

in TOUCH

Trietsch Memorial United Methodist Church, Flower Mound, Texas

Periodical

Volume 9 Number 2 December 2011 572365

CHRISTMAS EVE

2 & 4 PM -- Children

DETAILS AT
TMUMC.ORG

6 & 8 PM -- Contemporary

7 & 9 PM -- Traditional

11 PM -- Communion



Celebrating the Christ Child's Birth

Why? Christmas Mysteries... Why do we need to know about Christmas? Why did He come some quietly? Why celebrate? Why a baby? Why?

Find out more about these Christmas Mysteries in worship at Trietsch during Advent.

God entered time and space to intersect with *your* life. To know you and be known by you. To love you and be loved by you. To save you.

The angel in the Christmas story said it best...

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-12)

CHRISTMAS EVE

Trietsch will offer SEVEN worship services, and a choice of four different service styles.

- **Children's Services**, 2 & 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary, feature the Children's Choirs. All kids are asked to bring a "gift" for the baby Jesus — a canned good for CCA or pajamas for the Pajama Program, an organization that gives new warm pjs and a book to children waiting and hoping to be adopted across the country. (A few dollars can also be a great "gift.") Lots of singing, and a message to touch both the children and adults by Rev. Doug Meyer.

- **Contemporary Candlelight Services**, 6 & 8 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Music by Reign, and a heartfelt message from Rev. Doug Meyer.

- **Traditional Candlelight Services**, 7 & 9 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Music by the Trietsch Chancel Choir and Orchestra, and a stirring message from Dr. John Allen.

- **Casual Candlelight with Communion**, 11 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Take a deep breath and relax between the hectic preparations and the joy of the holiday. Includes the sacrament of Holy Communion and a Christmas message with Dr. John Allen.

CHRISTMAS DAY

With Christmas morning falling on Sunday, we've altered our regular worship services and created a special time for you to celebrate with your Trietsch family.

- **Christmas Breakfast** — 10 a.m., Ministry Center. Bring your family — kids in the pjs if you want — and have a meal with your extended church family. Please bring a dish to share.

- **Christmas Worship** — 11 a.m., Sanctuary. Lots of Christmas Carols and a family-friendly worship experience.



More Christmas Festivities

Advent Festival

Join us for a Family Advent Festival on December 4 from 12:15-2 p.m. We'll offer a pizza lunch in the Ministry Center and then come join us in the Connection Center and Faith Voyage for games, crafts, gingerbread house, cookie decorating and to watch a Christmas movie with popcorn.

Tickets are also available in the church office during the week, \$5 per person/\$20 family max. Contact Stefani Inskeep at stefanii@tmumc.org.

Great Cookie Caper

We're looking for some accomplices. The covert team is in place; their mission is simple — bake cookies. On Dec. 4, you can mix and match your own dozen cookies, just in time for the holidays. All funds benefit Imagine No Malaria. Contact Peggy Zappavigna at PeggyZ@tmumc.org or Connie Downing at sjcsdown@verizon.net.



Christmas Concert

Lose yourself in the music of the season at a free Christmas Concert in the Trietsch Sanctuary.

The concert will feature the Flower Mound Symphony Orchestra, the Trietsch Chancel Choir, the Youth Choir and Bells of Trietsch.

Join us Saturday, December 10 and Sunday, December 11 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. There will be plenty of holiday favorites and a carol sing-a-long.

The concert is free and open to the public; donations are accepted. Contact Karen Chraska at karenc@tmumc.org



New Contemporary Worship Opportunity in Family Life Center

You prefer praise and worship music, but your Sunday school class meets at 9:30. Or your kids want a contemporary service, but you serve elsewhere in the building at 9:30.

A brand new worship service may be just the answer you were looking for.

Beginning January 29, Trietsch will offer a contemporary worship service at 11 a.m. in the Family Life Center!

Reign will provide the music, and Rev. Doug Meyer will be the service's lead pastor, sharing time with Rev. Diane Presley.

The Family Life Center's gymnasium was designed with contemporary worship services in mind, including state-of-the-art technology and the ability to control all environmental aspects, such as lighting.

We are looking for 100 members of the Trietsch family to commit to attending the 11 a.m. contemporary service for at least six months to ensure it gets the best start possible. Contact Doug Meyer at dougdm@tmumc.org to get in on the ground floor of this exciting new opportunity!

Sundays at Trietsch

8 a.m.

Traditional Worship
8:50 a.m. Sacrament
of Holy Communion

9:30 a.m.

Contemporary Worship

11 a.m.

Blended Worship
Featuring the Trietsch
Orchestra
and Chancel Choir

9:30 and 11 a.m.

Adult Sunday School
Youth Sunday School
Grades 1-5 Faith Voyage
Ages 2-K Sunday School
Infants to 2 years Nursery

Guest and senior parking up front
Butterfly Ministry (Special Needs)
parking near building on north side

Trietsch Trolley is available
at Marcus High School



Trietsch

Memorial United Methodist Church

Dr. John Allen, Senior Pastor

6101 Morriss Road
Flower Mound, TX 75028
Phone (972) 539-8547
Fax (972) 539-5758

www.tmumc.org
info@tmumc.org

Childcare Reservations
(972) 539-8547 ext. 299

Trietsch Enrichment Center
(972) 539-6491

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Ponder the Riches God Offers Us

The Gospel of Luke tells the story of Jesus birth primarily from the perspective of Jesus' mother Mary. In Luke 2:19, after the shepherds saw the Christ child, Luke shares these words, "All who heard the shepherd's story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart."

Mary kept the events of that first Christmas in her heart — to remember and ponder each day. She would never forget how she was chosen to participate in God's story of salvation, how God brought everything together, how she witnessed first-hand that... **"Nothing is impossible for God."**

How often do we ponder the things of God in our hearts? Are we just "amazed" without real change, or do we take what Christ offers into our heart? There are so many lessons for us to learn from the nativity story — to keep and ponder.

