Rev.Rob Spencer, Pastor
Jacob Smith, Associate Pastor (intern)
Laura Bertwell, Director of Traditional Worship,
Director of Chancel and Children's choirs
Cheryl Cupples, Business Administrator
Irene Casburn, Director, Weekday Programs

Teresa Roofner, Accompanist
Sara Orr, Director of Youth Ministries
Nick La Rocca, Director of Contemporary Worship,
and Director of Youth Choir
Jessica Skinner, Director of Children's Ministries
Jane Ellen Shilling, Assistant Director, Weekday Programs

Traditions Worship 9:30 **Sunday School 10:30** **Contemporary Worship 11:28**

6445 E. Lovers Lane, Dallas, TX 75214
214-369-9259
www.ridgewoodparkumc.org

Wednesday Night Live

begins September 10th

5:30 Bread of Life Worship
6:00 Dinner
6;30 Classes/Cherub Singers
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
ADULT PROGRAMS
7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Young Adult Class

Single or married doesn't matter… if you are post-high school and pre-kids, this Sunday School class is for you. Mike Wade leads discussions and pours a mean cup of coffee for all comers.

Email Mike for more info at miketwade@hotmail.com.

Marriage Retreat

We have booked our retreat center on Lake Texoma for a marriage retreat on March 13-15. The cost for the retreat is $290 per couple. This includes two nights lodging and 6 meals.

Rob will be leading this retreat and using Walter Harley's book, His Needs Her Needs as an aid to marriage enrichment.

We only have 12 rooms in the lodge reserved (this link will show you the rooms in the lodge: www.prothrocenter.org/prothrolodge.html). If you want to attend this retreat, please respond to this email ASAP.

For more information about the rest of the retreat center, go to www.prothrocenter.org

All Church Retreat

This will also be the site of our All Church Retreat - July 17-20

RIDGEWOOD PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
a place to belong . . .
. . . a place to become
6445 East Lovers Lane
Dallas, Texas 75214
214-369-9259
www.ridgewoodparkumc.org

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Dallas, TX
Permit No. 559

Sunday Morning

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Worship in the Word - 10:45 a.m.

RIDGEWOOD PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
a place to belong . . .
. . . a place to become

Volume 54, Number 11 | A monthly publication | November 10, 2008

Thank You!!

I have quickly learned, at my short time at Ridgewood Park, that beginning a new service, such as the Contemporary Service which begins November 16 (I have to plug any time I can get the chance), is no easy task. When I first started thinking about all the things that would go into this service; all the things I would have to buy; all the people I would need to get this thing up and running. I would have never imagined that it would be such a complex project.

That being said, I know that this experience would have been extremely different at any other church. I have never met two men like Ed Yost and Andy Combs. The ideas and know how that these two men brought to this project would surely be hard to come by in any other church, unless you paid them. The passion that both of these men had about this project helped me see that the Ministry Center is so much bigger than a new service, it was and will always be a part of this church and whether or not they were helping figure out how to hang sound panels or arrange chairs they were both integral in helping to keep the tradition and history of the room. I thank each one of them so much for that. So, to the Building Committee, Long Range Planning Committee and especially Ed and Andy, thank you.

John Thompson is another man that I don't think I would run into at any other church. I know I never ran into him at any of my previous churches. "How do you know how to do all this stuff," I am sure I asked several times. The response from John was always a shrug of the shoulders or some comic joke. The truth is I am amazed. Electronic jargon between a sound professional, an electrician and John, sounds like a foreign language to me. John is fluent. In a million years I could not tell you about all the electrical wiring, cabling, and mounting. John Thompson can. I am so thankful for the long hours (ask him they were long) and hard work that John did. So to the Trustees and especially to John, thank you.

Another man that helped pull all of this together is Jeff McCleod. I am sure Jeff is someone most of you do not know, but is a sound engineer with ProAudio. Jeff is the man who has responded to endless emails, and phone calls from almost anyone who put their hands into this project. I cannot think of the words to describe how much of a help Jeff has been. Thank you Jeff and all of those at ProAudio for what you have done for our church.

In all, this has been a church project. I started out thinking I was going to have to make all this stuff that you now see in the Ministry Center happen all on my own. At any other church, I think I might have. I am glad that at Ridgewood Park there are people that care about tradition, and have the foresight to think about the future. I am glad that at this church there are men and women who know more about construction and wiring and electricity than I do. I am even happier that these people are able to come together and help to make this new service possible. Thank You All for you prayers, your love, and your support that you have shown for this service even before it has begun. I cannot say it enough.

