

The Russell Report

Russell Memorial United Methodist Church

A Family Rooted in Christ and Reaching Out in Love



Vol. 13, No. 3

March 1, 2017



VBS is Coming!

You've probably heard the old saying "it takes a village to raise a child," but what about "it takes a church to run a VBS program?" That's right, VBS is right around the corner and will be here before we know it. From every leader who actively shepherds a group of kids during the week, to each Sunday school member who willingly

accepts a week's worth of chaos in their classroom, VBS impacts us all, especially the bright, accepting, and engaging minds of the kids we intend to shepherd.

So how are you a part of this? I know many of you might say you're not good with children, but do you have computer skills you could impart to help us set up web information for potential participants? Do you have a flair for decorating you could use to engage a child's mind? Or perhaps it is a knack for advertising ideas that could help us invite more children to attend. It might surprise you in the unique way you might add to the experience for each of our kids, and I encourage each of you to do so!

Mark your calendars, please, for June 19 - 23. [Beginning this Sunday](#), you will see volunteer sign-up sheets in the Sunday school class rooms. There are a few immediate needs, but also many that will come up as the date draws near. If you don't want to wait, you can email or call me with information on how you are willing to help at lnychka@hotmail.com or [903-288-3866](tel:903-288-3866). I don't answer calls or emails between 9-3 due to school, but I will get back to you!

Sincerely,
Leslie Nychka, VBS Helper



The Elevator Speech

"... but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect..." (1 Peter 3:15)

If you have been around the business world, it is likely that you are familiar with the term "elevator speech." An elevator speech is a brief, clear message prepared to persuasively communicate information about yourself or your business. The message is concise enough that it can be delivered in the time it takes to ride in an elevator. *(cont. on pg. 6)*

In this Edition

Youth, K6, & Thank you's (pg. 3) Important Dates (p. 4)
Notes from the Loft (pg. 3) Calendar (p. 5)

Wills Point Rotary Club's All "F RE" Kids

Charity Golf Tournament

Are you looking for a way to help the children of Wills Point? Well, the Wills Point Rotary Club has a great opportunity to do just that. Friday, March 24th at the Van Zandt Country Club, WP Rotary will be holding their annual golf tournament to raise money for projects involving the youth of our community including: Felix Massey Educational Grants, The Playground at Lester Park, and the Backpack Program of the East Texas Food Bank. There are a few ways to help, you can become a sponsor, bring a team, or simply make a donation. For questions, please call Randi Duckworth 469-474-9451 or email willspointrotary@gmail.com



District UMW Meeting

Our local UMW unit will be hosting the Northwest District Spring Meeting Saturday, March 4th. We will gather at 9:30 a.m. for registration and fellowship and the meeting will open at 10:00 a.m.

The program will be presented by Denise Allen. Denise is employed as a paralegal in the Tyler area. She is a veteran of the Army Nursing Corp, heads the Stephen Mission at Marvin United Methodist Church, and has recently completed a course of Culture Sensitivity through a grant study at Perkins School of Theology. Denise will be talking about JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBOR (JFON) and its ministry in the East Texas Area. JFON is a United Methodist ministry providing legal services, education, and advocacy for low income immigrants.



Volunteers Needed

Our prayer shawl ministry is looking for folks to knit or crochet prayer shawls. They provide the instructions and supplies needed to make these beautiful shawls. Please contact Sara Bullard (903-560-1131) or Adele Monning (903-873-3121) if you want to help this amazing ministry of the church.

The Army is Coming!

An army of United Methodist youth will descend upon Wills Point July 9-15 this year. RMUMC will be hosting this group as they come to serve our community. One of the ways we will support them is to provide places where they can shower each day after their work. If you would be willing to have about 5 of those youth and an adult leader to come to your home each day for showers, please contact Pastor Dave or the church office. This will work better for those who live in or close to town, as the group will be returning to the Deen Building for their evening meals. Thank you in advance for your kind support .

Reading Opportunities



Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and calls during my mom's illness and subsequent passing. Your prayers and support were a comfort and gratefully received by our family. Although she was no longer a member, she loved and continued to support RMUMC. She also loved her prayer shawl which she received during her previous illness in 2010. She had it again with her this time and never failed to tell everyone who came into her room where it came from. She had your loving "arms" wrapped around her until the very end.

With much love and gratitude,
Sherri, Lynn & Becca Rowe and the Stanley Family

From Ms. Williams' Third Grade Class,
Thanks for the Christmas Book/Gift, "School Days According to Humphry". We appreciate it.
Thanks,
Ms. Williams
(The card is signed by all the children in the class, very cute! I couldn't get it in the newsletter to share with everyone, I'm sorry.)



Join us Wednesday nights from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm. Dinner is provided, as well as a great time of fellowship and fun! Don't miss out! We will host a lock in for 5th-12th grade, March 10th, from 7pm until 6:30am. It's going to be awesome, plan on joining us!!

