

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 10, Issue 1

January 11, 2012

VBS 2012

Even though it's only January, the Children's department is already thinking VBS! This year we'll dive in and discover God's underwater universe with Cokesbury's Operation Overboard! We'll explore the depths of God's Word at VBS 2012, and "Dare to Go Deep with God!"



Operation Overboard Vacation Bible School will be June 18th – 22nd 2012, for kids who have *completed* Pre-Kindergarten – 5th grade.

As we starting wrapping our brains around transforming our building and sanctuary into an undersea wonderland, there are a few items we could use:

- ★ Plastic (or any other material) fish, seashells, lobsters, crabs, seahorses, coral, etc
- ★ Scuba gear
- ★ Fish nets
- ★ Blue cellophane, material, butcher paper, or sheets (that could be used as an underwater backdrop)
- ★ Any other decorating items or props that might help to create an undersea look and feel

If you have any of these items that you would be willing to loan or donate, please see Alison, or drop the items by the Church Office at any time! To learn more about Operation Overboard VBS, please visit the website: <http://overboard.cokesburyvbs.com>. Thank you!!



Children's Music

First United Methodist Church
Commerce, Texas

...for children in Kindergarten
through 5th Grade

Resuming Mondays
beginning January 23rd
3:30-5:00 p.m.



Kindergarten, 1st, & 2nd Grades

3:30-4:05 p.m. Children's Bells
4:05-4:25 p.m. Snack
4:25-5:00 p.m. Children's Choir

3rd, 4th, & 5th Grades

3:30-4:05 p.m. Children's Choir
4:05-4:25 p.m. Snack
4:25-5:00 p.m. Children's Bells

Michelle Corazao, children's choir
Mimi Dobbs, lower elementary bells
Amanda Brown, upper elementary bells

Now is the time to join in! For more information or to register, please contact Michelle Corazao at michelle@fumccommerce.org or (903) 886-2684.

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Dear FUMC Friends:

Reporting facts and data is not one of my preferences – I would much rather listen to or tell a great story. However, 2011 was a wonderful year for FUMC Commerce, and I'd like for us to celebrate some of our successes as we launch into 2012:



- We said hello to new associate pastor and Wesleyan campus minister, Rev. Marc Corazao;
- Launched a new 9:45 communion worship service and welcomed “homeless Episcopalians” in our community;
- Confirmed seven sixth graders into full membership, and welcomed three of their families as well;
- Were blessed by the industry and commitment of the UM Army, which brought energy and affirmed the Holy Spirit in our midst through service projects in our community during a long, hot summer;
- Welcomed Michelle Corazao as our new Music Director with enlarged duties for the Chancel Choir, children’s and youth music programming, and bell choir;
- Witnessed increased growth and vitality in our children’s and youth ministries, with emphasis on sharing God’s love through service to others;
- Experienced the continued expansion of our Noah’s Nursery and Little Ark children’s education programs;
- Were blessed by the quiet, but strong and active creativity and service of our Prayer Shawl Ministry, who shipped over 75 scarves to military personnel in Afghanistan this autumn;
- Welcomed 41 new members into our faith community – 14 on profession of faith;
- Increased our debt service significantly by reducing our interest by almost two-thirds, and reducing our building debt from \$370,000 at the beginning of 2011 to a current \$270,000.

This is by no means an exhaustive list – there are many things to celebrate, both large and small.

Each one of these celebrations, though, has a story behind it. And we are not a people of numbers, but a people of the gospel story. Our congregation is living out of and into the gospel one act and one person at a time. My prayer is that we never lose sight of the story.

May your 2012 be richly blessed –
Valarie

Worship

January 15, 2012

*Please join us
this Sunday when
Rev. Valarie Englert
preaches on
1 Samuel 3:1-10
“Who Me?”*

8:45am ~ Chapel
9:45am ~ Chapel
10:50am ~ Sanctuary

Committee Chairs

Leadership Team Chair

Jim Patton
(903) 886-2206

Lay Leader:

Gene Lockhart
(903) 886-3498

Personnel Chair:

Chester Robinson
(903) 886-8220

Property Chair:

Donna Tavener
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Stewardship Team Chair:

Mike Roberts
(903) 886-2142

Foundation Chair:

Dan Shepherd
(903) 886-6883

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(903) 886-4630

Teresa Heatherly
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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, January 23 by 9:00am****

2011 Christmas Wrap-up

What a Wonderful Time of the Year As We Experienced the Love of God through Service to Others

A teenage girl receives a wrapped Christmas gift and immediately notices a personal note from her incarcerated father. A family snacks on homemade Christmas cookies as they travel late in the night to see a sick grandfather in Oklahoma. On Christmas morning a family member unwraps a handmade llama Christmas ornament realizing a donation was made to Heifer International in their honor. On Christmas day, a family of four sits down to a turkey dinner with all the trimmings and is thankful for supplemental food, which will carry them through the holiday. This is the first time they've sought assistance since the father was laid off.



