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DECEMBER

PASTOR'S

PERSPECTIVE

By Rev. Kory Knott
Senior Pastor



Several years ago I heard a story about a woman whom God had blessed with a comfortable life and a loving family. She wasn't particularly well known in her community, but she was known within her circle of friends as quite the decorator.

One day, while hosting a holiday cookie exchange for some of the mothers and daughters in her town, the woman noticed a little girl sitting alone at the foot of her Christmas tree. The little girl was intently staring at a beautiful blown glass ornament that said "Happy Birthday." "Whose birthday is it?" the little girl asked. To that the woman replied: "Don't you know? Christmas is a celebration of Christ's birthday. You see, this is the tree, and these are the presents. The red one is a hunting jacket for my husband. The gold one is a book for my sister. The green one is a video game for my son, and the big silver one is a doll house for my daughter"...and like that, the lady listed

off the recipients of all of the other presents that were piled high around her tree.

When the woman was finished, the little girl surveyed all of the presents, and with an inquisitive look asked, "Where's his?" "What do you mean?" exclaimed the lady. "Oh my, have I forgotten someone? I've gone over my list a thousand times to make sure that I didn't forget anyone! Who did I forget?" To that, the little girl replied, "Didn't you say that Christmas was a celebration of Christ's birthday? If that's so, then where's his present?" Now isn't that humbling? Kids don't miss a thing.

How many of us have made our Christmas lists, remembering to get something special for everyone who is special to us. Yet, upon closer examination we find that we have inadvertently left Jesus off our list. This season, won't you make sure to remember Christ on his very own birthday? And if you can't think of what to get Jesus for his birthday, try giving him a prayer of thanks. I'll bet he would really like that.

See you Sunday,
Kory Knott

kory@argyleumc.org 940-464-1333



Candlelight Christmas Eve
3.00 pm Children
5.00 pm Traditional
7.00 pm Contemporary
11.00 pm Traditional with Communion

Welcome



Welcome, Roy and Angie Gay, who joined AUMC on Nov. 15th after attending AUMC 101.



Welcome, Chris and Amy Fanning, who joined AUMC on Nov. 15th after attending AUMC 101. they are shown with their children (L-R) Amanda, Chelsea and Corbin.



Welcome, Mewhirter family, who joined AUMC on Nov. 15th after attending AUMC 101. They are (L-R) Amy DeBoard, Jeffrey and Deanna Mewhirter.



POINSETTIAS. Sunday, Dec. 13th is the last day you can order poinsettias to grace the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. The cost is \$12 per plant and can be made in honor of or in memory of your loved ones. The order form is available at the Welcome Center and in this Sunday's worship bulletin.


New Members!



Welcome, Reaves family, who joined AUMC on Nov. 15th after attending AUMC 101. They are (L-R) Carly, Bill, Caren and Lauren. Kennedy is standing in the back row.



Welcome Guy and Gloria McElroy who joined AUMC.



How You Can Join the AUMC Family

We ask that everyone who is interested in becoming a member of the Argyle UMC family of faith join through attendance of our AUMC 101 class.

AUMC 101, led by Pastor of Spiritual Formation Minister Todd Mead, tells you about the United Methodist Church—sacraments, beliefs, and more—and about the Argyle congregation of the United Methodist Church—our vision, missions and programs. You are welcome to join AUMC at the end of that class.

The next class is Sunday, January 10th immediately following the 11:15 am worship service (about 12:30 pm) in the conference room. We provide a light lunch. We also provide complimentary childcare with advance notice. Please RSVP to Pat Wellborn, pat@argyleumc.org, 940-464-1333 or 940-765-9095.

CHURCH WORK DAY. Weather permitting, we would like to paint the portable buildings on a Saturday in January or February. If you have any questions, please contact our Facilities Manager, Russell Kelly, russell@argyleumc.org, 940-597-1505.

AN UPDATE FROM OUR TRUSTEES. Our application for an extension to our current parking lot is being brought before the City of Denton. Hopefully, we will have approximately 80 new permanent parking spaces very soon to meet our new growth at AUMC. In the interim, a temporary parking lot will be constructed east of the portable buildings. Our goal, in creating this temporary parking area, is to accommodate 38 vehicles in time for the *Lessons in Carols* Christmas program for Sunday morning, Dec. 20th. *Article submitted by Trustee Chair, Jayne Marshall.*

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY. We are pleased to welcome back facilitator Penny Gee to AUMC starting Jan. 19th for 12 weeks. If you are interested, contact Penny at 940-391-3254 or visit www.daveramsey.com.

**MISSION
POSSIBLE
2010**

Think about this...

Q: In light of these uncertain economic times, why should we continue to give a significant amount of money to the church?

A: Financial stewardship enables the church to do what God has called us to do, which is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

A: Giving enables us to have a stake in what God is doing in and through the church.

A: Supporting the church enables us—the Body of Christ—to introduce people to Jesus Christ in such a way that the lives of children, youth and adults are forever changed.

Commitment Sunday was Dec. 6th.

If you did not have the opportunity to make your commitment on Dec. 6th, please feel free to call it in to our Finance Administrator, Valerie Donahue, or bring it by the church office at any time.

By Lauren Anders
Nursery Coordinator



I hope that this month finds you filled with wonder at the magic of the Christmas season. It is so exciting to play a role in the lives of children as they discover the joy and happiness that this time of year brings.

