



First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 11, Issue 12

December 2013

Church Conference Sunday, January 12 after 11:00am service

Please attend this very important meeting. We will vote on specific issues related to the 2014 budget. Information will be available in the church office in the coming days.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

December 24
@ 7:00pm in the Sanctuary



Holiday Schedule Merry Christmas!

The church office will be closed
Tuesday, Dec. 24 through
Thursday, Dec. 26 for Christmas.

We will be open Friday, Dec. 27
from 9:00am—12:00pm. Monday, Dec. 30
and Tuesday, Dec. 31, the office will be open
from 9:00am—12:00pm.

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Happy New Year!

The church office will be closed
Wednesday, January 1 and
Thursday, January 2 for New Year's.



Christmas Eve Family Choir!

The Family Choir will sing one song during the 7:00 Christmas Eve service. In order to be in the Family Choir, you need to bring one other member of your family to be in the choir. If you have no blood relatives in the church, adopt someone. Multi-generations are a plus. No upper or lower age limits.

Choir Rehearsal: We rehearse at 9:00am Sunday, Dec. 22. If your family intends to participate, contact Michelle Corazao at (903) 886-2684 or michelle@fumcccommerce.org.



One Service— Sunday, December 29

Sunday, December 29th we will have ONE
Worship Service beginning at 11:00am.
Come as you are and bring friends to sing carols
and share the Christmas story!

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Dear FUMC Friends:

When I was a child, it seemed normal to see the funeral processions and ceremonies of noteworthy people on television. I was too young to remember seeing the funeral of John F. Kennedy, Jr., but I do remember the events surrounding the deaths of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert Kennedy. To my first- and second-grade mind, that was part and parcel of what happened on television – the funerals of those who had been “assassinated” (even though I didn’t know what that word meant).



It is sobering to think that our country experienced the assassinations of so many leaders in such a short time. The decade of the 1960s was a roiling soup pot bubbling over with change. Challenges to the status quo ensued on many fronts: the sexual revolution, feminism, the fight for civil rights. I find myself wondering where I would have stood on these issues if I’d been an adult at the time. Would I have spoken up or remained silent?

I have heard my mother share her story of growing awareness of the evil of racism in the early 1960s, and her awakening to the cause of civil rights. Perhaps I would have had a similar experience – but there is no way to know this.

What I do know is that Dr. King’s “Letter From a Birmingham Jail” still convicts me these five decades later. When Dr. King arrived in Birmingham in 1963 to join with the local African American community in a demonstration that led to his arrest, several white clergymen in Alabama – including two Methodist bishops – signed a letter stating that the demonstrations were “unwise and untimely”, and had been improperly instigated by “outsiders.” In response to this, Dr. King composed a letter while sitting in the Birmingham jail that every disciple of Jesus Christ should know and heed:

I am in Birmingham because injustice is here. Just as the eighth-century prophets left their little villages and carried their "thus saith the Lord" far beyond the boundaries of their hometowns; and just as the Apostle Paul left his little village of Tarsus and carried the gospel of Jesus Christ to practically every hamlet and city of the Greco-Roman world, I too am compelled to carry the gospel of freedom beyond my particular hometown. Like Paul, I must constantly respond to the Macedonian call for aid.

Moreover, I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial "outside agitator" idea. Anyone who lives inside the United States can never be considered an outsider.

We are celebrating the birth of the Christ Child who came among us not only to save us from sin, but to show us what a liberated life in God’s Kingdom is like. The very existence of those who remain oppressed by injustice is not part of God’s dream for creation. As Dr. King said, “oppressed people cannot remain oppressed forever.”

On January 20, we will remember Dr. King’s remarkable life of service and sacrifice. Let it also be a day for us to remember why God-in-Christ was born: to “bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4.18-19)

May we find ourselves on the side of justice and peace –

Valarie

Upcoming Worship

December 24
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
@ 7:00pm

December 29
One Service @ 11:00am

January 5
Epiphany Sunday

January 12
Baptism of the Lord

8:45am ~ Chapel
11:00am ~ Sanctuary

Midweek Eucharist
Wednesdays
@ 5:30pm ~ Chapel

Committee Chairs

Leadership Team Chair:

Gene Lockhart
(903) 886-3498

Personnel Chair:

