



First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 9, Issue 19

November 9, 2011



Jamie Moore signs up Betty Casselberry to make Soup for the Soul.

Countdown Is on for Community Thanksgiving Dinner and Meal Delivery

We're planning for 350 Thanksgiving meals to either be served in the Family Ministry Center or delivered to homebound Commerce residents on November 24. There are numerous ways to become involved in this annual tradition, even if your plans this year take you out-of-town. To sign-up, swing by the bulletin board outside the church office, call the church office, or stop by the sign-up table on Sunday.

Way to Serve	Have as of Nov. 7	Additional Needed
Soup for the Soul – Prepare 2-cup servings of your family's favorite soup, stew or chili to provide additional home-cooked meal for Meals-on-Wheels clients during the holiday weekend. Soup containers provided.	115 2-cup servings	50
Pie Baking – Bake your favorite recipe.	28 pies	17
Hosting – Join other volunteers from university groups and local churches to assist with meal preparation, serving, and clean-up Thanksgiving Day.	a few volunteers	a few more
Home Deliveries – Deliver a Thanksgiving meal and a blessing to those who are homebound.	a few volunteers	a few more
Monetary Gifts – Give a monetary donation to help cover the cost of the dinner. November drop-a-dollar will also benefit this mission.	\$245 received	\$755



Save the Date & Prepare to Shop

Everybody has one person on their Christmas gift list who's impossible to shop for. This year, instead of another tie or scarf, **visit our Hand-made Holiday Bazaar on Sunday, December 11, and give the gift that gives.** Every gift offered represents a mission supported by our congregation, and the proceeds will go directly to those organizations.

Small groups including Missions & More (M&M), Children's Sunday School, Fun Loving Youth (FLY), United Methodist Women (UMW), Sisters Too, and the Prayer Shawl Ministry are crafting the gifts. Each gift will have a tag to tell recipients you made a meaningful gift in their name. Missions include Heifer International, Imagine No Malaria, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Proyecto Abrigo, North Texas Food Bank, Communities In Schools (CIS), Commerce Boys and Girls Club, and the Prayer Shawl Ministry. In addition, items handcrafted out of olivewood will be for sale.

You don't need to spend all holiday season worrying about finding the perfect gift. You will find it December 11!



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Dear FUMC Friends:

Living in the early part of a new century gives rise to some pretty remarkable calendar events. Last October we experienced 10-10-10, and this coming Friday will be 11-11-11. The date represents an interesting bit of trivia to some, and is, no doubt, of magnificent import to those who traffic in 'grand meaning' behind numbers and dates. For many of us though, the special date draws attention to Veterans' Day.



Veteran's Day this year is especially poignant, as the reports of military fatalities and injuries continue to reach us through news stories. For some of us, such reports fall on our doorstep unexpectedly. We received word in the church office last week that the son of one of our East District clergy stepped on a land mine in Afghanistan, and is recovering from his very serious wounds at a military hospital in Germany. The only proper response we can have as a people of faith is to envelop this soldier with our prayers, praying for his healing and eventual recovery.

My dad, who passed away eleven years ago in October, served in World War II in the Pacific Theater. He was a SeaBee on Guam and Okinawa. He would answer my endless questions about what his days were like, was he afraid, what did a SeaBee do, and on and on my questions went. It doesn't require much imagination to suppose that my dad's indulgence of my questioning helped shape my love of history, and the stories of that war in particular.

My dad's brother wasn't so ready to share stories about his experiences in that same war. My Uncle James was rail thin (whereas my dad tended toward the portly), smoked cigarette after cigarette (my dad had quit years before), and deflected my questions about what WWII was like in a gentle – though definite – way. My dad told me that Uncle James had been taken prisoner during the Battle of the Bulge, and had spent the rest of the war in a German POW camp. Cigarettes were used as barter for food in the camp, and my uncle had traded away a nice pen my grandfather had given him for additional food.

The sacrifices our young men and women make on behalf of our country is inspiring and sobering. Whatever opinions one may hold on the current wartime situation have little bearing on the difficulties – mental and physical – that our military face if they make it out alive and whole. What will have bearing on those who have served is our response to them: support, engagement, accommodation, inclusion. These are the behaviors that will speak louder than words as our military adjust to life after the conflict.

There is a little-known story in I Chronicles 11 about David before he was crowned king of Israel. He was battling against the Philistines and holed up in a cave near Hebron in the South. He voiced out loud his longing for a sip of water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem, the town of his birth. Three of his commanders – the text calls them "The Three" – broke through enemy lines and went to that well. They drew water and brought it back to David. His response is one of the most beautiful in scripture. As David poured the water out as an offering to the Lord, he said: "My God forbid that I should do this. Can I drink the blood of these men? For at the risk of their lives they brought it." (I Chronicles 11.19)

Our cup is emptied in honor and recognition of those who serve, and our prayers surround them. May the day of peace come soon.