- From Mary and Joseph we learn what it means to fully submit to God's will. They teach us that obedience to God takes courage, and the willingness to ignore what others think or say.
- From the shepherds, those unacceptable members of that culture, we learn that no one is too poor or too insignificant to have a personal experience with God.
- Even from cruel Herod, ruler of Palestine, we are reminded how foolish it is to try to hinder the purpose of God.
- Most of all, from Jesus, we learn that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

The rich events of Jesus' birth are at the heart of why I love Christmas so much. There is so much to ponder each day concerning the wonder of God's love for us. He was born in a lowly cattle stall. He was crucified as our savior. He was raised from the dead as victorious King!

This year as we move toward the celebration of our Savior's



Dr. John Allen
Senior Pastor

birth, let's make Christmas count. Let's look at Christ from a different perspective. Most of the time, in Christian churches, we emphasize the cost of Discipleship. What are we going to give up following Christ?

This year, as we move closer to Christmas, let's look instead at the riches of what God is offering us. Let us "ponder" the wonder of God's gift of Jesus Christ for us.

Following Christ is better than anything this world can offer! It's top priority, the most important, the most worthwhile, and the most valuable gift we can receive.

God has a wonderful gift for you. This Christmas, ponder the gift that makes all the difference. Come to worship, and join other Christian friends as we experience the great unwrapping of God's gift of life.

When we put Christ at the heart and center of our lives, nothing else really matters. Everything else falls into place.

Tired of going through life empty and alone? Want to be happy? Want to be excited about life? Want to be full of zest and excitement? Want life to count for something?

Ponder deep within your heart these things: accept Christ as savior each day, commit to following and serving him every moment; commit to being his disciple in all things; find some way to live out God's ministry of love through Jesus Christ.

Mark these Worship events on your calendar —

- My wife Tanya and I will be doing a dialogue sermon in worship on the "Joys and Challenges of Marriage" on Jan. 8 & 15.
- New Contemporary 11 a.m. Sunday worship service starts in the Family Life Center January 29 with Rev. Doug Meyer preaching.

What Do You Think? Looking Forward

Dear Church Family,

As you may know, our church Leadership Board operates differently than most Methodist Church Advisory Councils operate. Our Leadership Board is constantly looking to the future to see how we can best/better meet our community's needs.

I hope by now you have heard that one of the things the LB wants to do is to find ways to measure the success of our church, so that we can better cater to our people's needs. If you have been in a worship service in the last few weeks, you have been asked to fill out a survey to help us determine if our current Worship Service offerings are meeting your needs or not!

In planning for the future we need to know what you want and how we can best serve you and your family.

In the next few weeks we will begin to solicit YOUR feedback via different types of surveys, designed to help us determine what we are doing right and where we need to make tweaks. You may be asked to complete paper surveys or surveys online! Please be ready and willing to do so if asked!

Just as we are asking folks to wear their name tags, so we can all call each other by name will require your participation in order for that to be an effective program, so will your willingness to provide



Suzanne Sutton
Lay Leader

honest and earnest feedback when asked. Just like some folks might not want to wear a name tag, some folks might not want to take the time to fill out survey. But in that all things must grow or die, we are trying very hard to grow in the right direction and can only do that if we know how you want our church to grow!

If you are willing to offer us some feedback on an ongoing basis, please do let me know! There are many areas in which we will be securing feedback, and willing participants are always welcome!

You may also be randomly selected and again, in the effort to help us help you, help make us better, we need your honest and sincere opinion.

Some folks don't like to offer or receive feedback, because they think that they are opening a door for criticism. But the truth of the matter is, if there is a problem and everyone can see it, but the person(s) who need to, well...you probably read "The Emperor's new Clothes" when you were young...and know that not being offered feedback can be fairly embarrassing.

Let's help Trietsch be the best Church Community in all of North Texas. Let's offer up the feedback needed to get our programs where we want them to be!

"To whom much is given, much is expected..." Your Leadership Board is giving you the opportunity to help mold the future of our Church Family.

Thanks! Blessings Abound! Suzanne suzanne_sutton@verizon.net

Doors Open Dec. 31 for Year-End Giving

On Dec. 31, all year-end monetary gifts can be slid under the Finance office door, room 183, until 9 p.m. Please enter the building at the Faith Voyage entrance, as all other entrances will be closed. The right to make a tax-free donation to a charity from an IRA expires December 31. Contact Andrea Bell at andreab@tmumc.org.

Annual Charge Conference

December 11, 4 p.m.
Everyone invited to this annual
church business meeting

Spread the Joy to Others this Christmas

Give Gifts to Change Lives: Support Missions

Ever wonder what to give “the person who has everything”? If so, the Missions Christmas Catalog may be the answer you’ve been looking for.

Since our beginning, Trietsch has answered the call to serve our community, our country and our world. Through the years, we have continued to expand the reach of God’s love.

Our members now participate in mission programs that meet short and long-term needs in locations stretching from down the street to across the world.

The Christmas Mission Catalog highlights a number of missions and gives everyone the opportunity to contribute in the name of a friend or loved one.

Inside you will find gifts that you won’t find at the mall — gifts that truly change lives — with prices ranging from \$5 to \$5000.

From an orphanage in Africa to a school in New Mexico to the needy right here in North Texas, the needs are many. We are blessed with the chance to be the hands and feet of Christ for families, students, prisoners — those in need around the world.

What a great way to celebrate God’s gift of love to us.

Stop by Mission Matters in room 272 to pick up a catalog and a personalized Christmas card to give to the recipient of your gift.

