



TARRANT AREA
COMMUNITY
of
CHURCHES

*United in Christ,
Caring in Community*

Volume 10, Issue 2

February 2007

Board Members

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- *Tim Bruster, *First United Methodist Church Fort Worth*
- †Avis Herndon, *University Christian Church*
- †Claudine Marion, *Broadway Baptist Church*
- *Walter McDonald, *Baker Chapel A.M.E Church*
- †Mike Mundt, *Grace Lutheran Church*
- *Tom Plumbley, *First Christian Church*
- †Louanne Rice, *Westside Unitarian Universalist Church*
- *Judy Stempel, **Personnel Chair**, *University Christian Church*
- †Priscilla Tate, *Trinity Episcopal Church*

Class of 2008

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- †Ruth “Cookie” Baker, **President**, *Baker Chapel A.M.E.Church*
- *Dottie Cook, *South Hills Christian Church*
- †Elodia Escamilla, *St. Andrews Catholic Church*
- *Richard Flores, *St. Rita Catholic Church*
- *Ed George, *First United Methodist Church Hurst*
- †Robert Hampton, **Treasurer**, *Trinity Episcopal Church*
- †Craig Level, **Secretary**, *Trinity Lutheran Church*
- *Gilbert Marez, *Iglesia Cristiana Camino de Paz*
- *Lovie Sanford, *Community Christian Church*

Class of 2009

- *B.R. Daniels, Sr., *Beth Eden Missionary Baptist*
- †Paulette Golden, *Faith Community Nurses*
- †Joyce Johnson, *Carter Metropolitan CME Chapel*
- *Jerome Price, *Carter Metropolitan C.M.E. Church*
- *Daniel Terry, *University Christian Church*
- *Annette Williams, *H.O.P.E. Tutoring Center, Inc.*
- †Layperson
- *Clergy

Around Tarrant...

Dear Friends,

I spent the better part of last week at a retreat for clergy and congregational leaders held through a partnership between Courage and Renewal-North Texas and the Lilly Foundation. We met at the Prothro Methodist Conference Center at Lake Texoma. Cindy Johnson and Estrus Tucker of Courage and Renewal led us as we focused on the gifts of winter.

It occurred to me, as we worked with the images of winter, that the season of Lent is a winter time in the church. Lent is a season of spiritual starkness. Like trees stripped of their leaves in winter, one of the gifts of Lent is its reminder of what our lives would be stripped of the grace of God in Jesus Christ. The darkness of winter is the darkness of the world we would create were human power the only power on which we could rely.

There is also another gift of Lent—one I’m sure you experienced during that ice blast that rendered us all homebound for a few days last month—and that is the gift of being stopped abruptly in the middle of all our plans to reflect on just what it is that makes up our lives. It is the gift of looking at our lives and our congregations from God’s perspective to see what it is that remains when all the beauty and celebration of Christmas and Epiphany have faded away. What is it that holds us together when the skies go dark in our lives and the ground in which we have things growing freezes? What is the trunk and what are the branches from which our new life springs when our skies clear and the cold gives way to the warmth of easier times? We tend to pile our lives up with so much that clamors for our attention and dampers the flame of our spirit. Lent is the time the church has set aside for our reflection on what is real, what matters, and what keeps the spiritual flame burning in our lives regardless of the spiritual, emotional, or physical weather we encounter.

This excerpt from the poem, “Fire” by Judy Brown reminds me of our purpose during Lent as we look toward the One who calls us to tend the flames of faith and discipleship during Lent:

*What makes a fire burn
is the space between the logs,
a breathing space.
Too much of a good thing
too many logs
packed in tight
can douse the flames
almost as surely
as a pail of water would.
So building fires
requires attention
to the spaces in between,
as much as to the wood.*

May Lent be a time of reflection and recognition for you, and may your flame of faith be fed wood and space and burn brightly in and through you.

Blessings,
Melinda Veatch
Executive Director

Reflecting on Our Ministry

Friends of TACC:

Awesome! January was packed with energy and purpose, expanded horizons, and a deeper view of who God is. Our *Convening the Faith* events were a revelation into how our faith community can connect with students and the schools. In the *Service of Christian Unity* we were challenged to create real community and envision new ways of serving others.



Welcome to our new Board members, who bring vision and perspective to TACC. Our initial meeting was dynamic and electric, and portends creative collaborations in our future. These visioning sessions are clarifying who and what Tarrant Area Community of Churches will become as a unified and caring component of Christ's body! Like Esther, surely we were called to the kingdom for such a time as this! Look what's coming:

- Be sure your group reports collections for your charity of choice during the ***Souperbowl of Caring*** on February 4 to www.souperbowl.org and tacc@tarrantareacc.org.
- Make plans to join us at noon each Wednesday in Lent, February 21—April 4 at Trinity Lutheran Church for the ***Tietjen Preaching Series***. Lunch (by reservation) follows for \$7. Each service promises a rich blessing; come, and bring someone!
- Please encourage everyone to be attend the ***Crime Victims Worship Service*** on “Hope, Help and Healing” on April 22, 2007, 3:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church – Ft. Worth. So many people can benefit from our compassion. You know someone who should be there!

Thanks to each of you...let God be magnified in your life through Jesus Christ!

Live in Light,
Cookie Baker
TACC Board President

Coming Up . .



