

# First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 10, Issue 4

April 2012

## Summer Choir is Coming! June 2012

For anyone who enjoys singing...

Can't read music?

Great! You should come!

Can read music?

Great! You should come!



The Four Sundays of June (3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, & 24<sup>th</sup>) Rehearsals will be at 8:45 on Sunday mornings. The Summer Choir will sing and help lead worship in the 9:45 am service in the Chapel. Come one week – come all four weeks. All youth and adults welcome. Come be a part of this singing experience! For more info, contact Michelle Corazao at [michelle@fumcccommerce.org](mailto:michelle@fumcccommerce.org) or (903) 886-2684.

### Children's Music Tour

The Children's Music Program ended the school year with a tour to Country Home Estates and to the parsonage, sharing God's love and their enthusiasm for singing and playing bells. In addition to performing their repertoire, the children gave audience members eggs filled with a hand-drawn pictures to brighten recipients' day.

Children's Music is a weekly after-school program for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Typical rehearsals involve learning new music, crafts, games, and snacks. Special thanks to volunteers Mimi Dobbs and Amanda Brown for leading the bells and to Melinda Reid for coordinating snacks. Plans are underway to resume in the fall. For more information, contact Michelle Corazao, FUMC-C music director, at [michelle@fumcccommerce.org](mailto:michelle@fumcccommerce.org) or 903-886-2684.



Performing Kum Ba Ya at Country Home Estates



Michelle Corazao greeting longtime FUMC-C member Pete Robinson



Amanda Brown leading upper elementary bells at Country Home Estates



Upper elementary ready to play bells at the parsonage



Children's Music Program Members at the Parsonage  
Front row: Hannah Nichols, Sam Underwood, Oliver Roberts, McClaine Clark, Raley Draughn, and Emily Faulkenberry; Middle row: Rockney Reid, Connor Green, Cailynn Beane, Allie Underwood, Carlie Spinato, and Meghan Green; Back row: James Williams (piano accompanist), Michelle Corazao (children's choir), Pastor Valarie Englert, Amanda Brown (upper elementary bells), and Mimi Dobbs (lower elementary bells)



Upper elementary preparing to sing at Country Home Estates



All eyes of the younger elementary are on Mimi Dobbs at the parsonage

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Dear FUMC Friends:

What a beautiful spring it has been – especially for flowers. The rose bushes at the parsonage are loaded with blooms, and here at the church office we’ve been enjoying rose buds in vases on our desks (both from our own bushes and from those of kind parishioners who have brought them by). Roses can be fussy plants, but their fragrance and beauty make them worth the effort (at least I think so – my husband differs with me on this).



My grandmother grew beautiful roses back in the day. I’ve heard my mother tell a story about a prized rose in the front yard that my grandmother coddled. One spring evening right before dusk, my grandmother was making the rounds in her yard, inspecting her blooming plants and flowers. When she arrived at this prized rose bush in the yard, she called my mother over, saying, “Look, sister! It has a bud on it – it will open in the morning!” My mother, a young school girl at the time, acknowledged the full bud at the top of the plant, and went back to the game she had been playing.

The next morning, the rose bud had indeed opened, showing forth the promise of the beauty to come later in the day. As my mother ran out to catch the school bus, my grandmother held her back a moment. She pulled her shears out of her apron pocket, and snipped the bud off the bush. She pinned it to the front of my mother’s dress. My mother protested, “But mother, this is the only bud off your prize rose bush!” And grandma responded, “This is where it needs to be, right here.”

Gifts such as these are rare and special, and cost virtually nothing – at least with regard to dollars and cents. But the blessings and value that such gifts impart are immeasurable.


Roses pop up in Christian symbolism. I recall hearing a lovely performance of a medieval piece, “There Is No Rose of Such Virtue,” a hymn to Mary and her baby son, Jesus. The five-petaled, old-fashioned rose is a centuries-old symbol of Christ’s five wounds. It seems to me that such symbolism attempts to describe the immeasurable love of God in Christ, a love of such beauty that words fail us.

Through Christ’s resurrection, that “rose” has been pinned to our collars and dresses, and placed in our hearts. It is an immeasurable gift.

May you live into the gift of Christ’s resurrection this Eastertide –

*Valarie*

**MEMORIAL DAY**



**The Church Office will be closed  
Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>  
in observance  
of the Memorial  
Day holiday!**

## Upcoming Worship

**May 6**

*Acts 8:26-40*  
“The Story Spreads”

**May 13**

*Mother’s Day*  
*Acts 10:1-17*  
“Food from Heaven”

**May 20**

*Acts 1:1-11*  
“Gazing toward Heaven”

**May 27**

*Acts 2:1-21*  
“Rattle and Hum”

**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](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, May 21 by 9:00am\*\***

## Turning Your Generous Giving into Blessings

During this Lenten season, \$1,970 was received through special gifts and drop-a-dollar to benefit Proyecto Abrigo and FUMC-C youth in mission.



