

United Church of God, IA-East Texas/Texarkana

Announcements • December 22, 2007

Ken Treybig, Pastor

Phone: 903-844-9246

Web site: www.ucgeasttexas.org

SABBATH SERVICES

Song Leader – Shannon Lucas
Sermonette – John Trotter
Sermon – Frank McCrady

Texarkana – 10 a.m.

Song Leader – James Neff
Sermonette – Jack Elliott
Sermon – Les McCullough

WEEKLY HALL SCHEDULE

December 29, our hall..... 2:30 pm
January 5, our hall..... 2:30 pm
January 12, our hall..... 2:30 pm
January 19, our hall..... 2:30 pm

NOTE: We will be in our own building for services next Sabbath, December 29. The restroom partitions are not expected by then, but we will have temporary privacy curtains for now.

PRETEEN EVENTS

Sabbath School

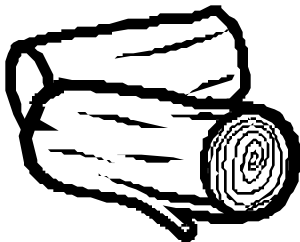
Class will be cancelled today due to vacation schedules. Class will be held next Sabbath, **December 29**, during the sermonette portion.

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.

Teen Bible Study

The next teen Bible Study will be on Saturday night, **January 5**. We'll stay after services to meet in the church building.

YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

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

Wedding

Congratulations to Greg Baker and Debbie Whitlark, who are to be married this coming Sunday evening, December 23, in Burseson, Texas. After a honeymoon cruise to Cabo san Lucas, the couple hopes to live in Washington, DC.

Annual Bonfire & Cookout



BRRRRRRRRR!!!! 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 Fam (aka Mark and Amanda Weiss's) for a bonfire and ham-

burger/hot dog cookout **tonight**, December 22, starting right after sundown. The meat and drinks will be provided. Please bring the other items you signed up for. Come join the fun! Remember to bring folding chairs if you can.

Congregational Meeting

Next Sabbath, **December 29**, when we have our first meeting in our building, is the fifth week of the month, so everyone is asked to bring snacks and stick around for a congregational meeting to discuss needed service areas to add to those for which signup lists are posted.

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 so we can discuss them at our meeting next week.

Basketball Practice

Our next practice will be Sunday, **December 30**, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Big Sandy Middle School. The teens will practice from 9 – 10:30 a.m. and adults from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. In January, we will practice on Sunday, January 6. The other practices of the month will be on Saturday nights. Our first set of regional games will be in Houston on January 26 – 27.

Ten Pins!



Make plans to join your spiritual family for bowling on Sunday, **December 30**, from 12 noon to 5 p.m., at the Oil Bowl Lanes on 1102 W. Cotton in Longview.

Choir Practice

In preparation for the Dedication weekend, the choir will have its only major practice on Tuesday night, **January 1**, starting at 7 p.m. at the church building. Please note we have changed the time from our earlier announcement to accommodate those working that day. If you need a copy of the music or the parts CD, please see Ed Weiss.

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.

Media Library Additions

We have a number of new additions to the Media Library. The Feast recordings for this year arrived for several sites. We also 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

The Presidents' Day Family Weekend in Branson, MO is now only eight weeks away, **Feb. 15 – 17, 2008!** It promises to be bigger and better than ever. This year we will have seven seminars, Sabbath services featuring our guest speaker, council member Mr. Richard Thompson, a fun show, a family dance, a roller skating party, an indoor miniature golf outing, as well as a game night and plenty of fellowship time for meeting new friends or renewing old friendships.

A delicious Italian dinner (at a nominal fee) is planned for Saturday evening. We will also have a delicious lunch on Sunday (at a nominal fee), as well as a fun fellowship reception on Friday evening. A copy of the overall schedule is on the Information

Table. Final costs for the meals, seminar subjects, and sign-up sheets for the Talent/Fun show will be available in a couple of weeks.

Go ahead and make your reservations at the Ramada Inn, 417-334-1000, for this fun and educational weekend for the whole family. Cost of rooms at the Ramada Inn will be \$37 per room per night. A full breakfast for everyone in the motel room is included in the price. This is a great mid-winter break from the normal activities and will recharge your batteries for the rest of the winter. See you in Branson for the 13th Annual Presidents' Day Family Weekend!

BUILDING UPDATES

Work Progress

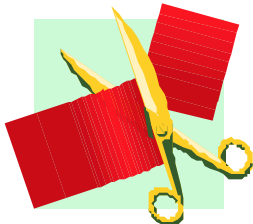
This week door installation was continued along with door hardware installation. The rest of the stainless steel countertops were installed in the Kitchen, as well as the island countertop. The last of the tile was laid and grouting was completed. The carpet was also laid in the Auditorium.

There will be a work party this Sunday for those who can help, beginning at 9 a.m., to clean and vacuum all the auditorium chairs that will be transferred from the storage warehouse to the building and work on any other remaining items needed so we can meet there next week.

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.

Building Dedication Plans



January 19 – 20, 2008 will be the weekend for our building 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

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.