



# THE COMPASS

News and events of Davis Memorial United Methodist Church

Davis Memorial United Methodist Church is a community of grace and faith committed to serving God's people through ministry, witness and service.

[www.dmumc.com](http://www.dmumc.com)

December 2011

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

### Thursday, December 1:

Handbell Choir @ 7 pm

### Friday, December 2:

Na Pau Hula Practice @ 7 pm

### Sunday, December 4:

Worship @ 9:45 am

Sunday School @ 11 am

Christmas Pageant Practice @ 3 pm

### Monday, December 5:

Chapp's Fundraiser @ 5 pm

Boy Scouts @ 6 pm

Trustees Meeting @ 7 pm

### Tuesday, December 6:

Praise Team Practice @ 7 pm

Sobriety for Women @ 7 pm

### Wednesday, December 7:

PrimeTimers @ 9:30 am

Chancel Choir Practice @ 7 pm

### Thursday, December 8:

Handbell Choir @ 7 pm

### Friday, December 9:

Na Pau Hula Practice @ 7 pm

### Saturday, December 10:

Men's Ministry @ 7 am

### Sunday, December 11:

Worship @ 9:45 am

Sunday School @ 11 am

Christmas Pageant Practice @ 3 pm

Niki's Fundraiser @ 5 pm

### Monday, December 12:

Boy Scouts @ 6 pm

Finance Meeting @ 7 pm

### Tuesday, December 13:

Girl Scouts @ 6 pm

Praise Team Practice @ 7 pm

Sobriety for Women @ 7 pm

### Wednesday, December 14:

PrimeTimers @ 9:30 am

Chancel Choir Practice @ 7 pm

### Thursday, December 15:

Handbell Choir @ 7 pm

### Friday, December 16:

Na Pau Hula Practice @ 7 pm

### Sunday, December 18:

Worship @ 9:45 am

Sunday School @ 11 am

Christmas Pageant Practice @ 3 pm

Children's Christmas Pageant @ 6 pm

### Monday, December 19:

Boy Scouts @ 6 pm

### Tuesday, December 20:

Praise Team Practice @ 7 pm

Sobriety for Women @ 7 pm

### Wednesday, December 21:

PrimeTimers @ 9:30 am

Chancel Choir Practice @ 7 pm

### Thursday, December 22:

Handbell Choir @ 7 pm

### Friday, December 23:

Na Pau Hula Practice @ 7 pm

### Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve:

Christmas Eve Service

Childrens @ 5 pm

Adults @ 7 pm

### Sunday, December 25 Christmas:

Worship @ 10:00 am

### Monday, December 26:

Boy Scouts @ 6 pm

### Tuesday, December 27:

Girl Scouts @ 6 pm

Praise Team Practice @ 7 pm

Sobriety for Women @ 7 pm

### Wednesday, December 28:

PrimeTimers @ 9:30 am

Chancel Choir Practice @ 7 pm

### Thursday, December 29:

Handbell Choir @ 7 pm

### OUR STAFF

**Denise Luper**  
Senior Pastor  
[denise@dmumc.com](mailto:denise@dmumc.com)

**Rocky Buchanan**  
Music Ministry

**Shirley Rardin**  
Organist

**Carrie Neidig**  
Administrative Assistant  
[carrie@dmumc.com](mailto:carrie@dmumc.com)



### Worship Times

### Worship 9:45 am

### Sunday School 11:00 am

5301 Davis Boulevard  
North Richland Hills

### 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."



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

# Pastor's Prose



Ahhhh.... we find ourselves in the season of Advent. Wasn't it just yesterday that we were experiencing 110 degree temperatures, drought, crunchy grass and the final winding-down of the summer? I think so, and yet I think not. Nonetheless,

Advent has arrived.

This past Sunday, November 20, marked the end of the year..... the Christian Calendar year, that is. That means that Sunday, November 27 marks the first Sunday (of 4 Sundays) in Advent for 2011. So, what is the season of Advent all about?

Advent is about waiting, living in the in-between of the "not yet" as we wait for "what will be;" Advent is about anticipation, as we anticipate with excitement of what God will do. But that's not all that the season of Advent brings to us.