K6

K6 Kids Choir & K6 Kids meet on Wed. evenings, 5:30 pm until 7:00 pm. Dinner is provided. It's always a great time!



Please help us give a warm welcome to our newest members, Gerald and Lyn Haney. Although they just recently joined the church officially, you've no doubt seen them working in and around the church for a while now. We are so blessed to have these talented folks with us. Be sure to let them know how happy we are that they are here! You could drop them a card, their address is: 550 VZCR 3718
Wills Point, TX 75169

Calendar of Events for March



Dates to Remember!

- March 1, 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service
- March 4, 9:30 a.m. UMW District Meeting, George Hall
- March 10, 7:00 p.m. Youth Lock In
- March 11, 1:30 p.m. Pinewood Derby/Blue & Gold Banquet
- March 13-17, Spring Break for Wills Point ISD
- March 19, 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast, 12:00 p.m. Church Council, 2:00 p.m. Crestwood
- March 20, 5:00 p.m. Day School Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Finance Meeting
- March 24, 5:00 p.m. Church Sponsored Day School Carnival
- March 25, 11:00 a.m. Neighbor to Neighbor

Community Outreach Program

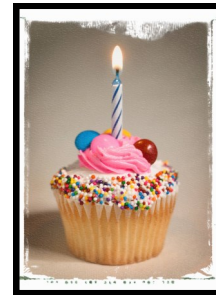
Neighbor to Neighbor Lunch
11 am-1pm
Fourth Saturday of each month
Deen Building - George Hall
OPEN TO ANYONE
WHO CHOOSES TO COME



Please contact the church for details (903-873-2569).

Happy Birthday!

Hayden Wilcoxson	3-1	Austin Caldwell	3-21
Jackie Cockerham	3-1	Chealsey Brown	3-24
Arriana McDonald	3-2	Dorothy Bruster	3-24
Molly Curtis Case	3-3	Tiffany Hulsey	3-24
Beth Basham	3-5	John Ross	3-28
Bonnie George	3-7	Robert Butts	3-29
Kathy Laney	3-10		
Jim Smith	3-10		
Denny McCormick	3-11		
Patsy Davis	3-12		
Jean Allred	3-13		
Andy Adams	3-17		
Pat Vann	3-17		
Ginger Hess	3-17		



February Worship Assistants

Altar Guild: Marigrace Lang (Chair), Maxine Page, Wanda Williams, Sandra Smith, Vera Lofland
Ushers: Sherri Rowe (Head), Lynn Rowe, James Briggs, Ed AuBuchon



Our Presence and Our Gifts

	<u>Feb. 5</u>	<u>Feb. 12</u>	<u>Feb. 19</u>	<u>Feb. 26</u>
the early service	31	47	60	64
Sunday School	90	88	97	96
Traditional Worship	98	87	101	96
	\$8,338.00	\$5,425.00	\$3,732.00	\$

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30pm Youth & K6 Kids 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:30pm Adult Choir	2	3	4 9:30am UMW District Meeting 10:00am Cake at Crestwood
5 8:30 am Early Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 5:00 pm Disciple Bible Study	6 10:00 am Ladies Prayer Group 6:00pm Trustees	7	8 11:30am Birthday Girls 5:30pm Youth & K6 Kids 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:30pm Adult Choir	9	10 7:00pm Youth Lock In	11 7:00am Pick Up Youth 1:30pm Pinewood Derby/Blue and Gold Banquet
12 8:30 am Early Service 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 5:00 pm Disciple Bible Study	13 10:00 am Ladies Prayer Group	14	15	16	17	18 9:00am Crafting with Christ
<h1>Spring Break</h1>						
19 7:30 am UMM Breakfast 8:30 am Early Service 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Church Council 2:00 pm Crestwood 5:00 pm Disciple Bible Study	20 10:00 am Ladies Prayer Group 5:00pm Day School 6:00pm Finance	21 10:00am Grief Support Group	22 5:30pm Youth & K6 Kids 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:30pm Adult Choir	23 10:00am Spa Day at Crestwood	24 5:00pm Church Sponsored Day School Carnival	25 Neighbor to Neighbor Lunch 11 am—1pm 4:00 pm Ladies Club Bingo and Burgers
26 8:30 am Early Service 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 5:00 pm Disciple Bible Study	27 10:00 am Ladies Prayer Group	28 6:30pm Chamber of Commerce Banquet	29 5:30pm Youth & K6 Kids 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:30pm Adult Choir	30	31	
				Communion Offering will go to the Emerging Leaders Endowment.		

(cont. from pg. 1) In that brief amount of time, a well-delivered testimony might convince someone to do business with you, or perhaps a potential employer to grant an interview.

