

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 14, Issue 4

May 2016

CONFIRMATION & CHS SENIOR SUNDAY

MAY 15, 2016

POTLUCK LUNCHEON IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING 10:50 A.M. WORSHIP



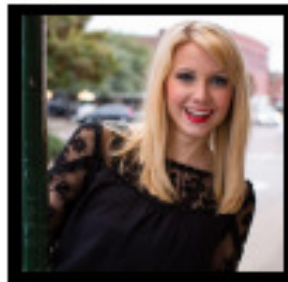
2016 Confirmation Class
Seated: Meghan Julia Green,
Emma Margaret Dobbs,
Chamblee Madison Morgan
Standing: Taylor Michelle Foxall,
Emma Ruth Wittkopf,
Teacher Craig Jensen,
Brayden Christopher Young,
Aubrey ShyAan Clayton,
Payton Elizabeth Miller



Michael Victor Elwell



Aaron Cole Ferrell



Erin Jensen

COMMERCE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

LET'S CELEBRATE THESE YOUNG PEOPLE & THEIR FAMILIES!

Inside this issue:

Last LSB	pg. 3	Pastor's Page	pg. 2
WCM News	pg. 6	April & May MoM, Eagle Scout Project	pgs. 4 & 5
Mission Dollars at Work	pg. 8	WCM Seniors, Announcements	pg. 7
Finances, Daily Scriptures	pg. 9	UMW, Memorials, Attendance	pg. 9
		Prayer List	pg. 10

Of Dogs, Little Boys, and Grown-ups

By: Dr. Gregory S. Neal



When I was growing up I had a German Shepherd named Heidi. Heidi lived a very long time for a German Shepherd: she outlived my Elementary, Junior High, High School, and SMU college years; and, during all those years she was a faithful dog. She was not only my companion as I grew-up, but she was also there when the painful realization hit me that I was no longer a kid.

I had just graduated from Southern Methodist University, and was nearly ready to leave for graduate school at Duke University. Early, on my last day before departure, I had decided to walk Heidi through Huffines Park, a wonderful wooded area near my home where I had spent many boyhood hours playing with my friends. I spent some time wandering along the old trails that I had followed as a young boy, amazed at how much of the terrain I still remembered—and at how little it had changed. I walked around the park, lost in my boyhood memories, until I came upon the playground where I had once spent many hours in imaginative flights of fancy.

Heidi was exhausted from all the walking, so I entered the playground and sat down on one of the benches where parents would sit to watch their children. There was only a single little girl in the park that day, along with her mother, who was not much older than I. As I sat and rested Heidi, the little girl came running over with her mom to “pet the doggie.”

I told her it was okay, and Heidi gladly let the little girl stroke her between the ears. While this was going on, the little girl’s mother sat down on the bench beside me and we talked for a few minutes about the weather and other matters of little consequence. She asked me what I did for a living, and I told her that I was in school, preparing for the ministry.

Hearing that horrible, dreaded word “school,” the little girl looked up at me and said, eyes as big as saucers: “But grown-ups don’t go to school.”

It was like a knife, twisting in my heart. *Grown Up?* I’m not a grown-up, am I? I asked the little girl’s mother the question, and she smiled and replied, “You certainly are to her.” After assuring the little girl that “grown-ups” did, indeed, go to school, I got up and led Heidi away from the playground and back into the trail-blazed woods.

Me, a *Grown-up?* It didn’t seem at all possible! After a few minutes of aimless wandering along the bike-paths I stopped in a clearing, sat down on a picnic-table bench, and stroked Heidi’s graying fur as I pondered the question. As I was sitting there, two young boys came running into the clearing, one chasing the other. The one being chased tripped on a stone and went sprawling to the ground, and the other boy leapt on top of him and began to beat on him with his fists. I stood up and shouted at the boys to stop, which they promptly did—and then started laughing. They quickly explained that they were just playing, and that everything was okay. “Sorry to bother you, sir,” said one of the boys as he and his chum walked off, still laughing.

