

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 9, Issue 18

October 26, 2011



M&M

For the last few weeks at M&M, we have been examining the very real issue of hunger – particularly right here in Commerce. We have also learned about some of the ways that many individuals and groups in our community are working to reach out and share with our friends and neighbors – and ways WE can help too!

Two weeks ago, the kids made “Breakfast-In-A-Bag” kits. The kits contained all the necessary ingredients for an instant, tasty, and healthy break-

fast of oatmeal and raisins – just add hot water, stir, and enjoy!! The kits were sent home in the snack back packs that are distributed weekly to boys and girls at Commerce Elementary School, whose families struggle with food security.

We also read the book Stone Soup. This is a wonderful story about clever travelers who teach a town how to make a delicious soup with one magical ingredient: SHARING. Then, this week, all of the kids shared one ingredient from their homes and together WE made our own Stone Soup...enough to feed 45 Meals on Wheels meal recipients! The kids chopped, diced, measured, poured, and stirred and the soup turned out PERFECT! It smelled wonderful while it was cooking and I'm sure it was thoroughly enjoyed by all of those who ate it this past Thursday! :)



United Methodist Women

“All Things Made New” is the North Texas Conference United Methodist Women’s 2012 theme. “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

FUMC Commerce has a very active United Methodist Women organization which was one of the first originally organized as a Missionary Society in 1869. The fact that it is still in existence and is part of a total United States membership of over 800,000 speaks for itself. UMW is involved in everything from the local food banks, schools, nursing homes to mobilizing funds to support programs that help women, children and youth. Commerce UMW members recently attended East District’s Annual UMW Conference at Wesley-Greenville. The Reporter featured an article about the meeting where Commerce received a 5 Star award for 5 channels of mission giving, a Charter Club award for studying and complying with racial justice policies and a Mission Today Commended award for excelling in fulfilling mission criteria.

Commerce UMW meets year round with our regular meetings at 10:00 a.m., the 3rd Tuesday of the month. We welcome visitors at any time. Please contact our church office for more information. We hope to see you soon!

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Dear FUMC Friends:

Let me begin with a confession: I hate to pray in public. But as the only clergy person present in many meetings, it often falls to me to begin or end a meeting in prayer, so I offer some prayerful words, hoping I'm not repeating myself *ad nauseum*, droning on like so many preachers and deacons I heard in my childhood. My hunch is that I'm not alone in this. Praying in public ranks right up there with speaking in public for many – a fear that ranks somewhere in the top five fears the American public share.



Entering the ministry, however, brought me face to face with my hesitance about praying in public – and I had to get over it fast! I found great help – and an authentic prayer voice – in a little book my mom suggested to me. It's titled *Singer of Seasons*, authored by Beverly Sawyer, a pastor who served in Arkansas. I flipped open her book the other day, and found myself moved once again by her ability to gather together the heart-voices of those in her congregation into one beautiful prayer. I'd like to share one of her autumn prayers with you (written around 1980). May you find your heart-voice in it as well.

It's finally autumn, God, the heat is finally over,
and all that remains of summer afternoons
are the closing games between the Phillies and the Royals.

We breathe a sigh of relief each time we open the door
upon the chilly air, for of all the hot Augusts and dry Julys,
these were the worst that many can remember.

We breathe a sigh of relief as we switch the hall thermostat
from "A.C." to "Heat" and hope that the coming winter is mild
and the bills moderate.

We breathe a sigh of relief, for the change in the weather is welcomed,
the thunder and the rains, the winds that carry the brown leaves
across the yard and tease the green leaves still on the trees,
are all welcomed signs of change yet to come.

We usually don't welcome change God, we usually argue and hesitate and balk.

We sigh – but not with relief when we look in the mirror to find
that passing years have left their marks
in the gray of the hair and the lines [around] the eyes.

We usually don't welcome change –
for the cutting down of the tree that held our childhood playhouse,
or a construction detour on our customary route to work,
or a different order in the Sunday worship,
or a different hair style becoming vogue, reminding us that things
seldom remain the same way long, reminding us that life is changeful,
and that our youth, our health, our security, our happiness, our relationships
are not static and never stand still.

Help us, O God, as we listen for the distant honk of autumn geese
to turn our faces toward the unknown days of winter,
to release the joys and griefs of the past so that our hands and hearts will be free
to embrace our coming lives.

It's autumn, God. Amen.

God's peace be with you – *Valarie*

Worship

October 30, 2011

Please join us
this Reformation
Sunday when
Rev. Valarie Englert
preaches on
Psalm 107:1-16,39-43

8:45am ~ Chapel
9:45am ~ Chapel
10:50am ~ Sanctuary

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Lay Leader:

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Personnel Chair:

Chester Robinson
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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 7 by 9:00am****

THANKSGIVING SEASON IS UPON US! SERVE OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND!



