

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 10, Issue 9

September 2012

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY KICKS OFF A NEW YEAR

As the summer is winding down, activities in Children's Ministry are gearing up. September will be a busy month as we welcome back some of our FAVORITE afternoon activities for kids, and introduce some neat new changes, as well:

- M&M will begin for the 2012-2013 school year on Wednesday, **September 19th**. This year, we'll introduce a new curriculum at M&M: Mission Possible Kids. As in past years at M&M, with "MPKids" our children will gain from being involved in hands-on mission projects. The projects we'll do will benefit kids in need -- both locally and globally. Additionally, the MPKids curriculum aims to:
 - Give kids a way to live their faith by "doing"--the way kids learn best.
 - Develop compassion.
 - Instill a strong work ethic.
 - Expand their world view.
 - Learn how to be leaders for our church and our world!



We are certainly excited to watch our children grow in so many ways as together we reach out to friends and neighbors here in Commerce and around the world.

If you would like more information about M&M and MPKids, or would like to register your child, please contact Alison Walker: alison@fumcccommerce.org / (903)886-3220

- Our Children's Music programs will start up again in September, too!
 - This year, children in Kindergarten through 2nd Grade will have music on Wednesdays, beginning **September 26th**. Michelle Corazao will pick up the K-2s from M&M for music time. Afterward, they'll return to join in on the mission projects.
 - On Monday, **September 24th** we will resume our Monday music program for our 3rd- 7th graders. This year, they will be divided into a Boys' Choir (Jeremiah Choir) and Girls' Choir (Cecilia Choir). Michelle Corazao will direct these two choirs, and Amanda Brown will direct both groups on Handbells. Vans will pick up at A.C. Williams and Commerce Middle School.
 - All children will continue to ring Crystal Bells on Sunday mornings at the beginning of Sunday School with Mimi Dobbs.

Cecilia



Choir



For more information on any of the Children's Music and Choir programs, please contact Michelle Corazao: michelle@fumcccommerce.org / (903)886-2684.

W e l c o m e
New
Members

We are pleased to welcome new church family members:

- Terryl Bratek
- Sandra Turner
- Jackie Wahrmund

Revisiting EPIC

Community Forum concerning poverty in Commerce
Thursday, September 6 @ 6:00-8:00pm
in FUMC-C's Family Ministries Center
Light supper will be provided
Speakers: Ladonna Patterson (Circles)
and Maria Garza (Community Plaza)



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Dear FUMC Friends:

My family and I have had a somewhat unsettled summer, and a busy vacation. Our daughter, Eva, graduated from college in May. The afternoon after the ceremonies, we packed her up and moved her from her college apartment to the small town of Morrilton, Arkansas, where she was serving at the First United Methodist Church as a minister to children and families. Two months later, we packed her up again, and moved her home to Commerce. Two weeks later, we put her on a plane to Boston, where she is serving as a “Micah Fellow” in an intentional Christian community that seeks to act out God’s love and justice in the neighborhoods of Boston.



In the midst of all that, we spent our vacation on the Jersey shore, helping my mother-in-law, Linda, pack up and move from the house she has called home since 1959, the house in which she and my father-in-law raised my husband and his sister. The move was of her own initiation, as she was tired of dealing with flights of stairs and maintaining a house that was larger than her needs.

Linda had gathered together several boxes of family mementos and pictures for Rick to go through and claim what he would like to keep. He took the boxes to the screened-in back porch – one of our favorite sitting areas – and I sat next to him as he began sifting through old photos.

My husband pointed out a small box that contained some medals, dog tags and a belt buckle, and a very small box that contained a purple heart. These were the personal effects of his Uncle Stan – sibling of his father – who was killed in action in the battle of Saipan during WWII.

One of the medals caught my eye. The inscription on it read:

*The United States of America, 1941 – 1945
Freedom from Fear and Want
Freedom of Speech and Religion*

I was moved by what I read on that medal, and then felt a pang of sadness. This inscription seems to describe us Americans less and less. The order of the day now seems to be one dominated by rigidity, the politics of fear, free-flowing anger and unchecked speech.