And, as I stood there, staring after the boys, I came to the horrible realization that I was, indeed, a *grown-up*. Fifteen years had changed me. The feeling in the pit of my stomach was very uncomfortable. I looked down at Heidi, who was looking up at me with those brown eyes, full of adoration; I smiled, “Do you remember when I was that little?” Her eyes seemed to say “yes.”

Change is not always fun. Time can bring many serious changes in an individual, or a community, or even a Church. As much as we would like to keep things the way they used to be, that’s not always possible. Things change—and as they change, we must change too. I’m not saying that we should forget the past; far from it! Celebrate the past, learn from the past, and grow! *But don’t live in the past.*

“But I don’t like change!” “I don’t want things to be different!” Few of us do. But we really can’t stop the changes. Change will come, just as surely as little boys will become “grown-ups.” But, even as the changes come, we can be assured that they won’t overwhelm us if we keep doing what God has called us to do and if we remain faithful to the fundamental truth of the Gospel, which God has called us to proclaim. As we change, let us not get lost in our pain or in our past and continue to live and share the love of God with all. After all, we’re Grown-ups.

To watch or listen to Dr. Neal’s sermons on the internet, go to:

www.revneal.org * www.youtube.com/revneal * www.facebook.com/RevNealVideo

Hello, FUMC!

Saturday, April 30, will be the LAST Saturday Breakfast at the Wesleyan Campus Ministry building. For those who don't know, this was an effort by The Core of the Wesleyan Campus Ministry and the Serve team to provide a free pancake breakfast for those in need on the last Saturday of every month. The project has been ongoing for about a year and a half.

The Core and Serve team have jointly decided that the project is no longer working for various reasons, primarily lagging attendance. We seemed to be able to get people to come once, but due to it only being once a month, we found it difficult for people to remember to come back. There were a dedicated few, but we never felt the project took hold.

We learned a lot throughout this process and hope that will better our own efforts to serve others. We will still host a pancake breakfast during the Thanksgiving and Christmas food basket distributions as part of Hunt County Gives.

Thanks to all those who ever attended and helped!
 Tyler King
 The Core

WORSHIP

Sunday, May 1

*Sunday, May 8
 Ascension Sunday*

*Sunday, May 15
 Pentecost Sunday*

*Sunday, May 22
 Trinity Sunday*

Sunday, May 29

8:45am ~ Chapel
10:50am ~ Sanctuary

Midweek Eucharist
Wednesdays
@ 5:30pm ~ Chapel

Committee Chairs

Ad Council Chair:

Mike Roberts (903) 886-2142

Vice Ad Council Chair:

Loretta Kibler (903) 886-7776

Lay Leader:

Carole Walker (903) 886-4450

SPPRC Chair:

Wes Underwood (903) 886-1503

Trustees Chair:

Bill Knutson (903) 456-2487

Finance Chair:

Gil Naizer (903) 886-1961

FUMC Foundation President:

Anne Mills (903) 217-2615

Connect Team Chair:

Susan Patton (903) 886-4612

Grow Team Chair:

Craig Jensen (903) 886-8713

Serve Team Chair:

Angela Roberts (903) 886-2142

Amy Stark (903) 246-3177

Lay Member:

Carole Walker (903) 886-4450

UMW President:

Mary Lou Heatherly

(903) 886-8381

Jesus said, "Breakfast is ready." John 21:12 (MSG)



Last Saturday Breakfast Community Gathering

Free Breakfast

- Pancakes
- Sausage
- Fresh Fruit
- Orange Juice
- Coffee



Sponsored by
 First United Methodist Church
 and the Wesleyan Campus Ministry

Wesleyan Campus Ministry Building
 1504 Lee Street, Commerce

**Saturday,
 April 30
 9:00-10:00 a.m.**

The First United Methodist Newsletter is the official publication of FUMC Commerce. The newsletter is published at the end 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, May 16 by 9:00am****

MISSION *of the* MONTH

The Mission of the Month for May is the **Summer Day Camp** hosted by the **Boys and Girls Club (BGC)** at A.C. Williams Elementary School. The Summer Day Camp runs eight weeks from June 6 to July 29 from 7:30am to 6:00pm, five days a week. Ashley Dupuis is the Summer Site director, adupuis@begreatnext.org or 214.797.8114.

