

UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

the UPbeat Newsletter

February 2012



Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the UPC congregation will be held on Sunday, February 5, following worship in the sanctuary. We will then adjourn to the fellowship hall and enjoy lunch together. Please bring a couple of dishes to share for the potluck lunch. Please plan to bring sandwiches, salads and desserts ready to serve.

ANNUAL MEETING

The stated purpose of the Annual Meeting is to elect officers (elders and deacons) for the class of 2015, to discuss and vote on the terms of call for the pastors, and hear reports from various ministry teams of UPC. Those nominated for elder are: Craig Deats, Tyson Payne, Jon Eddison, Sarah French, Ken Gladish, Carol Fowler, John Dodd, youth, and Eric Peterson, college. Those nominated for deacon are: Robin Dennis, Lee Helms, Katharine Barnhill, Jennifer Whitehill, Melinda Wofford, and Rosca Toulouse.

Plan to come to this important congregational meeting. Please contact Betsy Brown for more information about the meal.



The Souper Bowl of Caring Offering will be received on Sunday, February 5, 2012. The youth will have soup pots to receive your gifts which will go to support UPC UPLift Assistance Program.



Ash Wednesday
February 22, 6:30 p.m.

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17;
2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10;
Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

Join us for imposition of ashes and celebration of Communion.



The Annual Alternative Gift Market held December 4, 2011 was a success. The market is a special opportunity to buy unique gifts and to give to the needs of others both globally & locally. There were vendors representing 20 different organizations present and this years receipts totaled \$7,335.73. Thanks to all who volunteered and to all who attended



Campus Ministry Dinner and Evening Worship
Sunday Evenings



10-week Film Series

Thursdays, 6 p.m.

February 2-April 5

See this newsletter for more details!

6:00 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Evening Worship

Fellowship Hall

Taizé Worship on the last Sunday of each month in the sanctuary.



LOOK WHO'S HAVING A FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY!

1 Jenny Roth	7 Bree Buchanan	12 Nancy Lewis	18 Hyder Horton
2 Patrick Jeffers	8 Neal Grice	12 Matt Helveston	19 Lillian Garman
2 Steve Visser	8 Mae Song Ogorzaly	12 Ann Wilhelm	19 Grant Middleton
3 Kellie Martini	9 Dave Pernell	12 Nina Faidley	19 Walker Jeffers
4 Mel Glouchkova	9 Richard Gibson	13 JoAnna Rollings	20 Dick Ward
4 Jeff Edwards	9 Julie Miller	13 Jeanne West	21 Jennie Chao
5 Elizabeth Christian	10 Roy Craiig	14 Bill White	21 Holly Martin
7 Gene Sherman	10 Jack Garcia	14 Nancy Barnes	24 Lauron Fischer
		14 Lynn Bridge	24 Oona Moorhead
		14 Craig Miller	25 Janet Chapman
		15 Elizabeth Herod	25 Chloe Smith
		16 Shelley Rutherford	26 J. C. Ferguson
		17 David Phillips	27 Karen Blackburn
		17 Alayna Enos	27 Kimberley Pettigrew
		17 Will Achtermann	28 Grace Jensen
		18 Ann Lowry	28 Isabella Roth
		18 Eric Peterson	29 Jan McInroy

Please WELCOME Our New Member!



We welcome Frank Adkins as a member of UPC! Frank joins us by transfer of letter from First United Methodist Church of Sequin, TX. He was told about UPC's ministry to the community, so he came, investigated, attended worship, enjoyed, and felt at home. Frank has served as a Sunday School teacher and has already joined the UPC Chancel Choir!

The Session meets on the first Sunday of each month to receive new members in the Library. Please speak to one of the worship leaders if you have any questions.

We want to thank our Clean 'N Shiny volunteers who made the Sanctuary sparkle as a result of careful work. In spite of the cold rain, we had a good turnout on January 9th including---Chuck Carsner, Danny Dennis, Jennie Elliott, Lee Helms, Marilla King, JoAnna Rollings, Bob Shipman, Joel and Janet Chapman,.

Together we

1. Cleaned and polished the chancel floor
2. Vacuumed the green carpet
3. Spot cleaned the green carpet removing candlewax and wine spills
4. Removed candlewax from pew cushions, pew backs and solid surface floors
5. Dusted pews and applied beeswax to scratches
6. Polished brass door hardware
7. Polished communion silver
8. Delivered the rug from under the communion table for repairs
9. Delivered the white communion table cover to the dry cleaners



During our next work session, prior to Easter, we'll polish the vertical wood panels and the vertical rails around the chancel. Thank you for supporting our efforts to prepare the Sanctuary for worship.



