

The Tower

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East Heights United Methodist Church Where Lives are Transformed by Jesus Christ

January 15, 2010

Young Spirit invites you to join us for our

Chicken Noodle Dinner

Sunday, January 24

12:15 p.m. in Hedrick Hall

Menu includes:

Chicken Noodles with all the fixins',
Corn Bread, Dessert and Drinks

Carry-out will also be available after CSN
and all Sunday worship services.

Tickets will be available at the door.



All proceeds benefit Young Spirit Choir Tour 2010

The Journey

By JC Kelley, Senior Pastor

This time of year it is common to write about New Year Resolutions. I started to take that approach until I received an e-mail from Brenda Heard with an article from Discipleship Journal. It had a new and refreshing take on resolutions I would like for you to hear.

The author starts by addressing the futility of most of our New Year resolutions. The reason they are futile is that we are making the resolutions. What he suggests instead is that we resolve to "be a lump of wet clay in the hands of the Master Potter." This is the rest of what he writes:

One time, God even sent the prophet Jeremiah to a potter's house for a tangible demonstration of what it means to be moldable clay (Jeremiah 18). As I was thinking of potters and clay, I needed my own visual reminder, so God and I went together to a modern version of a potter's house: YouTube. There, I sat quietly with God and watched potters work with clay. God pointed out how good they were at their craft, how focused, how hands-on. And then He began to whisper about the specific way He wanted to shape me in the coming year. The life area He put His finger on surprised me; it's not a place where I would have made a resolution. Still, this process of discerning God's plan for me beats my old ineffective cycle of making my own commitments, trying hard, and then forgetting. Now, as "clay," my role is simply to stay in relationship with God and surrender to His shaping; the results are in His hands.

Why don't you try it? Hang out with God at a potter's shop, ask Him questions, listen for His answers—and see what renovation He wants to work in you this year.

I couldn't have said it better myself. Let us resolve to be clay in the Master Potter's hands this year and see what great things God might do in our lives.



Souper Bowl Sunday Saturday, February 6 Sunday, February 7

Our youth will be at the doors following worship with our soup kettles to collect at least \$1 from everyone in worship! All money collected is donated to United Methodist Open Door's Food Ministry. Last year we collected \$1,085...let's make it \$1,150 this year!

BISHOP SCOTT JONES TO SPEAK AT EAST HEIGHTS

You are enthusiastically invited to join the Family Life adult class this **Sunday January 17** to hear Bishop Jones speak. This event will begin at **9:45 A.M.** and will be held in the **UNDERCROFT**. He will speak about John Wesley and early Methodism. We have been privileged to have Bishop Jones speak at East Heights on a few prior occasions and you will not want to miss this opportunity. As you may be aware, Bishop Jones received his Ph.D from Southern Methodist University and is a Wesley scholar. Prior to becoming our bishop, Bishop Jones served on the faculty at the Perkins School of Theology at SMU. In addition to being extremely knowledgeable, Bishop Jones is a very engaging speaker. Other topics may come up as well and perhaps there will be time for a few questions. We are very fortunate to have this opportunity and encourage you to attend if possible.



Ministry Needs

Sanctuary and Chapel Care

Would you be able to straighten up our Sanctuary and Chapel four times this year? There is a need for someone to help with this the week of March 28, the week of June 27, the week of September 26 and December 26. This ongoing ministry involves restocking cards, envelopes and pencils and straightening Bibles and hymnals. This ministry may be done at your convenience during that week. If you'd like to help, contact **Kathy Lefler** at 682-6518.

Choir Tour 2010

Young Spirit will head to Charlotte, N.C., on Choir Tour 2010. If you know of churches in that area, as well as Little Rock, Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, Louisville and St. Louis and nearby suburbs, where we can share our message through song, contact **Paige Nelson** at 682-6518.

Host Families Needed

If you are interested in hosting a foreign exchange student or would like more information, please contact Michelle Angbo @ 316-990-5936 at International Cultural Exchange Services. or email michelle_angbo@yahoo.com. There currently is a need for families to host students.

