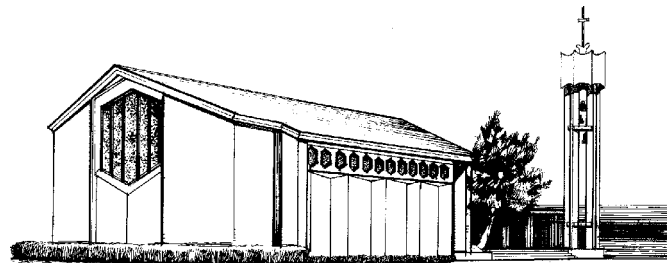


Behold!



Spring Valley United Methodist Church / Dallas, Texas

Vol. 12, No. 6 February 6, 2006

Dear Mardi Gras Mamma...

Dear Mardi Gras Momma,
I was suppose to go out of town this weekend, but my plans have changed. Is there still time to get some reservations for Mardi Gras Madness on Sunday, Feb. 12?

Last-Minute Lulu



Dear Last-minute *Lulu*,

Yes, girlfriend, you can still make reservations this week and on Sunday morning for the most fun for Mardi Gras in Texas. Just call the church office and they will put you in touch with the person taking the reservation. And don't forget your credit card — you may want to check your credit limit so you can spend, spend, spend on the great Mardi Gras silent and live auction items. By the way, have you checked the church's website for a listing fo the great items??? Check out www.svumc.org for the list.

Be prepared for an evening of fun and fellowship to celebrate Mardi Gras in style. Get there are 4:30 when the doors open to see all the great items. The delicious dinner will start at 5:00 and the auction after that. Then sit back and enjoy some fine entertainment. All this for only \$12 per person - you can't beat that deal. See you there!

Momma

Mardi Gras is here!

Mardi Gras is the main fund raiser for youth mission and choir work and one of the most fun events of the year! A lot of work is poured into it, but it is worth every bit of the effort when you see the entertainment, the fun, the food, and all of the items in both of the auctions - live and silent. Pictured is just one of the great silent auction items that can be yours for the bidding. Check it out!



Florida cottage for one week...valued at \$1,400. Make reservations by 3/31/06 for this summer. Check out www.vrbo.com item #15056

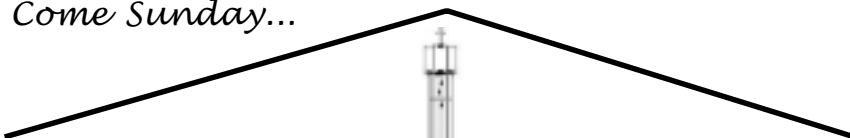
Go on line at www.svumc.org and see the other great items!

New classes offered for adults at SVUMC

Each Thursday, Rich and Dorothy Milner are facilitating a Bible study class entitled "The Journey." It is a chapter-by-chapter study of the New Testament. No materials or fees are needed. All are welcome. Confirmation Room, 7-9 pm. weekly.

Beginning in mid-March, Dr. Don Barnes will facilitate the new, shorter version of Disciple Bible study on Sunday mornings during the Sunday school hour. Dr. Barnes will begin with a nine-week overview of the Old Testament, which follows the Disciple format but in shorter form. This is an excellent way for anyone to begin or continue the Bible Study. Reservations are required. For information, contact Dr. Anna Hosemann-Butler, extension 19.

Come Sunday...



common ground

Traditional Worship

Sunday, February 12, Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sacred Spaces:

A journey through the Psalms

Dr. Anna Hosemann-Butler

Mark 1:40-45

Life in Christ:

Touching the Untouchable

Dr. Paul L. Escamilla

Sunday, February 19, Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Matthew 6:5-13

Sacred Spaces: The Jesus Room

Dr. Anna Hosemann-Butler

Mark 2:1-12

Life in Christ: Held Up

Dr. Paul L. Escamilla

New Year's resolution for walkers

Was exercise one of your New Year's resolutions? Then we have a solution for your resolution - the 13th annual Richardson Area Interfaith Habitat Walk-A-Thon on February 25, 2006. The walk begins at 9am with registration at 8:30 in the University of Texas of Dallas parking lot on the corner of Floyd Road and Lookout Drive in Richardson.