A 10-week Film Series

Shortly after Thanksgiving our college students hosted *A Hunger Meal* in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of the meal was to raise awareness around issues of world hunger, food distribution, and consumption as we headed into the holiday season. The conversations that resulted from the meal were as fascinating as they were discouraging. Many concluded that at times it seems we are in control of too little, and our impact on the rest of the planet is nominal at best.

This semester we want to keep this conversation going. We are offering a 10-week film series—most of which will take place during Lent—that will explore issues like food production, obesity, agribusiness and the politics of food, nutrition, and how drastically changing our eating-styles can affect our overall health.

We're calling this series *Whole Church* because, well, Whole Foods was founded in Austin and we're proud of that; and because we want to reinforce the gospel's testimony that we are *all* called to be faithful stewards of our planet and its resources and that it takes the *whole* church to carry out God's mission and ministry in the world. We *all* have a part to play in caring for creation; and seeking to know more about the world in which we live and the problems it faces seems like a good place to start.

So I hope you'll join us beginning Thursday, February 2, in the Youth Room upstairs. Please bring a "brown-bag" dinner and an open mind. Also, throughout our series we will hear from a number of local "experts" on issues relating to that week's film.

Registration is free and begins...*now!* And here's the really cool part: when you register you will receive a *FREE* reusable shopping bag with the *Whole Church* logo on it that you and your family can use to tote around your "brown-bag" dinner (among other things)!

We will have a table set up on Sunday morning with registration forms available. You can also register by emailing Kaci Porter at upccampus@gmail.com or calling the church office. Please include your Name, Phone Number, and a preferred Email Address in your email. When the reusable bags come in, you will be notified and will be able to pick them up in Kaci's office.

Our featured films:

2/2 *Dirt: The Movie* (2009) - "A funny, thoughtful, and, um grounded look at the fundamental ingredient vital to everything that feeds us."

2/9 *Killer at Large* (2008) - "This film tackles the giant-sized topic of America's obesity epidemic with talking heads and the story of a 12-year-old who undergoes liposuction."

2/16 *Forks Over Knives* (2011) - "Forks Over Knives examines the profound claim that most, if not all, the degenerative diseases that afflict us can be controlled over even reversed, by rejecting animal-based and processed foods."

2/23 *Food Stamped* (2011) - "*Food Stamped* is an informative and humorous documentary film following a couple as they attempt to eat a healthy, well-balanced diet on a food stamp budget. Through their adventures they consult with members of U.S. Congress, food justice organizations, nutrition experts, and people living on food stamps to take a deep look at America's broken food system."

3/1 *King Corn* (2007) - "If you believe you are what you eat, you'll no doubt be shocked to learn that you're mostly corn. Aaron Woolf's documentary reveals that the majority of Americans eat mostly corn—or, to be more specific, food products derived from or containing corn."

3/8 *Pressure Cooker* (2008) - "In *Pressure Cooker*, Wilma Stephenson, the tough-minded and tender-hearted culinary arts teacher at inner city Philadelphia's Frankford High School, stirs students to strive to better their lives by becoming chefs. It's all about learning good food, nutrition and service."

3/15 *The Real Dirt on Farmer John* (2006) - "A flamboyant farmer turns his family's dying farm into a thriving CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). Bonus: He flaunts a feather boa while driving his tractor."

3/22 *Ingredients* (2009) - "Narrated by actress Bebe Neuwirth, this engaging documentary weighs the shortcomings of America's industrialized food system against a rising local-growth movement, whose proponents are shrinking the gap between farmland and dinner table. With chefs Alice Waters and Greg Higgins as guiding lights, growers, restaurateurs and consumers around the country, from Oregon to Harlem, New York, discuss their methods for bringing food production back home."

3/29 *Super Size Me* (2004) - "Director Morgan Spurlock takes a hilarious and often terrifying look at the effects of fast food on the human body, using himself as the proverbial guinea pig. For one month, Spurlock eats nothing but McDonald's fare."

4/5 *Maundy Thursday Agape Feast*—Instead of watching a film this night, the whole congregation will be invited to attend an Agape Feast in the Fellowship Hall. An Agape or Love Feast was a religious meal shared among the early Christians. 'Maundy' comes from the Latin word for "commandment" and refers to the new commandment Jesus gave to his followers, to love one another as Jesus loved them (John 13:34). Our meal and worship service will be synonymous, and I think this will be a meaningful way to both prepare our hearts and minds for Easter, and to culminate our film series.