Do you remember how you felt as a child looking forward to Christmas? I pray that you are able to see Christmas through the eyes of a child this year, whether you experience the season with your own children or grandchildren, make the holiday a little brighter for a child in need, or just allow your own inner child to once again enjoy this special time.

Christmas is also a bustling time for the church. With carols to rehearse and service projects for parents to take part in, we are seeing an increase in the number of children needing nursery care this month. If you are interested in joining us as a volunteer and bringing the spirit of Christmas to our nursery, please let me know!

I'm sure many of you parents are also busy scheduling your holiday celebrations. If you plan to attend one of the four Christmas Eve services here at AUMC and have a child needing nursery care, please reserve your spot as soon as possible. We would like to have a good idea of how many children to expect during each service in order to provide quality care.

I am also asking, if you will be bringing a child into the nursery for one of the services, that you prayerfully consider volunteering your time during another service that evening. We want every family to be able to enjoy Christmas Eve worship knowing that their little one is being lovingly looked after. You may **reserve your child's spot and sign up to volunteer by emailing me or visiting the nursery counter.**

Thank you for your support, and happy holidays!

Blessings,

Lauren Anders
lauren@argyleumc.org 940-464-1333

Our mission: To ensure that each child feels the love of God through us each and every day.

By Kelli Stoops
Kingdom Kids Director

Thanksgiving Feast!



I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving break. We resumed Kingdom Kids all geared up for the Christmas season. The classes all decorated a Christmas tree for our hall—come see the beautiful trees!

It is so great to get to be around children during the Christmas season—to watch their eyes light up at all the holiday festivities, to hear them tell

us about their family traditions and to hear their list for Santa. It is most heart-warming to listen to them talk of 'Baby Jesus' and the manger. Let us all take cues from our precious children...take time to cherish this wonderful time of year. Jesus is the reason for the season!

The night of Dec. 10th at 6:00 pm, the children will perform their Christmas program. This year we will be telling the story of the candy cane. We hope you come and enjoy their performance. They have been working very hard. After the program, Kingdom Kids will have a very special visitor—Santa! Children will be able to give him a wish list, visit and have their picture made with him.

As we learn and celebrate the real meaning of the season, Kingdom Kids will have a Happy Birthday Jesus party on Dec. 17th.

Wednesday, December 17th will be our last day of the fall semester as we begin our Christmas holidays. We will return on Tuesday, January 5th. Everyone here at Kingdom Kids wishes you a very blessed Christmas season.

Happy Holidays,

Kelli Stoops
kelli@argyleumc.org 940-464-1333



Thank You

Dear Members of Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors,
Your contribution to our Thanksgiving food drive allowed us to help feed over 50 families! The amazing generosity of food also fully stocked our food pantry. On behalf of our clients, staff and Board, thank you so much for your check in the amount of \$250 to the Children's Advocacy Center for Denton County.

Thanks again,
Rebecca Truette



A few members of the Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors Sunday school class is seen above presenting a food drive donation to Rebecca Truette of Denton County Children's Advocacy Center (DCCAC). They are also sponsoring a family of seven for Christmas. DCCAC is one of the non-profit organizations supported by Argyle UMC's Faithworx mission program. For more information about Faithworx projects, please see Page 8.

Dear Friends,

Let me say thank you for the beautiful shawl I received. It will be wonderful for this cold winter they predict. Thanks very much.

Love,
Elsie Self

Dear Friends, Family and Church members,

Thank each and every one of the congregation of Argyle United Methodist Church. Especially for the thoughts and prayers that have gone up in my behalf. The prayers, flowers and wonderful love and healing power of God through your prayers. I'd like to especially thanks the ladies group who made the beautiful shawl. I could feel the warmth of love as it passed through my body and the healing power of God's love for me. You all are a very special group of people who have been so kind, loving of my children by making them a complete

part of your church.

Much love to one and all. Many thanks for caring and praying for me at this time.

In Jesus Christ,
Louise Bailey

Editor's Note: Louise is the mother of AUMC's Linda Ozburn.

Dear Prayer Shawl Group,

I received your incredible gift of the prayer shawl yesterday. It is really beautiful and will be on display to remind me of the kindness and faith of people.

Vicki did an incredible job of donating 15 million good cells as all is going quite well—they seem to be liking each other. May it continue. I was so fortunate to have so many siblings and got such a good match.

Peace and joy,
Jann Pollard

Editor's Note: (Pictured L-R above) AUMC's Vicki Williams is Jann's sister and bone marrow donor. Jann now has 95% donor cells in her bone marrow!



Dear Ladies,

Thank you so much for the prayer shawl you made for my Mom—Mary Lou Marsden. She loved it so—it also was purple—her favorite color. She was so proud of it—showed it off to everyone! It was spread over her everyday she was in the hospital.

She passed away on Oct. 2nd. I will always treasure the shawl—as she did.

Love,
Karan Marsden



Thank You, Children's Ministry Auction Donors!