In a sense, the apostle Peter challenges us to be ready with our elevator speech regarding our faith. *The Message* paraphrase of 1 Peter 3:15 reads, “Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you’re living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy.” If Jesus has changed our life, then we have a story to tell. God expects that we should be ready to tell it. Why is your life different because of Jesus? What has he done that makes life worth living? If someone were to ask, how would you answer?

Let me offer a couple of examples of elevator speeches from the Bible. A man who was born blind once witnessed to a group of skeptical religious leaders, saying, “This is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes” (John 9:30 ESV). A woman of Samaria was instrumental in a whole town being introduced to Jesus simply by saying, “Come see a man who knew all about the things I did, who knows me inside and out” (John 4:29 MSG). Lazarus comes to mind as well. Although we have no direct quote from him, I am confident that being raised from the dead must have given him a powerful testimony. It must have been effective, as he was the cause of many coming to faith in Jesus (see John 12:11).

What we must notice with these examples is that the story is personal. Some suggest that the best Christian elevator speech is the memorization of certain Bible verses or points of doctrine. Certainly these are important and have a place in our work of evangelism. Nevertheless, we cannot underestimate the power of the personal story. The people I mentioned above could testify with clarity and specificity as to what Jesus had done for them. How about you? What is the reason for the hope that is in you? How has Jesus transformed your life in a way that you would not trade for anything?

During this season, give some thought to your elevator speech, so that you will be ready to give an answer to those who may inquire about the hope that is within you.

Pastor Dave

Check it out!

Thanks to Kelly Miracle, our church is migrating to a new web site. You will find the new content at www.rmumc.net. From there you will be able to keep up with church news, as well as having access to things like calendar items and video of worship services. Monthly newsletters—including this one—will be posted under the “blog” menu tab. We are continuing to build the site, so check back for updates. The old web site will no longer be accessible in the near future, so start making your way to our new web home.

Remember in Prayer:

Alice Kolb
Allen Thompson
Andie Kay Joyner
Annette & Gerald Clemmons
Arriana McDonald & Lucy Caranza
Billy & Dorothy Bruster
Chris Conn
Chrystal (Vann) Adams
Chuck & Nelda Currie
Crestwood Nursing & Assisted Living
Dave & Dee Lutzinger
David Cartwright & Family
Dennis & Beth Basham
Denny McCormick
Don Wortman
Donna Gonzales
Grief Support Group

Methodist Church (RMUMC)
Homeland Security
James & Brenda Brown & Family
Jean Allred
Jennifer Barnett McCann
Jim Ruckart
Jim Smith
Joe & Ginger Hess
John Buffington
Larry Wampler
Liz Ellis
Katie (Turner) & Maverick
Mark Brown
Melinda Thomason
Mickey Chapple
Missionaries in Iraq
Norma Hundley
Our Armed Forces, America, Our World

Ramelle Sewell
Richard & Sherry Moore
Rick Forester & Family
Sherri Rowe
Students, Teachers, & Administrators
Tristan Parsons
Ted Deen, Sr.
Theresa Turner
Windy Howard



Memorials/Honorariums

**In memory of
Deborah Glinski**

**Given by
Judy Powers, Rosa Davis & Family,
And Sue Davis & Family.**

**In memory of
Beth Butler**

**Given by
Ted & Denise Deen,
Judy Powers & George & Lenna Deen.**



The church will be providing a Spring Carnival for the Methodist Day School on Friday, March 24 from 5:00 until 7:00. There will be games and activities for the children, as well as hot dogs and chips for the kids and parents. Please mark your calendar and be present for this event! This is an opportunity for us to make connections and build relationships with the families we serve through our day school ministry. Sunday School classes are being asked to help with providing the food. What we need most, though, is your presence. This is important work for us as we seek to **reach out in love** to our community.

Russell Memorial United Methodist Church

A Family Rooted in Christ and Reaching Out in Love



Rev. David Cartwright, Pastor
Nancy McDonald, Office Administrator
Theresa Turner, Ladies Hand Bells Director
Kristy Adams, Pianist
Amy Goodson, K5 Choir Director

Dr. Bob Gilbreth, Music Director
Fritz Gilbreth, Organist
Kelli Huff, K5 Kids Coordinator
Jackie Cockerham, Financial Administrator
Jerry Don Huff, Youth Director

 201 S. 4th St. in Wills Point



russellmemorialumc.org



[russellmemorialumc](https://www.facebook.com/russellmemorialumc)



903.873.2569



rmumc@sbcglobal.net



[rmumc](https://www.instagram.com/rmumc)

Join us Sunday Morning!

Contemporary Worship @ 8:30

Sunday School @ 9:45

Traditional Worship @ 11:00

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday

The Russell Report

Russell Memorial United Methodist Church
A Family Rooted in Christ and Reaching Out in Love
201 S. Fourth Street
P. O. Box 335
Wills Point, TX 75169

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED