



## In This Issue

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## **Association Calendar**

January 14, 2014 - Association Meeting

March 3, 2014 - Articles Due

Membership Form

April 15, 2014 - Association Meeting

## Update from the Editor

2014! Hard to believe we are here. Feel free to send any articles anytime. Let's make this year the best ever!! Thank you,

. Maeleska

# LFHNA General Meeting Tuesday, January 21, 2014 7:00 pm White Rock United Methodist Church 1450 Old Gate Lane

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2014!** Little Forest Hills is off and running with our first meeting of the year. Please join us at the LFHNA General Meeting to hear the following special guest speaker:

Shelly L. Skeen Attorney/Mediator/Arbitrator Blume, Faulkner, Skeen, & Northam, PLLC (214)373-7788 sskeen@bfsnlaw.com

Presentation Topic: *ABC's of Estate Planning and Probate; Getting Your Act Together So Your Loved Ones Don't Have To.* Shelly will discuss and answer questions regarding medical and financial power of attorney, wills, Texas Law, etc. Shelly is very active in multiple Dallas community projects, with a strong history of volunteerism. Ms. Skeen is very excited to be able to provide this important information to the LFH community.

LFH Volunteer(s) of the Year will be announced and local Committee Chairs will also provide an update on recent and upcoming events in the Neighborhood.

At our October General Meeting in 2013, we elected Officers, including new co-presidents, for the Little Forest Hills Neighborhood Association (LFHNA) 2014-15 term. Only members in good standing (have paid their dues) were eligible to vote.

Please bring your ideas and suggestions on how we can make positive improvements to Little Forest Hills.

Door prizes and refreshments will be served.

# 2014 Garden Tour

The 13th annual White Rock East Garden Tour is just around the corner. Although an exact date has not been chosen it normally happens around the 3rd Sunday in May. The planning committee will be starting our first meetings sometime in February. The planning part of the tour is very fun and challenging. Jobs to be done include selling advertising for the garden map and other literature, asking businesses to sponsor gardens, planning the after party, picking the gardens, planning and having the plant sale, arranging the signage, setting up the day of the tour and many other things that need to be done prior to the tour. The Garden tour has become a major event for the community and for Little Forest Hills, Casa Linda Estates, and Forest Hills. It is a fun event that brings our neighborhoods together and the number one fund raiser for all three associations. We would love to have new people to participate in this worthwhile activity. Please call me if you would like to contribute.

Mike Schmitt 214-676-4326 or email at Mike@WhiteRockMike.com

## **New Co-Presidents' Message**

Amy Ewell & Vail Fassett

Dear everyone, Warm Greetings from Amy and Vail, LFHNA new co-prezzies. We have lived in LFH and have been homeowners here for 20 yrs. We have been actively involved in many of the wonderful funky activities and changes in LFH during this time. We currently live at the top of the hill on Eustis. Feel free to stop by and introduce yourself. (just don't try to pet the white dog)

We are both excited and nervous about assuming this role especially following such a class act as Max and Denise. We have witnessed many innovative LFH events and wonderful community growth over the past 6 yrs. These milestones could not have been achieved without the amazing work of the existing board, committees and volunteers. Thanks to all the volunteers that make these events possible. Thanks also to the new LFHNA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs. These are your friends and neighbors volunteering their time and energy and making a difference in East Dallas. We would like to extend our special thanks to Max and Denise for their unfailing sense of devotion, responsibility, guidance and support these past 6yrs.

We are looking forward to another successful year for LFHNA, where neighbors connect, engage, volunteer and have fun.

Keep up with all the events and activities in LFH via the website at: http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Little\_Forest\_Hills

We are Little Forest Hills and we are Funky---Here we go!

Amy and Vail New LFHNA co-presidents 2014

Denise and Max Davis

It has been a pleasure for us to serve as co-presidents of the Little Forest Hills Neighborhood Association, for the past six years. We have met many great neighbors and friends, across the neighborhood and East Dallas.

Please welcome Amy and Vail into their new role as Co-Presidents. We will continue to serve on the board as past-presidents and look forward to a great 2014.

Volunteer, it feels good!

