



THE COMPASS

News and events of Davis Memorial United Methodist Church

www.dmumc.com

August 2011

What You DON'T Want To Miss In August

Monday, August 1:

Chapps Fundraiser @ 5 pm
Boy Scouts @ 6 pm
Trustees Meeting @ 7 pm

Tuesday, August 2:

So Far Band Practice @ 7 pm
Sobriety for Women @ 7 pm

Wednesday, August 3:

PrimeTimers @ 9:30 am
Chancel Choir Practice
Band Practice @ 7:30 pm

Thursday, August 4:

WSM Fellowship @ 6 pm
Handbell Choir @ 7 pm

Friday, August 5:

Na Pau Hula Practice @ 7 pm

Sunday, August 7:

Worship @ 9:45 am
Sunday School @ 11:00 am
WSM Worship @ 5 pm

Monday, August 8:

Boy Scouts @ 6 pm
Finance Meeting @ 7 pm

Tuesday, August 9:

Girl Scouts @ 6:30 pm
So Far Band Practice @ 7 pm
Sobriety for Women @ 7 pm

Wednesday, August 10:

PrimeTimers @ 9:30 am
Chancel Choir Practice @ 6 pm
Band Practice @ 7:30 pm

Thursday, August 11:

WSM Fellowship @ 6 pm
Handbell Choir @ 7 pm

Friday, August 12:

Na Pau Hula Practice @ 7 pm

Saturday, August 13:

Men's Ministry @ 7 am

Sunday, August 14:

Worship @ 9:45 am
Sunday School @ 11:00 am
Church Council @ Noon
Niki's Fundraiser @ 5 pm
WSM Worship @ 5 pm

Monday, August 15:

Boy Scouts @ 6 pm

Tuesday, August 16:

So Far Band Practice @ 7 pm
Sobriety for Women @ 7 pm

Wednesday, August 17:

PrimeTimers @ 9:30 am
Chancel Choir Practice @ 6 pm
Band Practice @ 7:30 pm

Thursday, August 18:

Last Day to Order Angel Food
WSM Fellowship @ 6 pm
Handbell Choir @ 7 pm

Friday, August 19:

Na Pau Hula Practice @ 7 pm

Sunday, August 21:

Worship @ 9:45 am
Sunday School @ 11:00 am
WSM Worship @ 5 pm

Monday, August 22:

Boy Scouts @ 6 pm

Tuesday, August 23:

Girl Scouts @ 6:30 pm
So Far Band Practice @ 7 pm
Sobriety for Women @ 7 pm

Wednesday, August 24:

PrimeTimers @ 9:30 am
Chancel Choir Practice @ 6 pm
Band Practice @ 7:30 pm

Thursday, August 25:

WSM Fellowship @ 6 pm
Handbell Choir @ 7 pm

Saturday, August 27:

Angel Food Pick-up @ 8:30 am
Sisters of Aloha @ 6 pm

Sunday, August 28:

Worship @ 9:45 am
Sunday School @ 11:00 am
WSM Worship @ 5 pm

Monday, August 29:

Boy Scouts @ 6 pm

Tuesday, August 30:

So Far Band Practice @ 7 pm
Sobriety for Women @ 7 pm

Wednesday, August 31:

PrimeTimers @ 9:30 am
Chancel Choir Practice @ 6 pm
Band Practice @ 7:30 pm

OUR STAFF

Denise Luper
Senior Pastor
denise@dmumc.com

Rocky Buchanan
Music Ministry
817-281-0411 x105

Shirley Rardin
Organist

Carrie Neidig
Administrative Assistant
carrie@dmumc.com

Toni Bliss
Financial Secretary
toni@dmumc.com



Worship Times

Worship 9:45 am

Sunday School 11:00 am



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church™

5301 Davis Blvd
North Richland Hills

Pastor's Prose



Well, thanks to Trisha Baker, I'm being nurtured and guided into the 21st century world of technology! So, just in case you don't already know, I now have a blog, which can be accessed from our website, **dmumc.com**. I don't have a regular time of posting, but I love the idea of the blog for

staying in touch on day-to-day kinds of things. In fact, much of what I would usually write here in the newsletter, on a month-by-month basis, will be posted in more of a timely, or "real time" manner on the blog. So, from time to time, give it a glance! You can see current postings as well as previous ones.

