



TARRANT AREA
COMMUNITY
of
CHURCHES

*Called by Christ to
Love God and Love Neighbor*

Volume 14, Issue 1

January 2011

Community Clips

- **The 35th Annual Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival** will be held at **University Christian Church**, 2720 S. University Dr., Fort Worth, January 8 and 9, 2011 at 3 pm and 5 pm each day. The festival is free and open to the public. There are a limited number of \$12 reserved seats available for purchase beginning November 29. For tickets please call 817-926-6631 ext. 141 or email boarshead@uccftw.com.
- **Trinity-Brazos Area** is presenting a Leadership Event **"Reframing Christian Education - Picturing Something Different..."** Featuring the Rev. Dr. Eddie Hammett as Resource Leader on January 29, 2011 at 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at First Christian Church, Arlington, 910 S. Collins Street. Early Bird Discount: \$20 per person if postmarked on or before Jan 10th, Regular fee: \$25 per person if postmarked after Jan 10th. Event fees include lunch. For info call 817-831-4442 for a copy of the registration form or flyer go to Trinity-Brazos Area home page at www.ccsww.org/pages/tba_home.
- **Becky Tirabassi** will be in Fort Worth on January 22nd at Arlington Heights United Methodist Church, 4200 Camp Bowie, on January 22, to lead **A Day of Prayer Workshop**. To register or for more information, call the event hotline hosted by Kids Who Care at 817.737.5437 or go to <http://dayofprayerfw.blogspot.com/>.
- **Acton United Methodist Church** at 3433 Fall Creek Highway in Granbury is hosting **Brite Divinity School's Stalcup School of Theology for the Laity**, with the 4th W.A. Welsh Lecture on January 29 from 9AM-1:45PM. The event features Dr. James Duke, Professor of the History of Christianity and the History of Christian Thought at Brite Divinity School, speaking on "Passages: Turning Points in Christian Bible Reading." For more information, go to <http://actonumc.publishpath.com/>, click on "Calendar and Resources" and go to "Church Calendar" or call 817-326-4242.

Around Tarrant

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the second decade of the 2000s. It seems like only yesterday that many of us were stocking up on canned goods, non-perishables, water and other survival items in preparation for Y2K.

I couldn't then, and I can't now, think of that time without hearing Jesus say in Matthew 24:36 or Mark 13:32 that "no one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (NIV). Yet so many of us were preparing on some level as if we did have that certain knowledge – or perhaps, at least, as if we wanted to be ready for whatever was on the near horizon and not be caught with our proverbial pants down.

While Y2K didn't bring the end of the world, this past decade has brought so many things we were not preparing for as we looked over the cusp of 1999 into 2000: the terrorist bombings of 9/11; the onset of war in Iraq and Afghanistan; the devastations of the tsunami in Indonesia, hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Ike in the United States, and the earthquake in Haiti; the bursting of the prime mortgage lending bubble and the resulting Stock Market crash with its rippling fallout of global bank bailouts, home foreclosures, massive layoffs, high unemployment, and deep recession.

These were all events that came like a thief in the night to steal what we were certain was secure and anchored on solid ground, and they have made life so difficult for so many of us. It is hard to keep moving toward the future when the home you once returned to daily is no more. It is tough to stay hopeful when the job that was feeding and housing your family has been terminated and no amount of searching is turning up a replacement.

I often wonder if the circumstances of life as we have experienced it this past decade is why Jesus cautions his listeners not to be ordering their lives around the possibility of the end of the world. Perhaps if our eyes are focused solely on a future event, we cannot live well with one another and God's creation in the present. When we don't pay attention to what's happening in the present with one another and with our world, our foundation for the future turns to shaky ground, because it is our acts of faith and our faith in action in the present that build toward God's promised kingdom.

I don't often make New Year's resolutions, but this year I do have one: to be more present in the present with friends and family, and most especially, in prayer. We have no control over the future, but we can make a difference in the present. May 2011 be a year of prayerful and positive impact.

Blessings,

Melinda Veatch

Executive Director

Working Together in Community

From Our Board President...

At the Emergent Church Conference Father Richard Rohr talked about studies which indicate that babies smile six hundred times a day. Very young children do not judge—they simply accept the joy and delight offered to them. In contrast to the babies, the study indicated that men smile two and a half times per day. It seems that by seven years of age children smile less and less because they learn to begin making judgments about people and things. They learn to compare, analyze and put people in boxes. Babies live into the present moment.

This is Advent—what better time to think about accepting what this moment has to offer—God coming in the face of a baby. We often get so busy with the minutiae of Christmas that we don't take time to savor the story. We need to sense the wonder of Christmas.

Smiling six hundred times a day is bound to do something to or for us. One possibility is that it would keep us so busy we wouldn't have time to make judgments, we could live into this moment of joy. I am willing to try, what about you? *Rev. Dr. Jorene Swift*

Through Witness and Action and Going Beyond Our Walls



MOVING HOME

**Mobilizing muscle.
Moving off the streets.
Supporting self-sufficiency**

Moving Home is a service of congregations that help move chronically homeless people from shelters into permanent supportive housing through the Directions Home program of the City of Fort Worth.

Here's How Your Congregation Can Help:

- Mobilize 1-2 moving teams of 3-4 people each
- Secure a pick-up truck or utility van
- If you have one around, include a moving dolly
- Decide on one day a month your team will be available
- Contact the TACC office at 817-737-5554 or email melindav@tarrantareacc.org to sign your team up and help get folks moving home.