Max and Denise LFHNA Co-Presidents 2008-2013



Join The Fun!

Neighborhood

Association

Join Little Forest Hills

\$15.00 per household

\$5.00 for Seniors

# **Newcomers Message**

Newcomers to our LFH community during the fourth quarter that we were aware of totaled 19. That meant 19 dozen cookies to be baked and delivered. We thank **Dianne Evans, Jennifer Holmes, Chris Conway, Liz Knight and Marilyn Rynearson**, members of the Welcoming Committee, for their time and contributions.

Also, at this time, please be aware that beginning in 2014 Marilyn and I will be passing the Committee Chair position to **Becky Toomay and John Olson**. Both Marilyn and I deeply appreciate all the participation of the Newcomers Committee during our term for the past 3 years. The association was/is a pleasure and honor and we'll certainly stay involved in what is the best little neighborhood in Dallas. The Newcomers Welcome Wagon is but one way to get involved with YOUR community, to meet your neighbors and to spread good cheer. January, 2014, will be the next quarter and opportunity to greet and meet. Be on the look out for an email or phone call from Becky or John offering you the opportunity to have some fun, meet your neighbors and maybe sneak a home baked cookie during your deliveries.

Thank you again for making the past three years as co chair of Newcomers a success. Pam Proctor

# Trash Talkers Welcome New Leaders

Aren't we always surprised at the passage of time? It seems like only yesterday when Don and I agreed to lead our neighborhood's dedicated team of Trash Talkers, when really, it was two years ago! And I know it's a cliche, but where does the time go? So, speaking of time, we would like to take a moment to thank each and every one of you who took time from your busy lives to help clean up our adopted shoreline. It because of people like you that White Rock Lake remains one of this area's greatest assets.

Don and I will be involved in the LFH Neighborhood Committee and we can't wait for the new experience. We would also like to take this time to welcome the new Trash Talkers leaders, Desiree Henderson and Chris Conway. We know that they will enjoy their time and make as many new friends as we did. And if you haven't volunteered for this amazing group, or to learn more about it, please email lfhtrashtalkers@gmail.com.

Thank you again, Karin and Don VanSlyke

# Let's Salute our Block Captain Heroes!

I would like to personally thank the block captains who brave the weather, grouchy dogs, snakes, alligators, and everything else our neighborhood throws at them to keep them from the swift completion of their appointed rounds. They deliver your newsletters every quarter, and other flyers which include notices for the Funky 4-k, the Garden Tour, National night out, 4th of July parade, and whatever else we need. And all without complaining. Our block captains include the following heroes. Kathleen Casey, PJ Hines, Ben King, Albert Barbosa, Kristin Laminack, Barbara Canter, Dianne Evans, Leslie Donavan, Beda Casstevens, Nancy Whittier, Jim and Susan Folger, David and Debbie Self, Susan Remele, Kay McKinney, Becky Toomay, Silvia Villacorta, Kevin and Kim Vowell, Dan and Angela Perge, Jill Donavan, Dwayne and Amy King, Michael Criswell and Amie Carson, Mark Fletcher, and last but definitely not least Pam Proctor. Thank you all for your hard work on our behalf.

Mike Schmitt \* Chris Conway \* Desiree Henderson

# LFHNA Holiday donations



FRI - Ferguson Road Initiative (Vikki Martin - President)



FTLOTL - For the Love of the Lake (Rich Entoven - President)



Magdalen House

The LFHNA will also be donating to the Curtis Zachary Family (Defenders of Freedom Home in LFH), and to Dallas Fire Department Station #31

# The Fix It Folks - Walking the Talk

by Linda Calvert

The summer brought several projects that The Fix It Folks have completed, and hopefully, those projects have made someone's life a bit more pleasant along the way. The same faithful group tends to show-up each "Action Day" and we've worked side-by-side so many times it's almost as if we know what role we will each portray as the choreographed movements play out. Somehow it all gets set-up properly, the flutter of work mimics elves in action, then it's broken down, and cleaned-up; all without a word of direction being uttered to anyone. We just fall into our familiar places now that we are going into our 7th full year of volunteering.

