



SCHOOL OF ESSENTIAL WISDOM

SPRING TERM Continues

APRIL: Forgiveness

April 13: *A (Reluctant) Look at Forgiveness*

April 20: *Even*

April 27: *Time*

Charles Hosch, JD, is co-founder of Hosch & Morris, a law firm dedicated to privacy and technology: data protection, technology contracts, trade secrets, digital transformation, marketing and beyond. He is also a much sought after theological scholar and teacher.



MAY: Comparative Religion

May 4: *Christianity - the Coptic Orthodox Church*

Father Boulos Mikhael was born and raised in Shobra, Egypt. Ordained a priest in 1997, he began serving within the Diocese of the Southern United States at St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church in Colleyville. In April, 2001, Fr. Boulos began his service with St. Philopateer Coptic Orthodox Church in Richardson.



May 11: *Judaism*

Rabbi Ari Sunshine received his M.A. and rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. After ordination, he served as the Associate Rabbi of Temple Israel in Charlotte, NC, then as Rabbi of B'nai Shalom in Olney, MD. He joined Congregation Shearith Israel in July 2017 as Senior Rabbi, and currently serves as President of the Rabbinic Association of Greater Dallas.



May 18: *Islam*

Almas Muscatwalla is a community leader and Ismaili Muslim, who believes "...there are only two purposes in life: worshiping God and serving humanity." She has served on the board of directors for The Thanks-Giving Foundation as chair of the Interfaith Council, and is a founding member of Faith Forward Dallas. In October, 2022, Muscatwalla was appointed to the DHA, Housing Solutions for North Texas Board of Commissioners.



May 25: *Buddhism and Comparative Theology*

Dr. Ruben L.F. Habito is Professor of World Religions and Spirituality and Director of Spiritual Formation at Perkins School of Theology. Dr. Habito earned his Doctor of Letters Certificate, Tokyo University, and S.T.L. at Sophia University. His teaching specialties are: World religions, East Asian Buddhism, theology of religions and comparative theology, interreligious perspectives in spirituality and mysticism.



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Vol. XXIII, Issue 3 | APRIL, 2023

EASTER EGGS

by Mark S. Parker

A tiny egg lay in the nest,
All brown or speckled or white.
Sometimes warm and sometimes cold,
not knowing day from night.

What lays there, ovoid, days on end,
never changing, never grown?
Is it a marble or a doorknob,
or a polished rock, or stone?

The snake, he knows what lays there.
In his jaws he'd love to take,
That little egg and force it down,
'til he had a bellyache.

The fox can smell it in the air,
this meal he'd quickly pick,
To chomp and gnash it 'tween his teeth,
and off his whiskers lick.

The fire-ants, how they long to swarm,
and attack the mountain high.
To chew away the outer crust,
and suck its innards dry.

The farmer knows what he does see-
a plate with toast and jam,
An egg that's hardboiled, scrambled, fried,
served with a side of ham.

But what lies there? The Mother knows,
inside the fragile shell,
A creature one day will emerge,
from the slimy, formless gel.

This creature in her tender care,
hidden now from view,
One day 'twil crack loose, and fly.
Just as she, the Mother, knew.

To grow into her image,
such potential to fulfill.
A creature much more glorious,
than that glob inside the pill.

Eight billion eggs, they walk the earth,
eight billion came before.
Some are scrambled, some are fried,
some hardboiled to the core.

Each glob is so different,
white or freckled or brown.
Some dance through life a'smiling,
some endure it with a frown.

Sometimes hopeful, sometimes helpless,
some days heaven, others hell.
Eight billion eggs, they walk the earth,
inside a fragile shell.

In this world of fox and snake,
and endless swarming foes,
Who can see what lies within,
and know their egggy woes?

What walks there? The Father knows,
He knows their every heart.
For they are his own creation,
His to nurture from the start.

A being with potential.
A being with a call.
A being in His image,
inside those eggshell walls.

Easter is for eggs, you know.
The kind that sing, that moan.
Easter brings good news to bear:
You are more than flesh and bone.

Christ's passion tells the story.
Fellow Eggs, you know 'tis true.
Each little egg is special,
yes, the little egg that's you.

This message shouted from the Cross,
"Hatch!", it seems to beg,
"Crack loose, my child, to fly anew,
and be an Easter.....Egg!"