Proyecto Abrigo is a non-profit, ecumenical ministry serving brothers and sisters in Christ in Juarez, Mexico. Under the leadership of Reverend Jose Luis Portillo, the poorest of the poor receive assistance through a variety of missions including cement block home building, the food pantry, a school, and the Angeles de Esperanza Medical Clinic. In the past, members of our church traveled to Juarez to build homes and volunteer in the clinic, but since early 2011, no U.S. mission teams have traveled to Juarez because the potential of danger is too great. As Jose Luis briefed us last October during his visit to FUMC-C, the best ways to impact the work of Proyecto Abrigo at this time are monetary gifts and prayers.

In addition to \$1,000 of our Lenten offering, the Connect-Grow-Serve team designated \$1,000 of the drop-a-dollar funds to support Proyecto Abrigo. Our prayer is that this gift totaling \$2,000 will enable the medical clinic team to purchase prescriptions and supplies that are in short supply due to lack of funding. The decision to support the clinic is based on expressed needs communicated by Jose Luis to Pastor Dana Coker during Proyecto Abrigo's annual budget planning. To learn more, visit [www.proyectoabrigo.org](http://www.proyectoabrigo.org).



The other portion of the Lenten offering, \$970, will support FUMC-C youth in mission this summer. Pastor Marc Corazao will lead a group of middle school students participating in C2K - Connect to the Kingdom, which is a project of the Council on Youth Ministries of the UMC North Texas Conference. For one week this summer, they will work in teams with inner-city families and churches in West Dallas. They may perform repairs to homes and church buildings or help churches with VBS and other summer ministries. Pastor Valarie Englert and our high school students are joining the U.M. ARMY (United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth) to serve those in need in Wichita Falls from June 10 - 17. Look for future ways to support our youth in mission this summer.

## VBS 2012

We're gearing up for VBS! This year we'll dive in and discover God's underwater universe with Cokesbury's Operation Overboard! We'll explore the depths of God's Word at VBS 2012, and "Dare to Go Deep with God!"

Operation Overboard Vacation Bible School will be June 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012, for kids who have completed Pre-Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

As we start wrapping our brains around transforming our building and sanctuary into an undersea wonderland, there are a few items we could use:

- ★ Plastic (or any other material) fish, seashells, lobsters, crabs, seahorses, coral, etc
- ★ Scuba gear
- ★ Fish nets
- ★ Blue cellophane, material, butcher paper, or sheets (that could be used as an underwater backdrop)
- ★ Any other decorating items or props that might help to create an undersea look and feel



If you have any of these items that you would be willing to loan or donate, please see Alison, or drop the items by the Church Office at any time! To learn more about Operation Overboard VBS, please visit the website:

<http://overboard.cokesburyvbs.com>. Thank you!!

### DID YOU KNOW



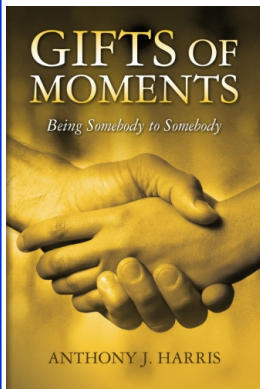
Nearly 90 percent of all diseases in the world are caused by unsafe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene. Every year, there are 4 billion cases of diarrhea as a direct result of drinking contaminated water; this results in more than 2.2 million deaths each year—the equivalent of 20 jumbo jets crashing every day.



The weakest members of communities are the most vulnerable; every day water-related diseases claim the lives of 5000 children under the age of five. That's roughly one every 15 seconds.

### Anthony Harris' Gifts of Moments

Mother Teresa once said: *One of the greatest diseases in life is being nobody to anybody.* In a new book by Dr. Anthony J. Harris, the author enhances that quote and promotes the notion that, although there is ample evidence to support Mother Teresa's quote, by contrast one of the greatest joys in life is *being somebody to somebody.* In his book, *Gifts of Moments: Being Somebody to Somebody*, Dr. Anthony J. Harris, presents compelling and poignant stories that demonstrate his own efforts to be somebody to somebody. The stories are from his childhood, young adulthood, and older adulthood. There is also a quote from Maya Angelou, who said: *There is nothing more agonizing than having an untold story inside of us.* So, at the end of each chapter and at the end of the book, the author encourages the reader to recall their own stories and to share them with others about how they have been somebody to somebody and



have used their gifts of moments wisely. By doing so, he believes, the hearer or reader of those stories will very likely have an uplifting and positive reaction.

**About the author:** In 1982, he received his doctorate at East Texas State University (now Texas A&M University-Commerce). He served for 15 years (6 as chair) as a member of the school board in Commerce. He served as Assistant to the President under the late Dr. Jerry D. Morris and as faculty member at Texas A&M University-Commerce. He and his family are members of First United Methodist – Commerce. He founded Project Keep Hope Alive, an after school mentoring program for at-risk African American males in the Commerce and Greenville school districts. The book is currently available at Amazon.com in both paperback and Kindle version. It is also available at Barnes and Nobles.

