

United Church of God, IA-East Texas/Texarkana

Announcements • December 15, 2007

Ken Treybig, Pastor

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SABBATH SERVICES

Song Leader – Dick Hegna
Split Sermon – Reese Brown
Bible Study – Ken Treybig

Texarkana – 10 a.m.

Song Leader – Ken Treybig
Split Sermon – Scott Hammer
Bible Study – Ken Treybig

WEEKLY HALL SCHEDULE

December 22, Big Sandy HS . 2:30 pm
December 29, our hall..... 2:30 pm

NOTE: We expect to be in our own building for services on December 29. In case something happens that we just cannot meet there, Big Sandy HS is our backup. We should know for sure by next weekend.

PRETEEN EVENTS

Sabbath School Today

Class will be held **today** during the Bible Study for a lesson on “*All that Glitters is not Gold.*” Please remember to bring your Bible and notebook. Snacks will be provided.

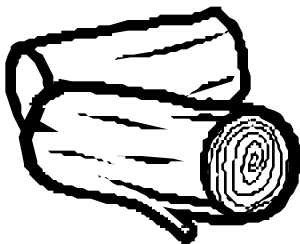
Class will be cancelled next Sabbath, December 22.

Children’s Choir

The Children’s Choir will perform with the Adult Choir at the building dedication in January. Please see Laura Moody for a copy of the CD and lyrics.

TEEN EVENTS

Teen Fundraisers



Don’t forget the two teen fundraisers—selling firewood and selling

2008 calendars. See one of the teens or the Shipmans for details.

YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

Young Adults Meeting Today

There will be a short meeting right after the Bible Study *today* for all young adults. Please meet at the front of the stage.

United Youth Corps Projects

Do you want to make a positive difference in the world? Do you want to live the Christian principle of serving your brethren in the Church and setting an example of service for other people in the world? Do you want to experience the enriching education and adventure of international travel? Would you like to do all these things at the same time? If so, the United Youth Corps might be for you. The United Youth Corps program offers opportunities for service, leadership training, and travel for our young adults in the Church. This is the ninth year of offering United Youth Corps opportunities, and to date we have over 60 young adults who have participated in 18 projects in eight countries.

We are pleased and excited to announce we are now accepting applications for this year’s programs in:

- **Philippines, Asia**
April 27 to May 11
- **Ghana, West Africa**
August 6 to 20
- **Nigeria, West Africa**
August 11 to 27
- **Amman, Jordan, & Israel**
June 16 to Aug. 3
- **Kenya, East Africa**
December 10 to 24

United Youth Corps international projects may not be for everyone; however, if you think one might be for

you, please see the fact sheets giving information on the various projects offered this year. Fact Sheets and application forms are available from your pastor *today*. You may also view and download fact sheets and applications for any of the projects by visiting the United Youth Corps Web site at www.ucgyouthcorps.org.

Financial Aid/Subsidy: This year United Youth Corps is offering to subsidize up to 50 percent of the airfare cost of all accepted United Youth Corps applicants. Also, those applicants who may have additional fund limitations can apply for *additional financial aid*. This is a new financial commitment that United Church of God is making to this education and service program for our young adults. Financial Aid forms can be acquired from your pastor.

Note: The deadline for applications to the projects in the Philippines and Jordan/Israel is **Feb. 1** (other projects have later deadlines). Therefore, we encourage all of you to not delay in finding out more about how you can make a positive difference in the Church and in the world while living unique international adventures. You can do all this by participating in the United Youth Corps!

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Home Office Announcement

The Council of Elders is at the beginning stages of a strategic planning process that will guide our priorities for the next several years. The Council believes that our dedicated members, elders, and staff can provide critical input into the directions we should consider.

To this end, we want to give all members, elders, and employees an opportunity to share their thoughts on broad strategic issues such as where

we are, where we need to be, and how we might get there.

To do so, we have crafted a confidential survey for the members, elders, and employees of the United Church of God. The survey contains quantitative questions as well as questions which allow you to give written responses. Please be as frank, honest, and constructive as you can. This is an opportunity for the Council of Elders to hear the members', elders' and staff's best thinking about the directions we should consider taking. We will be utilizing a Web-based survey to collect responses and collate data. All surveys must be completed online, which will reduce the time and expense of processing responses. You may access the survey by going to the members Website at <http://members.ucg.org> and click on the members survey link.

The deadline for completing the survey is January 6, 2008. It should take about 30 minutes to complete the survey, and we really hope you will invest the time to offer your input! Thank you in advance.

~ Clyde Kilough
President

Social Planning Meeting

With the timing of getting into our building coming together, and our dedication weekend set, it's time to review our social calendar and make some adjustments. We'll have a brief meeting **today** right after the Young Adults meeting to review our socials for the rest of the current planning year.

Basketball Practice

It's time to gear up for the basketball season, which means it's time for practices to begin. Our first practice will be this Sunday, **December 16**, from **9 a.m. to 12 Noon**, at the Big Sandy Middle School. The teen boys will practice from 9 – 11 and adults from 11 to 12 Noon. Practice for the girls will begin on December 30. Since some will be gone to the Winter Family Weekend, we did not schedule the gym then. The next practice will be on Sunday, December 30. In Janu-

ary, the practices will be on Saturday nights, with our first set of regional games being in Houston on January 26 – 27.

Annual Bonfire & Cookout



BBBBBBBBRRRR!!!! Winter is here and that makes bonfires more enjoyable! Anyone not attending the Winter Family Weekend in Louisville over the winter break is invited to the M&M Farm (aka Mark and Amanda Weiss's) for a bonfire and hamburger/hot dog cookout next Saturday night, **December 22**, starting right after sundown. The meat and buns and drinks will be provided. There is a sign-up list on the Information Table for other items. Please sign the list to help with the planning, and come join the fun! Remember to bring folding chairs if you can.