So you say – walking isn't your thing. Then how about picking up a hammer and helping with the construction of the next Habitat home to fulfill that exercise commitment. RAIH will begin building its 21st home on Saturday, February 11.

Habitat provides many opportunities for exercise! Please stop by the Habitat table near the church office to learn more about the walk or the upcoming build. If you aren't into exercise then we hope you will find an SVUMC walker to sponsor. Questions regarding the walk or build may be directed to Rhonda Huser at 972-788-1288, or Bill Boyer at 972-661-2570.

Dimes-a-Day is February 19

One of the many ways we are "United Methodists" is in mission. And it's SO easy, because the UMC has "already invented the wheel." It's called the United Methodist Committee on Relief, or UMCOR. We are part of a worldwide mission that is far more effective than any single congregation could be.

UMCOR is the global humanitarian aid organization of The United Methodist Church, working in more than 80 countries worldwide, including the United States. The mission is to alleviate human suffering - whether caused by war, conflict or natural disaster - with open minds and hearts to all people. Issues of hunger, poverty, agriculture, international and domestic emergencies, refugee and immigrant concerns, and global health are addressed.

In times of acute crisis they mobilize aid to stricken areas - emergency supplies, fresh water, and temporary shelter. They stay, *as long as it takes*, to implement long-term recovery and rehabilitation. In some cases they partner with local organizations. Their workers are known all over the globe for their compassion, leadership, expertise and guidance in recovery efforts.

UMCOR's expertise in long-term disaster recovery through case management was recently recognized by FEMA through a \$66 million grant.

Every dollar we give to UMCOR goes to the program designated. UMCOR is 100% efficient! The following are 3 examples of UMCOR Advance Specials:

- #232000, Pakistan Earthquake, #501300, Central America Emergency, #982523, Hurricanes 2005

If you'd like to give specifically to an area, just indicate on your monetary gift the number of the Advance and place your gift in the collection plate or place it in the business office.

On Feb. 19, our regular third Sunday Dimes-A-Day offering, your mission gift might find its way to help with ongoing relief efforts in another country, or part of it might help hurricane victims next door. For more information about UMCOR, visit their web site: www.umcor.org



NET Food Drive is February 12

NETwork of Community Ministries just celebrated 20 years of making a difference in the Richardson area with short-term urgent services. Imagine the thousands of persons who have been helped! Our own Rev. Don Barnes was one of the founders of this agency and is still an active board member and volunteer. Spring Valley U MC is one of the original member organizations. Just last year 515,400 pounds of food was distributed to 23,807 persons. Most of that food was donated by churches, schools, civic groups, and individuals.

Our next food drive is near Valentine's Day. As you shop, pick up extra non-perishable food for this important mission ministry. Perhaps you can select foods that are red, have a red label, or have a seal from the American Heart Association designating it as "heart healthy".

Whatever you select and put in the barrels located in the halls, it will be appreciated. Monetary donations can be placed in the collection plate or left in the business office. For information, visit the web site: www.thenetwork.org.

Arts and Crafts group needs you

Come and join the Arts and Crafts group on Monday mornings at 10am to 2pm You will find the ladies busy at work making preparations for the Easter Bake Sale and the Mini Spring Bazaar which will be held from 9am to 12:30pm on March 26. You will probably see some little bunnies hopping around in the room.

Please be thinking what you can bake for the bake sale. We will be needing cookies, cakes, pies, cup cakes, breads, candies and etc. to sell. Hope to see you at the craft room. Please come with lots of ideas to share with the group!

Extending God's Path

YTD Budget:	\$ 136,280
Total received to date	113,407
Received Feb. 5	27,938
Attendance	481

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

Mardi Gras Madness information

Event: Mardi Gras Madness
Date: Sunday, February 12, 2006
Time: 4:30 – 7:30pm

Reservations are being taken now; cost is \$12 per person; children under 6 with an adult will get 2 slices of pizza. Additional slices are \$1 each.

Description: Mardi Gras Madness is a fundraiser featuring dinner, entertainment, live & silent auction benefiting Spring Valley UMC youth (7th grade -12th grade) who participate in summer mission trips. All are welcome to attend.