And, I want to thank you for your support and encouragement as I begin work on my DMin. (Doctor of Ministry) at Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky. This program is designed for ministers, like me, who are active in full time ministry, and I have just returned from my first "round." If you missed worship on Sunday, July 17, you can hear the story of my first "adventure" on the website as the sermon. I will be traveling to Kentucky for one or two weeks, twice a year (for about 3+ years) in July and January. Most of the courses consist of intensive reading and writing beforehand, then intensive class work/lecture for a week, then follow up assignments due within the next couple of months following our class time in Kentucky. And, of course, the dissertation that will be a large project and the culmination of the entire program leading to a Doctor of Ministry degree. It will indeed be challenging, but with God's guidance, and your encouragement and support, as well as that of my family, I am looking forward with excitement to how God would help me grow as your pastor in order that we may grow and partner *together* in ministry, in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world *to the glory of God*.

I get excited just thinking about it. So, whaddaya say? Let's go for it!

Grace and peace,
Denise

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL UPATE

During VBS, the kids were asked to help raise money for two charities, N.E.E.D and the Bible Fund here at Davis. Over 155 cans and boxed food items were to N.E.E.D and \$214.14 was raised for the bible fund.

On Sunday, July 17th two families from VBS joined us for service and one even stayed for Sunday School.

Also, we were able to pass on a blessing that we received to another church by giving all of our VBS decorations and extra crafts to Grace Community Fellowship Church in Weatherford, TX.

Below are just some of the photographs taking during the week. To see all the photos go to www.dmumc.com and click on albums.





Randy Ickert and Marti Powles for shepherding Sunday School.

Steve Barber, Stayton PettyJohn, Dayna Tooley and Gregg Tooley for being Shepherds on Sunday Nights.

Barbara Russell for being an awesome supporter.

To **all who volunteer to distribute Angel Food**. This is a great service to the community.

Wayne Brannon, Duane Davis, David Gray, Carol Mabry, Diane Richardson and Bill Schott for all the help with N.E.E.D.

Susan Meador who gives us joy in the altars she prepares.

Anita Brannon, Joanne Gray, and others who prepare food for people. There is comfort in food.

To the **Methodist men** who come faithfully every second Saturday.

To **all who teach a Sunday School Class**. Sunday School is an important contribution to the faith development of individuals.

Shirley Blalock- for all that you do mailing the newsletter so we all know what is going on.

Wayne Brannon for being at the church every time there is a problem.

Carlos Baker for changing the sign in front.

Steve Barber and Carlos Baker for assisting in leading worship.

Jeremy Brown, Michelle Brown, Gwen Barnett, Rita Davis, Amy Shupp, Susan Younkers - for all the time, effort and energy that you put into keeping the nursery well staffed with loving people.

Amy Shupp for all your hard work in supporting the children's program while being in school.

Jim & Gloria Wallace, Wayne Brannon, Jacob Powles, Caity Shannon, Kelsey McDonough, Errol Faeth, Homer Ludiker, Gene Blalock, John & Amy Ramsey, Michael Smith and Carlos Baker for ushering.

Michelle and Jeremy Brown for having child care during the training session.

Deb Brown, Diane Richardson and Cindy Shannon, for delivering flowers.

Trisha Baker, Nancy Barber, Sheryl Jordan, Tonya Minton, Carrie Neidig, Tricia Raich, Amy Ramsey, Lana Schmitt-Hoff, Cindy Shannon and Michelle Willoughby for all their coordinating and help during VBS.

To **all who donated food and supplies for VBS**.



Kenny and Shannon Gonzalez would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers during this time.

Special thanks to all those who provided food for the family through the Prayer and Care Team. What a blessing it is to be a part of this church family!



Thank you to our church family for the care and support shown during our loss of Tom.

Denise Rohling and family

Electronic Newsletters

If you are not receiving the e-newsletter, go to www.dmumc.com and at the bottom of the page enter your email address under "Sign Up to receive Davis Memorial News."

Getting To Know You...

By Joanne Gray

I had the privilege of interviewing the newest member of our congregation this month, and I didn't even have to twist his arm to get him to agree to it. I was a little surprised when I found out he is a native Texan, and that he was born and raised right here in the Fort Worth area. You can't help but like this man once you get to meet him. He has a great personality, is very knowledgeable and is fun to be around. Is your interest peaked yet? Well, I believe it will be when you realize that I am talking about our new Pastor's husband. So, let's now meet and get to know....."STEVE" LUPER!