Each week of Summer Day Camp will explore a different theme: Outer Space, Carnival, Disney, Western, Hawaiian, Fiesta, Olympics and Christmas in July as part of the Summer Brain Gain program. Summer Brain Gain is a summer learning loss prevention program that engages the kids in project-based learning activities designed to help prevent typical summer learning loss. The site goal is to serve over 100 kids a day with fun-filled learning activities as well as a lunch and snack.



Our donations will help with the two largest expenses for the summer, which are the cost of dedicated summer staff and supplies for the Summer Brain Gain program. In addition to your monetary donations, school and art supplies are always needed. A decorated box will be located in the narthex for your donations of supplies.

Feel free to stop by A.C. Williams this summer to see your donations in action or to volunteer. Please support this valuable community program with your donations, time and prayers.

THANK YOU

Thank you, Aaron Ferrell, a graduating high school senior, for painting the doors of the church as his Troop 27 Eagle Scout project.





1,188 Meals!

Drop-a-dollar and designated giving to the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) during April totaled \$396, which will provide 1,188 meals for the hungry in our region! Thank you for supporting our April mission of the month!



Field Trip to FISH

What a great morning of fellowship and service at Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH in Greenville on April 15! Assistant director Adam Beene gave volunteers an overview of this North Texas Food Bank partner agency that serves our community and tasked them with weeding the community garden and preparing food bags for distribution.

Did you know?
FISH stands for Faithfully Involvement
in Sharing Hope



FISH's community garden has 25 plots available for rent and a large area where vegetables are grown for FISH clients.

NEWS FROM THE WESLEYAN

Your source for Wesleyan Campus Ministry Updates

By Austin King



The Wesleyan Campus Ministries has gone through a lot of changes this school year. In addition to getting a wonderful new campus pastor in Brian, our board began planning in earnest to help get our ministry into a healthy place financially, and our leadership team has faced losing many active members come May 2016. With all of these shifts in dynamics at our ministry, we have been forced to recruit new leaders for our team, examine each event from new perspectives, and add a wonderful new worship service among other events. The theme for the 2015-2016 school year at the Wesleyan has been “new life” and we have used this year to find new ways to alter and grow our organization.

With a very active board here at The Wesleyan, we have gotten the opportunity to research new fundraising opportunities and build relationships with community members. We are hosting an Open House at the Wesleyan on April 18, which will have taken place when this is published, and we look forward to the opportunity to speak with local pastors and church leaders about the importance of contributing to this ministry. In addition, our campus pastor and your associate pastor, Rev. Brian Dierolf, has guest preached for various churches in the area to raise awareness about the needs of the Wesleyan and invite United Methodist congregations to participate in our ministry. With this service, the Wesleyan has gotten almost all of our free lunches donated by local businesses, church volunteers, and community members. This ministry offers free lunch to college students on Wednesday of each week, and we have sustained this important service because of the generosity of so many people.

When Brian began his time as our campus pastor, he brought with him a passion to begin a worship service to reach college students during their busy week. In the Fall Semester, this ministry operated once a month, and the Spring semester has seen this ministry expand to once a week. Each Monday the Wesleyan hosts music, preaching, and discussion to help invite students to belong, believe, and become at the Wesleyan - a mission statement that came to characterize the way we viewed our ministry and our activities this school year. With this mission in mind, our ministry began a discussion group based around LGBTQ+ issues in the church and faith communities. Attended by people who have not normally visited the Wesleyan regularly, this group wrestled with difficult issues around faith, gender, sexuality, and acceptance. We have looked at institutional and personal prejudice within Christian communities and asked ourselves difficult questions about personal and institutional responsibility and the difficulty of change.

