



UCC JOURNAL

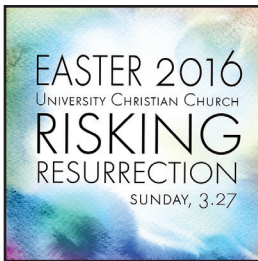
February 2016

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www.universitychristian.org



Risking Resurrection

Risking Resurrection is an action we are all invited to participate in as we journey through Lent at University Christian Church. Lent is the period of forty weekdays beginning Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday just before Easter. Together we will explore what we are willing to lose as we journey and grow through Lent. How much are you willing to risk when resurrection is on the other side? What will you grow through and be willing to change as we walk the path to Easter Sunday? As we are *Risking Resurrection*, we will be preparing our hearts to receive the Good News!

As you prepare to walk through the Lenten season, be aware of these experiences that will provide opportunities for you to grow and move toward *Risking Resurrection*.

Lenten Devotionals

Children will receive by mail *Were You There? Daily Lenten Devotions* and *Were You There? Lenten Mobile* to introduce children to many the individuals who were *Risking Resurrection* in the Easter story. Additional copies available in The Arches.

A selection of Adult Lenten Devotionals will be available in The Arches. Take time to choose a daily devotional that will spark your growth and contemplation during Lent.

Weekly Lenten reflections, written by our ministry staff, will be emailed each Monday during Lent. Email "Subscribe" to lentendevo@uccftw.com to receive the weekly devotionals.

Service of Ashes, Wednesday, February 10, at 6:30 p.m. in Walker Hall. Join for a candlelight service around the Labyrinth. Walk the Labyrinth following the Ash Wednesday worship service.

Palm Sunday, March 20—Worship at 9 and 11 a.m. **Agape Feast** at 5:30 p.m. in Walker Hall led by the children, youth and college students of UCC. All are invited to join us for a time of prayer, contemplation and feasting together.

Holy Thursday Worship, March 24 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The service of darkness features the Chancel Choir presenting *Return to Me* with piano and cello accompaniment.

We hope you will join us each Sunday during Lent for worship at 9 or 11 a.m. Together we will prepare, journey and experience risk on our way to resurrection on **Easter Sunday**. As Lent comes to an end on Sunday, March 27, join us for one of our three Easter services at 6:45 a.m., 9 or 11 a.m.

Join UCC's Spring Softball Team!



Softball season is right around the corner! Women and men ages sixteen & up (age as of the first game of the season) are welcome to join the team. Games are Friday evenings at Gateway Park in Fort Worth from March 11–May 13. The cost to play is \$15 for returning team members and \$25 for new team members (includes cost of jersey). Team interest meeting on Thursday, February 18, at 6 p.m. in the third floor Kitchen.

Sign up online at universitychristian.org or email jessica@uccftw.com for details.

Stay Connected!

Worship

Sundays, 9 & 11 a.m.

Live broadcast of 11 a.m. service
on KTCU FM 88.7
or on our **website**
at www.universitychristian.org



The Vision of University Christian Church

Living the Good News of Jesus Christ with open minds and loving hearts



A Note of Thanks

by Rev. Larry Thomas, Senior Minister

As many of you know, my mother passed away shortly after Thanksgiving. My family and I had traveled to Missouri to be with her and family members to celebrate that wonderful holiday. We had much to be grateful for as we had nearly lost her during hip surgery only a couple of weeks before her passing. We

returned home from our Thanksgiving celebration confident that mother would eventually recover and enjoy a somewhat limited but meaningful life. We had barely unpacked our bags from the return trip; however, when mother's condition deteriorated rapidly, leading to her death.

In the weeks that followed, my family and I were inundated with cards, phone calls and well wishes on social

media. Many of you were among those expressing condolences. Friends and church members from Missouri and from Texas made contributions to UCC and to mother's home church in her memory. The outpouring of compassion was greater than any of us might have imagined. It is important to us all that you know how deeply we appreciate your concern and your thoughtfulness. Please accept our well wishes and our gratitude.

February Music Opportunities

Hymn Sing & Organ Recital

Wednesday, February 17, 4-5 p.m.

UCC Sanctuary, Free Admission

Featuring Michael Bedford, Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus of St. John's Episcopal Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Come sing hymns with the visiting ministers at Ministers Week during this special day-time event. Enjoy the superb playing

of a nationally known composer and organist. Dr. Bedford trained at TCU, the Hochschule für Musik in Cologne, Germany, and the University of North Texas. His successful choral, handbell and organ music compositions grace

the music programs of churches nationwide, including ours. The recital will feature a range of styles, from German to French to American, and it will feature Mr. Bedford's compositions, too.



Walk in Peace

A Choral Celebration of MLK

Sunday, February 21, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

UCC Sanctuary, Free Admission

Featuring Schola Cantorum of Texas, TCU University Singers, Faith Family Academy Choir and UCC Chancel Choir.

