

# The Vine



“I am the vine, you are the branches ...”  
 John 15:5

The newsletter of Bellaire United Methodist Church, 4417 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire, TX 77401

713-666-2167 www.bellaireumc.org

**BELLAIRE**  
 United Methodist Church  
 Connecting People

## CHURCH STAFF

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 Rev. Jim Welch.....District Superintendent  
 Members of BUMC.....Ministers  
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 Rev. Valerie Hudson.....Assoc. Pastor  
 Rev. Diane McGehee.....Assoc. Pastor  
 David Lee..... Director of Music Ministries  
 Heidi Zech.....Director of Discipleship  
 Michael Ervin.....Director of Youth Ministries  
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 Rhonda Sampiere ..... Director of Weekday Ministries  
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 Bea Johns .....Communications Coordinator  
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 Whitney Joseph .....Building Staff Coordinator  
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 Jose Pascual.....Building Staff  
 Rosana Reyes.....Building Staff

## RAMBLINGS FROM RICK:

Proverbs 9:1-16  
 Verse 6—”Lay aside immaturity, and live and walk in the way of insight.”

Life is about making choices. Anytime you make a choice, you choose against something else. That means that there are consequences to the choice we make. But, we live in a culture that believes there should be no consequences. This is a child’s viewpoint, not that of a rational adult. Our choices do indeed have consequences.

Also, our belief system can be ascertained by the choices we make. There are certainly an abundance of lifestyles and values from which to choose. I think back to a time when our

choices were fairly simple. For instance, which do we choose to participate in youth baseball or a church activity. When I was growing up it was a simple decision. Church activities took place on Sunday and Wednesday. Baseball took place after school on Tuesday and Thursdays; and games were played on Saturday. No conflict. Today even the sacred days are being used for all sorts of activities. I once lived in a community where a softball tournament was scheduled on Easter weekend. Needless to say the churches protested, but to no avail. We live in a diverse and divergent society. Increasingly we are forced to make choices. What kind of choices are you making? Are you able to live with the consequences? Remember, consequences do not always show up immediately. The choice you make will say something about who you are.

Grace and Peace

Rick

## SUNDAY WORSHIP AT BELLAIRE UMC

April 20, 2008 5th Sunday of Easter

Rev. Rick Hume  
 “Jesus and the Father Are One”  
 John 14:1-14

### Traditional Worship

“The Call”

The Sanctuary Choir

Contemporary Worship

One Voice

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 Contemporary Worship-FLC

9:30 Sunday School

10:30 Fellowship Time

10:55 Traditional Worship-Sanctuary

11:00 Asian Worship-Chapel

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A UNITED METHODIST  
 CONGREGATION





**SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL-"Power Lab"**

Join us June 16- 20 for this year's Vacation Bible School. Registration is available on line (www.bellaireumc.org) for ages 4 (by June 1) through those who have completed 5th grade. There are many volunteer opportunities. The cost is \$25 per child. Join us!

**POWER CAMP 2008-July 7 through August 1  
"God Is The Power"**

Power Camp is a summer day camp ministry of Bellaire United Methodist Church. We are proud to offer this program to its members and the surrounding community. Power Camp teaches children to have fun in a positive Christian way through arts, crafts, music, field trips and more. For information/registration go to www.bellaireumc.org.

**CAMP INVENTION-August 11-15**

Camp Invention is a summer day camp that is being held at BUMC for children entering grades 1-6. Register on line at www.campinvention.org or by calling 800-968-4332. There are also forms available at the "Little White School House" in the church hallway.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

Bellaire United Methodist Church UMW will meet in the Parlor at 9:30 am on Saturday morning, April 19. Childcare and Continental Breakfast provided.

Carolyn and Dick Shell, our very own Red Cross celebrities (see the Houston Area Red Cross Homepage: <http://www.houstonredcross.org/>) will present a short program about the Red Cross. They will speak about Clara Barton and the history of the American Red Cross, as well as share with us some of their own experiences as members of the Red Cross Disaster Action Team and give us some hurricane preparedness information. Please come and catch up with what all of our Women's Ministries have been doing since our last meeting in January, chat with friends you may not have seen recently and enjoy our program on the American Red Cross!