As I write this year-in-review, I am reminded that we have so many ministries which I do not have the space to examine and thank for their service to the campus community. From the explosion of passion in our coffee house fellowship, to the changing dynamic of our discussion group, and the rejuvenation of our Christianity 101 Bible Study, our ministry has looked for ways to adapt to a changing world and the realistic constraints placed on ministry. This retrospective also forces me to look back on my time as Assistant Campus Minister as well as my last year here at Commerce and the Wesleyan. I began attending the Wesleyan as soon as I began my college career four years ago, and now I cannot imagine my experience without this ministry. I entered college looking for acceptance and a place to critically examine my place in a community of faith. The Wesleyan gave me a place to ask these questions and also get the opportunity to serve others, eat good food, laugh, find a friend group for four years, drink gourmet coffee once a week, and figure out how to continue my Christian faith journey. I certainly belong at The Wesleyan, and I know others, those like me and wildly different, belong here as well.

COMMERCE CARES
RECYCLE

Saturday, May 7
9:00-11:00

At the intersection of
Walnut & Campbell Streets

FIRST THURSDAY

Potluck Luncheon
May 5 @
12pm

Your futures are as bright as your faith!
Congratulations to our
Wesleyan Campus Ministry Graduating Seniors!



Front row:
Katlyn Pollock
Josephine Just
Vanessa Paulin
Tyler King
Austin King

Back row:
Pastor Brian Dierolf
Emily Waddle
John Pollock

Congratulations!



Luigi's Italian Cafe has offered to support our community by donating 10% of dining receipts on the third Sunday of each month to our church. If you take your bulletin after church 5/15, Luigi's will staple it to your ticket. They will tally our receipts and send a check directly to our church. Help support our church by eating some good food!

Volunteers Needed

*Will You Lend
a Hand?*



We need a volunteer or two to lend a hand or two to help our volunteers fold the weekly bulletins and monthly newsletter and calendar. If you are interested, please contact the church office at (903) 886-3220.

Your Mission Dollars at Work

Your Serve team designated \$600 of mission funds to benefit the nutrition programs of the Senior Center Resources and Public Transit (SCRPT), a non-profit agency based in Greenville.

SCRPT provides nutrition and social services for Hunt County residents age 60 and older, with priority given to low-income and minority seniors. These services include home-delivered meals, congregant meals hosted in community centers, homemaker services, and transportation.

SCRPT's transportation service is called the Connection, which provides curb-to-curb service for not only seniors but also the general public.

Funding for all these programs comes from federal, state, and municipal sources as well as organizations like United Way of Hunt County and Commerce Community Cares. In addition, SCRPT relies on donations. FUMC-C's gift will support home-delivered meals and the new congregant meals hosted in the Community Room of Hunt Regional Emergency Medical Center in Commerce every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from noon to 1 p.m.



Hot meals are served at noon every Tues, Wed, and Thur in the community room. Free or by donation for anyone 60+.

\$4 for anyone under 60.

Free health screenings on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m.

Bingo on Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

Ask our own Bill Heitholt what he thinks about the new congregant meal!
10 people on average have gathered for the meal and fellowship three times a week since the program started on April 5.
Interest is growing each week!



Commerce Numbers at a Glance

During March 2016:

67 seniors received home-delivered meals daily from SCRPT

111 people took rides on the Connection bus

3 FUMC-C members serve on the SCRPT board

Jim Patton, Angela Roberts, and Sheryl Zelhart are current board members. Ask them about the services SCRPT provides for our community and learn about ways you can become involved!

To make a reservation for the congregant meal, inquire about home-delivered meals, request a ride on the Connection, or to volunteer, call SCRPT at 903-454-1444 or visit www.connectioninfo.org.



UMW will meet **Tuesday, May 17** at 10:00am. 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...