Dick Latson hands off turkey to Commerce Tiger to load into recipient's car



Charlie Walker stood ready to box Christmas ornaments benefiting Heifer International.

In a season of hustle and bustle our church family made time to demonstrate the true meaning of Christmas to those not only in our community but also to those around the world. Forty-four area children received presents from their incarcerated parents thanks to the generosity of those who participated in the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree. Proceeds in excess of \$2,500 from the Handmade Holiday Bazaar have been distributed to various international, national and local charities supported by our church.

And thanks to the Hunt County Coalition of Food Pantries and FISH, we were able to pass out Christmas food baskets to over 230 local families.

Thank you to all that participated this season. Thanks to shoppers for filling in for parents unable to do so, Fun Loving Youth (FLY) for wrapping the Angel Tree gifts, bakers for making cookies, and all the volunteers for delivering. Thanks to those



Tricia Dempsey, Jane Langford, and Madeline Sullivan manned the assembly of non-perishables for basket give-away

who shared your time and talents to make items for the Bazaar and those who worked the morning of the Bazaar. And thanks to the many who spent a Saturday morning at the Christmas food basket give-away. Volunteers came from our church family, the Commerce Tigers, the TAMU-C Honors College, Manna Movers, and the Commerce Food Distribution at Word of Life.



Emma Dobbs and Meghan Green were eager to assist shoppers support CIS, UMCOR, or the Commerce Boys & Girls Club.



UMW will meet **Tuesday, January 17th** at 10:00am. Our speaker will be Nell Avery. Our January project is: Nursing Home Bingo Prizes, sugar free cookies, 6 oz drinks, peanut butter crackers, lotions, shampoos (small). **All women are invited to join us!**

NEWS FROM THE WESLEYAN

Your source for Wesleyan Campus Ministry Updates




For Your Insides Lunches: Wednesdays & Thursdays, starting January 18 & 19! Food & friends every week, twice a week throughout the semester!

Regenerate: Wednesdays, starting January 25, 8:00-9:30 pm! Singing, playing, dancing, drawing, praying, shouting, studying, creating... Be ready for anything on Wednesday nights at Regenerate! In January & February... If you are what you eat, when's the last time you knew where your food came from? Take a St. Francis look at God's creation and our life in it!

Möbius Open Mic Coffee House: Thursdays, starting January 26, 9:30-11:00 pm! A hangout spot for students, faculty, and staff of TAMU Commerce. Regular & Specialty Drinks, Live Bands & Performers, PLUS weekly Open Mic. Bring your musical, poetic, dance, & comedic skills to the house, or just come to relax and enjoy the show at Möbius!

Wesleyan Night Out: Friday, January 20, 5:00 pm! Start the semester off right at the Wesleyan with a crazy-road-trippin-night-out! Dinner at Chipotle, Whirlyball with other Wesleyans in Hurst, and amazing Ice Cream Cookie Sandwiches at Pokie O's Dallas!

All Wesley Retreat: Friday-Sunday, February 17-19! College students from United Methodist campus ministries, colleges, and churches from across the South Central Jurisdiction are converging on Crosspoint Camp on Lake Texoma for an awesome weekend of worship and fun!



Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities at ACW for students and teachers/adults alike!

The brand new Commerce Community Plaza grand opening is January 23, 2012. We hope to begin adult tutoring/school completion and ESL for Spanish-speaking adults on our campus by February 6th.

We need of both bilingual (English/Spanish) volunteers and non-bilingual volunteers to help in this huge endeavor!