Advent is also about preparation..... not *just* the busy-ness of physically preparing for Christmas..... not *just* about gifts, and food, and fellowship with friends and family..... but about preparing our own hearts in anticipation of that which God will do within *us*. The biblical writer tells us that the prophet Isaiah proclaimed to the people of Judah, "*A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'*" (Isaiah 40:3) Within this declaration of the prophet, we hear a voice telling *us* to prepare to see God's work. In my mind, this is telling *us* to prepare *our* own hearts to become a pathway for God's work..... for the work of Christ within us.

And so, as we prepare the food, the gifts, the parties, the tree, the lights, and the house, may we first prepare ourselves for that which God is doing in our hearts, in our church, and in our community..... for there is a voice calling..... calling to all of us..... to prepare the way of the Lord.

I look forward to sharing this Advent Journey with my wonderful Davis family.

**Grace and peace,  
Denise**



**Anita Brannon, Randy Ickert Susan Meador and Marti Powles** for shepherding Sunday School.

**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 Younkens** - 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.

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



Continued

**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.

**A BIG thank you to everyone** who donated candy to Trunk or Treat! We had a great turnout from the neighborhood and the church family!

**Everyone** who came out and donated blood during our blood drive.

**To everyone** who participated with the Prayer and Care Bazaar. The event would not have been a success without your help.

**Everyone** that assisted with the Church Wide Luncheon and Program.

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Kay and I would thank our church family for all the prayers, thoughts, cards and calls during her recent hospital stay. We are so blessed to be part of Davis Memorial. It is our prayer that this community of faith keeps up this calling to comfort and support all those who experience a form of need.

**Kay and Ron Jehle**

## The Church Around the World

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

### **Malaria Advocates Ask Congress To Save Lives**

WASHINGTON - More than 50 Imagine No Malaria advocates were in the U.S. capital this week to ask members of Congress to help them save lives. The event, hosted by the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, is part of the denomination's Imagine No Malaria advocacy outreach. With federal budget cuts looming, U.S. funding for malaria programs in Africa is at stake, advocates said.

### **'Distinguished Evangelist' Award Given**

LAKE JUNALUSKA, NC - The Rev. Ed Robb III, founding pastor of The Woodlands (Texas) United Methodist Church, is the recipient of the Distinguished Evangelist of The United Methodist Church award for 2011, presented by The Foundation for Evangelism. Started in 1978 with 30 members, The Woodlands congregation has been one of the fastest-growing churches in Methodism, with membership exceeding 8,400 and an average worship attendance of 4,200.

### **Happy 90<sup>th</sup>, The Rev. Joseph Lowery**

ATLANTA - Celebrities, politicians, artists and even President Obama honored the Rev. Joseph Lowery at a gala celebration in his honor Oct. 9 at the Atlanta Symphony Hall. It was standing room only for the 90th birthday of the dean - or king as some call him - of the civil rights movement. The evening of performances and birthday greetings was a tribute to Lowery for his

work in the fight for civil rights and for his life of service and inspiration.

### **\$1 Million For Alabama Tornado Relief**

NEW YORK - At the end of April, Alabama residents were stunned by a record 62 tornadoes that killed 250 people and left homes, businesses and municipalities in tatters. This week, directors of the United Methodist Committee on Relief approved a \$1 million grant to the North Alabama Annual (regional) Conference to assist in the state's recovery. They also approved other large grants to aid disaster relief in Japan and Haiti.

### **CROP Hunger Walks cross United States**

ELKHART, IN - From Anchorage, Alaska, and Tallahassee, FL, to Bath, ME, and Vista, CA - and many points in between - United Methodists join people of all faiths for autumn CROP Hunger Walks. CROP stands for "Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty." Church World Service, an international, ecumenical agency that works with partners to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote global peace and justice, sponsors the events. CROP walkers find sponsors who donate set amounts for the distances walked. Seventy-five percent of the money raised goes toward global hunger projects, and the rest stays in the community.



