

# THE COMPASS

News and events of Davis Memorial United Methodist Church

www.dmumc.com

September 2011

## What You DON'T Want To Miss In August

### Thursday, September 1:

Handbell Choir @ 7 pm

### Friday, September 2:

Na Pau Hula Practice @ 7 pm

### Sunday, September 4:

Worship @ 9:45 am  
Sunday School @ 11 am  
Dave Ramsey @ 3 pm  
WSM Worship @ 5 pm

### Monday, September 5 - Labor Day:

#### Office Closed

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

### Tuesday, September 6:

Praise Team Practice @ 7 pm  
Sobriety for Women @ 7 pm

### Wednesday, September 7:

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

### Thursday, September 8:

Handbell Choir @ 7 pm

### Friday, September 9:

Na Pau Hula Practice @ 7 pm

### Saturday, September 10:

Men's Ministry @ 7 am

### Sunday, September 11:

Worship @ 9:45 am  
Sunday School @ 11 am  
Worship Committee Meeting @ Noon  
Dave Ramsey @ 3 pm  
Niki's Fundraiser @ 5 pm  
WSM Worship @ 5 pm

### Monday, September 12:

Boy Scouts @ 6 pm  
Finance Meeting @ 7 pm

### Tuesday, September 13:

Girl Scouts @ 6 pm  
Praise Team Practice @ 7 pm  
Sobriety for Women @ 7 pm

### Wednesday, September 14:

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

### Thursday, September 15:

Last Day to Order Angel Food  
Handbell Choir @ 7 pm

### Friday, September 16:

Na Pau Hula Practice @ 7 pm

### Sunday, September 18:

Worship @ 9:45 am  
Sunday School @ 11 am  
Dave Ramsey @ 3 pm  
WSM Worship @ 5 pm

### Monday, September 19:

Boy Scouts @ 6 pm  
Sisters of Aloha Meeting @ 6:30 pm

### Tuesday, September 20:

Praise Team Practice @ 7 pm

### Wednesday, September 21:

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

### Thursday, September 22:

Handbell Choir @ 7 pm

### Friday, September 23:

Na Pau Hula Practice @ 7 pm

### Saturday, September 24:

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

### Sunday, September 25:

Worship @ 9:45 am  
Sunday School @ 11 am  
Dave Ramsey @ 3 pm  
WSM Worship @ 5 pm

### Monday, September 26:

Boy Scouts @ 6 pm  
Court of Honor @ 7 pm

### Tuesday, September 27:

Girl Scouts @ 6 pm  
Praise Team Practice @ 7 pm  
Sobriety for Women @ 7 pm

### Wednesday, September 28:

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

### Thursday, September 29:

Handbell Choir @ 7 pm

### Friday, September 30:

Olan Mills Pictures @ 2 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

5301 Davis Boulevard  
North Richland Hills



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

## Pastor's Prose



Wow! It's here already..... a changing of season without a changing of the temperature. A change in routine, though, for many of us. It's that time of year we like to call "Back to School." And, depending upon your point of view, it's either "yea!!!" or "no!!!" My own kids always had mixed feelings,

as did I. Gone are the summer days of fun and stress free living. When my kids were little, we did all kinds of fun things during the summer as weather permitted. Here and there, a volleyball or basketball camp or two, some swimming lessons, and lazy afternoons with pop-sicles. Bike ride down the street to a friend's house. Cookout in the backyard. Sleepovers. Then, as the kids got older, the coming of summer meant looking forward to Summer camp at Glen Lake Camp, and then, in the youth years, we added to that CTCYM Mission Trip. We usually managed to squeeze in a family vacation, too, even if it was sometimes very short. And so, when that "ball and chain" known as a schedule came back to haunt us (or, get us back in line), we were always kind of sad. Yet, feelings were mixed as well, because the excitement of something new, something seen and unseen, helped to ease the feelings of loss of the time that we all valued.

