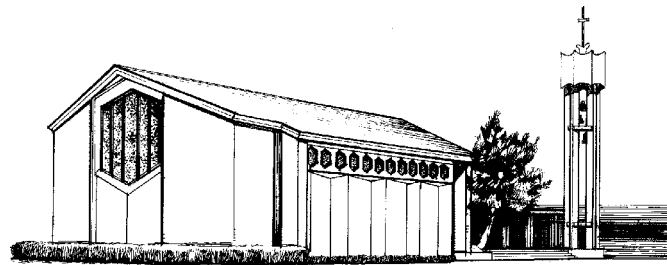


Behold!

Spring Valley United Methodist Church / Dallas, Texas



Vol. 10, No. 8 February 23, 2004

Spring Valley extends God's path

Now that we have begun to Follow God's Path, we will also extend God's Path. The stewardship theme for 2004 is "Extending God's Path," and we started that extension on February 22nd at Mardi Gras Madness. In this event, people proved to be good stewards not only of their gifts, but also of their presence, prayers, and service. The many volunteers who spent hours planning the event and gathering donated items for the live and silent auctions practiced the stewardship of time. The parents and youth who helped decorate Wesley Hall practiced the stewardship of presence. The Spring Valley members who entertained us and served as auctioneers practiced stewardship of service. Those members who were unable to attend but expressed heartfelt encouragement to us practiced stewardship of prayer. The friends and neighbors who donated items and/or services, those who bought tickets, and those who bid in the auctions all practiced stewardship of gifts.

Mardi Gras Madness proved to be a huge success. The presence of the Holy Spirit was felt throughout the evening--during the entertainment, the parade, the dinner, the silent auction, and the live auction. The Spirit's presence could even be sensed as people began lining up to gain entry to the event. Not only did the people in line not mind the wait, they actually enjoyed their time together! In a line! Friends, that's the work of the Holy Spirit. People from each corner of our congregation came together for this event, and we all saw firsthand what God can accomplish through the entire body of Christ.

When the counting is over, we will have realized almost \$30,000 towards Youth Missions. That's not a typo! Thirty thousand dollars! We pray thanks to God for these gifts, for our life of opportunities that have afforded us these resources, and that God has shown us a way for our resources to be put to God's use. What a difference we will be able to make traveling to Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Colorado, and right here in Dallas as we bring God's message of peace and love. What cannot be measured is the love of this congregation that sends us out in mission to the world. The best way to thank the congregation is for the youth to go on these trips and be the best, most loving, most gracious, hardest working representatives of Spring Valley that we can be. The people of Spring Valley will, as always, be able to say, "Those are *our* youth!"

We received an email from one person who was in attendance at Mardi Gras Madness, and it best expresses the power of unity. It reads, "Wow!

What a night. That was a landmark night for the youth of Spring Valley and the church as a whole. I can't recall an event that brought so many different people together working on one project. Older, younger, richer, poorer - they were all there last night; and many of them spent many an hour planning, preparing, and working to make MGM such a success. I think the results (both financial and fellowship) are proof of what great leadership and a can-do attitude of the congregation can produce. I've never been more proud to be a part of Spring Valley."

Frank Rahm

Lenten series begins

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Mark Chancey, professor of New Testament at Southern Methodist University, will be with us March 10 and 17 for our Lenten Series. On March 10, Dr. Chancey will speak on "One Passion in Four Gospels," looking at the different portrayals of Christ's Passion in each of the four gospels. On March 17, the topic will be "Historical Questions and Controversial Issues." With the release of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ," questions and controversies have been raised about what we actually know about Christ's Passion and how Christ's Passion has been interpreted by Christians throughout history. Dr. Chancey will be with us to guide us through these issues and questions.

Join us on March 10 in Wesley Hall for the Second Helping Dinner at 5:30pm, followed by Dr. Chancey's lecture at 6:30pm and again on March 17 for the concluding lecture at 6:30pm.



Habitat for Humanity Walk-a-Thon

Come and join us this Saturday, February 28, for the 11th annual Richardson Area Interfaith Habitat Walk-a-Thon beginning at 9am. Registration is at 8:30 in the University of Texas of Dallas parking lot on the corner of Floyd Road and Lookout Drive in Richardson. Your contributions from walking will help raise funds to build homes for Habitat for Humanity. Questions regarding the walk may be directed to Rhonda Huser at 972-788-1288 or Bill Boyer at 972-661-2570.