LENTEN SERIES

February 21—April 4, Trinity Lutheran Church, 3621 Tulsa Way, Fort Worth 76107, on Wednesdays, 12:00 Noon, with \$7 lunch by reservation to follow. The speakers for the Tietjen Lenten series are:

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| February 21 | Rev. Robin Michelove , Hemphill Presbyterian Church, PCUSA |
| February 28 | Rev. Roy Martin , University of North Texas Medical School, Disciples |
| March 7 | Rev. Dr. Tim Carson , University Christian Church, Disciples |
| March 14 | Rev. Jorene Swift , Broadway Baptist Church, SBC |
| March 21 | Rev. Dr. Jerome Price , Metropolitan Christian Methodist Episcopal Church |
| March 28 | Rt. Rev. Sam Hulsey , Retired Episcopal Bishop of West Texas Diocese |
| April 4 | Rev. Phil Heinze , Calvary Lutheran Church, ELCA |

Metropolitan Board of Missions Annual Dinner, “Living in the NOW, Celebrating Our Ministries”, Thursday, February 22, Will Rogers Complex, Round-up Inn, 6:15 p.m. Call 817-569-1454 for more information and making reservations.

Spiritual Formation and Social Witness, with guest speaker Rev. Joyce Hollyday, February 24 & 25, First Presbyterian Church, 1000 Penn Street, Fort Worth 76102 and Hemphill Presbyterian Fellowship, 1701 Hemphill Street, Fort Worth 76110. See article on the next page.

Crime Victims Worship Service

Hope, Help and Healing, April 22, 3:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church Fort Worth, 800 W. 5th St., Fort Worth 76102

Connecting Congregations

First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church

Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church spun off from the Fort Worth Unitarian church in 1966. In 1980, the two Unitarian Universalist churches merged and became the First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church.



Unitarians and Universalists have long taken a leading role in progressive causes. Many of the slavery abolition leaders were Unitarian or Universalists, such as William Emerson and his son, Ralph Waldo Emerson. Susan B. Anthony, the leader of the women suffrage movement was a Unitarian. First Jefferson is currently an active participant in Allied Communities of Tarrant, a Tarrant County grassroots social justice organization.

First Jefferson believes it is called to serve the larger community. Eastside Ministries is a ministry of the church that provides clothing and emergency funds for those facing difficulty on the east side of Fort Worth.

First Jefferson also sponsors a Social Justice Committee and a Racial Justice Committee that bring together members of the congregation and those in the broader community to address issues that affect the lives and needs of all people in this community.

The congregation provides a meeting place for three community organizations. The Home Schooling Association meets twice monthly, and Spiral Scouts and PFLAG have their monthly meetings here.

But this congregation is not all work and no play. We invite you to join us monthly for The Jefferson Freedom Café, a music series that highlights musical talent in this community. Or if chamber music is more to your taste, join us for our Spectrum Concert Series, a joint partnership of First Jefferson and First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth. Eight times a year the Chamber Music Society performs at one church or the other.

The Spectrum Concert Series is a joint presentation of First Jefferson and First United Methodist Church, which presents performances of the Chamber Music Society eight times per year. The performances occur 4 times at one church and 4 times at the other.

All who are seeking a meaningful and fulfilling life, a pathway to follow the examples of the life of Jesus, a thirst for peace and justice, are welcome at First Jefferson.

Dr. James T. Brown
Retired District Executive
Southwest District/Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference

Valued Collaborators

Holy Family Catholic Church
St. John the Apostle Catholic Church
Ridglea Christian Church
South Hills Christian Church
Aldersgate UMC
Colleyville UMC
Davis Memorial UMC
Faith UMC
First UMC Arlington
Keller UMC
Meadowbrook UMC
Midlothian UMC
New World UMC
St. Andrew UMC
St. Paul UMC
Trinity UMC
William C. Martin UMC
Dr. & Mrs. Dwain McDonald
Dr. Priscilla Tate
Ora Shelton
Rev. Judy Stempel

Financial Statement Year to Date, December 31, 2006

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Revenue	\$68,648	\$76,500
Expenses	\$45,545	\$76,500
Increase in	\$23,103	\$ -0-
Net Assets		
January Starting \$	5,784	
Balance		
YTD Balance	\$28,887	



Spiritual Formation and Social Witness

With Guest speaker Rev. Joyce Hollyday

February 24, First Presbyterian Church Fort Worth hosts Rev. Joyce Hollyday, internationally known spokesperson and activist for social justice, for a workshop entitled *Spiritual Formation and Social Witness*, held at Hemphill Presbyterian Fellowship (1701 Hemphill St, 76110). A "voice for the voiceless," Joyce works towards social transformation by teaching individuals to balance the inner journey and the outward call to service.

Join us Saturday, from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. for the free workshop and stay for lunch afterwards (\$7.00). Register at 817-335-1231 or on-line at www.fpcfww.org. Sunday, join us for worship at 1000 Penn St, for Joyce's sermon, "Power in the Desert." Worship times are 9:00 a.m. and 10:55 a.m.



TARRANT AREA

COMMUNITY
of
CHURCHES

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Calendar of Events

- February 4 *Souper Bowl of Caring*
- February 21 - *Tietjen Preaching Series*, Trinity Lutheran Church, Wednesdays, 12:00 Noon, with lunch by
April 4 reservation to follow.
- February 22 Metropolitan Board of Missions Annual Dinner, “*Living in the NOW, Celebrating Our Ministries*”, Will Rogers Complex, Round-up Inn, 6:15 p.m.
- February 24 & 25 Spiritual Formation and Social Witness, with guest speaker Rev. Joyce Hollyday, First Presbyterian Church Fort Worth and Hemphill Presbyterian Fellowship
- April 22 Crime Victims Worship Service, *Hope, Help and Healing*, 3:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church Fort Worth, 800 W. 5th St., Fort Worth 76102



Check Your
Calendar