

Behold!



Spring Valley United Methodist Church / Dallas, Texas

Vol. 10, No. 47 November 29, 2004

OUR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

Sunday, December 5 ~ Second Sunday of Advent
8:30 & 11am - Christmas Cantata: John Rutter's *Gloria*,
offered by Choir & Orchestra
3 - 4:30pm - **Advent Adventure**, an Advent experience for the
whole family, with music, stories, crafts,
cookies, and a petting zoo

Wednesday, December 8
5:30 - 7:30pm "*Second Helping*" monthly fellowship event
Dinner, 5:30-6:30,
Personal safety program, 6:30-7:30

Sunday, December 12 ~ Third Sunday of Advent
2 - 5pm Parsonage Open House, at the home of Larry and
Mickey George, 7123 Winterwood Ln., Dallas

Monday, December 13
6:30pm United Methodist Women's Christmas Dinner in
Wesley Hall; tickets on sale, \$10

Sunday, December 19 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent
6:00pm All-Church Christmas Dinner in Wesley Hall,
sponsored by Congregational Life

Friday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve
5:00pm Family Christmas Celebration: Children's Musical
and Holy Communion in the sanctuary
8:00pm Carols, Candlelight, and Communion with Youth
Choir in the sanctuary
11:00pm Carols, Candlelight, and Communion with Chancel
Choir and Handbells in the sanctuary

Sunday, December 26
10:00am All-Church Christmas Brunch in Wesley Hall
11:00am All-Church Worship in the sanctuary

Poinsettias available for purchase

Youth Singers currently are selling Christmas poinsettias for \$10. Poinsettias may be given in memory or honor of a loved one, or given to the glory of God. Proceeds go to the choir mission tour next summer. They will be placed in the sanctuary and Wesley Hall for Dec. 19 worship and may be picked up after Christmas Eve services. The last day to order is Dec. 12.



Year-end stewardship decision time

Christmas is quickly approaching! This is also the season of Advent, a season of counting down to the celebration of the birth of Christ. It is a time of getting ready.

We are not just getting ready for parties and open houses. We are preparing to receive Christ anew at Christmas--right into the heart of our living. We are preparing to receive the greatest gift ever given.

One way to celebrate thankfully is to give to others. The days between now and Dec. 31 offer a timely opportunity to make a special year-end gift that gives thanks today, as well as tomorrow. A year-end gift could emerge through a gift of appreciated stock, property, cash or other assets. Some of the benefits are:

~Potential tax savings from charitable deductions

~Avoidance of capital gains tax on highly appreciated property

~Knowing you will make a difference in building a strong future for United Methodist ministries

The earlier you begin, the more time you will have to make the necessary decisions for successful year-end tax planning. Remember, it may take some time to create charitable instruments or to effectively transfer stocks or other types of investments for 2004 deductions.

Extending God's Path

A Stewardship Update

2005 Goals

Pledges 340

Gifts \$1,200,000

As of 11-30-04

Pledges 276

Gifts \$,913,339

Is your pledge in yet?

What's Up For YOUth

Sunday, December 5

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 3:30pm Youth Ringers
- 4:30pm Youth Singers
- 5:30pm \$3 Snack Supper
- 6-7:30pm UMYF – A night for Spiritual Growth. Heather Sumner and Emily King will lead us in a discussion about Miracles.

Wednesday, December 8-6:30pm, Leave for Genesis Women's Shelter.

We'll return at 8:30 pm. This will be our only December visit to the Shelter. Please make plans to join us.

Mark your Calendars:

Dec 12 Youth Ringers & Youth Singers in the 8:30am sanctuary service

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

A big THANK YOU goes to the youth and families who helped us prepare the way of the Lord in the Youth Room this past Sunday. Our room is ready for the season of looking forward, of lights, and of life.

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.

Invitation to join Stephen Ministry

Plans are being completed for a 50-hour training for new Stephen Ministers, scheduled to begin in mid January, 2005. We hope you'll pray about your opportunity to participate in this special, one-on-one lay ministry as a Stephen Minister. Rev. Anna Hosemann-Butler will lead the training.

Topics include:

- *Listening techniques* *Christian Caring Resources*
- *Assertiveness, speaking the truth in love* *Community Resources*
- *Mental health issues* *Confidentiality issues*
- *Support resources for Stephen Ministers* *End of life/grief issues*

Sign up Dec 5 or 12 in the hall, or contact one of the pastors or Stephen Ministers. For more information, call Myrna Ridings, 972-231-4435.

As always, if you or someone you know is having a difficult time and could benefit from a Stephen Minister, contact one of the pastors.

Join us for Sunday school

Beacon Class - Asbury Hall

Dec. 5 - Adventuring into Light

Dec. 12 - Will it happen to you?

Dec. 19 - Stars beget journeys

Christian Parenting - Room 210

Dec. 5 - "Spiritual Gifts" with Friends Class

Dec. 12 & 19 - "Habits of Highly Effective Families"

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. 5 - "Spiritual Gifts Defined" - joint class with Christian Parenting

Dec. 12 - The Role of the Stephen Ministry

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 is beginning 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.

