

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 13, Issue 6

June 2015

CONGRATS CLASS OF 2015!

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Sammy Elwell
Amelia Martin
Campbell Reid
Nathan Scarcelli



COLLEGE GRADUATES

Nan Bohannon
Amelia Deluna-Owsley
Liam Hatcher
Maria Zaldivar



Joshua Burton (August)
Kaitlyn Cuellar (August)
Jelesa Holmes (August - Master's Degree)
Dwala Thompson (August - Master's Degree)



BACCALAUREATE SERVICE
SUNDAY, MAY 31
@ 6:00PM
FUMC-C



WEEKEND VBS: G-FORCE
All about God's LOVE in ACTION
Friday, June 19 - Sunday, June 21
Kids who have completed K-5th grades

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“Sanctification by Faith”

By: Dr. Gregory S. Neal



“The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh?” (Galatians 3:2-3 NRSV)

Justification by faith in Jesus Christ is the biblical doctrine which teaches that Jesus died on the cross for our sins; when we accept this wonderful gift of forgiveness through faith we are justified and the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us. While we are still sinners, we are nevertheless considered by God to be as perfect as Jesus. For many Christians this would appear to be the “end” of the story. Many churches, and a great deal of preaching these days, is focused upon trying to “save” souls. And, while such is important, it is not the totality of the Christian message nor the “end” of God’s grace in our lives. In other words, there is more to the Christian life than just salvation.

Methodism proclaims a “method,” or “discipline,” of spiritual formation and growth through partaking of the many means of grace. Wesleyan-Arminianism (the theology of Methodism) affirms that, apart from the grace of God we can do absolutely nothing; if we are going to respond to God in faith, if we are going to live a life which is exemplified by the fruit of the spirit, if we are ever going to change and do good works, we must first receive God’s unmerited favor. This is true for salvation and, indeed, for sanctification. As Paul affirmed in his letter to the Galatians, we begin our Christian life with faith in Jesus Christ; we continue our Christian life, we grow in grace and live the life that God wants us to live, through faith in Jesus Christ. We don’t have to “cut on ourselves,” obeying external rules and regulations, in order to become a Christian, and we don’t have to do this in order to continue to be and grow as Christians. In other words, if Justification is by faith – and it is – then Sanctification is also by faith.

It is this gospel, this “good news,” that Paul proclaimed to the early Gentile Christians. He didn’t require that they add to their lives Jewish practices of circumcision, dietary regulations, clothing regulations, or other features of the Mosaic law. He recognized that the law played a role as a teacher, showing us how much we fall short of God’s standard and how much we are in need of the grace of Jesus Christ, but Paul never made keeping the law as part of what was required for one to either begin one’s life as a Christian or to grow as a Christian. The Jewish Christians who followed Paul into the mission field, and were preaching to the new Church which Paul had founded in Galatia, were “bewitching” these gentile Christian. They were telling them “you must obey the law of Moses if you’re going to be a Christian.” They viewed the Christian Church as if it were a sect, or a denomination, of Judaism. It was okay that Gentiles began their Christian lives by faith, but now they must complete their Christian conversion and be sanctified by works. Paul’s letter to the Galatians rejected this idea, and instead proclaimed our freedom from doing the works of the law for either salvation or sanctification.

“But how are sinners going to know that they need to change if they’re going to be Christians?” That’s an excellent question, but it is one that misses the whole point of the role and nature of God’s grace in Sanctification. It also reflects a failure to truly trust that God can change sinners; indeed, it reflects a deeply seated desire on our part to remake others not into the image of Christ but into the image of what we think they should be. So often we want to tell sinners what they should do and how they should change their lives when, in point of fact, if God wants a sinner to change God can and will change them. God will provide the insight, the ability, and the will for them to change ... and without us having to stick our nose opinions in the middle of it. We should be more concerned with our own Christian walks and less with the walks of others – or, to quote a certain Jewish Rabbi, we should be more concerned with the logs in our own eyes before we pretend to deal with the specks in other people’s eyes.

This is why I don’t often preach against particular sins. I preach grace and peace; I preach about faith and the means of grace as the foci of faith through which we are enabled to live the Christian life and overcome the power of sin in our lives. Even though I don’t preach against specific sins, it is amazing to witness that people will hear the Gospel and their lives are changed by God’s grace. Imagine that! I don’t beat on people, and yet God still changes them!

