



Craft Circle
Tuesdays
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
The Loft

The Loft
Sermon Series
Underground
January 31 - March 1
The Loft

Salsa for the Soul
7 - 8:30 p.m.
February 10
February 24
March 10
The Loft

GriefShare
Begins February 15
3 - 4 p.m. in D208
Caring Ministries
281.297.5953

Scout Sunday
February 22
All TWUMC Services



Rev. Stew Grant

A Letter from Rev. Stew Grant

Dear Friends,

By now, you know my family and I have moved to Arkansas where I have joined the staff of the Center for Relationship Enrichment at John Brown University. We truly believe that God has led us here for me to work in Marriage Ministry.

When I arrived in The Woodlands over eight years ago the blessing was all mine. I was green, wet-behind-the-ears and nervous, but the grace you showed me was truly Christ-like. Selfishly, I wanted to simply plant deep roots, stay and eventually retire. God had something else in mind. The signposts continued to point to this as Shelli and I prayed and discussed at length the opportunity before us and our future considerations. It does hurt to move from what is now our home church. Time and again, we prayed with families and couples as they left our area for work, school and ministry. They were always blessed, but they continue to share that in their hearts is a desire for their church home -- The Woodlands United Methodist Church. We join their ranks.

Shelli and I want to thank you for being a wonderful church to us. There are so many people who touched our lives and we pray God will bless yours. In reflection of these last eight years, I guess it is natural to wonder if I made a difference for the good of all. Time may tell. But I know I was inordinately blessed to be part of this great work of God called The Woodlands United Methodist Church. This church is making a difference worldwide through its many missions.

Stay faithful to Jesus. He is truly for all people. His is the truest affirmation and comfort. His love endures and makes us family forever. It has been my greatest honor and privilege to serve you in Christ.

In Calvary's Tie,

Rev. Stew Grant



TWUMC Men Building a Home in Juarez

100 Men to Juarez

The men of TWUMC will once again serve as Christ's hands and feet as they travel to Juarez, Mexico from March 26 - 29 for the fourth 100 Men to Juarez mission trip. Since 2007, three teams of 100 men have traveled to Juarez to build homes for families living in hovels made of cardboard and pallets. Due to these men and their service, 29 homes have been built and 29 families have experienced the love of Christ. Many men have been to Juarez on two or even all three of the previous trips because of how God has touched them through their service and shown them what they are able to do for others in the name of Christ.

If you have ever thought about going on a mission trip, now is the time. Though the impact of this trip is significant, the time commitment is not. The team of 100 men will fly out Thursday afternoon, March 26, and return Sunday evening, March 29. Though there are reports of violence in Juarez, the men on the previous trips, including the last one in November, never felt at any time that they were in any danger or even close to the violence. Don't miss this amazing opportunity. Even better, invite a son, brother, friend or a father to join you. Cost is \$725. To register, visit twumc.org or call Rob Renfroe at 281.297.5932.



Family Life Ministries would like to help find the perfect opportunity for you and your family to serve. We have volunteer opportunities in the areas of prayer teams, event planning, discipleship, construction, project management, Sunday morning services, summer camps and much more. There are short-term projects, ongoing projects and future projects to choose from.

Make the decision today to get involved! Join Family Life Ministries Ways to Serve Team by visiting our web site at gracefamilies.com.



Are you a cancer survivor who has been finished with treatment for at least six months? Are you the caregiver of a cancer survivor? If so, please consider volunteering with CanCare, TWUMC's new cancer support ministry. As a volunteer you will be matched with a cancer patient who is suffering from your same type of cancer. As someone who knows first-hand what the patient is going through, you can provide one-on-one encouragement and hope. Volunteer training will take place at TWUMC February 6 - 8, with a graduation dinner the evening of February 9. For more information or to apply to be a CanCare Support Volunteer, contact Stacey Bible at staceibible@yahoo.com or 832.202.6333.



Fireproof Your Marriage

Beginning February 8, The Village Parenting Sunday school class, which meets at 11 a.m. in room D214, will start a study entitled *Fireproof Your Marriage*. Based upon the recent movie *Fireproof*, the study will challenge you to love better, to love first and love for a lifetime! Founded on biblical principles, this study is a great way for you and your spouse to strengthen your marriage. This class is open to parents with children 5 – 10 years of age.

