

April 16, 2010

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Connect  *Serve*  *Grow* 



Angels in our midst

A few months back, professional artist and longtime FUMC member, Jo Ann Durham led an angel art project with the fifth graders during Sunday school. The children were shown black and white photos of angels. Jo Ann and the children read scriptures and poetry and discussed the role of angels as messengers and guardians. Each child drew their angel on watercolor paper using watercolor pencils and then painted it with acrylic paint. Ms. Durham taught the children how to mix colors and how to make colors, shades and tints.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

🌀 Luke 2:13, 14 🌀

"From time to time Cynthia McElrath has asked me to work on specific projects for the children with attention to religious art. Our recent theme was 'Angels'," Jo Ann Durham said.

Each child's angel art was added to a larger art piece created by Ms. Durham. She placed each angel on a blue painted watercolor paper, and added the

cherished Bible verse from the Gospel of Luke in copper paint. The artwork was framed and is on display in the Children's area. Ms. Durham surprised the children who participated in the project with a card that had a copy of the finished work on it as a keepsake.

"I think the value of the project is that the children got to experience the teaching of the real artist. Jo Ann ignited their imagination to design, draw their own angel and eventually create a masterpiece. I would like to thank Jo Ann for sharing her talent with our children. What a gift the masterpiece is to our church," Cynthia McElrath, Director of Children's Ministries said.

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April Teachers and Topics

Cana Disciples•Room 336 at 9:30 a.m.

18-25: Debbie Shannon – Bible Study

Covenant Class•Room 331 at 9:30 a.m.

18: Karl Alexander – History of the Holy Land
25: Tracey Smith – Origins of Apostles and Nicene Creeds

Creative Couples Class•Room 330 at 9:45a.m.

18: Adelaide Leavens, Exec. Director of Streams & Valleys, Inc.
25: Dr. Lamar Smith – Bible Study

Good Neighbors Class•Room 334 at 11:00 a.m.

18: Dr. Jim Riddlesperger – Current Political Trends"
25: Dr. Mike Marshall – "Tornado Experiences"

Inquirers Class•Room 352 at 9:30 a.m.

18: Rev. Larry Grubb – A Vital Faith in a Part Modern Era
25: Rev. Chuck Graff – Our Spiritual Compass

Journey Class•Room 230 at 9:30 a.m.

18: Dr. Jim Riddlesperger – The History of Christianity
25: Michelle Young – The History of Christianity

Koinonia Class•Room 351 at 9:30 a.m.

18: Catheleen Jordan and David Cory
25: Mary Beth Lampe

Loyalty Class•Room 334 at 9:30 a.m.

18: Manochehr Dorraj – US and Iran; Future of a Troubled Relationship
25: Jim Engelland – Jesus in the Eyes of Other Gospels

New Horizon Singles•Room 350 at 9:30 a.m.

18: Tommy Jordan
25: Emily Haeussler – Making Food Body Connection

New Passages Class•Room 352 at 11:00a.m.

18: Bill Lanford – Autonomy and Liberty
25: Tonya Ehert - Revelations

Open Bible Class•Room 231 at 11:00 a.m.

All Month – Acts – David Lamb

Partners Class•Room 320 at 9:30 a.m.

18-25: Tami and Chris Vardy – The 5 Love Languages

Sojourners Class•Room 335 at 9:30 a.m.

18-25: Dr. Bill Longworth

Twosome Class•Wesley Hall at 9:30 a.m.

18-25: "Remembering Ervin Gathings"

Wesley Bible Class•Room 231 at 9:30 a.m.

All Month – Dr. Ron Ballard- Lessons for Living

8:30 a.m. In-Depth Bible Study – Room 336

All Month – Dr. Lamar Smith - Colossians

Note: If the class you are interested in is not on the list, we did not receive the information prior to the paper deadline. Please contact Virginia Covaleski at 817/339 5078.



Save the Date!
Great Day of Service
Saturday, May 15
Watch the church bulletin,
website, e-news and
church paper for details!

FUMC Nello Club Seeks New Members



The Nello Club of the First United Methodist Church was founded by a group from the Men's Bible Class on November 3, 1947 and has been active since that time. The purpose of the club was and still is to meet twice monthly and play serious games of nello. For those of you who may not be familiar with the term "nello", it is a variation of the game of "42" played with dominoes.

