

M&M Update

We are looking forward to a fun-filled year of giving and serving our community, our nation, and the world! We will be doing some of our favorite mission projects from years past - UNICEF, Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Relay For Life, Angel Tree Shopping - and we'll be adding some new adventures as well: Making snacks for the CIS Backpack Program, making blankets for The Linus Project, Thank-you treats for our local firefighters, and many others.

Many of you know that our M&M staff has changed a bit from last year. Although I am SO sad to say good-bye to Shelly Oats and Courtney Lewis, I am very excited to welcome and introduce Mandy Swinson and Racheal Bailey, who along with me will be serving as our M&M teachers. Mandy and Racheal are part of our AMAZING Noah's Nursery teaching staff. They'll both have daughters participating in M&M as well.



The kids will begin the year with some activities geared toward helping us take a look at giving, serving and charity, and what these things mean in our Christian lives. At the start of this year, we will begin a "Kindness Tree" that will be a visual reminder of Loving and Kind Acts that we have performed together; that individuals have witnessed or received; and of ideas for ways we can make a difference in the lives of others. It will be fun for me, the kids, and the Church Family to watch our tree grow and flourish throughout the year!

The first meeting date for M&M will be Wednesday, September 7, 2011. This is the THIRD week of school. We like to give the schools an opportunity to settle in to their afternoon dismissal routines before we jump in to complicate things!

This year we will have ONE van that picks up at CES, and ONE van that picks up at A.C. Williams. Van transportation is first-come, first-serve. Any kids wishing to participate in M&M who sign-up after our vans are filled are MORE than welcome (and ENCOURAGED!!) to join us, but will have to make their own transportation arrangements.

Because van space is limited this year, I will not consider a child "enrolled" until a completed registration and parent permission form has been turned in.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Alison at (903)886-3220 or alison@fumcommerce.org.



CIS Stuff the Bus Update

Our congregation contributed **\$518** and brought in numerous backpacks and school supplies during July for the Communities in Schools (CIS) "Stuff the Bus" campaign. Thank you for your generosity!

Our gifts will benefit the 400+ Commerce students served by CIS, but **donations are still needed**. You can drop off a check payable to CIS either at the church office or at the Commerce Middle School.

CIS will distribute uniforms and stocked backpacks on August 13. For more information about "Stuff the Bus", contact Nancy Laws at 903-886-3795, x1372.





Welcome Michelle Corazao, our new Music Director!

Michelle was born and raised in Denton, Texas. She grew up in First United Methodist Church of Denton, singing in the Chorister, Challenger, Credo, and Chancel Choirs. Michelle received her Bachelor of Music in Music Education with both choral and instrumental emphases from Southwestern University in 1996. She received her Master of Sacred Music with a choral conducting emphasis from SMU's Perkins School of Theology and Meadows School of the Arts in 2006.

Previously, Michelle taught elementary music for eight years and has served several churches, conducting children, youth, and adults in choral, handbell, and congregational settings. She has great passion for facilitating congregational participation in worship and is attuned to the flow and cohesiveness of the worship experience. Michelle enjoys travelling and has been deeply influenced by her trips to the Taizé Community in France and the island of Iona in Scotland.

Michelle married Marc in July of 1997. They were blessed with a beautiful baby boy, Ian Michael, in May of 2011, and they all continue to be cared for by their long time Siamese companions, Theophilus and Vaquero. In between feedings and diaper changes, Michelle enjoys biking, puzzles, crocheting, reading, baking, construction work, and spreadsheets. Most of all, she loves hanging out with her guys and eating Marc's cooking.

A Short Q&A with Michelle

How has your life changed since becoming a new mom?

Being a native Texan, my hobbies used to include deep sea diving, snowboarding, and flamenco dancing; yet, I have not had the opportunity to do any of these things since Ian was born. Most conversations I have involve discussions of baby products or bodily functions. My Type A personality has morphed into Type B for "baby," and I haven't gotten this much sleep since I was in college.

Marc and I couldn't be happier to be Ian's daddy and mommy. He is the light of our lives, and we are in awe of God's amazing creation.

What do you like to listen, read, or watch?

I discovered the music of Elisabeth von Trapp (granddaughter of the real-life von Trapps) about five years ago, and it speaks deeply to my soul. Rich Mullins and Andrew Peterson are a couple of artists whom I really appreciate, both for their theological writing and their creative use of instrumentation. I also enjoy Alison Krauss and Dolly Parton. I'm also a huge fan of Palestrina and Josquin des Prez, two of my favorite "Renaissance Men."

I enjoy reading a variety of things. I enjoy postmodern theological writings, books on social issues, and books on finances. I also like to do kakuro and ken ken puzzles.

Marc and I don't have cable, so we don't actually watch TV. We do watch a few shows streamed online. We own complete series of "The West Wing" and "The Vicar of Dibley," both of which we've seen numerous times and whose quotations are infused in our everyday conversations.

What are your dreams/visions for music ministry in our congregation?

My vision for music ministry in our congregation is: (a) myopic, (b) blurry, (c) tunnel, (d) apocalyptic.

You know what? Let's stick with dreams instead. I'm still getting to know this congregation, and so my vision for where we need to go will be shaped over time as we grow together as a congregation.

You have already welcomed me so warmly in the context of being one of your pastoral families. My primary dream is to get to know you even better as we continue on this Christian walk together, seeking what God wants for our lives. My dream and what I hope I can offer this community is to enable full and active participation in the worship of God. Or, put another way – that we can experience and praise God through sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch – that by being fully human, we can experience the divine.