Thank You,

Nick La Rocca

New Sunday Schedule

Begins November 16th

Traditional Worship	**9:30 a.m.**
Sunday school	**10:30 a.m.**
Contemporary Service	**11:28 a.m.**

YOUTH REALLY ROCK!!!

Reaching Out to Others

The youth have lots of activities planned for November and December. Our goal this month is to reach out to others, in various ways. Listed below are just highlights of their Sundays in November. Please join us as we get ready to celebrate the season of our Lord's birth.

November 9th—Youth will be gathering canned food and dry goods for the Wilkinson Center Food Pantry. Help them by bringing food to the church on any Sunday in November.

Nov. 16th — We will make our College Gift Boxes tonight for our former youth now away at college. If you would like to make a donation to their boxes, please let Sara know. This is a great way to remind our college aged students that we are still thinking of them at Ridgewood Park.

Nov. 23rd—Open Gym Night—The gym will be open to all youth for games and activities following dinner. Keep Sara in your prayers as she travels to Nashville for the National Youth Workers Convention.

November 30th- Salvation Army Angel Tree— Each year our youth adopt 4-5 angels from the Angel Tree and shop for their needs and wants. We are asking each youth to bring $5-$10. Then we will eat dinner at Cici's Pizza and shop at our local Target.

Upcoming December Events:

Youth Choir Trip to Six Flags
December 7th

Kid's Christmas Playtime
Saturday Dec. 13th

Youth Christmas Party
December 14th

Live Nativity
Wed. Dec. 17th & Sunday Dec. 21st

Mission Trip Parents' Meeting
January 11th at 6:00pm

KIDS FOR CHRIST

What a great harvest!

"The LORD will indeed give what is good,
and our land will yield its harvest." Psalm 85:12

Our Wednesday nights have been spent reaping the harvest of God's goodness as we continue to explore the growth of His fruits in our lives. We've plucked the fruits of: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and goodness; and planted new ideas in our hearts for how to continue that growth as we spread God's great fruit with others. We've played games, been dramatic, acted a bit silly, and even cradled oranges/apples under our chins as we face down the challenges of being a Planter for God. During our Wednesday nights we've discussed the difficulties we face at school, home, and with friends that make it difficult to plant these new seeds of God's goodness. Yet, we trust that God will continue to provide the necessities we need in order to fully sprout as a faithful disciple. Soon we'll transition from growing fruits into performing together as a bunch in our upcoming Christmas program. Rehearsals will continue on Wednesday evenings and preparations made to ready our hearts and minds for such a special time of year – Christmas! You'll see everything from wise kings, smelly shepherds, to hyper sheep as all children take part in representing and acting out the true gift of Christmas – the birth of God's son, Jesus! Save the date now on your calendar for Sunday, December 21st (time – TBA) because this will be one show full of energy, joyful singing, and downright hilarity you won't want to miss!

