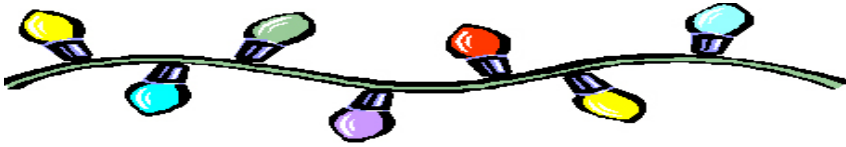


Behold!



Spring Valley United Methodist Church / Dallas, Texas

Vol. 11, No. 45 December 19, 2005



Merry Christmas from your staff!



Welcome, new member!

Riis Christensen
7520 Larchview
Dallas, Texas 75254
972-392-3903



Thoughts of Christmas...

Can we find the JOY of Christmas
in a year of floods and sorrow?
Can we find time for thanksgiving
when we've lost hope for tomorrow?

For this we have the answer
given freely, without cost—
The baby Jesus, homeless, too
was feeling sad and lost.

But with his birth on Christmas day
came freedom from despair—
Homeless or in castles lay
in God we find our care.

This is the gift he gives us—
the knowledge of his love
that brings the JOY of Christmas—
a present from above!

To my friends at SVUMC,
with love and thanksgiving.

Lenora Pitcher

Come Sunday...

common ground

Traditional Worship

Christmas Eve, December 24

Luke 2:1-20
Waiting for God:
The wondrous gift is given
Holy Communion &
Candlelight service

Christmas Day, December 25

11am Christmas morning
John 1:1-14
Yet the world did not know him
Dr. Anna Hosemann-Butler

New Year's Day, January 1, 2006

Acts 28:11-15
Subject to Change
Rev. Carlos Nascimento

Matthew 2:1-12
2006 CMB
Dr. Paul L. Escamilla

What's up for YOUTH...

Hey everybody!

Only a few days left!!! Christmas is almost here. What a wonderful time it was to be together last Sunday for Christmas dinner. "Thank you" go out to so many parents who volunteered to get everything together. It was a truly marvelous time to be together. Have a wonderful Christmas break and enjoy your time off!

December

24 - Youth singers led in Christmas eve service 8pm, Christmas Eve services at 5, 8, and 11

25 - CHRISTMAS - NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES and NO youth SUNDAY SCHOOL. Combined worship at 11am in Sanctuary

January

1 - Back to regular Sunday School

- No UMYF

8 - UMYF

15 - UMYF

22 - UMYF

29 - UMYF

February

5 - Super Bowl party @ LaFranos' home

Mark Your Calendars!!!

Mardi Gras Madness - February 12

Mixed Mid-Winter Retreat- February 17-19

Spring Retreat - March 3-5

IMPACT Florida this summer will be June 24 - July 2. IMPACT is open to all youth (Jr. and Sr. High).

Appalachia Service Project this summer will be July 7 - July 17. ASP is for Sr. High only.

We have a lot going on here at SVUMC. If you have questions, call us or send us an email - our door is always open. MTLBYAKY, Jared and Megan

Christmas schedule for services

Christmas Eve: Sanctuary services at 5, 8, 11pm

Christmas Day: Sanctuary, 11am. A Pre-Service handbell concert will start at 10:30pm. The Carillon Ringers will share music that includes *While By My Sheep*, *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*, *Las Campanas de la Navidad*, and *Do You Hear What I Hear*. Part of the service will be a Christmas carol request time where you may request your favorite song. Children & Youth will not have Sunday school on Christmas Day. Adults classes who wish to meet need to notify the office and provide their own refreshments and beverages. Thanks, Anna Hosemann-Butler



Charge Conference postponed

Our annual Charge Conference has been postponed until January 9, 2006. Please save that date for a special visit with Dr. Ron Henderson and a night of music with our youth band, **Risen!** Thank you.



NOTEworthy news...

