective, like Judah's, becomes very different from God's perspective. We can make wealth and possessions in gods; we value things that God does not value. Eventually, unable to heal and restore ourselves, we turn to God, who loves us and begins the process of rebuilding our broken lives. God is good at rebuilding.

Prayer: Lord God, strengthen us so that we may avoid the temptation to follow our own desires instead of your will. When we fail and consequences come, we ask that you heal our brokenness and restore us to spiritual health. Thank you for being a God of reconstruction. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Doing things God's way can help us avoid the pain of reconstruction.

Upcoming events in May

May 1 ~ Senior Recognition, Traditional worship

Noon - Youth Senior Recognition Luncheon

6pm - Youth Showcase Talent Show &

Spaghetti Supper, requested donation of \$4 per person; \$15 family max

May 8 ~ Mother's Day

11am - Acolyte Recognition, Traditional

May 15 ~ Confirmation Sunday

Noon - Confirmation Banquet

6:30pm - *Esther-Ordinary Faith*,

Children's Choir Musical

May 22 ~ Recognition of Frank Rahm

Stephen Ministry Commissioning

May 29 ~ Memorial Day Weekend

Church offices closed on Monday.

UMW spring banquet nearly here

May 4 is the deadline to purchase tickets for the UMW Spring Banquet on Monday, May 9, at 6:30 in Wesley Hall.

The program will be presented by Pat Crenshaw, who shares her perspective as an alto soloist, music teacher and church music director in parody and song. Last year Pat was a big hit at the UMW banquet with her songs and costumes, and we are pleased to have her entertain again this year. Plan to bring a guest and enjoy dinner and entertainment for only \$10 per person. We promise a good time!



6th grade Confirmation class to sell Mother's Day flowers

The Confirmation class will sell carnation flowers for \$1.50 a stem on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 8.

The proceeds will help fund a special project, so come by the table and buy your mom or grandma a flower or two!



Youth News for the entire congregation

In partnership with the Spring Valley UMC Missions Core Process Group, Youth Ministries is pleased to announce that we will conduct another "Summer Toy Drive" for the children at Genesis Women's Shelter. Please bring new, unwrapped summer toys for children of all ages on Sundays, May 1, 8, & 15. Great summer toys are available at reasonable prices at Walmart or Target, and include things like hula-hoops, playdoh, matchbox cars, play balls, or bubbles. Like last year, we will distribute a letter to each adult Sunday school class asking that class to focus on a specific age group. Additionally, new swimwear for children of all ages and their mothers is requested.

We are also soliciting clothes, shoes, handbags, and costume jewelry that are suitable for women at the shelter to use on job interviews and on the job. If there are dresses and/or suits in your closet that you would like to donate, please have them dry-cleaned and bring them to the church. We will deliver our collections to the shelter on Saturday, May 21.

Mark your calendars:

- Sunday, May 1, 2005 - Senior Recognition Sunday
- 9:45am Sunday School (until 10:30am)
 - 11:00am Sanctuary Worship: Youth Singers are singing. Graduating seniors are preaching.
 - 12:30pm Luncheon in Wesley Hall for all youth, the Graduating Seniors, and the seniors' families. At this luncheon, we will share in the celebration of our seniors and the widely anticipated Senior Video.
 - 6:00pm Showcase!! Youth Singers talent show with spaghetti dinner for the entire congregation.

Sign-Up NOW for Summer Mission trips. All youth who have completed 9th grade are encouraged to sign up NOW for **Appalachia Service Project**. The trip is July 8-17. As a Christian ministry that builds homes "on the side," this is a tremendous mission trip. The cost to register is \$60 each.

All youth who have completed 7th grade are encouraged to sign up NOW for the **Colorado Easter Seals** trip. This is a fantastic opportunity to be in service to other teens who are blessed in alternative ways. The cost to register is \$95 per youth, which includes the price of your ticket to Six Flags in Denver. As always, scholarships for these trips are available, and please note: the DEADLINE to register for these trips is **May 15**.

Prime Timers want you!

Ten Spring Valley Prime Timers enjoyed an outing to the Dallas Arboretum on Wednesday, April 20. Gene Harrell fearlessly drove the church van and Myrna and Dick Ridings were our very knowledgeable tour guides.

Our next outing will be Thursday, May 26, when we will ride DART downtown to visit the Sixth Floor Museum and the new Holocaust Museum. Mark your calendars now, and plan on a great time with us!



Noteworthy news

Upcoming Music

May 1

- 8:30 & 11am, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*
bell solo, Ann Michele King, Melissa DeFoe and Amanda Nicholas
- 8:30 Men's Choir, *Here I Am, Lord*
- 11:00 Youth Singers, *Song of Joy, Song of Praise*
- 8:30 Men's Choir,

When We Are Called to Sing Your Praise

- 11:00 Youth Singers, *Song of Joy, Song of Praise*

May 8

- 8:30, Choral Ensemble, *Gift of Love*
- 11:00 Chancel Choir, *Gift of Love*

May 15

- Chancel Choir, *We Thank You, God, for Teachers*



Youth Singers annual talent show and spaghetti dinner is coming

Enjoy a delightful evening of talent, preceded by a delicious spaghetti dinner with salad and garlic bread on Sunday, May 1, 6pm Wesley Hall.

