



First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 11, Issue 5

May 2013

An Invitation

WOULD YOU LIKE A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN REFLECT ON THOSE THINGS THAT GIVE TRUE MEANING TO YOUR LIFE--

A PLACE THAT DOESN'T REQUIRE THAT YOU YELL OR BUY TICKETS TO GET IN NOR SUFFER PEOPLE SPILLING POP CORN IN YOUR LAP

A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR PRESENCE WITH A SMILE AND A HANDSHAKE ACCOMPANIED BY GENUINE CONCERN ABOUT YOUR WELLNESS

WITH A COMMON BELIEF THAT A FAITH JOURNEY PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS ONE TO ANOTHER AND WITH OUR GOD?

PLEASE JOIN US SUNDAY!

GENE LOCKHART
LAY LEADER

EAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE

May 19, 2013

3:00-5:00pm

Sulphur Springs FUMC Sanctuary



Reception Immediately Following Conference for

Rev. Dr. Joan LaBarr

and

Rev. Dr. Victor & Mary Brooke Casad

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Dear FUMC Friends:

This past week has been one of the most difficult in recent memory. Not only did we experience the shock and heartache of the bombings at the Boston Marathon, but we learned of a horrific explosion at a chemical plant in West, Texas, as well as the astonishing arrests of a former JP and his wife in the murders of the Kaufman County district attorney, his wife, and the assistant district attorney.

Such happenings have placed a chill on an already cool spring. We are left in the cold with our shock, our grief, and our questions.

As the news media repeatedly ran footage of the explosions near Copley Square in Boston, I was stunned to see the façade of The Old South Church in the background. I could only respond with tears: during our visit to see our daughter Eva in Boston last fall, we had slipped into that church during a downpour, and had received a warm, relaxed welcome. When I thanked the receptionist for giving us a dry place to rest, he had replied, “that’s what we’re here for!” It is difficult to reconcile a place of peace being witness to such horror.

As I checked the Old South Church’s website later in the week, I found a message of hope. The senior pastor, Rev. Nancy Taylor, confirmed that the church doors were locked because they are part of the closed-off crime scene. But, she further stated, “the Church of the Open Door is still ministering. . . Our Open Door is an important symbol of our availability and hospitality. In truth, however, it is a symbol of our ministry and not a requisite. Not even a crime scene, yellow tape and police barricades can stop us. Hope is too elemental. The Good News shouts itself above the bomb blasts. Hate will not distort us into haters. Cruelty will only redouble our mercy. “

In the chill of a world that still experiences crucifixion, her words broadcast the warmth and healing of resurrection. Nothing – absolutely nothing – can overpower the empty tomb.

I’d like to close with these wise and hopeful words from my daughter, who wrote them the day of the bombings:

May the depth of our compassion in the midst of horror and tragedy- the compassion we’ve witnessed and experienced today in Boston-become a part of our daily lives. May it be not only with those who suffer in Boston at this moment, but with those who suffer in Israel in Palestine, in Somalia, in south Sudan, in Iraq and Afghanistan, and across the country and our world. May it reach so deep and cling so hard that it transforms us. Let us not forget that the tomb is still empty. The promise of renewal and Shalom is still there.

God’s deep peace be with you –
Valarie

*Upcoming
Worship*

**Continued Theme:
Practice Makes Perfect**

May 5

1 John 4:1

*“Hearts that Grow Ears:
The Practice of Discernment”*

May 12

John 9:1-34

*“The Practice of Healing:
Living the Whole Life”*

May 19

Genesis 11:9

*“Diversity: God’s Amazing
Imagination”*

8:45am ~ Chapel

9:45am ~ Chapel

11:00am ~ Sanctuary

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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, May 20 by 9:00am****

Dinner & Silent Auction

Benefiting Proyecto Abrigo

SAVE THE DATE!!!

SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH

6-8 PM

at Suncreek United Methodist Church, Allen, TX

TICKETS \$15 AVAILABLE ON LINE

<http://proyectoabrigo.org/resources/friends-of-proyecto-abrigo/>

FOOD, ART, CRAFT ITEMS, JEWELRY, MUSIC, FELLOWSHIP, & FUN!!!

GUEST SPEAKER: REV. JOSE LUIS PORTILLO

NEED TRANSPORTATION? CALL REV. MARC CORAZAO



PROYECTO ABRIGO NEEDS YOU!!!



CRAFT, ART, JEWELRY, AND BAKED GOODS NEEDED FOR THE SILENT AUCTION TO BENEFIT PROYECTO ABRIGO.

Dinner and Auction Date: April 27th

IF YOU BAKE, SEW, PAINT, MAKE JEWELRY, ETC., PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING AN ITEM FOR THE AUCTION!!!

See Rev. Marc Corazao for details



VBS 2013

VBS is right around the corner, and we could use your help!

We expect at least 150 kids to join us for "God's Everywhere Fun Fair", and we will need snacks and drinks for each of them.... All week long!

If you are interested in contributing, please bring individually wrapped, single serving snacks or juice boxes/ pouches to the church office or to Alison's office.

Thank you for the many ways you all so faithfully support VBS and all the Children's Ministries at FUMC.



Help West, TX

Bishop McKee has been in continual contact with Bishop Lowry to see how the North Texas Conference can offer the most helpful and appropriate support to the Central Texas Conference town of West, following the catastrophic explosion there. Bishop Lowry has expressed profound gratitude for the outpouring of concern and has noted that, while there will be additional opportunities "to live out our faith-based hope through generosity of spirit, time, and resources" in the long-term recovery efforts in the weeks and months ahead, the immediate need is for financial assistance.