Fireproof Your Marriage will integrate video clips, key scriptures, thought-provoking questions and devotionals. The study includes six sessions: *He Said / She Said: Appreciating the God-Designed Differences Between Men and Women*; *He First Loved Us: God's Love for You and How It Enables You to Love Others*; *Love for a Lifetime: Marriage as a Lifelong Covenant*; *Breaking Free: Freeing Yourself From Temptations That Can Destroy a Marriage*; *Forgiveness: Offering and Receiving Forgiveness*; and *A Better Way of Loving: Unconditional Love*.

Study materials are available for \$8.95 at Grace Point Bookstore. For more information, please contact Amy Eglin at aeglin@comcast.net.

Student Missions Golf Tournament

The annual Celebration of Student Missions Golf Tournament and Auction will be held May 2 - 3. We need your help! The Youth Ministry is looking for donations to include in both our silent and live auctions such as gift certificates, desirable new products, free services, gift baskets, vacation properties and anything else you can think of. Be creative!

In addition to auction items, the Youth Ministry is also in desperate need of volunteers as the golf tournament and auction approach. Your help will benefit the Student Missions Ministry and enable our church's youth to make a difference in our community and serve around the world.

For more information or to find out how you can help, please contact Leslie Alexander at 281.297.5938.

Children's Ministry February Events

First Friday/Friday Night Frenzy
B2/Scoop Bible Study
P56 Super Sunday Football
Upward Soccer & reCreate Baseball
1st & 2nd grade Girls Craft Day
Special Needs Movement & Music
Storytime
more information at gracekids.com

How to Deal...

A Group for High School Girls

Do you need a place where you can talk about issues that matter to you with people who truly understand and won't judge you? If so, join us for *How to Deal ... A Group for High-School Girls* on Mondays from 7 - 8 p.m., February 2 - May 11. This discussion group will deal with the tough issues girls face in high-school such as relationships, boundaries, self-esteem, body image and stress / anxiety.

How to Deal ... A Group for High-School Girls presented by Grace Point Marriage and Family Center will be led by Kara Merrill, LPC-Intern, and Leslie Alexander, LPC-Intern. Girls are welcome to join at any time.

For more information, please contact Kara at kmerrill@twumc.org or to register, call Grace Point Marriage and Family Center at 281.466.8602.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

Start out the New Year by signing up for the United Methodist *Marriage Encounter* and rediscover the one you love. It is a way to escape from your busy everyday life and put God at the center of your marriage.

The *Marriage Encounter* begins Friday evening, March 27, and ends Sunday, March 29. The weekend is designed to inspire couples to understand their own feelings about various aspects of their marriage and help them learn to restore and improve communication skills that can rekindle romance. It will also give you an opportunity to move beyond the frustration, disappointment or loneliness that can be a part of your everyday life.

Don't miss this opportunity to spend an entire weekend focusing on your spouse and your relationship, working toward God's ideal for marriage. Cost is a nonrefundable deposit of \$50. You will also have an opportunity to make a confidential donation. For more information or to register, please visit encounter.org or contact Nick and Becky Munger at bamunger@yahoo.com or 281.360.3646.

Taking Church to the People



TWUMC's Youth Ministry will once again participate in Mission Arlington, a mission founded in 1986 to "take church to the people." Through Mission Arlington, people of all ages gather each week to hear the Bible taught in multiple languages in 270 locations in Arlington and the larger Dallas / Fort Worth region. Gatherings take place in neighborhood homes, apartment club houses, mobile-home parks and any other location where people can meet to hear God's Word. "Our Youth Ministry has been a part of this mission for almost 10 years, and every trip has provided us with amazing chances to share Jesus in a way that we can only do through a mission like this," said Junior-High Youth Minister Jeremy Woodley.

This year, TWUMC's youth will serve Mission Arlington by running Vacation Bible Schools in various apartment complexes during the week of spring break, March 14 - 20. Last year Mission Arlington held more than 400 Vacation Bible Schools with 13,000 children attending. During Mission Arlington, TWUMC students will share testimonies, lead worship, tell stories, make crafts and play games. This is a perfect opportunity for anyone who has never been on a mission trip to see what it is all about. For more information or register, please visit rebelbaseonline.com or call the Student Ministry offices at 281.297.5940.