Again, we have chosen Mark Davis as our MVP for his unwavering support of our purpose by forever being willing and ready to step-up and help with issues. He's a solid member of our



Joe, Pam, Jim, Mark, Amy, Marilyn, and Vail study the situation.



team and we all appreciate his good natured attitude that is so easy to be near. We're proud to have you as a teammate Mark, and look forward to many more fun days with you in our group.

The cold winter will probably keep us in and not seen much, but as always, we will be in the background somewhere in LFH and if you catch a glimpse of us, please stop to say "hello" and join in the fun.

Happy Holidays!

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# New Year, New Friends

by Jessica Simpson

"If it is your first time to come to an event, you should get homemade cookies!" I said to my fellow LFH mom. Like I thought adults can be bribed as though they are kids...

Truth is, I hate going to moms groups. It always seems that everybody knows each other. It usually ends with me, sitting in the corner by myself, pretending to be busy with my kids so I don't look like the socially awkward geek that I really

am. I mean, is it okay to break into another group's conversation? If my conversation gets interrupted, should I restart where I left off? Should I be wearing heels instead of converse?

That was my thought process last year, as I was trying out a couple of different moms groups in Dallas. My goodness, did I have a miserable time. I pretty much



relinquished my desire to be in any type of moms club. Just about then, the socially brilliant minds of Clea, Cyndi, and Kim decided to start a kids group in Little Forest Hills. The first time I went, I actually had a good time. Nice enough that I decided to go to another event; and I had another nice time. Since then, I have met so many awe-some moms. I am actually amazed that I adore

every single woman that I have met and all of their kids! I mean, really, every single one? Then I thought, of course! We all have kids, and we all chose this neighborhood. Out of all the places in the world, in the U.S.A. and in Dallas, we all chose this neighborhood to live our lives. Every single one of us already has two things in common! This also means two conversation starters! Amazingly great news for a socially awkward geek like myself. So, as the new year starts, resolve to make new friends and meet new neighbors. Come to an event! I want to meet you and be your new friend. I want to know how you wound up here in Little Forest Hills, how you like east Dallas. What are your favorite places to eat, shop and take the kids? Who knows, maybe there will be homemade cookies! We will bribe you if we have to.



# Treasury Report

Neighbors, friends, and members: What a great 2013 we had! We finished the year with 138 member households, and \$0 in accounts payable. As you know, the neighborhood association relies heavily on the voluntary payment of dues to finance the activities and donations that benefit the neighborhood as a whole. Without such, there would be no Fourth of July parade, no Funky 4-K race, no contributions to our neighborhood park, no funds to be able to do the activities that our neighborhood prides itself on.

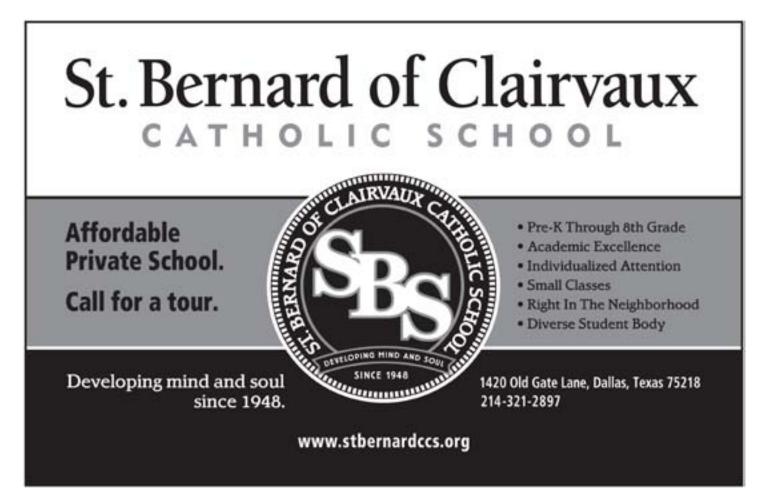
We are accepting your 2014 dues (\$15 per household or \$5 for senior-citizens), and would like to invite you to renew your membership or join as a new member! All funds received before December 31, 2013, were applied toward 2013 membership. Please note that membership dues are not tax deductible.