If you would like to contribute, make your check payable to FUMC-Commerce with City of West in the memo line. We will send all funds donated to the North Texas Conference. We will take a special offering this Sunday, April 28, to benefit West as well.

Youth Corner

F.L.Y. has been busy this past month with Sunrise Service & planning for youth/senior Sunday! It has been amazing to see how the youth have grown over the past months in their music, communication, and overall worship contributions. As we move forward, we are planning an in-depth study on "Who are Disciples: Looking at the 12 and Beyond" on Sunday evening, Wednesday night hang-outs, and continuing Sunday School studies on controversial and current issues in Christianity today. Finally, this summer the youth are planning UM Army, Youth Week, and a Junior High Mission project, all within their already crazy schedules! It has been a great spring thus far, and we look forward to this carrying into the

summer, F.L.Y. style!



Turning Your Lenten Offering into Blessings

During the Lenten season, \$1,688 was received through the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner love offering, special gifts, and drop-a-dollar. This Lenten offering will benefit the North Texas Food Bank and FUMC-C youth in mission this summer.

Half of the Lenten offering, \$844, will support the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB), which will be able to turn our donation into 2,532 meals for North Texans! Know that right here in Commerce, the Food 4 Kids backpacks that go home every Friday with food-insecure elementary school children and the bags of food that the Commerce Food Distribution and Manna Mover clients receive twice a month come from the NTFB. Many local residents also receive assistance from FISH – Hunt County Shared Ministries, a NTFB member agency.



A Member of Feeding America



The other half of the Lenten offering, \$844, will support FUMC-C youth in mission this summer. Pastor Valarie Englert and our high school students are joining the U.M. ARMY (United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth) to serve those in need. They will attend the camp at Lake Dallas and stay at Trinity UMC in Denton the week of June 23. Additional adult volunteers are needed to accompany our youth that week. Please talk to Pastor Valarie if you're interested. Also look for future ways to support our youth in mission this summer.



UMW will meet **Tuesday, May 21** at 10:00am. The program will be Living out our Purpose through Faith, Hope, and Love in Action. Our March 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!

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



Attendance

	<u>Early</u>	<u>9:45</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>
Mar 31	20	15	181	53
Apr 7	23	15	100	71
Apr 14	27	20	110	77
Apr 21	15	12	116	54



**Financial Update
General Operating Fund**

	<u>as of March 31, 2013</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$ 37,553	\$ 94,877
Expenses:	\$ 32,221	\$ 92,757
	\$ 5,332	\$ 2,120

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, May 1	John 14:25-29
Thursday, May 2	Acts 16:9-12
Friday, May 3	Acts 16:13-15
Saturday, May 4	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:4
Sunday, May 5	Revelation 22:5
Monday, May 6	Acts 16:16-34
Tuesday, May 7	Psalm 97
Wednesday, May 8	John 17:20-26
Thursday, May 9	Luke 24:44-53
Friday, May 10	Revelation 22:12-14
Saturday, May 11	Revelation 22:16-17
Sunday, May 12	Revelation 22:20-21
Monday, May 13	Acts 2:1-13
Tuesday, May 14	Acts 2:1-6, 14-21
Wednesday, May 15	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Thursday, May 16	Ezekiel 37:1-10
Friday, May 17	John 14:8-14 Acts 2:17-21
Saturday, May 18	John 14:15-17, 25-27
Sunday, May 19	Romans 8:14-17
Monday, May 20	Proverbs 8:1-4
Tuesday, May 21	Proverbs 8:22-31
Wednesday, May 22	Psalm 8
Thursday, May 23	Psalm 8
Friday, May 24	Romans 5:1-5
Saturday, May 25	Romans 5:1-5
Sunday, May 26	John 16:12-15
Monday, May 27	1 Kings 18:20-26
Tuesday, May 28	1 Kings 18:27-39
Wednesday, May 29	Psalm 96
Thursday, May 30	Psalm 96:7-9
Friday, May 31	Galatians 1:1-12



Prayer Lists

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

Boston and those affected by the violence this week
Those affected by the explosion in West, TX

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

Emerson Adams, Betty Casselberry, Pat Skauge, Becca Smith (Mike Smith's mother), Sue Taylor, Wyatt Bourcy (Bob & Sally Grove's friend's grandson), Cindy Klingbeil, Gene Casselberry, Bob Grove, James Teel, Anaya Phillips (Bonnie Smith's mother), Glenda Helton (Jeff Helton's sister-in-law), Becky Bosque (the Englerts' friend), Tiffany Peek (Jim Peek's daughter-in-law), Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Robert Seay, Amy Sallstrom Smith (Bill Heitholt's cousin), Chris Sterzik (Shelley Jackson's son-in-law), Kay Webber

Others to Remember in Prayer...

Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Ahtrell Dalton, Helen Dickson, Dorothy Ingram, Lucy Potts, and Pete Robinson
Briarcliff: Mary Culberson (Dixie Turman's mother) and Jessie Short

*"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...

2 nd Marine Division	Col. Peter Bailey
Lt. Col. Richard Bailey	Lt. Col. Keith Williams
Lt. Dan Barton	Nathan Grove
Lt. Col. Jeremy Quatacker (Korea)-Mark and Frances Sartwell's son-in-law	
Tyler Craig(Afghanistan)-Brad and Vickie Boynton's son-in-law	
Jason Timmons-seriously injured, recovering	
Ensign Terry Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son	
Chief Robert 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	
Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith	
Keith L. Boone-former Associate Pastor	
Kris Yoder-John & Rebecca Sneed's son-in-law	
Staff Sgt. Geoff Abbe & Sgt. Eric Abbe- Ladonna & Chris Patterson's cousins	
Garrett Johnson	



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

First United Methodist Church
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Senior Pastor - Rev. Valarie Englert