

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 11, Issue 2

February 2013



Help tackle hunger February 3!

The prayer was simple, "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football

game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." From that prayer, the Souper Bowl of Caring was born. This is a national grassroots, faith-based movement against hunger and poverty.

Before the San Francisco 49ers face off the Baltimore Ravens in New Orleans, we'll have our own S-O-U-P-e-r Bowl (of Caring) in the Family Ministry Center immediately following the 10:50 am worship service. This will be a Potluck Luncheon, and monetary donations will be collected in a soup pot to benefit the food assistance programs of the Commerce Alliance of Ministry.

The Details

When: Sunday, February 3, at noon

What to bring: Your favorite soup, stew, salad, bread, or dessert

What to wear: Dress casual or show your team spirit

To learn more about this national effort, visit www.souperbowl.org.



We are pleased to welcome new church family members:

- Richard Smith
- Judy West
- Ron Elwell

First Thursday to Honor 80+ year Church Members



What did you do before cell phones? Oh! We pulled over to the side of the road and used a pay phone.

We have quite a few members of this church that had a life before Facebook, cell phones, computers, television, penicillin, chocolate chip cookies, and other essential everyday things that are taken for granted these days.

On February 7, the First Thursday Potluck Luncheon group will honor everyone in the church who is 80 years old and above. We hope you will be a part of this special First Thursday Potluck as we share a meal



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday, February 12 5:00 to 6:00pm

On February 12, dinner is ready! Come and get it!

Join us in the Family Ministry Center for a hot meal of pancakes and sausage on Shrove Tuesday, which is also called Fat Tuesday. It is the last day before the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday.

This all-you-can-eat pancake supper is brought to you by the Matthew 7:7 Sunday school class. A love offering will be collected to defray cost of meal and to benefit missions.

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page	pg. 2	Proyecto Abrigo	pg. 3
FISH Baskets	pg. 4	Daily Scriptures, Announcements	pg. 5
Memorials, Attendance, Finances	pg. 5	Prayer List	pg. 6

First United Methodist Church, Commerce

Job Description: Director of Youth Ministries

First United Methodist Church of Commerce seeks a part-time Director of Youth Ministries.

FUMC Commerce is medium-sized mainline protestant congregation in a university town with deep interest and involvement in community service and social justice. The youth group is composed of junior- and senior-highs who are just as active and passionate about service as their families. The youth and their families come from a variety of backgrounds and different areas of the community, some of whom are members of the congregation and some who are not.

Position Description: The Youth Director oversees the church's ministry with youth and their families.

Requirements:

- Must be 22 years of age or older
- Must submit a theological statement of youth ministry
- Must complete a Ministry Safe application, background check, and training
- Experience with youth ministry preferred

Primary responsibilities:

- Plan and lead weekly Sunday afternoon youth activities
- Prepare and facilitate weekly Sunday school gathering, including selection of curriculum
- Develop and foster relationships with youth and their families
- Provide avenues for Christian growth and empower youth to grow in Christian discipleship
- Research and promote youth mission opportunities, serving as team leader for youth mission trips
- Plan and coordinate Youth Week
- Develop relationships with youth families and youth sponsors; act as liaison between youth and congregation
- Plan and offer periodic small group opportunities
- Develop and administer budget for youth ministries
- Attend staff meetings and weekly worship service as possible
- Other duties as discerned in consultation with senior pastor

Salary commensurate with skills and experience.

Applications will be reviewed until position is filled.

Submit resume and statement of youth ministry to Rev. Valarie Englert, FUMC, 1709 Hwy. 50, Commerce, TX, 75428.

2013 Bishop's Rally ~ February 17, 2013

2:00pm-5:30pm

Open to all tweens (5th -7th grade),
 @ Trietsch Memorial UMC in Flower Mound
 To sign up or for more information, contact Alison
 at alison@fumcccommerce.org.