Please send your membership to:

LFHNA C/O Todd Ramsey 8915 San Benito Way Dallas, TX 75218

If you have any questions or concerns, I welcome your feedback and can be reached at todd.ramsey@me.com. Let us continue to make this neighborhood one of the best places to live in the Dallas Metroplex. Your Little Forest Hills Neighborhood Association support is invaluable!

Are you a member?



# Yard of the Month Program

by Kevin Vowell

Here's your chance to be recognized for maintaining your property and contributing to the overall appearance of Little Forest Hills. Each month a new yard will be selected.

If your yard is selected you will receive:

- •a gift certificate from Walton's Garden Center valued at \$25.00
- •the official neighbor Yard of the Month sign placed in your yard for a month
- •a picture of your yard in the neighbor newsletter and neighborhood Facebook page

Thank you to Walton's Garden Center for sponsoring this program and providing the gift card to our recipients.

I look forward to perusing the neighborhood and selecting recipients for the new year. If you have a yard you would like to nominate, please send the address to kevowell@yahoo.com.



October Yard of the Month 8934 San Leandro Dr.



November Yard of the Month 8600 San Fernando Way



October Yard of the Month 8623 Santa Clara



December Yard of the Month 8923 Daytonia

To report any construction problems with the Arboretum Parking Garage being built across from the Children's Adventure Garden contact:

John Armstrong Arboretum Construction Liaison 214-515-6699 or JArmstrong@dallasarboretum.org

# LITTLE-est Forest Hills: A Neighborhood Playgroup

by Kimberly Vowell

Little-est Forest Hills, an eclectic neighborhood mom's group, has grown into so much more than a weekly play date. It has become a place where mothers come together to show love and support. Within our group, conversations include recommendations for pediatricians and primary care doctors, supplements for the cold season, parenting skills, nanny information, and preschool/homeschool topics. Anything goes from borrowing an umbrella stroller, picking up packages on a neighbor's doorstep, or bringing a meal to a new mommy. Moms will offer advice (if you want it), share recipes, babysitters, hair stylists, essential oil concoctions, and even provide information on the best place to take santa pics.



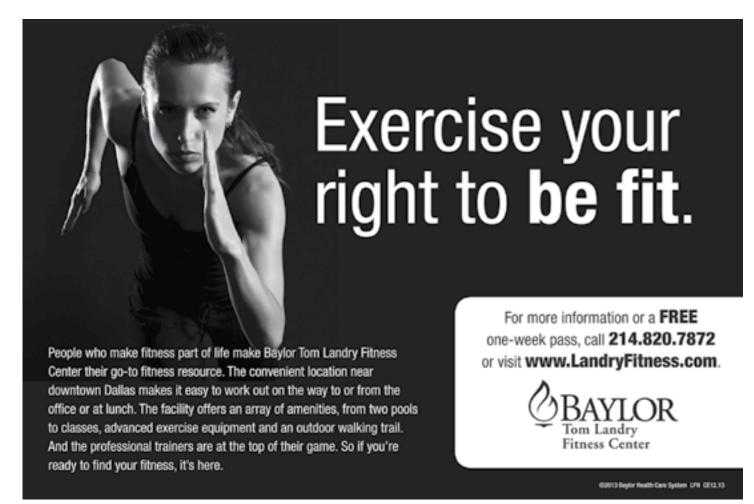


This is the perfect group to plan activities with other moms to share the fun of parenthood. We schedule events in advance and also arrange last minute playdates.

Over the past three months, several events were hosted. Members participated in a Thanksgiving neighborhood feast, a Halloween Scavenger Hunt in Casa Linda Park, a Halloween cookie decorating party, Trick or Treating in the neighborhood, Sweets and Treats with Santa at the Arboretum, an ornament making playdate and a knitting circle for the moms.



You should join us! For more information email littlestforesthills@gmail.com.



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# Why Foster A Dog and What Does It Entail?

by Petfinder

## What does fostering a dog involve?

When you foster, you agree to take a homeless dog into your home and give him or her love, care and attention, either for a predetermined period of time or until the dog is adopted.