Opportunities:

1) Monday, January 23 (4:00-8:00pm)

Commerce Community Plazas (CCP) Grand Opening (Many families and dignitaries from TAMU-C, Mexican Consulate, & around the state). --We need:

- Bilingual Greeters
- Helpers for decorating, food prep and serving, enchilada/salsa contest/judging, clean-up

2) Community Plaza Classes--Weekly, tentatively starting February 6th, Mondays, 4-7pm and Thursdays, 3-5pm throughout the spring semester. --We need:

- Bilingual students/adults to support CCP relationship-building
- Bilingual tutors
- Helpers to organize curriculum for classes
- Childcare helpers for children less than 5 years old

For more information, please contact Linda Grubert at linda.grubert@commerceisd.org. If you are available to help particularly on Jan. 23rd, please let her know by Wednesday, January 18 so arrangements can be made.

Thank You from Clothe-a-Child

The following note was received from Belinda Miller, chair of the Commerce Clothe-a-Child (CAC) project. CAC purchased clothing and shoes for Commerce ISD children who are referred by teachers, counselors, and social service agencies. Using drop-a-dollar funds, the Serve team designated a \$500 donation to this ministry.

Dear friends,

On behalf of the 283 needy children on the Clothe-a-Child list, your kindness played a big part in our ability to help these children.

*Merry Christmas,
B. Miller*

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.



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

- * February 26, or
- * December 9th,

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

Attendance

	<u>Dec. 11</u>	<u>Dec. 18</u>	<u>Dec. 25</u>	<u>Jan. 1</u>	<u>Jan. 8</u>
Early	20	27	—	—	28
9:45	8	10	—	—	7
Late	160	146	284	112	148
SS	75	79	—	—	82

Financial Update: General Operating Fund

	<u>as of December 31, 2011</u>	<u>2011 Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$ 39,535	\$397,736
Expenses:	\$ 27,864	\$391,568
	\$ 11,671	\$ 6,168



Dear Church Family,

A few weeks ago Pastor Marc talked about how grateful he was to be a part of the FUMC congregation. In this instance he was referring to the children singing, playing the bells and participating in the readings. It was a glorious service!! In view of my situation, I thought of several additional reasons for saying "Amen" to Pastor Marc's comments. Your gifts of time, money, and love have been the best "medicine" for my recovering. The cards, the visits, the flowers, the stopping by Walk-Mart to pick up "necessities," the washing my clothes, the yummy food, the trips to doctors' appointments, the rides to church, the doing chores I couldn't do, the replacing my microwave, the cleaning my house, and the use of a comfy chair and lamp have left me overwhelmed and humbled. And the best part is that your generous outpouring of help and support is certainly not unique to me. You would do things for anyone—member or not—who needed help. I am so grateful to be a part of this church family.

*Thank you,
Judy Rudoff*

Daily Scripture Readings:

Sunday, Jan 15	Psalm 139:1-6
Monday, Jan 16	Mark 1:14-15
Tuesday, Jan 17	Mark 1:16-20
Wednesday, Jan 18	1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Thursday, Jan 19	Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Friday, Jan 20	Jonah 3:1-5
Saturday, Jan 21	Psalm 62:5-8
Sunday, Jan 22	Psalm 62:9-12
Monday, Jan 23	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Tuesday, Jan 24	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Wednesday, Jan 25	Psalm 111
Thursday, Jan 26	1 Corinthians 8:1-6
Friday, Jan 27	1 Corinthians 8:7-13
Saturday, Jan 28	Mark 1:21-22



Prayer Lists

Newly Added

Crosby Family and Leos Family in the loss of Janice's father
Ruth Warren's father

Continued Prayers for Church Family

Sarah Cunningham	Margaret Floyd
Andy Martin	Gene Casselberry
Clay Yeager	Sally Grove
Judy Rudoff	Luann Huffman
Julie Wadlow	Otha Spencer
Jan Vowell	Gary Kibler
Robert Seay	Riley Saulters

Continued Prayers Family & Friends

Caitlyn (Tiffany and Derrell's niece)
 Doris Bechtloft
 Ray Sandifer (Janet Latham's father)
 Cheree Walker
 Bill Heitholt
 Sally Rowe (Michael Rowe's daughter)
 Jan Chapman (District Office)
 Olivia Holmes
 Louella McIntyre
 Sondra Feduccia
 Kay Webber
 Judy Greenwood
 George O'Kelley
 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)
 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-seriously injured
 2nd Marine Division
 Chief Robert Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son
 Chief Terry 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
 Nathan Grove
 Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
 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, January 23 by 9:00am**

Place Label Here

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