The group meets in Room 224 at First United Methodist Church at 9:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month with the exception of December. This tradition has continued without interruption for the past 63 years. One of our members was so serious about attending each of the meetings that used to fly home from Austin for the meeting when the legislature was meeting and return that following morning.

The current age of our regular members ranges from 71 to 99 years of age and all are not able to make all of the meetings. We are, however, a delightful group of 'Christian senior citizens' that you can meet anywhere.

We are hoping to expand our membership. If you think you would like to give us a try, call Bill Skinner at 817/421-4034 and you will be invited to our next meeting.

May Grief Support Group

will be held on Sunday mornings on May 2, 9, 16, & 23. The group will meet on the 2nd floor of the Foundation Building from 9:30-10:30 a.m. For more information, please call Larry Grubb at 817/339-5098.

The Thang family - teaching us the meaning of faith



Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." In 2009 a family of five from a country once known as Burma, taught the congregation at First United Methodist Church (FUMC) of Fort Worth, TX the true meaning of faith.

On their journey to become our neighbors, the Thang family literally risked their lives. Several years ago, Mr. Thang was captured by the Burmese government and placed into slavery. He was able to escape- taking his family out of the country and to a refugee camp. Through the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) and Refugee Services of Texas, the Thang family was able to come to the United States. Currently, the family cannot return to their homeland due to fear of persecution.

Although they are thankful to be here in the US, their life here has not been easy. Mr. and Mrs. Thang have had a difficult time finding and keeping jobs during this economic crisis. They don't qualify for many jobs due to the language barrier. It is often a struggle for them to keep up financially- especially with three children. Yet they endure- because of their faith. They don't give up just because they can't see the "staircase." They have taught us at FUMC that faith is not simply something you have occasionally when things are bad. Faith is a continuous act.

Becoming a refugee sponsoring congregation, has truly transformed the 11:11 worship congregation of First United Methodist Church (FUMC). We all worked together to donate or buy all needed items for the initial apartment set up. We also helped with getting a car donated for work purposes. One member continues to stop by and checks on the family (bringing food, firewood, books...). My family keeps in regular contact with the Thang family. We have taken the family to restaurants, and they have attended birthday parties. We talk on the phone and stop by occasionally to check on them.

Most likely there is a refugee family living close by to your congregation. Ask your congregation if this is one of the ways you can share the meaning of Christ. Raphael Lemkin (1941) once asked the disturbing question, "If women, children, and old people were being murdered a hundred miles from here, wouldn't you run to help? Then why do you stop when the distance is 3,000 miles instead of a hundred?" What if these same people were dropped off on your door step? Wouldn't you reach out to assist them? The Thang family has truly taught us the meaning of faith.

Preschool and PDO Auction set for April 20

The 2010 Live and Silent Auction benefiting the First United Methodist Church Preschool and Parents' Day Out programs is April 20th at Joe T. Garcia's Mexican Restaurant. Proceeds will be used to benefit the programs by providing classroom equipment, curricula, teacher education, and playground improvements.

For more information about the Live and Silent Auction, and to make a donation, please contact the auction coordinator, Mary Catherine Parsons at 817/920-7755 or marycatherineparsons@hotmail.com.



Philip Newell Goostree Lecture DVD sets are now available

Were you unable to attend the Goostree Lecture Series featuring Celtic spirituality scholar Philip Newell? Had you hoped to be able to see the lectures? Well you can, simply order the lecture DVD set by filling out an order form. Order forms are available in the Welcome Center. The cost of the 3-disk set is \$20.00. A copy of the order form is available on the church website www.MyFUMC.org.

Senior Spring Golf Tournament

Wednesday, May 12, Whitestone Golf Club

Shotgun start at 9:00 AM. Four person scramble.

Watch the church paper, bulletin and enews for more information.

Needed for the FUMC Archives Ministry:

Copies of Church newspapers and bulletins dated **PRIOR** to 1981. Donations may be left in the Church Office or at the Welcome Center. Thank you!

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New security system installed in main building

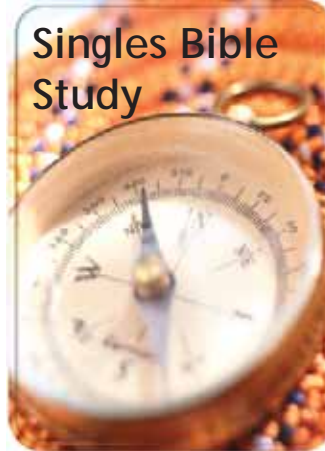
Many of you may have noticed the keypads at our exterior doors. They are part of the security system that FUMC and the Preschool partnered to have installed in the main building. As a downtown church, we strive to have our doors open and place ourselves in a position to help those in need. Our open door policy is important because it allows us to be accessible to those who are seeking help.

