

February 2017



*A Spiritual Oasis Committed to Christ,
to Peace, and to Service*

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

Newsletter

Cedar Park First UMC Choir

Submitted by Steve Howard

Music has always played an important part in United Methodist Church (UMC) worship. Methodist hymns are based on scripture and help to teach and interpret. According to the Reverend Alfred Day III, "Our theology is something we've sung. And we have sung it in a way to help us understand it and to help feel and experience it at the same time". In addition, early Methodists took their hymnals home during the week and hymns became daily devotions. Charles Wesley, the brother of Methodism's founder John Wesley, wrote thousands of hymns and poems, including beloved hymns like "Hark the Herald Angels Sing", "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" and "Christ the Lord has Risen Today".

Our own church worship services are enriched by music, whether it is solos performed by Karen Goodman, the piano virtuosity of Jodi Blount, congregational

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Rethink Leadership

Bethany UMC

**10010 Anderson Mill Road,
Austin**

9:30AM - 3:40 PM

Saturday, February 4, 2017

Please make plans to attend the **Capital District Rethink Leadership** event scheduled for February 4, 2017. The event will feature the following workshops: Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, Trustees, Financial Leadership in the Local Church, Community Development, Youth Ministry Training, Academy of Spiritual Formation, Long-term Disaster Recovery, Undoing Racism, Intergenerational Ministries, Human Trafficking, Stewardship, Social Media and Safe Sanctuaries, Lay Servant Ministry, Justice for Our Neighbors, and workshops on various United Methodist mission projects around the world.

This year's keynote speaker is **Rev. Gaston Warner**. He serves as CEO of ZOE Ministries, which has been active around the world empowering children and reducing child poverty. Since 2007, ZOE has transformed the lives of more than 30,000

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JESUS ROCK STAR CORNER

Submitted by Carolyn Smith

The Jesus Rock Stars have been enjoying their new bibles. We have been reading scriptures and studying how Jesus has asked us to become his disciples.



Kayla interviews Taylor, "How would you feel if you were able to witness Jesus' baptism?" Taylor agrees it would be beyond words. It would be one of the moments you would be speechless as the Spirit is coming down upon Jesus.

Abigail interviews Gwen, "What do you think John thought when he saw the Spirit of God coming down on Jesus?"

Gwen thought at first John was confused as to why Jesus was asking him, John to baptize Jesus because Jesus should be baptizing him. John had baptized many people and was happy to do so. But this time was truly amazing, the Spirit came down upon Jesus because of the baptizing he, John had performed.



In our disciple study we had an exciting game of Egg, Chicken, Dinosaur, Disciple.

Our **Little Jesus Rock Stars** have also been busy. We started off with the wonderful creation of God's world. Then we re-enacted the baptism of Jesus with the Spirit of God descending like a dove.



James, Kaitlyn, Tony, Josie, and Leland make stick puppets for Jesus' baptism by John.

We as adults have heard these stories many times. It is always refreshing to hear them again through the eyes and ears of our children. Come experience these stories yourself. Visitors are always welcomed.

2017 APPROVED BUDGET

Due to your continued faithfulness, we are able to give staff raises again this year, as well as, provide funds for the youth and children's ministries. You have again opened your hearts with your pledges and donations; therefore, I would like to reveal the Finance Committee budget report for 2017.

CEDAR PARK FIRST UMC 2017 APPROVED BUDGET

GIVING:	
PLEDGES	190,821
UNPLEDGED GIVING	43,169
FUNDRAISING	3,200
BLDG. USE	3,500
DESIGNATED 2FOR20	2,900
MISSION GIVING	6,100
TOTAL	249,690
EXPENSES:	
Administration	10,431
Adult Education	500
Youth	7,865
Children	2,500
Apportionments	21,355
Mission Giving	6,100
Pastor	80,404
Assoc. Pastor	23,272
Staff	24,275
Mortgage	35,040
Hospitality	1,450
Insurance	7,959
Janitorial	5,728
Maintenance	6,000
Lawn Care	3,600
ResearchPest & Alarm System	1,705
Office Equipment	306
Door Locks	300
Tree Treatment	600
Utilities	8,000
Worship	2,300
TOTAL	249,690

Glenda Morrison, Finance Committee

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orphans and vulnerable children in Rwanda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Liberia, India, and Guatemala.