American Pet Spa	Mesquite Rodeo
Applebee's	Natalie K Photography
Argyle Fire Dept.	Noble Classic Homes
Argyle Smiles— Dr. Mark Studer DDS	North Star Bank
Atown Apparel	NRH2O
Billy Bob's	Panache Vignette
Brunswick Zone, Denton	Perfectly Broken
CC Creative Couture	Pollard Aircraft Sales
Cross Timbers Gym	S & J Pharmacy
Dallas Arboretum	Snooty Pig
Dallas Stars Foundation	Southwest Fence & Deck
Denim Depot	Speed Zone
DFW Adventure Park	Springer/Lyle Attorneys at Law
Driveway Drive-In	Squaw Valley Golf Club
Exposure Rock Climbing	Stolen Horses
Ft. Worth Museum of Science & History and Nat'l. Cowgirl Museum	Studio d Photography
Ft. Worth Zoo	Texas Motor Speedway
Go Vision	Texas Rangers
Interskate Roller Rink	The Boardroom
Lone Star Park	Salon for Men
McAlister Deli	The Ice at Stonebriar Centre
Meadows of Memories & Momentos	The Palace of Wax
	The Sixth Floor Museum @ Dealy Plaza
	Wildhorse Golf Club

Merry Christmas Wishes for our Homebound Seniors and our Troops

Dick and Natalie Hill
1150 Copper Canyon
Argyle, TX 76226

Peggy Bell
206 Harmony
Noel, MO 64854

Annie Townsend
400 Keyes
Cross Roads, TX 76227

Elsie Self
1804 Wisteria Court
Fort Worth, TX 76111

Peggy Kiger, Room 203A
Lake Forest Nursing Center
3901 Montecito
Denton, TX 76210

Charlie McGraw
5785 Mission Center Road
Apt. 207
San Diego, CA 92108

Louise Bailey
9705 Applewood Trail
Denton, TX 76207

Nicholas Sterling
101 Whaley Lane
Gatesville, TX 76528

Betty Cochran
Longmeadow Nursing Center
120 Meadow View Drive
Justin, TX 76247

Ryan Whipple
(Please check with
the church office.)

Charles and Doris Jones
9628 Callaway Court
Denton, TX 76207

TSgt. John Regis
HHC (I & S) 31D, 3STB
G2X Unit 72111
APO AE 09393

Marion Bantau
282 Oakridge Street
Bowie, TX 76230

Marcus Davis
(Please check with
the church office.)

Mary Hersman, Apt. 420
2820 Wind River Drive
Denton, TX 76210

Louise King
5804 Parkplace
Argyle, TX 76226

A Blessed Christmas from the Argyle UMC Staff



faithworx



HSNT THANKSGIVING DINNER. This year's HSNT (Health Services of North Texas) Thanksgiving dinner was an overwhelming success, serving approximately 150 guests. The success of this gathering was no doubt due to all of the marvelous volunteers who helped accomplish our goal of providing a fantastic experience, dinner and fellowship for the HSNT service providers and clients.

Our AUMC volunteers are simply wonderful...from those who began Thursday morning by tearing down the seating in the sanctuary, set up the tables and chairs for the dinner, to those talented individuals who provided audio/visual through the afternoon/evening, decorated, set up the serving line, prepared the food, tea and coffee, to those who served, provided live entertainment...and finally, to those who tore down, washed table cloths, cleaned the sanctuary, serving area, kitchen and re-set up the sanctuary chairs...all accomplished by approximately 9:30 pm.

The Girl Scouts, along with several young men from our congregation, provided fantastic service to our guests, serving drinks, condiments and desserts, along with helping guests to their seats with their plates and drinks. They represented themselves and our congregation with extreme graciousness.

One of the highlights of the evening was when one of the HSNT clients got up and sat down at the piano on stage and began playing and singing with great professionalism.

We would be remiss without mentioning Chad and Melissa Miller as well as Harold and Dana Ratcliff. Chad and Melissa assisted in the coordination of the kitchen/serving area, while Harold and Dana coordinated the dining facilitation.

We are so very proud to be apart of such a fantastic group, thanks and blessings to all. *Article submitted by Greg and Terri Bristow.*

OUR DAILY BREAD. Our Daily Bread, housed at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Denton, serves food to those in need five days a week. Their Warm Clothes Drive ends on December 9th. You can deliver any of these items directly to Our Daily Bread at 300 West Oak Street in Denton. You can call them at 940-387-3897 to check on their hours. They are very specific about their needs. They are asking for new clothing only:

Men's and women's sweatshirts in sizes S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X; thick warm socks; stocking caps; men's working gloves; women's warm gloves. If you have any questions, please contact Dana Bolin.

METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME. Founded in 1890, Methodist Children's Home is a non-profit child care provider affiliated with the seven United Methodist Annual Conferences of Texas and New Mexico. The Home is committed to serving children and families without regard to ethnicity, religion or financial status by offering residence service at its Waco and Boys Ranch facilities. Additional services are provided through its *Community Services & Foster Care Program* and *Vocational Guidance & College Program*.

The Methodist Children's Home's 24 million dollar annual budget is supported in a large part by the annual Christmas offering by the United Methodist churches of Texas and New Mexico. Our Faithworx mission team has included the Methodist Children's Home as one of the non-profit organizations supported by our church. This year AUMC will be participating in giving to this worthwhile cause by collecting your offering at our Christmas Eve services. Brochures and envelopes will be in the bulletin on December 20th for your prayerful consideration prior to Christmas Eve. *Article submitted by Don Pooley.*

ANGEL TREE. Wow! We've done such a great job with our little Angels. There are only a few more left! If you took an angel from the tree, please remember to have your gift and card back by December 15th. Thank you so much for helping the children and seniors of our community. For more information contact Lorrie Sandel or Tammie Nuoci at tammie@argyleumc.org, 940-464-1333.

