



UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
the **UPbeat** Newsletter

Welcome to the January 2012 edition of the UPC Upbeat Newsletter. Happy New Year!



The University Presbyterian Church
2203 San Antonio Street, Austin, TX
512-476-5321

Cordially Invites You To

A COMMUNITY MUSICAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Monday, January 16, 2012 – 7:00pm

In Honor of

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Featuring

The Ebenezer Baptist Church Male Choir

The Austin Girls' Choir (AGC)

The University of Texas Innervations Gospel Choir

Grace Presbyterian Church Choir of Round Rock

University Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir

& A Gracious Plenty

Donations: To assist the UPC UPLift Assistance Program & Scholarships for the AGC

San Williams, Pastor

Roscoe Overton, Coordinator

Free Parking across the Street in the University Co-op Parking Garage



WINTER Dinner Groups

Once again we will have Winter Dinner Groups in homes in February and March. This is how it works: A

host household picks a day to have the dinner, indicates how many people they can have, and if they can accommodate children or would prefer adults only. Then, UPCers will have the opportunity to sign up for a dinner on a night convenient to their schedule. The host household provides the main dish, and others sign up for salad, vegetable, dessert, bread, etc.

These dinners are really a lot of fun for all participants. No one has to make a long-term commitment, and everyone has the opportunity to meet new people.

Please contact Betsy Brown at betsybrown@austin.rr.com or 343-2918, if you are willing to host a dinner or if you have any questions. Watch for signups in January and early February.

The Clean N' Shiny Team will meet on Monday morning, January 9, from 9:00 am to noon to polish the Sanctuary after the removal of Advent decorations. We'll remove candle drips and glitter from the green carpet and pew cushions as best we can and touch up the chancel floor. Please wear old clothes and join us for whatever amount of time you can spare during the morning. We'll have fun together, and we'll enjoy a sense of accomplishment as we look at our results. Come help us prepare our beautiful Sanctuary for the worship of God. If you have questions, contact Janet Chapman, chapmanjanet@att.net or call 784-0115.



The **Annual Micah 6 Combined Worship** will be held on **Sunday, January 15 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Austin Catholic Church**, 2026 Guadalupe St. Light refreshments will follow the service. Free parking is available at these locations: church parking behind the church and between the



alley and San Antonio street - it is encouraged that you leave these spots available for guests with limited mobility; parking under the gym at the corner of 20th and San Antonio streets; the parking facility at the corner of MLK and San Antonio streets; parking spots on the surrounding streets. You may visit the St. Austin website at www.staustin.org for more parking information.

MICAH 6 REACHES OUT TO STREET YOUTH

Drop-in Center for Street Youth Opening January 2012

Micah 6 extends an invitation to our coalition of churches to participate in an exciting new project which will begin to fill the gaps in services for our street youth in the university area. On Sunday, January 22, 2012, a new drop in center will open its doors at **University Baptist Church**. This center will be open every Sunday from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and will include a place of fellowship (out of the weather), a healthy meal, a computer lab and special educational and self-care programs for youth around the age of 30 and under.

As always, much is needed to help with this new project:

* **Volunteers**

- to staff the center once/month (Sundays 1:30-6:00 pm)
- to provide tutoring
- to provide food

* **Gently used items** such as:

- Desktop computers & flat screen monitors
- Two printers; bulletin board
- Two (large) microwaves
- Big, commercial blender for a smoothie ministry
- Book cases & books
- Dog crates

If you have a donation, are interested in helping out, or just have a creative idea or question, please contact your Micah 6 representative or email **Jane Leifeste** at leifeste.jane@gmail.com.

A volunteer training will be held on **Sunday, January 8**. For more information, please contact **Mac McKaskle** at wmckaskle@yahoo.com.

FIG LEAF STORE OPENS FOR STREET YOUTH



This year, Micah 6 assisted the **Fig Leaf Store at University United Methodist Church** in service to young adults living on the street in Austin. The Fig Leaf provides free clothing as well as a safe place to gather socially and interact with community volunteers. This service has become very popular with as many as 25

youth arriving on each Thursday afternoon. The Fig Leaf is also open to the general public on Saturday mornings.