Here’s the deal, though. Congregations – be they Christian, Sikh, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, or Buddhist – don’t have to follow the cultural crowd. As Christians, we live under a different rule, a rule that turns abusive power and the politics of fear inside out and upside down. We are called to live the “most excellent way” characterized by hope, faith, and love.

Here in Commerce, we can do that – live the most excellent way of Jesus Christ, one act at a time.

May God’s peace be with you –
Valarie

Upcoming Worship

September 2

1 Corinthians 8:1-13
“Believing:
How Should I/We Act?”

September 9

1 Corinthians 12:12-26
“Believing:
Who Am I/Are We?”

September 16

Mark 5:12-43
“Beyond Promises: Presence”

September 23

Isaiah 6:1-8
“Beyond Promises: Prayers”

September 30

1 John 3:16-18
“Beyond Promises: Gifts”

8:45am ~ Chapel

9:45am ~ Chapel

10:50am ~ Sanctuary

Committee Chairs

Leadership Team Chair

Jim Patton
(903) 886-2206

Lay Leader:

Gene Lockhart
(903) 886-3498

Personnel Chair:

Chester Robinson
(903) 886-8220

Property Chair:

Donna Tavener
(903) 886-7891

Stewardship Team Chair:

Mike Roberts
(903) 886-2142

Foundation Chair:

Dan Shepherd
(903) 886-6883

C-G-S Team Co-Chairs:

Ladonna Patterson
(903) 886-4630

Teresa Heatherly
(903) 886-7070

Angela Roberts
(903) 886-2142

The First United Methodist Newsletter is the official publication of FUMC Commerce. The newsletter is published at the beginning of the month. 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. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

****The next deadline is Monday, September 17 by 9:00am****



Connect with “Friends of Proyecto Abrigo” at October 6th Luncheon

The “Friends of Proyecto Abrigo” is a newly formed group initiated by some young people in our conference, including familiar folks like Ryan Klinck and Ricky Harrison. They are seeking “Friends” in every church and organization that have ever served through Proyecto Abrigo and that includes FUMC-C.

All friends are invited to a luncheon on Saturday, October 6, at Suncreek UMC in Allen from noon to 2pm. Please contact Pastor Marc Corazao if you would like to attend (marc@fumccommerce.org | 903.886.3220).

At the luncheon, participants will brainstorm ways to continue supporting the many ministries of Proyecto Abrigo from here in the United States. Even though teams cannot travel down to Juarez to physically build homes, work in the clinic, or serve in the food bank, there are still many ways churches in the U.S. can work together to support Proyecto Abrigo. Rev. Jose Luis Portillo and Rev. Martin Lechuga will also be there to give an update on the situation in Juarez.

To learn more about Proyecto Abrigo, visit its new website at www.proyectoabrigo.org.

FROM AROUND THE CHURCH

I hope you know that thanks to the hard work of Marc Corazao that more and more college students are “testing the waters” in a Christian environment while attending TAMU-Commerce. A host of fine volunteer cooks provide great lunch menus at the Wesleyan Center for these future potential Christian leaders.

But I will bet that you don’t know about a small cadre of volunteers that last week helped “make it happen” at the Wesleyan. When it comes to...

- Replacing the stove and dishwasher
- Removing damaged ceiling tile and hanging new tile
- Cleaning, striping and waxing floors
- Cleaning out roof drains
- Removing brush
- Removing and replacing bathroom fixtures
- Repairing plumbing hookups
- Cleaning everything in sight
- Repairing heating & air conditioning system
- Repairing electrical system
- Maintaining the lawn and shrubs

...you couldn’t ask for a better team! Please join me in a hearty “Thanks Y’all” to:

Dennis Anderson
Derrell Harrison
Frances Sartwell

Fred Blohm
Bob Mills
Mark Sartwell

Rick Englert
Jim Patton
Donna Tavener

Gene Lockhart

Lay Leader

P.S. These same individuals share their considerable talents as they perform similar tasks around our church throughout the year.



SHARE YOUR CARE FOR CISD STUDENTS



Both the Boys & Girls Club and Communities In Schools (CIS) offer ways to make a difference in the lives of young people here in Commerce. And in the process, you'll find you're a changed person too!



**BOYS & GIRLS
CLUB**

How to Get Started

Attend one of the two orientation meetings to learn about volunteer opportunities with Boys & Girls Club and CIS.

