

**Stewardship  
Sermon Series**

**Overflow**

**January 4 - 25**

**TWUMC & The Loft**

**Renew  
Spring Semester  
Begins January 8**

**Come to  
the Waters:  
Salsa for the Soul  
Begins January 13**

**Quest  
Spring Semester  
Tuesdays  
beginning January 13  
Sundays  
beginning January 18**

**Financial Peace  
University  
Sundays  
beginning January 18  
Tuesdays  
beginning January 20**

**Commitment Sunday  
January 25**

**Blood Drive  
January 25  
7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
TWUMC Gymnasium**



*Eric and Nikki Hird with their children, Gabriel and Alexandra*

## **Overflow: A Letter from the Stewardship Chair**

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

I accepted the call to be stewardship chair because I have a passion for giving.

In my adult life, I have always understood the importance of giving to God: love, time, prayer, treasure, etc., but I had never really "experienced" it. Though I volunteered my time and prayed regularly, I never really shared my financial blessings with God and the church. I didn't understand how He could expect me to give when **I felt so broke**.

Then one Sunday, I was sitting in my regular spot at church. The sermon was based on Luke 6:38 — Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. I was overcome with a sense that I needed to start giving, but things were pretty tough for our family, financially, so I did nothing.

One morning soon after, my wife called while I was driving to work, concerned that due to a checkbook error, our mortgage check may have bounced. My heart sank. I pulled into the nearest gas station to check our balance at the ATM. All I could think of was our ruined credit, and the possibility of losing the house. As I pulled the receipt, my eyes fell on the words: "Checking Balance — \$13.87". What a relief! The check had cleared. I thanked God for taking care of us and decided: **The time is now**.

That very night, we grabbed an envelope and marked it, "Tithing." We immediately placed in it \$1.38, exactly ten percent of our checking balance. Thereafter, we would take ten percent cash back out of each paycheck and place it in the envelope. We took great joy in this, and in placing it in the offering plate on Sundays.

Soon we were really broke. I gathered the courage to ask my boss for a raise, but ended up quitting my job. About two weeks later, my employer gave me a re-hire offer, with higher pay. I ended up making about 75 percent more income that year. Amazing!

Today, God continues to bless our family with an overflowing abundance. I believe we should do what God asks of us, especially in uncertain times. The hardest part is taking the first step. But we must step forward in faith to receive His abundant blessings.

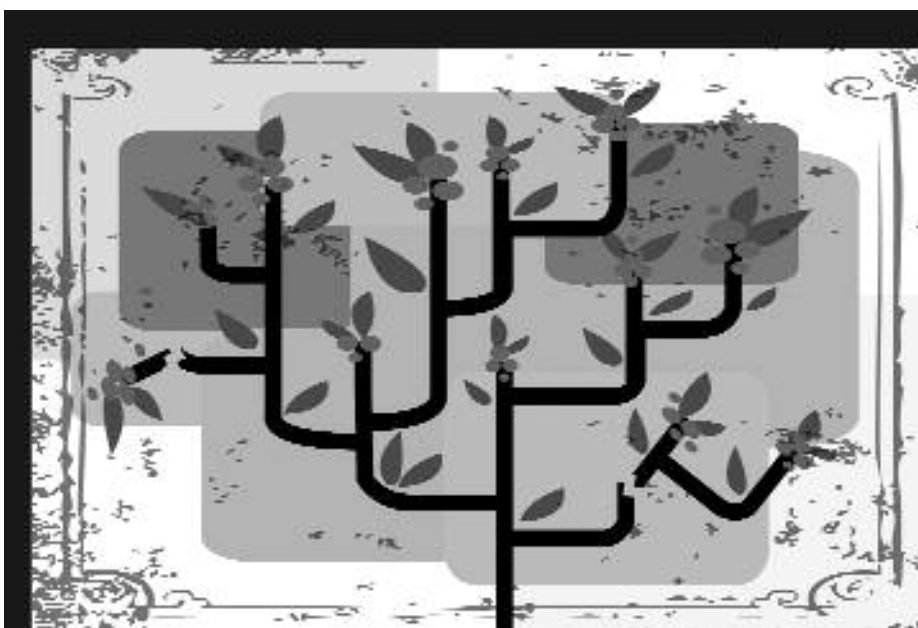
I encourage everyone in our church family to sign up for God's overflowing abundance. Make a pledge and commit to giving of your time, talents, and treasure to Him. The power of our gifts together will be an awesome response to the overflowing abundance with which God fills our lives. You will surely be blessed for your faithfulness!