Steve's dad, Patrick Henry Luper, from Comanche, Texas, delivered prescriptions for a local drug store, while going to TCU. He met Betty Jo Gayler when he stopped to deliver some medicine at her parents' home. Patrick and Betty Jo later married and had three children—two boys and a girl. Patrick was a fire chief and Betty, a homemaker and a seamstress. Steve said his Mom was such a good seamstress that she made Denise's wedding dress! He also said that she was also a PTA President, and could easily have been a really good salesperson. Steve's brother, Randy, is 2-1/2 years older, and his sister, Becky, is 2-1/2 years younger, than him. His father's nationality traces back to the Sephardic Jews in Spain. He knows that his mother was part Indian. His parents were married for 48-1/2 years, until his Mom died in 1999 and his Dad died in 2004.

Steven Michael Luper, age 56, was born on February 23, 1955, at Harris Hospital, in Fort Worth, Texas. He grew up on the east side of Fort Worth, where he attended Sagamore Hill Elementary School, Meadowbrook Junior High School and then Eastern Hills High School. He graduated from Eastern Hills High School in 1973, where he said he "majored in athletics, especially football." He continued his education by first attending Tarrant County Junior College for two years, taking basic courses toward a Bachelor's Degree, and then attending the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) for two more years. He graduated from UTA in 1977, with a Bachelor of Business Administration; Management degree.

Steve worked for Channel 11 KTVT, where he was called a "Page," but his job was to pick-up and deliver films and tapes for them, which he did for all four years throughout college. After that, he worked for a few years for Florsheim Shoe Company, managing stores for them. He said he didn't want to be a business person. During that time, he



applied at various Fire Departments, but got called to the Dallas Fire Department in 1980. Their name was changed later, in the early 2000's, to Dallas Fire-Rescue (DFR). His Dad and brother also worked for the Dallas Fire Department. His Dad was there 32 years and retired as the Executive Deputy Chief. His brother, Randy, was one of the very first paramedics in the United States, starting in 1972. Randy worked 36 years and retired as a Fire Lieutenant in South Dallas. Steve has a nephew who now works for Dallas Fire-Rescue. Neither Steve nor his brother ever intended on becoming firemen.

Steve said he was both a firefighter and a paramedic, but spent much of his career as an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Shift Duty Officer (Lieutenant). Toward the end of his career, Steve researched the EMS systems in most major U. S. cities for the "Dallas Fire-Rescue EMS Vision Process." This was a project involving a number of individuals to ensure that the citizens of Dallas have the best EMS system possible. He has always liked writing. So, when Dallas Fire-Rescue had a contest called the "Dallas Fire-Rescue Vision Essay Contest," he entered it. The point of the contest was to cast a vision for the future of the department. His paper came in second place and he thought it was fun. He also became the first EMS Quality Improvement Officer for Dallas and helped create the DFR EMS Quality Improvement Program.

Steve joined the Dallas Fire Department on September 29, 1980, and retired after 29-1/2 years of service, one and a half years ago. He told me that he broke his foot off duty, and while he was off work recuperating, decided it was time to move on.

Denise and Steve married on June 6, 1980, at Poly Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth. They have one daughter, Julie, age 23, and one son, Patrick, age 19. Julie is married to Matt Neville. Matt works for the U.S. Bowling Association in their Membership Department. Julie is seeking a permanent teaching position. She is currently a Teacher's Aide in the Kennedale Independent School District. Over the summer, she is teaching in a summer program at the Fort Worth Zoo. She got her undergraduate degree at UTA and is now going for her Master's Degree in Education with Lamar University online. Julie & Matt reside in Arlington. Patrick attended Blinn College at College Station for his first year, and will be attending Tarrant County College (TCC) for his second year. He ultimately wants to get a

Getting to Know You continued...

Bachelor's Degree in Marketing. This summer, he is touring with his rock band up to Brooklyn, New York and back. He does all the booking for the band. He plays the drums and lead and base guitar, but likes the drums best. He currently resides with his parents at their home in Arlington.

