

November 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 p.m. The Ridge and Cub Scouts	2 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	3 6:30 p.m. Exercise Class 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball	4 11:00 a.m. Boundaries w/ Kids Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Men's Basketball II 7:00 p.m. Adult Ministries Game Night	5 8:00 a.m. Metro District UMW Mission Team
6 2:00 p.m. Handbells 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir 6:00 p.m. UMYF	7 4:30 p.m. Volleyball 6:30p.m. Exercise Class 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	8 11:00 a.m. Circle of Love 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts 7:30 p.m. Trustee Meeting	9 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	10 6:00 p.m. Boys Basketball 6:30 p.m. Exercise Class 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball and Boy Scouts	11 11:00 a.m. Boundaries w/ Kids Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Men's Basketball II	12 8:30 a.m. Methodist Men's Breakfast
13 2:00 p.m. Handbells 3:00 p.m. Library Committee Meeting 4:00 p.m. Mary-Martha Circle 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir 6:00 p.m. UMYF	14 4:30 p.m. Volleyball 6:30 p.m. Exercise Class 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	15 1:30 p.m. Joy Circle 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts	16 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	17 6:00 p.m. Boys Basketball 6:30 p.m. Exercise Class 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball	18 11:00 a.m. Boundaries w/ Kids Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Men's Basketball II	19 9:00 a.m. All Church Training Event
20 2:00 p.m. Handbells 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir 6:00 p.m. UMYF	21 4:30 p.m. Volleyball 6:30 p.m. Exercise Class 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	22 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts	23	24 Happy Thanksgiving!	25 5:00 p.m. Men's Basketball II	26 6:00 p.m. Food Drop Off for Feeding Homeless
27 4:30 a.m. Feed the Homeless 2:00 p.m. Handbells 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir 6:00 p.m. UMYF	28 4:30 p.m. Volleyball 6:30 p.m. Circle Dialogue Meeting and Exercise Class 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	29 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts	30 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir			

*More details available on the church website: www.ridgewoodparkchurch.org/whats-happening/calendar



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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

"Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World."

**November,
2011
Newsletter**

DIG IN! A Day of Worship, Service, and Fellowship

by Nick La Rocca

It's that time of year. Thanksgiving for so many of us means a day of football, a great meal, family, and our closest friends. It is a day where we celebrate all that we have, all those who are dear to us, and give thanks.

Before we all go our separate ways, we as a community will take time to give thanks in our third semiannual Dig In! On Sunday, November 20, we will Dig In! to worship at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary, various service projects at 10:30 a.m. and a community wide Thanksgiving meal at 12:00 p.m.

The week before Dig In!, invitations will be sent out through Dan D. Rogers, our preschool, and other organizations in the community inviting everyone in Ridgewood Park to Dig In! on November 21.

During the entire month of November we will be collecting coats and shoes for children and adults of all ages. The cooler weather has only begun and this is the perfect time of year for us to help make

sure everyone stays warm this winter. On Sunday November 13, our youth group will be distributing brown grocery bags around the Ridgewood Park neighborhood inviting people in the community to donate canned and non-perishable food items. On

the instructions left at each home, there will also be an invitation to Dig In! with us. Then on the Sunday of Dig In! those who would like to help will go around the neighborhood and collect the food items left out by the home owners. Others are invited to help with projects at Dan D. Rogers and making cards for our home bound members. After an afternoon of service we will join together in the Family Life Center for a Thanksgiving meal. Those who are interested will help set up tables, decorations, and of course, help cook the food during our service time. Then at 12:00 p.m. we will come back together to share in the meal and as a community, offer our

THE GREAT DAY OF SERVICE
November 20, 2011

9:30 a.m. - Dig in to Worship
10:30 a.m. - Dig in to service in our community
12:30 p.m. - Dig in as we share a meal as a community

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thanks.

For more information on how you can get involved in this great day of service, please contact Nick La Rocca at nlarocca@ridgewoodparkchurch.org.

What I Am Learning From The Youth

by Carol Bell- Walton

Have you ever learned of and participated in a mission that led you to think of and carry out another mission? When Shelly Wade began participating in Ridgewood Park's mission to feed the homeless at Austin Street Shelter, she was troubled by the children they saw coming through the line. We all were, but most of us go on. But this awesome youth visited with Pastor Rob Spencer because she wanted to do something for these children. Rob encouraged her vision to help these children and guided her through the complete process of planning and carrying out the mission.