Tuesday, September 11, at 6:30 pm, in the A.C. Williams Library

or

Thursday, September 20, at 6:30 pm, in the A.C. Williams Library

Bring your driver's license and social security card to expedite the processing of your paperwork. Background checks are run on all volunteer applicants.

Ways to Serve

At the Commerce Boys & Girls Club, an afterschool program held at A.C. Williams Elementary for children in 1st through 5th grades:

- *Homework assistance/tutoring:* Give a child the attention they deserve during Power Hour from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. This is a time for kids to refuel with a healthy snack and tackle their homework.
- *Reading:* Read to a child or simply listen and help them with that big word.
- *Sharing your passion:* Each of us has a special interest or skill. You choose the topic, format and timing – it could be a one-time demonstration or weekly classes. It's called a "club within a club" and is an opportunity for enrichment. For example, last year FUMC-C member Joanna Thrift led an art club. Your hobby might be just what some child needs to keep them going when the going gets tough.



Joanna Thrift and her 2011-2012 art club



With Communities In Schools at Commerce High School and A.C. Williams:

- *Mentoring:* Become a caring adult in the life of child by listening, asking questions, and providing consistency.
- *Tutoring:* Work one-on-one with a student to help him/her in a specific subject.
- *Classroom Assistant:* Help a teacher with a specific student or group of students so that the teacher can become more effective at teaching and making sure that everyone understands the concepts that are being taught.

How Does the Commerce Boys & Girls Club Impact CIS Mentoring?

If you mentor a student at A.C. Williams, you will have the option to meet with them during the afterschool program rather than during the school day. Elementary CIS kids are encouraged to join the Commerce Boys & Girls Club, which means more flexibility for you.

For More Information

Contact Matt Wolcott at 903.886.3758, x1424 or matt.wolcott@commerceisd.org.



**BOYS & GIRLS
CLUB**

Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp: One Volunteer's Perspective

FUMC-C asked Tom Bailey to share his reflections on what it was like to volunteer twice a week during the Boys and Girls Summer Camp held at A.C. Williams Elementary. Tom is a seasoned Communities In Schools mentor and would be happy to further discuss his experience with you or answer your questions. Here's what he had to say:

The Summer Camp was a good thing in all ways for the kids, the sponsors, and the volunteers. I was one of the volunteers. Fellow FUMC-C member Bill Heitholt was another.

I couldn't help but notice the changes in the kids over the summer. At first, everything was chaos, but the kids seemed to recognize that they got more with a bit of order though they were always exuberant. Better, some of the ones who were remote and disinterested at first discovered that interesting things were going on, and they began to participate. One boy on my last day, when asked what he'd learned, announced that "this is vacation and I'm not learning anything" but still reported about some of the activities that he thought were interesting.

Over the summer, the numbers of kids varied from about 45 to as much as 55 or more, aged 5 to 11. According to one of the Boys and Girls Club staff, about half of the kids live with only one or neither of their parents, and their economic backgrounds matched the demographics of Commerce families: about three-quarters qualify as economically disadvantaged. The campers were of all sizes and shapes and capabilities. Some were clearly faster to learn than others, but most tried hard. I was encouraged.

The Boys and Girls Club staff members were excellent. About two-thirds of them were young men, which sort of surprised me, but they really cared about their young charges, and they kept things mostly orderly. I assume some of the kids have little or no contact with a father figure, and these lads fulfilled that role admirably. The women were also excellent and could quiet a noisy throng with just a few words.

What did I do? Well, anything that needed doing. My moment of glory was doing a session on aeronautics. I'm sure not a teacher but I do know something about how airplanes fly. I cut out a bunch of little paper gliders that looked like an airplane and gave one to each child. Their task was to fold them and then experiment to see if they could get them to fly. The first boy to finish flew his airplane across the room to the applause of all his classmates. That made it all worthwhile for me.

The summer camp was a joint project by the Boys and Girls Club staff, teacher Linda Grubert and administrators of A.C. Williams, and our own Matt Wolcott of Communities In Schools. All played an important role, and if nothing else, I came away from the experience impressed with everyone. We are indeed blessed with such competent, caring folks in our community.