Upcoming Worship

February 3

1 Corinthians 13:1-13
 "Underneath It All"

February 10

Matthew 5:43-48
 "The Goal"

February 13

Ash Wednesday

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
 "Keeping Up Appearances"

Theme:

This Side of the Garden

February 17

Luke 4:1-13
 "Wasteland"

February 24

Genesis 3

8:45am ~ Chapel

9:45am ~ Chapel

11:00am ~ Sanctuary

Committee Chairs

Leadership Team Chair

Jim Patton
 (903) 886-2206

Lay Leader:

Gene Lockhart
 (903) 886-3498

Personnel Chair:

Linda King
 (903) 886-3734

Property Chair:

Jim Brown
 (903) 886-7439

Stewardship Team Chair:

Mike Roberts
 (903) 886-2142

Foundation Chair:

Dan Shepherd
 (903) 886-6883

C-G-S Team Co-Chairs:

Teresa Heatherly
 (903) 886-7070
 Angela Roberts
 (903) 886-2142

The First United Methodist Newsletter is the official publication of FUMC Commerce. The newsletter is published at the beginning of the month. Inputs may be submitted to the Church office to Bonnie Smith, Communications Specialist, at communications@fumcccommerce.org, or call the office at 903-886-3220. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

****The next deadline is Monday, February 18 by 9:00am****

Proyecto Abrigo Mission Trip

by Jan Helton

A recent CNN article reported that the city of Juárez ended 2012 with the lowest number of homicides in a five-year period since the drug war began. No longer is Juárez considered the deadliest city in the world. With the withdrawal of the corrupt federales and new city and state government leaders in place, as well as a new police chief, peace is taking hold. The rebuilding has begun. It's now safe for mission teams to return to build homes for the homeless.



My daughter Jessie and I were among the privileged eleven people who composed the first team to return to Juárez in a little over two years. (Jessie and Ryan Klinck were among the team members of the last trip that went to Juárez before José Luís disallowed teams because of the violence in 2010.) Our job on this mission trip was to help prepare the compound of Proyecto Abrigo for future mission teams. On the agenda were painting and plumbing repairs. The only issue we were up against was the cold: El Paso reported the worst winter storm in sixty years while we were just across the border. We saw over eight inches of beautiful snowfall!

When we finished our work, we toured the clinic and heard from Alfredo what the greatest medical needs of the people are. A list of items is available on the bulletin board outside the office.

A van tour of Loma Blanca brought us to the memorial for Kathleen Baskins-Ball, Pastor Lisa's dear friend who died from cancer and who was much loved by the people of Juárez.

A little farther on we came upon the second church that José Luís has built, Sublime Gracia (Amazing Grace). The words "Salmo 91" (Psalm 91) were spray-painted over the door frame of a nearby home. Psalm 91 speaks of living in the shelter of the Almighty— being delivered from deadly pestilence and destruction and finding refuge in the Lord. The spray-painted "Salmo 91" struck me as being much like the blood of the lamb smeared on the door posts of the Jews in Egypt during the original Passover all those millennia ago. God has protected and continues to wrap His loving arms around the people of Juárez. Even in the midst of past violence and the resultant destruction, the faith of the people is strong.

Between Nuevo Pacto, the first church, and Sublime Gracia, José Luís and the other pastors of Proyecto Abrigo serve approximately 200+ congregants weekly. The people of Nuevo Pacto were very glad to see the return of the Americans and greeted us warmly, some of them old friends.

There are upcoming mission opportunities for anyone who is interested. Three teams are now being formed: Suncreek UMC in Allen is hosting a trip next month; Mabank FUMC under the leadership of Pastor Dana is gathering a team for March 18-22; and Noel FUMC in Shreveport will be going to Juárez the following week, March 25-29. I strongly urge those of you who may have given some thought to going on a mission trip to prayerfully consider one of these trips. There is much rebuilding to be done.

There will also be a silent auction and dinner at Suncreek in late April to benefit Proyecto Abrigo. Pastors Marc Corazao and Dana Coker are members of the Proyecto Abrigo board and are currently in the planning stages of this event. Your participation is warmly invited by providing items for the auction and attending the dinner. Revs. José Luís Portillo and Martín Luchega will both be present.

Jessie and I feel very privileged to have been among the first team to return to Juárez and never once did we fear for our safety (except on icy IH-10 when we momentarily careened off the road on the way home)! It was great to be back at Proyecto Abrigo being God's hands and feet. It was much like going home to our "otra tierra."