Guatemala mission trip gearing up for summer

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has not deeds? James 4:17 (NIV)

To serve God, you are invited to join the 2004 SVUMC Guatemala mission team that is now forming. The missionaries who participated in 2003 learned that, in faithful service to God, we could achieve far more than we ever imagined. Join and demonstrate God's love for all his children.

Please join us in the Dining Room for an informational meeting and lunch on Sunday March 7, immediately after the 11am church services. For additional information and lunch reservations, contact Elizabeth or Robert Gross, 214-341-1822, or by email, robt144@swbell.net.

Spring Valley's Mission Core Process Group

How do YOU spell success? For the last five years, our Mission group's success is spelled TEAM. We could not have "sailed" the outreach ship without the support of our pastors. And while ships have captains (first Myrna Ridings, then Neil Williams, now Betty Reichel), each team member has hoisted sails to help achieve our goals.



2003 Guatemala work team

From shopping to mailing, the Williams and Ridings have coordinated the hundreds of health kits sent to UMCOR. To save money, they can be found re-cycling the mission envelopes each third Sunday for Dimes-a-Day. Nippy McManus and Pat Hill have led Blood drives. Habitat leaders have been Bill Boyer, Charles McManus and Rhonda Huser. Steve and Dana Taylor head Austin St. Centre. Leona Wynne and Ginny Bitting have increased our awareness of Slany and the Savutos with their artwork and banners. The McManus's keep our "shoebox" food and gift cards for those who ask for emergency assistance. Florence Lewis introduced us to African cuisine and a style show to raise awareness of Africa. David Booth coordinates the 26 SVUMC members who drive two routes for Meals on Wheels. You can find Pat Chadsey sitting at the sign-up table recruiting blood donors during twice yearly blood drives. Jo Martens and Elizabeth Gross, new

members of the Core, head up the Guatemala mission trip.

Finally, the critical link in spelling success is you, the congregation! You have rolled up your sleeves to donate blood, walked for Habitat, fed the homeless, brought food for NET, and opened your wallets for Dimes-a-Day.

The mission program at Spring Valley is really about being on God's team! If you'd like to become involved, call Betty Reichel, Chairperson, 972-380-5838, or e-mail betty@reichel.com. With your help, there are life jackets for ALL God's children!

"Love & Logic" series begins

Mickey George is leading a six-week series on *Parenting with Love and Logic* during the Sunday school hour. This highly successful parenting approach helps children learn through mistakes and teaches them accountability and responsibility. The focus of the class is for parents of preschool and elementary children.

Lenten mission project for children and families

Starting February 29, children, families, and all church members are invited to take part in Heifer Project International's "Fill the Ark" program. This is a daily missions-giving program that spans four weeks. It offers real-life solutions to world hunger, showing that one person, one family, and one congregation can make a difference. As you fill the ark with coins, you'll see how your gifts can share God's love and help end human suffering around the world. For details on SVUMC's "Fill the Ark" joint Missions and Children's Ministries project, call Jan Hudgins at the church. If you want more information about Heifer Project International, please visit their website at www.heifer.org.



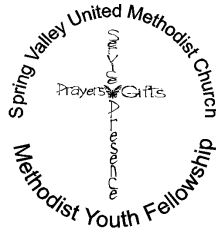
Nursery workers are needed

Spring Valley needs two paid caregivers for our church nursery. If you or someone you know loves children, call Jan Hudgins for information, 214-233-7671. You must be 18 years old+ and available on Sundays and some Wednesday evenings. Training is provided.

What's up for YOUth...

Sunday, February 29, 2004

- 9:45 a.m. Youth Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Youth Singers in Sanctuary Worship
3:30 p.m. Youth Singers
5:30 p.m. \$3 Snack Supper
6:00-7:30 UMYF - Stephanie Chapman on "Beyond Platonic Relationships"



Genesis Shelter What a great day we had this past Saturday. Seventeen of us went to the Genesis Women's Shelter to play with the children there. It was a great experience for them and for us. Our next date at the shelter is Wednesday evening, March 24.

All Youth are invited and encouraged to attend Sunday school each week.

On Sunday, February 29, we begin our "Heart" classes. We will offer four six-week classes. There is always the opportunity to join any of the four classes, even if they are already in session.

The Four Classes from which to choose are:

1. "Open Your Heart" - Taught by George Reese, this is a study of prayer, the privilege we have in prayer, how prayer brings us closer to God, and how prayer changes lives.
2. "Reclaim Your Heart" - Taught by Pam Reese, this is a study of character. Many of the things God wants us to have been lost to modern culture. We'll talk about reclaiming our own courage, discipline, confidence, patience, endurance, and contentment.
3. "One Heart" - Taught by Diana White & Courtney Elliott, this is a study about love, unity, and Christian community.
4. "A Heart-Stopping Miracle" - Taught by Jayson White & Frank Rahm, this class will view and discuss a video called "After the Fall." It's an incredible story of recovery, faith, and inner strength.

