

The Chimes

February 2011

Dare to Share

Sharing your story and faith

By: Rev. Estee Valendy
Associate Pastor

HAVE YOU EVER WATCHED very young children play together? If you have, then you know that when they play, they don't actually interact much; instead they play next to one another. I see this when my two year old son, Jude, plays at preschool. Jude will sidle up to a friend and check out what he or she is doing.

Then he will start to play alongside, looking over to see what his friend is doing every now and then. Child psychologists call this "parallel play," and it is actually an important part of a child's development. Parallel play helps children become confident in social situations, and eventually leads to relationship development where the child will begin to engage with others during play.

Just as parallel play is an early stage of relationship development in kids, "parallel evangelism" is an early stage of active evangelism in our church. When we're at church, we often "overhear" the faith stories of other Christians in Sunday school or in the sanctuary before worship. We hear bits and pieces of their story, but we don't often engage each other in telling our complete story.

On January 9, Rev. Mosser and I introduced the 2011 theme for our church: Dare to Share. The point of this theme is to urge all of us to continue to grow in our confidence to share our faith stories. We'll be encouraged to move from overhearing stories to engaging with one another and dialoguing. Ultimately, the challenge is to begin sharing our stories in ways that are grace-filled with people outside of the church.

During the month of February, Rev. Thomas Q. Robbins is returning to our church to conduct a faith-sharing workshop for invited leaders. They will then share the experience with their Sunday school classes and small groups. The workshop will be repeated later in the year for everyone to experience.

Dare to Share moments will be featured in worship services, so that we can all celebrate and learn from the testimonies of our fellow Christians.

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As we begin to grow into this theme for 2011, I would ask you to do two things. First, pray about learning to share your faith. Pray for our church, that our individual faith journeys might be renewed and enriched by the stories of others.

Secondly, make a start toward putting your own story into words. Sit down and make a "life timeline." If you have a spouse or kids, do this together. Draw a line that represents your life, and note significant points that have happened along the way. When were you baptized? Were you confirmed? Who was a significant Sunday school or youth group leader? When did you experience pain or loss? How did you cope? What significant celebrations can you mark? As you make the timeline, take time to share it with someone else, and invite them to share a timeline with you.

Sharing Your Faith With Others

To share your faith with others, live it with others. God will do the rest.



By: Rev. David N. Mosser
Senior Pastor

IN THE WORLD WE NOW LIVE IN, people are virtually required to step out of their “comfort zones.” Because it is so spot on, I want to explore an idea from NASCAR. I would like to suggest how a NASCAR racing strategy can help believers reach out to others in and for faith. At the website “How Stuff Works,” I read about the NASCAR technique called “drafting.” Something which some ordinary drivers, like us, might dangerously practice behind eighteen wheelers on major interstate highways.

“If you think you can pilot a NASCAR race car around Alabama’s Talladega Superspeedway at 180 miles per hour with more than 40 of your closest friends and enemies hot on your tail, you’d better think again. It takes more than a lead foot and nerves of steel. It’s all about guts and brains and ability—and one of the most critical abilities is understanding the draft, or as many drivers put it, ‘seeing the air.’

“The best way for a Christian to share his or her faith is to be faithful. Thus, Sunday school, worship, regular giving and service—these are the great persuaders in our world today.”

This quasi-mystic talent is a mixture of hard science and cold mathematical formulas, of tough driver training and the blood-and-bone borne art of becoming one with a car and seeing a race as more than just machines and macadam. Drafting is a game of small numbers and risky strategy playing out in a larger drama. Good drafting can turn a humdrum race into a real humdinger and a

bumper-to-bumper slugfest into high-speed chess and produce the kinds of races that are talked about for years afterward.

Like the old adage ‘it takes two to tango,’ drafting can only be accomplished with two or more cars. When the lead car rockets down the track it pushes through the air leaving a disturbed, or “dirty,” wake behind it. The second car can slip into that disturbed air stream and reap the benefits—that is, if the driver is talented.”*

Drafting allows one car to benefit from the momentum built up by another. As a church, in 2011 we are attempting to build up momentum with the theme “Dare to Share,” momentum that will encourage us to share our faith with others. My hope is that if we all work together, then we can sail in each other’s wake and sharing our faith will be easier and more natural.

As good Methodists who “think and let think,” as John Wesley famously quipped, our example for faith sharing may be more winsome and honest than pure argument. We rarely debate or browbeat a person into a belief or conviction. Rather, we persuade others by who we are and what we do. **The best way for a Christian to share his or her faith is to be faithful.** Thus, Sunday school, worship, regular giving and service—these are the great persuaders in our world today.

So if you want to share your faith with others, then live it with others. God will do the rest.

Come Worship.
Stay Learn.
Go Serve.