ADULT MISSION TRIP. Would you prayerfully consider planning time off from work for our Joint Mission trip with Amarillo's St. Stephen UMC from Feb. 6—13th? We will frame and roof four houses to be used as missionary homes at the secured facilities of the Youth with a Mission ministry facility in Juarez, Mexico. The YWAM facility is also used for outreach and training, plus they operate a children's home at this facility. For more information, contact Russell Kelly, russell@argyleumc.org, 940-597-1505.

Watoto

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Watoto means “The Children”, and these children are on a mission. Through their inspirational songs and compelling stories, the Watoto Children’s Choir is spreading a message of hope for Africa’s children.

In 1994, Gary and Marilyn Skinner were moved with compassion concerning the critical orphan crisis in Uganda. As a result, Watoto Child Care Ministries was established as an outreach of Kampala Pentecostal Church. Today, Watoto is caring for over 1500 parentless children by providing physical, emotional, educational and spiritual care.



The choir’s music and multimedia presentation is a soulful fusion of gospel and contemporary African style. Dressed in colorful costume, the children’s enthusiastic song and energetic dance has moved audiences worldwide.

*Performing at Argyle UMC
Sunday, Dec. 13th
8:30, 10:00 and 11:15 am*

The goal of Watoto is to raise the next generation of Ugandan leaders by pursuing excellence in academic and practical skills, integrity in conduct and moral values, so that each child becomes a responsible and productive citizen.

Since 1994, the Watoto Children’s Choirs have toured internationally as ambassadors for orphan children in Uganda. “Concerts of Hope” inform people of Watoto’s vital work and afford audiences the opportunity to participate in restoring hope and dignity to some of Africa’s most needy children.



By Nathan Bryant
Minister to Students



Seasons greetings! How awesome is it to be just weeks away from the day we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! I mean, all that we seem to focus on – our needs, our pain, the trials of this world – seem to fade into their rightful place when we consider how much God must have loved us to send His one and only son into this sinful, cruel world so that we could find graceful redemption through faith in Him and His life given in place of our own.

Over the past month and a half, our Sunday Night Live crew has been working through one of the very best books I have ever read in dealing with the Christian faith. *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan has been challenging, enlightening and a very positive read for all of us. It is from this book that my inspiration for this month's article comes.

Question: Would you consider yourself a balanced person?

Ponder the different areas of your life where balance is needed – time, energy, money, work, play and your emotions. Now I ask again, are you properly balanced?

Allow me to move this question to another subject. When it comes to your relationship with God, how balanced are you between being intimate with Him and being reverent toward Him? I believe we all lean one way more than the other, and this is only natural. However, finding a balance is the most appropriate response we can make in light of what the scriptures tell us. Is God more your friend that you can talk to easily, even carelessly at times? Or is He to you the one who created the world, reigns in heaven and resides in a difficult place for you to find a true "relationship" with?

God is both – our creator, the King of all with limitless power and wisdom, but also a very real someone who wants a relationship with us. He wants to communicate with us and for that communication to be two-way. This Christmas season, as we consider the infant in the manger, I challenge you to consider where you might fall on the balance beam linking intimacy and reverence. The same God that created the stars in the sky you will see tonight loves you and I so much that He was willing to send that precious infant into our world to teach us and save us.

God bless you and your family this month. May the peace of Christ warm your hearts and your homes.

Until next month, let's remain...

In Him,

Nathan Bryant
nathan@argyleumc.org 940-594-1062

Christmas holidays note: There will be no Sunday school on Dec. 27, no STUWO on Wednesdays Dec. 23 and 30, and no SNL on Dec. 27.

Upcoming Events

December 2009 – Project Christmas (we've adopted 4 families for Christmas)

Spring Retreats for guys and girls, middle school and high school

Summer mission trips to Mexico, Oklahoma and San Antonio



Celebrations - Birthdays & Anniversaries



1	Bridget Moseley	25	Kaitlyn Keller
2	Caroline Jenkins, Tyler Eveleth	26	Addison Ward, Jarett Johnson, Luke Lyles, Mason Hindman, Ruth Fryer
3	Bill Buser, Blake Skaggs	27	Bill Baker, David Bullock, Elizabeth Fryer, Kim Hand, Tom Harrington
4	Abbye McKinney, Steve Austin	28	Gabby McCloud
5	David Peak, Lynda Mathis, Scarlett Perritt	29	Michele Kellar
6	Dylan Gumbert		
7	Garrett Clarke, Jolie Friess		
8	Doc Clegg, Rex McMurry, Seth Jones		
9	Carol Merka, Liz Dinkins, Ryan Ruehle	Brian and Stephanie Hall	1
10	Pat Wellborn	Charlie and Adele Foster	1
11	Austin Bergstrom, Jayne Marshall	Chad and Melissa Miller	8
12	Pam Ruehle	Tim and Mechelle McKinney	8
13	Darcy Hunt, Kim Crawford, Lizzie Lauder, Patricia Baker, Rick Smith, Shannon Gee	David and Denise Fuller	16
16	Avery Austin, Robert Perkins	Randy and Phyllis Clark	19
17	Michael Mead	Brad and Cari Lowry	19
18	Rixey Boyd	Todd and Natalie Mead	19
19	Austin Stoops, Kelli Stoops	Chris and Lacey Herring	20
21	Holly Hunt, Nick Lewis	Kirby and Vicky Taylor	20
22	Carrie Aune, Fred Walsh, Mike Block, R.A. Little	Larry and Vickie Van Drunen	20
23	Bill King, Glenn Woodard, Karla Rogers	Steve and Stacy Gee	21
25	Ellie Stobaugh	Dick and Natalie Hill	21
26	Jim Tegner, Stephanie McClure, Whitney Schoultz	Harry and Mary Jo Nelson	23
		George and Mala Bowdouris	27
		Bill and Jan King	28
		Stanley and Sarah Schermerhorn	30

