



The Chimes

November 2011



By: David N. Mosser
Senior Pastor



FUMCArlington



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“But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.” (Luke 14:13)

FOR MANY, November means just one thing—eating. Interestingly, eating plays a major role in Luke’s Gospel. For Luke, meals are a powerful metaphor for God’s dominion. In fact, in Luke and Acts, there are no fewer than 40 references to “eating” or being “at the table.”

Luke shares one example in the parable of the wedding banquet. As guests jockey for positions of honor, Jesus advises them to “go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your

host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’” (Luke 14:7-11)

This parable reminds us that the way we help another is as important as the help itself. That is, when giving a gift, it is easy to make the receiving person feel embarrassment—even shame.

One great example of this is my pastor friend who’s daughter got married. The family received many gifts from their large congregation. But, rather than feeling gratitude, my friend instead felt shame. Why? He had never bought

a single wedding present for any family in his congregation and felt he should reciprocate their kindness.

In part, this is what Jesus’ parable addresses. Jesus first speaks about the choosing of seats of honor. We strive to sit in important places—to see and be seen. Yet Jesus says it is better for someone to ask that person to “move up higher” than to be asked to give up a seat to someone worthy of more honor.

Jesus then offers up gospel wisdom: “For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble

themselves will be exalted.” When people attempt to self-create honor, then the endeavor is doomed.

I remember the day I learned a lesson in giving and helping someone “save face.” I had a large bag of aluminum cans in my trunk. I stopped and offered them to a fellow gathering cans on the highway. He refused, saying, “I don’t need no charity.” So over the next hill I pitched the cans into a ditch. Later, as I drove back by, I noticed he had picked up every can—and preserved his pride to boot.

PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER

HOW TO COMBINE



By: Rev. Estee Valendy
Associate Pastor

word is *avodah* and it means work, worship and service. While we typically compartmentalize those activities, biblically they are three parts of a whole. In Genesis, we read that God put Adam in the Garden of Eden “to work it and take care of it” (Genesis 2:15). The word for work is *avodah*. The same word is used in Exodus 3:12, which speaks of worship, not work: “When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship [*avodah*] God on this mountain.” Finally, Deuteronomy records that what is required of humans is to “fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul” (Deut. 10:12). We read serve, but the Hebrew says *avodah*.

Work, worship and service. These things should not be mutually exclusive, but interconnected. God intends that our work, worship and service be sewn together as a single covering of our lives. Instead, we get out our scissors and rip it to pieces.

What would it look like if this holiday season, we collaborate with God to weave ourselves back together? If we use our work time to serve others? Who in your office might need someone to listen to or care for them? What if we incorporate service into our holiday party cycle? Or make worship a part of family time?

Author Brian McLaren writes that practicing our faith does not have to involve adding more things to our to-do list. Instead, we should start counting what we’re already doing. Or put differently, let’s make the things we’re already doing count. McLaren calls this “faithing our practices.”

As you seek to give of yourself in this holiday season, think what you are already doing and how you can use that to serve God and serve others.

IT’S NOVEMBER – LET THE RACE BEGIN! FOR many of us, the pace of our lives will pick up this month and won’t slow down again until January. Holidays, parties, and deadlines will drive us to distraction. And yet, this is also the time of year when many of us feel the urge to give and serve. In this season of thanksgiving and gift-giving, we feel called to demonstrate love for our neighbor. How on earth will we fit it into our schedules?

The ancient Hebrews had a word we can apply to our present-day quest for balance in life. The

Our Youth Orchestra

How our youth bring music to worship



By: Diane Hale
*Director of Music
and Worship*

IN THE FALL OF 2008, DIANE HALE, DIRECTOR of music and worship, and music assistant Arthur Busby began recruiting junior and senior high school musicians with the hope of starting a youth orchestra at FUMC of Arlington. During the 2008–2009 school year, several dedicated musicians answered the call to serve their church.

These young musicians rehearse two Wednesdays prior to the Sunday they are to perform in worship. Since many of the musicians also sing in Testament Youth Choir, the 8:15 AM service is where they perform monthly. Knowing those who attend the 11:00 AM worship service would enjoy hearing their special music, the group agreed to also play at the beginning of that service as well.