Sunday, December 25

Chancel Choir,

The Shepherd's Farewell

Solo, *Some Children See Him*

Hymns

No. 234 *O Come All Ye Faithful*

No. 219 *What Child is This?*

No. 240 *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

No. 251 *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

Christmas Eve: Sanctuary services at 5, 8, 11pm

Handbells perform at 10:30pm

A Pre-Service handbell concert will start at 10:30pm. The Carillon Ringers will share music that includes *While By My Sheep*, *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*, *Las Campanas de la Navidad*, and *Do You Hear What I Hear*.

Favorite Christmas Carol sing

Christmas Day: Sanctuary, 11am. Part of the service will be a Christmas carol request time where you may request your favorite song.

Calling all children!

The Children's Music Ministry will be starting Spring semester rehearsals on January 11. Grades 1-6, come at 6:30 p.m., and ages 4 and 5, come at 6pm. We will begin rehearsing for our spring musical! What is the spring musical? Read in the next Behold! what it will be!!

Church holiday hours posted

Monday, December 26: Offices Closed

Tuesday, December 27 through Friday, December 30, offices open 9-12pm

Monday, January 2: Offices closed

Tuesday, January 3: back to regular schedule

*Contributions for 2005 tax year will be accepted until noon, January 6, '06

Extending God's Path

YTD Budget: \$976,678

Total received to date 952,931

Received Dec. 18 24,399

Attendance 469

Give God what's right, not what's left



SVUMC "historians" needed

Our church will celebrate its 50 year anniversary in 2007. We already have "The Spirit of Spring Valley," given by Bobby Detwiler, that gives us a history of the church to 1986; but we need volunteers to fill us in on what happened after 1986. We also need someone to go through old pictorial directories and pictures to document special events in the life of the church.

Our goal is to prepare a book and compact disk that tells the story of Spring Valley United Methodist Church from its beginning to present. In addition, we will prepare a PowerPoint presentation of pictures to show during the anniversary festivities. If you are interested, please contact Paula Huffaker at the church office 972-233-7671, e-mail phuffaker@svumc.org.

Celebration cookbook planned

We still need your recipes for our Spring Valley United Methodist Church cookbook! Please type or print your favorite recipe(s), sign your name, and turn it in ASAP. A basket is in the office to collect the recipes, or you can mail them to the coordinators listed below. The deadline is January 30, 2006.



Prissy Shaffer 709 Hyde Park Richardson, Tx.75080	Barbara Zoeller 7652 La Verdura Richardson, TX75080	Betty Hopper 13416 Mill Grove Dallas, Tx. 75248
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svcookbook@sbcglobal.net barbarazoe@sbcglobal.net ladyhop7@sbcglobal.net

New pictorial directory planned

It is time once again to do a pictorial directory for the Spring Valley Faith family. Representatives from PCA, a nationally recognized photographic company, will be here for two weeks in late January to take pictures, which can be purchased if desired. Sign-up sheets are on the tables in the Loggia and in Wesley Hall. Make your appointment now.



We Are the Church! Stewardship Update

2005 Pledges	904,839
2006 Pledges, so far	1,035,922
Increase over 2005 pledges, <i>including new pledges</i>	211,157
% Increase	25.6%
Increase from 2005 to 2006 pledges	91,290
Increase	9.7%
No. of pledges received so far	302
Missing pledges from 2005 pledgers	55
Projected 2006 Pledge, based on continued giving, 2005 levels	1,115,996
No. of new pledges	69
No. of people raising pledge, not including new pledgers	130
No. of people decreasing pledge	29
No. of people maintaining 2005 level	74

If you have not yet turned in a pledge card, please prayerfully consider what your part can be in Spring Valley's future for 2006.

Join us for Sunday school

An updated list of all Sunday school classes is now available at the Visitors desk. Some current offerings include:

Aldersgate Class - Room 206-08

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day - No Sunday school.

Jan.1 - New Years Day - No Sunday school.