Todd Mead
Pastor of Spiritual Formation



What comes to mind if I were to bring up the topic of Spiritual Disciplines? I am not sure many people think much about spiritual disciplines. Some may think it is just a way to create a to do list for attempting to become spiritual.

This is really not the case at all. Spiritual disciplines are a very important process for you and I to develop intentional practices to become more like Jesus. They help us order our lives in such a way that we can experience the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

If I ask you to name some spiritual disciplines, many would mention prayer and bible study. These are disciplines but are only a few of many others. I want to encourage you to pursue two spiritual disciplines this month. Here they are. The spiritual disciplines of gratitude and servanthood. Let me explain both just a little.

The discipline of gratitude develops a grateful heart. This is a simple exercise and can have profound results for you and those around you everyday. What is it that you are grateful for? How does God bless your life everyday? It is very easy to overlook the fact that we are a blessed people. If we are not careful, we can get caught up in the worldly practice of **consumerism**. **When we do that we focus on what we don't have** or what others have that we think we need or want. This distracts us from seeing how God provides and blesses us.

Make a list of the things in your life that you are grateful for. Start to take inventory, if you will, of all the ways God has and continues to bless you. Thank God for these things. Let others in your life know about your gratitude for them. Be open to the **Spirit's work of growing in you, a heart of gratitude. It will bless you and those around you.**

Servanthood is another discipline that shapes us into the image of Christ. **If you remember, Jesus said, "I did not come to be served but to serve". If anyone deserved to be served, it was Jesus, but he chose to serve others.**

The holidays can be very hectic and we can get consumed with our to do lists. Our busyness keeps us from enjoying the season and often keeps us from experiencing the reason for Christmas. I am not giving you something else to do. I am suggesting



Many thanks again to the Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open **Doors Sunday school class for putting together AUMC's** photo directory this year. Shown above (sitting L-R clockwise) are Buster and Terry Rosser, Mary Ann Finley, Margaret Anne Crumbie, Davie Lloyd, Maureen Lehrer. Standing L-R are Eldon Reynolds, Gloria and Guy McElroy. More information about this class is available on the next page. The photo directories are available to everyone, and are located at the Welcome Center.

you find some simple ways in the everyday rhythms of your life to serve someone. It can be simple. The idea here is to put the focus on others and not on us. That is really what service is about. It teaches us to be selfless instead of selfish.

Remember Jesus this holiday season. But as you remember him, try to model his behavior. Live this season with hearts of gratitude. Grateful to the Father for his love and grace. Then give that love and grace away to someone by serving them in the name of Christ.

Peace,
Todd

todd@argyleumc.org 940-595-8384

Adult Sunday School

These classes are held Sundays from 10:00—11:00 am in the portable buildings located on the south side of the building.

Portable Building #1.
Genesis. Led by Todd Mead, 940-464-1333, todd@argyleumc.org.

Portable Building #3.
Families of Faith. For families of mostly elementary-aged school children. Contact David Young or Mike Norwood.

Portable Building #4.
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors. Although this class welcomes everyone, it is mostly made up of people in their **60's and beyond.** We are engaged in an Advent study during the month of December. We are using James Moore's book "What Do You Want for Christmas." Come join us in Portable 4 at 9:45 am for good fellowship and discussion. Contact Alan Albarran or Jan King.

This class is held Sundays from 11:15 am —12:15 pm in the portable buildings located on the south side of the building.

Portable Building #3.
Parents of Teens. Led by Minister to Students Nathan Bryant and Adult Spiritual Formation Minister Todd Mead. This is a great time for these parents to meet since youth will have Sunday school during this timeframe.

This class is held Sundays from 5:00—6:30 pm in the portable buildings located on the south side of the building.

Portable Building #3.
Footprints. This class, for young couples with or without children, focuses its studies on the books of the Bible, life-application of the scriptures, and marriage and relationship development. They participate in First Friday of the Month socials, a New Year's Party, group attendance at special worship services throughout the year and summer get-togethers. The curriculum for the 2009—2010 year are: *The Open Table, Invitation to Know God, Experiencing God and*

Eclipsing Empire—Living the Questions. Childcare provided. Interested? Contact Contact Cyne' Hindman or footprints@argyleumc.org.



STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATE by Todd Mead

We continue to move forward in the process of starting our Stephen Ministry. After receiving applications and interviewing Stephen Ministry applicants we have invited 16 people to go through our first training. The interest and quality of our applicants is very exciting. The leadership team believes the response of 16 people is a clear indication of the need for this important ministry.

