

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 13, Issue 2

February 2015



Help tackle hunger February 1!

25 years ago, a single youth group said a prayer: "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." Since that day, Souper Bowl of Caring has become a powerful moment across the country that is transforming Super Bowl weekend into a celebration of giving and serving.

Before the Seattle Seahawks face off the New England Patriots in Arizona, we'll have our own S-O-U-P-e-r Bowl (of Caring) in the Family Ministry Center immediately following the 11 a.m. worship

service. This will be a Potluck Luncheon, and monetary donations will be collected in a soup pot to benefit food assistance programs serving our community: North Texas Food Bank, Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH, Commerce Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church, and Bread of Life Food Pantry at Church of the Nazarene.

Souper Bowl Details

When: Sunday, February 1, at noon

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

What to wear: Dress casual or show your team spirit

Visit www.souperbowl.org to learn more about this national effort.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday, February 17 5:00 to 6:00pm

On February 17, 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 and the Connect Team. A love offering will be collected to defray cost of meal and to benefit missions.



Ash Wednesday Service Wednesday, February 18 @ 6:00pm in the Sanctuary

A powerful service of repentance, reflection, and imposition of ashes

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page	pg. 2	Bishop's Rally	pg. 3
2014 Mission Dollars Review	pg. 4	Dr. Neal's Book, Study, Sermons	pg. 5
Angel Tree, Last Sat. Breakfast, Luigi's	pg. 6	UMW, Memorials, Attendance	pg. 7
Finances, Daily Scriptures	pg. 7	Prayer List	pg. 8

“Jonah The Wimp” by Dr. Gregory S. Neal



[Jonah] prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”
(Jonah 4:2-3 *NRSV*)

Jonah was a wimp. God called him to proclaim a message of repentance to the people of Ninevah and the very first thing he did was run away. Rather than obeying the call of God, Jonah made a mad dash for a cruise ship, the open ocean, and a far away country. He thought that he could escape the call of God by just getting out of Dodge. In this he was very much like most of us: we, too, are afraid of, and are prone to run away from, the calling of God. This is especially true, as was the case with Jonah, when God’s call looks in the least bit difficult. Most of us don’t want a tough task ... we want things to be easy, simple, quick, convenient, and comfortable! Heaven forbid that the calling of God might cause us to stretch our faith muscles any, or risk the possibility of personal failure, or hardship! So, lest we be a bit too hard on Jonah, we should always remember that he did what we so frequently do ... he ran from God. Or, rather, he tried to run from God.

After having been caught running away, after having been tossed into the sea, swallowed by a great fish, and barfed out upon dry land, Jonah receives the word of God a second time. This goes to show that, even when we mess up, even when we try to run away from God, even when we fail to do what God calls us to do, God not only does not give up on us but, indeed, God gives us second, third, and fourth chances to follow God’s Will. Scripture is clear here: “The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time...” (3:1) It wasn’t that Jonah remembered what God’s calling was, or decided to follow the orders he had been given earlier; no, Jonah actually received the word of the LORD a second time. This is good news for us: if we miss it and mess up when God speaks to us, we can have hope that God will speak to us again.

After receiving the calling of God a second time Jonah set off to preach his way through Ninevah. He managed to make it a third of the way across the city, having preached for a full day while traveling, and during that time the people heard his message and – shock of all shocks – repented of their sins! Indeed, the King of Ninevah was so taken with the call to repentance that he ordered the entire city to put on sackcloth and ashes, abstain from food and drink, and to repent of all evil practices. Jonah’s calling, was successful! One would think that Jonah would be pleased that the people of Ninevah had repented! Yippie!

Quite the contrary, Jonah was not in the least bit happy. After all, he had been through a great ordeal! He had been caught in a storm at sea, tossed into the waters, swallowed by a great fish, spent 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of that fish, and then been sub-orbital barfed from the Mediterranean to the shores of the Euphrates River. After all of this, Jonah wanted to see some action! He wanted to see the dirty rotten sinners of Ninevah smitten! And, so, he whined to God. He claimed – in one of the most outlandish lies to be found in the Bible – that God’s leniency with the people of Ninevah was the very reason he had run away from God and not wanted to do God’s Will! “I knew you were going to forgive them, and I didn’t want to see that! I want fireworks! When I ran away from you I got my punishment, now I want to see them get their punishment! Smite ‘em, God!”

Again, we find in Jonah a mirror for ourselves: we want grace for ourselves, but we don’t want it for anyone else. We want success on our own terms, not on God’s terms. We think we know better how God should go about God’s business, and when God doesn’t do things the way we think they should be done we are prone to want to take our toys and go home. We get angry ... “angry enough to die!” (4:9) And, like Jonah, we have no justification for our actions. We might pretend as though we do, but we are lying and wimping out just as assuredly as was Jonah.

