

# First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 10, Issue 7

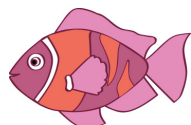
July 2012

## VBS: OPERATION OVERBOARD

WOW! What a week we had! With the help of 22 youth and 22 adult faithful volunteers from our church and community, our 140 Operation Overboard "Divers" learned many wonderful lessons and stories from the Bible this week. Each day brought lots of laughs, music, creative crafts and much more as the Divers explored the wonders of God's world and His word for us in the context of deep undersea adventures.



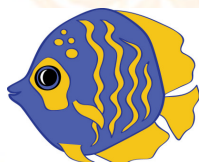
**Day 1 Ocean Insight "Depend on God!"** On day one we traveled to the book of Genesis and heard about a man named Noah. Noah showed deep faith by doing everything God told him to do.



**Day 2 Ocean Insight "Dare to Care!"** Matthew 22:39 says "You must love your neighbor as you love yourself". On Tuesday, day two, we learned about a servant girl who did just that when she helped her master, Naaman, find healing.



**Day 3 Ocean Insight "Claim Jesus!"** In our third lesson, we heard about a man named John who began traveling around preaching that God's chosen one was about to come. This, we learned, was a gift from God. John helped people get ready to claim God's gift by baptizing them and teaching them how to live by true faith in God.



**Day 4 Ocean Insight "Choose to Follow!"** On day four, our story came from the books of Luke and John. We heard how Jesus helped some fishermen catch a whole net FULL of fish. Jesus then told them that he would help them fish for people! The fishermen knew there was something special about Jesus so they made a choice to follow Jesus – just the way Joshua 24:15 tells us, "Choose today whom you will serve, but my family and I will serve the Lord."



**Day 5 Ocean Insight "Change the World!"** On our final day of Operation Overboard VBS, our divers learned about a man named Paul who took the message about Jesus to many places. Paul got thrown in jail and even risked his life to tell about Jesus! Mark 16:15 tells us to "Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news to every creature!" -- just as Paul did. And Paul's message changed the world.

Throughout the week, our Divers gave up the luxury of juice and punch at snack time. This sacrifice reminded us how blessed we are by our abundant supply of clean, safe drinking water. We also took time to think of those in other parts of the world who live with the daily struggle of acquiring even the smallest amounts of water for drinking and hygiene. For each drink of water our Divers had each day, we saved \$.30 (the average cost of a box or pouch drink). **Over the week we saved \$175**, which we will donate to Living Water International with our **VBS mission offering of \$610**. For more information on Living Waters International, please visit the website: <http://www.water.cc/> Thank you – all of you – who made this week a huge success! The children of FUMC Commerce, and the Commerce community are tremendously blessed to be surrounded and embraced by you – our faithful, loving Christian family! It is such a blessing to serve the children of our town alongside such a loving and supportive congregation, dedicated to programs – such as VBS – that lead our kids to God. You may never know what a difference your contribution has made in a child's life, but I hope you all know how deeply grateful I am for your support!!

*Thank you!  
Alison Walker*

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Dear FUMC Friends:

Just when things seem to be getting a bit gnarly in the general church, God sends an opportunity for a mission trip!

A couple of weeks ago, I accompanied five of our senior high students to a UM Army mission project in Desoto. (I hope you remember UM Army – we hosted them here at our church last summer, and received an amazing cool blast of blessing during a very hot summer.) We gathered with youth groups and adults from St. Paul UMC in Houston and FUMC, Midland, for a week of home repair projects and lawn/yard clean-ups.



Our days were hot and sweaty, and filled with meaningful work – demolition of rotted wood, siding replacement, installing new doors and windows, building wheelchair ramps, painting, mowing, clearing fence lines. The homeowners we served were by and large grateful, some even participating in our lunch time meals and devotionals.

Our evenings were filled with other activities – some fun, some more serious. One evening, we sat in a circle in a darkened room, passing a candle from person to person, sharing what had moved us during the week. Many of the kids shared that they had felt God’s presence during the week, that the work they were doing confirmed their faith.

