

# The **FIRST EDITION**



## An edition of The United Methodist Reporter

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First United Methodist Church 403 S. Main Street Duncanville, TX 75116 972.298-6121 [www.fumcd.com](http://www.fumcd.com) Rev. Mike Nichols, Senior Pastor

# Surprise!!!!



On Tuesday, December 12, the staff surprised Phyllis Goldman at Ruffino's in DeSoto. After 23 years of employment at FUMC, she is retiring to do some projects, some traveling, and have time to enjoy her 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren. Helping to make this evening a memorable experience for her were Rev. Steve Sobczak, Minister of Music, Rev. Gene Welborn, former Associate Pastor, Rev. Mike Nichols, Senior Pastor, Rev. Marie Mitchell, Associate Pastor, Phyllis, Dr. Dan Hoke, former Senior Pastor, Sheri Hollingsworth, Associate Pastor and Dr. Dale Hunt, former Senior Pastor. This group of ministers clad in robes and sunglasses entertained the entire staff with music and 'Phyllis' stories.



**epiphany**

January 6th, always the date of Epiphany Day, begins the third liturgical season of the Christian Year. In Advent, the first season, we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Christmastide follows Advent and lifts up the theme of God's incarnation in Jesus of Nazareth. Christmastide, the shortest season of the year, sets the stage for Epiphany. The word epiphany means manifestation or appearance and remembers the occasion when the three Magi went to visit the infant Jesus (Matthew's gospel). The visitation of the Magi marks the time when Jesus was manifested to or revealed to the three visitors as Savior of the world. The liturgical color for Epiphany is green and reminds us of the growth of the church and of its mission to all the world. Epiphany focuses our worship services until Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Join us in worship during this special time of the Christian year.

## GIVE THE LORD A HAND!!

**L**et's give the Lord a hand for what God has done and for what we have done, the Lord being our helper! Together, we have paid all ministry, missions, and apportionment needs in full.

On Tuesday, January 9th, I hand-delivered to the Conference Treasurer our final installment on our conference apportionments. This means that our connectional ministries and missions and administrative causes will be stronger because of our faithfulness. In addition, all bills for ministries within our church and for missions beyond our local church for 2006 have been funded in full.

100% payout for all causes local and conference is an outstanding achievement. This shows what God will do through us when we let the need be known and when we trust God to guide our giving.

In mid-November we needed \$175,000 to finish the year with all causes being funded in full. Working together with God as our helper, we closed the gap.

As we begin another fiscal year, I trust that we will achieve great things in our stewardship of time, talent, energy, and money. At the outset of 2007, I ask each of us to pray for God's continued guidance and strength. God has already blessed us richly; now God looks to us to do our part. I believe we're up to the task. Let us each thank God for what God has done.

Peace to you in 2007,

Mike Nichols



Welcome to our new member Janeen Jervis who joined us from Genesis UMC in Fort Worth. Janeen has already become involved by joining our Chancel Choir.

We were also privileged to baptize Tim Pittmon, husband of Jimmi Pittmon, and Noel Leon, husband of Barbara Leon, on Sunday, January 7. Both men joined by profession of faith.

### Christmas Wishes come true

In early December Sheri Hollingsworth, Letitia Nachtrieb and Jean Kolich went to Chick-fil-a in Cedar Hill to take part in the KLTY Christmas Wish. Many books contained wishes from scores of families and one was selected. After only a few phone calls, several hundred dollars was raised to send a Wal-Mart gift card, cash, and much more. Letitia called this family only to find out that their minister had submitted these wishes--not the family. This is a portion of a letter from the family.

"I had prepared my children for a very scant Christmas. Cliff is finishing out a tour in the Middle East and everything seems to have fallen apart just in time for the holidays. My kids are amazing and only cared about taking part in the Angel Tree and had adopted 2 angels. I didn't realize our pastor had submitted a letter to KLTY. A wonderful lady from your church called me and informed me of this gift. . . . Please accept our gratitude for the impact your gift had on our life. Thank you so much for all you have done."

Malissa Branscum,  
Whitney, Texas

### Children's ministries are in full swing!

This weekend 15 confirmands and parents will begin their Confirmation journey to Sky Ranch in east Texas. Leaving on Friday, Marlies Peregory, Sheri Hollingsworth and Janet Dempsey will lead the confirmands in a weekend training of teamwork, role reversals and the process of spiritual formation.

Confirmation is open to current 6th graders or older that have not been baptized or confirmed in Faith of the United Methodist Church. If you know of any family that meets these specifications or may need guidance, please have them email Marlies or Sheri at the church.

marlies@fumcd.com or sheri@fumcd.com

Missing the retreat does not discount anyone from participating in this spiritual growth experience. There will be teachings during the SS hour beginning Jan. 21 and an optional (but encouraged) Bible study on Sunday afternoons from 4:45-6:00 p.m. Mission work is always in the front of our work. One mission already scheduled is working March 10 at the North Texas Food Bank.

