

Gladys Pully Has a Way with Words... and Pictures

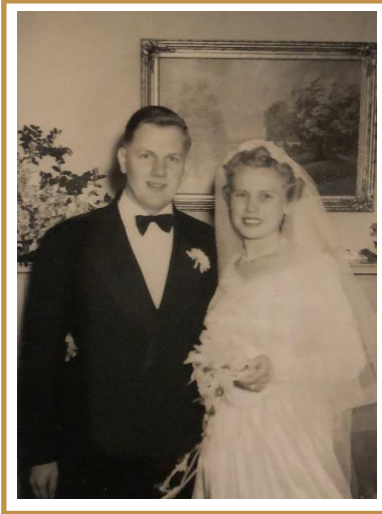
Born and raised in Dallas, Gladys has her roots in a Swedish-American family and a strong Methodist tradition. Her parents travelled to Dallas from Minnesota in 1920, just after they married. At first, Gladys' father, a WWI ambulance driver, could not find work because he was considered a "Yankee." Determined to settle here and armed with experience repairing ambulances damaged on the front lines, he opened a garage downtown on Ross Ave. Her father made his own parts to repair the growing number of cars that people in Dallas were acquiring. In time, he was successful enough to buy acreage near his garage, charging commuters ten cents a day to park there.

The third of five children, Gladys was born six years after her parents' arrival in Dallas. She was baptized at the Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church, which held services in a small frame house about two blocks from the old St. Paul's hospital on Bryan Street. After the Swedish-speaking minister left, the church closed; and the Nelsons, along with other members of Swedish ancestry, transferred to Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church. Trinity MEC was an architecturally innovative structure built in 1904 on the corner of McKinney and Pearl. Gladys and her siblings were enrolled in Sunday School there. About the time Gladys started elementary school, the family transferred membership to First Methodist downtown. People came from all parts of the city to join the congregation, including Luther Pully's family, who lived in Highland Park. The Nelsons found many lifelong friends there, and the children all received their faith formation at First Church.



The family's neighborhood in East Dallas was the scene of many childhood memories that Gladys later recorded in her paintings. One depicted their neighborhood, with the streetcar that she took downtown to Crozier Tech High School, where she learned business and accounting skills. After graduation, Gladys went to work in an office at the Murray Company, which had expanded from manufacturing cotton gin machinery to munitions to support the war effort. Her mother had been working at the Murray plant during WWII as well, while her two older brothers were serving overseas.

After the war, Gladys enrolled in the Business School at SMU. There she reconnected with Navy Lt. Luther Pully, home from the Pacific and updating his skills in the Electrical Engineering department. As they began to plan their future together, Gladys saw the new sanctuary at UPUMC, and wanted their wedding to be celebrated here. So, the couple transferred from First Church; and on February 10, 1951, Gladys and Luther were married by Dr. Lance Webb. They had planned to honeymoon in San Antonio but decided, as they were "so close," to visit the recently opened National Park at Big Bend. Upon arrival, with no camping gear in tow, they were told there was no hotel, but they were welcome to stay in one of the rangers' cabins and eat in the mess hall. Thus began the Pullys' explorations of a place that became very special to them: hiking in the Chisos Mountains, watching herds of wild horses, riding mules to the hot springs, and countless other adventures. Upon their return to Dallas, where Luther worked for General Electric, they settled into family and church life at UPUMC, becoming founding members of the Wedding Ring Class. **TO BE CONTINUED....**



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THINKIN' BOUT IT

Let's talk about gratitude--since this is November and Thanksgiving is fast approaching. And let's talk about the beauty of fall--the crisp mornings, the brilliant foliage, the change of seasons. Somehow, one calls for the other. There is something about change, be it the weather or the color or the holidays that brings us to a renewed expression of gratitude.

Years ago, when the government declared prayer in school was unconstitutional, I thought to myself, 'What a shame!' Then I thought again. What if classrooms observed instead a Moment of Gratitude? Wouldn't that be almost as good? The students could be grateful for an A grade, or that they didn't forget their lunch, or recess was twice a day. The teacher could be grateful for her job, her well-behaved students, her marvelous superintendent. It doesn't matter. There are always a dozen things that everyone could be grateful for.

Unfortunately, no one thought it a good idea but me. I even contacted an attorney about how to take my initiative to the legislature; but he told me it would be futile to pursue the idea further, even though I had secured funding from Mutual of America for the project. To me, it is ALWAYS good to be grateful. In fact, the only unforgiveable sin beside blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is ingratitude.

So, when you finish reading this today, take up pen and paper and make a list of the many things you are grateful for. You will be surprised at your list. The very fact that you listed your blessings is a reminder of how good God has been to you. Consider starting a Gratitude Journal where you add something new every day. To start you off, here is my beginning list:

- I am grateful to God for life, for having the pleasure of living longer than I expected.
- I am grateful to God for opportunities that appear without my invitation.
- I am grateful to God for friends who both agree and disagree with me. They give me courage.
- I am grateful to God for my grown kids who have continued to make a difference in this world by their willingness to give of themselves.

I could go on and on, but you get the idea. And, I promise, as you consider, either in your heart or on paper, your gratitude list, you will find this fall more delightfully colorful and refreshingly crisp than you first thought.

And oh yes, yes, yes! I am also grateful to God for YOU.