The resulting book and toy drive was a resounding success! The people at Austin Street were so touched by this outpouring of love and concern for the children there. It was a special blessing to be among those who delivered the food, toys and books to Austin Street at 4:30 a.m. that Sunday morning four months ago. It has reminded me that we worship with some of the greatest youths ever.

While cleaning out the room for our Sunday School class, among the accumulated treasures, there were many books left over from the United Methodist Men's annual garage sale. There were two or three beautiful sets of Time/Life Books that make for fascinating reading and contain gorgeous photography. Not the kind of books valued by the library or used book stores, but really lovely books that someone should enjoy. They stayed in my car a couple of days because I couldn't decide what to do with them. I got in my car to take them SOMEWHERE, and it hit me - wouldn't they enjoy these books at the shelter? Robert and I took the books to Austin Street last month. Again, it was an enormous blessing to be able to deliver a donation so joyously received!

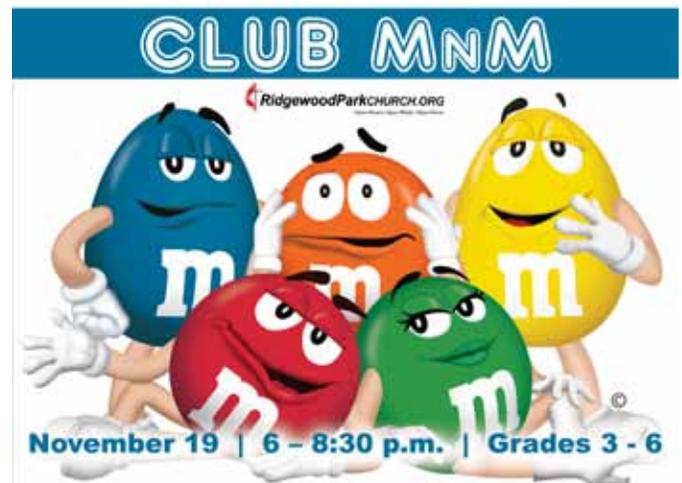
Ridgewood Park's ministry to Austin Street Shelter was started in the 1990's by Barry & Joan Thompson. That long-standing mission inspired Shelly's mission to collect books and toys for homeless children. (Tami Mabry continues this mission by organizing the quarterly meals.) Shelly's mission inspired me.

In Hebrew, a good deed is called a *mitzvah*, an act exemplifying human kindness. It is a tremendous blessing to be in a church where missions are so greatly encouraged!

It is a greater blessing that Rob Spencer, Youth Director Sara Orr, and Music Director Nick La Rocca are so committed to the spiritual development of our Youth. I feel so blessed to be learning from our Leadership and especially to follow the good example set by our Youth.

While our good deed was very small, it is my hope that God may use it to make His will done. And I hope He'll use our newly cleaned Sunday School classroom the same way!

A CLUB... WHERE YOU GET M&M'S?



by Sara Orr

Okay, so you may get M&M's, but that is not what "Club MnM" is all about. Methodists in Mission is a jam packed night of food, games, worship, and of course, missions for all those in the third to the sixth grade. At our last MnM, over thirty kids came together to eat, play, learn about God, and make blankets for our homebound members. Don't miss our next MnM Saturday, November 19, from 6 - 8:30 p.m. Parents, make plans for your kids to attend. This time, bring lots of loose change - quarters, nickles, dimes, and pennies! - We'll use them for a mission project that night!

For more information or to find out ways that you can help with this AMAZING night, please contact Sara Orr at saraorr@ridgewoodparkchurch.org.



Sign up on Sunday outside of worship for your photo for the church directory.

Photo sitting times will be Wednesday, November 30th, through Friday, December 2nd, between 2:00 PM – 9:00 PM., and Saturday, December 3rd, from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Every family unit (a single person or a family) who participates and views their proofs will receive a free \$25 portrait gift certificate, no purchase necessary, as well as a directory. Should you have additional portrait needs, you may choose from various portrait packages at special savings. For more information please contact Maude Collins at maudecollins50@yahoo.com or 214-341-3581.

Church History Notes: Outreach

by Jeannine Verinder

“Whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do ye even so unto them.” Matthew 7:12. How do you put into words all the good that RPUMC has done for those beyond our church walls in its life of 57 years? Impossible, but here is a very brief summary.