Faith and Life Class Preview of Coming Attractions

The Faith and Life Class of University Presbyterian Church invites you to join us each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. for learning, inspiration, and fellowship. For the next nine weeks, our class will be led by three exceptional speakers you won't want to miss: Sherry Smith, Dr. Dave Jensen, and Dr. Cindy Rigby. Come and bring others.

Sherry Smith, teacher, lecturer in U.T.'s SAGE program, and art historian, will present a five-part series on "Visualizing Our Faith."

February 5: "Mary Magdalene: Art Shaping Understanding." Who was this mysterious woman, and how have artists' interpretations of her influenced our own thinking?

February 12: "Women in the Bible: The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful" Enough said!

February 19: "Sinners Beware" is about a church in France (the Romanesque Church in Conques, France, a tiny village that became a bustling tourist attraction in the 11th and 12th centuries) A long warning is actually carved on the tympanum amongst the figures in heaven and hell saying, "Sinners Beware . . . etc., etc., etc. . Shape up or you'll have a terrible fate!!!"

During the Season of Lent, our class will be led by two of our UPC family who are professors at Austin Theological Seminary.

February 26 and March 4: Dr. Dave Jensen, Professor of Constructive Theology

March 11 and 18: Dr. Cindy Rigby, Professor of Systematic Theology.

Our lives are enriched by their sharing of their deep knowledge and their deep faith.

The table is spread; the feast is waiting. You are invited!



BOOK Club

Monthly Book Club

The UPC Monthly Book Club will meet at 7 p.m. in Room 210 at the church on Thursday, February 9. Any and all are welcome to attend!

For the reading, you may choose to take on whichever Dietrich Bonhoeffer book you would like to read, whether it's the novelization of

his life, *Saints and Villians* by Denise Giardina; the most recent biography, *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy* by Eric Metaxas; or any of his own writings: *The Cost of Discipleship*, *Letters and Papers from Prison*, or *Ethics*, among others. The variety will enlarge our discussion!

For March we will be reading *The Ninth Wife* by Amy Stolls. It's a novel about a woman engaged to a man with 8 ex-wives. Before deciding whether or not to tie the knot, she embarks on a cross-country trip to meet the women of his past.

For April, we are reading *If You Lived Here I'd Know Your Name: News From Small Town Alaska* by Heather Lende. The non-fiction book explores tiny Haines, Alaska, with no traffic lights or mail delivery. Lende is a columnist and obituary writer for the local paper in a town where an inordinate number of its small population is always dying.

For more information call or email Suzanne Freeman at 917-573-5288 or freeman.suzanne@gmail.com.



Needleworkers' Group The Needleworkers' Group will join the Thursday evening Whole Church: 10 week Film Series (February 2-April 5) in Rm. 212 at 6 p.m. Bring your

needlework and stitch while you watch. We will take our stitching to the Whole Church film series and work on it there while participating in that particular fellowship. If you don't like to stitch while watching movies, that's absolutely understandable, but several of us can't sit down in front of a screen without our handwork, so we'll get our monthly fix that way. Please note that the movie series starts at 6:00 and is a brown-bag dinner deal, so mark your calendars appropriately. Hope to see you there.



Books & More

Books & More meets Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m. in Rm. 1, lower level. All are welcome.

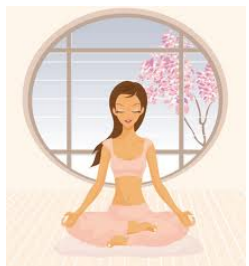
Contact Jennie Elliott, jl Elliott@austin.rr.com, for more information.



FEASTING on the WORD

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY CLASS at 7 p.m. in Room 210. All are

invited and welcome. Drop-ins are welcome, as are committed students. The class is led by Jonathan Eddison.



YOGA

Yoga at UPC on **WEDNESDAYS** at 5:30 p.m.!

Classes taught by Jennifer Schroeder.

Email to register for classes: jenn_schroeder@yahoo.com.

WINTER DINNER GROUPS

Sign up to participate on the courtyard on Sunday! Please contact Betsy Brown at betsybrown@austin.rr.com or 343-2918 for more information.

Youth Ministries

Summer already? Well...no – but our registrations for Mo Ranch Summer Conferences and the Mission Trip are now officially open!!

Mo Ranch Summer Conferences:

Senior High Celebration June 24-29, cost \$431 per youth

Junior High Jubilee July 1-5, cost \$366 per youth

Registration Deadline: February 19th

How to register: Registration forms can be found in the black box on John's office door. Please fill out the form and attach a \$75 (non-refundable) deposit check (made out to UPC) and drop it either in the church office or in the black lock-box on my office door.

