

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



CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Janice Riggle Huie.....Bishop
 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
 Norma Lowder..... Organist Emeritus
 Elenor Coursey.....Organist
 Rhonda Sampiere Director of Weekday Ministries
 Alice Clarke.....Associate Director of Weekday Ministries
 Elizabeth Lloyd.....Director of Budget and Finance
 Cathy Temple.....Dir. of Power Camp
 Bea JohnsCommunications Coordinator
 Michael Hutchinson.....Administrative Assistant
 Denise Vickery.....Nursery Coordinator
 Whitney JosephBuilding Staff Coordinator
 Jose Pacheco..... Building Staff
 Jose Pascual.....Building Staff
 Rosana Reyes.....Building Staff

RAMBLINGS FROM RICK:

Exodus 23: 20-22

I sometimes think that our culture is the only one that lives by the philosophy of, “What have you done for me lately?” I know that we often judge our relationships by that question. In a marriage—in friendships—with the church—with business—even with God, we question the value of the relationship by the here and now, not by the past and not by the future. When I am struggling with life, I wonder where God is. If things are not going well, obviously the answer is that God is gone. The interesting thing is that the people of God in the Old Testament often felt the same way. They whined about being led into the wilderness—they whined about being fed with manna and quail—they whined about the leadership of Moses and

Aaron—and they whined when they asked where God was.

In all their whining, God reminds them that He has placed an angel before them to guard them on the way and to bring them to the place He had promised. He says, “Be attentive to him and listen to him; do not rebel against him...” The comment on this scripture from **The Spiritual Formation Bible**, says, **“Think back to earlier stages in your own journey when it seemed difficult, if not impossible to go on. Remember how, in spite of overwhelming problems, emotional or financial struggles, perhaps even moral lapses, God walked with and assisted you. You made it after all. Make this promise of presence and protection the basis of grateful prayer.”**

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT BELLAIRE UMC

April 27, 2008 6th Sunday of Easter

Rev. Valerie Hudson
 “Idol Worship, Idle Worship, Ideal Worship”
 Acts 17:22-31

Lord, I do remember. In remembering, I no longer have to worry about what you are doing for me lately, for you go before me and are behind me, guiding and protecting me. **Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

Grace and Peace,
 Rick

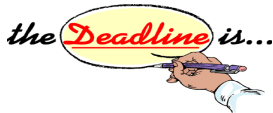
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Traditional Worship
 “I Will Not Leave You Comfortless”
 The Sanctuary Choir
 Contemporary Worship
 One Voice
 Sunday Morning Schedule
 8:30 Contemporary Worship-FLC
 9:30 Sunday School
 10:30 Fellowship Time
 10:55 Traditional Worship-Sanctuary
 11:00 Asian Worship-Chapel

A UNITED METHODIST
 CONGREGATION





Newsletter articles for the next Vine are due April 24, 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.

HOSPITALIZED

Lindsay Lambert Memorial SW

Reminder:

Vacation Bible School
Planning meeting: April 27 @ 4PM in room 123
Children's Council Leadership Team meeting: April 27 @ 5PM in room 124

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.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

The National Day of Prayer Commission has issued a challenge: Cover our country with prayer over 7 'centers of power' for 7 days a week. It is called the 7 X 7 initiative. The 7 power centers are: government, military, media, business, education, church, and family. By using our voices and praying specifically, intentionally and fervently for these areas, every day of the week, we will cover all Americans with God's awesome power through prayer. Will you accept the challenge?

The NDOP theme verse for 2008 is from Psalm 28:7

The Lord is my strength and my shield; I trust in Him and I am helped.

Let's use this as our focus verse this week.

If you have visited the NDOP website, you may have noticed a distinctly male tone to this year's campaign, using armor and a shield for the pictorial description. That is intentional on the part of the NDOP, in order to attract more men in this country into prayer. Praying men are powerful! I am so pleased and grateful to God for calling our men here at BUMC into prayer through our men's group. They meet on Wednesday nights, from 7 to 8, at the same time the women meet to pray. All of you are welcome to join either group.

Remember to mark your calendars for early Morning Prayer time on Thursday, May 1. The chapel will be open from 6 to 9 AM to provide an opportunity for you to start your day with praise and thanksgiving. There are plenty of prayer guides available. Please record your reflections and revelations as you pray. God will bless your faithfulness.



FIRST AID AND CPR TRAINING WILL BE OFFERED

CPR can save you or your loved ones life! Pools will be opening soon and children will be out in 6 weeks. Would you know how to perform CPR on a child? What about your spouse?

Children's ministry is offering CPR training (infant-adult) and first aid training this Sunday in the Parlor. We invite you to be a part of this group that wants to be ready for most situations concerning CPR/First Aid. This training is open to anyone interested.

Sunday, April 27, 12:30 PM in the Parlor

\$26 Cash per person

Please RSVP by Friday, April 25, to hzech@bellaireumc.org or 713-666-2167 x 120 or Denise Vickery dmjv@comcast.net or 713-299-3046.