TWUMC Student Casey Copus
with children from Mission Arlington

Scout Sunday: February 22



Eagle Scouts Ben McDonald and Matthew Zelinski at a Court of Honor

TWUMC is proud to be the charter organization of Boy Scout Troop 772 and Cub Scout Pack 772. This relationship spans over three decades and has seen more than 140 young men achieve the elite rank of Eagle Scout.

In celebration of Scout Sunday, February 22, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts will participate as ushers and greeters during the morning worship activities. Also, recognition of special awards and attainment of the Eagle rank will take place at all TWUMC services. Finally, a special thanks will be extended to the many church members who support scouting through prayer and assistance in fundraising events. Troop and Pack 772 invite all boys and girls who participate in scouting programs to wear their scout uniforms on this special day.

Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts spend countless hours working on activity and merit badges which help them learn to become successful members of society. Of course for many, the best part of scouting is camping, hiking, scuba diving and rock climbing. Fun aside, an essential element of scouting is service. Annually, the Cub Scouts participate in the TWUMC Christmas Miracles program by collecting and distributing bags of food for families in need. Also, every December, the Boy Scouts deliver poinsettias to church members who have lost a loved one during the past year. Most important, our scouts participate in the God and Country program, which reinforces the importance of a personal relationship with our Lord and His church family.

To learn more about scouting, please stop by the scout display on February 22, located in the Atrium.

Upward Soccer & Children's Beginner Baseball

Kids, get in the game with Upward Soccer and Children's Beginner Baseball! Upward is a fun, reliable, passionate and encouraging sports experience for boys and girls in kindergarten - grade 6. Soccer and baseball leagues begin practice the week of March 4. Games begin the week of April 4 and end the week of May 23 and the Upward Award Celebration takes place May 28. The registration schedule is as follows: February 1 - 5 is Early Registration for \$90, February 6 - March 3 is Regular Registration for \$100, March 4 - 13 is Late Registration for \$120. For more information, please visit gracekids.com or gracefamilies.com.



U.M. ARMY Golf Classic

Every summer, TWUMC youth and adults eagerly anticipate attending United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth (U.M. ARMY). In 2008, our youth and adults joined approximately 4,000 other high-school youth and adult volunteers from eight states in 49 work camps across the country to repair the homes of low-income, elderly and disabled homeowners.

Founded in 1979, over 54,000 volunteers have shared the love of Christ with homeowners in need through the U.M. ARMY ministry. Since 2000, U.M. ARMY has grown from serving the Texas Conference Chapter to operating chapters in Southwest Texas, the Northeastern United States and will soon charter chapters to serve North and Northwest Texas.

To strengthen and continue the expansion of this vital ministry nationwide, U.M. ARMY is holding its first U.M. ARMY Golf Classic, scheduled for March 28 at West Fork Golf Club in Conroe. Now through March 9, U.M. ARMY representatives will be recruiting golfers to participate in the tournament.

U.M. ARMY has touched both youth and adults in our own congregation and has been an answer to prayer for many low-income homeowners in Montgomery County and beyond. Help support this ministry that has meant so much to us as we seek to expand and bless the lives of youth and homeowners in new regions.

For more information on the U.M. ARMY Golf Classic, please contact Sheri Brown, at 281.466.8672 or sbrown@twumc.org or Fund Development Manager Scott Atnip at 281.728.4593 or scottatnip@umarmy.org.



Pray for the Persecuted Church in India

Persecution of Christians has mushroomed in India, due in part to a substantial increase in the number of Christian converts, especially among "untouchables," which has angered Hindu nationalists. Although the federal constitution guarantees freedom of religion, some states have passed anti-conversion laws. Anyone "insulting a religion or its beliefs" is subject to two - three years of imprisonment or fined in excess of \$500. These laws are used against Christians who are charged with using force or allurements to obtain conversions. One law requires prior permission from the local government to convert.

Persecution has worsened greatly since a prominent Hindu nationalist leader was killed in August. Christians have been held responsible even though a Marxist group admitted responsibility. Mob violence has become common. Church services are disrupted and pastors and parishioners are severely beaten. Many Christians live in remote villages where there is little police protection, but police in larger communities often refuse to file complaints on behalf of Christians.

Christians have fled from the state of Orissa where they are being threatened to convert to Hinduism or die. Tens of thousands of people and more than 300 towns and villages have been affected by the violence. Thousands have fled into the forests for safety. Relief camps have been established but the facilities are inadequate. Pray that God will protect these Christians and that they will remain faithful to Him and not seek revenge.