In celebrating our first Christmas together, 1954, a monetary offering was sent to the Methodist Home in Waco. A few of the many agencies receiving food and clothing from our church have been Methodist Breadbasket, Project Hope, Greater Dallas Council of Churches, and the Dallas City Parish Bread Basket, recipient of our 1974 “Ton of Food” drive at Thanksgiving.

We have had an ongoing association with the Wilkinson Center especially since about 1973 when Bob Darrah was the temporary Director. Clothing, children’s shoes, and food drives including our recent ton of food are among our continuing efforts. Mike and Pat Faherty and Carol and Robert Walton faithfully deliver that food to the center. Other assistance has been given through our church by the private donations of money before Christmas. These donors, “elves” as they were called, helped the church provide gifts to needy families in our neighborhood for several years.

Our dedication to the Austin Street Shelter continues to provide breakfast to more than 250 homeless people downtown quarterly at 5:00 a.m. on Sundays. Our youth have been dedicated advocates of the program. Some of our volunteer coordinators have been Andy Pendleton, teenager Abbey Cupples, and currently Tami Mabry and Tim Coman.

There are hundreds of grateful recipients of physical labor and fellowship by our Senior and Junior High United Methodist Youth and their leaders. Some of their projects have been with Houmas Indians in DuLac, LA, the Navajo Mission Academy in Farmington, NM, the Boys Ranch in Gore, OK, Camp Aldersgate for handicapped campers near Little Rock, AR. Under the leadership of Sara Orr the youth have served in Gulfport, MS and Sabine Pass, Corpus Christi, Longview, and Jacksonville, TX. Our younger Sunday School children give birthday parties for the residents in the Memory Loss unit of C. C. Young and make greeting cards for homebound members.

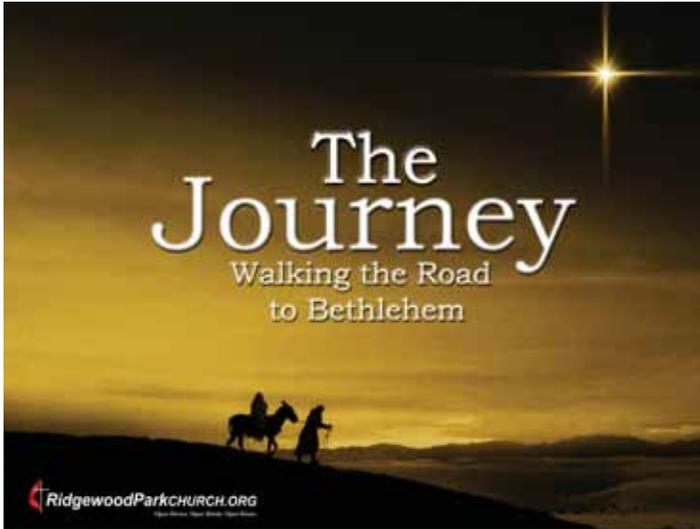
Twice the church family has taken refugee couples to their hearts, securing dwellings, furniture, clothes, food, jobs, etc. During the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, we welcomed Raul and Andrea Diaz, and even tapped the translating assistance of some of our members who had studied Spanish in high schools. In 1975 young Nguyen Chank Thein and his wife Tran Thanh Tam who spoke some English arrived from Vietnam and were met at the airport by Pastor Jim Brown.

RPUMC has always opened its doors to the community for Halloween parties, Easter egg hunts, and Mothers Day Out. We have helped persons beyond our walls by our blood drives, Amigos Days painting and construction work, diaper and formula drives for mission agencies, and reading with children in Project Transformation in varying parts of the city.

Our financial contributions have gone to the victims of floods, earthquakes, and tsunamis, as well as Hurricanes Beulah, Alicia, and Mitch. Vickie Thompson and others helped to resettle victims of Hurricane Katrina into our neighborhood.

Not to pat ourselves on the back but to inspire us onward, this article reminds us of the words of Christ in Matthew 25:40: “In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem



by Nick La Rocca

This Advent, take a Journey with us. A journey that starts with the city of Nazareth with two ordinary characters asked to do extraordinary things. Ride with us through their journey that leads to a manger and a child who changed the world forever.

Sunday, November 27: The Annunciation

Sunday, December 4: Joseph of Bethlehem

This Sunday we will also celebrate our Christ Child's Tree in our Traditional Worship at 9:30 a.m. During worship we will hear the story of Christmas through the decorations our youth and children's Sunday School classes will place on the tree as well as the songs that our children's choirs and youth choir will be singing.

