

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 9, Issue 21

December 7, 2011

Sunday, December 11

Join us for a unique worship experience of stories and songs led by Adult and Children's choirs and bells at the 10:50am service.



Following is a holiday potluck. Bring your favorite holiday dish and celebrate the Christmas season with us!



FUMC - COMMERCE **HANDMADE** **HOLIDAY** **BAZAAR**

**Shop for the Gift
that Gives**

Sunday, December 11
10:00am to 1:00pm
in the Gathering Area

Proceeds from each item

will be designated to one of the following missions:

Heifer International + Imagine No Malaria + United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) +
Proyecto Abrigo + North Texas Food Bank + Communities In Schools (CIS) +
Commerce Boys & Girls Club + Prayer Shawl Ministry



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Dear FUMC Friends:

It's bound to happen at least once in every preacher's working life. One is awakened in the wee hours on a Sunday morning with a raging fever/stomach bug/onset of flu/a painful rash that looks suspiciously like shingles or any number of other maladies that come on suddenly.

Sure enough, the Sunday after Thanksgiving, I awoke around 3:00am with rumblings in my stomach that threatened of worse things to come. And so they did. I called Pastor Marc around 6:30am, pitching Sunday's services to him at the last minute. (And what a blessing it is to have a gifted pastor like him to call on!)

Those wee hours Sunday morning were a harbinger of things to come. After the ordeal of Sunday, I noticed that Monday I was feeling a bit achy and run down. A trip to the doctor revealed that I had sinus and ear infections. After the filling of meds, I decided to give myself one day at home, and resolved to be back at it again by mid-week. We had Church Conference coming up, after all – and it's Advent! So much to do, people to see and care for, bulletins to be laid out, sermons and worship to plan. And our own house had not been prepared yet for Christmas. . .

And then, adding insult to injury, I developed pink eye. Ugh.

Weepy-eyed and feeling like a second grader all over again, I called the church office letting them know of my plight, feeling guilty for not being around the office for such a busy week.

As the days passed, however, I discovered an unexpected blessing in having pink eye. It made me slow down. I couldn't force myself to heal any quicker, and didn't dare take my contagious self to the office or to the nursing home or to do hospital visits.

At a slow pace, I pulled out some nativity scenes and displayed them around the house, pulled out a few cherished Christmas items, and ate lots of soup. Weepy eyes make it a bit difficult to read, so I found myself with considerable stretches of quiet time – time to think about this season of preparation for Christ's coming, time to consider how fruitless my efforts at forcing wellness were. But best of all was the time I had available to just let God work on me, God's spirit meeting me just where I was. And that brought a special healing that I cherish in this season of lengthy to-do lists.

I certainly do not wish illness on you, but I do pray that you might find space and time for quiet, so God can work on you, too. It's a rich Advent blessing.

God's peace to you as we prepare for the coming of Christ once again –
Valarie



Worship

December 11, 2011

"Reframing the Story"

*Please join us
this Sunday for
"Christmas Cards:
Letters from God in
Story and Song"*

8:45am ~ Chapel

9:45am ~ Chapel

10:50am ~ Sanctuary

Committee Chairs

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Chester Robinson
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Serve Team Chair:

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The First United Methodist Newsletter is the official publication of FUMC Commerce. The newsletter is published on alternate Wednesdays. Inputs may be submitted to the Church office to Bonnie Smith, Communications Specialist, at communications@fumccommerce.org, or call the office at 903-886-3220. All inputs are due by 9:00am on the Monday of the publication week. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

****The next deadline is Monday, December 19 by 9:00am****



Caption: Seated left to right are Helen Dickson, Otha Spencer, Pete Robinson and Euple Walker. Standing left to right are Joe McMahan, Margaret Floyd and Volley R. "Doc" Dooley.

First Thursday Honors Nonagenarians:

Young people in their nineties share
a meal and fellowship.

By Alton Biggs

What changes would someone born in 1915 have seen in the world? Did you ever hear of the Teapot Dome Scandal of 1922-23? Do you know anyone who remembers reading the headlines when Charles Lindbergh made the first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927? What would it be like to live through the Great Depression that began in 1929?

An event where the answers to these and many similar questions could be had took place on December 1. First United Methodist Church of Commerce honored its church members who have attained the age of ninety years. The gathering took place at the "First Thursday Potluck" luncheon. Each of the honorees received a Christmas ornament and a note from minister Valarie Englert.

You need go no further than ninety-six-years-old Pete Robinson to answer many of the questions about U.S. and world history. She lived through them and can remember them all. But Pete's not alone. She has several peers in the area who remember the same events.

Others who have experienced tremendous changes during their lives include a peer group that met to share their experience and experiences with others in the community. This year's church member honorees were Joe McMahan (90), Johnnie Robertson (90), Helen Dickson (91), Margaret Floyd (91), Otha Spencer (91), Norma McNew (92), Euple Walker (93), Lucille Pemberton (94), and Pete Robinson (96). Volley R. "Doc" Dooley, ninety years old, was a visiting honoree.

