



TARRANT AREA
COMMUNITY
of
CHURCHES

*Called by Christ to
Love God and Love Neighbor*

Volume 14, Issue 2

February 2011

Community Clips

- **Meadowbrook United Methodist Church** located at 3900 Meadowbrook Drive in Fort Worth is celebrating **Black History Month**. Reverend Kyland Dobbins will preach on Sunday February 6th and Reverend Penny Yaites is the guest preacher for Sunday, February 13th. Special music for these two mornings will be provided by the Meadowbrook Choir. Bob Ray Sanders will speak Sunday, February 20th, with special music provided by O.D. Wyatt High School Choir. Fort Worth Police Captain Gene Jones will speak on Sunday, February 27th with special music provided by Eastern Hills High Gospel Choir. Worship begins at 10:50 a.m.
- February 20th at 5:00PM, Organist Matthew Glandorf performs with the **First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth's** Chancel and Fellowship Choirs in the sanctuary. For more information go to www.fpcfww.org or call 817-335-1231.
- The **Broadway Baptist Church** Creative Arts Ministry presents "**The Broadway Bunch**," a revue of 70s music. Come hear a cast and band of forty singers and musicians sing all your favorites, from James Taylor and John Denver to Queen and the Rolling Stones. Friday night, February 25 and Saturday night, February 26 at 7:30 at the Broadway Fellowship Hall, 305 W. Broadway Street, Fort Worth, 76104.
- **First United Methodist Church Hurst** welcomes Violinist **Michael Shih**, concertmaster of the Fort Worth Symphony as he presents a concert of classical music on Sunday, March 27, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary at 521 W. Pipeline Road, Hurst, 76053. Admission is free.
- **Gambrell Street Baptist Church** holds a weekly Taize service Monday nights from 7:00-8:00PM. For more information go to www.gambrellstreet.org

Around Tarrant

Dear Friends,

A friend recently emailed me this quote by Allen Ginsberg. While some among us are not particularly fond of Mr. Ginsberg, his comment hit the nail on the head in describing who we are at best as Americans today:

This week, we saw a white, Catholic, Republican federal judge murdered on his way to greet a Democratic woman, member of Congress, who was his friend and was Jewish. Her life was saved initially by a 20-year-old Mexican-American college student, and eventually by a Korean-American combat surgeon.

And then it was all eulogized and explained by our African-American president. In a tragic event, that is a remarkable statement about the country.

There has been much talk since the shooting in Tucson about the negative rhetoric that flies back and forth across our nation and its part in making a place for the kind of violence that erupted on January 8th. The left has pasted the right as being culpable in the shooting, and the right has fired back at the left with equally damning evidence of responsibility. It has all been an even further demonstration of how divisive and destructive the worst in us can be.

What I love about the quote above is that it gives us a picture of the best in us and what that "best" is all about — friendship across political and religious lines, the ways we forget our divisions in a crisis and simply do the right thing, how much good we can do when we're not shoving each other into labeled boxes. It is a constructive picture that provides a window into the powerful impact that relating to one another in a positive way can have on the people who share space in a community.

I don't think that the shooter's behavior can be explained away by pasting blame for it on one stream of negative talk or another. We are all, ultimately, responsible for our own behavior.

At the same time, we learn to practice personal responsibility both by being instructed in it and by seeing it put into actual regular practice in the community and the world around us. When the ways of a community demonstrate with and without words what it means to speak and act with respect and civility, then, for the most part, those in that community will act and speak in that way, too.

While the shooter's behavior can be attributed in some part to mental illness, that is not an explanation for the ongoing barrage of uncivil and disrespectful words that have been part of our society now for far too long and have intensified since the event.

There is truth said with love and there are harsh and hard words intended to intimidate spoken beyond the boundaries of respect for others. We don't have to do big things to change our world. Putting a rein on our words could go a long way toward creating an environment that calls out the best in all of us.

Blessings,
Melinda Veatch
Executive Director

Working Together in Community

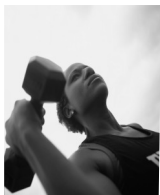
From Our Board President...

In Psalm 40 the Psalmist sings of God's deliverance when he was mired in a desolate pit. "He drew me up. . .and set my feet on a rock, making my steps secure." He goes on to say that God has given him a new song, a song of praise to God. We like the psalmist have a song to sing. It is the news of God's deliverance, steadfast love and faithfulness. It is a song that needs to be sung in the broken places of our world. For those waiting in the mire of the swamps of life it may be the only life line which will keep them from sinking under for the third time. Sing, sing this new song the world needs to hear—there is hope and there is help. William Sloane Coffin once told his congregation at the Riverside Church in Manhattan that he didn't want Riverside to be an institution for those interested in things religious. I want it to irrigate the community with hope." In these days of fear and distrust—when our actions and discourse are so often vitriolic, when there is so much pain and suffering around us, can you think of anything better than to irrigate our community with hope?

