

# Heart Matters

a publication of University United Methodist Church, 2nd Quarter 2011





# Caring

by Dr. Michael Reeves  
Financial Discipleship Pastor

Every quarter we send out an issue of this *Heart Matters* publication. We offer important and relevant financial reports as well as ministry stories. This issue focuses on how University cares for its many and diverse members. Caring is a significant matter of the heart.

This month we are focusing on several ministries that show some of our caring opportunities. We know that much of our congregational caring happens within small groups, circles of friends and Sunday School classes—that's the Body of Christ at work—people taking care of each other. But we chose, instead, to highlight stories of the broader realm of shepherding ministries led by Pastor Leslie Tomlinson and her staff, supported by the other clergy.

The Stephen Ministry is the backbone of care for our Church family, and has been a beneficial ministry in my own family. People sometimes just need someone to listen, and our Stephen Ministry does just that.

Celebrate Recovery offers focused caring, utilizing an in-depth 12 step recovery program. All adults with a hurt, habit, or hang-up are invited to this safe community to learn and grow in God's healing grace.

Then there is the story about our quilt ministry—a very quiet but hugely important caring we express to our members and families at points of need. Again, my own family has been the recipient of this wonderful ministry.

Another exciting opportunity is the Oral History Task Force led by the Barrington's. This offers us a way to appreciate and care for the legacy of our senior members who have contributed so much to the development and history of our church.

We wrap up this edition with a poignant look of the beautiful faith of our Believer's Garden.

Our caring for one another happens daily in ways that we are aware of, and in many ways that we will never know. These stories reflect just a glimpse of how your generosity enables us to truly care for one another in Christ.

# 2nd Quarter Financial Report

	as of 6/30/2010	as of 6/30/2011
<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$2,937,857</b>	<b>\$2,870,647</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>\$3,144,206</b>	<b>\$3,050,104</b>
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>-\$206,349</b>	<b>-\$179,457</b>

Our financial report through June 30 shows that while our giving is down 2.3%, our expenses are down about 3%.

Through the end of May, our giving was actually up over last year. However, June saw a significant decrease in giving. While it is not unusual for us to experience less income than expenses at this point in the year, this is a time to catch up on our giving.

We have a strong schedule of programs and activities through the remainder of the summer and need a generous response of financial support.

## **Online Giving**

In your web browser, go to <http://give.uchurch.tv>, click on the "Give Online" button.

Sign up for our secured online payments either by ACH [a draft from your bank account] or by credit card. You can make a one-time gift or schedule recurring payments.



# Stephen Ministry

by Nancy Andres  
Stephen Minister

Stephen Ministry is a distinctively Christian lay caring ministry. It provides specialized training to equip for a one-to-one caring relationship. Our first tenant is confidentiality. A Stephen Minister meets with his/her care receiver once a week to offer, encouragement, sanctuary, prayer, and brings the healing power of Jesus Christ.

In 2001 my husband, Chuck, suffered a series of strokes that left him unable to speak or communicate in anyway –meaning that he was no longer able to work. Our son, Michael was soon to finish his junior year of high school; and Katie, our daughter with Down syndrome was still in high school as well. I felt as though the roof crashed down on our heads.

Chuck lived for almost three years before he needed the care that only hospice can offer. The medical team said he would live 5-6 months, and he died in 5 days.

I was angry, shell-shocked, frightened and didn't even want to look for God for the help I desperately needed. Chuck was the strong leader in our home—and we liked it that way. I had no idea which step was next much less how to find the energy to climb it. I could breathe in and out and make it till my next visit with my own Stephen Minister, who gently and carefully led me into strength and courage to move forward with the healing power of Christ.

Seven years later I am a trained Stephen Minister and a commissioned Stephen Ministry Leader. I have supervised many Stephen Ministers, and participated in the training of those who desired to be a candidate. I know of no more powerful ministry at University UMC. "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family believers." Galatians 6:10

We will have training class beginning in September. If you would like to interview to become a candidate for Stephen Ministry training, please call Nancy Andres at 696-1033.

