



The Chimes

October 2011

Hospitality, Inc.



FUMCArlington



@FUMCArlington

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, I AM AN AVID admirer of Bishop William H. Willimon, who presides over the North Alabama Annual Conference. Recently, he wrote about his investigation of growing congregations “in order to learn more about why they are thriving.” Bishop Willimon was perceptive enough to notice that dynamic and growing congregations have one thing in common—the gift of hospitality. Growing congregations know how to make new people feel welcome.

One example of hospitality Bishop Willimon puts forth is ushers. Willimon remarks that ushers in vibrant churches are “people whom God had given the gift of hospitality.” Pastors say visitors’ early contact with upbeat ushers makes a faithfully growing church a piece of cake!

In churches that people want to be a part of, there is an avid and loving concern for the “outsiders”—those who have yet to hear and respond to the gospel. Though our congregation has the art of Christian hospitality down pat, we can always improve our service in Jesus’ name.

A few years ago, our worship series focused on the book “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations” by Bishop Robert Schnase. Several people in our congregation remarked how simplistic Bishop Schnase’s ideas seemed. The suggestion, if I heard right—and I am a professionally trained listener—was that everyone knows these things the Bishop offered as guidance. We all know to offer guests



By: Rev. David N. Mosser
Senior Pastor

“radical hospitality,” but sometimes we are so intent on seeing friends that we forget to practice our gift of hospitality. My own experience in Liberia helped remind me how precious a gift hospitality is.

In the late 1970s, I taught at the Gbargna School of Theology in Liberia. Though Liberia is a nation that has existed in poverty for decades, my year there taught me much about hospitality and welcome.

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When my students took me to preach at “bush churches,” people received us Americans as if we were royalty. Each family expected us to dine with them—and sumptuously, at that. I have never eaten so much food in my life. The remarkable part was that people offered us so much, yet possessed so little.

Paul writes in part about how to practice the Christian life. He writes:

Stewardship: A Sensational Journey



By: Rev. Kay Lancaster
Associate Pastor



THIS OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER OUR children will learn about stewardship in the Sensational Journey Sunday school class. We will focus on giving back some of what God has given us as part of our response to God's love.

Sensational Journey is a collection of different learning environments. This variety ensures every child, kindergarten through fifth grade, receives the very best foundational experience possible to foster his or her lifelong journey with God. Over

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a period of five weeks, children rotate into new environments, each with unique decor, furniture, layout and purpose, to facilitate a variety of learning styles.

The stewardship unit will include different art and culinary projects to express ideas of stewardship: creating baskets to be used for offering collection and preparing food to be delivered to community workers such as firefighters, police, ER workers, and teachers.

In addition, children will dramatize the story of the feeding of the 5,000 and the parable of the talents. They will learn how many hymns are about stewardship and will see how caring for the church grounds and garden are part of stewardship. Finally they will watch a movie about sharing.

If you have been blessed with the gift of teaching and would like to share that gift with the children of our church, please contact Rev. Kay Lancaster at klancaster@arlingtonmethodist.org or 817-274-2571.

Hospitality
cont. from pg. 1

"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers" (Romans 12: 9-13).

There are many ways to offer one's life to Christ. In fact, we all have specific talents we can use to build God's realm. Paul, in

his letter to the Ephesians, employs pastors, teachers and prophets to make his point. Yet, there are other aspects of stewardship: administration, letter writing, and deep listening to other's problems. Even—and most especially—the talent of hospitality becomes a way we can build up the church.

Not everyone has the aptitude to be a teacher or the ability to cook a great banquet meal or has a musical flair. However, taken together, all

UNIVERSITY CARE PACKAGES



By: Juddie Rice
Asst. Director of
Youth Ministry

ONE OF THE SIMPLEST AND MOST impactful ministries of our church comes in a small, square box. Every semester, members of our church send care packages to our college students as they study for finals. It doesn't take long for us to fill them, but it means a lot to our students who are away from home. We fill the boxes with treats, toys, gift cards, and notes, but they receive love, support, and an assurance their church family cares and is praying for them. The only drawback? Their roommates become jealous of our church family.

On Sunday, November 6 our main hallway will be lined with boxes and I hope you will take the time to pick one out. Don't worry about what to fill it with, we provide all the instructions you will need. Just fill it up and bring it back. We take care of the rest.

