

## Our Values

WORSHIP OF GOD THAT  
INSPIRES HEARTS AND MINDS

SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS, OUR  
NEIGHBORS, AND THE WORLD

SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BEING A CARING COMMUNITY  
OF FAITH



# Strawbridge

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## The Messenger

November 2011

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## Fall Back!

Daylight Savings time ends November 6. Remember to fall back one hour, and remember to refresh the batteries in your smoke alarms.

### 1+1=Together Update

As lay leader and spokesperson, I wanted to report to the congregation on the tremendous success of the 1+1=2gether campaign. Over 215 individuals returned commitment cards to a ministry area and/or a small group. This number is up almost 200 percent from the 115 commitments the previous year! At least six of these commitment cards were returned by regular visitors to the church.

Clearly, we're a church family becoming more and more focused on Every Member in Ministry... and a Small Group for Every Member! The campaign's success was due to the participation of all of the small groups and ministry teams involved in the campaign. The fair was a great event. Thanks to all who participated. And a special thanks to Mary Lallier, who was the heart and soul of this campaign. Finally, I hope that you find your service in ministry and your participation in small groups rewarding and meaningful in your faith journey.

Sincerely,

John Bridger

### From the Pastor's Desk...

Last month was a very meaningful time in the life of our congregation. We explored how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity, and joy. Many have responded to all that we have learned by setting personal goals and making commitments. The last two Sundays, we have consecrated our commitments of giving to support God's work through our church.

If you have already completed your estimate of giving card, thank you. If you have not yet had an opportunity to do so, it's not too late. Simply drop your commitment card in the mail, bring it by the church office, or put it the offering plate during any worship service. If you need another card, extras are available in the church Narthex or through the office.

We are grateful for your financial support of your church. Your giving in the coming year will make a difference in the lives of children, youth, and adults at SUMC—as well as in the lives of people everywhere we are in mission and ministry in the world.

Pastor Jim



For where your Treasure is,  
there will your heart be also.  
Matthew 6:21

## Nepali Greeting and Christmas Cards



The Zimmermans, missionaries Strawbridge supports in Nepal, recently told us about Chet Karel, an evangelist in Nepal. Crippled from birth and unable to walk, at the age of eighteen Chet became a Christian, and after prayer began to walk. A missionary taught him to make beautiful cards from handmade Nepali paper and fabrics so that he would have a means to support himself in a country where disabled people either beg or are dependent on their families for care. Chet has established a ministry to preach the gospel and proclaim Christ's healing powers.

Chet's cards will be on display and available for purchase throughout the Advent Season. Proceeds will help support Chet's ministry and family in Nepal.



Beginning November 13 you'll see several Christmas trees around the church. These trees are not simply decorations, they are filled with opportunities to share true Christmas spirit.



The trees will be adorned with paper decorations—each filled with a Christmas wish.

### Methodist Children's Home

Some tags have the names of pre-teens and teens who live at the Methodist Children's Home in Waco. Their tags request \$25 gift cards for WalMart (to be dropped off at church by December 11). Like all young people, these children like to shop for things that they want for themselves and others.



### Mission Northeast

Other tags will have specific requests for items to be purchased for children of all ages and adults. These items will be delivered to the "Christmas Store" at The Mission Northeast in Porter. Adults and children in need shop at the store (at no cost) for Christmas items to give their children or parents. These unwrapped items may be returned under the tree at any time, but no later than Sunday, December 4.

## Habitat 2012 Kick-Off Fellowship Supper



Our 2009 Habitat House as it neared completion. Photo by Lynetta Campbell.

Everyone is invited to come to the Activity Center Wednesday, November 16 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. to enjoy a delicious fellowship supper and learn about our 2012 Habitat House. You'll get a sneak peek at the floor plan, elevation, and the construction schedule. Habitat folks will be on hand to talk about

how the process works and you'll have a chance to ask questions. Child care will be provided.

In lieu of a meal charge, donations will be accepted for the SUMC Habitat Fund (\$7,500 is needed to satisfy our financial commitment for the 2012 build).

Please note that it will still be necessary to make reservations in advance if you plan to attend. Call the office for reservations at 281-360-4500. For more information, contact Reid Armistead or Howard Deterding.

