

Behold!



Spring Valley United Methodist Church / Dallas, Texas

Vol. 10, No. 49 December 13, 2004

All-Church Christmas Dinner scheduled for Dec. 19

Our Spring Valley family of faith is invited to gather in Wesley Hall this Sunday evening, December 19, at 6pm for an **all-church Christmas dinner**. The cost is only \$5/person or a maximum of \$12/family for a meal of Baked Ham, Holiday Green Beans, Sweet Creamed Corn, Gelatin Salad, Rolls, and Assorted Pies.

In addition to good food, we will enjoy great table fellowship and special music of the season as we sing carols led by Rusty King, hear Christmas songs by Paula Huffaker and Max Taylor, and share a special "star story" with the children. Please join us for this opportunity for "the whole family" to be together in this joyous season!

Christmas Eve services schedules

The eve of our Savior's birth will be a wonderful night at Spring Valley with three very special services:

5:00pm ~ A Family Christmas Celebration, with Children's Choirs offering "Miracle at Midnight" and everyone joining in the singing of carols and the sharing of Holy Communion, concluding with candlelight. Visiting children and others who are not in the choirs will be invited to don costumes as Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, or Wise Men and join in the pageant.

8:00pm ~ Carols, Candles and Communion will be celebrated in the sanctuary, with the Youth Choir offering special music

11:00pm ~ Preceded by a handbell concert beginning at 10:30pm, this sanctuary service will also celebrate carols, candles and communion, with the Chancel Choir offering special music.

A nursery will be provided during the 5pm and 8pm services, and all children will receive a special Christmas book as a gift from the church.

Christmas Sunday offers fellowship opportunity

On the day after Christmas, Sunday, December 26, we will hold an all-church brunch in Wesley Hall at 10am, followed by worship in the sanctuary at 11am. Dress is casual; friends and family are welcome, and this is a great time to share your Christmas left-overs! Anna Hosemann-Butler will preach, and there will be a special story for the children, as we continue the celebration of our Savior's birth.

Among your gifts for Christmas giving...

...is there a pledge to help "Extend God's Path" in 2005?

Goals:	Pledges	340	Gifts	\$1,200,000
As of Dec. 13:	Pledges	290	Gifts	\$ 943,200



Dobie toy drive helps many for Christmas

Our annual Dobie Toy Drive was a great success this year! Many families and their children will have a wonderful Christmas, thanks to the generous efforts and donations from Spring Valley



members. After several weeks of collection, the 350+ toys were delivered on December 13 to Dobie Elementary School for the children.

Helping in the delivering were: (left to right) Doug Sandstedt, Max Taylor, David Willis, Tammie Wanning, Alice McElroy, Frank Rahm, and Alice Cromwell.

Thank you again for making this toy drive so successful. There will be some bright Christmas because of your efforts!

Common Ground drama slated for Dec. 19

A special Advent liturgical drama entitled "Speaking of Angels" will be presented during worship in Common Ground on Dec. 19. The story is based on the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 1, and is a dialogue between the two archangels, Michael and Gabriel, about the pending birth of the Messiah.

Common Ground, Spring Valley's contemporary worship service, is held each Sunday at 11am in Wesley Hall. All are invited to this presentation.

What's Up For YOUTH

Sunday, December 19

9:45 am Sunday School

11 am Worship

3:30 pm Youth Ringers

4:30 pm Youth Singers

6:00 pm All Congregation Christmas Dinner in Wesley Hall.

Sunday School this week will be a special lesson about the prophets and Advent. Be sure to join us. Yule be glad you did!

Our December visit to Genesis Women's Shelter has been moved to Wednesday, December 29. We'll leave the church at 6:30pm and we'll return at 8:30 pm. Please make plans to join us.