The three trips are:

Youth Singers Choir Tour, June 9 – 15, to Houston and South Texas performing "Celebrate Life." Tour ends with two performances at Spring Valley on June 16 and 17.

IMPACT Florida, June 24 – July 2, to Central Florida, a work project open to all junior high and senior high youth.

Appalachia Service Project, July 7 - 17, Senior High youth go to Kentucky to repair homes in area. For details, Rusty King, 972-233-7671.



UMW announced Feb. meeting

Our February luncheon/meeting will be held on Monday, February 13, at 11:30 in Asbury Hall. The speaker, Rev. Jackie Gause, will speak on "A Letter from Peter." You might want to read, in advance, II Peter and perhaps bring some questions and thoughts for discussion.



Jackie, an ordained clergy, was consecrated as Diaconal Minister in 1991 from Brite Divinity School at TCU. She is now semi-retired and living in Arlington, TX. Ladies, this sounds like a program that you don't want to miss! Come and bring a friend!

New Bible study group formed

The church has started a new Bible study at Bill and Lou Wilkins' home. The *Neighbors Home Bible Study* meets on Thursdays at 7:30pm to 9pm at the Wilkin's home at 7740 El Pastel Drive. Please join us for this exciting study!

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.

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

Feb 12 - Robert Gross will lead a study on "Life of Abraham, Man of Saving Faith."

Beacon Class

"The Ten Commandments in a Modern World"

Feb. 12 - No. Four: "Worthy Worship"

Feb. 19 - No. Five: "Who Are My Family?"

Feb. 26 - No. Six: "Treating Life as Sacred"

Mar. 5 - No. Seven: "An Analysis of Adultery"

Mar. 12 - No. Eight: "Robbery"

Mar. 19 - No. Nine: "Telling the Truth"

Mar. 26 - No. Ten: "The Two Faces of Desire"

Christian Parenting - Room 210

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

Fellowship Bible Class

We are reading *The Passionate Church*, by Mike Breen & Walt Kallestad. Call Lou & Bill Wilkin, 972-392-1486, maestrak1234@yahoo.com.

Quest Class

Join us as we study the book of Revelation.

Seekers Class

Feb. 19 - "Our Endangered Values," Rev. Anna Hosemann-Butler reviews the best-selling book by former President Jimmy Carter.

Feb. 29 - Rev. Escamilla will give his "State of the Church" address. After 8 months at Spring Valley, what are his impressions of the church and its programs and his vision and ambitions for our future.

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

formerly **PARENTS OF TEENS** - Room 192
Come check us out - there's a "SPOT" for you in our class. We are reading *The Five Love Languages of Teenagers* by Gary Chapman. In March we will read *30 Days to Understanding the Bible*, by Max Anders.

What's up for YOUTH...

SVUMC Youth events

Welcome, Riis Christensen, who will be joining us as a small group leader for the 7th and 8th grade boys' group. This group will now be meeting at the home of Carson Tucker. Small groups continue. Contact Kelly Moon at 972-231-7671 or Cy Watson at 214-403-9955 for more information about small groups, or to join one if you haven't been participating up till now.

***There will be NO HANDBELL PRACTICE until April 2.

***Tuesday evening rehearsals for *Celebrate Life!* resume on February 28.

NO REHEARSAL on March 14 due to Spring Break.

***First performances of *Celebrate Life!* will be on Saturday, March 25 at 10am, and Tuesday, April 4 at 7pm.

***The list of Mardi Gras auction items is now up at http://svumc.org/mgm_auction.html. Look it up and see all the great things offered.

***Kelly Moon's email address is working now! kmoon@svumc.org if you have any questions about what's going on in youth group.

***Want to know the schedule for what's coming up in UMYF? Check out the calendar at <http://svumc.org/ycalendar.html>

Mark your calendars for the future:

February 12 - MARDI GRAS MADNESS!

