

# First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 9, Issue 16

September 28 2011

## Help Keep Meals on Wheels in Motion

Join us for the annual silent auction and country store benefiting Commerce Meals on Wheels – People and Services United.

- Doors open at 6:00 pm on Monday, **October 3**, at the Sam Rayburn Student Center meeting room on the second floor (ballroom).
- Bidding ends at 7:30 pm.
- Admission is \$5, which includes refreshments.

### Did you know...



Ruby Vander Velde delivers a casserole to Meals on Wheels, which operates out of the Linda Muller Community Center.

- Meals on Wheels volunteers deliver hot meals 3 times a week to approximately 50 homebound Commerce residents.
- This silent auction is the *primary* fundraiser for Meals on Wheels.
- FUMC members serve on its board, handcraft items for the auction, make casseroles through Shelly's Casseroles for Christ, and bake cakes for desserts.
- You can volunteer as a substitute driver or sign up to prepare food by contacting Luann Huffman at 903-886-3368.



Meals On Wheels board members showcasing a selection of auction items.



## One Service Sunday, October 9

We will have *ONE* Worship Service beginning at 10:50am in the sanctuary.  
Join us for this Celebration/Commitment Sunday!

**Potluck Brunch proceeding at  
9:00am-10:30am**  
in the Family Ministry Center  
Bring the recipe for your potluck item to share with others.



## Save the Date – Sunday, October 16

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ushers' Stew**  
Benefiting Local Food Assistance Programs

Enjoy homemade beef and chicken stew with family-recipe cornbread and desserts

Fellowship with members of Alliance of Ministry churches

Sunday, October 16 • after 10:50am service  
Family Ministry Center

**Sunday, October 16:**  
TAMU-C Chorale will sing at the 10:50am service

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Dear FUMC Friends:

Here's a story for you:

A few years back, I was serving a congregation as an associate pastor. The congregation had a strong legacy as an active, vibrant church, but had found its numbers dwindling with the passing of time and a changing neighborhood. Many of the members were of retirement age, and I spent a lot of time doing visits – visits to hospitals, assisted living centers, homes of members who were no longer able to attend worship regularly.



There was a couple who was always a joy to visit – I'll call them Minnie and Johnny. They were in their early 90s, still living in the home where they had raised their children. Both of them lived with various medical problems, but they always greeted me warmly when I would visit. Their graciousness and hospitality were like slipping into a zone of comfort and peace.

Minnie and Johnny would tell me stories of what the congregation had been like in their 50-plus years of being members at this church. I learned about some of the colorful characters that had populated the pews over the years. I heard about the pastors who had served the church over the decades – some visionary, some nurturing, a couple of them remote and reserved.

One weekday morning I arrived at the church office to learn that Johnny had been hospitalized and was declining rapidly. I drove to the hospital, hoping I might be able to speak and pray with him, but he was unresponsive. He died the next day.

The day after Johnny's death, Minnie was taken to the hospital. As her children were planning his funeral at the funeral home, I went to the hospital to check on Minnie. As I entered the room, I noticed she was sitting up in a chair with obvious difficulty, her breathing rapid and shallow. Minnie was a small woman with stooped shoulders – the chair seemed far too large for her. As I came closer to her chair to clasp her hand, she insisted on raising herself up onto her walker to greet me. She struggled to lift her head to look me in the eye, but her stooped shoulders and fatigue would not allow her head to fully lift. I knelt down so I could look her in the eyes.

At that moment, a story from Luke's gospel flickered back into my memory: "And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight." (Luke 13.11) Minnie became that gospel story for me in that moment. In just a matter of seconds, the gospel and Jesus' healing became real for me in the course of my day-to-day duties. *Minnie was that bent-over woman, awaiting Jesus' touch.* As we said a brief prayer together, I hoped that God could somehow use my presence to bring Minnie comfort and peace.

On the day of her husband's funeral, Minnie herself passed into the arms of God. I do not know if I brought any comfort to her in her last days, but I know that she made the gospel *real* for me in *real time*. In many profound ways, Minnie taught me to tell the story "of Jesus and his love."

May we all see and tell God's story --  
*Valarie*

## Worship

October 2, 2011

Please join us  
this Sunday when  
Rev. Valarie Englert  
preaches on  
Matthew 15:21-28  
"Kingdom  
Economics"

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](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, October 10 by 9:00am\*\***

**Free Concert**

**A LIVE  
TRIBUTE TO THE  
MUSIC**



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8**

**Municipal Auditorium in Downtown Greenville**

**2821 Washington Street**

**6:30pm**

**Free Tickets Available at Church Office**

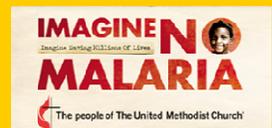
**Presented By  
The Connections Band**



Connections is an all-volunteer band made up of United Methodist clergy from the greater Dallas area. They perform “tribute” shows of the artists they love while raising funds and awareness for United Methodist missions that help alleviate human suffering. The band will play two sets featuring the music of Chicago and The Eagles including such hits as *Hotel California*, *Take It Easy*, *Desperado*, *Peaceful Easy Feeling*, *Saturday in the Park*, *Color My World*, *Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is* and *Beginnings*.