Sincerely,

Eric Hird  
2009 Stewardship Chair



OH-VER-FLOH (V.) TO BE  
FILLED WITH OR SUPPLIED  
IN GREAT MEASURE



*Broken and Blessed*  
Women's Retreat 2009 with Rev. Jessica LaGrone

## **Women's Retreat**

**February 6-8, 2009**

**Northwest Forest Conference Center**

**Speaker: Rev. Jessica LaGrone**  
*Broken and Blessed*  
**How One Dysfunctional Family  
Changed the World**

The cost is \$175 for 4 per room and \$235 for 2 per room. This price includes a two night stay, dinner Friday, all meals Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. Bring a friend and enjoy some great time with the Lord and with Christian women. Questions? Call 281.297.5900 or e-mail [kmcveigh@twumc.org](mailto:kmcveigh@twumc.org).

[www.twumc.org/register](http://www.twumc.org/register)



Bev and Ed Robb in Greece

## Christian Travel Opportunity

Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. – Jeremiah 6:16

You are warmly invited to join TWUMC Senior Pastor Dr. Ed Robb and his wife, Beverley, on an upcoming spiritual pilgrimage to Greece and the Greek Isles. This trip, *Journeys of Paul*, will offer you the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Bible by experiencing the ancient roots of Christianity.



"Greece is certainly one country that lives up to its billing!" said Dr. Robb. "Greece's natural beauty, architectural grandeur and ancient history make the country an outstanding destination. And spring is the ideal time to visit because of the glorious weather."

*Journeys of Paul* is scheduled for April 15 - 26, 2009, and has limited space. For more information on this tour or to register, please contact Sheri Brown at [sbrown@twumc.org](mailto:sbrown@twumc.org) or Bev Robb at [Bev@omegatravelusa.com](mailto:Bev@omegatravelusa.com).

## The Woodlands Academy of Fine Arts

Registration at The Woodlands Academy of Fine Arts is now open for the Music for Little Mozarts piano program and the Men's Chorus. Music for Little Mozarts is designed for children ages 4 - 6. It is an introduction to music with an emphasis on piano. Children have the opportunity to explore music in a fun environment and while learning the basics of playing the piano.

The Men's Chorus is a choir made up of men from the community. The choir gives them the opportunity to come together and sing in various venues in the area. The chorus is featured every year at the Lighting of the Doves ceremony at Market Street, various Rotary Club events, Veterans Day events and TWUMC concerts.

Music for Little Mozarts and the Men's Chorus are tuition based. For more information on either of these programs, please contact [wafa@twumc.org](mailto:wafa@twumc.org) or call Joseph Fuller at 281.297.5961.

## January Events

**Confirmation Mentor Weekend**  
**Planet 56 Paint Ball Day**  
**All Boys Game Day-Elementary**  
**Girls Craft Valentine Day**  
**Storytime**

**more information at [gracekids.com](http://gracekids.com)**



The River Performing and Visual Arts Center  
Serving children with special needs since 1996.

## Music and Movement

Beginning January 17, TWUMC's Special Needs Ministry will offer a *Music and Movement* class on Saturday mornings that will help your child express thoughts, feelings and ideas through dance.

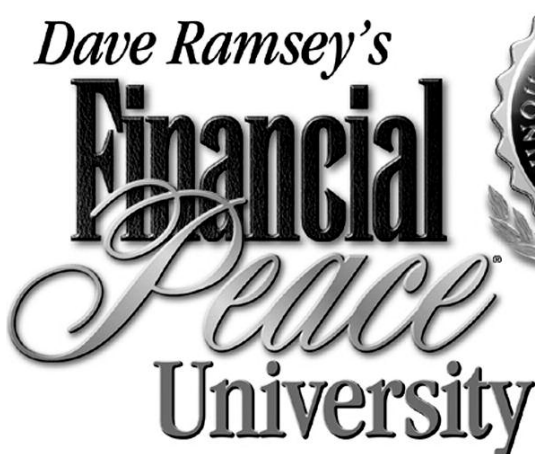
*Music and Movement* will be offered through The River Performing and Visual Arts Center. This organization's mission is to provide an accessible fine arts education for children with disabilities or chronic illnesses. Since 1996, The River has shown that through music and movement, students can discover and learn about self-awareness and imagination.

