

January - February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11 January Traditional Worship, 9:30 Sunday School, 10:30 Contemporary, 11:28 Library committee, 3:00 Mary Martha, 3:00 Youth Parents, 6:00 UMYF, 6:15	12 Boy Scouts, 7:30 p.m.	13 Circle of Love, 11:00 am Cub Scouts, 7:00 pm Night Circle, 7:00 pm Trustees, 7:30 pm	14 Wednesday Night Live 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Classes/ Children's Choirs 7:45 Chancel Choir	15 Dads at Dawn, 6:00 am Basketball pickup game, 7:00 p.m.	16	17
18 Traditional Worship, 9:30 Sunday School, 10:30 Contemporary, 11:28 History committee, 3:00 Youth choir, 5:00 UMYF, 6:15	19 Boy Scouts, 7:30 p.m.	20 Cub Scouts, 7:00 pm	21 Wednesday Night Live 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Classes/ Children's Choirs 7:45 Chancel Choir	22 Dads at Dawn, 6:00 am Game Day, 10:00 am Basketball pickup game, 7:00 p.m.	23	24
25 Consecration Sunday Traditional Worship, 9:30 Sunday School, 10:30 Contemporary, 11:28 Luncheon, noon Youth choir, 5:00 UMYF, 6:15	26 Boy Scouts, 7:30 p.m.	27 Cub Scouts, 7:00 pm	28 Wednesday Night Live 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Classes/ Children's Choirs 7:45 Chancel Choir	29 Dads at Dawn, 6:00 am Basketball pickup game, 7:00 p.m.	30	31
1 February Traditional Worship, 9:30 Sunday School, 10:30 Contemporary, 11:28 Youth choir, 5:00 UMYF, 6:15	2 Boy Scouts, 7:30 p.m.	3 Cub Scouts, 7:00 pm	4 Wednesday Night Live 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Classes/ Children's Choirs 7:45 Chancel Choir	5 Dads at Dawn, 6:00 am Basketball pickup game, 7:00 p.m.	6	7
8 Traditional Worship, 9:30 Sunday School, 10:30 Contemporary, 11:28 Library committee, 3:00 Mary Martha, 3:00 Youth Parents, 6:00 UMYF, 6:15	9 Boy Scouts, 7:30 p.m.	10 Circle of Love, 11:00 am Cub Scouts, 7:00 pm Night Circle, 7:00 pm Trustees, 7:30 pm	11 Wednesday Night Live 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Classes/ Children's Choirs 7:45 Chancel Choir	12 Dads at Dawn, 6:00 am Basketball pickup game, 7:00 p.m.	13	14 Methodist Men's Breakfast, 8:00 am

Rev. Rob Spencer, Pastor Jacob Smith, Associate Pastor Laura Bertwell, Director of Traditional Worship, Director of Chancel and Children's choirs Cheryl Cupples, Business Administrator Irene Casburn, Director, Weekday Programs 6445 E. Lovers Lane, Dallas, TX 75214	Teresa Roofner, Accompanist Sara Orr, Director of Youth Ministries Nick La Rocca, Director of Contemporary Worship, and Director of Youth Choir Jane Ellen Shilling, Assistant Director, Weekday Programs Traditions Worship 9:30 214-369-9259	Sunday School 10:30 214-369-9259	Contemporary Worship 11:28 www.ridgewoodparkumc.org
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Sunday Morning

Traditional Sanctuary Worship – 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:30 a.m.

Contemporary Worship – 11:28 a.m.

RIDGEWOOD PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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connection

Consecration Sunday is Coming January 25th

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses

not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through

the Consecration Sunday team and administrative council members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.



Series coming in February

Feb. 1 – Growing intimacy in a sexually-charged culture
For any relationship that's lost

that lovin' feeling, help and hope are on the way.

Genesis 2:18-25

Feb. 8 – Marriage lessons from seasoned veterans Hear from "seasoned veterans" what it takes to keep the adventure in your relationship... *Ephesians 5:21-33*

Feb 15 – Purposeful parenting Being a parent is all about being a good steward of what God has entrusted you to do....

Ephesians 6:1-8

Feb 22 – Broken promises, Marriage is a unique union between God and two people but what happens when the heart is hardened?...

Matthew 19:3-10

Youth on the Move

If you were in church on last Sunday, you may have already heard a little about my ski trip over Christmas break. John, the boys, my sister Gretchen, and I went to Ruidoso on the 27th to try skiing. John grew up skiing, but since there is not much snow in South Texas, it is new to Gretchen and me. I have told some of you the "horror" stories of the other times I have tried to learn to ski, but since the youth have been asking about a ski trip for some time, I felt it was time to "try" again to love the sport. Well, after falling down getting "on" the lift (not an easy accomplishment at

that), and then falling down getting "off" the lift, I can tell you I still don't LOVE skiing. I did get the hang of it after a while. You would never know that though from the video that John took since he seemed to only capture the "falling" off the lift part. I'm sure that is going to end up being shown to everyone soon enough. But what I really learned is, I don't have to LOVE skiing to love being on the mountain. I am in amazement of the beauty of the mountains, the bluest skies, and the enormous trees (I knew to ski away

from those.) We saw many deer walking by our cabin every morning, and thousands of stars each night. So even though I'm not planning on becoming a world famous skier, I am excited to begin plans for a youth ski trip next winter. We'll talk more about that later.

Even though it is cold outside, it is time to plan our summer youth trips. If you missed the Parent Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 11th, you can pick up sign up sheets for Jr. High Mission Trip, Senior High Mission Trip, and Choir Tour from Sara or on the YOUTH bulletin board in the hall. The dates are listed below for each trip, and the deposits for these trips are due by February 8th. Please visit with Sara or

Nick if you have any questions about the summer ministry trips.