Mark your Calendars:

Dec. 19 All-Congregation Christmas Dinner in Wesley Hall, 6pm

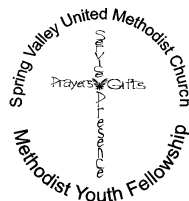
Dec. 24 Youth Ringers & Youth Singers in the 8:00 pm worship service

Dec. 29 Genesis Women's Shelter, 6:30pm

Jan. 12 Genesis Women's Shelter, 6:30pm

Jan. 21 Youth Singers rehearsal, choreography, ½ lock-in

Jan. 30 Mardi Gras Madness!!



Join us for Sunday school

Fellowship Bible Class - Room 214

We always welcome new faces. Everyone is invited. Call Bill or Lou Wilkin, 972-392-1486.

Friends - Room 216

Dec. 19 - "Something About Mary," what you may not know about the Mother of Jesus, led by Cynthia Pharr Lee

Prodigals Class - Room 212

(formerly the College Class) This class has begun a correspondence ministry with people on active military duty who are connected to Spring Valley. Please call Rev. Anna Hosemann-Butler at the church, ext. 19, with contact information for additional personal.

Seekers - Room 200

Dec. 19 - Christmas program with Max Taylor and Paula Huffaker

Wesleyan Class - Dining Room

Dec. 19 - Jim Veach

Aldersgate Class - Room 206-08

Dec. 19 - Herb Lee will present Lifestyle Questions, the Win-Win lessons extracted from the writings of Dr. David J. Demko, a gerontologist and editor of "Age Venture News Service."

Beacon Class - Asbury Hall

Dec. 19 - Stars beget journeys

Christian Parenting - Room 210

Dec. 19 - "Win/Win" from "Habits of Highly Effective Families"

"Amahl and the Night Visitors" tickets available now

Richard Etheridge, Dave Jones, Ellis Ozley and Mark McElroy will play the three kings and the page in this production. It is a story about a crippled boy and his widowed mother who are visited by these men on their way to see the Christ child.



Performances are Jan. 6, 7, and 8 at 7:30 in Wesley Hall. Tickets are \$10 each and are available for purchase.

Two new adult Sunday school classes to begin

Rev. Don Barnes will teach a 10-week course by Philip Yancey entitled *What's so Amazing about Grace?* beginning on Sunday, Jan. 9, in the Dining Room and sponsored by the Wesleyan Class. Reservations are needed to have books for everyone.

On Sunday, Jan. 16, a new class for parents of youth will begin and is open to any parent of a teenager. It will be held in Room 192 on the first floor, down the hallway from the children's classrooms. Contact Rev. Anna Hosemann-Butler, ext. 19, for details or questions.

All Classes: Remember the all-church Christmas Brunch in Wesley Hall at 10am on December 26.

Visiting Nurse Association holiday project is here!

Workshop scheduled in Wesley Hall for December 15 & 16

Spring Valley UMC is hosting the annual VNA Holiday Project for the 17th consecutive year! As usual, the activity will fill Wesley Hall with supplies, boxes, wrapping paper, and most important of all, caring dedicated volunteers. Volunteers from the community and from our church jump into what looks like a warehouse and then magically transform plain and ordinary items into prettily wrapped gifts for elderly, isolated, ill, and disabled persons in our community who might not receive other gifts. Gift bags are assembled for nearly 2,800 Meals-on-Wheels clients and 1,300 homebound patients, including hospice patients.



You can participate in two ways. First, we need donations of the following items to complete the gift bags:

white tube socks *3.5-4.5 oz bar soap* *8-13 oz bottle hand lotion*
toothbrush *2.7-4.6 oz tube toothpaste* *8-13 oz bottle shampoo*
wash cloth

10 sheets paper, 5 envelopes, and one pen wrapped together

Secondly, you are invited to come to Wesley Hall and assist in bringing the spirit of the holidays to patients who receive the bags, which also brings the spirit of the holidays to each of 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! Times for the workshops are:

Wednesday, December 15

10am to 9 p.m.

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

Thursday, December 11

1pm to 9 p.m.

Attention CPA's & Auditors

The Finance Committee is looking for an individual or a small firm to audit the SVUMC financial statements for 2003 and 2004.