If you have college students in your family, let us know. Whether they are here in town or away, we want them to know we care. So, please email or

call Juddie Rice in the church office with their information.

If your student has received packages in the past, confirm his or her information with Juddie

Below is the information we need for every college student:

- Name
- College
- Address at school
- Email address (optional)
- Cell number (optional)
- Food allergies
- Any particular likes or dislikes*

*i.e. coffee or tea, kind of candy, snack food, cookies, or anything that might make a package more personal for them. This information will really help the person filling the box.

Please send information to Juddie **ASAP and no later than October 30** so your college student can be included in the mailing for the fall finals.

You can contact Juddie at jrice@arlingtonmethodist.org or 817-274-2571.

of our unique talents strengthen the church. I cannot image many people who could not be more hospitable or welcoming, can you?

I like the Swahili proverb that suggests: "Treat your guest as a guest for two days; on the third day, give him a hoe." To me, this means treat visitors like royalty, and then let them become part of the family.

Bishop Schnase's ideas can be outlined in a few words. If we attend to them we will thrive as a church—and note well which one is first:

Radical Hospitality;
Passionate Worship;
Intentional Faith Development;
Risk-taking Mission and Service; and
Extravagant Generosity . . . and give them some roundness.

Ambassador Ringers: the tradition continues



By: Diane Hale
Director of Music
and Worship

FIRST UNITED METHODIST Church of Arlington's handbell choir, the Ambassador Ringers, has begun rehearsing its December program to take "on the road" to local retirement homes.

Each year, this dedicated group of ten ringers prepares two, thirty minute programs; a Christmas program presented in December and a spring program performed in April. These programs are presented at various facilities throughout Arlington, with musicians rehearsing for ten weeks to prepare.

The Ambassador Ringers performed their first program at the Randol Mill Manor nursing home on November 5, 1987. Ruth Black, a founding member of the handbell choir, wanted her mother to have the opportunity to hear our church's beautiful handbell music. Her mother was only able to attend church if Ruth sat with her. However, Ruth played in the Chancel Handbell Choir and could not play and sit with her mother. That's when the idea came to her—forming a handbell choir that would go to nursing homes and play for senior citizens unable to attend church.

Ruth tried for several years to get a group together. When Edward Smith became FUMC of

Arlington's music director, she took the idea to him. He began the process of recruiting ringers, selecting music and rehearsing the group. Ruth was so pleased to perform the first program at Randol Mill Manor on her mother's 88th birthday!

The current Ambassador Ringers continue the tradition which was Ruth's vision. In December, the ringers play familiar carols while the spring program includes familiar hymns. Residents are always encouraged to sing along. Both residents and ringers enjoy a wonderful time of music and fellowship.

In addition to performing approximately eight programs a year at retirement homes, the Ambassador Ringers also play in Sunday morning worship services throughout the year and perform in the annual "Ring, Sing and Swing" in December. The Ringers even presented a program at the Arlington Central Library last December.

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Ruth Black passed away recently, but her legacy of providing handbell music for senior citizens in the community continues. Thanks to Ruth's efforts, the Ambassador Ringers continue to share their gift of music with programs that brighten the day of many retirement home residents.

Anyone interested in ringing in this special group should contact Diane Hale, director of music and worship at:
dhale@arlingtonmethodist.org or
817-274-2571



ENOUGH

JOY THROUGH
SIMPLICITY &
GENEROSITY

arlingtonmethodist.org/Enough



STRESS. ANXIETY. FEAR. THESE WORDS capture well the state of mind of many Americans today. We have witnessed dramatic market losses, the collapse of the world's largest insurance company, and many bankruptcies and mergers. Every day seems to bring another piece of economic uncertainty.

A recent survey found that three in four Americans are stressed about the economy and their personal finances. Over half of respondents reported feeling angry and irritable, and reported lying awake at night worried. The report concludes that, "The declining state of the nation's economy is taking a physical and emotional toll on people nationwide."

Join us in worship the next four weeks for a sermon series entitled "Enough: Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity." Our nation is experiencing what many have described as the "American Nightmare." Increasing consumer debt, declines in savings, lower income growth, and a volatile stock market are all a part of our economic insecurity. We have lived in a society that tells us "you deserve it now," whether or not we can afford it or really even need it.