Euple Walker says, "I was six years old when I came to Texas. I got off the train in Fairlie and I've been here ever since."

When asked what major changes in life she remembered, Euple replied "Hand picking the cotton was hard. I remember when the mechanical cotton pickers came in. My husband worked at the gin. I was sad of course when cotton went out, but soy beans and wheat are much easier and make more money. It was a hard job to do cotton."

A recent resident to Commerce is Joe McMahan. Joe and his wife Mary Louise moved here from McKinney in July and quickly became members of FUMC of Commerce.

"We enjoy the church, the services, and those in our Sunday School class," Joe said. "There were lots of changes compared to McKinney, but we finally have gotten things settled down."



UMW Christmas Luncheon

All Methodist women are invited to join us for our Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, December 20 at 12:00pm. Our December Mission Project is gifts and donations to Church projects.

ONE SERVICE— December 25

Sunday, December 25th we will have ONE
Worship Service beginning at 10:00am.

Come as you are and bring friends to sing carols
and share the Christmas story!

This Thanksgiving, We Served and Were Blessed

Early Thanksgiving morning, the Family Ministry Center was abuzz with volunteers. Mary and Danny Shumway were leading food preparation in the kitchen while women from Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Griffith Chapel, and Disciples of Faith Bible Fellowship arrived with pans of home-baked sweet potatoes. All of Jamie Moore's prior planning for this day seemed to pay off as the rest of the volunteers stepped up to complete the myriad of other tasks ranging from wrapping silverware to organizing homemade Soups for the Soul for delivery later that day to slicing pies. In another part of the Family Ministry



Erin Moore bags Soup for the Soul to accompany the to-go dinners.



L to R: Walt and Isabel Davis, Kay Jensen, Jay Vann, and Clarence Jensen. Kay had an unexpected reunion with her former art student Jay when she and Clarence gave him a ride to the church. They had plenty to catch up on!

Center, Sabrina Green was plotting delivery routes with Shawn Bronson for the corps of drivers from Meals on Wheels and the community. By 1:00pm, ~300 meals had been either delivered to homebound Commerce residents or served and enjoyed around one of the multiple tables set up and decorated with turkeys made by M&M (Missions & More).



The Community Thanksgiving

Dinner was a means for many to show their gratitude.

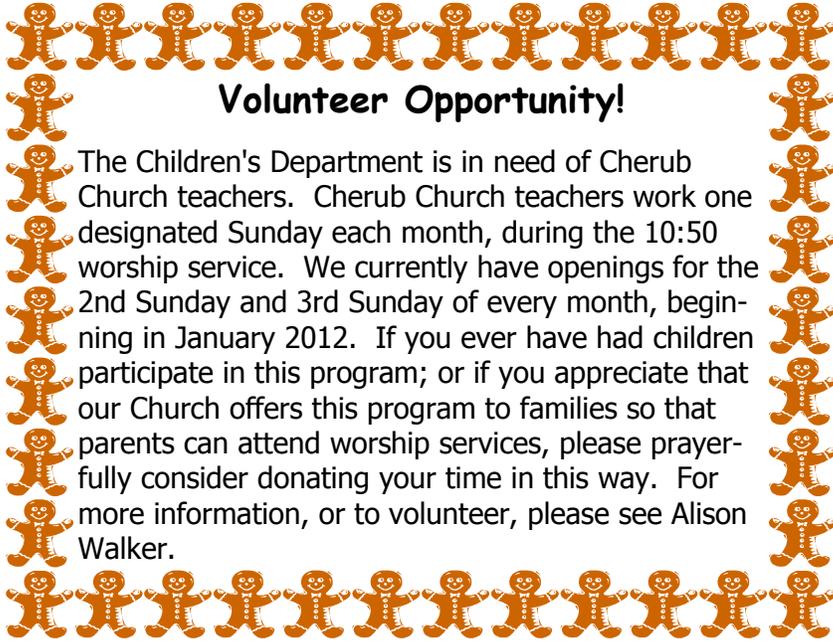
Abundant provisions were received – funds to purchase food; cooks to prepare pies, soups, and sweet potatoes; and drivers to make deliveries and pick up guests. A TAMU-Commerce fraternity arrived to assemble delivery meals. Entire families volunteered together to serve meals and clean up. A few recipients of FISH Thanksgiving food baskets even returned to help give back. And may the tradition continue!



Ryan Klinck, 2nd from left, was joined by his family from Denton.



All of the children's Sunday school classes joined together Sunday, November 27th to learn about the meaning behind the Chrismons symbols and to make Chrismons ornaments. You can visit our decorated Christmas tree in the Children's hallway.



Volunteer Opportunity!

The Children's Department is in need of Cherub Church teachers. Cherub Church teachers work one designated Sunday each month, during the 10:50 worship service. We currently have openings for the 2nd Sunday and 3rd Sunday of every month, beginning in January 2012. If you ever have had children participate in this program; or if you appreciate that our Church offers this program to families so that parents can attend worship services, please prayerfully consider donating your time in this way. For more information, or to volunteer, please see Alison Walker.