Wes Underwood
(903) 886-1503

Stewardship Team Chair:

Mike Roberts
(903) 886-2142

Connect Team:

Melinda Reid
(903) 886-7623

Grow Team:

Sabrina Green
(903) 886-1902

Serve Team:

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@fumccommerce.org, or call the office at 903-886-3220. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

****The next deadline is Monday, January 20 by 9:00am****

Community Thanksgiving 2013

Thanksgiving dinner 2013 was a huge success thanks to the AWESOME volunteers! We fed over 300 people (about 140 to-go plates including Meals on Wheels recipients) and about 170 walk-ins joined us for a delicious meal! The lovely ladies at Mt. Moriah prepared delicious sweet potatoes, Mary Shumway and family ran the kitchen and coordinated the food delivery from Sodexo at the TAMU-C, Brookshire's provided turkey and beans, Luann Huffman coordinated the Meals on Wheels donation and deliveries, and an



People enjoying the yummy Thanksgiving meal



Pastor Valarie leads a group in coloring the greeting cards that went with the meal that were delivered to homebound members of our community.

army of volunteers helped out that day and provided scrumptious pies and soups! Special thanks also to Angela Roberts, Jan Helton, Rachel May, and Gene Lockhart for organizing and directing the action, and very special thanks to the Hines family for providing beautiful music and an army of helping hands! Not only did we share a delicious meal, we got many thanks from families who were hungry enough for seconds (and thirds), teary eyes from the nurses at Commerce Hospital who got the extras, and a warm fuzzy feeling for anyone who was there to share the blessings of food, fun, and fellowship! What a great community we live in!

Christmas Food Basket Distribution

Join neighbors helping neighbors this Saturday, December 21, from 8:30am to 11:30am as we distribute Hunt County Gives Christmas Food Baskets on behalf of FISH. Childcare provided in church nursery for volunteers.

Contact Angela Roberts at 903.886.2142 | 972.765.6547 to sign up to volunteer.



Save the date

Potluck

Sunday, February 2

12:00pm



You're invited to Michelle's 40th Birthday Extravaganza!

Sunday, January 12, 2014

4:00-6:00 p.m. (Come and Go)

First UMC Commerce Family Ministry Center

No gifts, please, except...

For her birthday, Michelle is raising the money to build the house that will be built on the Wesleyan Proyecto Abrigo trip at the end of this month. If you would like to contribute to these efforts, you may give online at <http://wcmwintermission2013.eventbrite.com/> or give a donation directly to the church designated to Michelle's Proyecto House.



MERRY CHRISTMAS
from your Church Staff





Marketplace and Lunch Raised \$6,000

December 7th was icy and dicey, but the weather did not deter volunteers and shoppers who found their way to the Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions. The event raised \$6,000 for missions locally, regionally, and around the world. See below for where the mission dollars are going.



Plenty of shoppers stayed to warm up on hot stew and fellowship

Thanks to everyone who came to shop, eat, and fellowship and to all our generous donors and volunteers who helped make the day a success! Special thanks to Judy Anderson, Anna Blohm, Michelle Corazao, Jim Latham, Bob Mills, Susan Patton, Lori Polk, Ann Underhill, and Harriet Williams for their roles in organizing the marketplace and lunch.



Bakery offered an array of homemade temptations

Stew Lunch Benefiting Food Assistance Programs

- North Texas Food Bank: \$123.50
- Hunt County Shared Ministries - FISH: \$223.50 (includes \$100 alternative gifts)
- Commerce Emergency Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church: \$123.50
- Bread of Life Food Pantry at Church of the Nazarene: \$123.50



Ann and Vance Underhill managed the Antiques Corner

Marketplace Benefiting Prayer Shawl Ministry and General Missions

- Prayer Shawl Ministry and More: \$1,038
- Heifer International: \$835 (includes \$150 alternative gifts)



Kris Ann Clark and Sabrina Green shopping for scarves crafted by Prayer Shawl Ministry members

- UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief): \$685
- Proyecto Abrigo Homebuilding - Wesleyan Campus Ministry Winter Mission Trip to Juarez, Mexico: \$755 (includes \$70 alternative gifts)
- U.M. ARMY: \$685
- Commerce Boys & Girls Club: \$685
- Communities In Schools: \$685
- Chancel Choir: \$20 (alternative gift)

- General Church Operations: \$10 (alternative gift)
- Children's Ministries: \$10 (sale of one ball cap)



Sampling of boutique items, many of which were crafted by church members



Music Director Michelle Corazao led the youth and children's choirs, accompanied by James Williams

In memory of...