Micah 6 and several Fig Leaf volunteers have funded the purchase of snacks and drinks for the youth. If you would like to **volunteer** at the Fig Leaf on Thursday afternoons to chat with the youth while they shop for their clothes, contact **Jane Leifeste** at leifeste.jane@gmail.com.

Donations of **gently-used clothing** are greatly appreciated. The items most needed for men are all sizes of dark-colored shirts, shorts, jeans, socks, shoes, and backpacks. For women, plus sizes and maternity clothes are in demand. Please bring your items to University United Methodist Church at 2409 Guadalupe Street between 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Thursday or 8:30 AM to noon on Friday or Sunday. Place the items in the collection bin located inside the door facing the 25th street parking lot. Thank you!



January

Birthdays

1 Vicki Fatheree	12 Jane Marshall
1 Molly Ogorzaly	13 Diane Hutchins
1 Inez Price	13 Katie Bass
1 Lizzette Reynolds	15 Kevin Berlin
1 Jan Roberts	17 Carol Keller
1 Carol Taylor	17 Paul Elliott
1 Kathy Fretwell	18 Kathy Clark
2 Clayton Maxwell	18 Ann Winkle
2 Anna Fierke	18 Ed Priest
3 Kay Bryant	18 Bob Fulton
3 Diane Haight	19 Max Sherman
3 Tommy McReynolds	20 Whitney Musitano
4 Helen Smith	20 William Bradford
4 Kendal Gladish	21 Janis Reinken
6 Bob Shipman	21 Julian Williams
5 James Kern	22 Linda Henderson
6 Bob Bridge	22 Michael Dodd
6 Eric Faulk	22 Alex Butler
7 Erin Adams	25 Sherry D. Smith
9 Byron French	25 Bob Drew
9 Mallory Pernell	25 Rachel Dodd
9 Sarah Corley	26 Carey Doughty
10 Seth Lott	27 Martha Bauer
11 Alice Risinger	27 Amy Manning
11 Emily Horvath	28 Ted Wardlaw
	30 Claire Baxter
	30 Shane Webb
	31 Mark Baxter

Please WELCOME Our New Members!



We welcome Richard "Dick" and Mary Margaret Bryarly to UPC. They join by transfer of letter from First Presbyterian Church, Conroe, TX. They have three grown daughters, Geneva, Meredith and Julia. Dick is a physician. He is an elder, has served on the mission committee and as Clerk of Session for FPC, Conroe. Dick's primary hobby is triathloning. Mary Margaret is a retired teacher. She is also an elder and has served on the mission committee for FPC, Conroe. In addition, Mary was a trustee for the Montgomery County Interfaith Hospitality Network; as well as volunteering in the soup kitchen, in the schools and with Meals on Wheels. Her hobbies are reading, knitting, cooking, and hiking. They visited several area churches and felt that UPC was a good fit for them. They like the church's commitment to mission projects, adult education program and extended family groups such as needlework and book club.



Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the UPC congregation will be held on Sunday, February 5, following worship. Please bring a couple of dishes to share for the potluck lunch.

The stated purpose of the Annual Meeting is to elect officers (elders and deacons) for the class of 2015, to approve the terms of call for the pastors, elect a new nominating committee, and hear reports from various ministry teams of UPC.

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



A VERY Merry Christmas!

You gave hundreds of gifts of new and gently-used clothing, of toys, of books, of all kinds of trinkets and treasures. You gave great food—cookies, candy,

turkey, ham, punch, etc. You gave your time and energy (about 25 volunteers) so nearly 150 UPLift clients could have a great Christmas party and we could also continue our outreach help at the same time. It was truly an outpouring of the generosity and hospitality of UPC.

There is a story of a little boy whose mother asked him to polish her shoes while she wrapped gifts. He did such a good job she gave him a shiny quarter. On the way to church, she felt a lump in her shoe. and opening a fold of paper, found the quarter and this message: "I done it for love." No one is looking for credit or thanks for the help given (it was "done for love"), but the ones who came to the party and those who seek help during the year would still like to say, "Thank you."