### Why do adoption groups need foster homes?

There are many reasons a dog might need foster care. Some of the most common include:

- A rescue group doesn't have a physical shelter and depends on foster homes to care for dogs until suitable homes are found.
- A puppy is too young to be adopted and needs a safe place to stay until he or she is old enough to go to a forever home.
- A dog is recovering from surgery, illness or injury and needs a safe place to recuperate.
- A dog is showing signs of stress such as pacing or hiding in the shelter.
- A dog has not lived in a home before or has not had much contact with people and needs to be socialized.
- The shelter is running out of room for adoptable dogs.

#### Why should I foster a dog?

Fostering a dog is one of the most rewarding experiences you can have (other than adopting, of course). By taking an animal in need temporarily into your home you're:

- freeing up a spot so the shelter or rescue can take in another dog.
- giving your foster dog the time he needs to be ready for adoption.
- helping the shelter or rescue learn more about the dog so he can end up in the best home possible.
- socializing the dog to a home environment and possibly getting him used to being around other pets and different types of people.

Not sure you can foster a dog? Maeleska is willing to answer any questions you may have.

#### How do I sign up to foster a dog?

Find a rescue group or shelter near you and contact them. They'll likely have you fill out a foster application and, if you are approved, they will work with you to figure out the right foster dog for your household. Or simply contact **Maeleska Fletes** at *maeleska@yahoo.com.au* and she will help you find the perfect foster!



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MONDAY & THURSDAY 7:30 AM — 8:00 PM TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY 7:30 AM — 6:00 PM SATURDAY 8:00 AM — 5:00 PM VIRGINIA ELLSWORTH, DVM KEN CANTRELL, DVM YVETTE PEDROZA, DVM HARI VELINENI, DVM

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE! WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EDVCFAMILY

# Entrust Your Home to Mike Schmitt.

# Hundreds Have Already.



With honesty and dependability, Mike Schmitt's primary goal is for you, the customer, to be 100% satisfied. He has over 29 years experience in successfully selling White Rock area real estate with over 400 career sales in Little Forest Hills alone.

Isn't it time you give him a call?

Visit Mike's blog at: www.WhiteRockMike.com

- **FACT:** Over 88% of home buyers turn to the internet when conducting their home search.
- **FACT:** The most popular site to begin that search is Google, followed by Yahoo and then Bing.
- **FACT:** The number one site for "White Rock Lake Real Estate" is **www.WhiteRockLakeProperties.com** on each of the top 3 search engines.
- FACT: WhiteRockLakeProperties.com is totally geared to White Rock Lake Real Estate, with information on neighborhoods surrounding the lake, a map of the lake, community information and the ability to search the entire MLS system.
- FACT: WhiteRockLakeProperties.com receives an average of 157 hits per day and has a 30% bounce rate.

  This means that 70% of visitors stay on the site and look at additional pages other than the home page.
- **FACT:** If you list your house with Mike Schmitt, your property will be placed as a featured listing on this site along with up to 25 photos and other important information.
- FACT: Along with Mike's comprehensive marketing plan and his 29 years of experience selling White Rock Lake homes, you will have a clear advantage over your competition in Little Forest Hills when you decide to sell your property.



MIKE SCHMITT

**214.676.4326** 24-Hours 866.987.5253 Toll free michael.schmitt@sbcglobal.net

WhiteRockLakeProperties.com



# 2014 Membership Form

(Annual membership runs January through December)

\*\* Please return this completed form and payment to: LFHNA, c/o Todd Ramsey, 8915 San Benito Way, Dallas, TX 75218 \*\*

	ew Membership	
Name:		
Address:		
Primary Member E-mail:		
Phone Number:	Type: work cell home	
Belonging to/Display Name:		
If member household includes a spouse/partner/etc: Secondary Member E-mail:		
Phone Number: Belonging to/Display Name:	Type: work cell home	
Belonging to/Display Name:		
Annual Dues are \$15.00 per hou Please make checks p		
Please make checks p	ayable to LFHNA.	
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President