All of us have struggled with these issues at one time or another. This is why, over the next four weeks, we will be having a churchwide study and worship emphasis called "Enough: Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity." During this time we will explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management through corporate worship and small group study.

We hope you will join us in the coming weeks as we look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity, and joy.

Dare to Share

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus explains that the purpose of the church is to "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." We, who consider ourselves disciples, are supposed to go out and create more followers of Christ.

While this may be straightforward, it is not easy. People don't want to follow something they don't understand or don't think they need. Many might ask: "Follow Jesus? Why? What difference would being a Christian make in my life?" It is possible that people are unable to conceptualize why following Jesus is so compelling.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, the French writer best known for his novel "The Little Prince," offers a helpful insight. Saint-Exupéry says:

"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."

How do we teach others to long for the endless immensity of our faith in Jesus Christ? How do we describe the peace, love and grace we find in God in so compelling a way, people want to become followers?



By: Rev. Estee Valendy
Associate Pastor

We can most effectively teach others to long for God through our own stories of faith. Through the story of a challenge we've faced, an experience we've had or the way we've come to know God, we can help others envision their own need for God.

On October 22, you are invited to a workshop that will help you find words to express your experience of faith.

The Dare to Share workshop, led by Rev. Estee Valendy, will be held on Saturday, October 22, from 9:00 AM–12:00 PM. Please register at arlingtonmethodist.org or by contacting Melissa Darrow in the church office.

New Members and Baptisms



Jeff, Holly, Kaden and
Karsten Paladini



Stacy and Mimi
Schatzman



Joe Bowers



Joey, Mylora, Grace and
Thomas Frazor



Sue Matlage



Jubilee Dickson



Marcy Moharter with
members Jonathon and
Shannon Hook



Peggy Masters



Dan and Lois Mead

WOMEN'S RETREAT a time apart

Registration will soon begin for the Women's
Retreat at Still Water Lodge in Glen Rose, Tex.
Guest presenter: Kelly Arrendell.

Jan. 27-28

OWLS Meeting

The OWLS (Older Wiser Laughing Souls) will meet on Tuesday, October 11 at 11:30 AM in the Great Hall. Please bring a covered dish to serve 10–12 people.

Dave Lieber, one of our favorite Fort Worth “Star-Telegram” columnists, will be talking about his new book, “Bad Dad.” “Bad Dad” is “a true-story thriller about parental responsibility, small-town corruption and the consequences of being a public figure.”

Lieber says:

“Take your worst 10 minutes of any day and imagine that what you believed to be a private matter is now broadcast to the world. What you did is featured on the TV news, in newspapers and on radio talk shows. Everybody



has an opinion about whether you are a good person or a bad person. Then the police come looking for you. It’s a story about how the world has changed, how the old ways don’t always apply, and how at any time, any place it could happen to you!”

“It’s fantastic.”—Good Morning Texas

“An extraordinary story.”—KVIL-FM

This is one of those special times when you will want to invite all of your friends and neighbors to our meeting. We will look forward to seeing you October 11 for lots of good food and fellowship—these are two of the things that we Methodists do best!

October Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 Flu Shots	3	4 UMW Meeting	5	6	7	8
9 Cooks on Sale/ Living as United Methodist Christians	10	11 OWLS Meeting	12	13	14	15 Habitat for Humanity Build Day
16 Loyalty Sunday	17	18	19	20	21	22 Dare to Share Workshop
23 Youth Trick or Treat for Canned Goods	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Flu Shots/ Youth Halloween Costume Dance	31	1	2	3	4	5

For more information on these events visit arlingtonmethodist.org

First Prayers

We pray for those who have experienced an illness:

Lucy Ballowe, Dan Brown, Jeanne Carlisle, Frankie Gale, Lu Love, Betty Williams, Ann Young

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

- Laura Munson on the death of her grandfather, Vince Neisus, on 9/18

- Johanna Kite on the death of her father-in-law, Eldon Kite, on 9/21

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

Ann Watley on the birth of her grandson, Reid Nathan Hall, on 9/7. Reid's proud parents are Erin & Jared and sister, Macy.