However, a few of the kids – 3 or 4 – shared that they had never been particularly religious, and that belief in God was something they had wondered about. For them, the week’s work didn’t exactly bring them to faith. What I understood from them was that the notion of faith became more possible – but not a done deal. There were no tearful conversions, no earth-shattering realizations – just quiet sharing about what might be possible in their lives.

As I’ve mused about this since returning home, I think the experiences of these 3 or 4 senior high teenagers is more widely held than we church-folk suspect. Many people in our society are searching, searching, searching. They aren’t sure about the whole God thing, and they aren’t attracted to the black and white perspectives of salvation offered by the traditional Church.

The challenge for us here and now is this: how do we engage a culture that no longer views traditional ways of believing as valid, or even desirable? How do we converse with (as opposed to speaking at) people who are searching beyond what has been considered traditionally religious and acceptable?

I don’t know the answer to these questions, but I do know that the teenagers who felt secure enough to share their doubts found a place among the ranks of other teenagers who were swinging hammers and wielding paint brushes, and that they had a good time doing it. Acceptance prevailed, rather than judgment.

Sounds like a plan, my friends.

God’s peace be with you –  
*Valarie*



**FUMC-C will host UM  
ARMY next summer!  
July 14-20.  
We’ll share more details  
as the time draws closer.**

*Upcoming  
Worship*

**July 1**  
*Judges 4 (selected verses)*  
*“An Old Tale”*

**July 8**  
*Judges 6 (selected verses)*  
*“The Weakest Link”*

**July 15**  
*Judges 16:18-31*  
*“Mistaken Strength”*

**July 22**  
*Ruth 1*  
*“Choices”*

**July 29**  
*Esther 4:13-17*  
*“One for All, and  
All for One”*

**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  
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Angela Roberts  
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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](mailto:communications@fumccommerce.org), or call the office at 903-886-3220. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

**\*\*The next deadline is Monday, July 16 by 9:00am\*\***



Pastor Valarie, Mac Robinson, Dillon Marshall, Aaron Ferrell, Jim Patton, Sarah Stogner, Campbell Reid ready to join the U.M. ARMY camp in DeSoto.

## UM ARMY TAKES DESOTO!

The UM Army invaded Desoto, Texas, and five senior highs from FUMC Commerce were part of the invading force! Aaron Ferrell, Campbell Reid, Dillon Marshall, Mac Robinson, and Sarah Stogner traveled to the Dallas suburb with Pastor Valarie to participate in home repair projects with youth from St. Paul UMC, Houston, and FUMC, Midland.

Some 65 youth and adults worshipped together twice daily (7 AM and 9:30 PM), worked and sweated at numerous sites, participated in fun evening activities, and delved into what it means to make one's life an "act of worship" (I Thessalonians 5.12-24).

Over 21 job sites received the enthusiastic attention of the UM Army in Desoto and southern Dallas, with work ranging from repairing water damage to homes and garages, roof repair, building wheelchair ramps, indoor repairs, house painting, and yard clean-ups.

The week culminated with "Client Night," at which the people who were served were invited to share dinner and join in worship with the campers. Our senior highs pronounced the week "amazing," and vowed to invade other communities with UM Army again!



Pastor Valarie's work team—Blue S—with Mrs. Cavender, homeowner.



Jack, Zach, and Aaron framing the door.



The finished product minus the gutter.



### The H2O Project: *Drink Water to Give Water*

Over the week, our VBS kids saved \$175 by drinking water instead of juice boxes and collected \$610 for a total of \$785. The June drop-a-dollar and designated offerings totaled approximately \$700 for a **grand total of \$1485** that will be donated to Living Water International for the drilling of water wells.



Living Water International – Providing a Cup of Water in Jesus' Name

Living Water is a faith-based, non-profit organization located in Houston. It began drilling wells in 1990 to tangibly demonstrate the love of God as well as share it. Working in 25 countries around the world and motivated by Christian faith, Living Water strives to implement the most effective and sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene solutions because water is foundational to all development, physical and spiritual. For more information, visit [www.water.cc](http://www.water.cc).