January is the month we show our appreciation for the Board of Directors members who have completed their service in December. We owe our deep gratitude to John Barnes of University Christian Church, Jennifer Bellamy of Arborlawn United Methodist Church, Tom Faile of First United Methodist Church Keller, Donna Laminack of First Presbyterian Church Fort Worth, Cynthia Miller of Trinity Lutheran Church, Sarah Munoz of Templo Bethesda Assemblies of God Church, and Iona Smith of Armstrong Chapel A.M.E. Church. We thank all of you for your commitment, effort, enthusiasm, and great spirit in all you have done. You have brought creativity, humor, prayerfulness, faithfulness, honesty and deep faith to our work together. Your witness will continue to inspire us, even as we miss your presence.

JANUARY 17TH—WORD IN ACTION:

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OF SERVICE

9:00am TIL 12:30pm

MAKE IT A DAY ON — NOT A DAY OFF!

*Reaching out to honor the memory of
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
and serve those in need around Tarrant County*



These are just a few of the ways you can serve those in need on this special day:

- Sort food items at the Tarrant Area or Community Food Banks
- Make and distribute sack lunches to the homeless at First Street Methodist Mission
- Help sort clothing at Northside Interchurch Agency
- Do light construction at the 1516 Outreach center on Hemphill

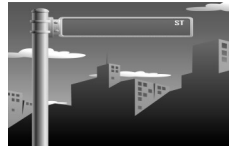
Learn more at www.tarrantareacc.org or call Robyn Michalove at First Presbyterian Church, 817-335-1231.

To get involved: Build a team of 2-25. Choose a service site. Register your team at www.tarrantareacc.org—click on “Events.”

We'll gather at **Baker Chapel A.M.E. Church** at 1050 Humbolt Street in Fort Worth and then “go forth!”

...to Bring Hope for the Future

*Through Fellowship, Worship
and Dialogue*



Word on the Street



**JANUARY 20th—6:30-8:30PM
CHRISTIAN UNITY BANQUET**

WALLS & BRIDGES:

**FOCUSING ON IMMIGRATION
THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS**

From around the world, people immigrate to the United States. Some come through legal channels. Others find another route. Either way, many of them come fleeing violence and poverty and seeking a better life in this country.

What does it mean to welcome the stranger? What does it mean to be a stranger in a strange land among different people? How does Christ call us to deal with the immigrant among us?

REV. MIKE MCKEE, Pastor, First United Methodist Church of Hurst, talks looking at the stranger through the lens of Scripture

XERGIO CHACIN, Coordinator of Immigration Consultation Services, Catholic Charities talks what it takes to immigrate to the United States

REV. DR. GUS REYES, Director, Hispanic Education Initiative, Baptist General Convention of Texas, talks life as a stranger in a strange land

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

6150 Pershing Ave ❖ Fort Worth

For more information & to reserve a meal, call 817-737-5554 or go to www.tarrantareacc.org.

Dinner provided.
Free will offering accepted

Through Good Stewardship

Financial Statement YTD

November 30, 2010

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>2010 Budget</u>
Revenue	59,344	77,367
Expenses	<u>74,078</u>	<u>76,777</u>
Increase in	(14,734)	589
Net Assets		
January Starting	42,266	
Balance		
YTD Balance	27,532(unrestricted)	

Your gift will support our work together in Community Worship, Education, Homelessness and Hunger. Please donate in the enclosed envelope or online at www.tarrantareacc.org.

- **Tarrant County Homeless Coalition** needs your help! On January 27, 2011, TCHC will conduct a census and survey of all unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals within Tarrant and Parker Counties. TCHC is looking for at least 500 volunteers on that night to assist them in conducting a complete and accurate count of people experiencing homelessness throughout these counties. For more information about volunteering, please e-mail J.C. Christian at JC@AHomeWithHope.org. For more information about the Homeless Count in general visit their website at www.AHomeWithHope.org.
- **Northside Inter-Church Agency** is asking you to join in gathering food or conducting a food drive for one or more of the following items: Macaroni and Cheese, Canned tuna, Ramon noodles, Peanut butter, Jelly, Canned soups, Oatmeal, Canned Vienna sausage and Bags of flour. If you are able to join them please call Teresa Govea or Beverly Hewett at 817-626-1102.
- The **Community Food Bank** at 3000 Galvez Avenue, Fort Worth, 76111 has FREE Fresh vegetables & other food items for those in need, no zip code restrictions! Hours of operations are Monday—Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information call: 817-924-3333 or go to: www.food-bank.org.
- **WestAid** at 4701 Bryant Irvin Road N. Suite 100, Fort Worth, TX 76107 is desperately in need of the following items for the pantry! Food: Canned meats, Macaroni and Cheese, Cornbread mix, Canned fruit, Canned pastas, Vienna Sausages, Beanie Weenies, Canned beans (Pork & Beans, refried beans, Ranch Style) Hygiene: Bar soap, Deodorant and Toothpaste. Contact information: www.westaid.org or 817-737-9338.
- Mark your calendar...**Senior Day 2011 at the Capitol**. Celebrate the contributions of older adults and address the issues facing Seniors in Texas at the sixth Senior Day at the Capitol on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. at the State Capitol in Austin. Senior Day is a project of the **Texas Senior Advocacy Coalition**. For help in planning a trip, further information or to update your contact info: www.tx sac.org or 214-823-5700 x 6113 or 512-467-2242 or lender@theseniorsource.org.



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Calendar of Events

Martin Luther King Day of Service
Monday, January 17th
9AM—Noon

Christian Unity Banquet
Thursday, January 20
6:30—8:30
Holy Family Catholic Church

**Elephant in the Room:
Beyond Bullying**
Tuesday, March 20
7:00-9:00
First Congregational Church

THANK YOU!

Jackie Berry, Ann Treleven, Lynette Mercer, Linda Elliot and Edna Mares from St. Philip Presbyterian Church for their help preparing this newsletter. We appreciate your continued support!

To St. Philip Presbyterian Church for the use of their folding machine.

Valued Collaborators

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