When God calls, we should listen and not try to run. When God calls, we should do as God says and follow God’s Will for us. And, when God produces a result – in us, in others, or in our circumstances – we should be willing to accept God’s Will even when it conflicts with our own desires, designs, or expectations. In truth, like Jonah, we have no choice. We might as well bow to the inevitable.

What Shape Will Your Gift Take?



NTC BISHOP'S RALLY 2015

February 15, 2015

2:00pm - 5:30pm

FUMC Plano

3160 E. Spring Creek Pkwy

Join Bishop Michael McKee and a host of others from across the North Texas Conference for the 2015 Bishop's Rally as we worship, fellowship and serve together.

This event is open to all tweens (5th -7th grade) and confirmands throughout North Texas who would like to have fun, fellowship, and learn about how we can make a difference in the world!

This year's Rally includes Bishop McKee, Radio Disney, pizza, inflatables, missions, crafts, worship and a whole lot more! Receive a **FREE T-shirt** if you register by **February 9, 2015**.

All participants are asked to bring a new or gently used children's book for the benefit of Little Free Libraries.

Individual church-wide participation in collecting books is encouraged. Registration is \$5.00 per person (adult and youth)

Worship

Sunday, February 1

Sunday, February 8

Sunday, February 15

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday

Sunday, February 22

8:45am ~ Chapel

11:00am ~ Sanctuary

Midweek Eucharist

Wednesdays

@ 5:30pm ~ Chapel

Committee Chairs

Ad Council Chair:

Gene Lockhart
(903) 886-3498

Lay Leader:

John Heatherly
(903) 886-7070

SPPRC Chair:

Wes Underwood
(903) 886-1503

Trustees Chair:

Jim Brown
(903) 886-7439

Finance Chair:

Gil Naizer
(903) 886-1961

FUMC Foundation

President:

Anne Mills
(903) 886-6792

Connect Team Chair:

Melinda Reid
(903) 886-7623

Grow Team Chair:

TBD

Serve Team Chair:

Angela Roberts
(903) 886-2142

Lay Member:

Carole Walker
(903) 886-4450

UMW President:

Mary Lou Heatherly
(903) 886-8381

The First United Methodist Newsletter is the official publication of FUMC Commerce. The newsletter is published at the end of the month. 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. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

****The next deadline is Monday, February 16 by 9:00am****

2014 Mission Dollars in Review and Looking Ahead

Our church disbursed \$11,742 to support the following missions in 2014. These funds were raised from drop-a-dollar offerings and designated gifts, not from general church giving.*



Serving Our World Totaled \$1,624

- Wesleyan Community Development Fund: \$720 in scholarships for Andrea and Diana Flores for 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years
- Proyecto Abrigo: \$554
- Heifer International: \$350

Serving Our Region Totaled \$966

- UMCOR Tornado Devastation Relief: \$500
- Zip Code Connection: \$466

Serving Our Community Totaled \$9,177

- Wesleyan Campus Ministry: \$754
- Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$814
- North Texas Food Bank: \$2,338
- Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH: \$250
- Bread of Life Food Pantry at Church of Nazarene: \$250
- Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church of Commerce: \$250
- Last Saturday Breakfast: \$337
- Community Thanksgiving Dinner: \$622
- Griffith Chapel: \$542 in utilities assistance
- Families and individuals: \$1,125 in medical and home repair assistance
- Communities In Schools (CIS): \$661
- Boys & Girls Club: \$444
- Clothe-a-Child: \$790

Here are the planned missions of the month that drop-a-dollar will support in 2015.

January: Pastor's Discretionary Fund

February: Food Assistance Programs

March: Lenten Offering to Benefit Mission Trips

April: Lenten Offering & Bridgeport Scholarships

May: CIS and Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp

June: Zip Code Connection

July: Pastor's Discretionary Fund

August: Wesleyan Campus Ministry

September: HCSM – FISH

October: Clothe-a-Child

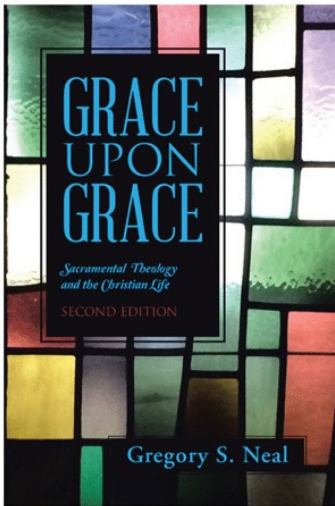
November: Thanksgiving Dinner

December: Proyecto Abrigo

In addition to all \$1 bills placed in the offering plate during these months, you can support these or any other mission throughout the year with your designated gifts. If you have questions about drop-a-dollar or Serve, please contact Angela Roberts, Serve team chair, at 903.886.2142.