THE RIDGEWOOD PARK CALENDAR

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9 **NOVEMBER** Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Mary Martha, 3:00 p.m. Youth Choir rehearsal, 5:00 pm UMYF, 6:15 p.m.	10 Worship Committee, 7:00 pm Boy Scouts, 7:30 p.m.	11 Circle of Love, 11:00 a.m. Night Circle, 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts, 7:00 p.m. Staff Parish, 7:00 p.m. Trustee meeting, 7:30 p.m.	12 Wednesday Night Live 5:30 Worship 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Classes/Children's Choirs 7:45 Chancel Choir rehearsal	13 D.A.D. (Dads at Dawn), 6:00 am Basketball pickup game, 7:00 pm	14	15 Dallas NE District UMW Leadership Event, 8:30-noon
16 **NEW SCHEDULE** Traditional 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Contemporary 11:28 am Library Comm. meeting, 3:00 Youth Choir, 5:00 p.m. UMYF, 6:15 p.m.	17 Boy Scouts, 7:30 p.m.	18 Cub Scouts, 7:00 p.m.	19 Wednesday Night Live 5:30 Worship 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Classes/Children's Choirs 7:45 Chancel Choir rehearsal	20 D.A.D. (Dads at Dawn), 6:00 am Basketball pickup game, 7:00 pm	21 Preschool Auction	22
23 Traditional 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Contemporary 11:28 am Thanksgiving Luncheon Ad Council meeting, 4:00pm Youth Choir, 5:00 p.m. UMYF, 6:15 p.m.	24 Boy Scouts, 7:30 p.m.	25 Cub Scouts, 7:00 p.m.	26 **Church Office Closed**	27 D.A.D. (Dads at Dawn), 6:00 am Game Day, 10:00 a.m. Basketball pickup game, 7:00 pm	28	29
30 Traditional 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Contemporary 11:28 am Van Buren Eagle 2:00 pm Youth Choir, 5:00 p.m. UMYF, 6:15 p.m.	1 Boy Scouts, 7:30 p.m.	2 **DECEMBER** Cub Scouts, 7:00 p.m.	3 Wednesday Night Live 5:30 Worship 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Classes/Children's Choirs 7:45 Chancel Choir rehearsal	4 D.A.D. (Dads at Dawn), 6:00 am Basketball pickup game, 7:00 pm	5	6 Anfin Class Christmas Party
7 **FEED THE HOMELESS** **Christ Child's Tree** Traditional 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Contemporary 11:28 am Youth Choir, 5:00 p.m. UMYF, 6:15 p.m.	8 Boy Scouts, 7:30 p.m.	9 Circle of Love, 11:00 a.m. Night Circle, 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts, 7:00 p.m. Trustee meeting, 7:30 p.m.	10 Wednesday Night Live 5:30 Worship 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Classes/Children's Choirs 7:45 Chancel Choir rehearsal	11 D.A.D. (Dads at Dawn), 6:00 am Basketball pickup game, 7:00 pm	12	13 Methodist Men's Breakfast, 8:00 am Christmas Playtime - Youth babysitting 2:00-5:00 pm
		THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY				

Christmas Playtime

Need some extra shopping time?
Need to wrap those Christmas packages?
Still need to decorate the Christmas tree?
Want a fun place for your children to go while you do all those Christmas extras?

Saturday, December 13th
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Ridgewood Park United Methodist Church

Ridgewood Park UMC Youth will provide babysitting for parents with children ages 6 months - 10 years old. We'll have crafts, games, decorate Christmas cookies and a Christmas video. Children ages 6 months - 2 years old will be cared for in our nursery. All other ages will have the use of the Sunday School classrooms for story time, crafts, playtime, and snacks. Each child will be $15, with a $45 max per family.

Please RSVP to Sara Orr (RPUMC's youth director) by December 12th
by calling 214-368-9259 (church) or email at saraorr@ridgewoodparkumc.org

In our Prayers

Maude Collins;
Bruce Harris;
Mac, Joany and Chuck McCrossen;
Paul and Valerie Jordan;
Bob Dougherty,
Pat Faherty's Brother;
Bebe Combs,
Andy Combs' mother;
Vurna Landers,
Jessica Skinner's grandmother;
Adama Samba; Faye Helmick;
Elizabeth Tindle;
Pat and H.G. Howard;
Jim and Jennifer Newman;
Helen Morrow;
Sarajane and Peter Bay,
daughter and son-in-law of
Jeff and Julie Owen;
Jim and Dorothy Cumley;
Jim and Helen Shelton;
Pat and Arris Whitehead;
Wayne and Shirley Lindsey;
Patty Barr, Georgie Hooker's sister;
Leon and Sandra Parton;
Ernie and Dorothy Brandt;
Ron and Lillie Yorston;
Joe and Rita Urso;
Viola Rakentine;
Carol Craft's mother;
Susie Milligan's mother;
Agnes McNabb;
Dale Lynde;
our nation's leaders and
the leaders of the world;
our military personnel
and their families and
for the families of those
who have given their lives to
secure freedom for others.

We extend our deepest sympathies to
the Larry Graf family
in the loss of Larry's mother
Teddy Morrill.
Services were held this past week
in the Houston area.

Attendance for Oct 5, 2008

Worship Services	208
Sunday School	137
Budget Offering	$8,880.80

Attendance for Oct 12, 2008

Worship Services	207
Sunday School	139
Budget Offering	$9,919.59

Attendance for Oct 19, 2008

Worship Services	211
Sunday School	127
Budget Offering	$5,513.30

Attendance for Oct 26, 2008

Worship Services	218
Sunday School	155
Budget Offering	$3,461.40

History Committee says Thanks!

To than J.C. Rhoades for his recent donation of memorabilia for the church archives. Included were the bulletin from the first worship service (Aug. 8, 1054), bulletins from groundbreaking events, a 1984 newsletter, and one of the small bricks which were sold to raise funds to construct our first building in 1956.