Confirmation services will conclude on April 22.

You may not have a child for Confirmation, but you may have a 5th grader ready to participate in our "Created by God" workshop. This wonderful human sexuality workshop, conducted by certified leader, Laura Atterstrom of St Andrews UMC, is a wonderful opportunity for children to learn about the beauty of God's plan for reproduction.

Parents may read more online and also register.

[www.fumcd.com](http://www.fumcd.com)



### Switching Gears

Marlies Peregory will have a change of professions at the end of January. She has been the Director of Children's Ministries for FUMC since November 2003. She has a desire to get her Real Estate License which requires schooling and to spend more time with her husband Larry and triplets Allison, Brad and Laura.

Rev. Sheri Hollingsworth will resume the Children's Ministries duties with Marlies acting as support. Marlies has agreed to chair Vacation Bible School and stay very active in the church's ministries.

Thanks Marlies for all that you have done.

### INTERESTED IN BEING A PART OF A SINGLES GROUP?

If you are 50+ and are interested in being a part of a singles Sunday School class, contact Lou Craig at 972-298-7481 or 214-354-8918.

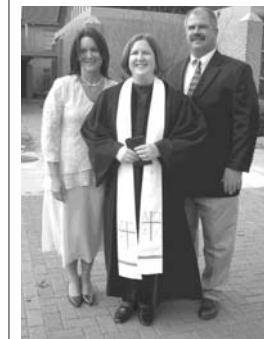
For those under 50, contact Rev. Marie Mitchell at the church office, 972-298-6121.

## JANUARY SMILES

to our Visitation Team: LaVon Littrell, Linda Calvin, Keydron and Bob Hastings, Weymond and Betty Dunn, Lily and Bill Mackey. These volunteers serve as ambassadors for our church by making doorstep visits on Sunday afternoon to the homes of first-time visitors.



The Homebuilders SS Class celebrated with a Christmas party at the home of Dr. Allen and Elaine Schneider. As usual, they had a great time. If you have pictures you want published in the paper of your group or Sunday School class, please send to Pat Daniel at [pat@fumcd.com](mailto:pat@fumcd.com).



Congratulations to Mindy and Kelly Bonner who were recently married on a beautiful afternoon at our new Commons Area. Both families were in attendance and some even used our benches that are a part of this facility.

Kelly recently became a member of FUMC and Mindy has been a member for many years. Her parents, Theda and Harold Garvin, were proud participants.

**C**ONGRATULATIONS to Heather Hutson and Marlyse Vieira from Hardin Intermediate for their nomination to attend the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C.

NYLC offers students the opportunity to discuss current events and issues with top policy makers in Washington, D.C., analyze concepts, and then put them immediately to work. This dynamic program features creative decision-making simulations that challenge young minds to solve problems and lead their peers through role-playing exercises in an energy-charged environment far from the traditional classroom experience.

They will attend the conference the first week of March. Students from across the nation are nominated to attend. 240 students are selected to attend each session throughout the year.

We applaud these young leaders! Heather is the daughter of Robert & Beverly Hutson, and granddaughter of Mr. & Mrs. Don Hutson. Marlyse is the daughter of Mark & Janice Vieira, and sister of Tony Vieira.

# Our Blessings in 2006



We were blessed with workers and players.



We were blessed with those in charge and children.



We were blessed with singers and performers.



We were blessed with a vision.



We are blessed with youth, with directors, and with a staff full of fun and excitement.



We were blessed with those who retired and those who were hired.



### cares and concerns

Marcie Hughson  
Brantlee Sontag  
Sandy Courville  
Jon Kinslow  
Tony Walker  
Jimmy Dunham  
Martha Leewright  
Lou Fain  
Owenda Douglass  
Ray Dabiere  
Mary Dabiere  
LaVon Littrell on the death  
of her mother  
Our military  
Our firefighters and police

We are saddened to hear of the death of a former member, Ruth Latham. Ruth was very active in the Cup & Saucer class and in UMW.

## Christian One Liners

A lot of church members who are singing "Standing on the Promises" are just sitting on the premises.

Watch for pictures in the Neighbors section of the Dallas Morning News of our new Commons Area.