Classes are available from 9 - 10 a.m. for children in preschool through grade 6, and from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. for teenagers. There is no cost for these classes. For information about the *Music and Movement* class and the Special Needs Ministry, or to register, contact Debbie Glass at [dglass@twumc.org](mailto:dglass@twumc.org).

## RENEW

*Renew*, TWUMC's largest and most popular women's Bible study, begins again on January 8. This year, our study is titled *Isaiah Speaks*. During this study, we will explore the often mysterious and intriguing messages of Isaiah. Communicating through his astonishing visions, descriptive imagery, beautiful poetry and frank language, Isaiah will both challenge and encourage you. In a world that tries to convince us that truth is relative, you'll discover God's truths – truths that can bring stability to our chaotic times. While many of Isaiah's prophecies have been fulfilled, you will learn about those yet to come. They promise an incredible future for those who believe in the One who gave him the messages to deliver.

*Renew* is open to all women in the community and includes both a lecture and small-group discussion. Classes are offered weekly on Thursday mornings from 9:15 - 11:30 and Thursday evenings from 7 - 8:40. We encourage you to start the new year with a renewed commitment to delving into God's word. Register today at [gracefamilies.com/womens](http://gracefamilies.com/womens) or [twumc.org/registrations](http://twumc.org/registrations).



A new beginning, a fresh start: that is what makes the beginning of a new year so exciting. As we begin 2009 and evaluate what we would like to improve upon and learn more about, don't forget to add *Financial Peace University* to your list of things to do.

*Financial Peace University* is a biblically-based program that strives to help families find the freedom that comes from financial responsibility, and everlasting peace through a relationship with Jesus Christ. If you have become a slave to debt, please make time in your schedule to attend *Financial Peace University*. Classes are offered Sundays from 5 - 7 p.m., beginning January 18, and Tuesdays from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., beginning January 20.

In 2009, make a commitment to yourself, your family and to God to get out of debt and live the way God intended. For more information about *Financial Peace University*, please contact Terry Loughridge at [tloughridge@twumc.org](mailto:tloughridge@twumc.org) or 281.297.5932 or visit [twumc.org](http://twumc.org).

**re create** is the new look, feel and arrangement of recreational activities provided through TWUMC. As we expand the emphasis of our activities from children in kindergarten through grade 6, reCREATE will have age-appropriate divisions where all generations are invited into the restorative arms of God through physical wholeness and holiness.

To help us better serve you and provide your desired activities, please visit TWUMC's online registration page, [twumc.org/register](http://twumc.org/register), and complete our Recreation Survey to share your opinions. For more information about Recreation Ministry, e-mail [recmin@twumc.org](mailto:recmin@twumc.org).

[recreateministries.org](http://recreateministries.org)

**re create**



OH-VER-FLOH (V.) TO BE FILLED WITH OR SUPPLIED IN GREAT MEASURE

### OVERFLOW

In these uncertain financial times, Christians have a unique understanding of an abundantly loving and giving God. Join us in January as we learn to experience and recognize God's overflowing love and generosity that never stops, no matter the circumstances. Our 2009 Stewardship Campaign, *Overflow*, is based on scripture from Luke 6:38:

*Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

Each week we will discover the ways in which we experience generosity and learn to respond to God's blessings in our lives. The discovery of God's abundance in an economy in crisis is a life-changing shift to God's perspective. Our response, allowing Him to fill our lives to overflow so that they pour out to others, will result in overflowing blessings for our families, our church and our world.

Please join us each week for these January worship opportunities:

**January 4: A Good Measure**

**January 11: Pressed Down**

**January 18: Shaken Up**

**January 25: Poured Out**

### Pray for the Persecuted Church in Iraq

Christians have been living in Iraq since the early days of Christianity. It is estimated that until recently they comprised about 4 percent (800,000 people) of the population. During the past few years, about 500,000 Christians have left Iraq because of fear of persecution and death.