Stewardship Corner

We have a question for you this month. "What are the implications for your life if you are a designated representative, a steward, of God? Think on this through the weeks ahead and see what answer is in your heart.

We also offer a quote: "Stewardhip is showing our thankfulness to God by sharing and caring for others in response to God's love for us".

Grace and Peace - Your Stewardship Committee

Thanksgiving Luncheon
November 23rd
in the family center (gym); serving line will start at Noon

Come join Chancel Choir on
Wednesday evening at 7:45 in the Sanctuary
as we learn our Christmas music?

Softball!!
The Season comes to a Close

Thank you all softball players
and fans for a great season.
Looking forward to the Spring.

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Coffee Project

A way to help the farmers and send our kids to camp

"Fair trade presents the faith community with a chance to make a real contribution towards the creation of a new life-centered economic model — one based on the biblical principles of justice cooperation and sustainability."

- Rich Aronson, Peace with Justice Project

The UMCOR Coffee Project is an innovative way to reach out to small-scale farmers in the developing world while enjoying fellowship and an excellent cup of coffee. As Christians we can address a consumer dilemma by buying coffee that is fairly traded. United Methodist congregations that participate are helping small scale farmers in Latin America, Africa and Asia earn a fairer share of income, obtain access to credit and technical support, and gain a trading partner they can trust, a fair trade organization called Equal Exchange.

Our RPUMC Missions is sponsoring the UMCOR Coffee Project which will help small farmers. At the same time that we are able to help them, we will be able to raise money for summer camp scholarships for our kids. The bags of coffee will be modestly marked up and donations will be accepted for the coffee that is served. We anticipate a large number of kids going to camp in the summer of 2009.

As you enjoy this high-quality coffee, take time to learn more about its impact on the people who grow it. Read about coffee farmers and the ways in which the church is helping people like them. Discuss issues of justice in the global marketplace and take action in the spirit of love. United Methodist Churches have sustained UMCOR's ministries of relief and development for more than 60 years. With such commitment, we can also make a difference in this new way.

Visit our new coffee shop, Common Grounds (located in the hall, just east of the ministry center) starting this Sunday November 16th!

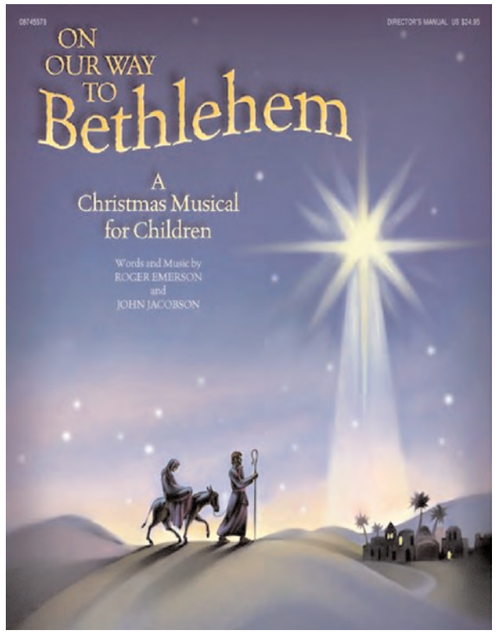
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL IS COMING SOON!!!

Parents,

My name is Laura Bertwell and I am so excited to be your new children's choir director. Although our time is limited, I believe we can have a great musical that the kids can enjoy and remember for years to come! However, we need your support!

It is so important that every child comes to each and every rehearsal on Wednesday. Every rehearsal will be important and if they do not attend they may miss a learning opportunity.

Thank you for your support and I can't wait to meet all of you. If you have any questions please call me at 832-797-7548 or email me at lbertwell@smu.edu



*We will continue meeting from 6:30-7:30 so don't be late!

Important Dates to Remember:
(Don't forget to put them on your calendar!)

November 26 - Auditions will be held during normal rehearsal times. If your child is interested please encourage them to audition!

December 13th - 1:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary; Blocking rehearsal for those who having speaking parts (main characters)

December 20th - Dress Rehearsal for Children's Choir Musical; 10:00-11:30 in Sanctuary.

December 21st - We will warm up in the choir room at 5:15 p.m. We will perform the musical on Sunday evening at the 6:00 p.m.

Note Time Change

Blessings and Peace as the Holiday Season approaches…

Ms. Laura