On January 10th we will introduce these sixteen individuals and pray for them in our 11:15 worship time. On January 11th this group will start a 50-hour training process to prepare and equip them for ministry. This is a huge commitment for each of them to make and we are asking you to be praying for them. Here is the list of individuals, please encourage them in this process and be praying to God would use them in a mighty way to minister to those who are hurting and need to experience the reality of God's love.

Beverly Albarran
Jan Barnett
Margie Bonner
Shelli Dyer
Alisa Grande
Dave Grande
Celia Hawk
Denise Jenkins
Bill King
Judy McAlister
Paul Nathan
Kelly Perritt
John Sandel
Jeannette Scruggs
Elaine Shady
Pat Wellborn

Adult Small Groups

EXERCISE AT THE CHURCH. The exercise class meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00—9:00 am at the church. This class is intermediate/advanced, but there are beginner modifications that are simple to do. If you're interested, call Lynda Mathis..

GRIEF SUPPORT. Every 1st and 3rd Sunday from 4:00—5:00 pm in the pastor's office.

MEN'S LESSONS-N-LUNCH. Wednesdays at 12:00 pm in the church conference room, except for the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. We will be studying *Life and Times of Elijah*. Contact Larry Chiles at 972-523-7215 or larry@larrychiles.com.

MOTORCYCLE MINISTRY. Fellowship through motorcycle interests and rides. We will meet (weather permitting) the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm. Contact Greg Bristow.

MEN'S GROUP. The Men's Group meets every third Sunday of the month at 8:00 am at Snooty Pig Restaurant in Argyle. Please join us! Questions? Please contact Chris Rosprim at chris@texasrealty.com.

MEN'S THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY. We are studying Advent meditations from the writings of Henri Nouwen. All men are invited to join us Thursdays from 6:30—7:30 am in the church conference room. Contact Dana Bolin at 940-246-0245 or dtbolin@grandecom.net.

FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP. This group of mostly empty-nesters is studying *Christmas from the Backside* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. We meet Mondays from 6:30—8:00 pm in the conference room. Each lesson is stand-alone, so please come join us at any time. You can contact Pat Wellborn at 940-765-9095 or pat@argyleumc.org if you have any questions.

AUMC CIRCUIT RIDERS. This bicycling ministry includes Rob Arruda, Stuart White, Don Fryer, Charlie Foster, and others. They ride for fun and for particular charities. Contact Charlie Foster.

ROMANS STUDY. Rev. Jim Kayler will facilitate an 8-week *Short-Term Disciple Study* of Romans beginning Monday, Jan. 11th from 6:30—8:00 pm in the conference room. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Kayler at jekayler@yahoo.com or 940-262-0393.

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY. After thought and prayer, the Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study has a new name—*Mary's & Martha's Women's Bible Study*. I believe the name suits us well as women. At times we sit at the feet of Jesus like Mary and at times we're too busy to sit at all, like Martha. However, both women displayed great love and faith in Jesus. Therefore our name is founded upon John, chapter 11 as they believed in Jesus, confessed him as the Christ and followed his teaching. May we be such women!

As the holidays are approaching, we are celebrating the Christmas season by having our Annual Christmas Brunch. This year our brunch is at Stacy Gee's home in Tour 18 on Thursday, December 10th from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Please come for fellowship and bring a dish to share. In previous years, we've had a game of exchanging gifts. However, this year we are asking everyone to pick up an angel off the angel tree to help those who are truly in need of a gift.

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY. Thousands of women have found Freedom—have you? *Breaking Free* is Beth Moore's life message about freedom in Christ. Through scripture you will discover the transforming power of Christian freedom. Enjoy Beth Moore's updated member book along with 11 new video teaching sessions. This is a 10-week study beginning Wednesday, January 13 at 6:30 pm at the home of Jeannine Pooley. If you would like to know more, please contact Jeannine.

SENIOR'S GAME TIME. Calvin and Millie Clark are putting together a game time for seniors here at AUMC. If you would like to play cards, dominoes and you enjoy fun and fellowship, contact the Clark's.



Yes, dear. I'll be sure to pick up goodies at the Bake Sale at AUMC on Sunday Dec. 13th and 20th. Yes, dear, I'll be sure they make their way home to you and the elves!

Grace Notes

By Rev. Joe Stobaugh
Associate Pastor, Cantor and Curator of Worship

Hello! As I write this article something amazing is happening—**it's SNOWING!!! This morning my soul** was refreshed, renewed, and, in some sense, re-set by the majesty and mystery of God's creation as I watched little Sam experience the pure joy of snow for the first time this morning. I woke Ellie up with the news that God had given us an early Christmas present, and I wish you could have seen her joy when she looked outside and saw the snow.



There's something about an unexpected weather event like snow that can wake us out of our routines, if we allow its mystery to work in us.

So it can also be with music! Through the miracle of sound we can be brought to worship in Spirit and Truth. Worship, is **what it's all about!** We are called this season to worship the Lord of the Universe, the King of Kings, the Prince of Peace who was born in a manger.

Do you feel the excitement? The anticipation? The adoration that comes from experiencing the transcendent presence of God?

As we continue our Advent journey and then move to Christmas and Epiphany, we begin our yearly journey through the life of Christ together anew. What a blessing it is to celebrate the life of Christ and to participate in what God is doing here in Argyle and in the wider world together!