In the meantime, God's peace to you and those you love – *Valarie*

Worship

October 30, 2011

Please join us
this Sunday when
Rev. Valarie Englert
preaches on
1 Thessalonians
5:1-11
"The Light of Day"

8:45am ~ Chapel

9:45am ~ Chapel

10:50am ~ Sanctuary

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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, November 21 by 9:00am****

Seasonal Food Baskets & Clothe-A-Child Receive Donations

Your drop-a-dollar is at work in our community. The Serve team recently designated donations to two seasonal missions using drop-a-dollar funds.

\$275 to Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH. FISH will use this money to buy food from the North Texas Food Bank to fill the Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. Approximately 250 families in the Commerce area have applied for this assistance, and FUMC-C is pleased to serve again as a distribution site for the food baskets.

Want to provide additional support for this mission? Contact Angela Roberts at 903.886.2142 if you would like to help distribute Thanksgiving food baskets at the church on Saturday, November 19, from 8:30am to 11:00am.



\$500 Commerce Clothe-A-Child (CAC). CAC will use this money to purchase clothing and shoes at Wal-Mart for 10 Commerce ISD children in early December. Teachers, counselors, and social service agencies refer students in need.

Want to provide additional support for this mission? Contact Belinda Miller, Commerce Elementary School counselor and Clothe-A-Child Commerce chair, at 903.886.3757 if you would like to help with the shopping morning on Wednesday, December 7. As a volunteer, you arrive at 5:30am at the Commerce Wal-Mart. You are then paired with a family and assist them in selecting clothing items.

As a reminder, the dollar bills you drop in the offering plate Sunday mornings and the checks you write with “drop-a-dollar” in the memo line fund the Serve activities and the missions this congregation supports. The dollars received in November will help cover the cost of the Community Thanksgiving Dinner.



Older elementary folks ringing bells with Amanda Brown

Children's Music

It's not too late to join up on Monday afternoons! Contact Michelle Corazao to register: michelle@fumccommerce.org or (903) 886-2684.



Younger elementary children playing 'Here Comes a Bluebird' during children's choir.

Daily Scripture Readings:

Sunday, Nov 13	Matthew 25:14-30
Monday, Nov 14	Ephesians 1:15-19
Tuesday, Nov 15	Psalms 100
Wednesday, Nov 16	Ezekiel 34:11-16
Thursday, Nov 17	Matthew 25:31-46
Friday, Nov 18	Psalms 100
Saturday, Nov 19	Ezekiel 34:20-24
Sunday, Nov 20	Ephesians 1:20-23
Monday, Nov 21	Psalms 80:1-7
Tuesday, Nov 22	Mark 13:24-37
Wednesday, Nov 23	Isaiah 64:1-9
Thursday, Nov 24	Psalms 65
Friday, Nov 25	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19
Saturday, Nov 26	Mark 13:24-37

Attendance

	Oct. 30	Nov. 6
Early	28	39
9:45	11	11
Late	119	117
SS	72	77



Financial Update: General Operating Fund

	as of October 31, 2011	Year-to-Date
Income:	\$ 32,832	\$328,207
Expenses:	\$ 36,004	\$329,925
	-\$ 3,172	-\$1,718
Fund Balance:	-\$21,079 (includes deficit from 2010)	





Prayer Lists

Newly Added

Joy for the birth of Easton to Thomas & Courtney Bishop Kulcak!
(Kenny & Susan Bishop's grandson)
Joy for the engagement of Jenn Anderson & Jacob Hunter! (Dennis & Judy Anderson's daughter)

Continued Prayers for Church Family

Susan Naizer Judy Rudoff
Marilyn Morris Julie Wadlow
Andy Martin Otha Spencer
Jan Vowell Gary Kibler
Robert Seay

Continued Prayers Family & Friends

Amy Cryon (Williams' family friend)
Rick Navarro (TAMU-C student hit by car)
Ford Family
Rose Ohsiek (Debby Heitholt's mother)
Clark Mulkey (Jim & Susan Patton's bother-in-law)
Louelle McIntyre
Don Reid (Mark Reid's father)
Sondra Feduccia
Norma Howser (Sarah Northam's grandmother)
Ray Sandifer (Janet Latham's father)
Kay Webber
Judy Greenwood
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)
George O'Kelley
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 (Afghanistan)-seriously injured
2nd Marine Division in Afghanistan
Chief 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
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**
Articles for the next newsletter are due
Monday, November 21 by 9:00am

Place Label Here

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Senior Pastor - Rev. Valarie Englert