



The Chimes

January 2011

Bright Ideas

Beginning 2011 with optimism

MY FRIEND, REV. TOM BUTTS, TELLS ME THAT in a little volume of poetry he found the following verse attributed to Virgil, the Roman poet. Perhaps the thought came from Virgil; perhaps not.

It matters little whether the verse flowed from the scratchy quill of the ancient poet or the ball-point pen of a perceptive modern-day spirit, it speaks so superbly of a kind of courage we each need to begin a new year.

“I have tried but reached only disaster;
I’ve battled but broken my lance,
I am bruised by a pitiless monster,
That the weak and the timid call chance.

I am old, I am beat, I am cheated
Of all that youth urged me to win;
But name me not with the defeated,
For tomorrow, I begin again.”

Many people eventually come to see that their original life’s goals and dreams have not been realized, and might never be. A business or a marriage failed, the children went wrong, somebody died or left. There are a thousand things that unhinge us as we scuffle with life. However, it is what we do with the outcome that makes the difference.

I subscribe to Winston Churchill’s famous approach to success: “Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.” He would have



By: Rev. David N. Mosser
Senior Pastor

known about this; he was both the biggest success and biggest failure of the twentieth century. Another great leader, Nelson Mandela, also reminds us that, “The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.”

The new year affords us something we all crave and probably need: the ability to start over. It is a great blessing to start over. It is an opportunity to test the knowledge gained from all those mistakes we were supposed to learn from.

So as we start 2011, we stare down at a new year with hope.

One image of the new year I like best, is of two calendars side by side: the old and the new. One is tattered and torn - covered by coffee spills and smudgy finger-prints. This calendar represents commitments made and kept last year. Next to the old is the new calendar. Clean with no awkward markings...yet. It represents opportunities that await.

Happy New Year and, remember, keep track of where you plan to go!





Reaching Out

How visits to the homebound keep members connected

By: Sharla Martin
Parish Visitor for Pastoral Care

D ID YOU KNOW THERE IS A GROUP OF individuals in our church who faithfully visit members who are no longer able to attend church? These volunteers are a vital part of the congregational care ministry.

Every two months, they visit homes or assisted living centers to deliver devotional materials and talk and pray with homebound FUMC members. Their visits keep our homebound members connected to the community of faith.

Virginia Deering is one of these amazing volunteers.

In 2007, Virginia was approached by Rev. Francine Copeland and asked to volunteer with the congregational care ministry. Virginia wanted to become more involved with FUMC and accepted Rev. Copeland's challenge.

Virginia visits eight homebound members every other month. For her, it is an extremely rewarding

experience. "I truly look forward to visiting. I think I get more out of the visits than those I see," says Virginia.

Many of those Virginia visits are individuals she has known for years from church. She especially looks forward to visiting Catherine Foster, who at age 101, is "a delight and an inspiration," says Virginia.

When asked how this ministry has affected her life, Virginia says,

"I truly enjoy this ministry. Not only are those people a blessing for me, I believe I am a blessing to them. I feel like God called me to do this, knowing how enriching it would be for me as a Christian."

If you would like to be a part of this visitation ministry, please contact Sharla Martin at (817) 274-2571 ext. 244 or smartin@arlingtonmethodist.org

My Youth Group

How the Texas Rangers Inspired
FUMC's Youth Ministry

By: Nick Scott
*Director of Youth and Young
Adult Ministries*

I'VE BEEN ALIVE FOR 28 YEARS AND THE vast majority of those years I have been a Texas Rangers fan. Many of you reading this may have been fans even longer. If so, then you know being a follower of this franchise has not historically been a rewarding experience. Sure, the organization sampled success in the late 90's, but a hungry fan base was once again fed mediocrity in the new millennium. That is one reason why the recently completed World Series run of the 2010 Texas Rangers was so enjoyable and exhilarating. The tables were turned. We finally made it to the top...of the American League anyway.

Something else I enjoyed seeing this past baseball season was the increased involvement and interest of fans. From the higher attendance, to the claw, and even the antlers, the fans seemed to be more into it this year.

The Rangers organization took notice too and looked to increase the fans' connection with the franchise by launching a great ad campaign that had fans saying, "These are MY TEXAS RANGERS." The phrase "My Texas Rangers" instills ownership, and if fans take ownership and recognize the team as "their" team, they care more and become better fans.

I think the same applies in the church and especially in youth ministry. We should say, "This is MY CHURCH" or, "This is MY YOUTH GROUP." Teenagers should not merely be spectators in youth ministry, but rather they should take ownership of the ministry and become active participants. If they do, the youth group will be stronger and the youth themselves will grow in leadership, character and faith.

To help encourage this, we have created several "teams" that provide opportunities for our youth to be involved. We now have an active music team, sound booth team, skit team, video team, and creation team. These teams are led by the youth themselves and each plays a vital role in the life of our youth ministry.