What a wonderful way to show someone what the true meaning of Christmas is all about, while giving them a gift they will remember forever.

Contact Rev. Diane Presley at dianep@tmumc.org.

CCA’s Giving Tree

Christian Community Action’s (CCA) Christmas Toy Store provides parents the opportunity to shop specifically for their children, protecting family dignity and preserving family traditions.

Donated toys will be set up in the CCA Toy Store. Qualified recipients shop with vouchers to purchase toys for their children. Parents will experience the joy of shopping for their child’s gifts, wrapping these gifts and then giving them to their children in the tradition of their family.

Gift tags listing suggested gift ideas will be placed on a Giving Tree in the hallway between the Sanctuary and Ministry Center



during December. Choose a tag, purchase the gift, then return the unwrapped gift and tag to the tree.

For further information contact Rev. Diane Presley at dianep@tmumc.org or Peggy Swann at CCA at 972-219-4324. To learn more about the program, visit ccahelps.org.

Baby’s First Christmas

Baby’s First Christmas provides new Christmas presents for young mothers and their newborn babies who would not otherwise enjoy these on a Christmas Day. Gifts generally include toys for the newborn and any other children in the family and household items for the mother.

Baby’s First Christmas is an outreach ministry, sponsored by the Families of Faith Sunday school class, benefitting families identified by the Lewisville Pregnancy and Advocacy Center. APC helps young mothers.

Gifts must be purchased, wrapped and returned to the Connection Center by December 11. Contact Lee Greer at 817-917-9800 or leegreer@gmail.com or Keith Long at 214-783-5737 or klong00@sbcglobal.net.

Adopt a Family at Sunrise Baptist

Trietsch’s Men’s Ministry and 8 a.m. Men’s Bible Study are sponsoring “Adopt a Family” at Sunrise Baptist Church in Oak Cliff. We will collect coats and other items needed by adopted families including turkeys and

food for Christmas dinner.

Please bring your donations to the Sunrise Baptist Church box in the Missions Collections Area outside the Ministry Center by Sunday, Dec. 11. There is also an opportunity to canvass the neighborhood to identify families and their needs. Contact Rob Wright at 214-235-3734 or robwright93@yahoo.com or men@tmumc.org.

Angel Tree for Prisoner’s Kids

The Angel Tree Ministry for the Children of Prisoners who have embraced their Christian faith through the efforts of Prison Fellowship Ministries is being coordinated this year by Joanne Cushman.

Trietsch has been allocated several families who need sponsors. The tree with these angels is located outside the TEC office, room 140). Pick up your angel, purchase the toy or clothing item listed (max of \$40 for both toy and clothes), and return the wrapped gifts to the same tree by Friday, Dec. 16.

Any Sunday School classes, individuals or groups interested in sponsoring should contact Joanne at 972-317-6119 or joanne.cushman@verizon.net.

Family-to-Family Christmas Support

With the current economic situation, there are families at Trietsch who are in need of support. This year, we continue a Family-to-Family Christmas Support ministry, collecting financial donations to bring Christmas cheer to these families. Please make your check payable to Trietsch and be sure to put Family to Family in the memo line. If you have any questions or

are a family in need, contact Rev. Diane Presley at dianep@tmumc.org. Any funds not distributed now will roll over into the Rainbow Fund, which is available for struggling families throughout the year.

Send New Shoes to Mexico Orphans

During Christmas, we are thinking about buying iPods, Wiis, and a myriad of other toys and items, so it’s hard for us to imagine a child that doesn’t have a pair of shoes. Think what a pair of new shoes could mean to an orphan in Mexico.

The Missions Committee is asking for donations to purchase new shoes at \$15 a pair for the orphans at Hogar de Amor in Colima, Mexico.

Get your family, Sunday School Class or small group to take this on as a mission project. Make donations at the “Shoes for Mexico Christmas Tree” in the Connection Center until December 18.

Contact Grace Pieper for more information at lpieper@flash.net or 972-355-3438.

Pajama Program

Trietsch Enrichment Center is collecting new, warm pajamas in all sizes from child to adult, for “The Pajama Program,” a national organization that provides new pajamas and new books to children in need, many who are waiting and hoping to be adopted.

Thousands of these children live in orphanages, group homes and shelters and are shuffled often between temporary living facilities. Many of them have been

abused or abandoned, and have never enjoyed the simple comfort of having a mother or father tuck them in at bedtime.

TEC will help supply the pajamas, and Scholastic books will match each set of PJs up with a new book for the child. For more information, visit pajamaprogram.com or contact Trisha McWilliams at trisham@tmumc.org.

Care Packages for Our Troops

We will be collecting items to send to our military



this Christmas. Please stop by the table in the Connection Center on Sundays through December 4 to pick up a list of items needed and drop the items off. Brighten the holidays for our troops. We are also looking for names and addresses of military personnel that you would like us to support.

If you have any questions contact Glenda Garrett at texrgbargg@aol.com or 469-323-163.

CCA’s Holiday Food Drive

Christian Community Action annually supplies over 1,600 Thanksgiving and Christmas meal baskets to families in our local communities. With the help of many local churches and organizations, they are able to collect the items for these baskets.

Trietsch has committed to supply 2-pound bags of flour, 2-pound bags of sugar and cans of evaporated milk for the baskets. Please put your donation in the Mission Collection Area outside the Ministry Center.

Seeds of Hope & Mission Matters

Jewelry handmade from Mozambique by women of Chicupe Sisters Together is for sale in Mission Matters in room 272. Stop by and get one-of-a-kind Christmas gifts that truly mean something, are beautiful and help this cottage industry at the same time.

Contact Diane Bishop at 817-430-3226 or dianebishopdbd@sbcglobal.net for information on how to purchase or how to use the items from Mozambique to raise funds for other causes.