Amy Ewell & Vail Fassett 972.742.3580 Ifhneighborhood@swbell.net

Vice President/Membership Don & Karin VanSlyke

972.800.8805 / 214.336.8556 Ifhmembership@gmail.com

Secretary Crispin Reedy 214.621.7953

crispin\_reedy@yahoo.com Treasurer

Todd Ramsey 972.281.7494 todd.ramsey@live.com

**Past President** Max & Denise Davis 214.404.6892 maxdavis1950@gmail.com denise2389@gmail.com

Director at large Susan Remele 214.320.1225 skrem8615@sbcglobal.net

Director at large Mike Schmitt 214.676.4326 mike@WhiteRockMike.com

#### **Appointed Committee Chairs:**

**Arboretum Liaison** Scot & Svl Williams 214.793.1881 scotw3@swbell.net / sylw3@swbell.net

Adopt-A-Shoreline Chairman Chris Conway & Desiree Henderson chrisconway1969@gmail.com LFHTrashTalkers@gmail.com

**Artist Outreach Liaison** Julie Hulcy

jphulcy@argosy1.com

**Bulky Trash Sign Coordinator** Melanie O'Neill 214-448-0580 melanieoneill1234@gmail.com

Casa Linda Park Liaison Susan Remele 214.320.1225 skrem8615@sbcglobal.net

Crime Watch / VIP Chairman Albert Barbosa 214.444.9114 Ifhcrimewatch@gmail.com

Fix It Folks Linda Calvert 214.327.5508 lcalver1@swbell.net

4th of July Parade Kevin & Kim Vowell 817.798.4444 214.293.9850 kevowell@yahoo.com sss372@hotmail.com

Garage Sale Linda Calvert & Mark Davis 214.327.5508 / Icalver1@swbell.net 214-327-6829 / markhd@sbcglobal.net

Garden Tour Mike Schmitt 214.676.4326 michael.schmitt@sbcglobal.net

**Newcomer Committee Chairs** Becky Toomay & John Olson 214.236.4626 / btoomay@gmail.com 214.563.0171 / olso0171@gmail.com

**Newsletter Editor** Maeleska Fletes 214.766.3577 Ifhnewsletter@gmail.com

**Newsletter Copy Editor Becky Toomay** 214.236.4626

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Website Editor Susan Remele 214.320.1225 skrem8615@sbcglobal.net

Yard of the Month Kevin Vowell 817.798.4444 kevowell@yahoo.com

**Other Neighborhood Contacts:** 

Citizen Forester Jim Folger 214.663.2268 jim.folger@sbcglobal.net

Funky 4K Race Frank & Debra Cortese 214.546.9568 coachfrank@tri-now.com

**LFH Animal Alert** Maeleska Fletes 214.930.5910 info@lfhanimalalert.org

Wine-O-Group (WOG) Todd Ramsey todd.ramsey@live.com

## **Important Numbers to Remember**

Sheffie Kadane City Council Member, District 9 214.670.4069 (phone) 214.670.5117 (fax)

Senior Corporal Phil Gordon, #8144 Neighborhood Police Officer City of Dallas Police Department Northeast Substation 9915 E Northwest Hwy Dallas, TX 75238 Email:Phillip.Gordon@dpd.ci.dallas.tx.us Website:northeast.dallaspolice.net 214-670-4415

City of Dallas: www.dallascityhall.com City of Dallas Environmental Hotline (prerecorded announcement) 214.670.1733 City of Dallas Environmental Health: 214.948.4429

Dallas Police Department Neighborhood Sex Offender Watch and Update http://www.icrimewatch.net/index. php?AgencyID=54702&disc=54702

Call 311 to report neighborhood complaints or concerns.

## Association Meetings

All Association Meetings are held at:

## White Rock United Methodist Church

1450 Old Gate Lane

If you are interested, you are welcome to attend any board meeting. Contact any board member to find out the location and time.

Please e-mail newsletter info to Maeleska Fletes by the deadline at Ifhnewsletter@gmail.com

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## **Churches In The Community**

There are four churches representing five denominations in Little Forest Hills. If you don't have a church home, you are welcomed & invited to attend.

**EL DIVINO SALVADOR PRESBYTERIAN** 8822 Angora - 214-327-6310

**LAKESIDE BAPTIST CHURCH** 9150 Garland Road - 214-324-1425

ST. BERNARD'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 1404 Old Gate - 214-321-0454

WHITE ROCK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1450 Old Gate - 214-324-3661