Make plans now to help bring hope to our neighbors in need this Thanksgiving season through two community events happening at FUMC-C in November.

Thanksgiving Food Basket Distribution on November 19

We will again serve as a distribution site for the Thanksgiving food baskets provided by the Hunt County Coalition of Pantries. In 2010, 190 Commerce-area families received all the foodstuffs, including a frozen turkey, to prepare a large holiday meal. Many recipients also returned to join us for dinner Thanksgiving Day!

Ways to Get Involved:

- *Thanksgiving basket packing* – From 5:30 to 7:00 pm on November 15, 16, and 17, help sack non-perishables at Hunt County Shared Ministries (FISH) in Greenville.
- *Non-perishable food unloading* – On the evening of Thursday, November 17, help unload basket provisions at the church.
- *Distribution* – On the morning of Saturday, November 19, perform final assembly of baskets and distribute to families at the church.
- *Monetary Gifts* – Give a monetary donation to help cover the cost of the food, which is either donated or purchased from the North Texas Food Bank. FISH estimates the cost per food basket at \$7.31.



Community Thanksgiving Dinner and Meal Delivery on November 24



Last year more than 200 people came through our doors to find a place at the table and more than 100 meals were delivered to homebound Commerce residents. This year, we are planning in excess of 300 meals.

Ways to Get Involved:

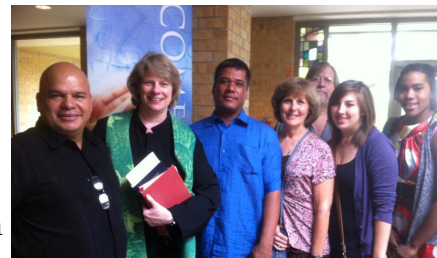
- *Soup for the Soul* – Make a pot of your family's favorite soup, stew or chili to provide additional home-cooked meal for Meals-on-Wheels clients during the holiday weekend.
- *Pie Baking*
- *Hosting* – Assist with meal preparation, serving, and clean-up Thanksgiving Day.
- *Home Deliveries* – Deliver a Thanksgiving meal and a blessing to those who are homebound.
- *Monetary Gifts* – Give a monetary donation to help cover the cost of the dinner. Expenses for the 2010 dinner totaled \$973.82.



**** Sign-up tables will be available during the Sunday School hour and prior to worship November 6 and 13. You may also contact the church office. ****

Rev. Jose Luis Visits FUMC-Commerce

Rev. Jose Luis Portillo and head maestro Martin Lechuga of Proyecto Abrigo in Juarez, Mexico visited FUMC-Commerce during the 10:50 worship service on October 23. In his message, Jose Luis updated the congregation about his work to build cinder block homes for the people of Loma Blanca, a poverty-stricken area just outside Juarez. Before the 12' X 24' concrete cinder block home is built, the recipient family quite often is living in a cardboard and trash bag "house" fortified by any other scraps such as tire remnants or wooden pallets that can be found in the Chihuahuan desert. In the 15 years that the mission project has been operating, Jose Luis and teams from the US have built homes for over 5,000 families.



Because the violence in Mexico is so rampant, teams no longer travel to Juarez to build homes. In spite of the incredible odds, Jose Luis is still serving the people of Juarez by trying to sustain the medical clinic that sees as many as 40 patients daily and by trying to provide food staples and supplies for the many families in need. In addition, supplies are always needed for the mission's school, its community training center, and for future home building projects that might be accomplished with enough monetary contributions. Two homes have been built this year with funds from two other churches.

Items the congregation has collected thus far for the mission will accompany Jose Luis on his return trip; however, we have temporarily suspended further collections (with the exception of prescription bottles) due to the extreme difficulty and expense in shipping them to Mexico. At this time, the best way to impact the work of Jose Luis and that of Proyecto Abrigo is to make a designated monetary contribution. You can make a regular contribution by adding the designation in the memo line of your usual offering checks, or you can make a special offering designated for Proyecto Abrigo.



Rev. Valarie Englert presented a monetary gift in the amount of \$300 to Rev. Jose Luis for Proyecto Abrigo. The funding came from the proceeds from your aluminum can recycling (keep those cans coming in!), some of the drop-a-dollar giving, and from some funds budgeted from the Serve Team.

Ricky Dobbs offered a blessing upon Jose Luis and Martin and their work at Proyecto Abrigo during the prayer time. Members of the Serve Team and others were invited to stand with Jose Luis and Martin who knelt at the Communion rail for this special benediction.

Following the service, a small group of congregants treated Jose Luis and Martin to lunch at a local restaurant.

Usher Stew Brought in \$900 to Feed the Hungry

For a second year in a row, the stew luncheon raised \$900 to support food assistance programs. The proceeds were shared amongst the Emergency Food Pantry at the First Presbyterian Church of Commerce, Meals on Wheels of Commerce, the Commerce Food Distribution & Manna Movers at Word of Life Family Church, and FISH – Hunt County Shared Ministries of Greenville.

