



## Prayer Lists

### Newly Added:

Joy in the birth of Elena Edele,  
Tom & Eileen Faulkenberry's new baby girl

### Continued Prayers for Church Family

Jo Parker	Mark Sullivan
Edwina Threlkeld	Donna Cottle
Jeff Helton	Clay Yeager
Bill Terrell	Jean Ward
Robert Seay	Gary Kibler

### Continued Prayers Family & Friends

Renea Shook  
Pat McClung (Chris & Donna White's friend)  
Deidre Hildebrand  
Gary Little  
Ron LaFerney (Diane McDowell's brother)  
Cindy Long  
David Crenshaw  
Kathryn Scott  
Fred Klaus  
Becca Smith (Mike Smith's mother)  
Bill Cole (Judy Anderson's father)  
George O'Kelley- hospice care  
Jan Hawkins (Kent Holbert's sister)  
Gwen Dean (Jim Brown's sister)  
Sam Duckworth (Jessica Duckworth's young son)  
Chance Thornton  
Johnny Davis (Sue Davis' son)  
Jane Otani (Sue Porter's friend)  
Whitney Bramitt (Danny Shepherd's daughter)

*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.

Our Troops and their families  
Paden Marlin-Mary Means' grandson  
Jim Hunsicker (Afghanistan)-Carolyn Miller's brother  
Matt Skelton (Germany)-Mariann and Mack Andrews' nephew  
Robert Starkey (Haiti)-Wanda Beane'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  
Brian Richards-nephew of Judy Rudoff  
Keith L. Boone-former Associate Pastor  
Terry & Robert Starkey-brothers of Wanda Beane  
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

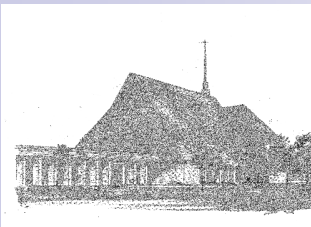


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Senior Pastor - Rev. Valarie Englert



# First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 8, Issue 17

September 16, 2010

## Yam Gleaning Saturday Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>



Yam Gleaning

Bring your family and join other First United Methodist Commerce volunteers as we travel to fields near Emory/Alba to glean yams left in the fields after the main harvest. The gleaned produce is distributed to local food pantries and used in the FUMC annual community Thanksgiving dinner.

- Who:** This is a fun, easy, mission activity for all ages  
**When:** Saturday Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>  
**What:** Morning of yam gleaning in East Texas.
- \* Meet at the church at 7:30 am.
  - \* The group will caravan to the fields for gleaning.
  - \* Gleaning will be from 8:30 am to noon.
  - \* Bring a sack lunch for a picnic after gleaning.
  - \* Arrive back in Commerce by 2:00pm.

*Expect to get dirty so dress accordingly including closed toe shoes.*

- What to Bring:**
- \* Sack Lunch
  - \* Garden gloves (optional)
  - \* Garden spade (optional)

To sign up or for more information contact the church office (903)886-3220 or Jamie Moore (903)496-2886 / tbmjdm@sbcglobal.net



## Sunday Sessions:

**1,001 Ways to Support Commerce ISD Sunday, Sept. 19 from 9:50am to 10:30am:** Are you interested in volunteering to support our Commerce students, but you're not sure how your talents could be used? For ideas, come and listen as a panel of educators discuss the many ways volunteers can be useful in the schools. While mentors and tutors are always welcome, there are so many other skills that can be used to support our students and teachers. If you've been wondering how you can join in, this is the time to find out!

**A Mission Trip: Is it for Me? Sunday, Sept. 26 from 9:50am to 10:30 am:** Catch the Mission Mania! As you listen to a panel discussion of passionate people who have volunteered to go on mission trips through our church you may decide that this is an exciting and valuable way to put your faith into action. From New Orleans and Appalachia, to Juarez and Colombia, our church supports volunteers near and far as lives are changed in the name of Christ. Come, listen, ask questions, and learn about upcoming mission opportunities. The life you change may be your own.

### Upcoming Sessions:

**October 3 - 24:** "Methodism 101" facilitated by Pastor Valarie and Pastor Aleze

**November 7 & 14:** "Advent: A Season of Preparation" led by Teresa Heatherly

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Dear FUMC Friends:

A few weeks ago in this space I wrote about my East Texas grandmother and her habit of always having peach preserves on the table with every meal – breakfast, lunch, and dinner. She insisted that having something sweet on the table with the meal (not afterwards as dessert) was necessary to rounding out all the different dishes and flavors on the table.



Many of our Jewish brothers and sisters celebrated Rosh Hashanah this month – the Jewish New Year – and many did so by eating apples and honey together at the celebratory meal in the hope that the upcoming year will be sweet and good.

This custom was introduced to me one summer when I was working in the office at the Dallas Memorial Center for Holocaust Studies. I had been a volunteer tour guide for several years, but this particular summer they were short an office person, and I needed some income between semesters. So the arrangement suited both parties very well.

In the front office, I worked with a woman named Ida, who had been born and raised in South Africa, but whose grandparents and parents hailed from Eastern Europe. I was the only Christian on the small staff, and Ida and I had many wonderful conversations about different holiday customs (we talked about food a lot!), differing ways of viewing scripture, and our beliefs as persons of faith. Neither tried to convert the other – we just talked.