If you know anyone, call either Will Tucker, Finance Committee Chair, 972-980-2313, or Kim Kesler, Spring Valley Treasurer, 214-707-6099.

Mardi Gras Madness restaurant survey update

You can go to the church's web page and click on this web address - http://www.svumc.org/mgm_poll.html.

There you will find a survey of area restaurants. We are trying to get information about the restaurants that our members frequent, so that when we solicit these establishments for gift certificates for the silent auction, the managers will know that Spring Valley supports their restaurants. Just go to the web page and follow the directions. We appreciate your help in advance.



Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, Jan. 30th at 4:30** for our annual Mardi Gras Madness celebration! Tickets will go on sale in early Jan., so get together with friends and make plans to attend. Proceeds from this event benefit our total youth program.

VBS, July 18-22, 2005, 9-Noon



Ranch House Kids, Adventure of the Open Door

Join us at the Circle G Ranch where God's love is at the center and the love never ends.

Children at the Circle G Ranch will:

- * know God's door is always open
- * discover an open Bible is an open door to God
- * encounter the love of Jesus
- * share God's open door with others

Mark your calendar today and plan to lasso some fun with your friends at the Circle G Ranch! For more information or to volunteer contact Jan Hudgins, Director of Children and Family Ministries 972-233-7671.

NOTEworthy news

Upcoming Music



Dec. 19

8:30 & 11:00

Chamber Singers, *Gesu Bambino*

11:00 Carillon Ringers, *Carol for all Seasons*
& *Coventry Carol*

11:00 Chancel Choir, *Love Came Down at Christmas*

Dec. 26

11:00 Chancel Choir, *Sing We Noel & Little Jesus*

Jan. 2

8:30 Men's Choir, *From a Distant Home*

11:00 Chancel Choir, *From a Distant Home*

"Second Helping" event slated

Wednesday, Jan. 12 - Todd Whitthorne, Dallas television personality, President/CEO of Cooper Concepts, will talk about nutrition and wellness.

"Second Helpings" is a monthly time of food, fellowship, and learning on the second Wednesday of every month throughout the year. A tasty meal is served at 5:30, followed by a topical speaker at 6:30. Childcare is provided, and reservations are required for the meal, which is \$4.50/person, maximum \$15/family. For details, call Rev. Anna Hosemann-Butler, ext. 19.

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:

Sandra Guthrie

SVUMC Church Family

Fayrene Pospisil

Oliver Axtell

Frances Ward

The Maddison family

Prissy Shaffer

Alex Huffaker

The Hartman Family

Homebound members

Thank you...

... to Ellen Cain for once again loaning us some of her beautiful and unique nativity scenes for the loggia display cabinets.

Extended Church Family

Brooks Haney's friend, Dr. Dan Stewart

Buz La Frano's mother, Sue La Frano

Mark & Dana Wood & Taylor & Paige

Hartgraves' friend, Regan Singfeld

Stephanie King's brother-in-law's brother,

Wayne Tompkins

Barbara Crockett's brother, Emil Nesuda

Gerry Broome's father, George Gordon

Dana Taylor's mother, Caren Dumler

Don Barnes' cousin, Elizabeth Moore

Kurt McEnaney's father, Dan McEnaney, and

Kurt's friend, Doug Hale

Elizabeth Wood's grandmother, Janet Wilkinson

Hartman family's nephew, Scott Bailey,

and cousin's son, Jamey O'Connor

Alan & Jeanne Moore's friend, Judy Moore

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

Johnny and Lillian

Jerry and Patti Malone's son-in-law

All persons serving in the military

Our missionaries, the Savutos

Slany United Methodist Church

Those with ongoing concerns

Deepest Sympathy to:

Joyce Covey, family and friends, in the death

of her husband, Irwin Covey

Lola Copeland, family and friends, in the death

of her friend, Scott Hudgins

Congratulations to:

Scott Somers' son, Jeff Somers, who received

his biology degree from SMU