Congregational Meeting

We expect to be in our building for services on **December 29**, and since it's the fifth week of the month, everyone is asked to bring snacks. We will also have a congregational meeting to discuss our use of the building. We may not answer all the questions, but we can at least make all of us aware of some of the options and the pros and cons associated with those choices. We welcome everyone to stick around after services, enjoy the snacks, and join in the discussion.

Local Hall Areas of Service

As has been stated several times over the past couple of years, once we are in our own building we will need new lists of volunteers. There are some service areas we will need now that we have not needed in the past. Building cleaning and parking are just two examples of that. There is a set of

new sign-up lists on the Information Table. We would appreciate it if you would take the time to think about the different options and sign up to help out in whatever area/areas you would like. Please also be thinking of other areas where volunteers might be needed.

Dedication Reception

The sign-up lists for refreshments for the building dedication weekend are available on the Information Table. Please note the details. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Worthen.

Neff Thank You

“Just a short note of thanks to the congregation for the reception Tuesday night. It was really an enjoyable experience as I was able to see some old friends I had not seen in many years. Thanks also for the card. I truly believe this ‘sale’ was the best I ever made for one of my paintings! To have so many longtime friends see it on a regular basis is truly a blessing to me. I hope the church will enjoy it for many years to come. As they walk in each time, I hope it will truly convey a sense of appreciation and awe of God's Great Creation as they gather in His honor.”

~ Donald Neff

Media Library Additions

We have a number of new additions to the Media Library. The Feast recordings for this year arrived for Kerrville, Lancaster, and Panama City Beach. In addition, we received recordings of two ABC classes—Former Prophets (on two CDs) and Fundamentals of Theology. See the Media Library if you're interested.

Branson Family Weekend

You're invited to the 13th annual Presidents' Weekend Family Activity in Branson, MO, **February 15 – 17, 2008**. The weekend is the highlight of the mid-winter for many Church families, and promises to be better than ever this year. Last year we had about 350 in attendance and expect a similar number again this year.

The weekend begins Friday evening with a large "Family Reunion" fellowship evening. On Sabbath, we will again have a variety of seminars followed by Sabbath services featuring our guest speaker, Mr. Richard Thompson. Then we will have our evening meal, talent showcase, and family dance to top off the evening. Sunday we will have more seminars and family activities, ending with a game night for all those staying over Sunday evening.

This year we have moved the location (the Windmill Inn wasn't available) to the Ramada Inn, across the street from the skating rink. The cost for each room will be \$37 per night and will include a full breakfast for everyone in the room. You may begin to make hotel reservations by calling the Ramada Inn at 417-334-1000 and identifying yourself as part of the United Church of God Presidents' Weekend activity.

More information on activities, schedule, the talent contest, and other things will be coming in a couple of weeks. We look forward to seeing many of you in Branson!

BUILDING UPDATES

Work Progress

This week the sheetrock punch list was worked on, the countertops were installed in the restrooms, interior door installation began, the roof leak was patched, and the Kitchen tile and base were grouted. More work was also done on the electrical needs. The Kitchen countertops were scheduled to be installed Friday and the island granitop will go in on Sunday.

Work also continued on the floor tiling and all tile, including base, was laid except for a few final pieces. We're still waiting for our sound floor pocket so we can tile up next to it. We also have to wait for the doors to be leveled before adding the last piece that will go up next to the door frames. Now we need to grout the tile.

There will be a work party this Sunday for those who can help, beginning at 9 a.m., to clean the tile and work on grouting the tile and the tile base and

to help install the granite countertop on the island in the Kitchen. We'll need some muscle to help move the top in place.

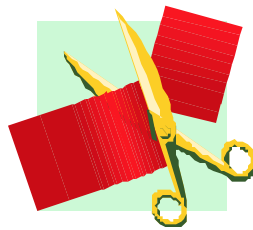
Many thanks for all the volunteer labor on the building and those who are able to make monthly donations to the fund!

Check out the latest building photos on our local Web site at <http://www.ucgeasttexas.org/cpg/home/index.php> along with the link at <http://www.ucgeasttexas.org/cpg/home/thumbnails.php?album=4> for the furnishings acquired so far.

Décor Committee

The committee is happy to announce the recent purchase of a credenza/buffet for the Entry with previously donated funds from the UCG-Houston South congregation. A used commercial Manitowoc ice machine for the Kitchen was also recently purchased with other donated funds. We have ordered the commercial refrigerator and will take delivery next week. The committee is appreciative of all the blessings and generosity as we make our final budget appropriations for Phase I.

Building Dedication Plans



January 19 – 20, 2008 will be the weekend for our building dedication. We hope to be meeting in the building before then, but that's the first date that will work for the dedication. The weekend will consist of the dedication to be held on the Sabbath, and a ribbon-cutting and open house for the public the next day on Sunday, starting at 2 p.m. We hope as many local members as possible will be able to be there to welcome our visitors.

CHURCH BUILDING FUND

Contributions to the Building Fund this past week totaled \$1,022. During

the month of November, the Building Fund increased by \$936.

Our current total of funds collected is \$280,482.

To make donations, checks should be made out to United Church of God, East Texas and mailed to Sarah Baker, P.O. Box 1111, Hawkins, TX 75765.

PRAYER UPDATES

Please continue to remember **John Trotter** in your prayers. He extends his thanks for all the prayers and cards. He has received all the results from the first battery of tests, and is now waiting for the results from a second blood test.

Vera Oxley is feeling much better and is very thankful for all the prayers and concern.