Thousands of families have received written threats left under their front doors or courtyard gates with statements like this: "Be informed that we will cut off your heads and we will kill the members of your family." Relatives are kidnapped and held for large ransoms. They are killed if the ransom is not paid. Many have concluded that to remain in Iraq is to be killed.

More than 350,000 Iraqi Christians now live in Syria, but jobs are hard to find, permanent residence is not possible and health care and schooling are not provided by the government. The United Nations and private groups are providing little help. Recently, more than 150 families sought help from churches. Christians with relatives in the U.S. can apply directly to the U.S. Embassy for asylum, a fact unknown to most of them. If not, the process is handled by United Nations representatives who are mostly Muslims, and they routinely deny the applications of Christians. Please pray for these persecuted Christians.

### Salsa For the Soul

Ladies, spice up your spiritual life in 2009 by coming to *Salsa for the Soul*. It's the newest series presented by the Come to the Waters teaching team at The Loft beginning January 13.

*Salsa for the Soul*, a five-part series, gives women of all ages the ingredients needed to live a spiritually charged life in perfect step with our Father in heaven. The topics will help you explore how to follow God's lead; understand the rhythm of life; build your relationships with friends, family and Christ; and share what you've learned through a special style of storytelling.

*Salsa for the Soul* will be presented in the same friendly speaker and discussion format as the popular *(REAL)ITY - Truth Beyond Lies* series held the fall of '08. Mark your calendar for *Salsa for the Soul* to be held at The Loft worship center on the following Tuesday evenings from 7 - 8:30:

**January 13: Let's Dance!** - presented by Judy McKnight

**January 27: Rhythm is Gonna Get You** - presented by Trish Woodruff

**February 10: Soul Sister** - presented by guest speaker

**February 24: Soul Fusion** - presented by Beverley Armstrong

**March 10: Let It Loose** - presented by Bobbie Russell

Childcare at The Loft is available at no charge for children up to age 12. Reservations are required. Register online at [twumc.org/register](http://twumc.org/register) or call Noah's Nook Nursery at 281.297.5949 to ensure space is available for your children.



## MOM2MOM

Mom2Mom will meet Monday, January 12, at 9:15 a.m. in Asbury Hall. Join us for our Winter Luncheon and Silent Auction.

## FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES: WAYS TO SERVE

**Prayer Team** - Family Life Ministries is building a prayer team. If you would be interested in spending time praying for those in need, please be a part of this ministry. Visit [gracefamilies.com](http://gracefamilies.com), go to Ways to Serve, and sign up to help through the power of prayer!

**Foster Care Team** - Our Foster Care Ministry is growing quickly and we are in need of volunteers. We need help with special projects, events and meeting the needs of foster families. If you would be interested in serving on our new Foster Care Team, visit [gracefamilies.com](http://gracefamilies.com) and click on Ways to Serve to sign up for this expanding ministry.

## WOMEN'S SPRING BIBLE STUDIES

Women's Ministries will again offer a variety of Bible studies in the spring. On Tuesday mornings, join us for *To Know God* taught by Sarah Purcell, and *Intimate Issues* led by Sally Bacon and Jan Lyons. On Wednesday mornings and evenings, join us for a new Beth Moore study called *Esther*. On Friday mornings, we will also hold a Bible study in The Loft. Look for times and registration opportunities in future newsletters.

## CONGRATULATIONS

**George and Nicole Leppert** on the birth of their daughter, Sophie Katherine; **Joshua and Amy Hornback** on the birth of their son, Gavin Wyatt and **Brent and Tracy Pullan** on the birth of their daughter, Quinn McNeill.

## SYMPATHY

Our prayers and deepest sympathy go to the following families:

**Sherri Barnes** and her family on the passing of her mother; **Laurie Galiunas** and her family on the passing of her father; **Scott Hehr** and his family on the passing of his mother; **Meb Kaylor** and her family on the passing of her mother; and **Jan Locander** and her family on the passing of her mother.



Rev. Rob Renfroe

Join Rev. Rob Renfroe and more than 400 men who attend *Quest*. Wherever you are in your relationship with God, you'll fit in. *Quest* is offered twice weekly in Wesley Hall, covering the same material. For more information, visit [twumc.org](http://twumc.org).