**Spiritual Life**

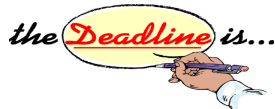
On Thursday, May 1, our country sets aside time with intention to pray. We call this the National Day of Prayer. This day has been in existence since 1952 when a joint resolution of Congress and President Truman established a national day of prayer. In 1988, President Reagan set May 1 as the day each year we come together as a nation and offer prayers for our families, our communities and our country. You can learn more about the National Day of Prayer from the website, [www.ndptf.org](http://www.ndptf.org)

Two years ago, as part of the preparation for *CityFest with Luis Palau*, Suzette Caldwell, one of the pastors at Windsor Village United Methodist Church, wrote prayers with Scripture documentation, for each area of concern regarding the city of Houston. Thousands of people across the city prayed in one accord for 90 days before the festival. As you may remember, CityFest was a huge success with over 250,000 people coming to Christ during the CityFest weekend. Many people worked very hard to bring that weekend to fruition; however, mostly it was the power of faithful prayers lifted to God that catapulted the success. God, indeed, does hear and answer our prayers and especially when we pray in one accord (Acts 2:1).

Suzette has blessed our city again with Scripture based prayers that she wrote for the month of April leading up to the NDOP on May 1. You may pick up your copy at tables in the Narthex, by the Sunday School House and in the office. The prayer guides include complete directions, a calendar so that we are all praying in one accord, and ample space to record your reflections and revelations. I am excited about what God will say to us as we read Scripture and lift these prayers to Him during the month of April. Stay tuned for more on BUMC's May 1 prayer watch.

Our focus verse for this week reassures us of the importance of daily prayer in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His Will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. 1 John 5:14-15**



**Newsletter articles for the next Vine are due April 17, 2008 by 5 PM.**

**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Recruitment and interviews for the fall class (late August/early September) will be going on in April and May. For information or questions please contact Lee Entsminger at 713-662-3291.



**Francisca Ngouanfou joined BUMC on April 13, 2008.**

**Welcome Our New Members Dick Wood joined BUMC on April 13, 2008.**

**START PRACTICING!**

Our new Pastor, Jim Flagg, and his family will need help remembering all our names. You can help by wearing your BUMC nametag every time you come to church...for worship, committee meetings, etc.

If you are a member of BUMC and need a nametag, please call Shirley Lloyd at 713-774-0500 or send her an email at Shirley@lloydhaus.com. Practice this Sunday!

### BUMC's NEW UNITY CANDLE STAND

Bellaire has received a very generous gift of a beautiful new Unity Candle Stand for use at weddings, given in memory of Bill Hochmuth, by his wife Kathy. This beautiful new brass stand has intertwined circles, symbolic of the wedding rings that couples exchange, as well as sockets for two taper candles and a base for a unity pillar candle. This is a touching and appropriate gift honoring Bill and Kathy's 50 years of marriage, and will be used for many, many years to come here at Bellaire. Thank you, Kathy, for this beautiful and meaningful gift!

#### A Note From Valerie

*23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:23-25 NIV)*

Decline in worship attendance is a statistical fact, across the United States and across denominational lines. We go to \_\_\_\_\_ when we feel like it. Our thoughts sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ regarding \_\_\_\_\_ fact that we \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ own reasons for not going. \_\_\_\_\_ people think no one will miss \_\_\_\_\_. However I assure you \_\_\_\_\_ when you gone, \_\_\_\_\_ are truly missed. Your participation in worship \_\_\_\_\_ necessary as \_\_\_\_\_ words that makes up \_\_\_\_\_ writing on this \_\_\_\_\_.

When pieces of the puzzle go missing, the picture is never complete. When words disappear from a text, all you read is gibberish. Someone recently shared that she rarely misses worship because she knows people are relying on her to serve that day. (There's that dangerous "C" word: commitment). What we miss out on, in this context and as United Methodists, is that those who come to worship and those who serve in worship are both vital to the worship experience, and in the journey of growing in faith together. The pledge to be faithful with your prayer, presence, gifts and service includes worship and our participation in it as a whole community of faith. The "no one will miss me" and the "they don't need me" attitudes miss the mark of the purpose of worship and our presence there.

Sure, things come up: work, required travel for your job, or special occasions out of town, but these should be the exception and not the rule. The presence of each individual in worship has nothing to do with statistics, it has everything to do with becoming unified in our praise of God and encouraging each other to live faithful lives all through the week. Being the body of Christ means that *all* parts of the body are valued. I pray that you spend time connecting to God during the week and will share your experience and presence with us on Sunday.

Serving Christ together,  
Valerie  
[musictohisears.blogspot.com](http://musictohisears.blogspot.com)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**SEEKERS CLASS** (rm121/122)—Barbara O'Keefe brought out the theme of the book of Daniel, absolute loyalty to God. It was important for the Jews in exile to hear this message. We discussed the current immigration problems, and Barbara referred to a book based on a true story, Enrique's Journey. We extended happy birthday wishes to Relta Turner on Monday, April 14. Several members of the Seekers Class work at Search, and a donation was taken to be used for meals. Gerald O'Keefe will teach next Sunday.