Members from other local churches, including Church of the Nazarene, First Presbyterian, Griffith Chapel, Healing Waters, and Word of Life, joined us around the table to support this common cause. In addition, many members of the University Chorus stayed after their participation in the 10:50 am worship service to enjoy a bowl of stew and fellowship.



Special thanks to Bob Mills and Jim Latham for preparing the hearty chicken and beef stews, to Joe Milligan for cooking Dutch oven cobblers over hot briquettes, to Laura Milligan and Anne Mills for managing the dining area, and to all the volunteers who made cornbread and desserts and helped serve and clean-up.



COMMERCE CARES

RECYCLE

Beginning Saturday,
November 5th
9:00am to 1:00pm
City Sewer Plant
FM 3218 or Bus Barn Rd.

The average American produces over 1,400

pounds of trash per year. Landfill space is shrinking, The cost of traditional solid waste management is rising. Recycling is our community's commitment to environmental stewardship.

A recycling program offers several economic benefits:

- Reduce solid waste collection, transportation, and disposal costs
- Generate revenues from the sale of recyclable materials
- Creates jobs

Recycling helps to preserve environmental quality by saving landfill space, preserves resources, conserves energy, reduces air pollution and saves water.

What Can be Recycled:

Plastic– Please remove all caps

Numbers 1,2,3,4,5 & 7. Milk jugs, liter bottles, shampoo bottles etc. Please rinse.

**No butter tubs or containers with openings as large as the container.

**No bottles that have contained oil or petroleum by products.

Glass-All colors of glass bottles. No plate glass, mirrors, or ceramic. Please rinse.

Metal- All metal food and beverage cans, remove lids, discard, and rinse. No aluminum foil.

Newspaper, catalogs, and magazines- Newspapers, catalogs and magazines can be recycled. Do not bundle or place in bags.

Junk Mail, cardboard and mixed household paper-Junk mail, envelopes, cereal boxes, cardboard, chipboard and any other household paper product. No tissues, wet paper or paper contaminated with food products accepted. All cardboard must be broken down to as much as possible. Only flattened boxes accepted.



OPERATION GRATITUDE



Your FUMC-C Prayer Shawl Ministry is now participating in Operation Gratitude, a non-profit organization which annually sends thousands of care packages to our troops. Our knitted/crocheted scarves will be included in Christmas packages being sent to Afghanistan. To date we have completed approximately 75 scarves. We are blessed to be able to add this project to our ministry.

Daily Scripture Readings:

Sunday, Oct 30	Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Monday, Oct 31	Matthew 25:1-13
Tuesday, Nov 1	Matthew 5:1-3
Wednesday, Nov 2	Matthew 5:4-6
Thursday, Nov 3	Matthew 5:7
Friday, Nov 4	Matthew 5:8-12
Saturday, Nov 5	1 John 3:1-3
Sunday, Nov 6	Revelation 7:9-17
Monday, Nov 7	Judges 4:1-7
Tuesday, Nov 8	Judges 4:1-7
Wednesday, Nov 9	Psalm 123
Thursday, Nov 10	Psalm 123
Friday, Nov 11	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Saturday, Nov 12	Matthew 25:14-30

Attendance

	<u>Oct. 16</u>	<u>Oct. 23</u>
Early	19	20
9:45	10	9
Late	229	100
SS	80	61





Prayer Lists

Newly Added

Judy Rudoff
 Louelle McIntyre
 Susan Naizer
 Rose Ohsiek (Debby Heitholt's mother)
 Clark Mulkey (Jim & Susan Patton's bother-in-law)

Continued Prayers for Church Family

Marilyn Morris	Julie Wadlow
Andy Martin	Lucille Pemberton
Otha Spencer	Jan Vowell
Clay Yeager	Helen Dickson
Pete Robinson	Gary Kibler
Robert Seay	

Continued Prayers Family & Friends

Sondra Feduccia	Kay Webber
Judy Greenwood	Dorothy Ingram
Edna Cannon	Freida Teel
Chance Thornton	David Crenshaw
George O'Kelley	
Don Reid (Mark Reid's father)	
Norma Howser (Sarah Northam's grandmother)	
Ray Sandifer (Janet Latham's father)	
Jennifer Stream (Chris and Dona White's daughter)	
Nell Hughes (Zelda Fisher's niece)	
Mary Sue Walker (Helen Rowe's sister)	
Laura Cole (Helen Cole's daughter-in-law & Judy Anderson's sister-in-law)	
William Durand (Eileen Faulkenberry's father)	
Deborah Brown (Diane McDowell's friend)	
Doris Sanders (Susan Bruton's friend)	
Becca Smith (Mike Smith's mother)	
Pat McClung (Chris & Donna White's friend)	

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 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 7 by 9:00am

Place Label Here

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