SCHEDULE

9:30 - 9:50 AM	Gathering
10:00 - 11:00 AM	Key Note Presentation
11:10 - 12:10 PM	Workshop #1
12:10 - 1:30 PM	Lunch Break
1:30 - 2:30PM	Workshop #2
2:40 - 3:40PM	Workshop #3

The event is free. Registration is suggested. Go to capitaldistrictumc.org for more information.

Endowment Fund Grants Available

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church has a Permanent Endowment Fund whose purpose is to provide funds via grants for

1. Current and future ministries of the local Church,
2. Special mission projects locally and beyond the local Church,
3. Unusual expenses for the maintenance, repair, alteration, and replacement of the real and personal property owned by the Church.

The Permanent Endowment Fund will not be used for those parts of the Church's established programs which are normally included in the operating budget and which are funded through the regular giving of its members.

The total amount of such grants is limited by the guidelines of the Permanent Endowment Fund to "4% of the three year rolling average of the portfolio market value." This amount is currently about \$1500 annually.

If you would like to apply for an Endowment Fund grant for 2017, please contact Glenda Morrison for a grant request form.

Trustees Complete Accessibility Improvements

Our Trustees completed accessibility upgrades to the Sanctuary building in January. This was a yearlong project following the accessibility audit performed in January of 2016. The final components of the accessibility upgrades were installing lever-action stall door handles and lever-action faucets in both restrooms. Both of these components comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 1990) requirements and should provide easier accessibility



Dan McNichol took care of the stall door levers. Dan had previously upgraded the main doors to push/pull access panels rather than doorknobs.



The restroom faucets were sourced by Neil Howard and installed by Michael Pospisil. The single lever faucets should be easier to operate for everyone.

Thanks also to Dave Sidney who had earlier located the problem in the electric insta-hot water system and repaired it. We now have hot water in both restrooms. Thanks, Dave!



A Child's Haven Happenings

Submitted by Lesley Foyt

We are off to a great 2017 at a Child's Haven! January was spent learning about winter weather and activities. We started off the month by learning about polar animals. The kids created some fun artwork including penguin footprints, polar bear puffy paint and textured polar bears. Some favorite activities this month included winter hat day, pajama day and having a snowball fight with socks! The kids really enjoyed this activity, as well as sipping hot chocolate afterwards. At the end of the month we learned about different types of music and musical instruments. The children loved banging on drums, playing the xylophone and tapping the tambourines.

Our Fruit of the Spirit this month was Joy. Psalm 95:1 says: Come, let us sing for joy unto the Lord..." The children were heard singing loudly with Pastor Peter and Pastor Bonnie in chapel this month. You could definitely hear the joy in their voices. In class, teachers talked about how following Jesus puts joy into our hearts.

In February our Fruit of the Spirit will be love. We will have our Valentine parties on Feb. 14th.

Tuesday Trekkers

Submitted by Bonnie How

Many of us begin a new year with fitness goals, but often our busy lives get in the way. Experts tell us to aim for 10,000 steps per day for optimum health. What better way to help reach this goal than to walk with Tuesday Trekkers?



Tuesday Trekkers is a diverse group of walkers from our congregation who meet on Tuesday mornings at 9:15 and trek through the neighborhood surrounding CPFUMC, returning by 10:00. We enjoy walking at the

pace of the slowest trekker, conversing casually, catching up with members who attend the “other” service, and sometimes wishing neighbors a good morning, all the while painlessly working toward our fitness goals. Soon we will start noticing the wondrous signs of spring as we walk-what a great beginning to the day!



As the saying goes, “the more the merrier.” Won’t you join us on Tuesday mornings at 9:15?



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

FEBRUARY 19 IS UMW SUNDAY

Our local United Methodist Women’s group will be leading worship on Sunday, February 19. They have invited Becky Harrell, the United Methodist Missionary that our congregation supports, to be the featured preacher that day.