So, as we begin a new school year, we look back upon our summer months with memories of good times, and we look ahead with excitement to what we'll learn this year. But that's not just in school. The months and years ahead here at church are filled with the excitement of the prospect of new ministries, new friends, and new beginnings for many folks. I'm excited to be a part of it! So, let's do it! Let's invite friends to church..... to come and be a part of the growth and excitement here at Davis Memorial United Methodist Church. Let's find ways of taking the name and message of our church out into our community. Let's find ways to welcome new friends, and invite folks into our ministries and small groups. Let's find ways of sharing God's love and grace with others who just might not always feel loved. Let's ask God how God would have us grow. Let's, together, go and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, through ministry, witness, and service. Ya ready? Let's go!

Grace and peace,  
Denise

## A CALL FOR HOSPITALITY GREETERS!

Our "new" usher team has had 8 months under their belt now and doing very good.



Now, as per the guidance of the Methodist church, a team of Guest Greeters should be developed. Ushers are NOT greeters and Greeters are NOT Ushers. In some cases the same person can do both jobs -- but not on the same day!

So, during the month of September, a team of Greeters will be formed to offer a handshake, hug, smile and welcome message to everyone (especially new guests) as they approach the building and sanctuary on Sunday mornings. A group of about 10 or 12 total are needed, with 4 or 5 each Sunday morning. About 20 minutes on Sunday mornings is all that is required.

Each new greeter will not be asked to perform this duty every Sunday. Once or twice a month should do it.

Please respond with your service commitment to Gloria Wallace (Granny Giggles) if YOU CAN HELP with this project (817-656-7837).



Blog

*Sharing The  
Journey*

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

**See our website @ [www.dmumc.com](http://www.dmumc.com)  
for more details.**



**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.

**Thank you to the men's ministry group for hanging up the new "Communication Center" mailboxes behind the welcome center in the Narthex.**

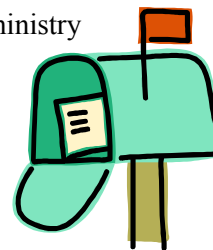
**Doak Meador** for crafting something useful and good looking out of an ugly duckling that had been "stowed" in the storage room! Transformation is such a thing of beauty!

**Thank you to everyone that donated school supplies and money for Holiday Heights and Carrie F. Thomas Elementary schools. Your donations will go a long way to help the children of the schools and were greatly appreciated.**



## MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

There are now mailboxes with your ministry name behind the Welcome Center in the Narthex. Please make a habit of checking this anytime you are at church...at least once week. There is a great opportunity to communicate with other ministry teams as well as the office.



### Electronic Newsletters

If you are not receiving the e-newsletter, go to [www.dmumc.com](http://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 thought that you would particularly like to learn more about the person I had the privilege of interviewing this month, not only because she is a staff member at our church, but also because she is the spouse of the man I wrote about last month. She has a great personality, is very spirit filled, and is a real bundle of energy. She is also very knowledgeable, laughs easily and is very easy to talk to. In case you haven't figured out whom I am talking about yet, I won't keep you in suspense any longer. So, let's now meet and get to know our new Pastor.....DENISE LUPER!

Denise Gale (nee: Allen) Luper was born on September 18, 1957, at Harris Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas. She grew up on the east side of Fort Worth and attended Sagamore Hill Elementary School, Meadowbrook Junior High School, and then Eastern Hills High School, from which she graduated in 1976. From there, Denise attended and graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1980, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Architecture, but she never ended up working in the field of Architecture. Denise knew Steve's family throughout the years, but didn't meet him until he had just graduated from college and she was almost done with college. (Steve was also born at Harris Methodist Hospital and grew up on the east side of Fort Worth. He also attended the same elementary, junior high and senior high schools as Denise.) They actually met in a young adult Sunday School Class at Poly Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth.