Summer Youth Mission Trip to Asheville, NC

All youth 6-12 invited!

June 2-9

Going to Asheville Youth Missions

Cost: \$400 per youth

Registration Deadline: April 1st

How to Register: Registration forms can be found on the display on the wall right next to my office door. Please fill out the form and attach a \$100 (non-refundable) deposit check (made out to UPC) and drop it either in the church office or in the black lock-box on my office door.

*****Please note that, while these trips and conferences are expensive, they will be amazing experiences for your youth. Fundraising and scholarship opportunities are available. Please please please do not let any money issue hold you back from attending any of these great events!**

Confirmation Update

So far our Confirmation Class Students have covered the entire Bible, learned 5,000 years of Church History, studied the Protestant Reformation, and looked at Presbyterian Polity and church government. In the coming weeks, they will be studying Christian missions, Reformed theology, and Christian worship. Please keep our Confirmation Class students in your prayers as they prepare their Statements of Faith at our upcoming Confirmation Retreat which will be held February 24-26th. Confirmation Sunday will be May 20th where our students will become members of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and UPC!



Byron & Sarah French – Leaving room for Jesus at the High School Midwinters Dance

Youth Mid-Winter Retreats

Our Middle School and Senior High youth had a blast at their Mission Presbytery Mid-Winter Retreats at Mo Ranch! We had 6 Middle School students and 5 High School Students attend these annual conferences and grew in their faith as they participated in keynotes, worship, small group times, and of course – all the games and dancing that one can do in a weekend! The theme for the two retreats was Psalm 139 and they talked about how God is with us everywhere – there is “No Escaping” God’s love.

Special thanks to Sarah French, Byron French, and Chelsea Kindred for their leadership at the retreats. Also, a big shout out to Natalie Caballero, a senior UPC youth, who served in leadership on the Mission Presbytery Mid-Winter Planning Team



High School Midwinters Group Picture

Youth Mid-Winter Retreat continued....



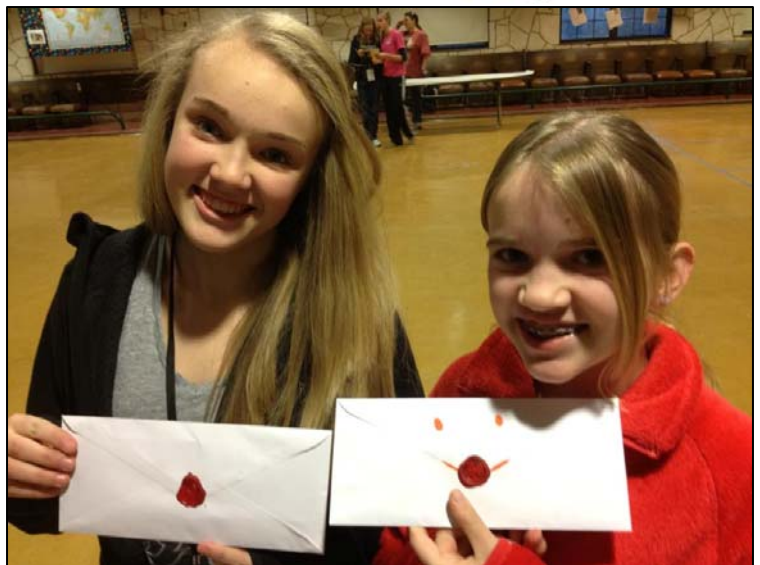
Chelsea Kindred on our Nature Hike during Middle School Midwinters



Middle School Midwinters Group Picture



Middle School Midwinters Group Picture



Annie Lott & Leena Siiteri



Session Commendations— January

- Many thanks to Roscoe Overton, San Williams, and official and unofficial members of the Fellowship Ministry, the Membership Ministry, Ushers, the UPC Chancel Choir, the Gracious Plenty and the Central Time Jazz Band for creating the environment in which people from around the city came together for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration concert and reception. Also to Scott McNulty for his “Fly Away” solo, it was worthy of any gospel gathering
- All the guest musicians who shared their musical talents during our Advent celebration: A Gracious Plenty (Jan Williams, Melinda Wofford, Ann Stafford, Rachel Wofford, John Leedy), Ara Carapetyan and the Chancel Choir, Cate Miller, Daniel Madrid, David Chao, Wakie Chao, Eric Peterson, Hilary Taylor, Holly Clark, Isaac Turpin, Janis Reinken, Jared Ballance, Jeffrey Bridge, Joshua Turpin, Lauron Fischer, Linda Hill, Luis Rangel, Martha Carapetyan, Mary Ann Parker, Lisa Perrone and the Sound of Angels Choir, Meg McReynolds and the Joyful Noise Handbell Choir, Rachel Chao, Ruth Marie Ballance, Sophia Carapetyan, Stephanie Pollock, Tom Sadler
- Scott McNulty for inviting and coordinating all of this wonderful talent and even conducting a UPC orchestra made up of Christmas season congregants
- Joshua Turpin for baking the bread for our Communion celebrations
- Jennifer Whitten for coordinating Communion servers for the last 7 months
- Jennifer Whitten and Tim Trickey for serving Communion for Taizé services
- Ann Lowry for coordinating the decorations of our sanctuary and church for Advent and Christmas
- Katherine Ray for all of her work with Young Parents at UPC