* The \$11,742 disbursed does not include money raised from the 2014 Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions. These funds will allow the Serve team to respond to special needs for assistance, supplement mission of the month giving, and fund mission activities such as Helping Hands and the Last Saturday Breakfast.

Dr. Neal's Book is Out!



Grace Upon Grace:

Sacramental Theology and the Christian Life

This book is about grace and the many ways that Christ conveys his unmerited favor to us. Since grace is essential to the Christian life, it is important for us to consider how we receive it, what it looks like, and how it functions. Dr. Neal does more than speak of abstract theological concepts; he opens a door to his own life, personality, and experiences. Through them he shows how God works in us, imparting divine love through the sacraments and the other means of grace.

Available formats:

Softcover: \$17.95

Hardcover: \$33.95

eBook: \$4.99

Amazon.com * Cokesbury.com * ChristianBooks.com * Barnes & Noble * iBook Store

Or, you can buy a copy directly from Dr. Neal!

The Pastor's Bible Study

Dr. Neal is leading "The Pastor's Bible Study," a weekly study dealing with books of the Bible beginning with Luke & Acts.

Daytime Group: Tuesday afternoons 1-2:30pm

Nighttime Group: Tuesday evenings 7-8:30pm

*Audio of the study is available on Dr. Neal's website www.revneal.org

Mark your Calendar!

April 19, 2015

Dr. Vic Casad, our District Superintendent, will be preaching at both services!

May 3, 2015

Rev. Dennis Wilkinson will be with us for a special Sunday, one service only (11 am), with a luncheon reception following the service.

The Walk to Emmaus

If you are interested in finding out more about this wonderful 3-day Spiritual retreat, please speak to Pastor Greg, who serves as the Spiritual Director on at least one "Walk" (retreat) a year. These retreats are wonderful times of renewal, growth, and learning for all Christians. There are men's and women's walks, and are held several times a year both in East Texas and in Dallas.



To watch or listen to Dr. Neal's sermons on the internet, go to: www.revneal.org
www.youtube.com/revneal
www.facebook.com/RevNealVideo

Dear Church Family,

On behalf of the 18 families and 30 children of the Prison Ministries' Angel Tree project, we want to thank all of you for helping make it successful. As you know, it is our goal to be a conduit of God's love to the prisoners, their children, and the caregivers. Though we don't often get feedback from the prisoners, judging from our telephone conversations, the smiles, and the good-bye hugs after our party, we were able to achieve our goal thanks to this congregation. We are grateful to:



- o those who adopted angels and tried to purchase exactly what the child wanted
- o those who baked cookies for our party and to send to those families that could not attend
- o the Prayer Shawl Ministry members who wrapped packages
- o Judy Anderson and Susan Patton who helped wrap presents and plate cookies for the party
- o the Sisters Bible group and especially Mimi Dobbs and Joanna Thrift who painstakingly checked each bag of gifts to make sure the right gifts were going to the right family along with gift tag that included a personal message from the parent
- o Jan and Jeff Helton and Danny and Marsha Shepherd who delivered gifts to those who could not attend the party
- o the Youth whose presence loomed large by
 - o adopting all the angels still on the tree,
 - o purchasing gifts with thought and care
 - o making themselves available for any chore
 - o helping with the families
 - o helping with crafts
 - o reading a Christmas story
 - o wearing an antlers hat that the children had fun trying to hook rings on
 - o being Santa Claus to the kids' delight
 - o staying to talk and visit with the kids after the presents were distributed
- o Robin Elwell who took family portraits in front of the lighted trees and took the kids' pictures on Santa's lap
- o Pastor Marc who started our party off in a wonderful way by involving the children and adults alike in recounting the Christmas story and staying afterwards to interact with our guests

Our heartfelt thanks for your continued support of this project.

In Christ,

Tricia Dempsey and Judy Rudoff

Jesus said, "Breakfast is ready." John 21:12 (MSG)



**Last Saturday Breakfast
Community Gathering**

Free Breakfast

- Pancakes
- Sausage
- Fresh Fruit
- Orange Juice
- Coffee



Sponsored by
First United Methodist Church
and the Wesleyan Campus Ministry

**Saturday,
January 31, 2015
9:00-10:00 a.m.**

Wesleyan Campus Ministry Building
1504 Lee Street, Commerce



Luigi's Italian Cafe has offered to support our community by donating 10% of dining receipts on the third Sunday of each month to our church. If you take your bulletin after church 2/15, Luigi's will staple it to your ticket. They will tally our receipts and send a check directly to our church. Help support our church by eating



UMW will meet **Tuesday, February 17** at 10:00am. Our February project items for the Food Pantry.

All women are invited to join us!

All women are invited to join us!

UMW is still collecting Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education.