Mardi Gras Madness is finally here! Youth, plan to arrive at the church after lunch on Sunday or bring in a lunch and then help with all the set-up. The official time for Youth Singers to rehearse is at 3:00. Youth Singers have three numbers to rehearse for the final part of the entertainment. At 4:00, youth will be given their assignments for serving and being runners to the Silent Auction. At 4:30, they are having pizza. They will then need to be in place at 4:55 before the doors open at 5:00 for dinner to begin being served. Entertainment starts at approximately 7:00 and is over around 7:30 for clean-up to begin. Dress is khaki pants or skirts with the new polos that we will deliver Sunday afternoon. **This is a reminder that ALL kids are invited to help at Mardi Gras Madness on Sunday, not just choir kids. If you are a youth involved in any of the youth programs at SVUMC, show up Sunday evening wearing khakis and any solid color shirt (polo or otherwise).** We'd like to encourage everyone to help with clean-up.

Feb. 17-19: Annual mixed (Jr. high & Sr. high) mid-winter retreat at Bridgeport Conference Center. Cost is \$68 a person, but the cost should not be a factor in your decision to attend; call Paco if you need any assistance.

This year's theme is **J....MOBILE: GET MORE FROM LIFE**. Pick up a copy of the registration form at any SVUMC youth event. Questions about the retreat? Call Paco, 972-671-5744 or pacojacjen@aol.com

The Appalachia Service Project (ASP) is July 7-July 17. It is designed for youths in the 10th-12th grade. Those entering 10th grade (current 9th graders) should consider signing up for this rewarding mission trip. Those students graduating this year are also invited to participate. We will be working in Letcher County in Kentucky. More detailed information to follow.

(continued in next column...)



Continued Youth Calendar

If you want to go to ASP 2006, please send Paco an e-mail indicating your interest

(pacojacjen@aol.com). We need your help to make ASP a successful mission trip!

- 2/19 – NO UMYF (Mixed Mid Winter Retreat)
- 2/26 – Dating Panel – Bring in adults from different stages in life (seasoned married couple to young single) to discuss dating & relationships
- 3/5 – NO UMYF (Spring Spiritual Retreat @ Rockin' C Ranch 3/3 – 3/5 led by the seniors and coordinated by Kathy Watson & Gina Tucker)
- 3/12 – Discussion on Abuse led by Nicky Chapman & Emily Meier
- 3/19 – Broom Ball Activity (Details to come)
- 3/26 – Group Dynamix Activity with Confirmation Class – Craig & Kim out of town – Debbie McEnaney volunteered to help in our absence
- 4/2 – Discussion on Revelations led by Travis Carroll & Nicky Chapman
- 4/9 – Outdoor Sports Activity (Details to come)
- 4/16 – NO UMYF (Easter Sunday)
- 4/23 – Other Religions Discussion, led by Colleen Yancy – Craig & Kim out of town – Paco Otal volunteered to help in our absence
- 4/30 – Roller Skating Activity (Details to come) – Also Youth Sunday in Common Ground @ 11am being coordinated by Doris & Paul Simonsen
- 5/7 – Discussion on Temptations led by Caitlyn Tucker & Emily King
- 5/14 – Traidust Outing (Details to come)
- 5/21 – Discussion on Substance Abuse led by Kat & Kristin Holburn
- 5/28 – Finals Week - Movie/Game Night

Important!

New SVUMC Youth mailing list from YAHOO GROUPS! Send a blank email to svumcyouth-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. If you haven't joined this group, you may be prompted to set up a yahoo account, but you can still choose the address you'd like the emails delivered to. This email group will really help with communication for the foreseeable future, so don't be out of the loop! Email nwatson@pisd.edu if you have any questions.

NOTEworthy news...

Upcoming music

Sunday, February 12

8:30 & 11:00 Chamber Singers,

Arise, My Soul, Arise

Chancel Choir, *Ain't Got Time to Die*



Mardi Gras Madness Entertainment

Clergy Plus Quartet - *Darkness on the Delta*

Blake Denzer - *Home to Stay*

Paula Huffaker and Lisa Phillips, dueling pianos, *Chopsticks*

Charlie and Chris Whisenand – selections

Jeanne Larson - solo

Staff Choir - *I'm a Man of Constant Sorrows*

Youth Singers

The Truth Shall Make You Free

In Remembrance

He is Alive

All Scouts to be Honored

Are you a Boy Scout, Girl Scout, Brownie, Cub Scout or leader of a Scout pack? Then join us on Sunday, February 12, at any one of the three worship services, Traditional (8:30 or 11:00) or Common Ground, to be recognized and honored. You are invited to wear your Scout uniform that morning and join us in one of the services for a special recognition. We look forward to seeing all Scouts on Sunday, February 12.