In addition to the jewelry, you can also purchase fair trade items from 10,000 villages. They make great gifts!



SERVE Sundays

Thanks to everyone who supported our three SERVE Sundays during the recent "Together We Make a Difference" campaign. We collected thousands of grocery sacks to be turned into mats for the homeless. We also gathered hundreds of packages of Undies for the Salvation Army (Lori Traylor delivering undies at right) and several carloads worth of food for the CCA Holiday Food baskets. To get involved in any serve ministry, contact Rev. Diane Presley at dianep@tmumc.org.



Your Feedback Vital for Future Trietsch Ministry

Dear Church Family,

I wanted to take this opportunity to inform you that in the upcoming weeks and months you may be asked to provide feedback on a variety of items related to the life of Trietsch.

In fact, the church's Leadership Board feels so strongly about the importance of this issue that a subcommittee has been formed to address the matter.

The desire is to build a culture at Trietsch where we are constantly evaluating everything we are doing to determine its effectiveness, potential changes, and whether the program/initiative should continue or not.

The best way to collect data is from members/attendees, the individuals most impacted by what Trietsch is or is not doing. We will look at a number of areas including sermons, music, hospitality, parking, adult/youth/children's ministries, Sunday School classes, special events, worship and the overall worship experience at Trietsch.

The intent is to use a variety of ways to gather information from our membership and visitors. These will include focus groups, written surveys, phone surveys, and other mechanisms (venues?) currently being explored.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is championing this initiative on behalf of the Leadership Board. We ask that you please participate if/when asked to provide feedback.

Know that the desire is to obtain the positive aspects of what we are doing at Trietsch, as well as areas needing development or attention. All responses will be consolidated to ensure anonymity.

The results will be given to the person(s) responsible for the area reviewed. This information will be used to support decisions related to the addition, improvement, enhancement or deletion of programs or processes.

Again, please participate (provide earnest feedback) when asked to do so and, thereby, enable Trietsch to continuously garner feedback that will enable us to develop programs and ministries that will help the congregation "To know Christ and make Christ known."

*In Christ, Joseph F. Moore
Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee
Trietsch Memorial United Methodist Church*

Created by God Human Sexuality Class

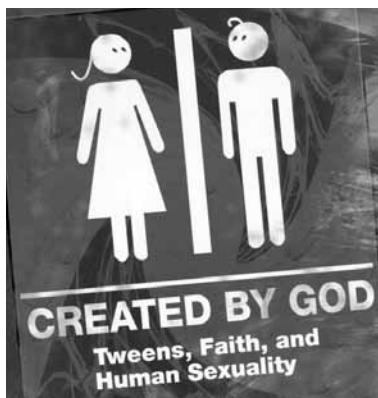
Attention: Parents of 5th and 6th grade students

Trietsch will offer Created by God, a human sexuality workshop designed for 5th and 6th grade boys and girls, on January 5-7. Friends are welcome to attend, but space is limited.

Registration is \$40 per child; forms are at the Faith Voyage desk or in the main office. Deadline for registration is Dec. 18.

The purposes of Created by God are to:

- Teach children about God's plan for their sexuality.
- Affirm growth and change as part of God's plan for life.
- Recognize and celebrates sexuality as a good gift of God.
- Discuss moral responsibility and risks along with adolescent pressures.



- Classes are coed, so all students come to understand what the opposite sex will be experiencing as well.
- Created By God curriculum is approved by the United Methodist Church.

Due to the structure and sensitivity of the content, we ask that all students attend all student

sessions, and that at least one parent commit to be at the parent meeting.

Parents are needed to be small group leaders. You will not be placed with your child.

The schedule is: Small Group Leader's Meeting – Jan. 5, 6 p.m.
Parent's Meeting – Jan. 5, 7 p.m.
Students & Small Group Leaders – Friday, Jan. 6, 5-9 p.m. & Saturday, Jan. 7, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Parent's final meeting – Saturday, Jan. 7, 3-4 p.m.

Please send a snack dinner with your child on Friday Night. Snacks provided throughout the weekend, and lunch provided on Saturday.

The class is facilitated by David Taylor, Patty Bronaugh and Kellie Sanford.

Contact Kellie Sanford for information at kellies@tmumc.org.

TOGETHER...WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

On November 13, you had the opportunity to commit to new levels in your relationship with God by completing your Stewardship Promise for 2012. So far the pledges we have received are a decrease from last year, but our hope is since we are receiving commitments daily, we will surpass last year's total. To maintain our current level of ministry, we will need all active members to participate. If you have already made your Stewardship Promise, thank you. If you have not yet had an opportunity, it's not too late. Simply drop your Stewardship Promise 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 office, in the pews or download a copy at tmumc.org/stewardship.htm.

Our hope is that everyone will prayerfully consider their whole commitment to the church. We use the financial commitments as a critical part of our financial planning for the upcoming year. We hope to hear from every active member, regardless of the amount of his or her commitment. Even if you can't or choose not to give, please let us know this and complete your Stewardship Promise.

We are grateful for your financial support of our church. Your giving makes a difference in the lives of children, youth, and adults in our church, as well as in the lives of people everywhere we are in mission and ministry.



Re-Ignite Wednesday Dinner

Members of the Leadership Board serve dinner at the Re-Ignite Youth Wednesday worship. Pictured (from left), Joseph Moore, chair of Staff Parish Relations, John Hurlbut, leadership board chair, Dr. John Allen, Senior Pastor, and Betty Sepanak, leadership board member. All groups are invited to supply dinner on a Wednesday night -- contact Denise Robinson at deniser@tmumc.org.

Trietsch Kids

Christmas Eve Art Contest

Calling all our young artists — Draw a picture of what Christmas means to you, and your work could be chosen to be on the cover of the bulletin for the Family Christmas Eve services at 2 & 4 p.m. Please make your art to fit on a 7x8.5 inch page; you can pick up a frame in which to draw at the Faith Voyage desk. You can add a scripture or write a brief description of your drawing.