What It's All About: During the Love Feast on January 20, Jim Patton shared his reflections on Matthew 25 and how he witnessed God at work at the Christmas food basket distribution hosted at our church on December 22. Jim was one of 30 volunteers who greeted and spread Christian love to strangers and friends alike; transported, sorted, and loaded food; directed traffic; and broke down and recycled boxes. The abundance of food the 125 Commerce-area families received was provided by FISH – Hunt County Shared Ministries and was made possible by financial supporters such as FUMC-C.

Following are the scripture verses and Jim's testimony.



Team of volunteers who unloaded non-perishables prior to distribution

Matthew 25: ³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

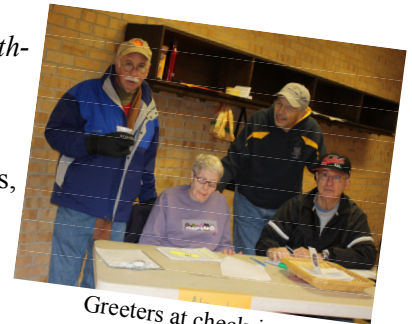
³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

That is what this is all about.

We have a beautiful building and fine worship services with wonderful music and, at Christmas, the chance to see old friends we don't see often enough. And during the season of advent we have glorious flowers and a gorgeous Chrismon tree to liven the spirit of the season. Furthermore, because we have this facility several church and university groups have special dinners and fellowship to

celebrate this special time of year. We raised a lot of money for some very worthy causes with our Christmas bazaar. These are all important to each of us, to our congregation, and to our community.



Greeters at check-in

But perhaps the most important thing we did in this joyous season to honor the child who became our savior was to give food and hope to one frail woman on a bicycle on Saturday morning, December 22nd. She arrived a little before 9:00 for the scheduled food distribution because she was in need and we were providing food. She didn't know what she would get, or how much, but she needed whatever we had to offer. When I greeted her as she parked her bike by the back door, I told her she would not be able to carry everything on her bike, but that we would find someone to help and then I told her to go in to register and we would figure it out.

When I came back a few minutes later to check on her, she was sitting in the line waiting to get her number and softly crying. I introduced her to Anne Mills who would be bringing her truck around to load food and bicycle so we could get her and her things home safely. Again, we told her things were going to be OK.

A little later, after the distribution started, I met her as she came out the door headed for her bike. She came over and hugged me and, through her tears, said "thank you, thank you, thank you!" I said, "That's what we're here for. Merry Christmas." At that moment I was busy with other things and didn't give much thought. But it has stayed with me. And that, my friends, is the most basic truth about this church: "that's what we're here for," whether it's Christmas or any other time of the year.

Thousands of years ago, before Abram was Abraham, God established the covenant, which we still struggle to live up to today. God told Abram:

Genesis 12: ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

I thank God every day that this church family strives to be faithful by being a blessing to all.



Each family received a grocery cart full of food



Plenty of fresh produce including carrots, potatoes, oranges, and pears



Families drove through after checking in and volunteers helped load them up



UMW will meet **Tuesday, February 19** at 10:00am.
Our February project is:
Food Pantry items.

All women are invited to join us!

In memory of...

Aline Pemberton

By: Edna O'Quinn

Bill Terrell

By: Jean Funderburk
Ruby Vandervelde
Lewis & Faye Jackson
Lena Faulkner
Alice Schick
Dough Rollins SS Class
Glenna Julian
Edna O'Quinn
Harriet Williams



Bob Oltman

By: Lena Faulkner

Tommie Johnson

By: Dennis & Judy Anderson
Edna O'Quinn

Gary Kibler

By: Susan Lampe
Gordon & Rosemary Heetland

To the...