The premier volunteer choral group in North Texas, Schola Cantorum, sponsors

high school, university and church groups in a celebration of Black History Month. All four choirs will perform classic spirituals interspersed with great readings of Martin Luther King, Jr. and John F. Kennedy. These will be read by UCC member, Pamela Atchison, and Fort Worth print, radio and television personality, Bob Ray Sanders. The choirs will also join forces in two special anthems and lead the audience in singing *Amazing Grace*.



Invite friends and family for an hour of some of the most powerful and evocative choral music ever written. Our Chancel Choir is honored to host these fine groups of musicians.

Just Say Know: Comprehensive Sexuality Education



University Christian Church is pleased to offer the *Just Say Know* sexuality education program for children and youth in grades four through eight. Details

on topics covered in the curriculum can be found on the CLER Ministries website at clerministries.org.

Schedule for workshops is as follows:

Middle school workshop

(grades 6-8 with a parent)

Sunday, February 21, 12:15-3:45 p.m.

Cost: \$20 per youth participant

Elementary school workshops

(grades 4-5 with a parent)

Sunday, February 28, 12:15-3:45 p.m.

Separate workshops for boys and girls

Cost: \$20 per child participant

Cost includes lunch, course materials and a copy of Kate Ott's book *Sex+Faith: Talking with Your Child from Birth to Adolescence*. \$10 discount for each additional child registered per family or if you previously attended a course (since each family only needs one book). Scholarships for all courses available upon request. Register at uccyouth.org/justsayknow and spread the word to friends and neighbors who would like to take advantage of this important program!

Summer Camps for Youth and Children at Disciples Crossing

Dates are available at disciplescrossing.org. Watch the March *Journal* for registration information!

Youth Ski Trip Highlights



Thirty-six UCC high school youth and adult sponsors spent December 19-22 on the CYF Ski Retreat to Monarch Mountain, Colorado. The group enjoyed lots of snow, excellent ski conditions and a Christmas sweater contest!



Space Limited on Crystal Bridges Trip, Reserve Your Spot Today!



CRYSTAL BRIDGES
MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

C & A Weekend Trip to Crystal Bridges
Bentonville, Arkansas
Friday, April 22-Sunday, April 24

The Church and the Arts Committee invites you to join them on a trip to Bentonville, Arkansas, to visit Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the Frank Lloyd Wright Bachman-Wilson House. The trip cost includes transportation, hotel accommodations, museum fees, breakfast and two gourmet dinners at the museum and Bentonville's famous

21c Hotel. Before heading back to Fort Worth, the group will worship at Waterway Christian Church.

Cost is \$275 per person for double occupancy room. Single occupancy available. Non-refundable deposit of \$150 is due by March 1 to secure your spot. Email marsha@uccftw.com to reserve your spot today; space is limited to twenty-five.

Day Resource Center for the Homeless is now



UCC is pleased to partner with the DRC (formerly the Day Resource Center) in serving our *Room in the Inn* guests each week. The DRC supports a portfolio of solutions that help people leave the streets behind—for good.

UCC's Support of the DRC

It is also a part of the Healthy Community Collaborative, an alliance of seven agencies that will expand homeless outreach, mobile crisis outreach, intensive case management, peer support and housing placement to help men and women escape the streets. The center also boasts one of the most successful housing programs

funded through the City of Fort Worth *Directions Home* program.

Breakfast with the Mayor, Friday, February 5, benefits the DRC and UCC will host a table in support of the DRC and the significant role they play in screening individuals for the *Room in the Inn* ministry held at UCC and elsewhere in Fort Worth.

UCC Mission Statement

University Christian Church is dedicated to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ through deeply spiritual worship, study and service.

Founded on the campus of Texas Christian University and shaped by our academic heritage, University Christian Church encourages a spirit of openness and freedom of thought.

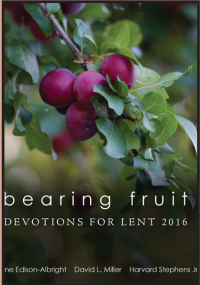
We are called to create a loving and caring community for all people, and work together for justice and peace in our world.

Recognizing that our spiritual journeys are all different, we strive to be respectful and inclusive concerning each individual's relationship with God.

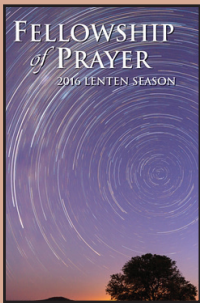
Lenten Devotions

Available February 7

This year, UCC will have two daily Lenten devotionals available in The Arches on February 7—*Bearing Fruit* by Anne Edison-Albright, David L. Miller and Harvard Stephens Jr. and *Fellowship of Prayer*, by Sarah Griffith Lund.



Bearing Fruit takes you through Lent with daily readings from Colossians. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, quote, reflection and prayer.



In *Fellowship of Prayer*, Sarah Griffith Lund (author of the acclaimed *Blessed are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness, Family, and Church*) takes you through forty days of Lent with stories of finding God in turbulent times; leading to the possibilities of resurrection in our own lives.