# Seasons of the Heart



**Seasons of the Heart Craft Bazaar**  
**Saturday, November 5!**  
**9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**Strawbridge Activity Center**

**Support SUMC ministries as you**  
**shop for handmade crafts,**  
**visit the Sweet Shoppe,**  
**and bid on Adult and Children's**  
**silent auction items!**

**Contact Sandy Telljohann or Kay**  
**Burleson, [gkburleson@suddenlink.net](mailto:gkburleson@suddenlink.net).**

*Still Accepting Silent Auction Donations!*



## Sweet Outreach to Pine Shadows

During adult Sunday school classes (through Sunday, November 6) you will have an opportunity to donate \$4 toward the purchase of pies for the residents at Pine Shadows Nursing Home in Porter.

Many of the residents of Pine Shadows are economically challenged individuals who rarely receive visitors. Each year before Thanksgiving, the home hosts an "All You Can Eat Pie Event" for the residents. As part of our continuing outreach to them, we'll personally deliver pies—helping with their pre-holiday event and sharing God's love.

We will gather at Strawbridge at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 15, and depart shortly thereafter to make deliveries. If you would like to participate, please call Rose Burnett to sign up.

We will also deliver coloring books, playing cards, jig saw puzzles, word search puzzles, and stationary. These items were purchased thanks to a generous donation from the Seasons of the Heart craft group. Everyone will enjoy a nicer Thanksgiving this year because of the love they share with these dear folks.



## *Relax Refresh Renew*

**January 13-15, 2012**

**at beautiful Camp Allen in Navasota.**  
**Special Guest Speaker, Mindy Ferguson of**  
**Fruitful Word Ministries. Contact Cheryl**  
**Burnett at [cheryldburnett@hotmail.com](mailto:cheryldburnett@hotmail.com).**

**Registration Deadline November 15!**

# Advent and Christmas Preview



**Sunday, November 27, 5:30 p.m.**  
Hanging of the Greens with  
Fellowship Supper and Family Activities.

**Saturday, December 17, 8:30 a.m.**  
Breakfast in Bethlehem with  
Food, Music, and a Walk through the  
City of Bethlehem.

**Saturday, December 24**  
Three Christmas Eve Services:

- 5 pm—A Young Family Service in the Activity Center.
- 7 pm—A Contemporary Service for Younger Families with Candlelight
- 9 pm—A Traditional Service with Candlelight and Holy Communion

**Sunday, December 25**  
One Christmas Day Service at 11 a.m.

## Remember

If you need child care for your event, be sure to schedule it at least two weeks in advance by e-mailing [kimberly.kurtz@strawbridge-umc.org](mailto:kimberly.kurtz@strawbridge-umc.org).



## 50+ Trip to Santa's Wonderland



The 50+ crowd will travel to College Station Tuesday December 13. After a 5 p.m. dinner at Mallett Brothers BBQ, we'll head to San-

ta's Wonderland to tour the extensive light display via bus. We will disembark at the Christmas Village to enjoy the live music, unique shops, and food and beverages available for purchase. After another trip back through the light displays we'll return to Kingwood.

Meet at the church at 2:30 p.m. for a 2:45 p.m. departure. We will return to Strawbridge at approximately 10:45 p.m. Please sign up at the Strawbridge church office, 281-360-4500, or e-mail Trish King at [trish.king@strawbridge-umc.org](mailto:trish.king@strawbridge-umc.org).

## The United Methodist Church Launches Free Mobile App

Mobile device users can easily access information about The United Methodist Church on the go with a new free United Methodist application. Developed by United Methodist Communications and Music City Networks, the app is now available for free download for iPad and iPhone. It should be available for Android smartphone users in early November 2011.

The application enables mobile access to daily devotions, news, videos, photos, social media sites and a searchable index of United Methodist churches by geographic area. The "Ask InfoServ" feature connects users who have questions about the church or requests for resources with church staff who can help.

"We created the app so that we could deliver information about the denomination to people in a way that's fast, simple and easy to use," said the Rev. Larry Hollon, chief executive of United Methodist Communications, the global communications agency of The United Methodist Church. "The features available now are just a start. Our goal is to roll out new offerings over the coming months."

Hollon said that in early 2012, another new mobile application will be launched that will make it easier for users to connect with the United Methodist General Conference, the meeting of the denomination's top policy-making body which occurs once every four years. The 2012 meeting will take place

April 24-May 4 in Tampa, Florida. The application will allow delegates and other interested parties to track proposed legislation, as well as to conveniently keep up with scheduled events and access information about the meeting locale.

To download the free app on your iPad or iPhone, go to your device's app store. Search for 'United Methodist.' From there, you will see The Official Mobile App of The United Methodist Church. Tap the FREE icon to install.