SHOWDOWN ON MT. CARMEL

Elijah obeyed God and issued a challenge to Ahab and Jezebel to bring their 450 prophets of Baal and 450 prophets of Asherah and meet him—only him at Mt Carmel. There they would see whose god would answer by burning up the sacrifice. The children's choirs will present ***Elijah: God's Faithful Prophet*** on Sunday, May 18 at the 10:55 a.m. worship service. Normally the children's musical is presented on Mother's Day, but this year Pentecost Sunday falls on Mother's Day and the 2008 Confirmation Class will be received into full membership on that day.

The music for this musical is lovely, lively, and luscious, written by Mark Patterson, a very popular and accomplished composer, especially for children's voices. You won't want to miss this!

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!

SENIOR NEWS

Janice Johnston of the Seekers class has arranged our next trip on May 16th. Through her efforts we will have a guided tour of the Richmond State School. Janice will be on hand to give you her testimony about the school. Reservation lists will be available next Sunday.

MARY CIRCLE MEETING IN MAY

The Mary Circle will meet Tuesday, May 6, at 9:45 AM in room 138. Following a brief meeting we will join Martha Circle in the Parlor to enjoy a slide show presentation on "Israel & Palestine" presented by Ellen Bell. Bring a sandwich if you would like to have lunch with Martha Circle after the meeting. Looking forward to having everyone there.

Reminder: In case you have not yet paid your UMW pledge it can be turned in to Thelma Carothers that day.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

SEEKERS CLASS (rm121/122)—We enjoyed another great lesson from Gerald O'Keefe. He encouraged us to look at the laws in the Old and New Testaments. Jesus disregarded some of the old laws and taught that we are to love God and love others as ourselves. Our prayers are with Gladys Deans, having hand surgery this week, and Lavoice Smallwood requested prayers for Rev. Billy Freeman, pastor of her home church. We were glad to have Pat Pearson back in class and Pat Johnson visiting with us. Clyde Hooper will teach next week.

GOOD NEWS CLASS(rm235/236)-We looked at human relationships in comparison to our relationship with Christ, clothing ourselves with the armor of God, and finally girding ourselves with prayer. Thanks, Gary, for teaching our final lesson from Ephesians and wrapping up our study of Paul's prison letters. If everyone will return their study guides, we'll pass them along to the Resource Room so another class can use them. Our first reading from Three Months with John will be John 1 - 2:12.

HERITAGE CLASS (Parlor)-We welcomed many on our prayer list back to class today. Unfortunately others have taken their place on the list. Remember Selma, Marilyn, Mary Ann, Patsy, Linda H., Jane, Selma and Jay's friend David and family and Barbara's brother-in-law, Bill. Happy Birthday to Bill (21st). Happy Anniversary to Phyllis and Van (28th). They will be traveling. Amelia, Janie and Joe thanked us for our care and concern when they needed it. Sandra passed around baby pictures. If you missed them, just ask her!

DISCOVERY CLASS(rm136)-It was good to see Jana Andrews in class after a long absence. Next Sunday our lesson will be on the influence our mothers have had on our lives

COVENANT CLASS(rm139)-Read Acts 9 to prepare for next weeks discussion of the early church. Thank you Pete for your leadership.

NEW HORIZONS CLASS(rm220)-Jesus demands a choice: Whom will you serve? Where is God on your "to do" list? Thank you, Becki, for leading us in this challenging study of Matthew 10:34-39. Prayers of healing for Susan and her sister, Laura, for Becki, Chrissie Stone, and Gordon D. Next week: Chapter 13-"Walking in My Neighbor's Shoes."

YOUTH 9-12 GRADE-Join us Sunday as we talk about "Peace!"

YOUTH 8TH GRADE-We are watching the video "Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and discussing hardship and hope. Join us next Sunday.

CONFIRMATION CLASS-Pre-registration for the 2008-2009 Confirmation is now occurring. If you have questions please contact Tom Black at tblack13@gmail.com or look at the Confirmation tab on the BUMC website.

OUR SYMPATHY

To the children and grandchildren of McDan Fraser. He passed away on Sunday, April 20. A memorial service is pending.

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 20, 2008

Sunday School Attendance	348
UMY	18
8:30 am Contemporary Worship	145
10:55 am Traditional Worship	184
11:00 am Asian Worship	70
TOTAL Worship Attendance	399
Visitors	25
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.

2008 Budget –Proposed	\$1,328,667.00
Budgeted Pledges and Receipts	1,196,323.04
Amount Rec'd Sunday April 20	20,197.72
Received through 16 Sundays	361,000.39
Budget Expenditures through 16 Sundays	333,714.31

Capital Funds Pledges to Date	972,112.89
Capital Fund Receipts to Date	949,902.59
Total Paid Out to Date	947,394.41

Designated Acct. Balances 4/21/08 122,630.96

2008 Apportionments Needed	150,000.00
2008 Apportionments Rec'd to Date	27,075..00