MISSION
of the
MONTH

The June Mission of the Month is the pastor's discretionary fund, which enables Pastor Greg to provide confidential financial support to persons in need.

The Mission of the Month for May is helping elementary school children in



Commerce by sharing our gifts of money and time. The drop-a-dollar giving totals \$289 as of May 24. All \$1 bills and designated gifts received through the end of the month will be added to this gift and divided between the Boys and Girls Club (BGC) and Communities In Schools (CIS) to support programs for this coming summer and fall at A. C. Williams Elementary School.

Follow your financial gift by acting on opportunities to get involved with these two programs. Volunteers are needed *now* to help with the BGC Summer Program from June 8 to July 31 at A.C. Williams Elementary. Commerce Club Leader, Reagan Reed, expects to welcome 110 children per day and is excited about this year's "Around the World" theme. Each week children will be introduced to a different country and its culture and customs. In addition, they will benefit from Summer Brain Gain, the BGC's curriculum to help bridge the gap of what students tend to lose over the summer. Contact Reagan at 903.818.9211 or rreed@begreatnext.org for more information.



For more information about opportunities with CIS, contact Nancy Laws, Campus Manager, at 903.456.2981 or nancy.laws@commerceisd.org.

Youth Summer Experience Dinner
Sunday, June 28

6:00 pm in the Family Ministry Center

The entire FUMC-Commerce church family is invited to an evening of thanks and celebration for our youth as they return home from Bridgeport Junior High Bible Camp and UM Army Mission Trip. Enjoy an evening of good food, fellowship and hear the stories from our Youth as they return from these "mountain top" growth and service experiences.

Cost for this meal=ZERO! The Youth are providing this meal in thanks to our church family for their love and support. Please RSVP to the church office by June 21.

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, June 15 by 9:00am****

Worship

Sunday, June 7

Sunday, June 14
Marc & Michelle's
Last Sunday

Sunday, June 21
VBS Sunday

Sunday, June 28

8:45am ~ Chapel
10:50am ~ 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

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

**Saturdays,
9:00-10:00 a.m.**

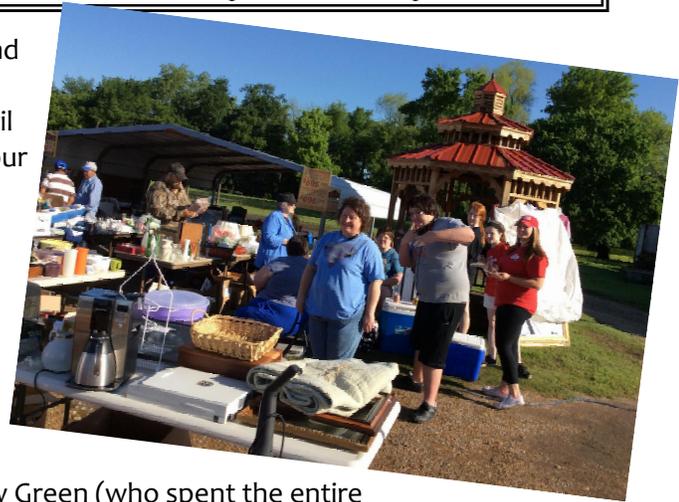
**May 30 at WCM (1504 Lee Street)
June 27 in Family Ministry Center**



Thank you so much to our hardworking Youth and those of you who donated your time and your "treasures" for the UM Army Garage Sale on April 25. Can you believe we topped \$2000 through your extraordinary efforts?! That total equals 8 full scholarships for UM Army campers and chaperones.

When you see them, please be sure to thank these wonderful people who made our success possible: David and Luann Huffman, Jim and [Susan Patton](#), [Robyn Elwell](#), [Hayley Jobe](#), Angela Roberts, Virginia and Tom Collier, John Muecke, Jerry Hutton, and Kim Scarcelli.

Also thanks to our Youth Leaders: Wes and Dian Underwood, and Ray Green (who spent the entire day lifting, moving and overseeing our young workforce).



The fundraiser was amazing in many respects, but one standout aspect was the love and effort poured out by our amazing young people: Jackson Singleton, Zane Belcher, Sammy Elwell, Mike Elwell, Connor Green, Campbell Reid, Jakob Scarcelli, Bailey Guinessey, Tara Nicholson, Max Weimar, Claire Dobbs, Forrest Dickson, Faith Dickson, Rachel Scarcelli and Rockney Reid.