Steve's hobbies are reading, writing, teaching, walking and traveling. He is passionate about the lives of people and loves to observe people. He especially loves to teach, read and write about theology and biographies; wisdom teaching. If he were able to reinvent himself, he said he might have become a journalist instead of a firefighter. When he takes a walk, he really does take a walk, and said he will walk three or four hours at a time. He likes to watch football, especially the Cowboys, and used to play football himself. He likes the color "blue," but thinks more creatively with lots of bright colors around him. His favorite food is "Mexican" and second favorite, "Italian." His favorite dessert is white cake with white frosting; especially from Target's bakery. He likes movies with happy endings, but does not like dreadfully sad ones. He also likes true story movies, such as "Apollo 13" and "Backdraft;" old movies, like "Mr. Roberts" with Henry Fonda; "High Noon;" and "Mash;" as well as reality TV shows, like "I Survived" and "Bounty Hunter." Country is his favorite kind of music, especially Johnny Cash & Willie Nelson, although he also really likes Lady Antebellum, Loretta Lynn, Dolly Parton, and Taylor Swift's songwriting, (not necessarily her singing). His Dad liked, and his son also likes, Johnny Cash.

Steve told me that his favorite Scripture is Matthew 12:9-14, which tells about Jesus healing the man with the withered hand. He went on to explain to me that "he grew up unchurched, as an atheist, but not as a militant. He says he just didn't think about God one way or the other." He later began exploring Christianity and when he first read his favorite Scripture, he thought "If this is an example of who God is, I want to be part of that!" He began to love God, which changed him and began his faith journey. When I asked him what his favorite holiday is, he replied, "Easter, because of the Resurrection. The Kingdom of God is here and now, a present and future reality. Through the power of the Holy Spirit lives can be and are resurrected. That is what Easter means to me."

Steve has two favorite quotes. The first is a secular quote by Albert Einstein, which reads: "Imagination is more important than knowledge!" The second is a theological quote by Bill Hybles, which reads: "The local church is the hope of the world!" Steve also has a favorite Christian song, called "The Love of God," which was written by the late Rich Mullins. Steve said he was an amazing songwriter and singer, who also wrote the popular hymn,

"(Our God Is An) Awesome God."

Steve is happiest when he can encourage somebody or make them feel welcome. He is passionate about making disciples and growing and developing the Church, (the United Methodist Church).

There are four people who have been or still are the greatest influences in Steve's life. "The first person is my wife Denise. She is a wonderful wife, mother and friend. She's very gifted, kind, loving and intelligent. She is a great pastor and preacher. She is always challenging herself, reinventing herself (now working on her Doctorate) to be the best she can be." "The second person was my Mom, because of the way she finished her life—so strong!" "The third person is Don Hase. He is the friend who has been with me through good and bad. He is a great, loyal friend!" "The fourth person is Steve Langford, Pastor at First United Methodist Church in Georgetown. He has profoundly influenced my theology in a positive way."

Steve stated that "he is the person he is today because he is a Christ follower, who is becoming less fearful of making mistakes and learning from his failures and successes." He says "I just don't give up!"

I asked Steve what brought him to our Church and his reply was simply "Denise." He told me that the thing he likes most about our Church is that "we are a welcoming Church, oriented towards serving outwardly, making disciples!"

Steve said he doesn't care to be remembered personally through anything, but added "hopefully, my life would advance the kingdom of God in some way!"

Something that you might be surprised to know about Steve is that he had the opportunity to be a paramedic for several dignitaries; namely, President Bill Clinton, President George H. W. Bush, President George W. Bush, Vice-President Dick Cheney and the Prime Minister of Canada.

Thank you so much, Steve, for the wonderful interview! I really enjoyed getting to know you....better, and know, without a doubt that the rest of our congregation will, too!

If you would like to hear a funny story, ask Steve to tell you, when you see him next, about the time he got his picture taken with President Bush and his friend Marshall "Moose" Cook!

The Church Around the World

from United Methodist News Service – <http://umns.umc.org>

Conferences focus on disaster relief

NASHVILLE, TN – The efforts that went into raising money and collecting supplies for victims of the devastating storms, floods and wildfires across the United States were evident as the U.S. conferences of The United Methodist Church gathered for their annual meetings. The conferences also took up petitions on a number of hot-button topics.