Building security for our children is a top priority to church members, Preschool and Parents' Day Out parents, as well as teachers in our school and our church staff. The new system now requires a key pad code to enter the area of the building that houses our school and children's area. The new security system limits access for those who should not be in the children's area and it gives the parents of the precious children who spend part of their day with us peace of mind.

The children's area, which includes the Preschool and Parents' Day Out classrooms, are only accessible via a key padded door. This added layer of security for our children is essential to insure we are doing all we can to keep our children safe. Over the past few years the Preschool and PDO programs raised funds through their annual auction. When polled, parents of children who are enrolled in our school programs, requested that a portion of the funds be used to improve security in and around the school.

The security system includes keypads at all our exterior entrances – west door, garden door, and the east door. During the week these doors remain open during regular business hours and are locked at 5:00 p.m. When evening events like choir practice, studies, meetings and concerts are held the doors can be programmed to be open for a certain amount of time and automatically lock at the appropriate times once the events have begun. We also have the capability of setting temporary key codes for ongoing groups who meet after hours. This would allow people attending Bible studies or recurring meetings to use a key code to enter the building for their meeting at a set time. Having the building locked once evening meetings have started adds a sense of security for those who are in the building in the evening. It also will help our security guard better manage all the entrances and building floors while on duty in the evenings.

Other features in the system include security cameras throughout the building and on the children's playground. As needs arise the system is capable of being upgraded to include new and improved security features.



Singles Bible Study

Rev. Chuck Graff, Associate Minister at First United Methodist Church, Fort Worth, will lead a new short-term study for singles of all ages based on the Old Testament book of Joshua and the book "Sacred Compass: The Way of Spiritual Discernment" by J. Brent Bill.

We will meet on Tuesday evenings from April 27 through May 18, from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in Room 154. There will be no cost for the study and please bring along a brown bag supper (or your favorite fast food) and your Bibles. We will have a wonderful time together in fellowship and study as we discern the ways God is leading and encouraging us on our faith journeys.

There is no pre-registration for the study and you will be given resources at the first meeting. Contact Rev. Chuck Graff (817-339-5065 or cgraff@myfumc.org) for more details.

Crime Victims Community Worship Service - Sunday, April 18

You are invited to a Community Interfaith Worship Service of Help, Hope, & Healing for crime victims, their families, friends, and the community in observance of National Crime Victims Rights Week to be held on Sunday, April 18 at 3:00 p.m. at Goodwill Industries, 4005 Campus Drive, Fort Worth 76119. The service is designed to be a healing event for all victims of any crime, and will include scripture, prayers, music and, liturgy. There will be a time for victim names to be spoken or read. There will be a victim speaker who will tell about their journey toward health and healing. Information tables will provide resources from faith groups and service agencies. Sponsors include Crime Victims Council, First United Methodist Church Fort Worth, Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. See Crime Victims Council website: www.crimevictimsCouncil.org for a complete listing of sponsors.

2010 High School Seniors

Senior Photos

We would like to include a picture of your high school senior when we feature them in the church paper.

Please send us their photo now. No later than May 2, 2010. Send the photo or CD to: FUMC, 800 West 5th Street FW 76102 attention: Brenda (please include your child's full name, parents' names, high school, and the school or career they plan to attend or pursue) Send digital photos by email to Bkegans@myfumc.org.

For more information, call Brenda Kegans at 817/339-3888.

Scholarships

If you are a 2010 Senior and would like to apply for either the William E. "Bill" Baker Memorial Scholarship or the Samantha Bell Good Neighbors Scholarship you may pick up an application in the Church Office, the Welcome Center, the Justin Building or online at www.MyFUMC.org.

Applications are due by Friday, April 30, 2010 to Brenda Kegans.

Senior Recognition Service

Sunday, May 23 during the 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service.

Youth Banquet Sunday, May 2 from 6:00-8:30 pm

Look for more information in the coming weeks.

Let the hunting begin!

Preschool and Parents' Day Out Egg Hunts

Children's Easter Egg Hunts are always such fun to see and experience. The week before Easter the church hosted our Annual Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt at Lyle Lodge and the Preschool and Parents' Day Out Program hosted egg hunts for the children on the playground.