All are invited to pick-up one of these devotionals and take time to listen for God in these words and prayers.

Ash Wednesday Worship and Labyrinth



Begin your 2016 Lenten journey with our Ash Wednesday Worship on February 10 at 6:30 p.m. in Walker Hall. Join us for a candlelight service around the labyrinth with scripture, prayer, a string ensemble from TCU's Collegium Musicum and the imposition of ashes.

Following worship all are invited to walk the labyrinth until 9 p.m.

Annual Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper



February 9 in Walker Hall from 6-7:30 p.m. join your church family as the award winning Paschal Jazz Ensemble entertains and delights and we begin our Lenten season.

Join us for pancakes, sausage, fruit and all the fixins. Great fellowship and activities for kids! \$5 per person, \$3 for children under 12.



The Power to Bless—Ministers Week 2016

Ministers Week—it's not just for ministers! February 15-18 UCC members have a unique opportunity to share in the rich offerings of Ministers Week: joyful and exuberant worship; inspiring and challenging preaching; lectures and workshops designed to engage and energize; time with friends, old and new. Ministers Week is a gift from Brite, TCU and UCC, there is no fee or registration requirement.

Rev. Dr. Barbara Lundblad will deliver the *Wells Sermons* during worship Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Lundblad is the Joe R. Engle Professor of Preaching Emerita at Union Theological Seminary in

New York City. An ordained pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, she served for sixteen years as a pastor in Manhattan. In 2014 the Academy of Homiletics honored her with the Lifetime Achievement Award. She preaches regularly at the Festival of Homiletics, the Chautauqua Institute, and in congregations across the country.

Dr. Timothy Sandoval, Sara Miles and Rev. Dr. Peter Steinke explore the many ways we can bless. Other speakers and workshop leaders include Sandhya Jha, Mack McCarter, Katie Hays, Mike Hunter, Micah James and Roger Weddell. Michael Bedford is our featured organist.

See full schedule at www.brite.edu/mw.

UCC Journal

Carol Ann Fewell, Editor • Michelle Groom, Circulation

The UCC Journal (USPS 019-016) is published monthly for \$15 per year by University Christian Church, 2720 South University Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76109-1197. Periodicals Postage Paid at Fort Worth, TX, and additional mailing offices.

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The \$15 annual subscription to the UCC Journal is paid through members annual tithes and individually paid subscribers.

Visit us on the web at www.universitychristian.org for more information.

UCC Women

Women's Ministries engages women in meaningful enrichment, spiritual growth, study and worship while advocating for and reaching out to women in our community and around the world. Contact Rev. Cyndy Twedell, Associate Minister, for more information.

Rose Circle

February 2 the circle meets at 10 a.m. in Room 150. We gather the first Tuesday October through May.



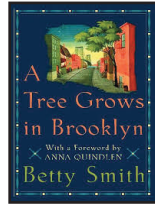
Latte with the Ladies

Saturday, February 13, beginning at 9 a.m. at Buon Giorno (915 Florence St., 76102)

Clergy Women's Breakfast

February 17 at 8 a.m. the Women of UCC will host the Clergy Women's breakfast during Ministers Week as they have in years past. Women ministers from across the Southwest Region will be treated to a delicious breakfast and an opportunity to spend time together.

WILD Women Book Club meets on Monday, February 22, at 6 p.m. at Cat City Grill or Tuesday, February 23, at noon at UCC in Room 150 (11:30 a.m. if you like to come early to share lunch and conversation) as we discuss *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith.



WILD Women Book Club meets on Monday, February 22, at 6 p.m. at Cat City Grill or Tuesday, February 23, at noon at UCC in Room 150 (11:30 a.m. if you like to come early to share lunch and conversation) as we discuss *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith.

Leap into Good Health on Leap day, February 29, at 6 p.m. at *Blue Zones* approved restaurant, Terra (2973 Crockett St., 76107). Parking is free—the restaurant will validate your ticket. Call or email Michelle Groom (mgroom@uccftw.com) to let us know if you're coming!

Women's Retreat, April 29–30, at The Cliffs Resort, Possum Kingdom Lake. Cost \$100/person and includes Friday night stay, snack Friday evening and breakfast Saturday morning. Online registrations will be available soon!

Friday Fellowship, February 12



Join us for a special Valentine's Day musical performance of songs from the 1940s through the 1980s performed by Doug Henry. Doug is a retired school administrator and music

teacher, as well as a professional singer/actor who has performed throughout the "Borscht District" of New York. He has been in over 140 shows throughout North Texas and has been the musical director for several performances at Cleburne's Plaza Theater.

We will meet on Friday, February 12, at 11 a.m. in Room 207, followed by lunch at noon in Room 211. An entree will be provided, but please bring a side dish or dessert. R.S.V.P. by noon on Wednesday, February 10, by calling Barb Rektorik, Ministry Assistant, at 817.926.6631 or email danlsmith@mindspring.com.