All entries must be turned in by Dec. 18 at the Faith Voyage or Early Childhood Information Desks, or the church office. Contact Kellie Sanford, director of children's ministries, at kellies@tmumc.org.

Register Now for Bridgeport

Bridgeport Church Camp is for children completing grades 3-5 in the spring. Trietsch is attending July 24-28, 2012, session C3. Register now at bridgeportcamp.com — the camp will fill up quickly, so register ASAP! The cost is \$245 before February 28 and \$275 after March 1.

If you would like to be a camp counselor, please contact Kellie Sanford, director of children's ministries, at kellies@tmumc.org or 972-539-8547, ext. 267. Also, please drop Kellie an email to let her know when you've registered your child, so we can know which Trietschers will be attending. It's a lot of fun for everyone.

Re-Ignite Youth

For info, visit the info stands in the Family Life Center, follow us on Twitter @reigniteyouth; or contact — Kris Melvin, director of youth, krism@tmumc.org. Denise Robinson, senior high, deniser@tmumc.org. Leann White, junior high and confirmation, at leannw@tmumc.org

Changes to Regular December Schedule

Sunday Night Re-Ignite will meet from 5-7 p.m. in the Family Life Center every Sunday except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Senior High Prayer Breakfast will meet 7-7:45 a.m. on Tuesdays except Dec. 27.

Re-Ignite Worship will meet every Wednesday, 6-8 p.m. (includes dinner) except Dec. 21 and 28.

Parenting Seminar

Mark your calendars now! On February 12, 5-7 p.m. we will be hosting a parenting Seminar for Parents of Teens by Daniel Gowen.

Daniel will help our parents understand the struggles and problems that teenagers are facing today. It will be a time where he will be giving some great information and some helpful tips on how to help parents understand what the struggles and problems teens are having today. He will be giving some illustrations of people that he knows then there will be a great question and answer time to rap it up. It will be something that every parent needs to come to if you have a teenager or about to have a teenager.

Daniel Gowen is Director at Benchmark Counseling and offers private counseling in Plano, Texas. Daniel holds a Master of Arts in Counseling from Amberton University. In addition, he holds a Master of Divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology at SMU.

Contact our Youth Minister Kris Melvin at krism@tmumc.org.



Confirmation Mentors — a Priceless Investment in a Youth

Fee to pay for Bible and trip "goodies" for your confirmand... \$25.

Occasional card of encouragement... \$2.

Daily prayers... \$0.

Being a part of a young person's personal decision to follow Christ... PRICE-LESS.

Prayers and planning for Confirmation 2012 have been underway for months. This year approximately 100 young people will sign up to begin a very important journey in their lives... A

journey that will culminate with them making a public decision to follow Christ. You will play a very big part in that decision when become a Confirmation mentor.

As a sponsor, you will be assigned a Confirmand and meet them in January. You will have an opportunity to learn a little about them and tell them about yourself. You will also present them with their Student Bible. For many, this may be their first Bible; for others, the first one they've gotten since 2nd grade.

For all, it will hold special significance as their Confirmation Bible.

Then, throughout the following five months, you will pray for your student...prayers of encouragement and hope that they will grow in their faith as they journey towards their confirmation. It's great if you will send them an occasional card or email just to let them know you are thinking of them. And, there are a few occasions where you can come encourage in person, as we head off for field trips and retreat.

As these young people are learning about the love of



Jesus Christ, they will be able to see it through the love and care of their sponsors.

The time commitment is minimal, the impact immeasurable.

If you are interested in learning more or signing up, please contact Leann White at leannw@tmumc.org

Register for Confirmation

Confirmation 2011 begins their year with a Covenant Service on Jan. 8, 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The entire Trietsch family is invited to this very special worship.

The service is designed to start the year with a commitment to the journey we are beginning. After the service, there will be a reception in the Connection Center.

Confirmation classes will meet weekly throughout the semester, ending with the Confirmation Service on May 5. This is an incredible time in the lives of these young people. Please be in prayer for them and their leaders.

If you are interested in registering or need more information, contact Leann White, confirmation coordinator, at ext. 247 or leannw@tmumc.org.



Fall Festival

This year's Fall Festival was a HUGE success, with over 700 people coming out for Trunk or Treat, games, and the first annual Chili Cook-Off.

Thanks to the judges (pictured below), who selected the chili made by the Becoming Better Christians Sunday school class. Zoe Paraskevopoulos, age 11, won the people's choice award. The most creative decorated trunk winner was the Airport by Dee & Jim Masterson, Mary Dee & John Lawton, and Kevin & Rebecca Lessly.



Grow Together, Grow Closer to God

Sign up and pay for most classes at tmumc.org. Childcare is available for each class – make reservations to 972-539-8547, ext. 299 at least 48 hours in advance (You may make one standing reservation for an entire class.)

In addition to participating in a Bible Study this spring, we hope that you will join a small group in the church-wide study, *Outlive your Life* by Max Lucado.

WOMEN'S STUDIES (Registration deadline: 12/30/2011)

Registration deadline for Women's studies is Friday, December 30 2011! Late registrations are welcome; however, if you register after the deadline, you must provide your own books. (In this case, do not pay online since you will be providing your own books.)

The Beatitudes

Thursdays, 9:30–11:30 a.m.; Jan. 5–Feb. 29; Facilitated by Beverly Blasius; Room 110; Cost \$10

This study will help in developing spiritual character.

Becoming a Woman of Simplicity

Thursdays, 9:30–11:30 a.m.; March 1–May 17 (no meeting 3/15); Room 110; Facilitated by Beverly Blasius; Cost \$10

This study looks into the Scriptures and offers practical, real-life counsel so you can experience the freedom necessary to live with the quiet confidence God intended.