Children's news...

North Texas

Conference camp is coming!

If you've completed 3rd, 4th, or 5th grades you can attend Church Summer Camp at Bridgeport! We will go the week of June 21-25. To register, visit www.bridgeportcamp.com for details. Call Jan and let her know you've registered for camp.



We have a new class on Sunday mornings for children 18 months - 36 months (3 yrs). The class, in Room 172, is from 9:45am-10:45am. It teaches God's love through songs, stories, arts and crafts, and creative and dramatic play. Come join us!

Ranch House Kids VBS is July 18-22

9 am — Noon

VBS registration for children and volunteers begins this Sunday, May 1. Look for the sign-up table!



NET Food collection is May 8

How appropriate that on Mother's Day we can share non-perishable food with our neighbors in RISD who are experiencing a tough time in their life! When we recall our childhood image of Mother, isn't it often about food? She's in the kitchen making dinner, cooking special desserts, or sitting at the table over cookies and milk listening to how your day went. Today, some Mothers won't be cooking dinner because there's no money for food. A few families will find their way to NETWORK of Community Ministries, Inc. and receive food to last a few days. In May, 2004, 34,347 lbs. of food were distributed to clients.

We can help! On May 8, Mother's Day, bring food to place in the hallway containers. Monetary donations can be put in the offering plates or left in the business office. For more information about NET go to: www.thenetwork.org.

Spring Valley's Habitat Saturday coming soon

Saturday, May 7, will be the *next and final* workday for Clarence Johnson's Habitat home. Our church will be providing lunch that day. Please plan to join us for the last workday and to take the opportunity to meet Mr. Johnson. No SVUMC volunteers are needed on April 30. Come and join the fun!!



Wilkinson Center having benefit

Star Jones, TV's co-host on *The View*, will be the celebrity speaker on June 7 at the Wydham Anatole Hotel. All proceeds will benefit the Wilkinson Center, a joint ministry of Munger Place UMC and the East Dallas Cooperative Parish where 20,000 persons are served each year. To learn more about this ministry, go to www.wilkinsoncenter.org. For ticket information, call 214-821-6380.

A word of appreciation...

As improvements continue to be made on the second floor of the Education Building, we want to thank those who have repainted the hallway: Roger Martens, coordinator, and his crew of Paul Christley, Ben Dickerson, Larry and Mickey George, and Robert and Elizabeth Gross. The Trustees

Star presented at Appletree Court on April 16



From left, gypies are: Amanda Nicholas, Emily King, Emily Rahm, & Ann Michele King

Join us for Sunday school

Beacon Class

"Living the Resurrection Life in a Post-Easter World "

May 1 - "God's Ownership and Man's Obedience"

May 8 - "God's Gifts and Man's Gratitude"

May 15 - "How to Get the Most out of Church"

May 22 - "Sheep...or Gnats?"

May 29 - "For This I Was Born"

Christian Parenting - Room 210

This class is studying Dawn Billings' book, *Greatness and Children*

Fellowship Bible Class - Room 216

We will begin *Life Together*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, on April 24. Come join us. Questions? Contact Bill and Lou Wilkin, 972-392-1486.

Aldersgate Class - Room 206-08

Robert Gross is teaching each Sunday in April, using the theme of "The Life of Christ."

May 1 - Speaker will be Jason Smith, "Life with the U.S. Army during the Iraq War, Images of Iraq Culture, Shrines & Mosques"

May 8 - Dr. Larry George - We will hear our Senior Pastor's perspective on his new position as district superintendent.

Parents of Teenagers - Room 192

All interested parents are invited to attend. This class is designed to be a fellowship and support group for parents of teenagers.

Do you like a good story?

One with a heroine, a hero, and a villain? Then we have the perfect event coming up for you. Our Spring Valley Children's Choirs will present the story of Esther and her great faith in *Esther-*



Ordinary Faith on Sunday, May 15, at 6:30pm in Wesley Hall. Come see the children as they tell the story of the heroine, Esther, the hero, Mordecai, and the villain, Haman. See you there!

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

Sue Polson

SVUMC Church Family

Mildred Eubanks

Catharine Gebhardt

Ann Michele King

Randy Smith

Homebound members

Extended Church Family

Annalise DeFrank

Bethann DeFoe's mother

Betty Hopper's son, Gary

The Simonsen family's friend, Grace Thiel

Gerry Broome's father, George Gordon

Tom & Donna Campbell's friend,

Gary Wilson, and his daughter, Ashley

John Dvorak's son and daughter-in-law,

Johnny & Lillian

Jo Alice Patton's friend, Sandi Frank

Pat Johnston's friends, the David Gilbert family

Gina Tucker's father, George Huggins

Janetta Grantham's father, Melvin Stevens

Jan Hudgins' grandmother, Beth Mayberry

All persons serving in the military

Our missionaries, the Savutos

Slany United Methodist Church

Those with ongoing concerns

Sympathy to:

Steve DeFoe and family in the death of his mother