Seekers - Room 200

Dec. 5 - Mary Brooke Casad, NTC Dir. of Missions, will speak on NT Conference Missions

Dec. 12 - Rev. Scott Somers, Christmas message

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

Wesleyan Class - Dining Room

Dec. 5, 12 - Tom Christian

Dec. 8 - Lunch at Bagelstein's at 11:30am

Dec. 19 - Jim Veach

Dec. 26 - Christmas celebration brunch, Wesley Hall at 10am

Aldersgate Class - Room 206-08

Dec. 5 - Rev. Sarah Squires, Assoc. Dir. of Develop., Dallas Habitat for Humanity, will speak.

Dec. 12 - Rosemary Rumbley, lecturer, author, etc. will present "Christmas in Texas."

Gift wrap is not required

Need some help with your gift list? What are you going to buy for Aunt Ellie who has everything? Grandpa and Grandma haven't touched your last year's gift.

Spring Valley's Mission Core Process Team to the rescue! All outreach programs supported by our church would love to receive a financial gift made in honor (or in memory) of a loved one. Most will acknowledge your gift to the honoree. Of course, all gifts to non-profit organizations are also tax deductible. Every gift, no matter the amount, is greatly appreciated.

~*Neighborhood Service Council, Inc:* After-school program for at risk children

~*Meals-on-Wheels:* A noon-time hot meal for someone who can't afford to pay

~*Network of Community Ministries:* Food/social services for needy families

~*Austin Street Centre:* Downtown homeless shelter

~*Habitat for Humanity:* Homes built for low income families

~*Bill and Jerri Savuto:* Kenya Hospital/world wide mission support through GBGM (General Board of Global Ministries)

~*Slany UMC:* Spring Valley's sister church in the Czech Republic

~*Iglesia Metodista Nueva Vida:* Spring Valley's Hispanic congregation

~*Dimes-a-Day Fund:* Support for all the above mentioned missions and more!

Write your check directly to the organization you have chosen with the name of the person to be honored. You may drop your gift in the offering plate during worship or leave it in the church business office and it will be forwarded to the proper place. There's no fighting the crowds at the mall and no hassles with boxes, bags, and bows!

The feeling of satisfaction (priceless!) is knowing you have brightened the life of a child, elderly person, homeless person, or a hungry family down on their luck. For more information, call Myrna Ridings, 972-231-4435, or go to Spring Valley's web site: www.springvalley.org and click on mission.

Stephen ministry profiles Myrna Ridings

After moving to Dallas from Wisconsin in 1967, we were immediately invited to visit the Seekers Sunday School Class at SVUMC by Dick's office mate at TI. We didn't know anyone in Dallas, and the Seekers "took us in" and made us feel welcome. And they're still doing that for us. They have truly been our "Family of Friends" for 37 years! Our sons, Jeff and Matt, grew up at Spring Valley and have wonderful memories of UMYF and choir. And they have blessed us with 3 2/3 grandchildren!

Besides being active Seekers, Dick and I have extended most of our energies in the area of church mission in Block Partnership, blood donation, our missionaries (the Savutos), Habitat for Humanity, and Meals on Wheels. I've chaired the core committee on two different occasions. And I've been honored to represent you at the North Texas Annual Conference for the past 3 years.

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I began Stephen Ministry in 1998 and have found it to be satisfying because it allows me to use my skills in a challenging, one-on-one relationship with a person in our congregation who has hit a rough spot in the road of life. My care receivers inspire me by allowing me to see how God works in their lives. I invite you to learn more about this ministry and how you can make a REAL difference in someone's life.



Advent Adventure for families, Sunday, Dec. 5, from 3-4:30pm

Rev. Anna Hosemann-Butler and John Tarver will tell the story of *Mary's Marvelous Miracle*.

~Bethlehem Barnyard Petting Zoo

~Craft Corner, Make-It-Plate for \$4 and the

Make-It Hotplate for \$3. All other crafts are free!

~Cookies and Hot Chocolate

~Advent mission project is the Dobie Elementary Toy Drive. Bring an unwrapped toy or game for a 4-5 year-old student. For details, contact Jan Hudgins at 972-233-7671, ext. 20.

"Second Helping" events slated

Wednesday, Dec. 8 - Jill McCollum, Dallas Police Dept. - holiday safety, identity theft, and shopping safety. A tasty meal will be served at 5:30, followed by McCollum's talk at 6:30. There will be a time for questions and answers during her discussion. Meal reservations may be made by calling the church office. Cost: \$4.50/person; maximum \$15/family. Babysitting is provided.

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.



Noteworthy news

Upcoming music



Dec. 5

8:30 & 11:00 *Gloria* by John Rutter

Chancel Choir, Seasonal Singers & Orchestra

Dec. 12

8:30 Youth Singers

Of the Father's Love Begotten

8:30 Youth Singers, *News of Great Joy*

11:00 Children's Choral and Bell Choirs

11:00 Chancel Choir, *Carol of the Bells*

"Amahl and the Night Visitors" rehearsals continue



This is Jordan Graf who plays the part of Amahl in our upcoming production of this seasonal classic. At age 13, Jordan has sung three solos this past year with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. He has a superb cast supporting him for the performances on January 6, 7, and 8 at 7:30. Tickets are \$10 and will be available soon. There will be an orchestra.