Denise's mother's name was Gloria Gale (nee: Brooks) Allen. She had one sister and one brother, who are both now deceased. Denise's Mom and her sister, Sandra, were both mostly stay-at-home moms. Her brother, Elston, was a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram for many, many years. Denise's father's name was Marvin Leslie (nickname "Sam") Allen. He was an outside salesperson for Kraft Foods. Her Dad had one sister named Pauline, and (Denise thinks) another sister named Dorothy, who lived in California, that she never met. Denise's parents divorced when she was in the first grade; and her mother remarried when she was in the second grade. Denise has one half-brother, Jack Galloway, who was born when she was in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Jack, now 40 years old and a confirmed bachelor, resides in Arlington. Denise's parents and step-parents are also deceased. Unfortunately, Denise doesn't know anything

about her nationality.

Denise and Steve were married on June 6, 1980, at Poly Presbyterian Church, just prior to her graduation from UTA. After graduation, she worked part-time while raising her children, first for a newspaper, and then for American Airlines, where she did scheduling for flight attendants, mostly vacation relief scheduling, until 2002, when they let that department go.

Denise had a friend who worked at the Tarrant County Junior College (TCJC), so she got a job there, too, and worked in their Continuing Education Department from 2002 to 2004. Denise told me that she was always involved with church and felt she was being drawn to ministry, but not as an ordained minister, until

around the year 2003. She then decided to further her education and attended graduate school from 2004 through 2008. In 2008, Denise received her Master of Divinity Degree from Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.5!

Denise is currently working on her Post-graduate (Doctor of Ministry) Degree at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. To do this, she has to attend classes for one or two weeks, twice a year, with assignments due before and after attending class in Kentucky.

Denise and Steve lived in Arlington, for the most part, except during the time Steve first joined the Dallas Fire Department, when they lived in Dallas from September, 1980 until June, 1981. In the last three years, until June of this year, they split their time between their home in Arlington and parsonages, first in Weatherford, and then in Eddy, Texas.

Denise and Steve have one daughter, Julie, age 23, and one son, Patrick, age 19. Julie is married to Matt Neville, age 24, who Denise says is "a precious, delightful son-in-law." Matt works for the U.S. Bowling Association in their Membership Department. Julie just got a full-time position teaching children about the animals at the Fort Worth Zoo. She recently earned her Undergraduate Degree at UTA and is now going for her Master's Degree in Education with Lamar University online. Julie & Matt also reside in Arlington. Patrick attended Blinn College at College Station for his first year, and will be attending



## Getting to Know You continued...

Tarrant County College (TCC) for his second year. He ultimately wants to get a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing. Patrick spent most of this summer touring with his rock band up to Brooklyn, New York and back. He does all the booking for the band, and plays the drums and lead guitar; but he likes playing the drums best. He currently resides with his parents at their home in Arlington.

Denise, Steve and Julie are "chocoholics," but they also love white cake, especially from Target. Denise's other favorite dessert is cheesecake. She has two favorite foods - Italian and Mexican, but says she does not care for any food that has guacamole in it. A few of her favorite restaurants are anything Italian or Mexican; "Big Barn Bar-B-Que," in North Richland Hills, and "Boston Market" and "Central Market," both in Southlake.

Denise has two favorite movies; namely, "Indiana Jones: Raiders of the Lost Ark," and the original "Back to the Future." Her favorite movie scene is the closing scene from Robert Redford's 1984 movie, called "The Natural." To Denise, "it is the perfect theological metaphor to illustrate good triumphing over evil," and she gets "goose bumps" every time she sees it. She also likes "Bruce Almighty, because the entire movie is a sermon illustration." In fact, Denise says "I have a sermon series called "Bruce Almighty's Guide to Grace," that incorporates movie clips with teachings about the different types of grace." Her favorite quote comes from a movie that she hasn't seen all the way through, doesn't know what it's about or even the name of it; but the one part she did see contained this: "Spontaneity has its time and its place," to which she exclaimed, "I just love that!"