Working to keep you connected

<http://umns.umc.org>

# Getting To Know You...

By Joanne Gray

This month I had the privilege to interview a wonderful Christian couple in a unique way; well...unique to me anyhow... mainly via the computer! It was difficult for me to catch up with them, because they are always on the go. They both work full-time and are parents of two children. He is a native Texan and she hails from the North. Are you wondering who I am talking about yet? Well...let's meet and get to know....**CINDY & MIKE SHANNON!**

Cindy Lynn (nee: Pell) Shannon was born to Carol (nee: Zimmerman) Pell and Ronald Joseph Pell on July 3, 1963, in Terre Haute, Indiana. They moved to Indianapolis, Indiana while Cindy was still a baby. They moved from Indianapolis to Euless, Texas in 1974, when her Dad joined her grandfather's trucking company. She graduated from Trinity High School in 1981 and attended TCJC for one year, before leaving to get married and have a baby. Cindy was a 9-1-1 Police, Fire & EMS Dispatcher for 28 years. The last two years, she has been an Administrative Records Technician with the North Richland Hills Police Department.

Cindy's parents were married in Terre Haute, Indiana in January, 1963. Her Dad was a machinist and worked for several companies over the years, including General Motors, Bell Helicopter and Mary Kay. Her Mom had "the hard job," as Cindy put it, because she stayed at home and raised their three children.

Cindy is the eldest of the three siblings. The middle child, her brother James Pell, 44, is married to Glenda, whom Cindy says is "a wonderful sister-in-law." They live in Euless (around the corner from the house Cindy and her siblings grew up in) with their five children; Joshua, 17; Justin, 15; Jarrod, 10; Hailey, 7, and Stephanie, age 5. James is a Lieutenant at the Hurst Police Department. Glenda is a homemaker and home schools their kids. Cindy's youngest sister, Leslie, 40, is married to Mike Kiere. They live in Irving with their three children; Andrea, 24; Jacob, 16, and Allyson, 14. (Cindy says, "Are you seeing a pattern here?") Mike is a retired Irving detective and Leslie is a stay at home mom. Cindy's nationality is German and English.

Cindy and Mike were married at her in-laws' house in San Angelo, Texas, on October 26, 1991. They live in the same house today that they lived in since they got married, in Haltom City. They have two beautiful daughters; Becca, 26, and Caity, 11. Becca lives in Stephenville, Texas. She attends Tarleton University part-time and is a full-time police officer in De Leon, Texas. Caity is an excellent student at Bethesda Christian

School. She also enjoys fencing and swimming.

I asked Cindy how and when she met her husband. She replied by saying, "Mike and I both worked for the DFW Airport Board and were introduced by a mutual friend. We went to lunch - which our friend mysteriously bowed out of - and we've been together ever since! I even tried to run him off by serving 'beanie weenies' the first time he came to have dinner with Becca and me, and he came back! Then when I was recovering from pneumonia, he came to my house and fed me or took me out to eat every day. I can't even imagine what I must have looked like...but still he came back! That's when I knew I'd better do all I could to keep this guy around! Twenty years later, I am so thankful God made that happen!!!"



Cindy's hobbies are sewing and reading. Her favorite color is "purple." Her favorite food is "cherry or blueberry pie and chocolate cake - too close to call." Cindy's favorite movie

is "Driving Miss Daisy" and her favorite music is "Christian Praise music, hymns, and 50's and 60's rock music." She told me that "Christmas" is her favorite holiday, "because it's Jesus birthday; it reminds her how much God must love us."

Cindy says "she's happiest when Becca is home and the four of us are doing something together!"

When I asked Cindy what she would say people like most about her, she replied "I've been told that I am an encourager. I like that. I hope it's true."

The greatest influence in Cindy's life was her "wonderful mother-in-law, LaVerne Shannon. She not only taught me how to be a good wife and mother, she modeled it! I miss her greatly." What makes Cindy the person she is today, she says is "my faith!"

Cindy was raised off and on in a non-denominational Christian Church as a child. She said she actually attended Davis Memorial UMC for a period of time many, many years before she and Mike met. She has been attending our Church for about 1-1/2 to 2 years now, but has only been a member for a few months.

Cindy stated "that 'God—literally' brought her to Davis Memorial." "Mike was out of town and as the girls and I passed Davis, I had a real need to attend a church service—it was a Saturday night.