Kathleen Cozart

By: Walt Parker

Pete Robinson

By: Betty & John King



Attendance

	<u>Early</u>	<u>5:30</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>SS</u>
Mar 30		6		
Apr 3	34	—	82	60
Apr 6		9		
Apr 10	37	—	95	54
Apr 13		9		
Apr 17	20	—	109	57
Apr 20		10		
Apr 24	34	—	115	65



**Financial Information
General Operating Fund**

	<u>as of March 31, 2016</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$ 30,550	\$ 90,686
Expenses:	\$ 26,290	\$ 81,064
	\$ 4,260	\$ 9,622

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, May 1	Revelation 22:1-5
Monday, May 2	Psalms 47 & 97
Tuesday, May 3	Acts 1:1-11
Wednesday, May 4	Acts 16:16-34
Thursday, May 5	Ephesians 1:15-23
Friday, May 6	Rev. 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
Saturday, May 7	Luke 24:44-53
Sunday, May 8	John 17:20-26
Monday, May 9	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Tuesday, May 10	Acts 2:1-21
Wednesday, May 11	John 14:8-17, 25-27
Thursday, May 12	John 14:25-27
Friday, May 13	Romans 8:14-17
Saturday, May 14	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Sunday, May 15	Acts 2:1-21
Monday, May 16	Romans 5:1-2
Tuesday, May 17	Psalm 8
Wednesday, May 18	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Thursday, May 19	Psalm 8:2
Friday, May 20	John 16:12-13
Saturday, May 21	John 16:14-15
Sunday, May 22	Romans 5:2b-5
Monday, May 23	Psalm 96:1-9
Tuesday, May 24	Psalm 96:10-13
Wednesday, May 25	1 Kings 18:20-21
Thursday, May 26	1 Kings 18:20-39
Friday, May 27	Luke 7:1-10
Saturday, May 28	Galatians 1:1-12
Sunday, May 29	Galatians 1:6-12
Monday, May 30	1 Kings 17:8-24
Tuesday, May 31	1 Kings 17:8-24



Prayer Lists

Newly Added

Family of Kathleen Cozart
Carolyn Hofer (Becky Coker's sister)
Kristin Poe

Continued Prayers:

Sally Grove, Bob McFatridge (Jessica Morgan's friend), Pat Skauge, Judy Rudoff, Billy Rowe (father of Rev. Michael Rowe of Ladonia/Pecan Gap Charge), P.K. Kirkpatrick, Derrell Harrison, Carter James McLeroy, Gene Casselberry, Gayle Shumate, Allie Underwood, Geneva Teel, Greta Lynch, Bobby Greenwood (Lisa Greenwood's father), Jack and Gladys Gray, Amy Novicke Cryan, Rev. Tom Waitschies (Pastor Greg's friend), Doris Kerbow, David Miller (Bob Grove's friend), Rev. Clay Yeager, Garrett Cramer, Harold McFarland (Julia Robinson's father), Lois Cranford, Betty Morton, Charles Ranley (at Webb Hill), Michelle Bone, Robert Seay

Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Ahtrell Dalton, Helen Dickson, Barbara Gish, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn, and Euple Walker

Briarcliff: Gladys Gray and Glenna Siebenhausen

The Haven (San Antonio): Lewis and Faye Jackson

River Point (Kerrville, TX): Lucy Potts

Austin: Ruby Vander Velde

*"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...

2nd Marine Division Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
Col. Peter Bailey Garrett Johnson
Nathan Grove Lt. Col. Keith Williams
Lt. Dan Barton Danaycurce Childress
Josh Ham-Nadine and Clay Yeager's grandson-in-law
Tyler Craig (Afghanistan)-Brad and Vickie Boynton's son-in-law
Chief Robert Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son
Lt. JG. Terry Starkey-Wanda Beane's brother and Tom Starkey's son
Jim Hunsicker (Afghanistan)-Carolyn Miller's brother
Alex Dech (Afghanistan)-Pastor Ron Dech's son
Captain Daniel Robnett-Clyde and Wanda Robnett's grandson
Kris Yoder-John & Rebecca Sneed's son-in-law
Staff Sgt. Geoff Abbe & Sgt. Eric Abbe-Ladonna & Chris Patterson's cousins



Phone: 903-886-3220

Fax: 903-886-3240

www.fumcccommerce.org

office@fumcccommerce.org

**First United Methodist Church
1709 Highway 24
Commerce, TX 75428
Senior Pastor - Dr. Gregory S. Neal**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
Articles for the next newsletter are due
Monday, May 16 by 9:00am