As for hobbies and interests, Denise loves photography and travel, as well as music, reading, and retreats. Her favorite escapist places are the Texas Hill Country, Northern Coastal California, and Disney Land/Disney World. (Would it surprise you now if I told you that Denise told me her favorite holiday is "Vacation!?!") Needless to say, since her airline days ended, Denise stated that she and her family have not visited the last two as often as they once did when their kids were much younger. Denise loves almost all kinds of music -

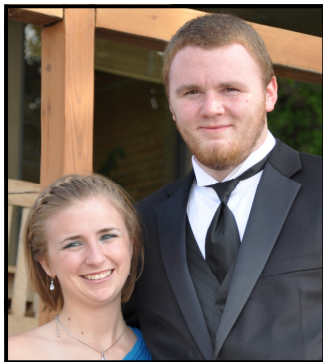
Contemporary Christian, as well as hymns, country, "oldies," and classical.

Denise's favorite time in the Christian Calendar is Lent and Easter. She explained why by saying, "This is when we are intentional about learning just what Jesus taught, and the horror of the Crucifixion and the beauty of the Resurrection, that brought everything into fruition and set new things in motion. To me, this is powerful!"



There are five people who are the greatest influences in Denise's life. The first person is her husband, Steve; the next two are her children, Julie and Patrick. Fourth is Steve Langford, who is her mentor, trusted spiritual friend and colleague, and the person who has helped her to identify God's call in her life and walk with her, through the journey to ordained ministry and beyond. Fifth is her good friend, Don Hase, who has encouraged her, uplifted her, and "gone to bat" for her, time after time after time.

What makes her the person she is today, Denise stated, are "The folks whom God has placed in my life, and the events in my life that have shaped me." Her passions are "preaching, teaching, and spiritual formation," and her passion in life is "to grow the Kingdom of God - to make disciples of Jesus Christ."



Denise's membership is in the Annual Conference; also known as the "Central Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church," and not in the local church. Bishop Lowry and the Cabinet are the people who brought Denise to Davis Memorial U. M. C. this past June. What Denise likes most about our Church are "the people....loving, servant hearts who have hearts and passion for God."

I asked Denise what she would like to be known or remembered for, and she answered me by quoting Psalm 115, which reads, "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory...!"

I then asked Denise to tell me something that might surprise people to know about her, and she replied by saying, "This is just interesting trivia....the doctor who delivered me....his son delivered my kids; all at Harris Hospital!"

Continued on Page 7

## The Church Around the World

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

### Wish Birthday Ambassador 'Happy 106'

ANDREWS, NC - Jean Christy felt she was not doing enough for her church, so she called her pastor and asked how she might volunteer. She was 104 at the time. She is now the "birthday ambassador" at Andrews United Methodist Church. She estimates she calls at least one person a week. She offers well wishes not just to regular worshippers but also to those who have not gone to church in a while. She plans to celebrate her 106th birthday this Sunday with a renewal of her baptismal vows. You can send birthday wishes to "Miss Jean" at Andrews United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1310, Andrews, N.C. 28901.

### W. Astor 'Bill' Kirk dies

WASHINGTON - W. Astor "Bill" Kirk, who spent many years fighting official and unofficial segregation in The United Methodist Church, died Aug. 12, surrounded by his family at Washington Hospital Center. He was 89. Kirk, a United Methodist layperson, served as a director of the public affairs department of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society from 1961 to 1966 and as the board's interim top executive in 1987 and 1988. He played a historic role in ending institutional segregation in The United Methodist Church.

### Joplin takes step toward normalcy

JOPLIN, Mo. — Life in Joplin is not the same as it was May 21. The city took a big step toward normalcy as students started back to school last week while the rebuilding effort by families and churches continued. "It's a very exciting day here in Joplin," said Vanessa Vigneaux, administrative assistant at First United Methodist Church of Joplin, describing the first day of classes in this southwest Missouri town. An EF-5 tornado May 22 killed 160 people, injured at least 750 and destroyed or damaged 10 schools in the Joplin School District.

### 2nd Wesleyan Leadership Conference Set

NASHVILLE - The second annual Wesleyan Leadership Conference, which will bring together people who want to be more missional in their ministry - like the original Methodist movement - is scheduled for Oct. 13-15 in Nashville. Registration costs \$129 before Sept. 1 and \$159 after. Contact the Rev. Steve Manskar at 877-899-2780, ext. 1765.

