



## Common Ground

July 2009

### a note from pastor douglas.....

On July 15, 2000, I came to Dallas for a temporary job assignment. I still remember when I met Antoine Spencer and he told me about White Rock Community Church. I can still remember Pastor Viv and Jan picking me up for church at the beginning, since I was here temporarily; I came without a car. These were simple acts of sharing and kindness that changed my life. I could never have imagined where those steps on my journey were leading me. As I am nearing the 9th anniversary of the beginning of my life in Texas---it causes me to be thankful for a church that has been so central to my life and to the people God has used to encourage me along the way. I draw two strong observations: 1. You never know what God may have in store for your life...and often its revelation occurs one step at a time! 2. You never know if or how God may be using you to help someone else in his or her journey. Sometimes an invitation to church, a word of encouragement, or the offer of a ride may be a part of God's plan in transforming someone's life. I know, because God linked a lot of little things together to engage me at White Rock and they changed mine. This summer, I encourage you to live faithfully...so your steps are in alignment with God's plan for you, and so you can encourage and bless others.

### Story of a Beggar and a Wealthy Man

#### May 2009 Treasurer's Report

A beggar was sitting beside a road, when he saw a splendid carriage coming toward him. The carriage shone like the sun from the gold and precious gems which adorned it. The beggar thought, "Here comes a great and wealthy man. What will he give me?" The carriage stopped, and a man, regally arrayed, emerged and approached the beggar. To the beggar's astonishment the man asked, "What will you give me?" The beggar was confused. He reached into his meager purse and pulled out the smallest grain of rice he could find. He handed the rice to the wealthy man, thinking, "What can he possibly need from me?"

### July Birthdays

07/04 Steve  
 07/04 Michael  
 07/05 Pat  
 07/06 Jerry  
 07/07 Dean  
 07/08 Gerald  
 07/10 Dionndra  
 07/12 Stephen  
 07/14 Louisa  
 07/20 Brent  
 07/21 Joseph  
 07/24 Melissa  
 07/25 Adam



### July Worship

#### July 5

Pastor Marianne  
 "God's Grace is Sufficient for You"

II Corinthians

12:2-10

#### July 12

Pastor Steve Dolloff  
 "Spiritual Blessings in christ"

Ephesians 1:3-14

#### July 19

Pastor Douglas preaching

After thanking the beggar, the wealthy man went on his way. Later that night, the beggar emptied his purse to count his possessions. To his astonishment, he saw lying there a grain of rice, which had turned to gold.

Now the beggar realized Who It Was he had met on the road. He cried out, "If only I had given Him my all!"

The meaning of this beautiful story is that whatever we offer to God will be returned to us, spiritualized and enriched, a hundredfold. When we offer our hearts in devotion, our love is purified. When we offer our thoughts, they become inspired. When we offer God our money, it too, like the beggar's grain of rice, becomes spiritual gold.

Taken from <http://www.ananda.org>

Following are the results year-to-date 2009 for WRCC operations:

Actual Contributions	██████████
Budgeted Contributions	\$ ██████████
Actual Expenses	\$ ██████████
Budgeted Expenses	██████████

After five months of operations, we now stand at a deficit (loss) of \$ ██████████.

Please pray about what God wants you to do to help support the missions of White Rock Community Church.

If you have any questions regarding the finances of the church, or want to pray with someone about giving, please feel free to contact me at 972-415-2963 or [rkafmw2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rkafmw2@sbcglobal.net).

Rick Marshall

## Fast 5

The Nominating Committee wants to present to you the "The Fast 5." It is our desire to start introducing our members to each other along with their reasons for joining committees and sharing their Spiritual Gifts with our church.



### What brought you to WRCC?

The first member we want to introduce to you is Kaye Lee. Kaye and her partner Pat were invited to visit our church by Tom Walker. They have been together for 25 years. Kaye and Pat were looking for a neighborhood church that was "all about Jesus."

### What part of the country were you raised?

Kaye is a native San Antonian. Her mother's family came from Spain and helped to build the Alamo in San Antonio.

### What is your background faith denomination?

Kaye was raised in the Baptist, Episcopal and Multi-Denominational faiths.

### Why do you serve?

Kaye has a passion for worship leadership. Her spiritual gifts lead her to her calling. She is a teacher and ordained minister. She has recently preached at WRCC, is the Chair of our Worship Committee and sings in the choir. She feels that God has something for her to do here at WRCC.

### Who at WRCC has helped you grow in your faith?

July 26

Pastor Douglas preaching

For committee and ministry meeting information, go to our website at: [whiterockchurch.org](http://whiterockchurch.org)

Kaye has a passion for worship leadership. Her spiritual gifts lead her to her calling. She is a teacher and ordained minister. She has recently preached at WRCC, is the Chair of our Worship Committee and sings in the choir. She feels that God has something for her to do here at WRCC.

**Who at WRCC has helped you grow in your faith?**

Kaye feels that Pastors Jim, Douglas, Marianne and Viv have all helped her to grow in her faith.

## Communion, Swine Flu, and You!

I know the title sounds a little silly, but I hope it got your attention...because this really is no laughing matter. Over the last several weeks, you may have noticed some changes within our worship service. There has been a lot of conversation among the staff, worship committee, and leadership of the church behind the changes you have seen. The first Saturday, we even closed lunch and services for the Friends clients as the information about the illness was beginning to unfold! We monitor the internet, Dallas County Health Department, County Emergency Medical Advisors, and in attempt to make informed decisions.

Many denominations have stopped serving communion all together until further notice. Many churches have dramatically reduced the frequency. Here are some things I'd like to bring to your attention; perhaps bringing you some insights, and hopefully increasing your understanding.

Since the beginning of the year, we have had hand sanitizer packets available for the deacons and have encouraged their use, especially during come forward communion, right before they come to serve. Throughout our services, we sneeze, we cry, we cough, we cry...you get the idea? Now we have expanded the availability of hand sanitizer wipes to the whole congregation. You will find them in a basket in the parlor on the prayer request box, and at the back of the sanctuary. It's simple, please pick one up as you enter worship, and use it to sanitize your hands just before communion is served. As the elements are passed, your gift of a clean hand brings consideration and kindness to others in the service.

Have you realized, the replacement of the paper thin wafers with bread is a consideration of the worship committee? This makes receiving the host easier and more sanitary. Selecting the element is now easier with less fumbling and possible passing of germs.

The only major change has been the suspension of Come Forward style communion for the time being. **WE HAVE NOT REDUCED THE FREQUENCY OR IMPORTANCE OF CELEBRATING THE LORD'S TABLE!** The deacons still administer the sacrament before service in the chapel on the weeks that Pass the Plate Communion is not observed as a regular part of the worship service. Communion within our community is offered every Sunday.

Now, I can hear those of you saying "Enough already!" and I was right there with you about a week ago, then I heard that the threat about the swine flu had gone to level 6, the highest level! So I thought perhaps a little more intentionality and thought may still be in order. We have a number of people within our community living with a wide variety of auto immune illnesses, and our leadership is just making every attempt to lead with caution and consideration. I appreciate your understanding, celebrate your good hygiene awareness, and cherish our opportunities to receive at the Lord's Table together.

Blessings,  
pastor douglas