THANK YOU

*Thank you, Mariann, for 10 years of faithful service!*

10 years

# Cans for Construction benefiting



Continue to place your rinsed, aluminum beverage cans in the collection containers located in the Family Ministry Center. Proceeds support Proyecto Abrigo, a non-profit ministry serving the poorest of the poor in Juarez, Mexico, primarily through building cement block homes for families that live in cardboard houses. Over the past 12 months, we've raised \$144.20 for this mission through metal recycling.



UMW will meet **Tuesday, July 17** at 10:00am. The program will be brought by Rev. Marc Corazao about the Wesleyan Campus Ministries. Our July 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...*

**Otha Spencer**

By: Edna O'Quinn  
 Randall & Melanie Johnson  
 James and Wyvonne Moody  
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Mayes  
 Don & Ellaine Stanford



**Attendance**

	<u>Jun 3</u>	<u>Jun 10</u>	<u>Jun 17</u>	<u>Jun 24</u>
Early	29	25	22	22
9:45	15	13	15	10
Late	94	99	105	158
SS	70	72	52	57



**Financial Update: General Operating Fund**

	<u>General Operating Fund</u>	
as of May 31, 2012	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	
Income:	\$ 25,131	\$151,806
Expenses:	\$ 32,935	\$168,349
	-\$ 7,804	-\$ 16,543

**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, Jul 1	Psalm 130; Mark 5:21-43
Monday, Jul 2	2 Samuel 5:1-5
Tuesday, Jul 3	2 Samuel 5:9-10
Wednesday, Jul 4	Psalm 48:1-8
Thursday, Jul 5	Psalm 48:9-14
Friday, Jul 6	2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Saturday, Jul 7	Mark 6:1-6a
Sunday, Jul 8	Mark 6:6b-13
Monday, Jul 9	2 Samuel 6:1-5
Tuesday, Jul 10	2 Samuel 6:12b-16
Wednesday, Jul 11	2 Samuel 6:17-19
Thursday, Jul 12	Psalm 24
Friday, Jul 13	Ephesians 1:3-10
Saturday, Jul 14	Ephesians 1:11-14
Sunday, Jul 15	Mark 6:14-29
Monday, Jul 16	2 Samuel 7:1-3
Tuesday, Jul 17	2 Samuel 7:4-14a
Wednesday, Jul 18	Ephesians 2:11-13
Thursday, Jul 19	Ephesians 2:14-22
Friday, Jul 20	Mark 6:30-32
Saturday, Jul 21	Mark 6:33-34, 53-56
Sunday, Jul 22	Psalm 89:20-37
Monday, Jul 23	2 Samuel 11:1-5
Tuesday, Jul 24	2 Samuel 11:6-15
Wednesday, Jul 25	Psalm 14
Thursday, Jul 26	Ephesians 3:14-19
Friday, Jul 27	Ephesians 3:20-21
Saturday, Jul 28	John 6:1-15
Monday, Jul 29	John 6:16-21
Tuesday, Jul 30	2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
Wednesday, Jul 31	2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a



# Prayer Lists

### Newly Added

Tricia Dempsey  
Lopez Family traveling to Mexico for daughter, Nicki, to do 5 months of orphan ministry  
Family of Laura Cole (Helen Cole's daughter-in-law & Judy Anderson's sister-in-law)

### Continued Prayers for Church Family

Lois Cranford  
Betty Morton  
Gary Kibler  
Nancy Doughty  
Judy Rudoff  
Gene Casselberry  
Jan Vowell  
Robert Seay

### Continued Prayers Family & Friends

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  
Jean Moore  
Pam Allgood  
Eli (Virdie Montgomery's grandson)  
Alma Thompson (Dennis Wilkinson's mother)  
Jan Chapman (District Office)  
Kay Webber  
Judy Greenwood  
George O'Kelley

*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.

Tyler Craig(Afghanistan)-Brad and Vickie Boynton's son-in-law  
Jason Timmons-seriously injured  
2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division  
Chief Robert Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son  
Ensign Terry 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  
Nathan Grove  
Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith  
Col. Peter Bailey  
Lt. Col. Richard Bailey  
Lt. Col. Keith Williams  
Keith L. Boone-former Associate Pastor  
Lt. Dan Barton  
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, July 16 by 9:00am**

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