What began as an ensemble of seven musicians has grown over the last several years, with many of the original members still active in the Youth Orchestra. Each year, the group has expanded. The 2011–2012 season has seen tremendous growth, with nearly 20 musicians playing in the orchestra. The ensemble now includes eight violins, two violas, three cellos, two flutes, an oboe, two clarinets and a French horn.

The Youth Orchestra begins each worship service with an opening voluntary, which sets the tone for worship. The piece provides a moment of meditation and reflection for the congregation as they prepare for the worship service. The group also provides accompaniment, along with the organ, for congregational hymns.

These young musicians have learned a great deal



about playing as an ensemble and about leading the congregation in song. Further, the older musicians mentor younger students who are new to the group. The students enjoy fellowship, as well as making music together.

The Youth Orchestra has also played for Ash Wednesday services, with several advanced high school students playing in the Chancel Choir Christmas presentation and Holy Week services.

In addition to playing in worship services, the Youth Orchestra presents programs at retirement homes in the community. First United Methodist Church of Arlington is very blessed to have these dedicated musicians who so willingly share their musical gifts and talents. Anyone interested in joining this very special group should contact Diane Hale.

simple gifts

operation christmas
child brings needed
supplies and salvation
to filipino children living
in dire conditions

IT SMELLS SO strongly of trash and cow dung at the big garbage dump outside of Manila that most people hold handkerchiefs to their noses to block some of the smell. No one wants to visit this area. Muck swallows shoes, leaving people barefoot in the smelly mess.

And yet there are people who live and work here.

These people are lower-class Filipinos. They collect bottles and other pieces of trash to sell. Their houses sit right on the edge of the dump site and are made of trash. While most people crinkle their noses and want to leave, the dump people

smile and laugh while the brown concoction on the ground squishes deeper in between their toes.

The children in this area are quiet but happy. Boys run shirtless through small patches of grass with a soccer ball. Girls watch and giggle in their crisp, white school blouses and plaid skirts. They've just finished a day of school and walked

the teachers had tried to keep it a secret, the children had found out that they would receive gifts, and they were excited. Before she received her shoe box, 8-year-old Joy listed the things she wanted.

“School supplies ... slippers ... a pencil case ... a pencil ... anything that can be used for writing ... and shoes.”

She paused between



home under the hot and sticky June sun.

Today, the smiles are a little wider. On the walk home, the children cradle Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes underneath their elbows.

This was a special day at school, a day of surprises. Although

each item as if she was afraid to say that she wanted more than one thing. Only after being prompted did she continue her list.

Nine-year-old Ralph slowly listed what he wanted, too.

“School supplies, school bag, a T-shirt, shoes and socks.”

All of these are simple things that most American children take for granted. But in impoverished areas like this one, school supplies and basic clothing make a huge difference.

“Education is the only way out,” said Marlin, pastor of the church that arranged the shoe box distribution at the school. “OCC will make a difference for them.”

With new school supplies, the children will have more opportunities in class. But the shoe boxes don't just offer physical items to make life better for children. The gifts also present an opportunity to learn about the Gospel.

That's exactly what Ralph did. When he accepted his gift, he also accepted Christ. As he kicks a soccer ball to a friend, his smile isn't just because of his new toys. Now he has found God's love.

Ralph and his friends were offered “The Greatest Gift of All” booklet with their gifts, which explains the story of Christ and salvation through Him. Ralph

said he is excited to learn more about Jesus. He is blessed because his mother is also a Christian, and she taught him about Christ even before he believed.

Joy also received the booklet, but she didn't look at it as soon as she received it. She said she wanted to look at it later. When she reads “The Greatest Gift of All,” there is hope that she too will find Christ's love.

At the end of the day, the smiling faces at the dump pick up their last bottles and throw them into bags. Then they walk the short distance to their houses.

Children have finished playing soccer and are helping to prepare the evening meal. Over dinner, they will talk about their day at school. Parents will see every gift in the shoe boxes, and they, too, will hear about how Jesus loves them.