Lyle Lodge Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic

One of the most highly anticipated events in the life of our church is the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Celebration. Held at the church's owned Lyle Lodge on the banks of Eagle Mountain Lake, this event offered something for the whole family. Children love the Easter egg hunt, the petting zoo, the pony rides, the face painting and the games and crafts. The adults love seeing the sheer joy on the faces of hundreds of children. And everyone loves the chance to spend a lovely spring morning together as a family.

The celebration lasted from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and concluded with a picnic. Hamburgers and hot dogs were provided by the church.

Thank you to the Easter Celebration committee that helped us celebrate children, celebrate families and celebrate Easter: Molly and Jeff McLendon, chairs; Kristi Howell, crafts; Sarah Scott, games and activities; Jennifer Hart, publicity; and Bryan Corser, video.



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Earth Care at First

EARTH CARE AT FIRST will meet on Sunday, May 2 at 12:15 in room 271 of the Foundation Building. You are invited to be a part of this dedicated group seeking ways to inform our church family about ways we can each impact our environmental crisis. For more information please call Rev. Larry Grubb, 817/339-5098.

“Partners for Sacred Places” speaker, James Nader featured at United Methodist Women General Meeting Tuesday, May 4

The final UMW General Meeting program for the 2009-2010 year will be held on Tuesday, May 4 and will feature James Nader, an architect and civic leader, speaking about the “Partners for Sacred Places”.

The Texas Regional Office of Partners for Sacred Places was founded in 2006 at the initiation of Mr. Nader through the national Partners office along with local civic, business, religious leaders and support from architects and preservationists. This national nonsectarian non-profit organization focuses on helping congregations and communities sustain and actively use older historic sacred places for congregational mission.

Come to find out about their activity with historic places of worship in our area.

Reservations are required and may be made through your circle representative or by calling Johnye Benepe at 817-292-1362. Lunch will be served beginning at 11:45 am at a cost of \$9.00. Please contact Liska Best at 817-996-5654 by 2 p.m. by Friday, April 30 if you wish to arrange childcare.



Celebrate our Church Family

If you or someone you know who is part of our congregation has a celebration to share like a civic honor, made honor roll in school or a professional honor, please share it with us.

We have created a “Celebration” page on the church website to list these celebrations. Please keep your submission to 2-3 sentences and email it to LLaswell@MyFUMC.org.

(Be sure to include FUMC Family Celebration in the subject line.)

Susan Todd will be installed as the President of the American Medical Association Alliance in June at the national convention of the American Medical Association held in Chicago. She also currently serves on the American Medical Association Foundation Board. Susan has previously served as the President of the Texas Medical Association Alliance, President of the Tarrant County Medical Association Alliance and Chairwoman of the Texas Medical Association Foundation.

Susan’s husband, Dr. Joe Todd, an orthopedic surgeon, currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Tarrant County Medical Society and has previously served as President of the Tarrant County Medical Society. (March 25, 2010)

It’s a good old-fashioned Spaghetti Supper!

Tuesday, April 20, 2010
5:00-7:00 p.m.
Justin Youth Building
Asbury Room

Tickets \$6.00/person
\$20.00/family of four

Get your tickets today!

Proceeds benefit the Youth Choir Tour
Scholarship Fund.

Questions? Call Janis Rathburn at 817/339-3883
or email her at JRathburn@MyFUMC.org.

Cultivating Life

Thank you!
Your ongoing support of FUMC continues to cultivate the life and ministry of our church and community.

Memorial Gifts March 19-25, 2010

Easter Fund: In Memory of: Bobby Bragan by Betty Bragan. In Memory of: Sam Ozee and David Ozee by Juanita Ozee.

Mission Fund: In Memory of: Sheila Killman by Shnease Webb.

Foundation Memorial Fund: In Memory of: Gordon William Smith by Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Holt, Jr.; and by Martha Leonard. In Memory of: Margery Anthis by Marion Pratt.

Memorial Gifts March 26 - April 1, 2010

Easter Fund: In Memory of: Odelle Clements by Betty Clements.

General Memorial Fund: In Memory of: L.C. Crumrine by Dorothy L. Crumrine. In Memory of: Margery Anthis by Barbara and Wesley Alderete. In Memory of: Vivian Franklin by Charles and Donna Stevens. In Memory of: Dr. Bob and Peggy Miller by Charles and Donna Stevens.

Kenya Children's Choir: In Memory of: Colleen Stevens by Charlie, Donna and Sarah Stevens, and Alysa and Rene Aelvoet.