Becky currently serves as mission advocate for the South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. Mission advocates are missionaries assigned to assist annual conferences, districts, and local churches in the United States to understand and participate in global mission. Their work has a particular focus on mission personnel, including support of missionaries through the Advance for Christ and His Church.

Although Becky’s call to mission came as a teenager, she did not begin mission service until she entered the United Methodist Volunteers-In-Mission program, which led her to an opportunity in Iquique, Chile in 2002. Becky was commissioned as a Global Ministries missionary in October 2006, and served in Chile for seven-and-a-half years with the Colegio Inglés and EMANA projects. From 2009 to 2013, she was assigned to the Universidad Bíblica Latinoamericana in Costa Rica. Prior to mission service, Becky worked as a public library director.

Please plan on supporting our wonderful United Methodist Women and being present for worship on February 19.

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singing or performances by our sanctuary choir. "The music enhances the services in a beautiful way. Music is praying through meaningful poetry" according to choir director Jodi Blount.

Cedar Park First UMC's (CPFUMC) sanctuary choir is comprised of church members who enjoy singing and contributing to worship. The choir sings primarily during the church seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter. However, several weeks of rehearsal and practice precede these periods when the choir actually performs. The choir also performs several times a year at The Pointe, an assisted living facility in Cedar Park.

CPFUMC is blessed to have Dr. Jodi Blount as pianist and choir director. Jodi has served in those capacities since 2012. She has a doctoral in musical arts from the University of Texas at Austin and also teaches piano and music at St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Austin.



Choir members get great satisfaction and joy from participating in the choir. Par Keys says the choir is "fun as well as uplifting" and she feels "a sense of peace every time we finish a song". The choir is "fellowship, friendship and fun all the while singing a joyful noise to the Lord" according to Cynthia Lawrence.

Nancy Holmes says "Ours is a brave little choir and we try our best. Come join us. You will be welcomed, especially if you're an alto. Remember, it's all praise no matter what."

Sopranos, tenors and baritones are welcome also. You do not have to read music, but if you enjoy singing we invite you to contact Jodi Blount to learn more about joining our sanctuary choir.

Trustees to Re-Key Doors

Submitted by Neil Howard

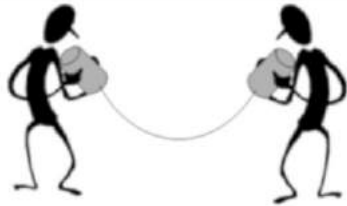
Following a couple of security incidents in 2016, the Trustees are planning to re-key all of the exterior doors in both the Sanctuary and the Multim ministries buildings. In addition, there is already a new, separate key for the church office doors in the Multi-Ministries building. If you need a key to access the exterior doors of either of these buildings or the church office, please contact Carolyn Smith (carolynsmith2215@gmail.com). Trustees are also instituting a key control process, which means that key holders will have to sign for their key and be responsible to return it when no longer needed.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

EIGHT-SESSION CLASS ON ROMANS TO BE OFFERED

Cilla Gregory will be facilitating a class on Paul's Letter to the Romans. The class will last eight weeks, beginning Wednesday, February 8, from 7-8pm. A study guide on Romans will be available for \$16. To indicate your interest in attending the class, please see the sign-up sheet on the back table in the Sanctuary.



Want to get in touch with a Church Leader or are you thinking of submitting something for a future Newsletter?

Here are some contacts:

Pastor Peter Castles
peter@cpfumc.org

Assoc. Pastor/Youth Dir. Bonnie How
bonnie@cpfumc.org

Music Director/Pianist Jodi Blount
jodi_blount@hotmail.com

Children's Haven Director Lesley Foyt
director@childshaven.net

Newsletter Editor Jill Lundstrom
lund121@me.com

You can also find us online at cpfumc.org
or call the church Tues-Thurs between 9 and 2
at this phone number: (512) 335-9540

The Red Bench



The Red Bench™
Interfaith Conversations that Matter

The Red Bench is an ongoing dialogue program designed to address one of the most pressing needs of our time: improving interfaith understanding and civil discourse in our society.