In addition to the anticipation that comes with the beginning of the liturgical year, I am also filled with anticipation for what God has in store for us in this coming year.

As we prepare to welcome Christ into the world again and to anticipate his second coming, I hope that you are waiting for the Lord with expectancy in your heart, that you are waiting actively. Don't miss the opportunity this year to live life to the

fullest! Get involved, go where God is nudging you! It's never

too late to get in on what God is doing—heck, you could even join the choir!

Have a blessed, God-filled, Advent and Christmas!
Rev. Joe Stobaugh
joe@argyleumc.org 940-464-1333

THANK YOU. Great thanks to our Banner Team—Dona Sherwin, Donna Fox, Sarah Schermerhorn and Jane Kayler—for the absolutely exquisite Christmas worship banners they spent over 2000 hours creating for our sanctuary!



By Pat Wellborn
Congregational Care

Season of Christ at AUMC Year Round



This has been an incredibly awesome, Spirit-filled year for AUMC.

Within the congregational care ministry alone, we have kept in touch weekly with our homebound adults by **sending them sermon CD's, flowers, greeting cards** from the staff and home visits by our homebound volunteers.

Our ministers—pastoral and lay—have made themselves available to be with our members who are ill and in the hospital.

What's even more awesome is that the spirit and true intent of the Christmas season is so evident in this congregation throughout the entire year. Our congregation—adults, youth and children—has supplied the Argyle Food Bank with thousands of pounds of food this year and we have gone out into the world helping people in Mississippi, Mexico and Oklahoma with rebuilding and repairing homes. We have nurtured and helped here in our community and in the local area, as well.

Our church has also seen many needs for help during this difficult economic time. This year alone we have written checks for close to \$3,000 for utility, gas and living assistance to thirteen **"walk-in" families, three of which came here within the past two days.**

Plus, the generosity of the Argyle community through the Angel Tree program (one of our Faithworx mission recipients) will reach 45 Argyle families and senior citizens (91 children) this year.

Beyond that, one of our Sunday school classes and our youth ministry are supplying gifts, food and living needs for five **Denton County families with 14 children.** That doesn't even count the individual AUMC families who are adopting families for Christmas this year.

Your continuing giving to the charity fund and your continuing commitment to local, area and global volunteerism through this church body is always needed and appreciated. We know God will bless you for what you do for all His children. *The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'* Matthew 25:40

Stay up-to-date and involved through our Faithworx mission team's chosen charities for our church. You can see what we, as a church body, have already done during the month of November as well as what current projects are planned for us in the next couple of months on Page 8 of this newsletter.

This quote by Quaker poet, John Greenleaf Whittier, sums up the season of Christ very well.

Somehow, not only for Christmas,
But all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others,
Is the joy that comes back to you.
And the more you spend in blessing
The poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing
Returns to you glad.

God bless you during this Season of Christ!

Pat Wellborn
pat@argyleumc.org 940-765-9095

PLEASE PRAY FOR. **Kay Clark's sister, Nancy, recovering from a stroke.**



Calvin and Millie Clark, shown above, are Zero Heroes as they, along with other members of their AUMC Sunday school class, ring bells for the Salvation Army at a Denton grocery store. They are all wonderful representatives of the loving hearts of our membership.

CHILDREN'S

MINISTRY



STEP INTO GOD'S KINGDOM

Our mission: To share and teach the love of Christ to children and their families.



We are blessed to welcome back the Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda to perform at AUMC on Sunday, December 13th at all three services. Watoto means "The Children". The children of the choir are among the 1.8 million boys and girls in Uganda who have had the tragic experience of losing one or both of their parents to AIDS or war. The Watoto "Concert of Hope" is an energetic fusion of contemporary gospel and traditional African rhythm – truly a colorful and lively demonstration of the life-changing love of God. Come experience the hope and joy of the Watoto Children's Choir. For more information see www.watoto.com. If you and your family would like to be a host home to 2 children and one adult on Saturday, December 12th, please contact Liz.

MISSION POSSIBLE: CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AUCTION 2009.

Thank you to all the many people who helped in a myriad of ways to make our 2009 Children's Ministry such a wonderful success, not to mention a great time! Our gross for the auction is close to \$18,000.00!

We are overwhelmed this year by the generosity of local vendors and church members. We want to thank everyone that contributed auction items, donated time to setting up and preparing for the auction, and for all of you that participated in any way. Special thanks to our awesome emcees, Nathan Bryant & Joe Stobaugh; Chad & Melissa Miller who transformed pieces of the old church into beautiful collectibles; and our auction team - Kim Hand, Kristy Johnston, Elaine White & Tonya Newell.

Our children are truly blessed that they have a community that is dedicated to helping them with their spiritual foundation. Please see the auction pictures on Page 19. Would you please be sure to thank all the contributing businesses shown on Page 7 for their generosity?

By Liz Edwards

Dir. of Children's Ministries

liz@argyleumc.org

940-464-1333 (church office)

940-453-9444 (cell)



Christmas Around the World

This Advent Season we will be looking at the ways Christmas is celebrated in different countries and cultures around the world. As the Gospel spread throughout the world, people took to heart the message that "God is with us" and the scriptures were then interpreted in reflection of the local cultures. We have a special treat on December 13, when the Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda will be our guests. They will be singing in the worship services and coming to Sunday School for part of the 10 am hour to visit with our classes. Be sure on the 13th to take your child to either the 8:30 or 11:15 worship service so they can hear the service as well as visit with these special guests.