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get involved

Operation Christmas Child Packing Party

When: Wednesday, November 16

Time: 6:30 PM Dinner | 7:00 PM Packing Party

Where: Great Hall

Pizza, salad and drinks at 6:30 PM
(donations requested)

Donations can be dropped off in the church office by Tuesday, November 15 in the church office for sorting prior to the event

Items Wish List:

- School supplies
- Personal hygiene items
- Washcloths
- Ivory soap
- Small toys and balls (no war items)
- such as army men, guns, etc.)
- T-shirts
- Socks
- Hair accessories
- Baby items

More information:

Contact Michelle Clark, Mission and Outreach Coordinator, at 817-274-2571 or mclark@arlingtonmethodist.org

safe sanctuaries

keeping kids safe

OVER A DECADE AGO, FUMC of Arlington decided it was of utmost importance to protect children and youth from potential harm and provide a loving environment for them.

Biblical teachings reinforce this obligation. Jesus' instructions regarding children were clear: They are the most precious among us. In short, creating safe sanctuaries is part of our job as disciples.

To help us fulfill this obligation, a resolution was passed at General Conference in 1996 requiring all conferences to adopt policies to safeguard children and youth. The General Board of Discipleship was given the charge to develop written resources for these policies,

which became known as Safe Sanctuaries.

FUMC of Arlington's current Safe Sanctuary policy requires volunteers to complete a background check, a volunteer application with references, MinistrySafe online training, and acknowledgment of having read the Safe Sanctuary policy. Upon completion, volunteers are approved for two years.

Our church is continually making this system more efficient and effective. We've streamlined the process so nearly all items can be completed online. We encourage anyone considering volunteering to begin the process so they may be approved in advance.

Working together, we can greatly reduce the risk of harm to a child, youth or vulnerable person. And that can make all the difference in the world to them.



By: Holly Hattendorf
Asst. Dir. of
Children's Ministries



New Members and Baptisms



Jackie, Charlotte and
Bill Carmichael



Trey, Ashley, T.J., and
Brady Spence



Jonathan Aydin Wilson

OWLS Meeting

THE OWLS (OLDER WISER LAUGHING SOULS) will meet on Tuesday, November 8 at 11:30 AM in the Great Hall for a covered dish luncheon. We respectfully ask that you bring food to serve 10–12 people.

The program this month will be the Dancing Dames, who will honor our veterans with their newest USO show. These talented women have performed together for 26 years and have shared their musical variety shows as a gift to the community, especially to seniors.

The Dancing Dames will be performing at the Community Arts Center, Scott Theater, 1300 Gandy Street, in Fort Worth on Friday, November 11. This special evening will include a formal color guard



by the Joint Naval Air Station and a welcome from Mayor Pro-Tem Zim Zimmerman.

The Fort Worth Military Museum will display authentic military uniforms and memorabilia. A special tribute to veterans will be given by General Terry Dake USMC, former Sr. Aviator and Asst. Commandant of the Marine Corps. Beginning at 6:00 PM, free appetizers and beverages will be served (catered by Z's Café).

Free parking is provided by JP Morgan Chase. Call 817-268-0388 for free tickets to attend this outstanding event.

We look forward to seeing you on November 8 as we celebrate Veteran's Day with the Dancing Dames!

November Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Trunk or Treat	31	1	2	3 Grief Group Begins	4	5
6	7	8 OWLS Meeting	9	10	11	12
13 Cookbooks On Sale	14	15	16 Operation Christmas Child	17	18	19
20 Church Conference	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day Church Closed	25	26
27 Advent Begins	28	29	30 Family Advent Festival	1	2	3 Arlington Lights Parade

For more information on these events visit arlingtonmethodist.org

First Prayers

We pray for those who have experienced an illness:

Barbara Finney, Francille Porter, Vida Reed, Barton Thompson

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

- Kelly Jordan on the death of her granddad, Homer Eugene Robinson, on 10/14
- Quentin Venum on the death of his mother, Marion Venum, on 10/15
- Ruth Ann Uzzle on the death of her nephew, Chris Sharp, on 10/16
- The family and friends of Dorothy Crudup, who died 10/18
- Margaret Herms and family on the death of her mother, Marjorie Jane Brand, on 10/20
- Christie Hart and Jonathan on the death of Christie's mother, Maxine Hart, on 10/20
- Bill Van Buren on the death of his sister on 10/23