Come let us join together and sing, sing a new song!

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.



February is the month that we welcome new Board members. We have a great group of diverse and amazing people, and we are excited that they have said "yes" to serving Tarrant Area Community of Churches in this leadership role. Altheria Gaston (Potter's House), Janice Gregory (Thompson Chapel United Methodist Church), Steve Harding (First United Methodist Church of Hurst), Luan Ibarra (St. Andrews Catholic Church), A'Isha Malone (TCC Northwest/North Dallas Community Bible Fellowship), Jeff Roper (Meadowbrook United Methodist Church), and Gail Warren (Grace Tabernacle Baptist Church) have been duly commissioned. We look forward to the blessing of the gifts and vision you bring to this ministry, and we pray that you will be richly blessed by the work we do together.

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS AND GIVING THANKS FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE CHRIST AND GATHER TOGETHER



MLK Day of Service

We made it a day on!

And what a day we had serving others

Three hundred hands sorted and folded clothing, stocked canned goods, cleaned debris from an empty neighborhood lot, painted, and the list goes on. That's a lot of hands and a lot of heart helping out at ministries around Fort Worth. A BIG shout out to Baker Chapel A.M.E. for hosting this event and to Panera Bread and Subway for providing our lunch. And to Robyn Michalove and First Presbyterian Church for their partnership.

CHRISTIAN UNITY BANQUET WALLS & BRIDGES:

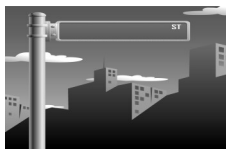


FOCUSING ON IMMIGRATION THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

A stalwart crowd braved the frigid temperature Thursday night, January the 20th, to celebrate our unity in Christ and to look together at a tough issue — immigration. Kids Who Care started everything off on the right path with a stellar performance. Then the Reverend Dr. Mike McKee of First United Methodist Church of Hurst; Xergio Chacin, of Catholic Charities; and the Reverend Dr. Gus Reyes, of the Baptist General Convention of Texas helped us see immigrants and immigration from new perspectives. Many thanks to Father Jeff Poirot, Mary Ellen McBee, Jana DeChant and all the folks at Holy Family who hosted and fed an activities center FULL of people. It was a night to remember!

...to Bring Hope for the Future

*Through Fellowship, Worship
and Dialogue*



Word on the Street

**EXPOSING THE ELEPHANT
IN THE ROOM FORUM:
Acting Beyond Bullying—
Why it happens and What to Do
When It Does**

**March 29, 2011
6:30-8:30pm**

**First Congregational Church
4201 Trail Lake in Fort Worth**

Bullying is a form of abuse that happens in schools. It involves repeated acts over time attempting to create or enforce one person's (or group's) power over another person (or group), thus an "imbalance of power". The "imbalance of power" may be social power and/or physical power. Bullying can occur in any context in which human beings interact with each other. The consequences of bullying can be fatal.

Join us for this forum and learn more about the dynamics of bullying and how clergy and congregations can address them.

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

Sponsored in partnership with Brite Divinity School, First Congregational Church, and the Pastoral Care and Education Center of Fort Worth

Through Good Stewardship

Financial Statement YTD

December 31, 2010

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>2010 Budget</u>
Revenue	82,502	84,400
Expenses	<u>85,408</u>	<u>83,757</u>
Increase in	(2,906)	643
Net Assets		
January Starting	42,266	
Balance	<u> </u>	
YTD Balance	39,360(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.

- You are invited to attend the **2011 Courage in Leadership Award Luncheon** Honoring State Senator Wendy Davis on Friday, February 11, 2011 from 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. at City Club Fort Worth, 4th floor, 301 Commerce Street. Individual ticket price is \$50.00. In addition to honoring State Senator Wendy Davis, a distinguished public servant, the proceeds from the luncheon will help provide programs for personal and professional renewal for North Texas residents who teach, serve and lead. For more information or to purchase tickets go to www.CourageNorthTexas.org.
- The Department of Pastoral Care with **Texas Health Resources** is hosting the **Fifth Annual Faith Community Leadership Summit**, a seminar for faith leaders in Tarrant and surrounding counties to dialogue and network, share best practices, provide needed resources and equip leadership for the challenges of the 21st Century. To be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Fort Worth Convention Center located at 1201 Houston Street, Fort Worth, 76102. The \$25.00 registration fee includes breakfast, lunch, program materials and parking. For reservations or more info please contact Laura Van-Hoosier@texashealth.org or call 817-703-8432.
- **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 further information or to update your contact info: www.txsac.org or 214-823-5700 x 6113 or 512-467-2242 or lender@theseniorsource.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.
- **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.



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Gail Warren, *Grace Tabernacle Baptist Church*
Aaron York, *First Presbyterian Church FW*

Calendar of Events

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

THANK YOU!

John Moore, Ray Jenkins, Juanita Turner, Bill Byrd and Verna Deene Keene from Polytechnic United Methodist 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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