Youth Singers: For this Saturday's performance of "Joseph," please arrive at Appletree Court at 9am. Performance is at 10am. Don't forget your costumes!

Mark Your Calendars:

Feb 28 Youth Singers performance of "Joseph," Appletree Court, Richardson

Mar 2 Youth Singers performance of "Joseph" at FUMC, Allen

Mar 14 Group Dynamix with the Confirmation Class! Tradition!

Mar 24 Genesis Women's Shelter (it's a Wednesday evening)

April 16-18 Spring Spiritual Retreat

UMW needs help with kitchen needs

The next UMW meeting will be on Monday, March 8. Our speaker is our Children's Director, Jan Hudgins, who will talk about "Children and Mission."



At the March meeting, the UMW is also sponsoring a kitchen shower to supply things for the church kitchen that have worn out or gotten lost. At our last meeting, members took an item from our shopping list; and others made cash donations. We appreciate help from anyone in the congregation. If you can make a contribution, please contact Betty Hopper (972-386-4670) or Joyce Boyer (972-661-2570). The UMW meets for lunch at 11:30, and the program begins at 12:15. Please join us.

Sunday School news...

Aldersgate Class

February 29 - Classroom brunch! Please come and check out Aldersgate. No program this time, just a social get-together in our classroom with food! Please join us!

March 7 - Don Barnes will talk about the four versions of the Lord's Prayer, taken from different Bible translations and our hymnal.

Beacon Class

February 29 - "Time, Tension, Then and Today"
Acts 17; Ephesians 2:14; Matthew 5-7

Seekers Class

February 29 - Jan Hudgins, SVUMC's
Children's Director

Wesleyan Class

February 29 - Rev. Dr. Scott Somers, "Christian Stewardship," based on Jesus' parables
March 7 - Tom Christian, "Waiting"
March 14, 21, & 28 - Don Bowen, "Magic, Miracle, and Folklore"

Perkins plans theological school for laity March 4-6

The popular novel, *The DaVinci Code*, an introduction to Islam, and the spiritual practice of the labyrinth are among the topics at the 31st annual Perkins Theological School for the Laity at SMU, March 4-6. Keynote lecturer on March 4 will be New Testament scholar, Amy-Jill Levine, who will address "Jesus, Judaism and Gender." Detailed information is available in the SVUMC office.

Vacation Bible School is July 19-23, 9am - noon!

Hero Quest: Powered by Faith will teach children how God's presence and their trust in God becomes the power that makes us into heroes. Registration begins Sunday, May 2. For info, call Elizabeth Wood, 972-385-7601, or Jan Hudgins at church.

Attention, all Spring Valley children!

Spring Valley children, 1st-6th graders, can be part of this year's spring musical, "I Witness News: Live from Jericho." There is a part for everyone, including our four- and five-year olds. For more information, tapes, or CD's, call Paula Huffaker at the church, 972-233-7671, or phuffaker@svumc.org.

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

Jerry Rainey
Tommi Ezell
Kay Kee
Catharine Gebhardt
Keith Kakacek
Beth Copeland
Bob and Rosemary McGuire
Homebound members

Extended Church Family

Ken Carpenter's mother, Joan Webb
Caroline Watson's friends, Rebecca and Keegan
Bill Escarre's brother, Jim
Kim Sumner's sister-in-law, Carrie Sumner
Steve and Jolene Harper's niece, Kathy Belasco
Terri Hartman's friend, Shaun Edwards
Beverly Whitley's friend, John Theron
Doris Smith's sister-in-law, Sue Goodman
Nancy Guerra's mother, Arlene Hatcher
Betty Hopper's friend, Jo Kay Gary
Jim & Rachel Edwards' daughter, Erin Dial
Mark Wood's friends, Dillan and Zack
Hamilton and Rhetta Wood

Susan Haney's mother, Yvonne Russell
Paula & Greg Huffaker's neighbor, Dave Johnson
Forest and Sue Cummings' friend, Patti Roberts
Our Missionaries, the Savutos
Slany United Methodist Church
Those with ongoing concerns

Deepest sympathy to:

Joe McKinster and family in the death of her
husband, Jack McKinster
Jo Alice Patton in the death of her friend,
Dora James