## Big Important Rebel Base Dates:

### January 23 - 24: 30-Hour Famine

This is a poverty education mission event for junior and senior high students. For more information, visit [rebelbaseonline.com](http://rebelbaseonline.com).

### February 13 -15: Junior and Senior High D-Now

Mark your calendars, your students will not want to miss this awe-inspiring weekend. We will hear from speaker Dave Edwards, listen to great music and so much more. If you are interested in being a host home for students, please call the Student Ministry offices at 281.297.5940. For more information or to register for this event, please visit [rebelbaseonline.com](http://rebelbaseonline.com).



## New Member Welcome

**Lonnie and Michelle Anthony.** Kane Lane, Conroe. They have one child, Emily.

**Jim and Becky Ault.** Lakeview Terrace, Montgomery. They are transferring from Atascocita United Methodist Church.

**Krista Ault.** Lakeview Terrace, Montgomery. She is transferring from Cypress Trails United Methodist Church.

**Casey and Inger Berger.** Hunters Crossing Drive, The Woodlands. They have three children, Catherine, Christian and Carson, and are transferring from Saint Luke's United Methodist Church in Houston.

**Tom and Rebekah Birdwell.**

**Joe and Joanne Black.** North Country Gate Circle, The Woodlands. They are transferring from Stonebridge.

**Buddy and Martha Branum.** Davis Cottage Court, Conroe. They are transferring from Christ United Methodist Church.

**Rene and Pam Broussard.** East Sterling Pond Circle, The Woodlands. They have three children, Amanda, Allie and Mason, and are transferring from The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church.

**Carrol Caswell.** West Panther Creek Drive, The Woodlands.

**Jon and Laura Clements.** Scenic Vista, Humble. Jon is transferring from Trietch Memorial United Methodist Church in Flower Mound and Laura is transferring from First Baptist Church in Liberty.

**John and Ramona Darnley.** Camelot Oaks Court, The Woodlands. They have two children, Alexander and Nicholas, and are transferring from Christ United Methodist Church.

**Bryan Elliott.** Cannon Ball Drive, Spring. He has one child, Bethany, and is transferring from Saint Paul United Methodist

## Men's Ministry: Quest

Tuesdays from 6 - 7 a.m.

Beginning January 13

or

Sundays from 7 - 8:15 p.m.

Beginning January 18

Church in Ponca City, Oklahoma.

**Petra Ferris.** Pawprint Place, The Woodlands. She has one child, Jake.

**Jonathan and Alissa Greene.** North Buck Ridge, The Woodlands. They have one child, Bennett, and are transferring from First Evangelical Free Church in Austin.

**Louise Griffith.** Brookline Court, The Woodlands. She is transferring from Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas.

**Jane Harrell.** Woodchurch Lane, Houston.

**Kevin Harrell.** Woodchurch Lane, Houston.

**Rafael and Ingrid Mercado.** South Crisp Morning Circle, The Woodlands. They have three children, Diego, Sofia and Lucas.

**Wiley and Chrysti Osborne.** Fox Chapel Place, The Woodlands. They have three children, Kennedy, Ashley and Ireland.

**John and Jennifer Seeger.** Wild Aster Court, The Woodlands. They have two children, Tyler and Dylan.

**Arden and Virginia Walker.** South Tranquil Path Drive, The Woodlands. They are transferring from Pinion Hills Community Church in Farmington, New Mexico.

**Tyler and Brandy Wells.** West Twinberry Place, The Woodlands. They have one child, Julia.

**Steven and Kimberly Willing.** West Twinvale, The Woodlands.

**Melanie Yard.** Candlenut Place, The Woodlands. She has two children, Luke and Audrey, and is transferring from Christ United Methodist Church.

## Cancer Support Group

TWUMC will begin a new cancer support group called CanCare. We are looking for caring and compassionate people who have experienced cancer themselves to provide support to those recently diagnosed with cancer. For more information, contact Stacey Bible at 832.202.6333 or [staceibible@yahoo.com](mailto:staceibible@yahoo.com).

The Woodlands United Methodist Church  
2200 Lake Woodlands Drive  
The Woodlands, Texas 77380  
281.297.5900  
[www.twumc.org](http://www.twumc.org)

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JANUARY 13