We are so excited to partner with Interfaith Action of Central Texas as hosts for the first Red Bench Cedar Park, February 15th, 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The Red Bench is an ongoing interfaith dialogue program, bringing together people from different cultural and faith backgrounds to break bread together over dinner, and enjoy safe, structured conversation on topics that matter. The topic for our evening is "Community". The UMW is providing the light, vegetarian meal of soups, salads and desserts. Various faith-based communities from Cedar Park/Leander have committed to participate by providing table hosts, spreading the word, and hosting at future dates. It's a wonderful opportunity to get to know your neighbors.

Please check out the information on our church website, post it to social media, and invite people to attend.

Contact Pastor Bonnie 512-983-7433 for more info or RSVP to <http://interfaithtexas.org/cedarpark/>

CPFUMC February 2017

See full calendar online at
<https://cpfumc.org/find-an-event/>

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church, CARE Calendar, Child's Haven Events, Choir, CP1UMC Youth, Feb 2017 (Central Time)
 Other Groups, Pumpkin Patch, SCOUTS, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 12pm - Pot Luck 6pm - Youth @	30 9am - Child's Haven 2pm - ESL - GED @ 6pm - BScouts @ 7pm - Wolf Den 158 7:30pm - Contempla	31 9am - Child's Haven 9:15am - Prayer 9:30am - Tues 10am - Bible Study 7:30pm - AA Men's	1 9am - Child's Haven 1pm - Easy Line	2 9am - Child's Haven 10:15am - Disciple 6pm - Webelos 1 6:30pm - Buckles	3 9am - ESL - GED @ 6:30pm - Alcoholics	4 7:30am - UMW LDD 8:30am - Cub Scout 9:30am - Rethink
5 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 6pm - Youth @	6 9am - Child's Haven 2pm - ESL - GED @ 6:30pm - COUNCIL 7:30pm - Contempla	7 9am - Child's Haven 9:15am - Prayer 9:30am - Tues 10am - Bible Study 11:30am - Young @ 6:30pm - GS #2101	8 9am - Child's Haven 1pm - Easy Line 7pm - Bible Study -	9 9am - Child's Haven 10:15am - Disciple 4pm - GS Daisy 6:30pm - Buckles	10 9am - ESL - GED @ 6:30pm - Alcoholics	11 9am - CANCEL UMW
12 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 6pm - Youth @	13 9am - Child's Haven 2pm - ESL - GED @ 6:30pm - FINANCE 7:30pm - Contempla	14 9am - Child's Haven 9:15am - Prayer 9:30am - Tues 10am - Bible Study 10am - Valentine 7:30pm - AA Men's	15 9am - Child's Haven 9:30am - Mbrship 1pm - Easy Line 5:30pm - Red Bench 6pm - Brownie	16 9am - Child's Haven 10:15am - Disciple 6:30pm - Buckles	17 NEWSLETTER Input 9am - ESL - GED @ 6:30pm - Alcoholics	18 10am - BS Blue and
19 UMW Sunday with 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 3:30pm - Worship @	20 9am - Child's Haven 2pm - ESL - GED @ 6pm - BScouts @ 6:30pm - TRUSTEES 7pm - Wolf Den 158 7:30pm - Contempla	21 9am - Child's Haven 9:15am - Prayer 9:30am - Tues 10am - Bible Study 6:30pm - GS #2101 7:30pm - AA Men's	22 9am - Child's Haven 1pm - Easy Line	23 9am - Child's Haven 10:15am - Disciple 4pm - GS Daisy 6pm - Webelos 1 6:30pm - Buckles	24 Mindwinter @ Camp Tejas, 1038 PR 2191, 9am - ESL - GED @ 6:30pm - Alcoholics	25 8am - Open Doors @
26 Mindwinter @ Camp 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 6pm - Youth @	27 9am - Child's Haven 2pm - ESL - GED @ 7:30pm - Contempla	28 9am - Child's Haven 9:15am - Prayer 9:30am - Tues 10am - Bible Study 5pm - Shrove 7:30pm - AA Men's	1 9am - Child's Haven 1pm - Easy Line 7pm - Ash	2 9am - Child's Haven 10:15am - Disciple 6:30pm - Buckles	3 9am - ESL - GED @ 6:30pm - Alcoholics	4 8:30am - Cub Scout