### memorials and honorariums

#### in memory of

Mary Lynn Bowman  
Erma Jean Deason  
Harold Goldman  
Sam Brandenburg  
Arthur Deffebach  
Sam Brandenburg  
Sam Brandenburg  
Steve Mueller's father  
Parker & Riley Davis

Parents of Bobby and Anne McCommas  
Sam Brandenburg  
Sam Brandenburg  
Joe Pegram  
Arthur & Nell Golden  
Roberts Sappington's sister  
Mary Dunham's sister  
Bobbie Way

#### in honor of

The Church Staff  
Choirs  
Grace Brandenburg  
Madeline Michelle Meyer  
Madeline Michelle Meyer  
Peggy Ogden  
Netta Rodenburg  
Audra Pegram  
The Church Staff

#### designated fund

Budget  
Budget  
Budget  
Budget  
Music  
Budget  
Budget  
Budget  
Arlington Mem Neo-Natal Unit

Budget  
Budget  
Budget  
Budget  
Budget  
Endowment

#### designated fund

Budget  
Chancel Choir  
Budget  
Budget  
Children's Bible  
Budget  
Budget  
Budget  
Music

#### given by

United Class  
United Class  
Alma Wickware  
Lou Clevenger  
Charlie & Pat Harthcock  
Harold & Ruth Houser  
Homebuilders Class  
Homebuilders Class  
Keith & Lori Lepard  
Bobby and Anne McCommas  
Marcie Hughson  
Ron & Linda Golden  
Ron & Linda Golden  
Ron & Linda Golden  
Curtis & Owenda Douglass  
Curtis & Owenda Douglass  
New Horizons

#### given by

Lil Foard  
Lil Foard  
Alma Wickware  
Lou Clevenger  
Lorri Jordan  
Scott & Nan Ramsey  
Byron Rodenburg  
Ron & Linda Golden  
Phyllis Goldman

## Class Notes

### CUP & SAUCER

Happy New Year to All  
Our class met New Year's Eve at 9:15 a.m. and 37 enjoyed a wonderful devotion presented by Betty, Candy, & Worthie.

Many thanks to Grace for the beautiful annual Christmas letters.

Jim Carver gave the financial report for 2006 & our class made a donation to the budget. Sara Lovdahl presented a powerful lesson today to a class of 42. Remember to pray for our sick: Marcie, Ray & Mary, O'rene Goodman & others.

### NEW HORIZONS

Our lesson was brought last Sunday by Betty Lang on "Be Free" - part of Unit 2: Christ Sustains and Supports. Pat Harthcock played the piano to open the class and Eddie Joe

Power led us in prayer.

We were happy to have Chancity Way visit the class this morning. Hope to see him again.

Joys this week go to Lou Fain, who is reported to be doing better.

Please keep the following in your prayers, Larry and Willa Yost, Jerry Hardisty family, Cami Leigh Crews, Ada Hart, Russell Gosko, Marilyn Pearce, Mary Ann Davis, Tom Stevens, Carol, Lori & James Waldrup, Charlie Harthcock, Nancy DeShazo, Wylie Craig, Mark Vhorhee, Bob Ammons, James Jordan, Billy, Jennifer, Lillie Ashcraft, Mary Ann Lee, Ruby Edgar, Mavis Mathis, Danny Craig, Charlene Martynowski, Dean Warren, Lou Fain, Gordon Guinn, Karen Roberts, and Karen Kelly.

On January 14, our lesson

will be "Ultimate Fairness" taught by Carole Deffebach. The scripture is John 5:19-29, so read your Bible this week and we will see you Sunday.

### PROGRESSORS

It is a new year, but the Progressors were still celebrating the joy of the Christmas Season and turned back the clock this week to the last Advent Lesson, *The Miracle of Christmas* by James W. Moore. Dean Singleton's gift of letting the meaning of a lesson and Christ shine through him was apparent as he took us back to December 24. Dean ended the Advent study for '06, and was joined by other class members, Jimmi Pittmon, Ada Bendall, and Byron Rodenburg who earlier in December shared lessons from the *Miracle of Christmas* for us to carry with us through 2007. We are truly blessed!

Tour of Tables was a huge success. All profits were donated to the church budget. This combined with other fund raising events allowed the class to meet and exceed its pledge of \$10,000. Our thanks to the church membership and friends of our church family who supported our fund raisers throughout the year. And yes, the Tour was such a success that plans are underway for next year. Don't miss during our Sunday School Class business meeting January 14 to discuss this and other plans for 2007.

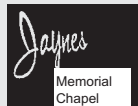
On a social note, the Progressors' Christmas Party at the Puckett's was a party to remember. Our thanks to Steve and Sarah for sharing their home for the event. Our next social will be the Chili Supper on Saturday, January 13 at Cynthia Harris' home.

Checkout the Progressors Newsletter on the Website for all of the latest social information or call Leticia and Bob Nachtrieb (972-298-9007), if you need information.

We welcome visitors and new members to our class family and look forward to a wonderful year of Christian fellowship. Our prayers this week are extended to those who are ill or recovering from surgery or injury. Also, we are thankful for Christ's examples of love, patience, hope, and wisdom as we travel over life's bumps in the road.



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