Enjoy! A Thirst-Quenching Look at Philippians

Wednesdays, 9 a.m.–noon; March 21–May 2 Large group fellowship/video time followed by small group discussions; Cost \$15

God wants us to experience true joy, that inner sense of peace and contentment and satisfaction no matter what is going on around us. This study will help you experience joy as you change your perspective.

Gripped by the Greatness of God

Mondays, 9:30–11:30 a.m.; Jan.–March 5 (no meeting 1/16); Room 120; Cost \$18; Facilitated by Jan Deering

When was the last time you were truly gripped by God's greatness? Most Christians recall heartfelt resolutions around a campfire as children or on a youth retreat. But what causes the fervor of those experiences to translate into a consistent life pattern? The better we understand God, the better we understand ourselves.

We're Saving a Seat for You



Heaven

Mondays, 9:30–11:30 a.m.; March 19–May 7; Cost \$15; Facilitated by Jan Deering

What is Heaven going to be like? What will we look like? What will we do? God has put eternity in our hearts. Now, Randy Alcorn brings eternity to light in a way that will surprise you, spark your imagination, and change how you live today.

James: Mercy Triumphs

Wednesdays, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.; Jan. 11–Feb. 29 (no meeting 3/7 & 14); Cost \$20; Large group time followed by small group discussions

James, Jesus' own brother, started out as a skeptic. See how one glimpse of the resurrected Savior turned an unbeliever into a disciple. Topics include: joy, hardship, faith, reversal of fortunes for rich and poor, wisdom, gifts from above, single-mindedness, the dangers of the tongue, humility, and prayer.

So Long, Insecurity (Beth Moore, with lectures on DVD by Lisa Worley)

Facilitated by Kirsten Palmer; Cost \$30 (includes workbook & hardcover book)

Wednesdays, 7–8:30 pm; Jan. 11–March 28

In today's image-saturated society, insecurity among women is reaching epidemic levels. We worry about everything—from our looks to our finances to our relationships. But it doesn't have to be this way. It's time to say, "So long!" to insecurity and focus instead on becoming the woman God intended us to be.

Women of the Bible

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.; Jan. 12–April 12 (No meeting 3/15); Room 111 Facilitated by Lori Lester; Cost \$20

The women of the Bible play an integral, essential, and crucial role in the eternal plan of God. From heaven's point of view, women are always unique, matchless, and irreplaceable—they are never to be found in a subservient ranking with the kingdom of God. You will learn that God has called today's woman to play a significant role in society, in the home, and in the church. You will learn from their mistakes and discover that the blessings of God are heaped upon the woman who faithfully trusts the Lord.

OTHER STUDIES

Christian Witnessing

Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.; Feb. 1 & 8; Free

One of the promises United Methodists make when they join the church is to uphold the church with their witness. But, how do you do it so that it is effective and not an affront to others? The class, led by Rev. Joe Shafer, will explore a variety of ways of witnessing. Each participant will be encouraged to discover the ways of witnessing that come natural for them. To register for the class, please call the church office, 972-539-8547. Childcare is available with a 48-hour notice by calling the church office, ext. 299. For information, contact Rev. Shafer at ext. 203 or joes@tmumc.org.

Connections Class

1st–4th Sundays, Bi-Monthly, 9:30 a.m.;

(Starts Jan. 8 due to holiday); Free

Join our bi-monthly Connections Class. Whether you are planning to join Trietsch or are already a member, we encourage you to take this time to attend the Connections Class and find out more about the church. Classes are held the first three Sundays of a month at 9:30 a.m. in room 160. Classes are held January, March, May, August and October. RSVP to Emily Evans at ext. 204 or emilye@tmumc.org.

Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage Sundays, 6-7:30 p.m., Jan. 22 (6 weeks)

In this class couples will explore the underlying dynamics of male/female relationships and find entertaining illustrations, hilarious advice, memorable insights and practical solutions for your relationship. Some topics covered include gender differences, sex, forgiveness and more. Couples will laugh, learn and be able to make real, positive changes to their marriage. Contact Phil or Gail Goodrich at 972-539-9482 or get1532@aol.com.

United Methodist Beliefs

Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m., March 7 – 28; Cost is Free

We are United Methodists. But what does that mean? What do we believe? How do we relate to the world? Find out the answers to these questions and more in our upcoming four-week class, United Methodist Beliefs.

The Me I Want to Be: Becoming God's Best Version of You

Mondays, 11:45 a.m.–1 p.m.; April 2 (6 weeks) or Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8 p.m.; April 3 (6 weeks); Facilitated by Doug Meyer

If God has a vision for your life, why does spiritual growth seem so difficult? Author John Ortberg has some intriguing answers to that question, and he has organized his thoughts and God's words into a straightforward and timely guide for living your best life in *The Me I Want to Be*.

ONGOING

Life Journal

Wednesdays, noon – 1 p.m., Led by Denise Robinson, Cost \$10 (free with own journal)

The LIFE Journal provides daily readings from both the Old and New Testament. The journal asks one simple question after every reading: "How will I be different today because of what I have just read?" Our weekly gathering will provide us the opportunity to share what God is doing in our lives as well as provide accountability. This Bible study is for both men and women! This study can be joined at any time throughout the year.

Men's Study: The Quest

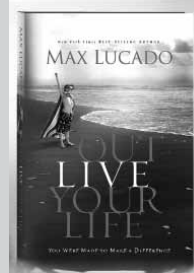
Fridays, 6-7 a.m., Join anytime Led by Dr. John Allen; Cost: Free

Men of all ages are welcome to join any time. We will explore what it means to be a "man" in our own lives, our families, our businesses, and our community. In the changing face of the world we live in, the time is right for all of us to be engaged in study that will provide insights and guidance on how to live out the life principles revealed in Holy Scripture.