On Fridays, Ida would leave about three or four in the afternoon so she could go home and prepare the Sabbath meal. Before she would leave, I would ask her to describe to me the meal she would be preparing. Her Sabbath meals always included something sweet: Chicken baked with apricots (a dish she made often), or beef braised with raisins and other seasonings. And always challah – that rich, slightly sweet bread. She explained that having something sweet in the meal symbolized the sweetness of the Sabbath, and God's gift in giving a day free from work.

My memories of working with Ida that summer are cherished ones: through our sharing and conversation, I like to think that Ida and I participated in what the rabbis call *Tikkun Olam* – which can roughly be translated as “repairing the world.” According to rabbinic understanding, this is no ordinary do-good notion. *Tikkun Olam* is part of God's intended *Shalom* – or deep, complete peace and justice – for the whole world, and we are invited to be a part of that great work.

The conversations with Ida have been at the front of my mind in the past week or so, prompted mainly by the anniversary of 9/11 and the threat of one misguided pastor to burn the Quran. While I do not believe the two events – the tragedy of nine years ago and the possibility of the Quran burning – are directly analogous to each other, I do believe they both are deeply contrary to what God intends for all creation: *Tikkun Olam* and *Shalom*. Or in Christian terms, the redemption of the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ – a redeemed world marked by the peace of Christ that passes all understanding.

Christ told the crowds – and tells us – “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be children of God.” (Matthew 5.9) It is my prayer that we shall indeed be the peacemakers and therefore children of God, one conversation at a time, one shared meal at a time. And don't forget something sweet.

May God's peace that passes all understanding be with you –

Valarie

## Worship

September 19, 2010

Rev. Valarie Englert  
will preach on  
John 1:41-51

Please join us  
this Sunday!

8:45 in the Chapel  
10:50 in the Sanctuary

### Committee Chairs

#### Leadership Team Chair/ Lay Leader:

Harriet Williams  
(903) 886-2206

#### Personnel Chair:

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(903) 886-7070

#### Property Chair:

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Hal Langford  
(903) 886-8334

#### Grow Team Chair:

Teresa Heatherly  
(903) 886-7070

#### Serve Team Chair:

Melinda Reid  
(903) 886-7623

## Your Church at Work: M&M



M&M is an afterschool program for children in kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. M&M stands for Missions and More.

For the “MISSIONS” aspect, the children are immersed in service activities all year long. Many are small and can be completed in one or two meetings, others span several months. We will try to choose projects that tap into the gifts that children have in abundance – their energy, their creativity, their love – rather than ones that require monetary gifts. Our hope and our prayer is that the children who spend the year with us will take away the notion that EVERYONE has something to share, and EVERYONE – big and small, young and old – can spread the love of God and serve his or her friends and neighbors (here and around the world!) in real and meaningful ways.

And as for the “MORE”... well, that's a pretty big part of the program as well! We pick the kids up from school, feed them a snack, and give them time to do some reading or complete homework – with adult help if needed. We have a lot of fun, too! Lots of games, outside playing and good ol' goofing off happen here too!

By the end of last year we had 52 children who participated in M&M weekly! Although we have certainly had to do some adjusting to accommodate such a big group, we are absolutely committed to keeping our doors WIDE open to all children who would like to participate in this program. There are no enrollment or participation fees for the children who come to M&M. This program, that serves so many (from our church, from other churches, and who have no church home at all) is made possible only because so many of you at FUMC are committed to our children and SO generously support the ministry we do here.

## Helping Hands emptied the Job Jar!



On August 21, **22 pairs of hands** joined together to tackle **yard projects at 7 homes of church members** as well as the **church building**. We are reminded that we are a church family & all brothers and sisters in Christ.

Some new jobs were identified so watch for future opportunities to lend a hand!

Helping Hands is an interdenominational effort to assist FUMC members and Commerce residents who are physically and/or financially unable to make home repairs or do yard work. Please contact the church office or Angela Roberts for more information.



The United Methodist Women will meet September 21st at 10:00am.

Euple Walker will bring the program. Our mission project will be the Food Pantry. Bring 1-pound bags of beans or rice, jelly, spaghetti, or your choice. All women are welcome—

**COME JOIN US!**

## In memory of...

### Aldran Mullins

By: Dixie Turman

### Modell Dunham

By: Bob & Anne Mills  
Fred & Anna Blohm

### Hazal Schwartz

By: Dixie Turman

### Joe Cole

By: Bob & Anne Mills  
Dixie Turman  
Chapter AH P.E.O.

### Peggy Fox

By: Gary & Loretta Kibler

### Kelsey Hall

By: Gary & Loretta Kibler  
Judy Rudoff

### Hattie Patton Dearing

By: Gary & Loretta Kibler



## Daily Scripture Readings:

Sunday, Sep 19	Luke 16:13
Monday, Sep 20	Jeremiah 32:1-5
Tuesday, Sep 21	Jeremiah 32:6:15
Wednesday, Sep 22	Psalms 91:1-6
Thursday, Sep 23	Psalms 91:14-16
Friday, Sep 24	1 Timothy 6:6-19
Saturday, Sep 25	Luke 16:19-31
Sunday, Sep 26	Luke 16:19-31
Monday, Sep 27	Lamentations 1:1-6
Tuesday, Sep 28	Psalms 137
Wednesday, Sep 29	Psalms 137:7-9
Thursday, Sep 30	Luke 17:5-6
Friday, Oct 1	Luke 17:7-10
Saturday, Oct 2	2 Timothy 1:1-7

The First United Methodist Newsletter is the official publication of FUMC Commerce. The newsletter is published on alternate Thursdays. 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 on the Monday of the publication week. Questions may be addressed to the Church office or Communications Committee Chair, John Mark Dempsey.