Salsa for the Soul

Ladies, spice up your spiritual life by coming to *Salsa for the Soul*, the newest series presented by the Come to the Waters teaching team. *Salsa for the Soul* gives women of all ages the ingredients needed to live a spiritually charged life. Topics will cover how to follow God's lead, understand the rhythm of life and build your relationships with friends, family and Christ. Join us at The Loft worship center on the following Tuesday evenings from 7 - 8:30:

February 10: Soul Sister - presented by a guest speaker

February 24: Soul Fusion - presented by Beverley Armstrong

March 10: Let It Loose - presented by Bobbie Russell

Free childcare by reservation is available for children up to age 12. Register at 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, February 2, at 9:15 a.m. in Asbury Hall. Sarah Purcell will speak on *Intimate Issues, Marriage and Motherhood*.

KOFFEE WITH KIRSTEN

Free parenting workshops given by Kirsten Berger will be informative and uplifting for parents. Join us Tuesday, February 3, from 9 - 11 a.m. or 7 - 9 p.m. in Asbury Hall for *Excuse Me, What's Your Name Again?* Learn creative ways to rebuild closeness with your husband during the hectic, child-rearing years.

WOMEN'S SPRING BIBLE STUDIES

Join us for a variety of Bible studies this spring. On Tuesday mornings we will offer *To Know God* taught by Sarah Purcell and *Intimate Issues* led by Sally Bacon and Jan Lyons. Wednesday mornings and evenings we will offer a Beth Moore study called *Esther*. We will also hold a Bible study at The Loft on Friday mornings. For information, please visit twumc.org.

DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN

Discover the healing compassion of God with Barbara Shlemon's wise and sensitive study for those experiencing the pain of divorce. The class meets on first, third and fifth Sundays at 1:30 p.m. and is lead by Kathy Ramsey. Please register for this class at twumc.org or call Caring Ministries at 281.297.5953.

CONGRATULATIONS

Jon and Laura Clements on the birth of their daughter, Juliet Claire; and **Andrew and Mistie Edmondson** on the birth of their daughter, Sophia Ella.

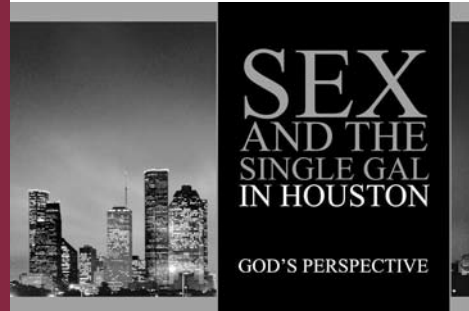
SYMPATHY

Our prayers and deepest sympathy go to the following families:

The family of **Cheryl Bach**; **Jane Bethea** and her family on the passing of her son, Rick; **Kelli Dreiling** and her family on the passing of her father; **Ginger Eskew** and her family on the passing of her husband, James; **Scott Finley** and his family on the passing of his wife, Leslie; **Susan George** and her family on the passing of her mother; **Dawn McNeil** and her family on the passing of her mother; **Kate Nussmeier** and her family on the passing of her father; **Bill Scott** and his family on the passing of his brother; **Debbie Powers** and her family on the passing of her father, Roy Showalter; **Carol Trimpey** and her family on the passing of her daughter; **Shirley Vaughan** and her family on the passing of her husband, Jack; and **Diane Veale** and her family on the passing of her brother.

Sex and the Single Gal: God's Perspective

Young adult women, join us Saturday, March 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., in the Sanctuary and Aldersgate Hall. We will discuss *God's View of Sex, Body Image, Love of Jesus, Healing from Sexual Abuse and Forgiveness*. Cost is \$20, lunch will be provided. To register, visit twumc.org or gracefamilies.com.



The Loft is going Underground...

When Jesus spoke, He started a movement of people who believed in Him and who also wanted to change the world. Politically, economically, spiritually and in every aspect of life Jesus advocated a world where love of God and love of neighbor flows through us. Jesus referred to this as "the Kingdom of God" and because of its subversive nature the church frequently had to hide.

In the series *Underground*, we will look at the five characteristics of Jesus' kingdom and see that it is still subversive today.