Meditation Workshop

Please join Dr. Claire Villarreal at UCC on Saturday, February 20, for a two-part workshop offering the tools you need to cultivate the ability to stay present to the moments of your life and to offer yourself and others a warm and caring heart. We'll spend the first part of the day deepening our capacity for attention through guided meditations, periods of instruction, discussions, and walking meditation. In the afternoon, we'll use guided imagery to take our natural capacity

for compassion to the next level, again with periods of instruction, discussion and mindful movement. By the time you leave, you'll have experience with enough practices to make meditation part of your daily routine—plus you'll get access to recordings of the meditations we do together, so you can revisit these powerful techniques any time!

Those interested are able to attend one or both sessions—the morning session from 9 a.m. to noon; the afternoon session from 2-5 p.m. Registration payment to Dawn Mountain Center for

this workshop can be made at <http://dawnmountain.org/?p=2823>.

The workshop will be led by Dr. Claire Villarreal. Claire received her PhD from Rice's Religious Studies Department and has taught academic courses at Rice and the University of Houston Clear Lake. She has also led meditation sessions at Dawn Mountain, the Jung Center, Discovery Green, and various other settings in Houston and Fort Worth (including UCC) since 2004. She is now the Program Manager at Dawn Mountain Center for Tibetan Buddhism.

Calling All UCC Artists!

The 2016 UCC Art Exhibit will be held April 10. This year's theme is Decorative Arts, which includes textiles, metalwork, ceramics, books, woodwork, costumes, and jewelry (to name a few). Entry deadline is April 1.

Entry forms will be available at The Arches and the Reception Desk.

For details contact Joyce Raessler at 817.738.2944 or jrcompanyjoyce@gmail.com.

New Members



Tim and Holly Gardner are recent transplants from Lexington, KY, where they made their home for sixteen years. Holly is a native Texan and Tim is a native Kentuckian. They grew up in Shreveport, LA, and moved to Kentucky in 1998. They have two grown children, a son-in-law and one ornery cat. Tim has spent the better part of his career in the automotive parts business with Chevrolet and GMC dealers. He currently works for Gateway Buick GMC in Dallas. Holly works for Southwest Solutions Group in Lewisville as an administrative assistant. Hobbies include their 1989 Mustang and spending time outdoors. Holly and Tim were active at Crestwood Christian Church in Lexington where they served on committees and as deacons. University Christian Church appealed to them on the very first visit. They look forward to getting to know people and are looking for a Sunday School class to call home.



The Helms say, "After visiting UCC and hearing Larry Thomas speak the first Sunday, we knew we had found our church home." Jason and Christie have been married for almost sixteen years (in March). Jason runs a home energy rating business out of their home and Christie (a TCU grad) helps with the business now that their youngest is in Kindergarten. They are huge baseball fans, especially the Rangers and any team Garrett plays for! Garrett is in the fifth grade at Sendera Ranch Elementary and very interested in baseball and just made a new team for the spring (The Stingrays). He hopes to one day attend TCU and play on their baseball team. Brogan, in the third grade at Sendera, is a scientist and a swimmer. Erin is in kindergarten and loves everything to do with art. She is also taking swim lessons, and she and Brogan attend art camps every summer.



Welcome John and Nonie Stewart. John grew up in Fort Worth attending Alice Carlson, McLean, Paschal and TCU. He joined UCC in 1957 and attended Brite with the help of a Granville T. Walker Scholarship, receiving his D. Min. in 1975. He has served churches all across Texas as well as secular work. Nonie also grew up in Fort Worth (after age six), attended Metroplex Schools and TCU and has worked as a commercial artist at numerous Fort Worth firms. John and Nonie were married in Paradise, Texas, in 1971 and have two children: Jack (and Amy) is Media and Technology Coordinator at UCC. Daniel (and Tiffany) is Vice President of Allied Electronics of Fort Worth. They have two granddaughters, Maya and Ella. John says, "Some of my best memories and finest friends come from Chi Rho, CYF and college days at UCC. I truly am coming home."

Newcomers Class



All are welcome to be a part of the Newcomers Class! Join us Sundays, February 7, 14 and 21, at 10 a.m. in Room 201. Take this opportunity to invite a friend to learn more about UCC.

The Newcomers Class provides an opportunity to get to know others, meet

Rev. Thomas, learn about UCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Questions are always welcome.

For more information, please contact Michelle Groom, Ministry Assistant to Rev. Cyndy Twedell, at 817.926.6631 ext. 138, or email mgroom@uccftw.com.

Why Church Friends?

You have to admit, that name for a committee sounds like a social clique! The truth is, *Church Friends* are reaching out to members who are homebound, and knowing how to be a friend is the only qualification. We aren't mentors or therapists—we simply recognize the

value of connecting with members who aren't able to attend church regularly. Rev. Christi McDowell has put together segments to teach us how to improve our skills.