February 17 Mid-winter retreat info for youth

The Mix Mid-Winter Retreat is scheduled for 02/17/06 - 02/19/06 at Bridgeport. We have ten youths and two adults who have signed up to attend. If you are interested and have not submitted your forms (money), you need to let Kelly Moon (kmoon@svumc.org) and/or Paco (pacojacjen@aol.com) know by Wednesday night, if not sooner. We need to submit the final count (reservations) so that rooms and food can be arranged, accordingly.

FYI.....One youth has indicated that they could not make it to the church Friday night, but his parent would take him up later that night (after soccer game) and another youth indicated that his parent would take him up Saturday morning. SOOO... If you would like to go on the retreat but cannot go with the group Friday night, let us know ASAP. We might be able to coordinate another trip Saturday Morning (early) for you.

Elementary Sunday School news

This rotation we're learning that you can't hide from God—even in a WHALE!

That's what Jonah tried to

do. Jonah didn't *catch* that God's message of compassion, mercy, and grace is for everyone! You can learn about compassion, mercy, grace and repentance through art, computer, puppets, science, writing, and video. Check the bulletin board outside the gathering room to see where your class is each week. Then come to Sunday School and *catch* an important message from God.



Human Sexuality Workshop planned for 5th and 6th graders

A Human Sexuality Workshop for 5th & 6th graders will be held on March 2, 3, & 4. The curriculum is *Created By God*, published by Cokesbury. For details or to preview the curriculum, contact Jan Hudgins, 972-233-7671.

Ministering to children

Are you looking for a place to serve at SVUMC? The Children's Council is currently recruiting teachers and shepherds for our elementary rotation Sunday School. Look for a sign up sheet in your bulletin on Sunday or contact Jan Hudgins, Dir. of Children and Family Ministries, 972-233-7671, ext. 20, or jhudgins@svumc.org.

a testimony:

I have found my place in Sunday School at SVUMC. It happens to be in the children's ministry. Pastor Anna preached this past Sunday about answering the call. Well, I literally answered it when Jan asked me to substitute last May. I had been thinking of helping, but not quite made the commitment. After that first time, I found out how much fun and gratifying it could be. I have been enjoying helping ever since, leading three rotations. My highest compliment as a leader was during Stewardship and the kids were asked to put something on their stick men about what made them thankful for their church and my name appeared on some of the them! I encourage each of you that have thought about it, to give the Children's Ministry a try. Our children at SVUMC are wonderful little people and they have touched me, as I hope I have touched them.

Beverly Curtis

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.

Hospital

Ruth Mendoza
Bob Muskopf

SVUMC Church Family

James Rea
Frances Dale
Jean Holt
Harriet Carroll
Susan Kasten
Terri Hawkins
Ed Pierce
Betty Carter
Betty Lou Noble
Bonnie Reed
Luiz Santos
Randy Smith
Bill Darnall
Homebound members

Extended Church Family

Ron Amberg's Dad, Leon Amberg
Jan Hudgins' grandmother, Beth Mayberry
Guy Garrett's mother
Frances Dales' daughter and husband,
Ann and Virgil Weisner
Jim Arrington, father of preschooler,
Jett Arrington
Jane Thomas, former member
Cynthia & Herb Lee's friend, Rich Flynn
Jerry Malone's boss, and also two of
their friends
The Grottola family
Tricia Smith's friend, Michelle DeVous
Duwayne Matthews
Rhonda Huser's mother
Greg Haase
Camille Smith

Don Finnie's father-in-law, Clements Wijtulewic
Betty Hopper's son and daughter-in-law,
Gary and Jacqui Hopper
Cindy Stamps' sister, Gloria Thompson
Donna Campbell's friend, Ashley Wilson
Ruby Arrington's brother, Johnny Nickerson
Kathy Watson's friends, the Butch Freeman family
All persons serving in the military
SVUMC missionaries, the Savutos
Slany United Methodist Church
Those with ongoing concerns

Sympathy to:

Connie Redus in the death of her
cousin, Ruthann Baughn