* auto.howstuffworks.com/auto-racing/nascar/nascar-basics/nascar-drafting.htm

The Glass Slipper Boutique

By: Michelle Clark
*Missions and Outreach
Coordinator*

Collecting dresses to help Arlington youth attend prom

YOU'LL NEVER WEAR THAT Dress Again...
But Someone Else Can!

Here's your chance to help an Arlington high school student be the "Belle of the Ball" at her high school prom. The Glass Slipper Project collects new and almost-new formal dresses and accessories to provide them, free of charge, to local high school students who are unable to purchase their own prom attire.

In partnership with the Junior League of Arlington, FUMC will be a collection site for these dresses and accessories. Donations can be dropped off in the church office by February 26, 2011.

For more information, please contact Michelle Clark in the church office or via email at mclark@arlingtonmethodist.org.

Help us give these women the chance to attend their prom feeling beautiful and confident!



Share The Wealth

By: Rev. Kay Lancaster
Associate Pastor

Collecting composition books for a good cause

OUR SIXTH GRADERS IN THE Confirmation Class will be visiting the Methodist Children's Home in Waco on February 20 to see how the United Methodist Church is in mission outside the local church.

The sixth graders will be collecting composition books to donate to the students at the Methodist Children's Home. If you would like to help toward this collection, it would be greatly appreciated.

The class will leave the church at 8:15 AM, worship with the students at the Children's Home at 10:00 AM, and have a chicken dinner on the grounds. Then they will tour the home's facilities before going out to tour the Ranch.

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



The Darker Side of The Super Bowl

How human trafficking is affecting our
community

By: Amy Nelson
Communications Coordinator

"He who dwells in the shelter
of the Most High will rest in
the shadow of the Almighty."
- Psalm 91.1

YOU'VE PROBABLY NOTICED ALL the activity at Cowboys Stadium. The Super Bowl is coming to town and attendance is expected to break 100,000 for the first time in over 20 years.

However, with this excitement comes a darker side. The Super Bowl is one of the nation's biggest human trafficking draws, as traffickers follow the thousands of spectators. Last year's Super Bowl in Miami witnessed tens of thousands of minors and women trafficked into the area.

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery. According to the United Methodist Women, it includes the "recruiting, transporting, and harboring of persons by use of threat, force or deception for the purpose of exploitation." The average life expectancy of a trafficking victim is only seven years.

The CIA and U.S. State Department estimate that over 50,000 women and children are trafficked into the United States each year.

Traffick911, a Fort Worth based nonprofit which focuses on trafficking victims, states that human trafficking "is the fastest-growing crime in the world, with the perpetrators making \$32 billion a year buying and selling people for their profit and pleasure. The profits are huge and the risk of being prosecuted are slim - the United Nations says 99% of victims are never rescued."

You may be wondering what you can do about such an overwhelming problem.

Take Action

Kathleen Murray with the North Texas Anti-Trafficking Task Force says to look out for the following warning signs:

Warning Signs

1. Evidence of being controlled
2. Evidence of an inability to move or leave a job or situation
3. Bruises or other signs of battering
4. Fear or depression

5. Non-English speaking; however, children who are US citizens will more than likely speak English
6. Recently brought to this country from Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America, Canada, Africa or India
7. Lack of passport, immigration or identification documentation - for children they may give a false age or have a false ID
8. Runaway and homeless youth are vulnerable to an exploiter

Murray states that "if you suspect anything wrong - or it just doesn't 'sit right with you' - do not hesitate to call in a complaint, even if you don't think it's human trafficking related. There is no tip too small for investigators to look into."

You are urged to contact 911 in cases of emergency. To report tips, or for more information on trafficking, contact the anti-trafficking task force at 817-392-4464.

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FUMC

In the week leading up to the Super Bowl, FUMC will launch an online campaign, including Facebook, church announcements and e-blasts to help raise awareness of human trafficking. Through prayer and charitable donations to UMCOR, we hope to offer some relief for the hundred of thousands suffering.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the not-for-profit global humanitarian aid organization of the United Methodist Church. UMCOR is working in more than 80 countries worldwide, including the United States. Please make donations at www.new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor with Advance # 333615

Local

Traffick911 will be hosting a tailgating event on Saturday, February 5, at the Aristide Event and Conference Center in Mansfield, Texas to raise awareness.

Kids and FUMC

Childcare at our church

D ID YOU KNOW FUMC HAS childcare available? The Enrichment Center for Young Children (E.C.Y.C.) is a ministry of FUMC. As a form of outreach to the community, it is designed to provide young children, ages six weeks through Pre-K, with creative and Christ-centered learning experiences.