New Member Welcome

Charles and Jacquelyn Abernathy. Mustang Point Court, The Woodlands. They have three children, Mackenzie, Max and Jack.

Julie Adcock. South Arrow Canyon Circle, The Woodlands. She has two children, Aiden and Isabella, and is transferring from First United Methodist Church in Bullard.

Alexander Bader. West Knightsbridge Drive. He has two children, Jasmine and Nadia.

Jacob and Cecily Boyer. Cokeberry, The Woodlands. They have one child, Kennedy, and are transferring from Fellowship of The Woodlands.

George and Shannon Butkus. South Garnet Bend, The Woodlands.

Ryan and Julie Comeaux. Balier Point Circle, The Woodlands. They have three children, Grant, Rece and Carter, and are transferring from Saint Timothy United Methodist Church.

David Conley. Arlan Lake Drive, Spring. He is transferring from Trinity Episcopal Church in Fort Worth.

George Covington. Eagle Chase Lane, Spring. He has one child, Reed.

Wayne and Heidi Eastus. Cannon Ball Circle, Spring. They have two children, Adam and Grantley, and are transferring from College Heights Baptist Church in Cleborne.

Dennis and Minnie Ferrer. Glentrace Circle, The Woodlands. They have two children, Sophia and Joshua.

Frances Flory. Wineberry Place, The Woodlands. She is transferring from Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Arlington.

Chris Norsworthy and Katie Hardy. Darby Way, Spring. Chris is transferring from Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Lagrange and Kate is transferring from First Presbyterian Church in Silsbee.

Thomas and Gail Hoy. Wellington Lane, Conroe.

Corey and Colleen King. Golden Autumn Place, The Woodlands. They have two children, Elly and Neve.

Bob and Sue Kulpinski. East Stony End Place, The Woodlands. They have three children, Jenna, Kristin and Matthew, and are transferring from Crossroads Baptist Church.

Bill and Melissa MacLauchlan. Colonial Row, The Woodlands. They have one child, Finn.

Lynn McNamara. East Whistler's Bend Circle, Conroe. They have one child, Forrest, and are transferring from Saint Columba's Episcopal Church in Washington D.C.

Jonathan and Charlotte Meissner. Bayginger Place, Spring. They have two children, Madeline and Andrew, and are transferring from Saint Luke's United Methodist Church in Houston.

Douglas and Margaret Moody. South Hunter's Crossing Court, The Woodlands. They have three children, Brett, Carlton and Olivia, and are transferring from Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church in Lakeland, Florida.

Kenneth Neely. Marshall Drive, Magnolia. He is transferring from Saint Luke's United Methodist Church in Houston.

Chuck and Donna Price. Bridgestone Path, The Woodlands. They have one child, Chris.

Patricia Ray. Wineberry Place, The Woodlands.

John and Penny Sampler. Acrewoods Place, The Woodlands. They have two children, Jake and Luke, and are transferring from First United Methodist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Scott and Katye Shields. Pagehurst Court, The Woodlands. They have two children, Jon and Kristen, and are transferring from First Presbyterian Church in Houston.

Mike and Jennifer Sims. Misty Canyon Place, The Woodlands. They have two children, Samuel and Kyle, and are transferring from Alamo Heights United Methodist Church in San Antonio.

Joe and Sandy Ternyik. Ryans Ridge Lane, Spring. They have two children, Tanner and Emma, and are transferring from Trinity Lutheran Church in Spring.

James Wallace. Cinnamon Teal Place, The Woodlands. He is transferring from First United Methodist Church in Lancaster.

Donald and Carol Watson. North Bristol Gate Place, The Woodlands. They have two children, Cassidy and Anna.

Charles and Heather Wolfsandle. Channing Springs Drive, Spring. They have four children, Kaeli, Sienna, Teagan and Zane.

Children of The Woodlands

Children of The Woodlands, TWUMC's part-day preschool program for children 18 months - kindergarten, will begin registrations in February for the 2009 - 2010 school year. Church member registration will take place February 22 at 1:30 p.m. in Wesley Hall. Public registration will take place February 26 at 7 p.m. in Asbury Hall. For more information, call 281.297.5959.

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
FEBRUARY 10**

The Woodlands United Methodist Church
2200 Lake Woodlands Drive
The Woodlands, Texas 77380
281.297.5900
www.twumc.org

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