We are off to Paris (Texas) June 21-27. Thank you FUMC-Commerce for our many blessings!

Melinda Reid



UMW will meet **Tuesday, June 23** at 12:00pm for a covered dish luncheon. The program will be about Children and Our Public Schools Today. Our June project is the Food Pantry, so we will collect food pantry items.

All women are invited to join us!

Save the Date



Meet, Learn, and Eat!

Connect with Melinda Watters, Zip Code Connection director for Red River County. She will update us on this North Texas Conference ministry with the poor to eradicate poverty in two zip codes: 75215 (South Dallas) and 75426 (Red River County).

Interactive Presentation & Grilled Hotdog Dinner
Sunday, August 2, at 5 p.m.
 Family Ministry Center
 Area United Methodist Churches Are Invited

www.zipcodeconnection.org

In memory of...

Carol Clark's Mother

By: Bobby & Ann Cargill

Bob Mills

By: Jerry & Sandy Hutton

Johnnie Robertson

By: The Roy Dawson Family
 Lena Faulkner
 Betty & John King

In honor of...

Dennis & Judy Anderson

By: Pat & Janet Skauge



Daily Scripture Readings:

Monday, Jun 1	1 Samuel 8:4-9
Tuesday, Jun 2	1 Samuel 8:10-20
Wednesday, Jun 3	Psalms 138
Thursday, Jun 4	Mark 3:22-30
Friday, Jun 5	Mark 3:20-21, 31-35
Saturday, Jun 6	2 Corinthians 4:13-15
Sunday, Jun 7	2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1
Monday, Jun 8	Psalms 20
Tuesday, Jun 9	1 Samuel 15:34-16:13
Wednesday, Jun 10	1 Samuel 16:8-13
Thursday, Jun 11	2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Friday, Jun 12	2 Corinthians 5:11-17
Saturday, Jun 13	Mark 4:26-34
Sunday, Jun 14	Mark 4:26-34
Monday, Jun 15	1 Samuel 17:1a
Tuesday, Jun 16	1 Samuel 17:4-11
Wednesday, Jun 17	1 Samuel 17:19-23
Thursday, Jun 18	1 Samuel 17:32-49
Friday, Jun 19	Psalms 9:9-20
Saturday, Jun 20	2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Sunday, Jun 21	Mark 4:35-41
Monday, Jun 22	2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
Tuesday, Jun 23	2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
Wednesday, Jun 24	Psalms 130
Thursday, Jun 25	2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Friday, Jun 26	2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Saturday, Jun 27	Mark 5:25-34
Sunday, Jun 28	Mark 5:21-43
Monday, Jun 29	Psalms 48
Tuesday, Jun 30	2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Attendance

	Early	5:30	Late	SS
Apr 29		12		
May 3		—	68	122
May 6		8		
May 10	41	—	88	65
May 13		11		
May 17	29	—	113	81
May 20		5		
May 24	30	—	71	50

Financial Update

General Operating Fund

	as of April 30, 2015	Year-to-Date
Income:	\$ 27,008	\$126,380
Expenses:	\$ 36,146	\$127,682
	-\$ 9,138	-\$ 1,302





Prayer Lists

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

Linda Crabb, Lewis and Faye Jackson, Sally Grove, Adele Reeves (Susan Reeves's mother), Donald Anderson (Dennis Anderson's father), Clay Yeager, Ruth Pope, Derek Humphries, Audrey Ham (Clay and Nadine Yeager's great granddaughter), Anaya Phillips (Bonnie Smith's mother), Louella McIntyre, Carol Davis, Kenny Davis, Debra Burton, Garrett Cramer, Deby Leos, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Buck Johnson, Andrea Watson, Delores Smith, Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Charles Ranley (at Webb Hill), Michelle Bone, Hugh Hanby, Wendel Underwood (Wes Underwood's father), Robert Seay

Others to Remember in Prayer...

- **Victims and Families of the area floods and weather**
- **Victims and Families of Nepal Earthquake**
- **Christians in the Middle East**

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

Briarcliff: Dorothy Ingram 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
 Mike Dempsey-Basic Training
 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



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office@fumcccommerce.org

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
 NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
 Articles for the next newsletter are due
Monday, June 15 by 9:00am

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