Was it all perfect? Hardly! Despite the best efforts of the staff, teachers, and volunteers, schedules changed and messages got mislaid, misinterpreted, or forgotten. But none of that diminishes the value or the rewards of the effort. I do hope the kids learned as much from Summer Camp as I did. And if you have some time and think you might like to participate, come on in. The water's fine. You'll be glad you did.



Tom holds the bottle steady as a camper mixes oil with colored water to create a "lava lamp".

New Day Commerce

Have you ever felt like your spiritual life wasn't centered? Have you felt empty? Do you feel 'full' doing mission work? This upcoming semester, there will be a new ministry that is part of this church called New Day Commerce that will be meeting at Ryan Klinck's home, 1801 Washington St, on Sunday evenings. New Day Commerce will be developing into a *missional micro-community* and will be in its trial year. We will meet weekly for a light meal, worship, prayer, and study, while learning what it means to be a part of a community that seeks to live a missional lifestyle. Also, as a group and community we will read two short, but really awesome, books together! This missional lifestyle will involve us creating a Rule of Life that has a foundation in prayer, hospitality, and justice. Finally, this group will intentionally listen to the needs of Commerce and discern unique and effective ways to meet those needs. Still not sure about all of this? Please come on by one Sunday and experience what we do. We love guests!

If you feel called to be part of a small group committed to a missional lifestyle and caring, please give Ryan Klinck a call at 940-390-7437. The group will start up and begin meeting in mid-September. The two books we will be reading are *Longing for Spring* by Elaine A. Heath, and *Simple Harmony: Thoughts on Holistic Christian Life* by Larry Duggins.



Ryan Klinck

New Monasticism and Missional Micro-Communities


What is New Monasticism? New Monasticism is a movement in the modern church to draw upon the wisdom of the monastic communities from the Church's tradition. These 'modern day monks' – many of whom are young adults -- are changing the landscape of what we call church and helping the church as a whole understand that there is more to being a Christian than just attending worship on Sundays. The New Monastics choose to live an intentional life style under a Rule of Life.

What is a Rule of Life, you ask? A Rule of Life is a commitment made by a community of believers who want to be rooted in a life of prayer, hospitality, and justice – what can be called a Missional Micro-Community. Often times this includes meeting together for a weekly gathering to worship, pray, and eat together, or choosing to live on "the bad side of town" to help those in need. Ultimately, they are committed to a missional lifestyle, living among those they seek to serve.



Do the New Monastics live together? Sometimes. They don't usually live in big abbeys like most of us think when we think of monks. Usually, they all live in the same neighborhood though, close together, so that they can meet for prayer or for meals. Still, other times, it is just a group of people from all over a town that sees a need to reach out to others who would usually not be reached, and they decide to come together to help, pray for, and be hospitable to them.

Does this mean a New Monastic has to wear a robe and can't be married? Not at all. The people who participate in these types of communities are normal people like you and I, and wear normal clothes, like flip flops! They just have committed themselves to a more intentional lifestyle beyond their church family. New Monasticism supports both singles and married couples as having important roles in a community.

Are there communities like this near us? Yes! There are five of them located in Dallas and one located in Mabank, Texas. Even better is that they are Methodist. Their ministries are as diverse as helping refugees to having weddings in their back yard to running a children's after school program. All are really involved in finding ways to meet the needs of their community by living amongst and near those in need.



METHODISM 101
8:30AM
SEPT 9, 16, 23, & 30
 BREAKFAST WILL BE PROVIDED.

UMW will meet **Tuesday, September 18** at 10:00am.
 The Response program will be brought by Mary Lou Heatherly.
 Our September project is school supplies.
All women are invited to join us!

UMW

We are continuing our underwear collection drive. We need:


- Sizes 3T—8
- For boys and girls
- Undies




In memory of...

Gerry Huffman
 By: John & Nell Avery

Alma Thompson
 By: Edna O'Quinn
 John & Betty King





Attendance


	<u>Jul 29</u>	<u>Aug 5</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>Aug 19</u>	<u>Aug 26</u>
Early	23	21	26	23	23
9:45	6	20	19	10	12
Late	95	95	84	104	149
SS	63	57	53	53	79

Financial Update: General Operating Fund

	<u>General Operating Fund</u>	
<u>as of July 31, 2012</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	
Income:	\$ 36,126	\$220,027
Expenses:	\$ 36,418	\$235,505
	-\$ 292	-\$ 15,478



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:

Saturday, Sep 1	Psalm 72
Sunday, Sep 2	Mark 7:1-8
Monday, Sep 3	Proverbs 22:1-2
Tuesday, Sep 4	Mark 7:24-30
Wednesday, Sep 5	Mark 7:24-30
Thursday, Sep 6	Mark 7:31-37
Friday, Sep 7	James 2:1-13
Saturday, Sep 8	James 2:14-17
Sunday, Sep 9	Proverbs 22:8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125
Monday, Sep 10	Proverbs 1:20-33
Tuesday, Sep 11	Proverbs 1:20-33
Wednesday, Sep 12	Psalm 19
Thursday, Sep 13	James 3:1-2
Friday, Sep 14	James 3:3-4
Saturday, Sep 15	James 3:5-12
Sunday, Sep 16	Mark 8:27-38
Monday, Sep 17	Proverbs 31:10-31
Tuesday, Sep 18	Psalm 1:1-2
Wednesday, Sep 19	Psalm 1:3
Thursday, Sep 20	Psalm 1:4-6
Friday, Sep 21	Mark 9:33-37
Saturday, Sep 22	Mark 9:30-37
Sunday, Sep 23	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Monday, Sep 24	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10
Tuesday, Sep 25	Esther 9:20-22
Wednesday, Sep 26	Psalm 124
Thursday, Sep 27	James 5:13-18
Friday, Sep 28	James 5:19-20
Saturday, Sep 29	Mark 9:38-41
Sunday, Sep 30	Mark 9:42-50



Prayer Lists

Blessings for those who have a new addition to their family...

Congratulations to Harriet & Wyman Williams on the birth of their granddaughter, Lula Byrd Williams!

We pray for those who have experienced an illness...

Lana Fallis, Bill Terrell, John Burkett, Tiffany Peek (Jim Peek's daughter-in-law), Nancy Doughty, Gary Kibler, Ron Thomas, Kathy Benton, Gene Casselberry, Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Robert Seay, Louella McIntyre, Sharon Brewton, Amy Sallstrom Smith (Bill Heitholt's cousin), Sam Duckworth, Ray Sandifer, Sarah Langford (Hal Langford's mother), Becca Smith (Mike Smith's mother), Jim and Diane Price, Billy Guinn, Chris Sterzik (Shelley Jackson's son-in-law), Sondra Feduccia, Frederick Lucas, Dorothy Ingram, Pam Allgood, Jan Chapman (District Office), Kay Webber, Judy Greenwood, George O'Kelley

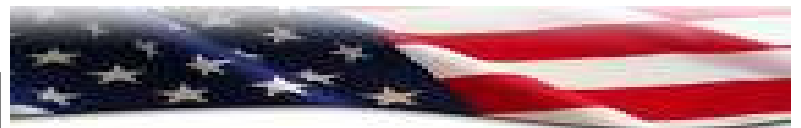
Others to Remember in Prayer...

Draughn's/Country Home Estate:
Pete Robinson & Helen Dickson

*"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."
James 5:16*

Help us hold each other in prayer by contacting the church office with new prayer concerns and updates on existing prayer requests.

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 nd Marine Division	Col. Peter Bailey
Lt. Col. Richard Bailey	Lt. Col. Keith Williams
Lt. Dan Barton	Nathan Grove
Lt. Col. Jeremy Quatacker (Korea)-Mark and Frances Sartwell's son-in-law	
Tyler Craig(Afghanistan)-Brad and Vickie Boynton's son-in-law	
Jason Timmons-seriously injured	
Ensign Terry Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son	
Chief Robert Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son	
Christopher Kendrick-Navy (Helen Rowe's friend)	
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	
Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith	
Keith L. Boone-former Associate Pastor	
Kris Yoder-John & Rebecca Sneed's son-in-law	
Staff Sgt. Geoff Abbe & Sgt. Eric Abbe- Ladonna & Chris Patterson's cousins	
Garrett Johnson	



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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Articles for the next newsletter are due
Monday, September 17 by 9:00am**

Place Label Here

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