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, Feb 1 Mark 1:21-28
- Monday, Feb 2 Isaiah 40:21-31
- Tuesday, Feb 3 Isaiah 40:21-31
- Wednesday, Feb 4 Psalm 147:1-6, 20c
- Thursday, Feb 5 Psalm 147:7-11, 20c
- Friday, Feb 6 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
- Saturday, Feb 7 Mark 1:29-34
- Sunday, Feb 8 Mark 1:35-39
- Monday, Feb 9 Mark 9:2-9
- Tuesday, Feb 10 2 Kings 2:1-12
- Wednesday, Feb 11 Psalm 50:1-6
- Thursday, Feb 12 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- Friday, Feb 13 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- Saturday, Feb 14 Psalm 50:1-6
- Sunday, Feb 15 Mark 9:2-9
- Monday, Feb 16 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
- Tuesday, Feb 17 Psalm 51:1-17
- Wednesday, Feb 18 Isaiah 58:1-12
- Thursday, Feb 19 Genesis 9:8-17
- Friday, Feb 20 Psalm 25:1-10
- Saturday, Feb 21 1 Peter 3:18-22
- Sunday, Feb 22 Mark 1:9-15
- Monday, Feb 23 Psalm 22:25-31
- Tuesday, Feb 24 Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
- Wednesday, Feb 25 Romans 4:13-17
- Thursday, Feb 26 Romans 4:18-25
- Friday, Feb 27 Psalm 22:23-25
- Saturday, Feb 28 Mark 8:31-33

In memory of...

Donna Webster

By: Loretta Kibler

Gene Fulfur

By: Loretta Kibler

Suzanne Bailey's Mother

By: Jim & Susan Patton

Loretta Kibler

Betty Robinson

By: Jim & Susan Patton

Bob Mills

By: Jim & Susan Patton

In honor of...

Judy West

By: Judy Rudoff



Attendance

	<u>Early</u>	<u>5:30</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>
Dec 24 —Christmas Eve			173	
Dec 28	33	—	78	43
Jan 4	28	—	61	33
Jan 7		6		
Jan 11	31	—	89	56
Jan 14		7		
Jan 18	34	—	88	61
Jan 21		9		
Jan 25	33	—	105	73



**Financial Information
General Operating Fund**

as of December 31, 2014 Year-to-Date

Income:	\$ 38,338	\$392,201
Expenses:	\$ <u>25,928</u>	\$ <u>379,190</u>
	\$ 12,410	\$ 13,011



Prayer Lists

**We pray for those who have experienced a loss.
Condolences to...**

The Family of Billy Steve Culberson
(Dixie Turman Stachowiak's brother)

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

Sharon Smith, Anaya Phillips (Bonnie Smith's mother), Jim Brown, Johnnie Robertson, Andrea Watson, LaVerne Raine, Sammy Elwell, Lewis and Faye Jackson, Lois Cranford, James Tucker (Judy and Dennis Anderson's friend), Betty Morton, Charles Ranley (at Webb Hill), Jo Parker, Marc Jackson (Debbie and Lynn Jackson's son), Sally Grove, Sheila Thomas, Jim Hunter (Jacob Hunter's father), Audrey Ham (Nadine and Clay Yeager's great granddaughter), David Polk, Michelle Bone, Hugh Hanby, Wendel Underwood (Wes Underwood's father), Doris Kerbow, Norma McNew, Clyde Robnett, Robert Seay

Others to Remember in Prayer...

Christians in the Middle East

Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Ahtrell Dalton, Helen Dickson, Barbara Gish, Dorothy Ingram, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn, Lucy Potts, Pete Robinson, Ruby Vander Velde, Euple Walker, and Jean Ward

Briarcliff: Jean Funderburk and Glenna Siebenhausen

Laurell's Retirement Home: Lewis and Faye Jackson

*"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...

2nd Marine Division Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
Col. Peter Bailey Garrett Johnson
Nathan Grove Lt. Col. Keith Williams
Lt. Dan Barton
Josh Ham-Nadine and Clay Yeager's grandson-in-law
Lt. Col. Jeremy Quatacker-Mark and Frances Sartwell's son-in-law
Tyler Craig (Afghanistan)-Brad and Vickie Boynton's son-in-law
Chief Robert Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son
Lt. JG. Terry Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son
Jim Hunsicker (Afghanistan)-Carolyn Miller's brother
Alex Dech (Afghanistan)-Pastor Ron Dech's son
Captain Daniel Robnett-Clyde and Wanda Robnett's grandson
Kris Yoder-John & Rebecca Sneed's son-in-law
Staff Sgt. Geoff Abbe & Sgt. Eric Abbe-Ladonna & Chris Patterson's cousins



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 16 by 9:00am

First United Methodist Church
1709 Highway 24
Commerce, TX 75428
Senior Pastor - Dr. Gregory S. Neal