

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 9, Issue 15

September 14, 2011

Help the Kids that Need You Most



Learn about the exciting new afterschool Program at A.C. Williams Elementary & volunteer opportunities with Commerce students!

Matt Wolcott, Area Team Manager, Communities In Schools (CIS), will lead the discussion featuring special guests



Linda Grubert
Learner Support Teacher
A.C. Williams Elementary



Jenny Smith
Chief Professional Officer
Boys and Girls Club of NE Texas

Sunday, September 18 • 9:45 am to 10:30 am

Family Ministry Center

Questions?

Matt Wolcott • 903.217.6026

All dollar bills and checks with "drop-a-dollar" in the memo line received September 18 will benefit the Commerce Boys and Girls Club

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Dear FUMC Friends:

“A man walks into a bar and says ‘Ow!’”

Yes, this is a goofy one-liner (one that always makes me chuckle), but it also could be the beginning of an entertaining story – or a revealing story, or a poignant story.

In worship, we have been looking at Jesus’ Kingdom parables in Matthew’s gospel. In so doing, I am reminded once again just how important telling stories is to the practice of our faith. Jesus used specific types of stories – parables – to try to describe what God’s Kingdom is like. Scenes from everyday life in ancient Palestine populate his stories: harvests, fishing, kneading bread, the buying and selling of goods at market. Such story-telling is embroidered into the very fabric of our scripture and tradition.

But it seems that many of us have forgotten how to tell stories – particularly the stories of how God becomes visible around us. Many of us have trained ourselves to the discipline of the one-page memo – in bullet points, if you please.

This came home to me over the past year as we have embarked on the “Connecting Conversations” district project with other UM churches with whom we have been clustered – Cooper, Charleston, and Wolfe City. Clergy and lay representatives from these congregations meet quarterly to share stories about the work God is doing in our communities. Every time we gather, we have to shift our thinking from *reporting* to one of *story-telling*.

The difference between reporting and story-telling is this: a report will deliver information about what a congregation did last week, or last month, or last summer. A story can start like this: “a woman came into our food pantry last week, and I noticed that she had a sling on her arm. . .” Reports are lists – stories have a beginning, a middle, and an end, and have people at the center.

Reports are valuable, especially when assessing activity and achievements. But stories move beyond achievement. Stories recount experience, summon emotion, and develop vision. Stories can attune us to the movements of the Spirit in ways that little else can. Put another way, stories develop our Kingdom-vision in ways that nothing else can.

When we train ourselves to see what God is doing among us, and then tell the story of that experience, we become even more attuned to God’s work. Telling stories improves our kingdom-vision and makes us better at telling God’s story.

As one hymn writer so eloquently put it:

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know ‘tis true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.*

So – satisfy your longing to tell the Story – even if you have to start with a one-liner!
I’m all ears --

God’s peace to you –
Valarie



Worship

September 18, 2011

*Please join us
this Sunday when
Rev. Valarie Englert
preaches on
Matthew 14:13-21
“Dreams of the
Kingdom”*

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

Committee Chairs

Leadership Team Chair

Harriet Williams
(903) 886-2206

Lay Leader:

Jim Patton
(903) 886-2206

Personnel Chair:

Chester Robinson
(903) 886-8220

Property Chair:

Bob Mills
(903) 886-6792

Stewardship Team Chair:

Hal Langford
(903) 886-8334

Foundation Chair:

Dan Shepherd
(903) 886-6883

Connect Team Chair:

Ladonna Patterson
(903) 886-4630

Grow Team Chair:

Teresa Heatherly
(903) 886-7070

Serve Team Chair:

Angela Roberts
(903) 886-2142

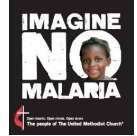
The First United Methodist Newsletter is the official publication of FUMC Commerce. The newsletter is published on alternate Wednesdays. Inputs may be submitted to the Church office to Bonnie Smith, Communications Specialist, at communications@fumccommerce.org, or call the office at 903-886-3220. All 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, September 26 by 9:00am****

Get Your FREE Ticket

Connections Band Live at the Greenville Municipal Auditorium
Music of Chicago and The Eagles

Saturday, October 8 @ 6:30 pm



Tickets available on bulletin board outside church office
Donations Support the Imagine No Malaria Effort
www.connectionsband.net



Yam Gleaning Cancelled

Due to severe drought conditions, the annual October yam gleaning event will not be held this year. East Texas farmers are expecting a poor harvest this season and will be keeping all that can be harvested. We will try again next year.



Yam Gleaning

CIS Volunteer Training

@ 6:30pm

Thursday, Sept. 22

in the A.C. Williams library



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, Sep 18	Matthew 20:9-16
Monday, Sep 19	Exodus 17:1-7
Tuesday, Sep 20	Exodus 17:1-7
Wednesday, Sep 21	Psalms 78:1-4
Thursday, Sep 22	Psalms 78:12-16
Friday, Sep 23	Philippians 2:1-13
Saturday, Sep 24	Philippians 2:1-13
Sunday, Sep 25	Matthew 21:23-32
Monday, Sep 26	Matthew 21:33-46
Tuesday, Sep 27	Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20
Wednesday, Sep 28	Exodus 20:12-20
Thursday, Sep 29	Psalms 19:1-6
Friday, Sep 30	Psalms 19:7-14
Saturday, Oct 1	Philippians 3:4b-14

In memory of...

Helen Crook

By: Bob & Anne Mills
Donna & Jim Tavener
Harriet & Wyman Williams

Marie Binford

By: Joe & Laura Milligan

Ben Herman

By: Lena Faulkener

Grace Swindell

By: Donna & Jim Tavener

Wendy Smalley

By: Lena Faulkener

Bill Cole

By: Joe & Laura Milligan



	Attendance	
	Sept. 4	Sept. 11
Early	31	33
9:45	9	12
Late	110	163
SS	71	77





Prayer Lists

Newly Added

Jennifer (Bone) Huie

Continued Prayers for Church Family

Edna O'Quinn	Otha Spencer
John Sneed	Jan Vowell
Clay Yeager	Helen Dickson
Pete Robinson	Gary Kibler
Robert Seay	

Continued Prayers Family & Friends

Dorothy Ingram
 Rosie Mobley
 Sara Slimp
 Nell Hughes (Zelda Fisher's niece)
 John Burkett
 Edna Cannon
 Mary Sue Walker (Helen Rowe's sister)
 Freda Teel
 Laura Cole (Helen Cole's daughter-in-law & Judy Anderson's sister-in-law)
 Jennifer Stream-upcoming surgery (Chris & Donna White's daughter)
 Kay Webber
 William Durand (Eileen Faulkenberry's father)
 George O'Kelley
 Deborah Brown (Diane McDowell's friend)
 Doris Sanders (Susan Bruton's friend)
 Becca Smith (Mike Smith's mother)
 David Crenshaw
 Pat McClung (Chris & Donna White's friend)
 Chance Thornton

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
 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



Phone: 903-886-3220
 Fax: 903-886-3240
www.fumccommerce.org
office@fumccommerce.org

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
 NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
 Articles for the next newsletter are due
 Monday, September 26 by 9:00am**

Place Label Here

First United Methodist Church
 1709 Highway 50
 Commerce, TX 75428
 Senior Pastor - Rev. Valarie Englert