



## Prayer Lists

### Newly Added:

Sally Grove  
Buddy Gregg

### Continued Prayers for Church Family

Ahtrell Dalton	Pete Robinson
Gavin Rodden	Mary Beth Tuck
Buddy Gregg	Sherie Kao
Clay Yeager	Gary Kibler
Helen Dickson	Jan Vowell
Jean Ward	Robert Seay

### Continued Prayers Family & Friends

People of Japan  
Judy Greenwood  
Sally Cooper (Mary Dagenhart's mother)  
Wade Swinson (Mandy Swinson's husband)  
Cleon Flanagan, Sr.  
Fred Ohsiek  
Bill Cole (Judy Anderson's father)  
Oma Thomas (Ron Thomas' mother)  
Janet Skauge  
Peggy Aguilar (Otha Spencer's friend)  
Deborah Brown (Diane McDowell's friend)  
Kay Webber  
George O'Kelley  
Doris Sanders (Susan Bruton's friend)  
Pat McClung (Chris & Donna White's friend)  
Becca Smith (Mike Smith's mother)  
David Crenshaw  
Chance Thornton  
Sam Duckworth (Jessica Duckworth's young son)

*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.

HM1 Robert Starkey (Afghanistan)-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son  
Sgt. Jason Schmidlen (Iraq)-Jim and Debby Heitholt's son  
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  
David Wheat-Edna O'Quinn's nephew  
Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith  
Lt. 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



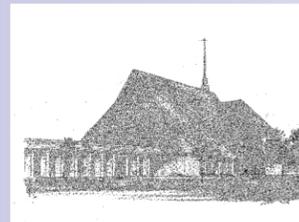
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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE  
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
Monday, April 11 by 9:00am**  
Articles for the next newsletter are due

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First United Methodist Church  
1709 Highway 50  
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Senior Pastor - Rev. Valarie Englert



# First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 9, Issue 5

March 30, 2011

## Seeking Home This Lenten Season

This Lenten season, we are traveling to Juárez, Mexico *in spirit* by dedicating the Lenten offering to Proyecto Abrigo in support of its homebuilding, medical and food ministries.

### FUMC-Commerce Participates in Proyecto Abrigo Dinner & Silent Auction

Last Saturday night, members from FUMC-Commerce heard Rev. Jose Luis Portillo share his observations on the ministry of Proyecto Abrigo and the circumstances in Juárez, Mexico at a dinner fundraiser held at Sun-creek UMC in Allen, TX.



FUMC-Commerce members reconnecting with the Cokers and Rev. Jose Luis Portillo

Jose Luis explained how increasingly difficult the situation has become in Juárez. There are daily killings. Juárez ranks as *the* poorest city in Mexico. All mission trips have been cancelled. The violence has led to a mass exodus of businesses and caused an even larger number of people without adequate shelter, medical services, and food necessities. Nonetheless, Jose Luis and his team remain resolute to follow their call to provide a spiritual home in Juárez. People are seeking pastoral care to cope with the turmoil of their home city, and growing numbers of people are coming to church.

In addition to raising awareness of Proyecto Abrigo, the purpose of the dinner was to raise money in order for Jose Luis to continue his ministries. The evening brought in **\$12,985** through dinner ticket sales, monetary gifts, and the silent auction! Commerce auction donors contributed to this success. Thanks go to the following people and businesses:



Pastor Marc joins Phil and Joe Stobaugh for group sing-along

Angela Roberts, Anna Blohm, Belan Woo Siy, Bob Stachowiak, Burke's Outlet, Cowhill Express Coffee Co., Dennis Anderson (Kartridge Korner), Gladys Gray (Bickham Florist), Izzy's Cakes and Bistro, Jan and Jeff Helton, Janet Latham, Jim Ainsworth, Judy Rudoff, Karen Powanda, Kay Jensen, Laura Milligan, Luann Huffman (Huffman Farm Supply), Mark Sartwell, Pamela Haskins, and the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Special thanks to Jan Helton and Glenda Parks who approached church members, local businesses, and area artists and authors for donated items!



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**Metanoia**

by Marc Corazao



Is this the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?  
 Is it to bow down the head like a reed, and to lie in sackcloth  
 and ashes?  
 Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?  
 Is not this the fast that I choose:  
 to loose the bonds of injustice,  
 to undo the cords of the yoke,  
 to let the oppressed go free,  
 and to break every yoke?  
 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your  
 house;  
 when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own  
 kin?  
 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up  
 quickly; your vindicator will go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear  
 guard.  
 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say,  
 "Here I am."  
 Isaiah 58:5-9

**IT'S JUST LIKE GOD** to take something that looks perfectly good and to mess it all up, you know what I mean? So, I pray and fast and read the bible and go to church all to lift me spiritually into God's presence and to receive God's grace in my life. I ask you, what's wrong with that? It's like God just doesn't know when to leave well enough alone. Isn't this the question: "How can I have a personal relationship with God?"