- Randal Whittington for hosting the Christmas Party for Youth
- Natalie Caballero for her service on the Mission Presbytery Midwinter Planning Team
- Maureen Carlson for coordinating the Season for Caring wrapping party
- All the people who helped with the UPLIFT Christmas Party
- John Dodd for making All District Safety at Eanes ISD
- All the people who prayed for Lauron Fischer as she prepared for surgery and during the surgery and the people who have asked about her.

Session Highlights—January

- Approved the budget for 2012
- Approved repairs and sewer and wastewater lines in the existing UPC buildings at a cost of approximately \$15,500.00
- Approved the minutes for the December 14, 2011 stated meeting and the called meeting of January 1, 2012
- Approved transfer of membership for Michael and Beth Vivio to First Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg, Florida
- Appointed a Task Force to begin work on the Session Operations Manual: Tyson Payne, Chair, Madelyn Mitchell, Debbie Warden and Helen Ingram
- Appointed commissioners for Presbytery March 2-3 at Northminster Presbyterian Church in San Antonio: Debbie Warden, Madelyn Mitchell and Bob Shipman
- Called Annual Congregation Meeting for February 5, in the sanctuary, following worship with a potluck sandwich, salad luncheon in the fellowship hall following the meeting





The Manos De Cristo "All You Need is Love" Gala is coming up on Friday, February 3, at 7pm at the Hyatt Regency. This fun event for a serious cause features a cocktail hour, a gourmet dinner, and exciting live auction, and ends with dancing the night away to music by the popular band The Pictures. Proceeds will help Manos bring dental care, basic needs, and education to thousands of Central Texans in need. Tickets are \$100 per person, and sponsorship opportunities are available. To purchase tickets, please contact Sarah French at sbradbur@alum.trinity.edu or 210-882-6400.



First Sunday in Lent, February 26

When: June 18 - 22, 2012, 9:00 a.m. to noon

Where: University Presbyterian Church

Who: Children from 3 years old through elementary school

Who else: Youth as daily leaders, design team, set-up crew - and more!

Who else: Adults as activity leaders, planning team, snack crew - and more!

Watch Up-Date in the coming weeks for more information about our VBS theme, registration dates and ways for YOU to be involved.

Meanwhile, contact Kathy Escandell with questions: education@upcaustin.org or 476-5321, ext. 202

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 9:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

UPC Mission Statement:

Empowered by God's Spirit, we will follow Jesus Christ as disciples and apostles who are equipped and sent to represent God's reign in the world through worship, service, and community.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please provide the church office (upc@upcaustin.org) with your email address so that you may receive the link to the newsletter, weekly updates and other important information from the church.

UPC Pastors and Staff

San Williams, Senior Pastor

Keith Wright, Parish Associate

Kaci Porter, Director of Campus and Young Adult Ministries

John Leedy, Associate Pastor of Youth and Family Ministries

Kathy Escandell, Director of Christian Formation

Ara Carapetyan, Director of Music

Mary Ann Parker, Director of Sound of Angels

Lisa Perrone, Assistant Director of Sound of Angels

Meg McReynolds, Director of Joyful Noise Handbells

Scott McNulty, Organist

David Cappolino, Accompanist

Danny Dennis, Facilities Manager

Patricia Martin, Office Manager

Sandie McGee, Financial Manager

Operating Fund

Giving Summary as of

December 31, 2011

Total Pledged for 2011	\$677,491.01
Pledges Received to Date	<u>\$679,874.00</u>
Overage Amount Given in 2011	\$ 2,383.00
Percentage of Pledges Received	100.3%

Thank you for meeting and exceeding your financial commitments for 2011.

2011 Charitable Contribution Statements have been mailed. Please review for accuracy and contact Sandie McGee at financial@upcaustin.org with any questions or concerns.

WEBSITE: www.upcaustin.org