6 WAYS TO REFLECT THE LIGHT OF CHRIST THIS ADVENT SEASON

1. Support the Handmade Holiday Bazaar on Sunday, December 11, from 10 am to 1 pm. Every gift offered represents a mission supported by our congregation, and the proceeds will go directly to those organizations.
2. Sponsor an Angel through the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree. Wishes yet to be filled are modest, including a basketball, baseball equipment, and black pants. Return unwrapped gift to church by Sunday, December 11.
3. Distribute FISH Christmas food baskets at the church on Saturday, December 17, from 8:30am to 11:00am.
4. Bake cookies and return to church by Sunday morning, December 18, for delivery to families on the Angel Tree.
5. Deliver presents, cookies, and hope to Angel Tree families on Sunday, December 18. Delivery times are flexible to accommodate busy schedules.
6. Make and deliver an extra plate of your Christmas dinner on Christmas day, December 25, to someone who is alone or may not be able to cook for themselves.

For more info, contact the church office at 903-886-3220 or stop by the sign-up table in the Gathering Area on Sunday.

		Attendance	
		Nov. 27	Dec. 4
Early	26	30	
9:45	12	8	
Late	104	106	
SS	60	60	





If you are interested in giving flowers for the Altar on:

- * January 22nd,
- * February 26, or
- * December 9th,

please contact Luann Huffman at 903-886-3368 or lhuffman01@embarqmail.com.

In memory of...

Ruby Williams
By: Kenneth & Evelyn Foust





Reading the Bible Daily

As you seek to grow closer to God through daily prayer and Bible study, you may have your own favorite daily readings. If not, you will find Scriptures for each day listed below. We hope you'll read daily and ask yourself: "How will I be different today because of what I just read?" Some other questions you might ask are: What does this text say about who God is?" "What does this text say about who I am/who we are as human beings?" "What does this text say about our relationship with God?" You may want to reflect on paper with a journal or note pad. We hope this will become a part of your daily prayer time.

Daily Scripture Readings:

Sunday, Dec 11	Psalm 126
Monday, Dec 12	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Tuesday, Dec 13	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Wednesday, Dec 14	Luke 1:47-55
Thursday, Dec 15	Luke 1:47-55
Friday, Dec 16	Luke 1:26-38
Saturday, Dec 17	Luke 1:26-38
Sunday, Dec 18	Romans 16:25-27
Monday, Dec 19	Psalm 98
Tuesday, Dec 20	Hebrews 1:1-12
Wednesday, Dec 21	John 1:1-5
	Hebrews 1:1-4
Thursday, Dec 22	Isaiah 52:7-10
Friday, Dec 23	Titus 2:11-14
Saturday, Dec 24	Luke 2:1-20



Prayer Lists

Newly Added

Family of Jack Spring

Continued Prayers for Church Family

Gene Casselberry

Jessie Helton

Glenna Siebenhausen

Clay Yeager

Sally Grove

Judy Rudoff

Julie Wadlow

Andy Martin

Otha Spencer

Jan Vowell

Gary Kibler

Robert Seay

Continued Prayers Family & Friends

Bill Heitholt

Sally Rowe (Michael Rowe's daughter)

Jan Chapman (District Office)

Jason Davis

Amy Cryon (Williams' family friend)

Rose Ohsiek (Debby Heitholt's mother)

Louella McIntyre

Don Reid (Mark Reid's father)

Sondra Feduccia

Norma Howser (Sarah Northam's grandmother)

Kay Webber

Judy Greenwood

Nell Hughes (Zelda Fisher's niece)

Laura Cole (Helen Cole's daughter-in-law &

Judy Anderson's sister-in-law)

William Durand (Eileen Faulkenberry's father)

George O'Kelley

Becca Smith (Mike Smith's mother)

If you have someone you would like to add or remove from the prayer list, please let the church office know (903-886-3220).



Remembering those serving in our military.

Jason Timmons (Afghanistan)-seriously injured

2nd Marine Division in Afghanistan

Chief Robert Starkey (Afghanistan)-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son

Sgt. Jason Schmidlen (Iraq)-Jim and Debby Heitholt's son)

Jim Hunsicker (Afghanistan)-Carolyn Miller's brother

Travis Miller-Lena Faulkner's great-grandson

Alex Dech (Afghanistan)-Pastor Ron Dech's son

Captain Daniel Robnett-Clyde and Wanda Robnett's grandson Nathan Grove

Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith

Lt. Col. Peter Bailey

Lt. Col. Richard Bailey

Lt. Col. Keith Williams

Keith L. Boone-former Associate Pastor

Terry Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son

Lt. Dan Barton

Kris Yoder-son-in-law of John & Rebecca Sneed

Staff Sgt. Geoff Abbe & Sgt. Eric Abbe-cousins of Ladonna & Chris Patterson

Garrett Johnson



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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
Articles for the next newsletter are due
Monday, December 19 by 9:00am

Place Label Here

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Senior Pastor - Rev. Valarie Englert