We meet for lunch to share information

which provides a learning opportunity each month. Our ministers are wonderful at reaching out to our members, but they are greatly outnumbered! We are called to serve. If you are interested in joining this group, please email Sandra Soria at sandra.pontouf.soria@gmail.com.

Baby Dedications



Walter William Dawkins, son of Brady & Darby Dawkins. Grandparents are Wally & Laurie Dawkins and Bill & Andi Devine. Great-grandmother is Jeanine Hughes.



Jack Sullivan Fickes, son of Corey & Kacey Fickes. Grandparents are Gary & Cathey Fickes and Tim & Cindy Sullivan. Great-grandmother is Marjorie Botkin. Big sister is Evie Fickes.



John Franklin Tucker, son of Wynn & Melissa Tucker. Grandparents are Suzanne & John Tucker and Kathi & cott Mahaffey. Great-grandparents are Clara Jo Broyles and Bob Mahaffey.



Corinne Elizabeth Rich, daughter of Ryan & Shannon Rich. Grandparents are Sharon Rich and Steve & Vicky Good. Great-grandparents are Gary & Georgene Good and Bob & Cacky Bartsch.

Would You Like to Schedule a Baby Dedication?



Would you like to schedule a dedication for your infant? Dedications take place during 11 a.m. worship. Upcoming dates are: February 28, March 13, April 17 and May 10. The baby dedication is a blessing of the child and a promise from parents to their child to raise them in a Christian home. But, it is also the public acknowledgement of a covenant with the people of University Christian Church that we as a community of faith

will surround the child with the spirit of Christ as they grow in our midst. In order to affirm these provisions, parents will participate in a Baby Dedication class to learn about some of the intricacies of a child's faith journey and about how University Christian Church can help foster their family and child in the process of understanding Christ's love. The next class offered will be on February 7 at 10 a.m. in the Bride's Room. Email Susan Henry in Children's Ministries at susan@uccftw.com for further information.

Life of the Church

Births

Leonardo Ivy-Chiong, November 22
Grandparents, Marilyn and Larry Ivy

Clara Elizabeth Contreras, December 5
Parents, Kathy Johnson
and Victor Contreras
Grandparents, Kathy and Gary Johnson

Levi Ross Phipps, December 26
Parents, Alicia and Kevin Phipps
Great grandparents, Lanette
and Jimmy Phipps

Jane Catherine Calkins, December 30
Parents, Lindsay and Ryan Calkins
Grandparents, Leslie and Vance Dell

Deaths

Fred Snyder, December 24

Veda Mae Kent, December 31
mother of Pam Herrmann

Save the Date!



UCC's Annual
Easter Egg Hunt
will take place
during the 10 a.m.
Sunday School hour
on Palm Sunday,
March 20.

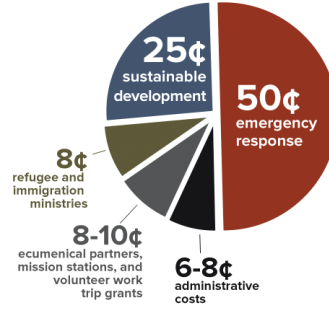
Look for details in March.

Week of Compassion Special Offering

For over 70 years, Week of Compassion (WOC) has made a difference in the lives of people and communities around the world by pooling resources. WOC works through a remarkable network of church partner organizations and partnerships that insures our response to humanitarian needs in the world is efficient, effective and faithful.

Through these partnerships Disciples are able to join a tapestry of caring that brings help and hope to hurting people in every corner of the world.

Out of every \$1 given to Week of Compassion...



Change the world in an accountable, **efficient, trustworthy, effective, sustainable** way by supporting our mission today.

Your individual offering matters. Each resource shared answers God's call to love our neighbor, because in Christ Jesus,

we are one family. We Are One. Join with others as we give to Week of Compassion special offering February 21-28.



Spring Break Mission to El Paso
March 13-19

UCC will return to El Paso for this year's Spring Break Mission Pilgrimage. Again we will work with Rippling Hope to renovate and repair homes as we meet

Mission Pilgrimages 2016

the people who live in the United States along the Texas border and learn about the chronic poverty there.

Anyone interested in participating in the Spring Break Mission is encouraged to contact Rev. Cyndy Twedell to see if spots are still available. The cost is \$300 per person, \$175 for youth twelve and under.

Nicaragua Mission Pilgrimage

July 3-10

UCC will travel again to Nicaragua to work with La Mision Cristiana and

Project Chacocente. Mark you calendars if you want to be part of this life-changing mission. Contact Rev. Cyndy Twedell for more information.



Alzheimer's Awareness at UCC

Each Sunday in February, the UCC Alzheimer's Committee will host Coffee Fellowship in the Gallery. Members will be on hand to answer questions, and literature will be available about Alzheimer's disease. You will have the opportunity to place the name of a loved one affected by Alzheimer's or dementia on a Memory Tree in the Gallery.