Sunday, December 11: Mary Visits Elizabeth

Sunday, December 18: Let There Be Peace

Jesus was sent to earth to bring peace, and in both our Traditional and Contemporary Worship this Sunday, we will celebrate Lessons in Carols. Our Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir will bring special musical offerings in our traditional worship while The Center Band will lead us through our lessons in contemporary worship.

Saturday, December 24:

This Shall Be a Sign to You

Make your Christmas Eve plans now to attend either our 5:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. candlelight services. At both services, all your offerings go to the Methodist Home in Waco.

Sunday, December 25:

Do You See What I See?

On Christmas morning we will celebrate with one worship service at 10:30a.m. in the sanctuary. Come in your pajamas and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Sunday, January 1:

Born to Give Us Second Birth

Start off the New Year with a reminder of our rebirth in Christ. Join us for one worship service at 10:30a.m. in the sanctuary.

Special Services in November

by Yvonne Boyack

In November we celebrate two special days in the church year. All Saints Sunday, November 6, is a celebration of the lives who have gone before us. On this day we remember those we love for what they have done for us and what they continue to do.

The next Sunday, November 13, we celebrate those men and women who have and continue to serve our country in the armed forces. Veterans Day is a special day for us to pause and take time to think of those men and women who fight daily for our country. As a way of honoring our veterans, we would like to display photographs as a part of the worship service. Please contact Yvonne Boyack at ridgewoodparkchurch@ridgewoodparkchurch.org so that we may honor them on this special day.



DIG IN! To Some Great Music

by Nick La Rocca

Sunday, November 20, 2011, is Christ the King Sunday. It is a day we celebrate the closing of the liturgical year. On this day we will join together at 9:30 a.m. to proclaim our unity, our history, and our faith. As we join together, this worship service will call us to be a part of something greater than ourselves, to rely on God and to profess the good news through word and deed to the world around us. The music of the day is a mixture of different styles.

Do you know the hymn, "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing?" Written by Charles Wesley (an early leader of the Methodist Movement) in 1739, it has been the opening hymn in the United Methodist Hymnal since 1780. In its fullest form it contains eighteen verses. "The first six stanzas (verses) deal with Charles Wesley's upon his own spiritual transformation. The climactic stanza, however, is apparently an echo of an expression by Peter Böhler: 'Has I a thousand tongues, I would praise him with them all!'" What a sentiment.

Our choral anthem for the day is in yet another style. "He Never Failed Me Yet," words and music by Robert Ray, was published in 1982. Commissioned for Berlinda Hubbard and the Echos of Grace of Second Baptist Church, Evanston, Illinois this is gospel music at its finest. Triadic choral harmonies march along expressing presence and devotion. Mixed with a soulful solo featuring Rebecca Roose, this song is sure to keep your foot tapping throughout the day.

Finally our service will come to a close with a contemporary Christian song originally written by a band called Bluetree. The band was doing missionary work in Pattaya, Thailand. In a city overrun with prostitution this band found a place to play their music and minister to the people. Pouring out music and the message of Jesus to people who may not have been able to understand, this song came to them.

You're the God of this city
Greater things have yet to come
Greater things have still to be done here

This song is a testament and call to us all. We are called to spread the love that Jesus has so freely given us, and be the people making our city, and our world a greater place.

I hope that each of you are able to roll up your sleeves and Dig In! with us in worship, service, and community on Sunday, November 20.

MEET OUR MUSICIANS

by Nick LaRocca

Three years ago Ridgewood Park started a new worship experience. When formulating the leaders of the instrumental ensemble that would lead the music, Autumn Lee McManus was only a Junior in High School. With a shy personality, she was a young woman who was blessed with the gift of singing.

Autumn is originally from Dallas, has grown up, and is now a member of Ridgewood Park United Methodist Church. She is currently majoring in psychology and is hoping to become a counselor as well as work in a church as a youth director.

Over the past several years it has been wonderful to watch this talented young woman grow as a singer, worship leader, and believer. Fostered by Sara Orr she is also taking her first steps to becoming a youth leader. For the past two summers she has worked with children and youth as Sara's summer intern. Helping with Mission Trips, Camps, VBS, and all the other activities that go into a summer at Ridgewood Park, Autumn truly ministers to a wide array of areas at our church. It is such a blessing to have such a talented young person helping lead this congregation.

The music ministry sincerely thanks all those who contribute funds which allow such talented musicians like Autumn Lee McManus to contribute her talents to the ministries and missions of Ridgewood Park UMC.