**GIBSON CLASS**(rm125/126)-We are happy to welcome our new member, Dick Wood. What a good addition. We were pleased to have the Zumwalt's daughter, Beverly, visit us. Prayers of healing are for Jane Bowers, Ann Holland, Peggy, Ida and Jack, Bess and Bob, Betty Ridley and McDan who is receiving rehabilitation at Manor Care. The interpretation of today's lesson is don't bow down to many of the things that are happening today. Thanks, Betty, for your good lesson.

**GOOD NEWS CLASS**(rm235/236)- Our lesson from Ephesians 5 reminded us to be imitators of Christ in our self-giving. Thanks, Ann, for guiding our discussion on how we should act as children of light. Gary will teach our final lesson from Ephesians (Ch. 6) on Sunday and then we'll move on to the Gospel of John beginning April 27th. The new books are in, so be sure to pick one up this week if you haven't already. Remember that we'll be assembling sandwiches for SEARCH following class this week. We welcome anyone who can stay to help.

**HERITAGE CLASS** (Parlor)-In our prayers this week are Jane, Sarah, Joe and Carl. Prayers of Thanksgiving include 2 new babies, Alyssa Sue Head (Sandra and Tom's new granddaughter) and also Billie and Joe's new great niece who was born in Oklahoma last week. Thank you, Sara Griffing, for being with us on Sunday. Remember the Flower Show at Clarewood from 1 to 2:30 on Saturday, contact Mary Faye Snell for more information.

**DISCOVERY CLASS**(rm136)-It was good to see Susan Atherton in class Sunday. Next week our lesson will be the importance of naming Joseph.

**UPPER ROOM CLASS**(rm238)-The Upper Room class had its session on Adam Hamilton's "Confronting the Controversies" led by Ezra Charles. For the next two weeks Lee Entsminger will teach on "Caring Criticism: Building Bridges Instead of Walls."

**COVENANT CLASS**(rm139)-Join us for our study of Acts. Please read Acts 8:4-25.

**CONFIRMATION**-Pre-registration for the confirmation class of 2008-2009 is occurring now. Please email Tom Black at [tblack13@gmail.com](mailto:tblack13@gmail.com) or go to the BUMC website for information.

### CHURCH ETERNAL

Our sympathy to the family of Fred Sullins. Fred passed away March 30, 2008.

**"Created by God"** planning and information meeting for parents of current 4th and 5th graders. Sunday, April 20, Parlor, 4PM. Bring your kids to meet the Youth Director and play games in the gym. Call Debbie for more information or email [dfocke@aol.com](mailto:dfocke@aol.com).

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday -Thursday** 8:30 am -5:00 pm  
**Friday** 8:30 am - 12:00 noon

**CHURCH BUILDING HOURS**

**Sunday** 7:00 am - 8:00 pm  
**Monday - Friday** 7:30 am - 9:00 pm  
**Saturday** 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Church phone** 713-666-2167  
**School for Little Children** 713-666-1111  
**Fax** 713-663-6397  
**BUMC website** www.bellaireumc.org  
**BUMC youth email** youth@bellaireumc.org  
**BUMC information** info@bellaireumc.org

*In case of emergency contact the pastor on call  
at 713-666-2167 ext 142*

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**Our Ministry of Presence and Offerings for April 13, 2008**

Sunday School Attendance	330
UMY	20
8:30 am Contemporary Worship	123
10:55 am Traditional Worship	150
11:00 am Asian Worship	62
<b>TOTAL</b> Worship Attendance	<b>335</b>
Visitors	10
Received into Membership 2008	3

**2008 STEWARDSHIP RESULTS**

**271 PLEDGES \$914,968.04**  
**Thank you for your support. Commitment cards and EMIM cards are available in the church office. Reminder: please write separate checks for Capital Campaign and Budget.**

<b>2008 Budget –Proposed</b>	<b>\$1,328,667.00</b>
Budgeted Pledges and Receipts	1,196,323.04
Amount Rec'd Sunday April 13	18,315.06
Received through 15 Sundays	336,025.93
Budget Expenditures through 15 Sundays	333,514.04
<b>Capital Funds</b> Pledges to Date	972,112.89
Capital Fund Receipts to Date	948,645.59
Total Paid Out to Date	945,890.28
Designated Acct. Balances 4/14/08	112,324.56
Goal for Easter Offering	150,000.00
Easter Offering Received to Date	25,760.00