Scripture: Matthew 1:1 - 2:23 and Luke 1:1 – 2:38.

Memory Verse: *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.* Luke 2:11

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOM SCHEDULE

	K	1 st & 2 nd	3 rd	4 th
Nov. 29	Movie-108	Games-105	Drama-106	Computer-100
Dec. 6	Games-105	Movie-108	Computer-100	Drama-106
Dec. 13	Drama-106	Computer-100	Movie-108	Games-105
Dec. 20	Computer-100	Drama-106	Games-105	Movie-108
Dec. 27	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY!			

Teachers: Older 2's and 3's (3 by Dec.31, 2009), Rm. 103, Kelly Perritt, Kelly Hawkins & Carly Hawk. Pre-K , Rm 104, Cyne Hindman & Jennifer West. Rotation shepherds: Kindergarten, Nicole Hackett & Kristy Johnston; 1st grade, Dona & Bill Perkins; 2nd grade, Jo Ellen Bergstrom; 3rd grade, Kathy Wright & Tamra Allison; 4th grade, Tracey Portz & Chris Funck. Movie: ,Darren & Stacie Schnabel, David & Jennifer Bullock, Steve & Shannan Christo, Roger & Sue Santone; Computer, Steve & Mary Betzhold, George & Kelly Dunham, Drama, Harold & Dana Ratcliff, Jeff Bergstrom; Game, Steve & Adrienne Austin, Allan & Bonnie Bundens; Zone 56, Portable 6, Tom & Pam Keenan, Julie Sheridan.



ZONE 56. This ministry for 5th & 6th graders includes Sunday school and weekday praise, missions, Bible study, snack supper, and fun. We meet Sunday mornings at 10:00 am and Wednesday evenings from 6:30—8:00 pm in portable #6. If you have a 5th or 6th grader, be sure they come get in the ZONE! Parents, please contact Liz Edwards at 940-464-1333 or liz@argyleumc.org to sign up as a Zone 56 helper.

The Zone 56 volunteer schedule is as follows:

- Dec. 2—WOW Night. Lead: Kelli Stoops; Snack Supper: Suzanne Pilawski, Brenda Mooney
- Dec. 9—Missions. Lead: Elaine White; Helper: Adrienne Austin; Snack Supper: Dana Ratcliff, Kay Graff
- Dec. 16—Christmas Caroling.
- Dec. 23 and 30—No Zone 56.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH DECEMBER SCHEDULE. There is no Children's Church on Sundays Dec. 6, 13 and 27. Mike Livingston leads Children's Church on Sunday Dec. 20.

MISSION POSSIBLE KIDS. Our awesome Mission Possible Agents are having their monthly meeting on Dec. 2nd from 6-7 pm in Mission Possible Headquarters, aka Portable #3. On Wednesday Dec. 16th we will be Christmas caroling and distributing the goodies we have made to invite our neighbors to our Christmas Eve services. All kids in grades 1-4 are invited to join us as we help change the world.

In November the Mission Possible Agents made Bandanna Buddies to send to orphans in Honduras. We learned that there are over 180,000 orphans in Honduras, many who live in city dumps. Our Bandanna Buddies were prayed over and made with love to be hand delivered by Orphan Outreach. We hope you enjoy the pictures shown below.



We're proud of our Mission Possible kids for their love in making dolls for orphan children in Honduras. The picture at the bottom right shows them praying over the dolls.



Mission Possible - Raising \$18K for Children's Programming!



FINANCE MATTERS.

2009 Operating Budget

\$908,017.00

Total giving through Nov. 30th towards Operating Budget

\$792,188.42



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays
 8:30—Traditional
 with congregational hymns
 10:00—Contemporary
 with intersect band
 11:15 am—Traditional
 with chancel choir

Student Worship
 Sunday: 6:00 pm—SNL
 (High School)
 Wednesday: 7:00 pm—S7UW8
 (7th & 8th)

Our Mission

Seeking and Feeding the Spiritually Hungry

Our Vision

SEEK: Introducing People to Jesus
 GROW: Growing Spiritual Redwoods for Jesus
 SERVE: Relieving Suffering as Jesus Did

Ministry Team

SENIOR PASTOR
 Rev. Kory Knott

MUSIC MINISTRY
 Rev. Joe Stobaugh, Assoc. Pastor
 Curator and Cantor
 Anastasia Markina, Pianist
 Alex Ross, Music Associate

YOUTH MINISTRY
 Nathan Bryant
 Karla Rogers, Assistant

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
 Liz Edwards, Director
 Kim Hand, Assistant
 Lauren Anders, Nursery Coordinator

CHILDREN'S PRESCHOOL
 Kelli Stoops, Director

FACILITIES MANAGER
 Russell Kelly

ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION
 Todd Mead

CONGREGATIONAL CARE
 Pat Wellborn
 Rev. James Kayler

OFFICE MINISTRY
 Tammie Nuoci, Office
 Valerie Donahue, Finances

MEDIA MINISTRY
 Matthew Kelling, Director
 Adam Bell
 David Laschinger
 Carter Low
 Mike Livingston
 Bill Reaves

OFFICE HOURS
 Monday—Thursday
 8:30 am—5:00 pm