The Alzheimer's Answering Service through Alzheimer's Volunteer Program, was given permission to use an office on the third floor of our building. This was a forerunner to our current Alzheimer's Association-North Central Texas Chapter. A letter dated June 26, 1985, signed by Rosemary Alland, Minister to Older Adults, granted permission to use the space and Carol Jane Lawrence was their UCC contact.

In April, 2013, a committee of eight members, headed by Carol Ehlmann and Carol Jane Lawrence with the blessing of Rev. Thomas, met to explore ways UCC could offer care, support and education for families facing Alzheimer's and other dementia diseases. This group was the beginning of UCC's Alzheimer's Committee, a part of our Pastoral Care ministry and most everyone agreed that a support group meeting at UCC and open to the community was a top priority.

Representatives from the Alzheimer's Association-North Central Texas Chapter helped in guiding us through the process to achieve that goal. Rev. Dr. Charles Sanders and Leslie Dell (both truly a God send) volunteered to be trained by the Alzheimer's Association and lead a support group at UCC open

to the community. The group started in the fall of 2014 and the number attending continually varies from six to fourteen. At present, the group meets on the second Thursday of the month from 3:30-5 p.m. in Room 201.

UCC has hosted several speakers on Alzheimer's and Dementia including the Virtual Dementia Tour and plans to host more in the future. This past fall our UCC walk team, led by Mark Alland raised over \$4,000 for the Fort Worth Walk to End Alzheimer's. Representatives from the Alzheimer's Committee attend spring and fall symposiums sponsored by the local Alzheimer's Association and several are active volunteers with the Alzheimer's Association.

Third Annual Rice and Beans—Arroz y Frijoles—Cook Off



Join us Sunday, February 28, at 12:15 p.m. in Walker Hall, as we support the July Mission Pilgrimage to Nicaragua and enjoy Nicaragua's classic cuisine—Arroz y Frijoles—rice and beans!

The cook off is a competition challenging UCC groups—youth groups, college groups, Sunday school classes, men's groups, choirs, women's groups, any group or inspired individual to come up with the best, most interesting, tasty, fun or unusual dish. Email Michelle Groom at mgroom@uccftw.com by February 19 to enter.

Meal cost: \$10 per adult, \$3 for children. All proceeds benefit the UCC Mission to Nicaragua. There will also be a silent auction for donated items.

UCC will once again travel to Nicaragua July 3-10. Those interested in going should plan to stay after the cook off to find out more. *Dios le bendiga!*

Prom Dreams Volunteer Information Meeting February 25

As prom season approaches, UCC is preparing to open the doors of our *Prom Dreams Boutique* for a sixth season on March 31. Thanks to the generosity of UCC and friends, this ministry has helped close to 500 young women have selected prom dresses, shoes and accessories for prom, military balls and spring formals.

This year, the ministry begins a new



chapter as Mary Ashley Ray steps into the role of ministry chair. A graduate of Paschal High School and TCU, Mary Ashley has served as a volunteer at *Prom Dreams* since its first season, and is excited to serve in this new capacity.

There are many ways to help this ministry. We hope you will join us to

learn more and sign-up for volunteer positions at our volunteer information meeting on Thursday, February 25, from 5-6 p.m. in the *Prom Dreams Boutique* (above the Children's Closet in the house to the north of the church on University Drive, look for the *Prom Dreams Banner*). If you have questions and/or would like to be added to our volunteer email list contact Mary Ashley Ray at maray413@gmail.com.



The Table

by Bea Smith, *Room in the Inn* Volunteer

Each week during worship at UCC we come together around the table. All are welcome. The ritual is a remembrance, a celebration of the ministry and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The table is a powerful metaphor for our unity as people of faith. We are a community of Christians. Part of something bigger.

At *Room in the Inn* we gather for a community meal provided by Sunday school classes. Some classes cook everything from scratch, or some classes

pool their resources and purchase a meal from one of the restaurants in our area. Either is welcome—and needed. The *Room in the Inn* ministry depends on everyone's participation.

Our guests are homeless, displaced, out of sync with mainstream society. They are often frightened, always stressed, and even without hope. Shelters are crowded, noisy places and sleeping on the street is uncomfortable and dangerous. *Room in the Inn* offers solace. A one night refuge to weary travelers. Our guests interact with the volunteers, unburden their troubled

souls and receive much needed social contact. *Room in the Inn* is a temporary return to the familiar. For one night, our guests are home.

Each week at *Room in the Inn* we come together around the table. We laugh, we talk, we share and sometimes, just for a moment, the guests feel some sense of restored normalcy to their lives. They are a part of something. No longer disenfranchised, no longer despised or ignored. Around the table, our guest become a community. A family. Part of something bigger. And isn't that what we as Christians strive to do?



Toiletries Drive for South Central Alliance

Did you know that individuals and families that struggle to pay their bills and put food on the table also struggle to pay for everyday toiletry items like shampoo and conditioner or toothbrushes and toothpaste? When money is scarce, the only option may be to stretch the time between one hair wash and the next or it may be to brush without toothpaste.