Anthony can be contacted by email at [aharris007@comcast.net](mailto:aharris007@comcast.net) or by phone at 601-434-0448.

### NEWS FROM THE WESLEYAN

Your source for Wesleyan Campus Ministry Updates

Congratulations to Our TAMU-C Graduates in the Wesleyan!



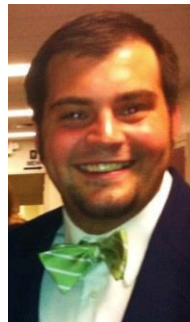
Casey Beck



Shadane Easington



Kiera Lewis



Brad Powers





UMW will meet **Tuesday, May 15** at 10:00am. The program will be brought by Ahtrell Dalton. Our May project is: Nursing Home Bingo Prizes, sugar free cookies, 6 oz drinks, peanut butter crackers, lotions, shampoos (small). **All women are invited to join us!**



*In memory of...*

**Oma Thomas**

By: Mr. & Mrs. Walter Parker

**Edna Good**

By: Lena Faulkener

**Gerry Wesson**

By: Homer Smith & Mary Lambert-Smith  
Clarence & Kay Jensen



**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:**

Tuesday, May 1	Acts 8:26-40
Wednesday, May 2	1 John 4:7-21
Thursday, May 3	1 John 4:7-21
Friday, May 4	Psalm 22:25-31
Saturday, May 5	John 15:1-4
Sunday, May 6	John 15:5-8
Monday, May 7	John 15:9-11
Tuesday, May 8	John 15:12-13
Wednesday, May 9	John 15:14-17
Thursday, May 10	1 John 5:1-6
Friday, May 11	Acts 10:44-46
Saturday, May 12	Acts 10:47-48
Sunday, May 13	Psalm 98
Monday, May 14	Psalm 1
Tuesday, May 15	John 17:6-10
Wednesday, May 16	John 17:11-19
Thursday, May 17	Acts 1:1-11
Friday, May 18	1 John 5:9-13
Saturday, May 19	Acts 1:15-17
Sunday, May 20	Acts 1:21-26
Monday, May 21	Acts 2:1-13
Tuesday, May 22	Acts 2:14-21
Wednesday, May 23	Psalm 104:24-30
Thursday, May 24	Psalm 104:31-35b
Friday, May 25	Romans 8:22-27
Saturday, May 26	John 15:26-27
Sunday, May 27	John 16:4b-15
Monday, May 28	Isaiah 6:1-8
Tuesday, May 29	Isaiah 6:8
Wednesday, May 30	Psalm 29
Thursday, May 31	Romans 8:12-14

**Attendance**

	<u>Apr. 1</u>	<u>Apr. 8</u>	<u>Apr. 15</u>	<u>Apr. 22</u>
Sunrise	—	62	—	—
Early	36	43	19	40
9:45	10	14	14	17
Late	156	212	122	111
SS	77	48	67	69



**Financial Update: General Operating Fund**

General Operating Fund

<u>as of March 31, 2012</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	
Income:	\$ 25,912	\$85,481
Expenses:	\$ 29,598	\$95,482
	-\$ 3,686	-\$10,001





# Prayer Lists

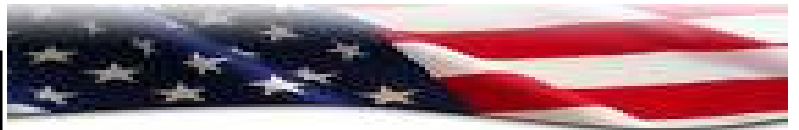
## Continued Prayers for Church Family

Otha Spencer  
Nancy Doughty  
Judy Rudoff  
Ron Thomas  
Jack Gray  
Gene Casselberry  
Sally Grove  
Julie Wadlow  
Jan Vowell  
Gary Kibler  
Robert Seay

## Continued Prayers Family & Friends

George Moore (Brad Moore's father)  
Richard Rowe  
Donald Anderson (Dennis Anderson's father)  
Dorothy Ingram  
Jean Moore  
Pam Allgood  
Eli (Virdie Montgomery's grandson)  
Alma Thompson (Dennis Wilkinson's mother)  
Ray Sandifer (Janet Latham's father)  
Jan Chapman (District Office)  
Kay Webber  
Judy Greenwood  
George O'Kelley  
Nell Hughes (Zelda Fisher's niece)  
William Durand (Eileen Faulkenberry's father)  
Becca Smith (Mike Smith's mother)

*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  
Matt Skelton-Mack and Mariann Andrews' nephew  
Jason Timmons-seriously injured  
2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division  
Chief Robert Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son  
Chief 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  
Terry Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son  
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



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, May 21 by 9:00am**

Place Label Here

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