WHOSE LIFE WILL YOU CHANGE?

January 29 we will begin a church wide six-week study and sermon series of Max Lucado's book, *Outlive Your Life*. We believe this book could have the same impact on the Christian community that *40 days of Purpose*, by Rick Warren, did 10 years ago.

These are difficult days in our world's history. 1.75 billion people are desperately poor, natural disasters are gouging entire nations, and economic uncertainty still reigns across the globe. But we have been given an opportunity to make a big difference. What if we did? What if we rocked the world with hope? Infiltrated all corners with God's love and life? We are created by a great God to do great works. He invites us to outlive our lives, not just in heaven, but here on earth. Let's live our lives in such a way that the world will be glad we did.



Sunday school classes will participate in the study. If you are not in a class, in mid December and January you will have the opportunity to sign up to be in a small group. We want **EVERYONE TO BE IN A STUDY GROUP FOR THESE SIX WEEKS**. Please don't miss this opportunity. Contact Rev. Doug Meyer at doug@tmumc.org.

Men Invite Spouses to Christmas Breakfast

Please join us December 17 for the UMM Christmas Breakfast Meeting. This is our annual event when we include the ladies, so bring your wives or girlfriends for an enjoyable breakfast and entertaining program.



The meeting will feature Christmas cheer; the first annual UMME Awards, a special visit by Santa; and our very own version of the Newly Wed Game. First time visitors are encouraged and welcome, just remember to bring that special mate!

The group meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month, 8 a.m. in the Ministry Center. Parking is free.

For more information, contact men@tmumc.org.

Calling All Moms!



Looking for a way to connect with other moms? Join the MOBB! Moms of Babies and Big Kids is for moms of all ages with kids of all

ages! We have an evening and a day chapter.

Evening MOBB meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, and Day MOBB meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday. Each meeting has an entertaining and charismatic speaker with a message that encourages us to apply Scripture to our everyday life and circumstances, followed by small group discussion.

Not sure yet? Want to check it out? Our December & January meetings are OPEN, so we encourage you to come and bring a friend.

Day MOBB's open session are Friday, Dec. 9 and Jan. 25 at 9:30 a.m., and Evening MOBB's open sessions meet on Wednesday, Dec. 14 and Jan. 26 at 6:30 p.m.

Sign up at the meeting and get a big discount on our second semester! For more information, contact Rebecca Carrell at rebeccacarrell@gmail.com.

Time to Pause Women's Retreat

Do you hunger to have time alone with the Lord and have the opportunity to go deeper into relationship with Him? January 27-29, 2012, women will gather for teaching, reflecting, sharing and solitude at Selah Inn on the Ranch in Mt. Vernon. The weekend will begin with dinner on Friday night, then three wonderfully delicious and wholesome meals on Saturday and a brunch on Sunday morning before returning home. Go to selahranch.com.

To secure your reservation, a deposit is required (check made out to TMUMC and marked SELAH). Contact Jan Deering for payment information at jan.deering@verizon.net.

Baptism Quilters Sale

The Baptism Quilters craft a handmade quilt for every infant baptised into the Trietsch family. You can support this mission by stopping by their Christmas Sale table in the Connection Center on Dec. 4 or 11 to purchase a handmade 2011 Trietsch Christmas ornament or other Christmas crafts. For more information, contact Joan Dorr at maddied@verizon.net.

More Christmas Opportunities

Ornaments for Mission Matters; Poinsettias Welcome Visitors; Watch Kids; Undecorate

Christmas Ornaments

The Trietsch Missions Team is offering two commemorative Trietsch Christmas ornaments to support *Mission Matters* (our new Mission area/market located in room 272).

You can choose a brass rendition of our Chrismon tree for \$20 or an acrylic ornament designed by a Trietsch member depicting "Family Life" for \$8. You can pick up an ornament in Mission Matters.



Sherry Paddie, worship coordinator, at sherry@tmumc.org or karenw@tmumc.org.

Poinsettias

You have the opportunity to honor your loved ones while helping decorate our sanctuary for Christmas services by ordering a Poinsettia IN HONOR or MEMORY of someone. Fill out the order form in the bulletin on Sundays or stop by the church office until December 18. Each plant is \$8. Pick up your plant after Christmas Day. Contact

Nursery Volunteers

Nursery volunteers needed on Christmas Eve for the 2, 4, 6, 7, 8 & 9 p.m. services. We are also seeking help for the 11 a.m. Christmas Day service. Contact Jenny Torson, childcare coordinator, at jenny@tmumc.org.

"Undecorate" Trietsch

Have you enjoyed the wonderful decorations around Trietsch this season? We need help taking it all down and storing it for next year. Please set aside some time the first week of January to lend a hand. Many hands make light work. Contact Shelley Craig at shwertcraig@gmail.com.

Serving Back Stage

The media ministry at Trietsch is expanding! If you have a desire to serve in this area, contact Chad Taylor at ext. 246 or chad@tmumc.org for more information and to receive training.

Lead the Trietsch Travelers

Do you love to travel? The Trietsch Travelers is looking for a new coordinator. Contact Denise Robinson at ext. 228 or deniser@tmumc.org for details.



In the last few years, the Trietsch Travelers have explored the Holy Land, followed Paul's missionary journeys through Greece and Turkey and walked in the footsteps of John Wesley in England. Where will we go next? Where do you want to take us?

Caregiver Support Group

Anyone who is providing care for another person is invited to come to Trietsch's Caregiver Education and Support Group. It is led by Pam Brandon, Caregiver Coach.