Honorary Gifts March 19-25, 2010

Easter Fund: In Honor of: Leo Cendroski by Cathy Wells.

Foundation Honorarium Fund: In Honor of: Pat Petrushka on her Birthday by Bill and Jean Webb.

Honorary Gifts March 26 - April 1, 2010

General Honorarium Fund: In Honor of: Catherine and Robert Tuggle by Charles and Donna Stevens. In celebration of the baptism of our grandson, Monty Everett Moncrief, by Wayne and Patty Adams.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers for the Sanctuary on Sunday, April 18 - Remembering Celia Winn Spaans April 19, 1961 to May 27, 1998 by her parents Carolyn and Herschel Winn.



The flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday, April 25 are in loving memory of Dr. G. Alfred and Mrs. Opal Brown by their son G. Alfred Brown, Jr.

Known Hospitalized March 20 - April 2, 2010

Arlington Memorial: Rosalee Main.

Baylor All Saints: Cindy Murray.

Harris Methodist - Downtown: Eva Isbell.

James L. West Center: Bernice Davis.

Saint Paul Dallas: Vickie Britt.

Autumn Leaves of Fossil Greek: Lewis Sommermeyer.

Global Rehab: Glenn Johnston.

Broadway Plaza: Pauline Thomason, Betty Chura, Billie Cather and Robert Shellburg.

Home Hospice: Eloise and Lewis Pratt and Bill Pumphrey.

Home Care: Frances Batchelor and Mariam Garrett.

In Memoriam

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Dick Laswell whose sister, Marge Graves, died March 12; to Neil Franklin whose mother, Vivian Franklin, died March 22; to the family and friends of Ruth Choyce, who died recently; and to Carolyn Lombard whose mother, Anna Blumhoff, died April 1.

FUMC Foundation receives gift from the late Dr. Walter Geyer

A \$47,511 check was presented to the church's Foundation recently during the weekly staff meeting. The gift was the balance on a \$100,000 Charitable Gift Annuity purchased by First Church member, Dr. Walter Geyer through the Central Texas Methodist Foundation.

Dr. Geyer passed away on December 30, 2009. He was a longtime church member and active participant and supporter of our mission and outreach programs. At Dr. Geyer's request, the check was placed in the Mission Endowment. Dr. Geyer's two favorite outreach programs and the two in which he participated, were the Christmas Chili Lunches for the Homeless and the Back to School Program for disadvantaged children. Dr. Lamar Smith, former Executive Director of the Foundation, made the presentation.

Are interested in learning more about our church's foundation? Are you interested in making a gift to FUMC's Foundation? Please contact Sid Johnston, Executive Director of First Methodist Church of Fort Worth Foundation, by phone 817/336-5698, or email fmc@fmcfoundation.org. You are welcome to visit the Foundation's website as well - fmcfoundation.org.

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First United Methodist Church
800 West Fifth Street Fort Worth, Texas 76102
www.MyFUMC.org • 817/336-7277

April 16, 2010

News of Our Church Family

Worship

Welcome Our New Members



Jennifer Morrow of Webster, Texas joined from a church of another denomination. **Stephen Wood** of Houston transferred his membership from White's Chapel UMC.



Jennifer and Jody Sanders of Fort Worth transferred their membership.

Baptisms



Carson Hays Dilday, son of Kelli and John Dilday, was baptized Sunday, March 28. He is pictured with his parents and older brother, Corbin.



Jodi Hunter of Arlington joined by profession of faith.



Brittany Borders, daughter of Marcy Galle, was baptized Sunday, March 28.



Sunday, April 18, 2010:
Dr. Tim Bruster will preach during our 9:30 and 11:00 Sanctuary services. His sermon will be entitled 'Twice Changed'.

Sunday, April 25, 2010:
Confirmation Sunday
Dr. Tim Bruster will preach during our 9:30 and 11:00 Sanctuary services.

Sunday Worship Services

- DiscipleChurch at 8:30 a.m. in Leonard Memorial Chapel.
- Sanctuary Worship Services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. A Garden Reception follows each worship service.
- "eleven:eleven" Contemporary Worship at 11:11 a.m. in Wesley Hall.
- 10:35 a.m. Chapel Communion in Leonard Memorial Chapel.

Join us for an Ice Cream Social celebrating the 2010 Stewardship Campaign
Sunday, April 18 in the Garden
Immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service