Throughout the month of February, UCC will be collecting toiletries for the South Central Alliance of Churches. The Alliance serves families in need in our neighborhood by providing financial assistance, transportation assistance and other special assistance such as food, clothing and toiletries. UCC members are encouraged to select one or more of the following items to collect and deposit in the bin located near the Reception Desk: shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, bar soap, toilet tissue, deodorant, razors and shaving cream. Regular size containers, rather than travel size requested. Won't you consider helping our neighbors in need?



Third Grade Bible Presentations on February 14

The third graders of UCC have been enjoying a special six-week class on *Learning to Use Your Bible*. The series will continue through February 14, during the 10 a.m. Sunday school hour. The class culminates that day with the presentation of Bibles during 11 a.m. worship. The Bible gifts are made possible by the generous

giving of the following: an endowment, created in memory of Mrs. May Henson, a beloved teacher who taught children in Church School at UCC for over forty years and a foundation created in loving memory of Jeff D. Conatser.

Please extend your thanks to Darcy Harrell who helped provide leadership and expertise during the Bible series.

Our goal for third graders receiving Bibles is to help children view the Bible as more than a book with big words; and instead, help children feel confident in navigating through the pages with knowledge and inspiration. It truly takes our entire church family to mentor our children in faith. We are blessed to have adults sharing their time and talents in this way.

Get Ready for Global



Children's Christian Fellowship (first-third grades) and Junior Youth Fellowship (fourth-fifth grades) continues taking our children on a journey of discovery through an adapted Global Ministries youth curriculum designed to broaden views of who we are, our place in the church,

and our place in our community. This curriculum is a wellspring of information and resources to equip youth with the tools to continually evaluate who they are in relation to their world and God's mission.

In January, we learned ways to challenge stereotypes, and prejudices in our community and world. In February,

we will tackle recognizing God in all religious traditions.

Join us from 5-6:15 p.m. in Room 211 for fun, fellowship, learning, service and worship on Sunday nights in February—and bring a friend! After CCF/JYF each week, we are invited to join the Youth on the third floor for an optional \$3 Snack Supper until 7 p.m.



Fifth Graders are In-Between and We Get It!

All fifth graders are invited to join us for the first of

three special Sunday morning classes on February 21 at 10 a.m. (other classes are March 6 and May 22). These classes will

be designed to help begin the smooth transition to youth programming that occurs over the summer.

Important Summer Dates for Children's Ministries



Ignore the cold... families are already making plans for summer! Put these important dates on your calendars now:

Vacation Bible School, June 21-24

Mark your calendars now so you can be a part of UCC VBS (ages two to third graders) or Mission VBS (fourth and fifth graders). UCC members may register online at ucckids.org March 1 through April 1.

Camps for Children and Families

Grand Camp, May 20-May 22
(children ages 4-10 with a grandparent)

Discovery Camp, June 3-5
(completed first or second grade and a parent)

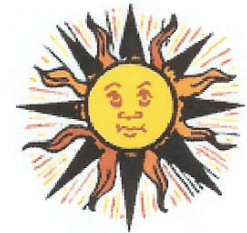
Family Camp

I: May 27-29 or II: August 12-14
(families with at least one child under 18 and an adult over 21)

JYF Camp I, July 4-8
(completed third, fourth or fifth grade)

**UCC's Anne Darr will be co-directing

JYF Camp II, August 1-5
(completed third, fourth or fifth grade)



Summer Fun

(for children two months to entering K)
Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Session I – June 6, 8, 13, 15, 27, 29
Session II – July 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27
More details coming in months ahead!

The Undie 500



Westpark Elementary School had a special holiday drive called The Undie 500. Their goal was to collect 500 pairs of socks and underwear. With generous donations they surpassed their goal and collected 1,700 pairs of socks and undies. Kaylen and Hayden came with their mother to share the school's donations with the Children's Closet. Susan Hill, a UCC member, is their principal. Thank you so much to Westpark students, staff and parents!

Nominations for Church Lay Leadership Positions

Do you know someone who is welcoming and eager to greet our guests each week and at special events as a Deacon or who would be a spiritual leader to the congregation as an Elder? January 15-February 15 congregation members may make recommendations for members to serve on the Board of Deacons and Board of Elders for a three-year term beginning June 1, 2016.

Nomination forms for consideration

by the Committee on Leadership and Governance (CLG) available at drop boxes near the Receptionist, The Arches and online at universitychristian.org.

Direct questions to Leslie Dell, CLG Chair, 817.735.4487, or lydell@gmail.com. Current members of the Board of Deacons and Board of Elders are listed on the UCC website and the bulletin board near the Receptionist. Remember: completed forms must be returned to one of the two

drop boxes or made online by the end of business, February 15.