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.



The Sound of Angels will be starting on Sunday, January 15, 12 p.m. in Rm. 210.

Invitation to the children:

"Come one, Come all - and be ready to have fun with the Angels".



YOGA

Unwind and ease through your holidays with Yoga at UPC on THURSDAYS!

Classes taught by Sadani Janet Houtz, Certified YOGA THERAPIST (teaching yoga since 1998)

Email to register for classes: sadani@sadaniyoga.com



Needleworkers' Group

Happy New Year! If you're itching to start a new hobby, or serious about your New Year's resolution to finish all your half-completed projects, then come join the Needleworkers for fun and fellowship. We meet every first

Thursday of the month, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the library, to trade news and prayer requests, as well as stitching ideas and patterns. Needlepoint, embroidery, knitting, crocheting, beading, and even quilting--we welcome most everyone who wields some sort of needle. (Heck, we welcome anyone, needle or no!) For the upcoming year, we have two mission projects: prayer shawls and/or lap robes for shut-ins, and Christmas gifts for UPLift clients. If you can't make the Thursday meeting, but would like to help with the ongoing project(s), contact Liz Wright at elisabethw67@sbcglobal.net or at 512-934-2248.



MEN'S RETREAT

Men's Retreat
January 27-29,
2012
at Middle Creek
Ranch

The annual Men's Retreat will be held at Middle Creek Ranch Friday evening, January 27th through noon on Sunday, January 29th. Cost is \$60.00 for the weekend. Sign-up for the retreat will be on Sundays, January 8th and 15th. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for another great weekend!



FEASTING on the WORD

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

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY CLASS resumes meeting January 10 at 7 p.m. in Room 210. All

Plan to stay after worship on Sunday, January 8 to help take down the Christmas decorations!!



Books & More

Books & More resumes meeting Sunday, January 8 at 5:30 p.m.

We will view a video by Bill Moyers. The next book selected for study was Speaking Christian by Marcus Borg and study/discussion will start on January 15th.

All are welcome.

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

Children's Ministry

Looking Ahead in Children's Ministry at UPC

VBS Meeting, Room 210 on Sunday, January 8 at 12:15 p.m.

We may not be eager to return to weeks on end of 100° weather, but we're just half a year away from June. And in addition to heat, summer means – VBS at UPC.

Last year's week-long morning VBS for pre-school and elementary children was such a success that the Children's Ministry Team has decided to follow the same pattern in 2012. The key to success in 2011 was the hard work and dedication of volunteers who helped:

- * Create the curriculum
- * Publicize VBS
- * Register students
- * Transform the space
- * Teach
- * Prepare snacks
- * Lead games, crafts, singing, Etc.

If any of those opportunities appeal to you, please join the Children's Ministry Team in at 12:15 on Sunday, January 8 for an informational, organizational meeting about VBS 2012. We'll be discussing dates, themes, logistics and more, and welcome your input.

If you cannot attend on January 8, but want to be part of VBS 2012, please contact Kathy Escandell at education@upcaustin.org or 476-5321, ext. 202.

Bridge to Worship Orientation and Re-Orientation

Room 201 on Sunday, January 29 at 12:15 p.m.

Each Sunday, when the young children leave the UPC sanctuary, they go upstairs to a dedicated room for their own worship experience. We use the *Young Children and Worship* program developed by Jerome Berryman and Sonja Stewart to help our younger members become familiar with the rituals and the blessings of worship.

Program leadership is provided by trained Storytellers and Greeters/Doorkeepers. Several members of the congregation are dedicated leaders of this program, sharing Bible stories and a weekly feast with children between the ages of 3 and 6.

If you have been a member of the Bridge to Worship leadership team, please attend the Re-Orientation gathering on Sunday, January 29 at 12:15 p.m. in Room 201. The Children's Ministry Team wants to hear about your experiences as we work to improve the program. If you would like to join the leadership team, please come to the meeting to be introduced to the other leaders and the program materials. If you have a child who participates in Bridge to Worship, please come to the meeting with your questions and your suggestions. If you're a member of the congregation and you're curious about what happens in Room 201 between 11 and 12 on Sunday morning, please come and learn about this wonderful worship opportunity. In other words – everyone is invited!