Then why is Isaiah bringing this message from to Israel, to us? I mean, I want to care about people, but this fasting, this religion stuff, it's about me and God, isn't it? Instead, over and over again, God keeps connecting every part of my divine relationship to the people around me.

It's like God keeps saying, "Fasting, are ya'?" How about fasting from injustice, fasting from slavery, fasting from oppression, fasting from a world full of hunger, fasting from a community of people with no home and no place to belong?"

The thing is, if I'm honest with myself, I see where this is going. I can try to go without food in the name of love for God while I exclude people from my life. I can try to read my bible and pray for grace while ignoring those who are suffering. I can try to turn my face to God while blindly, callously stepping on my brothers and sisters. But it doesn't work. It will never work.

There is no such thing as a "personal relationship with God" that doesn't include my personal relationship with God's people, God's children.

God, please hear my cry... and when others are crying for help, send me to answer the call, send me to say, "Here I am."

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](mailto: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, April 11 by 9:00am\*\***

*Worship*

April 3, 2011

**Rev. Valerie Englert**  
 will continue the  
 theme  
**Seeking Home**

**Please join us**  
**this Sunday!**

**8:45 in the Chapel**  
**10:50 in the Sanctuary**

**Committee Chairs**

**Leadership Team Chair**

Harriet Williams  
 (903) 886-2206

**Lay Leader:**

Jim Patton  
 (903) 886-2206

**Personnel Chair:**

Chester Robinson  
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**Connect Team Chair:**

Ladonna Patterson  
 (903) 886-4630

**Grow Team Chair:**

Teresa Heatherly  
 (903) 886-7070

**Serve Team Chair:**

Angela Roberts  
 (903) 886-2142

\*\*\*  
 \* My Episcopal friend, Glenda Parks, e-mailed me regarding your  
 \* church opening their doors and allowing her Episcopal congregation  
 \* to worship at your church with you and your associate leading  
 \* their Anglican service.  
 \* Thank you for this Christ-like gesture that embodies who we as  
 \* Christians are called to be and do. I am a member of FUMC  
 \* Austin, and you and your congregation make me proud to be a  
 \* Methodist.  
 \* Thank you again for being "Easter people" to my friend and her  
 \* Episcopal congregation.  
 \* Blessings, Robbie  
 \*\*\*

From a traveler who stopped by the church on Shrove Tuesday...

Would like to thank everyone for such a warm welcome yesterday and for the food and room for the night. Again thank you all.

God Bless, Jerry Miller

This is why we serve... Matthew 25:45

**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, Apr 3	John 9:26-41
Monday, Apr 4	Psalm 130
Tuesday, Apr 5	Ezekiel 37:1-10
Wednesday, Apr 6	Ezekiel 37:11-14
Thursday, Apr 7	John 11:11-14
Friday, Apr 8	Psalm 130:5-6 John 11:17-27
Saturday, Apr 9	John 11:28-45
Sunday, Apr 10	Romans 8:6-11
Monday, Apr 11	Philippians 2:5-11
Tuesday, Apr 12	Psalm 31:9-16
Wednesday, Apr 13	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Thursday, Apr 14	Isaiah 50:4-9
Friday, Apr 15	Philippians 2:5-11
Saturday, Apr 16	Matthew 27:11-54

Tiny fingers, tiny toes  
 Little itty-bitty clothes  
 Baseball, fishing—lots of joy  
 Michelle is having  
 A Baby Boy!

Please join us for a **baby shower**  
 honoring  
**Michelle and Marc Corazao**  
**Sunday, April 10**  
**2:00pm-4:00pm**  
 FUMC-C Gathering Space

Hosted by The Chancel Choir

Registered at  
 Target.com  
 Amazon.com

Thank from the bottom of my heart to all of you who lifted my name in prayer. I am here today in proof that prayers are heard and answered. The many cards help brighten my day and looked so cheerful in my room. What a great Church this is!

Thank you,  
 Ahtrell Dalton

**Attendance**

	Mar 6	Mar 13	Mar 20	Mar 27
Early	29	23	27	36
9:45	—	21	21	26
Late	151	116	121	132
Bridge	16	—	21	18
SS	87	58	78	94