The CLG will be also receiving recommendations from Assembly members for nomination of Board of Stewards members or officers. The Assembly consists of the current Board of Elders, Board of Deacons, Board of Stewards, Ministry Area Leaders and Youth Representatives. Details are mailed directly to members of the Assembly.



New Curator for Gallery Collection

Among the treasures belonging to UCC is the Gallery art collection. The display, cataloging and maintenance of the collection demand the tender love and care of a special dedicated individual. We are proud to announce that Steve Mosher has accepted the position of 'Curator' of the Gallery art collection.

Steve has a history of dedication and leadership that is a lifelong trait. Steve is a native of Iowa and third generation

Disciple who moved to Texas in 1973 where he belonged to the First Christian Church of Cleburne. In 1984, Steve and his wife, Nancy, moved to Fort Worth and found UCC in 1985. Steve immediately joined the choir and can still be found at every choir function and at both services every Sunday. Steve has been a Deacon, an Elder, a board member, Board Chair, Choir president, and a member of the Church and the Arts committee, Bylaws committee and Search committees. He is also a long time member of the Seekers Sunday School Class.

Steve never takes on anything half-heartedly. This position is no different. He is finishing the new catalog updated by outgoing curator Shari Gouwens. The catalog will give all of us a fresh look at our wonderful collection. Steve is reviewing the logic of the artwork display and is working closely with lighting expert, Mike Morton, re-lighting the entire Gallery. Behind the scenes, Steve will also update the records of all of our artworks. When you see Steve, be sure to thank him for undertaking this important task.

UCC Quick Financial Summary - Unified Budget December 2015

Description	2014 YTD Actuals	2015 YTD Actuals	Budget YTD 2015	Budget Annual	YTD Variance
Income					
Pledges	\$2,101,545	\$2,116,970	\$2,062,615	\$2,062,615	\$54,355
Non Pledge Contributions	\$293,911	\$338,218	\$274,468	\$274,468	\$63,750
Offering	\$36,549	\$34,117	\$37,202	\$37,202	(\$3,085)
Misc. Unrestricted Income	\$181,629	\$425,908	\$421,656	\$421,656	\$4,252
WDS Income (Net)	\$69,348	\$66,233	\$102,778	\$102,778	(\$36,544)
Endowment Income	\$291,832	\$306,672	\$305,518	\$305,518	\$1,154
Participant/Restricted Income & Reserve Use	\$405,864	\$581,058	\$669,187	\$669,187	(\$88,129)
Total Income	\$3,380,677	\$3,869,177	\$3,873,423	\$3,873,423	(\$4,247)
Total Personnel Expense	\$1,752,767	\$1,748,811	\$1,793,708	\$1,793,708	\$44,897
Total Program/Admin. Expense	\$984,429	\$1,318,789	\$1,514,429	\$1,514,429	\$195,639
Total Mission/Outreach Expense	\$496,511	\$511,187	\$547,168	\$547,168	\$35,982
Total Expenses	\$3,233,707	\$3,578,787	\$3,855,305	\$3,855,305	\$276,518
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$146,970	\$290,390	\$18,118	\$18,118	\$272,272

This is a summary report of our Unified Budget. The full report is available for download from the UCC website or copies can be picked up or requested from the Business Office. If you have questions regarding this report please contact Michelle Ingram, Director of Accounting, at 817.926.6631 or michelle@uccftw.com.

Congregational Meetings

Personnel Committee

Tuesday, February 2, 5:30 p.m., Rm 202

Finance Committee

Tuesday, February 9, 5:30 p.m., Rm 203

Investment Committee

Wednesday, February 10, 11:30 a.m., Rm 202

Endowment Committee

Wednesday, February 10, 12 p.m., Rm 203

Building & Grounds

Sunday, February 14, 12:15 p.m., Rm 226

Board of Stewards

Tuesday, February 16, 6:30 p.m., Rm 207

Deacons Meeting

Sunday, February 21, 12:15 p.m., Rm 203

Elders Meeting

Tuesday, February 23, 12:15 p.m., Rm 207

All members of the congregation may attend congregational meetings with the exception of any portion of a meeting held in Executive Session.

Blue Zones Dinner



BLUE ZONES PROJECT

Project is a vital part. UCC then sponsored *Blue Zone* events, such as a cooking demonstration and a *Find Your Purpose* Workshop.

Since *Blue Zones* encourages community, we're going to periodically meet at various *Blue Zone* designated restaurants for healthy food and fellowship.

Consider joining us for dinner on Monday, February 29, at Terra.

Email mgroom@uccftw.com to let us know you're coming!

Women's Ministries is sponsoring another *Blue Zones* initiative social: *Leap into Good Health* on Leap day, February 29, at 6 p.m., at *Blue Zones* approved restaurant, Terra (2973 Crockett St. 76107). Parking is free—the restaurant will validate your ticket.

As you may recall, University Christian Church is pursuing a *Blue Zones* designation. Mayor Betsy Price introduced us to Fort Worth's Healthiest Cities initiative, of which *Blue Zones*