- Dede



## An invitation from Dede

Boy, do I have a surprise for you! New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine is coming to Perkins in November, and we are fortunate enough to bring her lecture, on screen, to our church. So, plan to join us for Dr. Levine's plenary address on Monday, November 15 from 2:45 pm to 3:45 pm. This is definitely an opportunity you do not want to miss. Be sure to put this day and time on your calendars NOW!

Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School. She is also coeditor of the Jewish Annotated New Testament. Her books have been the focus of several Sunday School class/small group studies here at UPUMC: Short Stories by Jesus: Parables of a Controversial Rabbi, Entering the Passion of Jesus, Sermon on the Mount, and The Difficult Words of Jesus.



RSVP: Let me know if you plan to attend, as we will schedule a space adequate for everyone.



The UP Academy and Senior Life Ministry are thrilled to welcome Mary Jo McCurley and Pam Breier to the Academy Task Force. They have already begun to spearhead the planning and publicity for our 2022 EQUIP Conference, and will work closely with Stephen Fleming to produce the Wisdom of the Sages Podcast series.

Mary Jo joined UPUMC in 1966 when her father, W. E. Trice, became the Senior Pastor here. An attorney certified in family law, Mary Jo is also an author, lecturer, and a Certified Executive Coach. She is a past Lay Leader at UP-UMC, served as Chair of Trustees, and is presently serving on the Finance and Administration Committee of the North Texas Conference.

Pam, daughter of Toogie and Elmer Elkins, grew up in UP-UMC. Very active in MYF, she has been a friend and running buddy with Mary Jo since those days. Pam has taught Sunday school classes for 2 year olds and 4th graders, and volunteered answering the church phone during the first service. Recently retired after forty years in legal management, Pam brings a wealth of experience in project planning and organization.

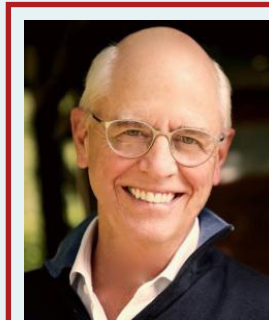
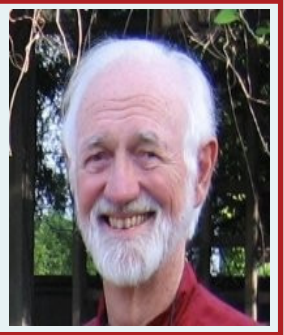
## ADVENT EVENTS

- Advent devotional begins November 28
- Annual Christmas tree lighting on the Colgate lawn, December 5 at 5:30pm
- Youth led live nativity on the Caruth lawn, December 12 at 6:30pm
- A musical celebration during worship service, December 19 at 8:45am & 11am
- Christmas Eve family service, December 24 at 4pm
- Christmas Eve traditional service, December 24 at 6:00pm

## School of Essential Wisdom NEWS:

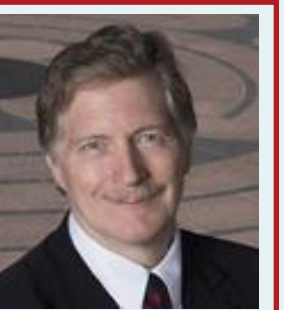
In November, Rev. Bill Matthews will host a panel bringing us up-to-date on *Dallas's Thanks-Giving Square: A Spiritual Haven Rooted in Gratitude*. Bill and some members of the panel were instrumental in the formation of Dallas's *Thanks-Giving Square* and many still play a huge role in charting the *Square's* course as it looks to the future.

- Nov. 4: "Finding Hope Through Giving Thanks"
- Nov. 11: "Energizing Through Thanksgiving History"
- Nov. 18: "Visualizing For Living Thanks"



The SEW's Winter Term begins in December with Msgr. Don Fisher. Msgr. Fisher, after retiring from over 40 years of parish ministry in Dallas and Richardson, founded the Pastoral Reflections Institute. PRI's ministries include retreats, pilgrimages, and seminars, as well as reflections on Scripture available on a radio program every Sunday at 10 am on WRR 101.1 FM and on the PRI website.

January's lectures will be led by Dr. Craig C. Hill, Dean and Professor of New Testament at Perkins School of Theology. He is also President of the Board of Directors of the Wesley Works Project, initiated by Albert Outler to publish the definitive scholarly edition of John Wesley's works. Dr. Hill's presentations will focus on "The State of the Church." The January series will include Dr. Hill's Perkins colleagues, Dr. Rebekah Miles, Susanna Wesley Centennial Professor of Practical Theology and Ethics, and Dr. Ted A. Campbell, Albert C. Outler Professor of Wesley Studies.



Dr. Terry Parsons, the speaker for February, is a psychotherapist, university consultant, teacher, and United Methodist minister. Dr. Parsons is a psychological consultant at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology working with groups of seminary interns and mentor pastors. He also teaches counseling courses at the Perkins School of Youth Ministry and at the seminary's Course of Study School

## From the Fiske Miles Library

We recently added materials to our library to create kits for your use. In a kit you get the book, a guide, and a DVD. Usually Sunday school classes check out kits for class lessons; but individuals, covenant groups, and families can check them out as well. The new kits in the works are Sermon on the Mount by Amy-Jill Levine, Which Way Lord: Exploring Life's Purpose in the Journeys of Paul by Rob Fuquay, and Jesus, The God Who Knows Your Name by Max Lucado. We also recently ordered Sabbath as Resistance with study guide by Walter Brueggemann.