Jan. 8 - Robert Gross - "In the Beginning"

Beacon Class

"The Journey Into Christmas"

Lessons are based on the four Advent Candles: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Dec. 25 - No Class

Christian Parenting - Room 210

We are studying Dawn Billings' book, *Greatness and Children*.

Quest Class

Join us as we study the book of Revelation.

Seekers Class

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day, No Sunday school

Jan. 1 - Annual brunch, music by Janet Williams

Jan. 8 - Dallas biblical Arts Center, Scott Peck

Jan. 15 - Windows to God, Martha Jacobson

Jan 22 & 29 - Forest of the Faith: Biblical

Summaries of Christianity, Matt Ridings

S.P.O.T. - Spiritual Parents of Teens,

formerly **PARENTS OF TEENS** - Room 192

We are reading *The Five Love Languages of Teenagers* by Gary Chapman.

Time to get your nametag

We still have many nametags that people have not claimed. For those in the Common Ground service, check the Communications office and see if your nametag is there. Thank you.

Turkeys For NETwork

Network Of Community Ministries will gladly accept turkeys through December. Bring your turkeys to the SVUMC kitchen freezer (next to Wesley Hall). Please label for NETwork for Community Ministries. Or you can take it directly to NETwork at 741 S. Sherman St., Richardson (north of Spring Valley, east of Central Expy).



Human Sexuality Workshop planned for 5th and 6th graders



A Human Sexuality Workshop for 5th and 6th graders will be held on March 2, 3, & 4, 2006. The curriculum used for this workshop is *Created By God* and is published by Cokesbury. The facilitator of the course will be Mary Bishop. Mary has been certified by the North Texas Conference to teach this course and is on staff at Highland Park United Methodist Church. The cost of the course is \$35 for each participant and includes a book and lunch on Saturday. God is at the center of the approach to this course. The course affirms the Creator who brought us into being and the creative process by which that has taken place is celebrated. By offering this course the church demonstrates its belief in the goodness of the human creation and speaks directly to the issues of moral responsibility. The lessons draw on biblical stories and passages that affirm growth and change as part of God's plan for life; recognizing and celebrating sexuality as a good gift of God; suggest guidelines of love-filled relationships; challenge young people to assume responsibility for making careful choices; and lift up a God who is infinite in love and forgiveness. The course also seeks to facilitate communication between the children and their parents and to provide a safe place to ask questions and share experiences.

Thursday evening is a parent meeting with Mary to give parents an overview of the program and an opportunity to ask questions. 5th and 6th graders meet together on Friday evening from 6-9pm and on Saturday from 9-4pm. Sign up forms will be provided in January. For information about the course or to preview the curriculum contact Jan Hudgins at 972-233-7671 x20.

Austin Street Centre breakfast is January 15

Spring Valley will serve breakfast to the homeless on Sunday, Jan. 15. This vital ministry is an important part of our mission program. For details, call Steve or Dana Taylor, 972-234-9867.

Meals-on-Wheels needs drivers

We still need drivers for the 2006 Meals-on-Wheels schedule. The routes we need to cover are in East Richardson on Wednesdays (in week that has second Monday) every other month starting in February - six assignments per route takes the morning from about 9am until noon - team of two (driver and navigator). Call Dave Booth (after Jan 5) at 972-233-1195 or Myrna Ridings at 972-231-4435. This is a necessary and fulfilling mission activity.

FEMA Selects UMCOR

"The program will complement, not duplicate, ongoing government efforts," said the Rev. Paul Dirdak, UMCOR's chief executive. The grant is the largest ever received by UMCOR, he added. "FEMA turned to UMCOR because of our competence in this sector and their confidence that we can provide accountability."

Survivors often do not know their rights or understand the daunting application process, federal officials said. Using a review panel, UMCOR will select up to 12 other agencies with expertise in disaster response to help these vulnerable citizens become self-sustaining. FEMA will supervise the implementation of the grant.