Ministry Celebrations

One of our joyous missions is our Christmas Adopt-A-Family ministry. Our community in faith was blessed by being able to reach out and share Christ's love with six families this past Christmas. Those families include a family of four whose son attends nearby Jefferson Elementary School. Our Youth provided gifts for the family. The MOMS group provided diapers, a stroller and other baby needs. Others from our church provided the family with much-needed furniture for their home. Donations shared from the congregation and Foundations and Family Life Sunday School classes provided gifts for families who are served by UM Open Door's Vision Quest Program.

Our church was beautifully decorated during the Christmas season. The Foundations Sunday School class decorated the Sanctuary and Chapel for Advent. The Passage small group decorated the tall tree in Fellowship Lobby. The tree in Hedrick Hall was decorated by the families who attend the Celebrate Saturday Night Service. We appreciate the time and talent that was shared!

Upcoming Young Spirit FUNdraisers

Valentine Dessert Trolley
Wednesday, February 10th

Pancake Breakfast
Sunday, February 28th



Hats and Mittens Drive

Reaching Out to Keep Kids Warm

Many children in our community don't have hats and mittens to keep them warm during the cold winter months. We'll reach out to these children through our hat and mitten drive. You can drop off your donations in the box in Fellowship Lobby.



PRAYER PARTNER MINISTRY

"Prayer Partners" is a ministry that teams prayer volunteers with those who request daily prayer. You may request this ministry for yourself or refer someone else to this ministry by supplying name, address and prayer need in one of the following manners:

- on your Friendship Card at a worship service
- by picking up a "Prayer Partner Information Card" and dropping it in the offering plate or at the program office
- by calling the church office at 682-6518.

THE UMW PRAYER CHAIN is available to anyone in need. Please call **Eleanor Cracraft, 682-2460**.

OUR COMMUNITY

OUR CHRISTIAN PRAYERS OF: SYMPATHY TO: Garland Hattan and family on the death of his brother **William R. Hattan**, who died on December 14, 2009.

Family and friends of **Becky Weston** who died December 16, 2009 in Colorado. Services were in Denver with a burial later in Burrton, Kansas.

Family and friends of **Avis Flory**, on her death, December 27, 2009.

Winifred Cox and family on the death of her husband, **Gerald Cox**, December 31, 2009.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Demarcus & Michelle Vinyard Phillips, on the birth of **Demarcus Lee Phillips, Jr.**, on January 6, 2010. Great Grandparents are **Dan & Jeanne Forbes**.

OUR PRESENCE LAST WEEK:

Worship – 345

GIVING REPORT THRU DECEMBER 31, 2009

Giving Year-to-Date	\$ 1,168,666
	(corrected)
Budget Week 52	\$ 1,197,976
Over/(Under)	\$ (29,310)

GIVING LAST WEEK THRU

JANUARY 5, 2010	\$ 21,826
GIVING YEAR TO DATE	\$ 21,826
BUDGET WEEK 1	

**Deadline for February 5 Tower
is Tuesday, January 26.**

THANKSGIVING IN JANUARY 2009 FINANCIAL REVIEW

By Ron Harden, Chairman of Finance

I realize we have passed Christmas and are on our way to Easter, but I believe it is nevertheless time for another *Thanksgiving!* After several challenging periods though the summer and into early fall, by year end we received sufficient funds to meet all of our financial obligations for 2009, including payment in full of \$140,880 as our apportionment to the Kansas West Conference for our Ministry and Missions. Our annual revenue from giving was nearly \$30,000 short of our budget but that deficiency was more than made up for by our expenditures being under budget. This is no small accomplishment and it is important to take a moment before we focus on 2010 to be thankful for our blessings and the commitment of our membership. Also, we should recognize what a great job our staff has done to stretch our resources and to “do without” in some cases.

Fun with Friends

“Respite Care” Offers Afternoon of Fun for Children and Their Parents

An afternoon of fun, crafts and snacks for special needs children and their siblings is planned for Sunday, February 14, from 1-5 p.m. in Hedrick Hall. Parents are invited to drop off their children and then head out and celebrate Valentine’s Day. A team of adults will care for the children.

If you’d like your children to participate in this ministry, contact **Kathy Lefler** at 682-6518 or Kathy@ehumc.org.

Ready, Set, Spike!