Encourage the youth you know to become active participants in an existing team, or even create a new one. Encourage them to take ownership of both their youth ministry and their faith.



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Joining In

Opportunities for Bible Study
and Spiritual Formation in 2011

JANUARY IS THE PERFECT TIME TO BEGIN a bible study to help develop your spirituality. First United Methodist Church of Arlington has several opportunities beginning in January. Registration for studies can be done online at www.arlingtonmethodist.org or with Melissa Darrow in the church office.

Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living

This will be the focus of the Inspiration Tuesday Worship on January 11, 18, and 25 at 7:00 PM in Vandergriff Chapel. Rodney Ward will facilitate the study on this book by Reuben P. Job. Books may be purchased in the church office for \$5.

Rev. Mosser's Lectionary Bible Study

This weekly study, on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:00 PM, focuses on the four scripture lessons for the upcoming Sunday. Participants are invited to bring a sack lunch for dinner.

What Jesus Meant: The Beatitudes and a Meaningful Life

This book, by Erik Kolbell, will be the focus of a study led by Rev. Brian Young. The beatitudes will be studied alongside the social principles of the United Methodist Church. This seven week study begins January 12 at 10:00 AM. Books may be purchased in the church office for \$11.

Companions in Christ: The Way of Scripture

Led by Rev. Kay Lancaster, this seven week study will meet Thursdays from 10:00-11:30 AM, beginning January 13. This study, which will explore scripture and the ancient practice of lectio divina, is intended for committed Christians serious about adventuring into greater spiritual depths with God's word. Books may be purchased in the church office for \$12.

Heart Whispers

Beginning January 20, this short-term study, led by Sharla Martin, will offer insights to help us live faithfully in today's often stress-filled world. Books may be purchased in the church office for \$12.



Women's Retreat

By: Rev. Kay Lancaster
Associate Pastor

ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 28 WOMEN FROM our congregation are invited to travel to Stillwater Lodge in Glen Rose, Texas to experience "A Time Apart for Fellowship & Fun." Friday evening and Saturday will be spent in times of worship, fellowship, renewal, and fun. We will begin gathering at Stillwater Lodge at 5:00 PM with a pot luck dinner provided by the planning team to allow our ladies to arrive by 6:30 PM on Friday. Our group activities will conclude at 3:00 PM Saturday, January 29.

Overnight lodging will be hotel quality, with handicap accessible facilities. Saturday breakfast and lunch will be provided. Cost for the retreat is \$75. Retreat Leaders will be Rev. Francine Copeland, Rev. Maureen Mathias, Rev. Kay Lancaster, Becky Steimle, Diane Nickerson, Joyce Waites, Megan Hale, and Cathy Olson.

For more information contact Rev. Kay Lancaster or Melissa Darrow in the church office.

Beginnings: The Spiritual Life

Exploring ten habits of Christian spirituality



HAVE YOU WONDERED ABOUT THE spiritual habits of someone who follows Jesus Christ? **Beginnings: The Spiritual Life** explores ten habits of Christian spirituality, such as love, faith, simplicity, courage, trust and doubt.

When does it start?

Beginnings: The Spiritual Life starts on January 13. It is a ten-week program designed to explore the spiritual habits of Christians in a warm, relaxed setting.

Who knows?

Participating in **Beginnings** may be one of the most important decisions you will ever make.

At the same time, **The Way of the Child** is being offered to children ages 5-12 to help them develop

their relationship with God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Who should attend Beginnings?

- Anyone who would benefit from a comfortable review of spirituality - perhaps your co-worker, neighbor, good friend or relative
- New believers
- Anyone seeking a closer relationship with Christ
- Anyone seeking new friends at FUMC

There will be a meal, music, childcare, video, fun and fellowship. The program will begin at 6:30 PM and end at 8:30 PM.

How do I register?

Registration forms are in the church office and on FUMC's web site:

www.arlingtonmethodist.org. Click "Events and Registration" and then click "Open Registration" links.

A COMPANION PROGRAM, **Beginnings: An Introduction to Christian Life**, recently concluded. Some of those who participated noted its impact:

"Why did I join the **Beginnings** group? I was looking for a small group experience, including fellowship and new friendships as I renew, refresh and enhance my faith. I found all these plus good food. I recommend it!"

- Cass Taliaferro

What They're Saying

Beginnings: An Introduction to
Christian Life

"My experience with **Beginnings** started after the sudden loss of a loved one. I admit I felt abandoned by God, but on the recommendation of 'The Rev', Dr. Mosser, I signed up for the class and went to the first meeting. I was a bit worried about being accepted. Let's face it, between the long hair and a lack of knowledge of a lot of the Bible, I was not sure what to expect. Would they all stare? Sneer at the heathen? I stepped in the door and what I found were warm smiles, fellowship without judgment, good food and friendship. Come on by and try it, you'll have some fun and who knows, it may change your life."