In its lead role, UMCOR represents a broad-based coalition known as NVOAD — the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. NVOAD members are both secular and faith-based organizations. UMCOR plans to choose consortium members from NVOAD as well as from other sources.

UMCOR's specialty in long-term disaster response is case management, which covers the whole spectrum of listening, documenting, connecting survivors with services, helping survivors make individual action plans, and leading all toward self-sufficiency and recovery.

The United Methodist agency's role will be to coordinate, monitor and report on the work of 3,000 professional and volunteer case managers in the delivery of services to people who were living in Alabama, Louisiana, or Mississippi when Hurricane Katrina displaced them. A core group of paid workers will supervise teams of trained volunteers. All agencies to be considered as partners have proven experience in the case management field.

Some of the information above is taken from an article written by Linda Beher on the UMCOR website.

Mardi Gras Madness 2006

Save the date – Sunday, February 12
Plan to be there for the fun and fellowship!

Dobie Toy drive proves big success!



Betsy Willis, Kay Reynolds (Principal of Dobie Elementary), and David Willis



David Willis, Elizabeth Escamilla, Betsy Willis, Nancie Decourcy, and Joyce Kemp

The annual Dobie Toy Drive concluded on Monday, December 12, when church volunteers delivered the toys to Dobie Elementary School. Thanks to the many generous people at SVUMC, the toy drive was again a success with over 275 toys collected.

The Friends Sunday School Class and Dobie Elementary School would like to express their thanks to the people at Spring Valley who made so many children happy this time of year.

Would you like to greet?

We need people to serve as greeters on Christmas Eve. If this appeals to you, email Debbie McEnaney at damcenaney@aol.com, or call at 972-385-3918. You may sign the sheet at the Welcome Desk in the Loggia and in Wesley Hall during Common Ground. This is a wonderful chance to serve as a family if you are interested. Please indicate the service you will be attending and the number in your family who will be greeters. Being a greeter involves showing up 20-25 minutes before your service, wearing a smile and a name badge. At the conclusion of the services on Christmas Eve, greeters will be handing out candycanes. No experience necessary- just your smile and warm heart!

Friendship Circle plans meeting

The Friendship Circle will meet in the Dining Room on January 9 at 7:15pm to assist the Neighborhood Service Council with preparations for their annual meeting.

We encourage all ladies to join us in this outreach project and fellowship time together. See you there!

Get your Behold quickly!

Call Paula Huffaker in the church office, 972-233-7671, x14, or by email, Phuffaker@svumc.org, to insure your receipt of the weekly **Behold** newsletter more quickly than ever. More and more members are receiving their **Behold** by email. Just tell Paula your email address and your newsletter will appear on your computer the day after it's published. We can save postage, time, and trees by delivering it this way. Thanks for your cooperation in this effort.

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.

SVUMC Church Family

Terri Hawkins
Ed Pierce
Betty Carter
Bob Morriss
Betty Lou Noble
Bonnie Reed
Luiz Santos
Randy Smith
Bill Darnall
Homebound members

Extended Church Family

Rhonda Huser's friends, Kay and Gary Botti
Eurea Johnson
Linda Christian's sister, Pat Jones and
daughter-in-law's father
Greg Haase
Barbara Zoeller's brother, James Broussard
Betty Hopper's son and daughter-in-law,
Gary and Jacqui Hopper
Camille Smith
Jack Brown's cousin's wife, Esther Brown
Alice Cromwell's aunt, Lou Maxwell
Cindy Stamps' sister, Gloria Thompson

Donna Campbell's friend, Ashley Wilson
All persons serving in the military
SVUMC missionaries, the Savutos
Slany United Methodist Church
Those with ongoing concerns

Sympathy to:

Terri Hawkins in the death of her cousin, Jane
Linda Christian and family in the death of
Linda's brother-in-law, Bill Jones
Labib Basta and family in the death of
his mother