If you believe you might benefit from a one-to-one caring relationship with a Stephen Minister, please call Nancy Andres 696-1033. We will get visit together and pray and allow God to provide the care you need.

*"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other."  
1 Thessalonians 5:11*



# Celebrate Recovery

by Rev. Leslie Tomlinson  
Shepherding Pastor

*“I saw Jesus in the open arms of others...”*

Pastor Charles has nurtured a culture among the staff where we look for Jesus. We have opportunity to share regularly where we have seen Jesus recently. I hesitate to share the many places where I see Jesus caring for people because of the sensitive nature of much of the ministry of which I'm blessed to be a part. But I have to tell you about how I have seen the Celebrate Recovery ministry be Jesus to the hurting this summer.

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered 12-step ministry for anyone seeking help and hope for their hurt, habit or hang-up. We meet Monday evenings for worship, teaching, testimonies, and smaller share groups. It is a group that is few in number (usually around 20-30), but it is a group that is deep in authentic discipleship development.

A few weeks ago a regular member of the group came in uncharacteristically upset. This person had relapsed after 18 months of recovery from a struggle. I saw Jesus in the open arms of others in the group that welcomed and encouraged this person. This person was brave to return to group after faltering, and just like the father who welcomed home the prodigal son, the group enfolded this person with love and support. God was so present and continues to reveal himself in this person's recovery and in the Celebrate Recovery ministry.

I am blessed to see people struggle valiantly against sin with the Lord's help. And it is wonderful to get to celebrate the victories God is bringing as well as encourage one another when we stumble. I know that through the generosity of many, God is bringing healing and wholeness to me and my friends at Celebrate Recovery.



# Quilt Ministry

by Cindy Stitt and Mary Crews  
Quilt Ministry Ministry leaders

*“You see, we can make the quilts but we need each of you to make it into a ‘prayer’ quilt by coming forward, saying a prayer and tying the knots.”*

Have you been in one of our Sunday morning services and have noticed a quilt in the front of the sanctuary—South, North or West U—and wondered why they are there? How did the Prayer Quilt Ministry begin at University and what does it mean to those in the ministry and to those who receive the quilts? The Prayer Quilt Ministry was started because of a nudge—more like a push by the Holy Spirit.

It was in October, 2007, and I had just received an email from the church prayer chain about little 3-year-old Connor who was diagnosed with a brain tumor. My heart ached for this little boy and his family. I tried to send an email to the family, but my computer kept saying, “cannot send, cannot send.” As I grew more frustrated with my computer, suddenly—the only way I can describe it—a blanket of feeling came over me, “Connor’s will be the first!” I thought, “WHOA! Where did that come from?” But, I knew. It was not from me. It was from the Holy Spirit! Across town, my friend and fellow quilter, Mary Crews, had fallen asleep praying for little Connor and his family. She woke up with a thought that a quilt—a prayer quilt needed to be made for Connor.

Mary and I shared our story with Nancy Andres, of the Shepherding staff, who unbeknownst to us, had been in prayer for just such a ministry. And, the Prayer Quilt Ministry at University was born. Now, some 230 plus Prayer Quilts later, we have been humbled and overwhelmed at how we truly have been led by the Holy Spirit all along the way. There have been so many NOT coincidences, but GOD incidences, that we have never doubted that this is what God wanted us to do.

Due to the fact that we are such a large congregation, rarely do we personally know the recipient. Recently, we made a quilt for a young mother of a 2-year-old girl that neither of us knew. She had been hospitalized for a long time with a rare form of cancer. She missed her little one so much. When she received her quilt, she was in tears. She wanted to know how we knew her favorite colors and how we chose the paisley print. Her daughter’s name is Paisley. We did not know, but God knew! We have presented so many quilts with favorite colors and even matched colors in a new home and bedrooms we have never seen. God knew!