**BAPTIZED**  
*in the Triune God*

Sarah Marie Olsakovsky,  
daughter of John and  
Kelly Olsakovsky, was  
baptized at the 11 a.m.  
Crossroads service on  
October 16, 2011.



**WELCOME!**

Welcome  
Peggy Farmer!  
Peggy joined SUMC on  
Sunday, October 9, 2011.

## Happening in November

### Baby Daze Accepting Grant Requests

Baby Daze is accepting grant requests for non-budgeted ministry needs. Submit a request in the Baby Daze mailbox or e-mail Rebecca Pubentz at [mpubentz@hotmail.com](mailto:mpubentz@hotmail.com) by Friday, November 4.

### Pictorial Directories

Last call! If your photo was taken for the pictorial directory, please stop by the office to pick up your directory.

### Merry Widows Luncheon November 2

The Merry Widows meet for lunch every first Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in Kings Harbor. Join us November 2 at

Chimichurri's. To learn more, contact Trish King at [trish.king@strawbridge-umc.org](mailto:trish.king@strawbridge-umc.org).

### All Church Fellowship Suppers

- Wednesday, November 16 at 5:30 p.m. sponsored by Missions.
- Sunday, November 27, Hanging of the Greens with supper at 5:30 p.m. followed by fun family activities to prepare the church for the Advent Season.

### Strawbridge Interfaith Quilters - November 14

Come to the Activity Center Monday, November 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to work on

our habitat house quilt. Bring scrap material, a sack lunch (drinks provided), and show and tell projects to share. After lunch we will enjoy a lesson from Fons and Porter. Contact Rose Burnett for more information at [rburnett001@comcast.net](mailto:rburnett001@comcast.net).

### XYZ Dinner November 19

The XYZs (Extra Years of Zest 50+ Fellowship) folks will have dinner together November 19 at J. Christopher's. All 50+ and friends are invited. Contact Trish King at 271-360-4500 or [trish.king@strawbridge-umc.org](mailto:trish.king@strawbridge-umc.org).

### Upcoming Student Events

#### November 13

Hayride at High Star Christmas Tree Farm, Hockley, Texas

#### November 20-21

The 24 Hour Justice Retreat/Lock-in

#### December 3

Youth Volunteer Christmas Party.



If you think you've identified a victim of human trafficking, call 911 or the national Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline at 1-888-373-7888. For information locally, contact the Houston Rescue and Restore Coalition at 713-306-0583.

#### Here are some questions to ask a suspected trafficking victim:

- What type of work do you do?
- Are you being paid?
- Can you leave your job if you want to?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you or has your family been threatened?
- What are your working conditions like?

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## Student Ministry News

### 24 Hour Justice Experience

All Jr. and Sr. High students are invited to participate in the 24 Hour Justice Experience November 20-21 beginning at 7 p.m. The 24 Hour Justice Experience is one third lock-in, one third retreat, and one third mission trip. The cost is \$48.

The 24 Hour Justice Experience is a tool for us to learn more about the issues of justice around the world. Through this experience, International Justice Mission hopes to help students understand the problem of sex trafficking and slavery in our world today, and discover that God hates this injustice. Students will discover that they can make a difference by being a part of the movement of students ending slavery in their lifetime. God calls each of us to restore justice to the poor and vulnerable.

### Volunteers and Parents

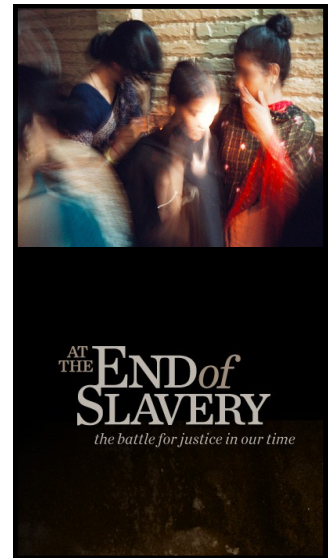
We need our adult volunteers to make this happen! We need:

1. Cooks to prepare breakfast and supper.
2. Chaperones for Sunday evening (at least five - both male and female).
3. Photographers to document the event.
4. Chaperones for Monday to help with our service project and evening wrap-up (at least six - both male and females).
5. Prayer Team to pray for our students and adults through the entire 24 hour experience (sign up outside the youth office).

Eight adults are needed to be part of a simulation on Sunday evening. This is a simulation game about gathering information on a child who has been sold into bonded slavery.