Continued on reverse

## Getting to Know You continued...

We came to that service and came back on Sunday! We've been attending ever since!" Cindy tells me that the thing she likes most about our Church is "the friendliness! From our first visit, I've felt loved and welcomed. When someone says 'I missed you,' they aren't trying to find out why you weren't at Church; they truly missed seeing your face!" Cindy is currently serving as the Sunday School Superintendent and belongs to the Bible Study Sunday School Class.

Something that might surprise you to know about Cindy is that she would like to learn how to play the violin!

Michael B. Shannon, (nickname "Mike"), was born to LaVerne (nee: Timberlake) Shannon and Perryman Boyd Shannon in San Angelo, Texas, on November 27, 1959. He grew up in San Angelo and graduated from Central High School there in 1978. Mike attended Angelo State University and then Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida, during which time he obtained his private pilot license. Mike has worked in the airline industry for over 30 years. He has worked on the ramp—loading, fueling, and cleaning aircraft; then became a Flight Dispatcher, and is currently a Shift Manager for a Fort Worth based carrier. Mike's father was a lawyer in San Angelo for over 50 years; his mother was a homemaker. Mike's nationality is probably Irish and English.

Mike has one older sister and two younger brothers. His sister, Jan, 53, lives in San Angelo, and is divorced. She has one daughter, named Liz. His brother, Bill, 48, is married to Michelle. They live in Houston with their children; Grace, 7, and Noah, 5. Bill does computer work in the Houston area. His other brother, Patrick, 46 is married to Jamie. They live in San Angelo with their children; Addison, 8, and Emma, 6. Patrick took over the family law practice in San Angelo.

Mike's hobbies are "electronics" and "music." His favorite color is "orange;" favorite food, "pizza" and favorite dessert, "banana pudding." His favorite movie is John Wayne's "The Hell Fighters." Mike's favorite holiday is "Christmas" and his favorite hymn is "Just As I Am."

"Vacation" and "travel" are the things that make Mike happiest. The thing he feels people like most about him is his "humor."

Mike says the greatest influence in his life was his Mom & Dad, because "they set a good example!" What makes Mike the person he is today he says, is "my family!"

Mike was raised as a Methodist all his life. He told me that Cindy and the girls brought him to Davis Memorial U.M.C. He says that "he enjoys the family atmosphere there." Mike currently serves on the SPR Committee.

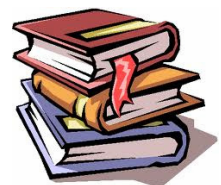
Something you might be surprised to know about Mike is that he is in the process of joining the Smithfield Masonic Lodge in North Richland Hills!

When you see Cindy and Mike and their daughters next, please greet them and let them know how much you enjoyed getting to know them...better! Thank you both so much for allowing me to interview you, especially in between your busy schedules! You make a great couple together and a wonderful Christian family! We are so blessed that you and your family are a part of our Church family!

HOPE EVERYONE HAD A BLESSED  
AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

## New to the Church Library

(the church library is located in the classroom just outside the fellowship hall, just across from the church office. There is a sign-out sheet provided)



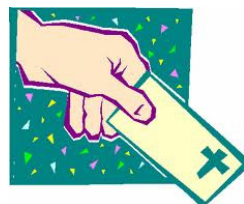
*Why? Making Sense of God's Will*, by Adam Hamilton. DVD, Leader's Guide, and book.

*Christianity's Family Tree: What Other Christians Believe and Why*, by Adam Hamilton. DVD and Leader's Guide.

*Confronting the Controversies: Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues*, by Adam Hamilton. DVD, Leader's guide, and book.

*Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase.

The Bible on CD, New International Version, dramatized.



## Giving

**If you have plans to be out of town or not in worship on Christmas Day, please consider giving your weekly offering on December 18th. Also, any contributions you wish to be included on your 2011 Statements, need to be dated and in the church office by Friday, December 30, 2011.**



**Davis Memorial**

United Methodist Church

*A place to love, grow and serve*

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# DAVIS MEMORIAL UMC



## December Events

Children's Christmas Pageant  
Sunday, December 18th  
@ 6 pm

Christmas Eve Service  
Saturday, December 24th  
Children @ 5 pm  
Adults @ 7 pm

Christmas Day Worship  
Sunday, December 25th  
@ 10 am