### First Parish Project applications

HAYESVILLE, NC - Applications are being taken for the Nov. 11-18 program of the First Parish Project, a support project for beginning clergy funded by the Lilly Endowment and by Hinton Rural Life, a mission agency of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church. First Parish Project is a continuing education program aimed at developing and sustaining effective pastoral leadership in the small membership churches. The program is open to clergy of all denominations. Call 828-389-8336 or go to [www.hintoncenter.org](http://www.hintoncenter.org).

### Pre-General Conference briefing

TAMPA, FL - United Methodist Communications will host a pre-General Conference news briefing Jan. 19-Jan. 21 in Tampa to prepare for the 2012 General Conference. The three-day event will provide information for church and secular journalists, delegates and other interested parties about issues to be considered by the denomination's legislative body when it meets in Tampa on April 24-May 4. The cost of registration is \$195 before Sept. 30, \$225 through Nov. 30, and \$250 thereafter. Up to four delegates from each conference may attend. For more information, contact Linda Saunders at [lisaunders@umcom.org](mailto:lisaunders@umcom.org) or 615-742-5119.



Working to keep you connected

<http://umns.umc.org>

## Getting to Know You continued...

Denise made a statement during our interview that I want to share with you, because it is so profound. What she said was this: "You need to have lived your life through your own brokenness to be a really effective minister!" After that statement, all I can say to and about Denise is that she is truly living her calling!

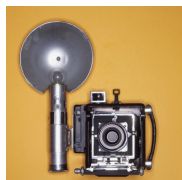
If you haven't already met Denise and/or haven't had the opportunity to get to know her yet, please do spend some time with her whenever you get the chance, because I am pretty sure you will agree with me once you do!

Thank you so much, Denise, for taking time out of your very busy schedule to allow me to interview you! I really enjoyed getting to know you.....better... and am sure our congregation will, too!

HAPPY EARLY BIRTHDAY, DENISE!

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE LABOR DAY  
WEEKEND, EVERYBODY!

## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY COMING



Starting Sunday, August 28th though September 18th, we will be scheduling portrait sittings for our new pictorial directory. For you 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! Photography dates are Friday, September 30th from 2 pm - 9:20 pm and Saturday, October 1st from 9:30 am - 5:10 pm.

## MUSIC MINISTRY PRACTICE TIMES

Praise Team Tuesdays @ 7 pm  
Chancel Choir Wednesdays @ 7 pm  
Handbell Thursdays @ 7 pm



## LOGO CONTEST

Now is an exciting time to be a part of God's vision for the future at Davis Memorial as we work together, prayerfully, to discern how God would have us make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

There are many, many areas of ministry into which we can look deeply, and see how we might change, update, or adapt so that we can reach our community for Christ. One way that we would like to make a change is through a new look..... a new logo!

So, we're having a logo contest, and you are invited to enter and participate! If you do not want to enter your own design, encourage others to enter their designs. With that said, let's get started!

Check out our website [www.dmumc.com](http://www.dmumc.com) and click on logo contest guidelines for more details.

## TALENT SHOW SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

Davis Memorial will be having a Talent Show, Saturday, October 15th. Its a time to get together and enjoy each other's talents.

You say, "What could I do?" Well, you may have memorized a portion of Scripture, you may know all the Kentucky Derby winners, you may be a good joke teller, and you may have a skit you would like to put on or a song you would like to sing. Whatever your talent, come and share it.

If you are interested in displaying your talents please email Trisha Baker at [trisha@dmumc.com](mailto:trisha@dmumc.com).



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# DAVIS MEMORIAL UMC



## September Events

**Dave Ramsey Financial Peace**

**Every Sunday**

**3 - 5 pm**

**Prayer & Care Fundraisers**

**Monday, Sept 5 @ 5 pm @ Chapps**

**Sunday, Sept 11 @ 5 pm @ Niki's**