Richard S. Englert

By: Linda Englert

Mary Jo Leslie

By: Pete Smith & Mary Lambert Smith

Dorothy Stamper

By: Loretta Kibler

Gary Kibler

By: Pete Smith & Mary Lambert Smith



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:

- Wednesday, Jan 1 Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
- Thursday, Jan 2 Psalm 8
- Friday, Jan 3 Matthew 25:31-46
- Saturday, Jan 4 Revelation 21:1-6a
- Sunday, Jan 5 Matthew 2:1-12
- Monday, Jan 6 Psalm 29
- Tuesday, Jan 7 Isaiah 42:1-4
- Wednesday, Jan 8 Isaiah 42:5-9
- Thursday, Jan 9 Matthew 3:13-17
- Friday, Jan 10 Matthew 3:13-17
- Saturday, Jan 11 Acts 10:34-36
- Sunday, Jan 12 Acts 10:37-43
- Monday, Jan 13 Isaiah 49:1-7
- Tuesday, Jan 14 Isaiah 49:1-7
- Wednesday, Jan 15 Psalm 40:1-11
- Thursday, Jan 16 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
- Friday, Jan 17 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
- Saturday, Jan 18 John 1:29-36
- Sunday, Jan 19 John 1:37-42
- Monday, Jan 20 Matthew 4:12-23
- Tuesday, Jan 21 Matthew 4:12-23
- Wednesday, Jan 22 Psalm 27:1, 4-9
- Thursday, Jan 23 Isaiah 9:1-4
- Friday, Jan 24 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
- Saturday, Jan 25 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
- Sunday, Jan 26 Isaiah 9:1-4
- Monday, Jan 27 Micah 6:1-5
- Tuesday, Jan 28 Micah 6:6-8
- Wednesday, Jan 29 Psalm 15
- Thursday, Jan 30 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
- Friday, Jan 31 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

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



UMW will meet **Tuesday, January 21** at 10:00am. 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!**



Attendance

	<u>Early</u>	<u>5:30</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>
Nov 27		—		
Dec 1	30	—	121	88
Dec 4		14		
Dec 8	13	—	102	66
Dec 11		7		
Dec 15	37	—	128	71
Dec 18		8		

**Financial Update
General Operating Fund**

as of November 30, 2013 Year-to-Date

Income:	\$ 26,927	\$342,074
Expenses:	\$ 28,693	\$356,611
	-\$ 1,766	-\$14,537





Prayer Lists

We pray for those who have experienced a loss.

Condolences to...

The Family of Greg Voigt (Friend of the Englerts)

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

Janice Currens, Rebecca Leos (Ruth Warren's mother), Clyde Robnett, Edna O'Quinn, Audrey Self (Eileen Faulkenberry's cousin), Eric Gruver, Rex Giddens, Harry Icenhower, Clay Yeager, Al Jackson, Willie Morgan, Doris Kerbow, Sam Wells, Anika Shah (infant with severe immune deficiency), Lewis and Faye Jackson, Lynn Stone, Jaron and Tiffany Peek (Jim Peek's son and daughter-in-law), Gene Casselberry, Pat Skauge, Sue Taylor, Anaya Phillips (Bonnie Smith's mother), Moena and RJ Burnett, Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Robert Seay, Amy Sallstrom Smith (Bill Heitholt's cousin), Jessie Short

Others to Remember in Prayer...

Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Ahtrell Dalton, Helen Dickson, Dorothy Ingram, Lucy Potts, Pete Robinson, Ruby Vander Velde, and Euple Walker

Briarcliff: Cindy Klingbeil and Glenna Siebenhausen

Legends: Norma McNew

*"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
Lt. Col. Richard Bailey Nathan Grove
Lt. Col. Keith Williams Lt. Dan Barton
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
Ensign 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
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



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Senior Pastor - Rev. Valarie Englert**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
Articles for the next newsletter are due
Monday, January 20 by 9:00am