Sr. High Mission Trip (completed 9th-12th)	Mission, TX	June 6th-June 13th
Youth Choir Tour (completed 6th-12th)	Nashville, TN	June 21st-June 27th
Jr. High Mission Trip (completed 6th-8th)	Jacksonville, TX	July 30th-Aug. 2nd
Jr. High Camp (Bridgeport)		June 29th-July 4th
All Church Retreat on Lake Texoma		July 17th-July 19th

History Calls

Your Church Historian requests your 2008 photos of class and other activities for the history scrapbook.

Please call
Jeannine Verinder
214-348-5104.

A Huge Thanks to you!

A huge thanks to all those church leaders who have served faithfully for 3 years and have now rolled off the leadership roster of our church. Those include: Mary O'Connor, John Thompson, Mike Faherty, John Orr, Jim Shelton, Jim Newman, Ed Hilliard, Hal Marshall, John Peeler, Suzanne Barthelemy, Ray Clark, Jimmy Thomas, Mary Nell Swick.

We also want to welcome the newcomers to the leadership and thank

each one for making the decision to serve. Included as newcomers are: Nancy Birdsong, Melinda Bockemehl, Joey Guedea, Austin Graf, Carol Walton, Sharon Kirkpatrick, Evelyn Green, Jeff Owens, Paige Mabry, Brian McManus, Jennifer Newman, Jason Lewis, Jimmy Thomas, Sheryl Nelon, Shelly Wade, Lee Pettigrew, Bruce Harris, Danny Bates, Jim Yeager, Mike Wade, and Dave Hamilton.

Many others have simply moved from one leadership role to another, and still others serve in more than one capacity.

All these people play a vital role in making sure the church runs smoothly and efficiently, so that we might be about the mission of serving God and helping others. Thanks so much for your time and efforts.

ERT

Early Response Team Training

Comes to Ridgewood Park

training teams for disaster response

hurricane tornado flood

January 31, 2009

New Date

Organization & Duties
Safety Suggestions
How to Tarp a Roof

How to Muck-Out
Assembling Your Team
Serving as a Christian Presence

Simplifying our Lives

Luke 12:16-24 - Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

This story does not speak ill of

planning ahead. In our culture, however, we have often relied on Plan B instead of having faith in Plan A. "You only go around once in life." "Hold tight to all you can, even if you don't need it." Anything in excess can be a bad thing. Sunlight in excess can lead to sunburn and worse. Water, a vital element, in excess can lead to flooding and disaster.

Gary Langness says, "The greatest threat to Christians in our day is the denial of our affluence." There is a book by John DeGraaf that names a sickness, a disease that is epidemic today in nations that have too much. He calls the disease "Affluenza". Wikipedia defines affluenza as "a painful, contagious, socially trans-

mitted condition of overload, debt, anxiety and waste resulting from the dogged pursuit of more." So what's at the heart of this? In affluence, it seems to be easier to forget that we are God's stewards, and we focus on accumulating, even to the point of having to rent storage for things that are not even ours. More seriously, when we are affluent, we are tempted into focusing on works instead of grace. When we do so, the danger is that we forget about God, His purpose and His mission.

What's missing in the story of the Rich Fool? Giving! It didn't even cross the farmer's mind! If you and I remember that we are God's stewards, we will ask, "What can I give back to God and to others?" The farmer in Jesus' story simply said to himself, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." But God said, "You fool! Tonight your life is over." Will it do any of us any good at the end of our lives to say, "I have more 'stuff' stored away than you!"

Now, discussing affluence in today's uncertain economic climate may seem to be irrelevant. We may not have as much as we had last year, but for most of us, we have enough. I seem to remember a quote from the movie, True Grit, - "enough is as good as a feast". Simplifying our lives may be something that's happening to us all right now, whether we are called to it or pushed into it. The good news is that it is God who is calling us to live a simplifying life. It is God who is calling us to be good stewards of the good news of Jesus Christ. God is calling us to enjoy being more generous in serving and glorifying God and building up the body of Christ.

Inspired by and partially quoted from a sermon by Ed Kruse.
Your Stewardship Committee

Children's Choir Spring 2009 Schedule

The Cherub Choir: 3 years-K

March 1st Sing Prelude during Sunday Worship

April 5th (Palm Sunday)

The Choristers: 1st-6th grade

February 15th Sing in Sunday Worship

March 8th Sing in Sunday Worship

April 5th (Palm Sunday) Enter with Palm Branches and Sing in Sunday Worship

May 20th Last day of Wednesday Night Live/Kid's Presentation (6:30-7:30 p.m.)

**The children will meet in the choir room for a warm up time at 9:00. Please make sure your child dresses in appropriate clothing for the worship service, as they will be leading worship. Please no jeans or tennis shoes if possible!

Mark Your Calendars for SUMMER!! This year we are starting our first annual Kid's Music and Arts Camp!!!! The dates are **August 10th-14th** (1st-5th grades) We will begin registration and have full information April 5th...Don't miss out! (p.s. we will also need lots of volunteers.)

VOLUNTEERS: We need you! We are looking for 2 volunteers parents to help during Wednesday Night Live choir time (6:30-7:30) Call Laura for more information.

For any questions...Call Ms. Laura at 832-797-7548 or email me at lbervell@ridgewoodparkumc.org



Ms. Laura



Thanks to your Generosity
803
lives have been saved through
Nothing but Nets