Volleyball players of all skill levels are invited to join our church team. We will play Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m., starting January 21 at Westside Church of God, 1900 McCormick. Our co-ed volleyball team has a long tradition of fun, fellowship and fitness and we are excited for the 2010 season. If you’d like to be part of the team, contact **Andrew Trapp** at 833-1030.

Breakfast for Homeless Ministry

Our church will be in mission with the homeless in our community when we serve breakfast at the city’s Winter Overflow Shelter at First UMC on Friday, January 29. There are many ways to help, including providing food. Items we’ll need include juice, bananas, bread and/or bagels. We’ll serve breakfast casseroles, so if you’d like to make one ahead of time and drop it off at the church on January 28 we’ll warm it up and take it that morning. We’ll also need servers and people to help clean up. We start early (5:30 a.m.) but we’re done by 7:00 a.m. and then you can head home and get ready for work. We’ll also share prayer scarves with the homeless created by the Youth and Dorcas Circle that morning. If you’d like to contribute to this mission or help, let me know. You can contact me at 682-6518 or Kathy@ehumc.org.



GREAT ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

By Ron Harden, Chairman of Finance

Every year the SMU Perkins Theological School in Dallas, Texas, conducts a laity conference. This year it is being held March 4-6. Professors from Perkins teach on a variety of topics. Five course offerings are taught Thursday afternoon through Friday afternoon on March 4th and 5th. There are four class offerings on Saturday March 6th. Additionally there will be a panel discussion of “The Shack” (a very popular book by William Young), evening dinner with a lecture, worship services and an opportunity to interact with other Methodists from all over the United States. This conference offers terrific educational opportunities which are not otherwise available to lay people as far as I am aware. I have left information with JoAnn Henry at our church office or you can check the web at smu.edu/perkins/publicprograms for more information. Do not hesitate to call me if you wish to discuss this program.



**East Heights
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Methodist
Church
Tower**

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Return Service Requested

• We invite all 6th-12th grade youth to join us for our **Wednesday Youth Ministries**. 6th grade youth are invited to join us at 6 p.m. for **Trinity**, our exciting worship arts team. 7th-12th grade youth are invited to join us at 6 p.m. for **Young Spirit**, our awesome youth choir. **All youth** are invited to join us at 7:15 p.m. for our **incredible small group ministry including Confirmation** for our 8th grade youth and any high school youth who has not gone through Confirmation. We hope to see all of you **HERE** on Wednesdays for an amazing time of growing in faith.

• **UMYF (United Methodist Youth Fellowship)** meets every Sunday evening beginning at 5 p.m. with Snack Supper followed by our evening together beginning at 5:30 p.m. **January 17th**—We will not meet due to the Ski Trip and Martin Luther King Holiday Weekend; **January 24th**—reFocus; **January 31st**—Swap Meet—*clean your room and bring something you don't want or need anymore and go home with something new. Whatever is left, we will donate to the Klothes Kloset or another agency.*

• Our **Ski Trip** departs **January 15th**. Please pray for safety on the road and on the slopes and a meaningful weekend together in God's beautiful creation. We return January 19th.

• **Reel to Real**, our movie night for high school youth, is **Thursday, January 21st** beginning at 6 p.m. at Scott and Paige's home (447 S. Elpyco). Join us for dinner, a movie and more!

• The **Confirmation Class** invites their **Friends-in-Faith** to join us for class on **Wednesday, January 27th** beginning at 7:15 p.m. in Room 035 in the Youth Center. We would love to share with you what we've been learning and grow in faith together with you. We will also have our **Friend-in-Faith FUN Night** on **Saturday, February 6th**. We will meet for CSN at 5:30 p.m. followed by a night of bowling.

• **Middle School Lock-In** is **January 29th** beginning at 7 p.m. thru **January 30th** at 7:30 a.m. All Middle School Youth and their friends are invited to join us for our all-nighter. You may sign-up on Paige's office door and get ready for our Pirate Adventure. Cost is \$10 + a 2 liter of soda.

• **Looking Ahead:** *Souper Bowl* is February 7th; *Valentine Dessert Trolley* is February 10th; *30 Hour Famine* is February 19th & 20th—you may sign-up on Paige's office door and receive your survival guide to begin preparing for our weekend together; *Pancake Breakfast* is February 28th; *Confirmation Retreat* is March 5th-7th