This performance is a benefit concert. Donations will be accepted for Imagine No Malaria. In the past six years, Connections has raised donations in the North Texas area totaling more than \$170,000 for Imagine No Malaria and other causes. FUMC-C will bring all drop-a-dollar funds collected next Sunday, October 2, to the concert.

Malaria is a parasite transmitted to humans through the bite of a female anopheles mosquito, which feeds at night. Currently, a child dies every 45 seconds of malaria. Just a short time ago, it was every 30 seconds. Through the efforts of organizations like Imagine No Malaria, the number of deaths per year has dropped from one million to 800 thousand. While malaria has largely been eradicated in the U.S., 350-500 million people are still infected each year, mostly in Africa. Learn more at [www.imagenomalaria.org](http://www.imagenomalaria.org).



# M&M Update

We made blankets for an organization called Project Linus. Project Linus (named for the Peanuts character known for his ever-present security blanket) seeks to provide warmth, love and security to children who have had a traumatic life experience or serious illness/hospitalization by giving



gift of hand-made cozy, warm blankets. Our 40 M&M-ers made 9 blankets in all and shared stories of their own security items (blankets, bears, dolls, etc.) They really seemed to understand how a blanket can provide comfort to someone who feels sad, scared, alone, or ill; and were ALL so enthusiastic about the project! They did a great job!



## TAMU-C Homestay Program for International Students

Friendly, Supportive Families Involved in Our Community



The English Language Institute (ELI) is seeking families in our community to participate in the Homestay Program.

Consider hosting a student, if you:

- Attend community activities,
- Are a member of a local organization,
- Are interested in other cultures,
- Want to make a difference in a student's life.



Questions? Interested? Contact:

English Language Institute  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
2600 South Neal Street, Commerce, TX 75428  
903-886-5273 or on the web at [www.tamu-commerce.edu/eli](http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/eli)





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, chip-board 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.

**Materials NOT accepted:** Batteries of any kind, bubble wrap, ceramics, chemicals, diapers, food soiled boxes like pizza boxes, hardback books, household hazardous waste and toxic containers, kitchen waste, motor oil bottles, oil, paint, plastic bags, plastic takeout containers and utensils, Styrofoam, tires, trash, waxed cartons, window glass, yard waste.

**For your calendar:** Recycle Saturdays, first Saturday of each month unless it falls on a holiday then it will be the Saturday following the holiday.\*

- November 5th
- December 3rd
- January 7th
- February 4th
- March 3rd

**Commerce businesses, institutions, and organizations may recycle from 1:00pm to 4:00pm on Mondays or other weekdays by appointment.**

**Contact:**

<http://commercetx.org>  
 Keep Commerce Beautiful  
 903-886-6792 or 903 886-6710

**Sponsoring Partners:**

City of Commerce, Keep Commerce Beautiful, and City Sanitation Company



**Daily Scripture Readings:**

Sunday, Oct 2	Matthew 21:33-46
Monday, Oct 3	Exodus 32:1-6
Tuesday, Oct 4	Exodus 32:1-14
Wednesday, Oct 5	Psalms 106:1-6
Thursday, Oct 6	Psalms 106:19-23
Friday, Oct 7	Philippians 4:1-3
Saturday, Oct 8	Philippians 4:4-9
Sunday, Oct 9	Matthew 22:1-14
Monday, Oct 10	Luke 17:11-19
Tuesday, Oct 11	Exodus 33:12-17
Wednesday, Oct 12	Exodus 33:18-23
Thursday, Oct 13	Psalms 99
Friday, Oct 14	1 Thessalonians 1:1-3
Saturday, Oct 15	Matthew 22:15-22

**Attendance**

	Sept. 18	Sept. 25
Early	44	28
9:45	9	19
Late	149	142
SS	85	79





# Prayer Lists

### Newly Added

Family of Nell Donovan  
Kay Webber

### Continued Prayers for Church Family

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

### Continued Prayers Family & Friends

Jennifer Stream (Chris and Dona White's daughter)  
 Judy Greenwood  
 Dorothy Ingram  
 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)  
 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.

2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
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[office@fumccommerce.org](mailto:office@fumccommerce.org)

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE  
 NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
 Articles for the next newsletter are due  
 Monday, October 10 by 9:00am**

Place Label Here

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