For more information, contact Kathy Escandell at education@upcaustin.org or 476-5321, ext. 202.

UPC offers an age-appropriate sermon on Sunday's Scripture for children who no longer attend Bridge to Worship but who have not yet participated in Confirmation. This sermon is held in the Library, and is led by Dr. Cindy Rigby of APTS and Kathy Escandell, UPC Director of Christian Formation. Following the sermon, the children return to the sanctuary for the remainder of the worship service.



missionary work

We are a supporting church for **Sarah and Shane Webb**, PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteers working in Peru. For information about their work and to receive their blog, go here:

<http://sarahandshane.wordpress.com>

A YAV year, and really any mission experience, is based on the premise of Jesus' words "whosoever would save her life will lose it" (Mark 8:35) and "whosoever would be great among you must be your servant" (Mark 10:43).

Through self-sacrifice and denying the individual to serve community, you can begin to live into the kingdom of God. I have been living this mantra (with varying degrees of success) these past 2½ months in Peru.

But I also know, in the words of Marie Dennis, that "life is at its truest and clearest in times of simple intimacy, in touching others deeply, in relishing in the wonder of simple life and love. These too are times of knowing God." So sometimes it's not about denying self, it's about the deep happiness of embracing life.

So this month I celebrated my 27th birthday, and I took a few days to know God by savoring and living.

In Latin America, they make much of birthdays. My birthday was not extravagant, but it was more than I could have dreamed. I received the following presents:

- being sung "Happy birthday" to bilingually at work, at home, and at church,
- a mandarin orange and a kiss on the cheek given by one of the youth with different abilities that attends the Ann Sullivan Center,
- cake and my favorite foods made by the family of the president of Shane's church,
- a homemade card signed by many of my coworkers,
- from my wonderful husband, roses and two pair of earrings made by the artisans of the Free Trade group that we work with here (<http://fairtradeperu.com/>),
- a huge homemade cake and a delicious dinner from my host family,
- a bottle of wine and earrings from "momma" Debbie, our site coordinator,
- laughter and good conversation with friends and fellow YAVs.

It is also traditional for the celebrant to take the first bite straight out of the birthday cake, and then for friends to push your face into the cake. I managed to avoid getting a complete frosting facial, and everyone had a good laugh. More than anything, though, I truly cherished the warmth that was outpoured by my community here in Peru.

While I was busy "losing my life" and being a servant that God could work through, I wasn't letting myself receive love from those with whom I live, work, and worship. I was scared to jump in, to open up, to love and live fully in my time here. But through God's grace, others were brave. And on my birthday they wrapped me in smiles, songs, prayer, care, and joy. It was a blessing.

So as I go forward in my year of service, I do so in a more balanced frame of mind.

"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing." - Rom 15:13

My eternal thanks for all of your prayers and love.

God bless, ~ Sarah



INCOMING MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE.....

I'm watching a silent movie. Lots of action. People are talking, but I can't quite catch what they say- there is no subscript! Oh, wait, those two women are hugging, and they kinda look alike. I wonder if they are sisters? And, those two boys behind them, the ones punching each other in the arms- are they brothers? Cousins? Friends? Best enemies? Now there is a man walking toward that woman off to the side. He is saying something to her as if they know each other well. Are they husband and wife? I wish I knew. Now the movie is over and I'm not quite sure what was happening- I'll wait for the screen credits to at least catch the names. Maybe that'll give me a clue to their relationships. WHAT?!?!? The screen credits have been cut off?!? Who are all these people?