Chancel Choir's Christmas Cantata, Dec. 5

Spring Valley UMC invites you to share in the celebration of Advent as the Chancel Choir, with soloist Peggy West, Seasonal Singers, Orchestra, and brass ensemble, offers John Rutter's *Gloria* on Sunday, Dec. 5, at 8:30 and 11am.

Presented entirely in Latin, the *Gloria* consists of three movements: *Allegro vivace*, *Andante* and *Vivace e ritmico*. Rutter says that the first and third movements "make quite a joyful noise unto the Lord." The middle movement is calm, introspective, and contemplative. At just over seventeen minutes, the *Gloria* is a powerful Witness to the Word.

Join us at the manger...



...as the children's choirs of Spring Valley present "Miracle at Midnight" at 5pm on Christmas Eve. Angels, stars, Wise Men, shepherds and even sheep, will guide us through the wondrous events of that first Christmas. Together, we will focus on the true miracle of Jesus' birth.



A portion of the full cast is seen in this picture. This story is about a crippled boy and his widowed mother who are visited by the three Kings on their way to see the Christ child.

Dobie Elementary toy drive

Nov. 21 – Dec. 12

Suggested items for ages 4-5 are: Candyland, Chutes & Ladders, memory games, matching games, dominos, small balls, footballs, soccer balls, Nerf balls, Mr. Potato Head, trucks, stuffed animals, dolls, crayons, markers, tablets, and easy kindergarten workbooks. **Please, no**

weapon toys. Place new, unwrapped toys and games in the collection boxes in the hallways. Cash gifts are also welcome. All donations go to Dobie Elementary to help students and parents in furthering the educational process at home. Call David and Betsy Willis, 214-707-6515, for details. We also need elves to deliver the toys to Dobie! Thank you for helping these children season.



Meals-on-Wheels volunteer opportunities

"Give us this day our daily bread"



Every day the Visiting Nurse Association prepares and delivers approximately 7,000 meals in Dallas County. The majority of these go to Head Start and Senior Citizen programs, but approximately 2,400 are delivered to home-bound citizens - primarily elderly or infirm.

Not only does this delivery provide needed nourishment for these folks, but quite often it is the only contact many of them have with the world outside their homes. Often good friendships are built with the volunteer.

Spring Valley United Methodist Church has sponsored such home deliveries as a church ministry for a number of years. One route is in East Richardson; and for the last two years, another has been in South Dallas.

Thirty-three of our members and three non-SVUMC members dedicate themselves to providing this important service to our neighbors in Dallas County on a regular basis. As coordinator I can say that they are very reliable, dedicated missionaries, many with us year after year. For the most part our volunteers work in two-person teams. In East Richardson we drive the week that begins with the 2nd Monday of each month and the 5th Monday of the month, if there is one. In South Dallas we drive every Thursday. Both routes involve about the same mileage. We are presently putting together the delivery schedule for 2005 and could use your help. We need one single lady to complete a team and two or three two-person teams.

If you would consider joining this group of dedicated volunteer missionary servants, please call Dave Booth, 972-233-1195. I'll be happy to answer your questions and provide more specifics. Thanks very much! *Dave Booth*

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.

Another international opportunity for mission!

When? - June 24-July 10, 2005

What? - Construction work at a medical clinic in the mountains of Bolivia, 6 days construction similar to what is done in Guatemala

Where else? - trip also include 2 nights in La Paz, with a visit to Cochibamba and a 5 day trip to Machu Pichu.

How much? - Approximately \$2,000 per person

For more information, call Jo Martens 972-387-3158

In Common Ground on Dec. 12...

Rev. Diana Holbert will be guest preacher and liturgist for the Dec. 12 Common Ground worship. Rev. Holbert is an ordained elder in the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, as well as a trained musician and dancer. She will preach on Luke 1:47-55, the prayer of Mary, with a sermon entitled "Star Child."

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.

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:

Fayrene Pospisil

SVUMC Church Family

Oliver Axtell

Frances Ward

Betty Portwood

The Maddison family

Prissy Shaffer

Alex Huffaker

Elaine Shook

The Hartman Family

Homebound members

Extended Church Family

Ginny Bitting's mother

Rita Dickerson's and Marsha Aaron's father,

Frank Aaron

Barbara Crockett's brother, Neal Nesuda

Glenna Dodson's son, Jay Wylie

Chris & Lisa Newton's friends, the McDuffies

Gerry Broome's father, George Gordon

Paula Tarver's sister, Martha Jane

Joyce Covey's sister, June Buchanan

Anna Butler's friend, Dillon Koons (2 yrs old)

Donna & Tom Campbell's friend, Gary Wilson,

and his daughter, Ashley

Rachel Hartman's friend

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

Johnny and Lillian

Don Barnes' cousin, Elizabeth Moore

Kurt McEnaney's father, Dan McEnaney

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:

Billie Wolf in the death of her mother