- Bill Horcher



Created By God: Human Sexuality Class

A class to help prepare children
for adolescence by cultivating
their awareness

By: Rev. Kay Lancaster
Associate Pastor

PEDIATRICIAN AND FUMC MEMBER, DR. Earl Hampton and Holly Heid, nurse practitioner and FUMC member, will be leading a class on human sexuality for fifth graders on January 16, 23, and 30. The course has been offered by FUMC for years and has always been well received.

As these children will soon be entering adolescence, it is an appropriate time to help cultivate their awareness of their bodies, beliefs, relationships and responsibilities. The curriculum for the three-week program is “Created by God”, which is published by Abingdon Press—the United Methodist Publishing House.

The class will meet in room 222, from 10:45 AM -12:15 PM. There will be a parent orientation on the January 16, in Room 214 at 10:45 AM, while the children attend their first session. All parents will need to attend this orientation, during which siblings may go to room 213 for a video.

This class requires parent volunteers each week, so please indicate where are able to help. You will not have to teach anything—just help with group control.

All volunteers must be on the FUMC approved volunteer list.

Registration may be done online at www.arlingtonmethodist.org or in the church office.

Please register children by January 9, so we may prepare enough books. Cost for the student book is \$7.50 and the parent book is \$4.50, totaling \$12.00. Payment may be made with registration in the office or at the parent meeting. Please make checks payable to FUMC.

Contact Rev. Kay Lancaster if you have any questions or concerns at (817) 274-2571.

Feel free to invite your friends with fifth grade children to attend this class!

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January Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27 FUMC Closed for Christmas	28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day
2	3 FUMC Closed for New Year's	4 United Methodist Women Meeting	8	6	7	8
9	10	11 OWLS meeting/ Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living*	12 What Jesus Meant: The Beatitudes and a Meaningful Life*	13 Companions in Christ: The Way of Scripture*/ Beginnings: The Spiritual Life*	14 Disciple Now Begins	15
16 Blood Drive/ Created by God human sexuality class*	17 FUMC Closed for MLK Day/ Arlington Community Service Day	18	19	20 Heart Whispers*	21 Transforming Men for Christ Conference	22 Transforming Men for Christ Conference
23 Fundraiser for Testament Youth Choir at Olenjacks	24	25 Rev. Mosser's Lectionary Bible Study*	26	27	28	29
30 Fundraiser for Testament Youth Choir at Olenjacks	1	2	3	4	5	6

*Bible study/class begins

For more information on these events visit www.arlingtonmethodist.org

First Prayers

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful" Colossians 4:2

We pray for those who have experienced an illness.

Debbie Gardner on the loss of her father, Bobbie McMahon, on 11/30

Christy Adams, Ed Adams, Ruth Boyd, Leslie Coone, Mary Alice Erb, Mattie Hamberlin, Jan Houchin Roy McDonald, Joan Mueller, Penny Patrick, Pansy Skaggs, Anissa Singleton, Hollis Vincent, Katie Ward, Jenna Weber, Joyce Williams, Kathy Yarborough

Suzan Tujague on the loss of her father, Albert Harper, on 11/30

Tessie Sloan on the loss of her grandfather, Elton Dennis Smart, Sr., on 12/3

We pray for those who have experienced a loss. Condolences to...

Ed Thulin on the loss of his wife, Virginia, on 12/11

Charles Quereau and daughters on their loss of Judy on 11/26.

Denise Stafford on the loss of her uncle, Bob Crum, on 12/16

313 N Center Arlington, TX 76011
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OWLS Meeting

The OWLS (Older Wiser Laughing Souls) will meet on Tuesday, January 11, at 11:30 AM in the Great Hall for a covered dish luncheon.

We are fortunate to have J. R. Edmondson as guest speaker. Many of our members will remember his portrayals of Sam Houston and James Bowie. Recently, he has added a new character to his “living history” repertoire - John Wayne. Mark your calendars now to hear Jack’s presentation, “Meet the Duke.”

Portraying John Wayne, Jack served as grand marshal of the National Day of the Cowboy parade. When Llano, TX centered its annual western celebration to honor Wayne’s 100th birthday, Jack was hired to portray Wayne. He also wrote a comic skit, in which he portrayed Wayne, as the featured entertainment for an Angus Foundation fundraiser held at the

National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. The Angus Foundation had set a goal to raise \$250,000 that evening; instead, the foundation raised \$345,000! The entertainment provided by Jack was praised for contributing to the event’s tremendous success.



Jack is a native Texan and received his B.S. from UT, and his M.S. from TCU. He occasionally teaches continuing education at TCU and at CCCC. Among his many accomplishments, he has authored several books and is considered an expert on the Alamo. Jack has appeared on the History and Discovery channels, serves on the Tarrant County Historical Commission and is a member of the Western Writers.

Cost of tickets for this event—*priceless*!! So easy and affordable... just bring a covered dish to serve 10-12 people.