Leland & Mary Casey Scholarship

By: Jerry & Judy Hadaway

Attendance

	<u>Early</u>	<u>9:45</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>
Dec 23	19	10	133	48
Dec 24	—	—	206*	—
Dec 30	—	—	58	—
Jan 6	22	12	110	67
Jan 13	27	12	93	49
Jan 20	24	14	84	58
Jan 27	27	12	109	68

*denotes Christmas Eve Service



Financial Update: General Operating Fund

	<u>as of December 31, 2012</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$ 47,800	\$393,489
Expenses:	\$ <u>23,013</u>	\$ <u>380,173</u>
	\$ 24,787	\$ 13,316



Wednesday, February 13

Ash Wednesday Service
@ 6:30pm in the Sanctuary
A powerful service of repentance, reflection,
and imposition of ashes

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:

Friday, Feb 1	Luke 4:21-23
Saturday, Feb 2	Luke 4:24-30
Sunday, Feb 3	Luke 4:25-30
Monday, Feb 4	Exodus 34:29
Tuesday, Feb 5	Exodus 34:30-35
Wednesday, Feb 6	Psalms 99
Thursday, Feb 7	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Friday, Feb 8	Luke 9:28-36
Saturday, Feb 9	Luke 9:37-43
Sunday, Feb 10	Luke 9:28-36
Monday, Feb 11	Isaiah 58:1-12
Tuesday, Feb 12	Psalms 51:1-7
Wednesday, Feb 13	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Thursday, Feb 14	Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16
Friday, Feb 15	Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Saturday, Feb 16	Romans 10:8b-13
Sunday, Feb 17	Luke 4:1-13
Monday, Feb 18	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Tuesday, Feb 19	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Wednesday, Feb 20	Psalms 27:1-6
Thursday, Feb 21	Psalms 27:7-14
Friday, Feb 22	Philippians 3:17-4:1
Saturday, Feb 23	Luke 13:31-34
Sunday, Feb 24	Luke 13:34-35
Monday, Feb 25	Isaiah 55:1-3
Tuesday, Feb 26	Isaiah 55:4-9
Wednesday, Feb 27	Psalms 63:1-4
Thursday, Feb 28	Psalms 63:5-8



Prayer Lists

We pray for those who have experienced an illness...

Pat Skauge, Ahtrell Dalton, Melissa Waldroup, Joe McMahan, Jim Schnutt, Anaya Phillips (Bonnie Smith's mother), Becca Smith (Mike Smith's mother), Gene Casselberry, Glenda Helton (Jeff Helton's sister-in-law), Becky Bosque (the Englerts' friend), Braden Murray (little boy with leukemia in Waco area), Ralph & Alma Moyer, Josh Madena, Clay Yeager, Lana Fallis, Tiffany Peek (Jim Peek's daughter-in-law), Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Robert Seay, Louella McIntyre, Sharon Brewton, Amy Sallstrom Smith (Bill Heitholt's cousin), Sam Duckworth, Ray Sandifer, Jim and Diane Price, Billy Guinn, Chris Sterzik (Shelley Jackson's son-in-law), Sondra Feduccia, Frederick Lucas, Pam Allgood, Kay Webber, Judy Greenwood, George O'Kelley

Others to Remember in Prayer...

Draughn's/Country Home Estate:

Helen Dickson, Dorothy Ingram, Lucy Potts, Pete Robinson, and Jessie Short

*"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."
James 5:16*

Help us hold each other in prayer by contacting the church office with new prayer concerns and updates on existing prayer requests.

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...

2 nd Marine Division	Col. Peter Bailey
Lt. Col. Richard Bailey	Lt. Col. Keith Williams
Lt. Dan Barton	Nathan Grove
Lt. Col. Jeremy Quatacker (Korea)-Mark and Frances Sartwell's son-in-law	
Tyler Craig(Afghanistan)-Brad and Vickie Boynton's son-in-law	
Jason Timmons-seriously injured, recovering	
Ensign Terry Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son	
Chief Robert Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son	
Christopher Kendrick-Navy (Helen Rowe's friend)	
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	
Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith	
Keith L. Boone-former Associate Pastor	
Kris Yoder-John & Rebecca Sneed's son-in-law	
Staff Sgt. Geoff Abbe & Sgt. Eric Abbe- Ladonna & Chris Patterson's cousins	
Garrett Johnson	



Phone: 903-886-3220
Fax: 903-886-3240
www.fumcccommerce.org
office@fumcccommerce.org

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Articles for the next newsletter are due
Monday, February 18 by 9:00am**

Place Label Here

First United Methodist Church
1709 Highway 50
Commerce, TX 75428
Senior Pastor - Rev. Valarie Englert