The E.C.Y.C. offers an atmosphere of love where children are allowed to develop social, motor, verbal and spiritual skills at their own speed. Our facilities include the Great Hall, our Chapel,

and two age-appropriate playgrounds in addition to our classrooms.



Pre-registration for the 2011/2012 school year begins on Monday, February 21.

Feel free to drop by for a visit or tour of the school anytime Monday through Friday during school hours.

For more information please call at 817-274-3404 or email us at ecyc@arlingtonmethodist.org.

New Members and Baptisms



Ryan, Anna and Michael Baggett



Jennifer Ferguson pictured with Winifred Seaman



Brian and Amy Hardin. Not pictured: Cayman and Meg

First Prayers

We pray for those who have experienced an illness.

Christy Adams, Ed Adams, CJ Andrews, Ruth Boyd, Leslie Coone, Michael Copeland, Mary Alice Erb, Patricia Fennen, Catherine Foster, Sarah Francis, Dorothy Gray, Clinton Hahn, Margaret Harrington, Jan Houchin, Rhonda Jimmerson, Sarah Francis, Lula Mae Love, Raymond Martin, Roy McDonald, Larry Minter, Stephen Parker, Kathleen Shrauner, Hope Vastine, Jenna Webber, Eddie Williams

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

- Friends of Don Pope who passed away on 1/16
- Steve Vincent on the loss of his father, Hollis Vincent, on 1/18
- Friends of Johnie Sharp who passed away on 1/9
- Vicki Bibb on the loss of her father

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

- Jim Fulgham on the loss of his mother, Roxie Duke, on 1/11
- Bruce Hamberlin on the loss of his mother, Mattie, on 1/14
- Doris Cook on the loss of her brother, Clark Johnson, on 1/17
- Family and friends of Leslie Coone who passed away on 1/18
- Alice Petersen on the loss her mother on 1/14
- Friends of Margaret DeLand who passed away 1/19
- Royleen Cooper on the loss of her husband, Jerry, 1/20
- Marilyn Vinson on the loss of her husband, Hugh, 1/19d
- Ken Harrington and family on the loss of Myrtie Mae on 1/22

Blessings for those who have a new addition to their family. Congratulations to...

- Steve and Tricia Brock on the birth of their grandson, Grayson William Brock, on 1/6

February Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 United Methodist Women Meeting	2 Financial Peace University Begins	3 Dare To Share Workshop Begins	4	5
6 Super Bowl Sunday - One Worship Service*	7	8 OWLS Meeting	9	10	11	12
13 Chancel Choir Bake Sale/ Choir Fundraiser At Mimi's Cafe	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18	19
20 Choir Fundraiser at Pluckers/ Confirmation trip to Waco	21 Pre-registration For ECYC Begins	22	23	24	25	26
27 Amy Spaur Speaking/ Choir Fundrasier at Pluckers	28	1	2	3	4	5

* FUMC will have only one worship service on Super Bowl Sunday, February 6 from 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
www.arlingtonmethodist.org/superbowl,

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

New Staff



WELCOME ELLEN BAUMAN!

Ellen Bauman joined our administrative staff in January. She will be working with Miguel and his facilities staff as their Administrative Assistant and will help to organize the day to day operations of their work.

Ellen comes with a long history in the United Methodist Church and experience that will be an asset to our church. Her desk is in the front office, so stop by and introduce yourself.



313 N Center Arlington, TX 76011
www.arlingtonmethodist.org

OWLS Meeting

The OWLS, Older Wiser Laughing Souls, will meet on Tuesday, February 8, at 11:30 AM, in the Great Hall. We begin with a covered dish luncheon and ask that you bring food to serve 10-12 people.

Our program this month will be presented by Jim Reeves, retired sports reporter for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. His topic will be "Is God a Sports Fan?"

Jim retired in 2009, after a sports writing career spanning five decades. Jim worked his way up from covering West Texas high school football to become the Texas Rangers beat man in 1976. After covering the Rangers for 11 seasons, Reeves became a general sports columnist in 1987.

Jim has won numerous writing awards, both statewide and nationally, including the "Triple Crown" from the Houston Press Club in 2005, sweeping first, second, and third place. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1988 and awarded the TCU Schieffer School of Journalism

National Ethics Award in 2007. He is also an honorary media member of the Texas Baseball Hall of Fame.

Reeves has covered 28 World Series and written columns at half a dozen Super Bowls, NBA championships, and the Stanley Cup playoff finals. He also wrote from the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 2002. He currently writes a weekly freelance column for ESPNDallas.com.

Jim and Karen, his wife of 28 years, live in Dalworthington Gardens. He and Karen have been active members at Trinity United Methodist Church in Arlington for the last 20 years.

Please mark your calendars and invite your friends to come and join us for lunch and to hear Jim Reeves present "Is God a Sports Fan?"