Registration forms are available in the youth office for you to pick up and distribute to your D-Teams or other youth programs you work with.

Check out the video from International Justice Mission, <http://vimeo.com/4733514>.



## Houston, International Hub for Human Trafficking

Maritza Conde-Vazquez, a special agent with the FBI, says Houston is a popular trafficking hub in part because the city is so diverse, with large Hispanic, Asian and Middle Eastern populations, which allows traffickers and their victims to blend into local communities. The city's major port and proximity to the border also influence its position as a major distribution point for traffickers.

Recognition of the growing problem in Houston has

spawned coalitions and task forces that include law enforcement agencies and non-governmental organizations. "It's everywhere. It's in restaurants and so-called spas. A lot of them are fronts for cantinas and brothels," said Deputy Edwin Chapuseaux of the Harris County Sheriff's Department. "Wherever there is some kind of labor, there's a possibility human trafficking could be happening."

The Department of Justice estimates that human traf-

ficking is the third-most-profitable criminal activity in the world, after drug and arms trafficking, with an estimated \$9.5 billion generated annually worldwide.



It's in restaurants and so-called spas. A lot of them are fronts for cantinas and brothels.

# Prayer Requests

## Sympathy to:

The family and friends of Rebecca Woodruff (an SUMC preschool student who died in October)  
Norma and Dick Wagner and family on the death of Norma's sister, Becky Campbell  
Theresa Snyder and family on the death of her father, Pete Mooney  
Joe and Marta Meszaros, parents of Al Meszaros, on the death of Joe's best friend



To honor the need for privacy regarding medical information, it is necessary to list first names only for some of our friends and family.

## For our family and friends who are experiencing illness or injury:

Dave Hovey (friend of Bill Chenault); Mary Buckalo; Barbara Hall; Ryan Brown (son of Steve and Judy Brown); Michael Leon (junior at Kingwood Park High School); Jack Johnson; Greg Carscallen (friend of Bill and Jerry Morgan); Inman Vaughn (Beth Chenault's Dad); Caleb Elston (grandson of Bill and Darlene Elston); Patricia Miller (mother of Martha Paradysz); Helen Meley; Carolyn Treynor; Mike Harris; Thomas Joseph Stanton

## For our family and friends recovering from surgery:

Sherry Wilson (one of our Feed My Lambers); Bill Elston; Gene Battelle (friend of Sandra Plilar)

## For our military family and friends who are deployed overseas:

Timothy Bonnoitt (Kaytee Fuller's fiancé); Danny Braud (Kim Kollehner's fiancé); Matt Lennon (son of co-worker of Marsha Johnson); Spencer Brady (friend of the Capaletti family); Heather Lane; Lance Stephens

## For our family and friends who are living with cancer:

Stephanie	Alysha (Pauline and Garry Musy's niece)
Hildy (friend of Andrea Lee)	Debra (co-worker of Halina Duncan)
Carolyn (wife of Pastor at 1st Presbyterian)	Arda (Pam Smith's mother)
Mary Ellen (Kathy Reiter's grandmother)	Matt (teammate of Cody Smith)
Don (Nola Ostrowski's father)	Keith (friend of Layne Smith)
Christian (son of Coach Holley)	Andrea and Mary Anne (friends of Frank and Marsha Johnson)
Beth (Bill Chenault's sister)	Joel
Kevin (neighbor of Bill and Beth Chenault)	Debbie (friend of Pat Chandler)
David (friend of Bill Chenault)	Sam (father of Sindi Sonnier)
Gayle (friend of Amelia Keel)	Joyce (friend of Kelsey Belflower)
Fred (friend of Amelia Keel and Esther Jones)	Charlie (3 year old cousin of the Drees Family)
Doug (friend of Ann Bryan)	Ward (Sky Cheney's father)
June (Ann Bryan's aunt)	Vivian (friend of Theresa Snyder)
Amy (Rick and Ann Bryan's niece)	Carol (friend of Paul and Brenda Hulse)
Cade (13 year old friend of Ann Bryan's daughter's family)	Heather (friend of the Ahmanns)
Mark (friend of Corena Lipstreuer)	Frank (Erin Robbins' grandfather)
Donald (uncle of David Vannauker)	Jim (Gary Williams' stepfather)
Leo (friend of Linda Bell)	Debbie (cousin of Linda Barnett)
Debbie (cousin of Linda Bell)	Marge, Lucy, and Mr. Miller (friends of John Barnett)
Linda (grandmother of Elisha James)	Hazel (mother of a friend of John Barnett)
Rosalyn (Elisha James' boss)	Martha (mother of George and Carolyn Reed)
Pete (grandfather of Elisha James)	Sean (friend of Lauren Llewellyn)
Ines (co-worker of Elisha James)	Richard (Barbara Stream's cousin)
Dale (friend of Elisha James)	Wanda (friend of Pat Flinn)
Donna (friend of Crystale Strange)	Tom Henry (Doug Henry's father)
Lori (friend of Laurie Zalewski)	Matt (Layne Smith's nephew)
Maria (friend of Laurie Zalewski)	Ron (friend of Carolyn Ruth)
Tommy (step-father of Laura Ross)	



