

SCHOOL OF ESSENTIAL WISDOM



WINTER TERM

DECEMBER

FESTIVALS OF LIGHT

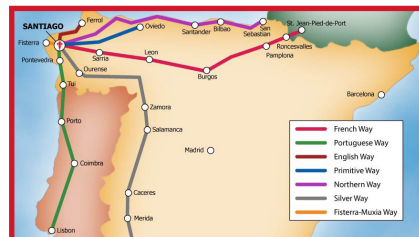
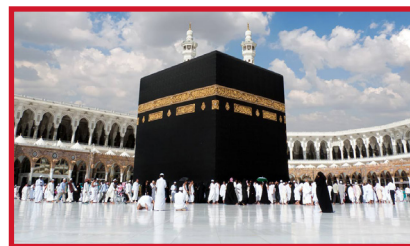
- 7 HANUKKAH Rabbi Ari Sunshine, Congregation Shearith Israel
- 14 DIWALI Sister Ranjan, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Org.
- 21 KWANZAA Pam Breier, UPUMC Academy



JANUARY

PILGRIMAGES

- 11 THE COMMUNITY OF TAIZÉ Mark Pope
- 18 CAMINO DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA Mary Jo McCurley
- 25 MECCA Almas Muscatwalla



FEBRUARY

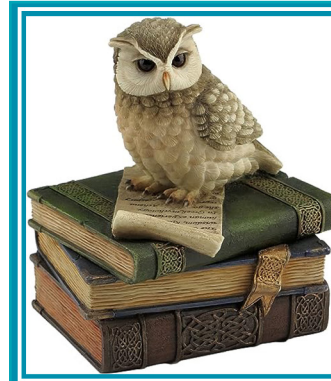
THE ART OF CYCLING, LIVING, AND DYING: Moral Theology from Everyday Life



D. Stephen Long, Professor of Ethics, Perkins School of Theology

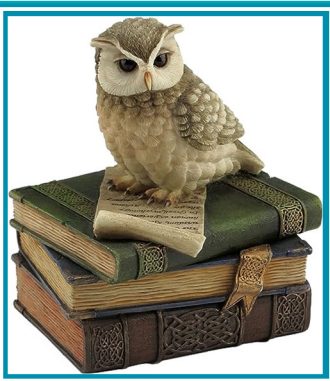
- 1 Forty years of avid bicycling came to a conclusion for D. Stephen Long in
 - 8 October, 2020. His memoir uses the lessons learned from cycling and the
 - 15 experience of the rapid onset of illness to discuss God, friendship, racism,
 - 22 sexuality, justice, virtues, vices, and much more. It offers a moral theology
 - 29 but one more in keeping with how we take it up—not through theories but
- in the practices that make up everyday life. (Book Jacket)

FIND US ONLINE: To view detailed information about our Forever Beginning Ministry, and to read the current *Words to the Wise* and past issues (*Senior Spotlight*) of the newsletter please visit our website at www.upumc.org/foreverbeginning.



UPUMC
FOREVER BEGINNING

WORDS TO THE WISE



Vol. XXIII Issue 8 | NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

My UPUMC Journey



Carole and Jim Mabile on November 14, at the Thanksgiving lunch they hosted for the UPUMC Staff.

It's hard to believe that I'm closing in on four years at University Park UMC, but what a journey it's been! The time has truly passed quickly. I'm sure it has a lot to do with the work created by COVID, freeze breaks in 2021 and 2022, added to the tasks involved in identifying, monitoring, and replacing 30+ year-old building systems.

However, with challenges come opportunities! It was a time for new beginnings, and I can't say enough for the support and effort the Church Council and Trustees provided to make those opportunities become a reality.

Looking back, I've been blessed with a wonderful chance to serve and to further enhance an already great life. I have a lot to be thankful for—especially the church's initial warm welcome that has continued over these years. I'm grateful for a wonderful staff that makes every day a joy. I'm grateful for our Lay Leaders; they have enriched my life.

I'm blessed to know and be associated with CPPC and their Teammates. They remind me that others have greater challenges than I do. The Lord has provided me with more than I could ever have imagined and surrounded me with UPUMC people who always extend their friendship; and that brings me comfort and joy.

"Retirement" isn't a Biblical word, but a cultural one, which even in our culture, does not mean "That's the end." So I will replace "**retirement**" with a word that better describes this stage of my journey. I am entering a brand new "**season**," one that, no doubt, contains the next new adventure along my route. And I'm confident there are more to come!