And, now for the clincher- are you ready? This scenario could be anyone's experience at UPC! That's right- do you know who that couple is sitting on the pulpit side of the sanctuary? Don't they have children? A couple of boys, maybe? But, you are afraid to go up and talk to them because you don't know their names! And, you know you are supposed to know their names! So, you slink by hurriedly, nodding and saying 'hello' in a friendly way, hoping that you won't have to make any introductions. How to figure out their names? Ask San? Say, 'you know the man and woman who are about average build, both have brown hair, she smiles a lot?' ... and see how far that description gets you in narrowing down your candidates!

What to do, what to do? How to solve this problem for everyone? Oh, I know, NAMETAGS! How much faster it is to learn everyone's name when there is constant reinforcement visually! Yes, that's it! We'll help all our newcomers by wearing labels! That way, everyone has a fighting chance of knowing one another and developing a deeper confidence in carrying on conversations outside our accustomed circles. Look- a better world is at hand! And it started with nametags and smiles.

Your membership ministry teams says- Wear your nametags! If yours is completely lost or damaged, call 476-5321 to request a new one. If you have a nametag, but left it at home, pick up a stick-on nametag from the nametag board (the storage pocket is labeled with a sign). The new magnetic nametags work well on any fabric and style of clothing, but you must pull the magnetic back out of the storage pocket on the nametag board in order to use it. If you want any other style of nametag, those are stored on the nametag board, too, in labeled pockets.



Celebrations and Concerns—December

Our sympathy to Mary Crum and family at the death of Lawrence Crum, December 4, 2011.

Our sympathy to family and friends at the death of Harvey DeFord, December 8, 2011.

Congratulations to Jim and Holly Bohart at the birth of their daughter, Lily Jean, born December 16, 2011.

"A special Thank You from the UPC Youth to all those who purchased poinsettias this year. Your contribution goes to support the youth mission fund and will provide several large scholarships this year. Thank you for supporting our young people as they seek to follow Christ into the world!"

YOUTH—JANUARY

Spring Kick Off Extravaganza Sunday, January 8,
5-7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Junior High Midwinter Retreat at Mo Ranch will be
January 13-15th.

Senior High Midwinter Retreat at Mo Ranch will be
January 20-22nd.

Confirmation Retreat to John Knox Ranch will be
February 24-26th. Cost per youth is \$75.

For those who have registered for the Midwinter
conferences—watch your email for more information.





SESSION COMMENDATIONS

John Leedy and youth for creating the O Antiphon banners and to Kathy Escandell for her teaching about them in the Children's Sermon.

A special and unanimous commendation to the choir, Ara Carapetyan and Scott McNulty for the Lesson in Carols.

Sound of Angels Choir, their conductors Mary Ann Parker and Lisa Perrone and accompanist, David Cappolino, for their wonderful musical performance before church on December 4th.

Jill Collins for coordinating the Alternative Gift Market. Randy Kerr, Don Bobb, and Scott Collins for their work on Luebo Partnership and for their presentation to the Faith and Life Sunday School class.

Fellowship Committee for the excellent work they did in 2011.

Debbie Warden for serving as clerk of the Dec. 14 Session Meeting, and for coordinating the UPLift Christmas party

The following people for decorating the sanctuary for Advent.

Bob Bridge
Joel and Janet Chapman
Chuck Carsner and Reta Hallonquist
Ruben and Adriana DeLaRosa
Danny and Robin Dennis
Michael and Mary Dodd
Rey Legett
Tim and Ann Lowry
Carolyn McFarland
Tommy and Meg McReynolds
Alice Meriwether
Luther Parker
JoAnna Rollings
Julia Wynn

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

November 16 Session Minutes were approved.
December 4 minutes were approved.

Laurence Becker and Melissa Glouchkova presented the meditation.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Rey Legett, Chair of Building and Grounds, made a motion to approve the purchase of three photographs totaling \$1,265.54 to put in the church office. The money is to come out of the Memorial Fund. During discussion the suggestion was made to increase the amount, but not to exceed, \$1,300.00 for the purchases. Motion was approved.

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 November 30, 2011

Total Pledged for 2011	\$677,491.01
Pledges Received to Date	<u>\$580,477.37</u>
Amount Remaining for 2011	\$97,013.64
Percentage of Pledges Received	86%



WEBSITE: www.upcaustin.org