The group meets each 3rd Monday of the month, 7-8:30 p.m. The group will help you find solutions, resources, and connect with others who are going through similar circumstances. For information, contact Pam Brandon, 817-528-9399 or Rev. Joe Shafer, 972-539-8547, ext. 203 or joes@tmumc.org.

Family or Group Service

Pocket Stockers come in throughout the week to ready the sanctuary pew pockets and hymnal racks. There is a serious need for new servants. This is a great way for individual,

families or other groups to come for as little as an hour at a time to make a huge difference in the appearance and functionality of our sanctuary. With many visitors coming in the next few months, our Sanctuary needs to be clean and attractive. Contact Nancy Johnson at nanjcc97@gmail.com.

JOY Christmas Party

Join JOY — Just Older Youth — for a fun Christmas lunch and reindeer games on December 13 at 11:30 a.m.

in the Family Life Center. This is a great time to celebrate Christmas with friends and have a great time. You will also have the opportunity to sign up for all the great new Senior Sports opportunities in the Family Life Center. Please make your reservations to Candy Wade at 972-571-1953 or candywade@verizon.net.



"He Calls Them All By Name"

In a church this size, calling one another by name can be a challenge. To help us meet that challenge, we encourage wearing nametags to worship and other church activities. Wearing a nametag builds community and helps others, especially our visitors and newcomers feel at home and it is a welcoming invitation for people to be sociable.

If you have lost your nametag or need one, Trietsch offers permanent nametags for anyone who would like one. You do not have to be a member. You can request a nametag in the black registration pad during worship.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
UPCOMING DATES				1 ● 11:30 a.m. Walk in Faith ● 1 p.m. Pickleball-Seniors ● 7 p.m. Thirsty Thursday	2 ● 6 a.m. Quest Men's Study ● 11 a.m. First Friday Feast ● 6 p.m. Single Souls Support Group	3 ● 7 a.m. Men's B-Ball
● 1/5-7 Created by God ● 1/27-29 Women's Spiritual Retreat ● 1/29 New Worship Service Begins in FLC at 11 a.m.	● 1/29 "Outlive Your Life" Max Lucado Study & Sermon Series begin ● 2/10 Valentine's Party ● 2/12 Parenting Seminar					
4 ● 8, 9:30, 11 a.m. Worship - <i>Why? Christmas Mysteries</i> ● Cookie Caper all morning ● 12:15 p.m. Advent Festival ● 5 p.m. Re-Ignite Sundays	5 ● 6:30 p.m. Basic Yoga	6 ● 7 a.m. Sr. High Breakfast ● Pickleball-Times Vary	7 ● 12 p.m. Life Journal ● 5 p.m. Re-Ignite Bible Study ● 6 p.m. Re-Ignite Youth ● 7 p.m. Chancel Choir ● 7:30 p.m. Orchestra	8 ● 11:30 a.m. Walk in Faith ● 1 p.m. Pickleball-Seniors	9 ● 6 a.m. Quest Men's Study ● 9:30 a.m. MOBB - OPEN MEETING - Check it out!	10 ● 7 a.m. Men's B-Ball ● 7 p.m. Christmas Concert
11 ● 8, 9:30, 11 a.m. Worship - <i>Why? Christmas Mysteries</i> ● 4 p.m. Charge Conference ● 5 p.m. Re-Ignite Sundays ● 7 p.m. Christmas Concert	12 ● 6:30 p.m. Basic Yoga	13 ● 7 a.m. Sr. High Breakfast ● 11:30 a.m. JOY Seniors Christmas Party ● Pickleball-Times Vary	14 ● 12 p.m. Life Journal ● 5 p.m. Re-Ignite Bible Study ● 6 p.m. Re-Ignite Youth ● 6:30 p.m. MOBB - OPEN MEETING - Check it out! ● 7 p.m. Cancer Support ● 7 p.m. Chancel Choir ● 7:30 p.m. Orchestra	15 ● 11:30 a.m. Walk in Faith ● 1 p.m. Pickleball-Seniors	16 ● 6 a.m. Quest Men's Study	17 ● 7 a.m. Men's B-Ball ● 8 a.m. UMM Breakfast - Bring your spouse!
18 ● 8, 9:30, 11 a.m. Worship - <i>Why? Christmas Mysteries</i> ● 5 p.m. Re-Ignite Sundays	19 ● 6:30 p.m. Basic Yoga ● 7 p.m. Family Caregiver Support	20 ● 7 a.m. Sr. High Breakfast ● Pickleball-Times Vary	21 ● 12 p.m. Life Journal ● 5 p.m. Re-Ignite Bible Study ● 6 p.m. Re-Ignite Youth ● 7 p.m. Chancel Choir ● 7:30 p.m. Orchestra	22 ● 11:30 a.m. Walk in Faith ● 1 p.m. Pickleball-Seniors	23 ● 6 a.m. Quest Men's Study ● 9:30 a.m. MOBB	24 Christmas Eve Worship ● 2 & 4 p.m. Children's ● 6 & 8 p.m. Contemporary ● 7 & 9 p.m. Traditional ● 11 p.m. Communion
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! ● 10 a.m. Pot Luck Breakfast ● 11 a.m. Christmas Day Family Worship ● NO RE-IGNITE ACTIVITIES	26 ● 6:30 p.m. Basic Yoga	27 ● Pickleball-Times Vary	28 ● 12 p.m. Life Journal ● 5 p.m. Re-Ignite Bible Study ● 6 p.m. Re-Ignite Youth ● 6:30 p.m. MOBB ● 7 p.m. Cancer Support ● 7 p.m. Chancel Choir ● 7:30 p.m. Orchestra	29 ● 11:30 a.m. Walk in Faith ● 1 p.m. Pickleball-Seniors	30 ● 6 a.m. Quest Men's Study	31 ● Church open until 9 p.m. for year-end giving HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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