Staff member, Jessica, came into our meeting one day about a different subject. We were in the process of making a north woods quilt. Why a north woods quilt, with moose and bears and pine trees, in San Antonio? Who knows? The fabric had been donated to us. Jessica loved it; saying that her whole house is north woods. She's originally from Minnesota! She was due to have some routine surgery the next week so we asked her if she would like a prayer quilt. She laughed and said that she really did not need one. It was a routine procedure. The next week, after horrid complications, she was in ICU fighting for her life. You see, we had been making HER quilt all along. God knew!

We have even had one quilt made from plaid flannel fabric for a gentleman on dialysis that matched his plaid pajamas! Now, believe me, Mary and I DID NOT have that information! But, God knows all—even down to pajamas!

We have heard countless stories of recipients fingering the knots knowing that they are covered in prayers. When someone receives a prayer quilt, they know that they are wrapped in the prayers of their community of faith, covered in love. What could bring more comfort to someone in a life crisis than to hold a tangible, physical reminder of our love, our thoughts, and our prayers for them.

God has also blessed us with a wonderful, caring volunteer team—who share their talents with us. Donations of fabric show up on our “doorstep” just when we need them. Monthly we have many church members and non-members who come to help us make the tops, layer the quilts and put the ties in. We could not do it without everyone's help.

At the Prayer Quilt Ministry, we believe that the quilt is a vessel of love and caring. We also believe that it is an example of so many of the teachings of Jesus. On the simplest level, it demonstrates love for one another. It also fulfills the command to pray for one another. The prayer quilt serves as tangible evidence of God's love and our love for God's people when we cover the recipient in the prayers of his or her community of faith. You see, we can make the quilts but we need each of you to make it into a “prayer” quilt by coming forward, saying a prayer and tying the knots.



Thank you to all at University—staff and members—who have supported and held us up as we were starting the ministry and as we have continued it. You have blessed Mary and me beyond measure. Our cup runneth over.



# Oral History

by C.D. and Freda Barrington  
Archives Ministry leaders

## **WHAT:**

The Archives and History Ministry is reinstating and updating the Oral History Program that began a number of years ago. Our mission is to document the congregational life of the University United Methodist Church through the personal accounts of the men, women and youth who were involved in or directly affected by those activities or events transpiring within or under the auspices of the University UMC.

## **WHY:**

University UMC is much more than buildings and programs. Its character and image are derived from the activities and experiences of both the congregation and staff. These events are best remembered and illustrated by the recollections and stories of those who were involved. A permanent record of these narrations will provide future congregants and researchers a glimpse of the events as they transpired. These stories will likely reflect differing views of any specific situation – thereby offering a fuller understanding of the thinking at the time. This should help clarify the intent of past decisions and offer a wider view and understanding of the process. This information will provide valuable insights to those who study and analyze the development of this body of believers.

## **HOW:**

The Archives and History Ministry has developed a comprehensive process for the UUMC-OHP using the guidelines recommended by the leading authors and programs within the oral history community. Every effort has been made to comply with the legal and ethical standards set forth by the UMC General Commission on Archives and History, Oral History Association, and the American Association for State and Local History.

The records will be maintained in both electronic and written formats. Contributors will be provided a complimentary copy of the final written copy of their narration. The University UMC copies are secured on the church computer server and in the Archives. Access to the records may be obtained by submitting a written request to the University UMC Historian.

If you are interested in participating in this ministry, contact C.D. Barrington at [cdb@uchurch.tv](mailto:cdb@uchurch.tv)

# Believer's Garden

by Susan K. Galindo  
u|ability director

Recently, our Sunday Believer's Garden—a worship experience designed for our Special Needs Community, had the largest crowd we've had in a while. One hundred-twenty-six people heard the message of salvation. After Pastor Evelyn and I spoke on the topic, we played a short excerpt from a Billy Graham sermon. We had a time of invitation and thirty people stood up to give their lives to Christ or rededicate their lives to Him—including group home staff. It was a VERY moving experience and quite an honor to behold the rejuvenation of lost souls.