Child of apartheid to lead World Methodists

NEW YORK – Born in 1956 under South Africa's apartheid system, Bishop Ivan Abrahams was 7 years old when his family was forced to move from a section of Capetown suddenly declared a whites-only area. His classification by the government as a "colored" person both stereotyped him and limited his choices. Those early experiences spurred his involvement in justice ministries, says the nominee to be the next general secretary of the World Methodist Council.

Arkansans bring pain relief to Uganda

KOCH COROMA, Uganda – A mobile health clinic from Arkansas stopped in northern Uganda for two days in June and treated a total of 436 patients – 64 of them dental and 372 medical. "We've kept going back to the same place, so we really understand what the needs are," said Jody Farrell, the team leader. "People remember us. We've built relationships."

Vital congregations site empowers churches

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – A new website, UMVital-Congregations.org, offers tools for churches to assess their health and set goals for becoming vital. Churches also can share stories of success.

The battling bishops ... and other mascots

DELAWARE, Ohio – In the colorful world of mascots, United Methodist-related schools are at the top of the class with unique and historic "spokespersons." The award for the best church-related mascot would have to go to [Ohio Wesleyan with the Battling Bishops](http://www.yourcollegekid.com). A posting at <http://www.yourcollegekid.com> placed the bishops up there with the Fighting Okra from Delta State University and Sammy the Slug at University of California, Santa Cruz.

UMCOR needs school kits

NEW YORK – The latest shipment of school kits to Haiti has "seriously depleted" the stockpile kept by the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which is encouraging congregations to use kit-making as a group project or activity. The kits, which cost about \$11 each to assemble, provide children with basic supplies such as paper, pencils and other items. Learn more at <http://www.umcor.org>.

Putting faith in Wall Street

GLENVIEW, IL - Part of the job at the denomination's pension agency is to "do good" while still making good returns. To that end, the United Methodist Board of Pension and Health Benefits recently launched Wespath Investment Management, a new brand name for its institutional investment services, which work to apply the church's teachings to stock selections. With about \$17 billion in assets, the United Methodist pension program is the largest church pension fund in the United States and overall the country's 80th largest. The denomination has some 74,000 participants in its pension and benefits programs.



Working to keep you connected

<http://umns.umc.org>

TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW!

Passionate Worship Conference

Join Alamo Heights UM Church in San Antonio, Sept 9-10, to learn more about what passionate worship truly is. Register online at www.umcswtx.org

2011 Leadership Institute:

Sept 28-30, UMC of the Resurrection is offering you ways to energize and enhance your ministry. For more information, visit www.li.cor.org. Early bird deadline is Sept. 2. Young adults under 25 receive a special discount of \$49.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED

A Christian missionary family seeks to rent a 3 or 4 bedroom house in the NRH or driving area. Ideal if the house is furnished, we are on a budget, looking to move in the end of July/August and be there through May with a possibility to extend. Please email me with the location, availability and pictures if possible if you have anything available, Call Dave at 817-908-3288 or dmclairen@gmail.com

o/lan mills

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

Starting Sunday, August 28 through September 18, we will be scheduling portrait sittings for our new pictorial directory.

For your sitting, each family will receive a \$25 gift certificate toward a variety of portrait products, along with a pictorial directory.

Look for us in the Narthex and sign up for your sitting time!



Blog *ing The Journey*

Be sure to check out
Rev. Denise Luper's blog.

See our website @ www.dmumc.com
for more details.

★ **the Great** ★
RECOVERY

IT STARTS WITH *you*

The past two years have been hard and many are hurting.
It's our place to join together as believers and lead
America out of this economic mess.

Davis Memorial is offering a Financial Peace University
class that will teach you God's way of handling money.
Together we'll climb out-one family, one church, one
community at a time.

Financial Peace
UNIVERSITY

More Info:

Classes start August 14, 2011 3-5 pm
Tonya Minton 817-366-6916
tonyaminton@gmail.com



★ THE GREAT RECOVERY.com ★

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United Methodist Church
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DAVIS MEMORIAL UMC



August Events

Dave Ramsey
Starting August 14th
3 - 5 pm

Prayer & Care Fundraisers
Monday, Aug 1 @ 5 pm @ Chapps
Sunday, Aug 14 @ 5 pm @ Niki's