Jim Mabile

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All Souls' & Saints' Weekend

November 4 | 7:30 PM
Inspirata "All Souls' Concert"

November 5 | 8:45 & 11 AM
UPUMC All Saints' Worship Services

November 5 | 3 PM
UPUMC & NCC All Saints' Concert

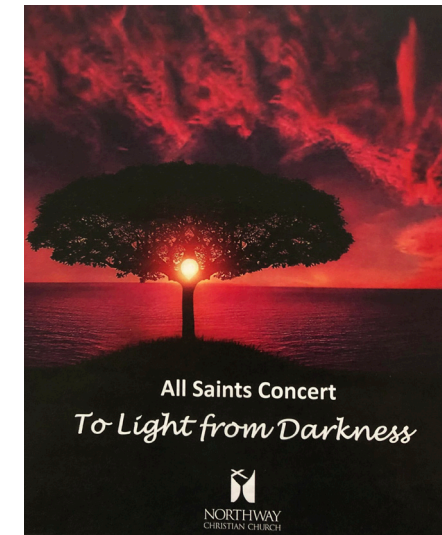
Mark Pope, Minister of Worship at UPUMC, explained how UPUMC's Chancel Choir/Music Ministry became partners with Inspirata in the September issue of *Words to the Wise*: "I was first introduced to the remarkable choir, Inspirata, a few years ago through Wendell Valdez, one of our esteemed Choral Scholars here at University Park UMC." Mark introduced Inspirata as "... not your typical choir; it's a semi-professional ensemble with a distinct purpose. Their mission revolves around delivering outstanding performances of sacred music while also sharing this exquisite artistry and spirituality with the wider community."

The Chancel Choir "kickstarted" the year with an invigorating workshop in August, featuring sectionals led by Inspirata Choir members. Mark called that workshop "a remarkable beginning to what promises to be a transformative year of collaboration between Inspirata and the Chancel Choir of UPUMC!"

You may be wondering:

How does our Music Ministry live out its call to discipleship, aside from singing in worship at UPUMC?

1. We HOST performing groups, like Inspirata, in our Sanctuary.
2. We COLLABORATE and BUILD COMMUNITY with other instrumentalists and singers from outside the walls of the church.
3. We SUPPORT and ENCOURAGE young musicians/composers in their careers in sacred music.



On Saturday, October 7, the UPUMC Choir began a collaboration with Northway Christian Church's choir for a joint All Saints Concert. Both choirs met at Northway's campus twice to rehearse a Mass by composer Tormod Tveite Vik, a Mass which UPUMC's chancel choir premiered in English in 2017.



Three members of the Chancel Choir are now also Inspirata members. And the amazing Clinton Bray has performed with them several times as organist or pianist.

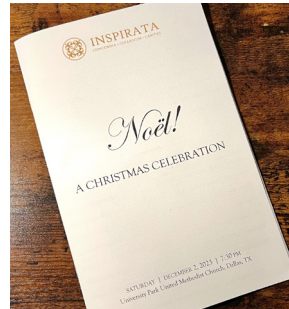
UPUMC recently hosted two Inspirata Concerts: one in November and one in early December. Both concerts offered FREE admission and a lovely spread of hors d'oeuvres and sparkling punch after the performances.



After the All Souls' concert on November 4, founding member of the ensemble, Liz Garcia (soprano), and her lovely family provided delicious sandwiches, canapes and international sweets (Italian cookies shaped like bones & Serbian wheat pudding) that are traditionally consumed to celebrate All Souls' Day. Little "altars" dedicated to departed loved ones were made by members of Inspirata. The memorials were displayed with the food guests enjoyed after the performance.



Family, friends, and colleagues all enjoyed the Christmas concert, the singalong, and the goodies afterwards.



THANKSGIVING INTERFAITH SERVICE

November 16 | 7 PM

University Park United Methodist Church
4024 Caruth Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75225



Come enjoy inspiring spoken word and beautiful music themed around inclusion and belonging. People of all faiths are invited to this hour-long celebration of religious and cultural diversity, followed by an opportunity to meet and greet other attendees over snacks and refreshments.



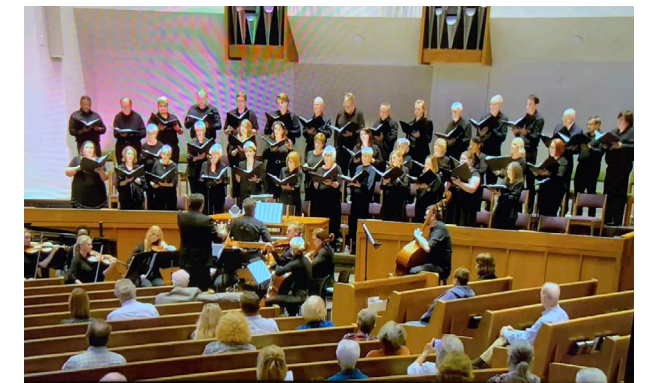
This year marked the 6th Annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service. Mark Pope asked UPUMC's Composer in Residence, Alex Gonzalez, to write a piece that reflects "...our hope for unity and peace throughout our community and world."

Alex composed a beautiful song called "A Community of Voices," which a choir of 40+ folks representing many faith traditions sang that night.



Alex Gonzalez, UPUMC Composer in-Residence

On November 5, both choirs sang the Mass in the Northway Christian sanctuary, and the service was live-streamed to Norway.



YOU are invited to attend the next Sunday Evening Bible Study

Unraveling the Christmas Story

Rev. John Mollet

January 7-28

5:00-6:30 pm

Rooms 103-104