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FAMILIES connect with FAMILIAS: Spring Break, Juárez



UPUMC's connection with Juárez began over two decades ago when Alan Hamilton visited Jose Luis Portillo, Director of Operación Abrigo. Rev. Portillo's ministry included, then as now, the building of cement block houses for families who had been living in houses made of cardboard. Alan knew immediately that this ministry would be a perfect fit for a UP-UMC Senior High Mission Trip; and that first year, fifty-three youth and adults built 5 houses. On Spring Break 2023, a team of (mostly) entire families from UPUMC built 6 houses for the Nieto, Hernandez, Delgado, Nepomusenon, Gurrola, and Molina families. Now, 11 adults and 18 kids (infant to 17) have sturdy new homes and new "family" from Texas.



Rev. Scott and helpers laid other foundations with the neighborhood kids. >>>



Many of the UPUMC team members had a chance to hone their skills with a very important component: cement. SWARTZENDRUBERS and HAMILTONS were among the mixers. MESSERS, STINCHCOMBS, and HARVANEKS were among those who wielded trowels and spread mortar in the above pictures.

When each house was completed, a simple house blessing was celebrated. Rev. Portillo (in pink shirt) and building team members said a few words; the **familias** said their **gracias**, and there was a prayer as all building team members laid hands on the house.



UPUMC families represented in these house blessing pictures: (left) WILCOX, BARKER; (middle) WAINSCOTT, HAMILTON, HARVANEK, ZUMWALT; (right) YOUNGBLOOD, TABOR, HICKEY.

UPUMC Members in the NEWS

Dear Reader,
You can thank Dede Casad for sharing these two articles. During a recent hospitalization, one of the ways Dede kept up with the goings on in the neighborhood was by reading the April issue of **Preston Hollow People**. When she discovered not ONE, but TWO features on UPUMC members and the Weekday School within the pages of the current issue, Dede kept her paper copies safe until she went home. She then made sure they were included in this month's **Spotlight**.

The article about the resurrection of a traditional family recipe, and its successful start in the market, is truly a heartwarming story. It speaks of a tradition passed down through three generations, and provides us all with a new, delectable "home-made" dressing to try!

In a different section, a feature about the 65th anniversary of The Weekday School tells another kind of "heritage" story.

The WDS has educated multiple generations of UP-UMC children. Director Libby Nicodemus said: "We are contributing to a legacy; this place is bigger than all of us...our work here is to...operate at the intersection of Christ and children."

Business

50 YEARS, THREE GENERATIONS, ONE INCREDIBLE SECRET RECIPE

By Daniel Lalley
SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

Suzanne Miller, her daughter Anne Miller Morris, and daughter-in-law Morgan Miller are the heirs to one incredible family recipe.

After 50 years of sharing samples with friends and relatives, the Preston Hollow family has brought the coveted culinary innovation to market with the new venture AR Reserve.

AR Reserve is named after the matriarch of the Miller family, Anne Rich.

"Anne Rich was my mother," Suzanne said. "She developed an incredible salad dressing recipe

FROM LEFT: Morgan Miller, Anne Miller Morris, and Suzanne Miller. COURTESY AR RESERVE

what the heck: I'll make some bottles and try to sell them to friends and family," Anne said.

She posted a quick note on her personal Instagram account,

The Weekday School, In Its 65th Year, Teaching New Generations

By Karen Chaney
SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

Carita Youngblood's connections to The Weekday School at University Park United Methodist Church (UPUMC) date to its beginnings.

Her grandfather, William L. Carter Jr., and another member gave the seed money to start it 65 years ago.

"My aunt needed a place to go to kindergarten," Youngblood said. "My grandfather said, 'Nobody does preschool like the Methodist church does preschool. Why don't we have one at our great church?'"

The school opened in 1957, with Youngblood's aunt among the first kindergarteners. Today, the school serves infants through



FROM LEFT: Carita Youngblood, Libby Nicodemus, and Casey Hanna. KAREN CHANEY

OPEN HOUSE

What: A 65th-Year Celebration of The Weekday School

Who: For all current and former school families

When: 6-7 p.m. April 13

Where: University Park United Methodist Church, 4024 Caruth Blvd.

and, in 2013, became the director.

The secret to the school's longevity is the staff, six of whom have worked there for over 30 years, Nicodemus said.

"I bet that in this building if you stacked everyone's years of teaching experience, we'd have 200 plus years of experience," she said.

To read the full articles, you can go to prestonhollowpeople.com and click on the April issue!



Coming in MAY: Bible Study
REVELATION Led by Mike Bennett
Sundays 5:00 - 6:30 pm