But my favorite part of the morning was when a man in a wheelchair (who I have not seen before) came up to me. He kissed my hand and placed it on his heart. Then he told me that Jesus came inside his heart when we were praying at the end. He had tears in his eyes and a smile on his face. I saw Jesus in him!

I believe that in addition to the preaching of the Word of God, the reason we had so many respond to the invitation was because of the leadership in worship from Parker Zimmerman. Parker was passionate and full of the Holy Spirit as he ushered us into the heavens with his gift of worship. Our worship time opened the door between heaven and earth so that many hearts would be touched. I am so very blessed to be a part of University UMC!

Our mission is to provide opportunities that bring dignity and purpose to children, youth and adults who have cognitive and developmental challenges. These opportunities encompass spiritual growth, education, fellowship and service to God and to our community.





**Festival of the Fourth!**  
Thanks to everyone for a great day of worship and fun!



# Honorariums and Memorials

We receive memorials and honorarium contributions through the year in honor or memory of loved ones. These gifts can be made through the financial office and if undesignated are placed in a fund that is used for sanctuary and worship related needs. Below is a list of second quarter memorials and honorariums:

## In Memory Of

*Robert Lyle*, by Art Director at Large, William & Joyce Jefferson, John & Jean Webber, Carol Mosher, Roger & Beverly Cullen, Dan & Stacey French, and Tom & Gail Tucker, to Pastor's Discretionary Fund

*Donna Books-Borrego*, by Sam & Cindy Stitt, Restorative HealthCare, and Nellie Brandt to Music Ministry

*Joan Veale*, by Steve & Joan Laufman

*Bob Ryan*, by Eugene Slater Sunday School Class, Arlene & Frank Clark, Dorothy Hughes, and Dan & Betty Scarborough to J-Quest

*Nattie Hamilton*, by Kay & John Petru

*Jim Harrier*, by William & Freda Guion to West-U

*Margaret & Lorton Twisdale*, by Doug & Jane Moe

*My Parents & Friends*, by Marilyn Curtis

*Len Chutler*, by Virginia Chutler

*Bertha Mormena*, by Rose & David Anderson

*My Mom & Grandmothers*, by Lynne & David Love

*Amelia Villegas*, by Velma Villegas

*Mardel Rogers*, by Russell & Pam Green

*Bob Beard*, by Damian & Lana Cortez to Pastor's Discretionary Fund

*Emma Smith*, by John & Kay Petru

*Leslie Hamilton*, by John & Kay Petru

*Charles Lewis*, by Marie Lewis

*Silvia Santinelle Suarez*, by Robert & Silvia Ehlers

*Alfredo Villegas, Jr.*, Velma Villegas

*Terry T. Green*, Russell & Pam Green

*Bill Cramer*, by Janet Cramer to Senior Adult Ministry

## In Honor Of

*Derek Hadler*, by anonymous to Special Needs Ministry

*Zackary Charles Van Schattenberg*, by the Van Schatterbergs

*Rev. Theodore Veale*, Steve & Joan Laufman to Music Ministry

*My Family*, by Marilyn Curtis

*Mary McKay*, by Steve & Joan Laufman to Quilt Ministry

*Rev. Dick Cheatham*, by Barbara & Jake Jacobson

*Rev. Greg Robertson*, by Barbara & Jake Jacobson

*Dorothy Hughes' Birthday*, by Maxine Sigman to the Mel Hughes Scholarship Fund

*Pamela Green & Barbara Green*, by Russell & Pam Green

*Jake Jacobson's Birthday*, by Dorothy Hughes to Pakistan Missions

*Rev. & Mrs. Ryan Barnett*, by Ruth Towers, and Maxine Sigman to Rwanda Missions

*Cy Avina's Birthday*, by Lilia Avina

*Russell Green & James Rogers*, by Pam Green

*Richard James in honor of Father's Day*, by Rodney & Linda Smith to Christian Assistance Ministry



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