Almighty God, we thank you for making the earth fruitful, so that it might produce what is needed for life: Bless those who work in the fields; give us seasonable weather; and grant that we may all share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**STRAWBRIDGE  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**

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<b>Submission Deadline:</b>	<b>For Issue:</b>
<b>November 15</b>	<b>December</b>

**E-mail submissions to:**  
[karla.goolsby@strawbridge-umc.org](mailto:karla.goolsby@strawbridge-umc.org)

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Methodist Church Staff**

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**CROSSROADS PRAISE BAND LEADER**

Chris Dickson

***A Spiritual Sanctuary in a Hectic World***

**Holiday Closures**

The church office will be closed the week of Thanksgiving from November 20-27. Pastor Jim will be on call

for emergencies this week. The church office will also be closed December 25 through January 1,

2012. Pastor Beth will be the on call for emergencies this week.

**November Birthdays**

11/1 Christopher Burnett	11/10 Marguerite Armistead	11/20 Emily McLallen
11/1 Sarah Potter	11/10 Jack Armistead	11/21 Dale Grayson
11/1 Joel Johnston	11/11 Tamara Tippey	11/21 David Bornstein
11/1 Jeremiah Johnston	11/11 John Kollehner	11/21 Elizabeth Herink
11/1 Pat Connor	11/12 Donna Bridger	11/21 Glenn Beadling
11/1 Anne Medina	11/12 Doug Bugner	11/22 Holland Vavra
11/1 Bobby Johnston	11/12 Emma Kent	11/23 Joshua Morgan
11/2 Trey Wynn	11/12 Wayne Garrison	11/23 Doris Moomaw
11/2 Jacob Starkey	11/13 Will Bridges	11/23 Jon Matthews
11/2 Tom Leahy	11/14 Judy Ehrhardt	11/24 Katelyn Warren
11/2 David Smith	11/14 Ricky Bryan	11/24 Kelly McLean
11/3 Eric Pregler	11/15 Shannon Retrum	11/25 Katie Reiter
11/3 Linda Berner	11/15 Cynthia Nielsen	11/25 Brenda Genter
11/4 Mike Carter	11/15 Anita Garcia	11/25 Garrett Duncan
11/4 Jane Christensen	11/15 Robin Ardoin	11/26 Andy Gorham
11/4 Lindsay Chenault	11/15 Cathy Hutzell	11/26 Cody Welborn
11/4 Virginia Gandy	11/16 Hannah Hanz	11/26 Noah Kent
11/4 Jinyoung Wynn	11/16 Robbin Burger	11/27 Sarah Richardson
11/4 Finley McDonald	11/18 Brenda Hulse	11/27 Lance Permenter
11/5 Ellen Hogan	11/18 Julianne Ellington	11/27 Sewo Olonilua
11/5 Brad loerger	11/18 Brett Somogye	11/28 Sophie Harris
11/6 Tom Zyroll	11/18 Tyler Somogye	11/28 Jeff White
11/6 Joshua Reynolds	11/19 Diane Livingston	11/29 Ryan Dempster
11/6 Cheryl Burnett	11/19 Ayo Jejelowo	11/29 Ron Flinn
11/6 Sarah Permenter	11/19 Kelly McKenzie	11/29 Christopher Wahrmund
11/7 Richard Schwabenlander	11/20 Norman Graff	11/29 Eric Stroud
11/8 Gary Burger	11/20 Joy Sievertson	11/29 Barbie Bugner
11/9 Jody Dowd	11/20 Andrew Morgan	11/30 David Wofford
11/9 Megan Duncan	11/20 Daniel Lawson	11/30 Nicole Janowski
11/10 David Lewis	11/20 Stephen Schellinger	