

THE ACORN

Red Oak, Texas

Reaching Up to God,
Moving into the World,
Making Disciples for Christ



JUNE 2011, Issue 5

2011 Summer Missionaries



Want to help? Please prepare cards or notes of appreciation to each missionary that will be given to them at night. We are asking folks to do this for one night of encouragement. If enough people participate then we will have enough that each missionary will know their home church is praying for them daily. Place their entire name on the envelope as we may have youth from other churches with the same first name. Bring the cards to the Church office before **June 7** so they can be packed. We will distribute them daily.

Youth

Courtney Lane
Anthony McKnight
Ashleigh Moore
Valerie Nobles
Shelly Rudd
Jonathan Sackett
Allyson Valerius
Nicholas Wilson

Adults

Eva Rudd
Rachel Sackett
Jessica Sanchez
Rene Valerius
Curtis Vassallo
Shannon Wilson
Brandi Young
Mary Young
Travis Young
Allen Grant

Each evening we will place cards in their encouragement bags. Please help, especially for the youth. They need to know that their congregation is praying for them while they are serving Christ in DeQuincy, Louisiana.

Commissioning Service
June 5 - 10:50 AM

Schedule of Servants:

- Flowers given by

- 6/5 Sunmi & Zhen Wu
Anniversary
6/12 Wilsfords in celebration of
Jennifer Pick's
commissioning into the UMC.
6/19 Father's Day & Trinity
Sunday—Herbert Shelton in
remembrance of Wedding
Anniversary to Eris.
6/26 Matthew McKnight's Birthday
7/3 (2) Randy & Liz Sanden's 5th
& Keven & Dana Davis's
30th Anniversary

Flower sign up still needed for
July 10, Oct. 2, Nov. 20 & Dec. 11

- Acolytes — TBA

Please speak to Ms. Jo to
volunteer before Church begins.

- Prayers for Pastor

- 6/5 Jerry Pomeroy & John Persefield
6/12 Don Newman & Keven Davis
6/19 Jerry Pomeroy & John Young
6/26 Don Newman & Curtis Doyle
7/3 Jerry Pomeroy & Mike Stricker

- Ushers & Greeters —

- 8:30 Dani Muckleroy & Melba
Watson
10:50 John Young, Paul Young,
Whitney Young & Josh Williams,
Dale & Jennifer McKnight

- Counters

- 6/5 Melody Durazo &
Stephanie Vassallo
6/12 Jerry Kirby & Tim Brownlee
6/19 Lionel Hazard & Suzanne
Barry
6/26 Brandy Young & Curtis Doyle
7/3 Melody Durazo & Stephanie
Vassallo

- Sound Technicians

- 6/5 Don Newman / Tom Rogers
6/12 Les Mitchell / Kayleigh
Kitzman
6/19 Scott Sackett / Jack Smiley
6/26 Don Newman / Tom Rogers
7/3 Les Mitchell / Kayleigh
Kitzman

-Video: Carolyn Haffey
& Heather Rodenborg
(Youth ONE)

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY TEAM THANKS YOU!

Thank you to everyone that donated or bid on an item at the Fifth Sunday Silent Auction. We raised \$300 for Connectional Giving/Appportionments. A Free Will Offering at the Fellowship Lunch will also benefit Connectional Giving and totaled \$93.00

The next Fifth Sunday Fellowship Lunch and Silent Auction will be July 31st. You can bring auction items at any time and we will store them for you.

We appreciate your Extravagant Generosity!

Annual Conference is scheduled for June 5 - 8, 2011

**Waco Convention Center 100 Washington Avenue,
Waco, TX 76701**

ATTENTION: UM MEN



Men's Breakfast

The Monthly Men's Breakfast will be held on **June at 8:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall. All men are invited to attend this great breakfast & meeting.

Any questions please contact Steve Smiley at 214-263-9919.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR SUMMER TRAVELERS

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account as you probably do with other obligations? First United Methodist offers electronic giving for those of you who wish to have contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. If you have plans to travel this summer, electronic giving gives you a convenient way to keep up with your intended offerings.

Simply complete and return an electronic giving authorization form to Lori in the church office to get started.

Or go to our website at WWW.FUMCRO.ORG and follow the link at the donation button.

ONE GOD — ONE FAITH — ONE WAY — YOUTH ONE CORNER

Mission Trip 2011



This summer our church will be sending 18 participants on a weeklong mission trip to DeQuincy, LA. The trip will take place on June 12th through the 18th. During this trip, participants will help with home repairs for persons who are in need within the area. These trips are very fundamental in building faith, friendships, and life skills for the youth. The youth are not only hearing about God but are experiencing God. While they are gone on their trip, please remember them and pray for them daily. Upon their return they will be leading worship on the 26th. You will have a chance during this time to hear how you have helped change their lives and the lives of those in DeQuincy. Then after the second worship

service, there will be hamburger and ice cream social sponsored by the Lord's Acre Committee. During this time you will be able to ask them questions and hear more from them about their trip. Please join us on June 26th to celebrate the return of our Missionaries.

THANK YOU!

A BIG THANK YOU to all those who have helped make this trip possible. Thank you for your prayers and donations over the past few months. This trip wouldn't be possible without you.



**MINISTER
OF YOUTH**
Heather Rodenborg

FUMCROYouth@gmail.com

Parents and Youth

There will be no youth group on June 12th or 19th due to the mission trip.

Please remember to check your email for the youth newsletter or stop by and pick one up from outside the youth room.

Youth Dinners Schedule

June 5th – Plumb/Payne

June 26th – Brown/Rogers

A Summer Praying the Psalms June 1 to August 31, 2011

Join the Pastor on a journey of praying the Psalms this summer. A suggested study guide is called God's Prayer Book: The Power and Pleasure of Praying the Psalms by Ben Patterson, Published by Salt-river Publishing.

There are 150 Psalms for us to read in 90 days. To gain more than just reading, spend some time each day praying the Psalm or Psalms that you read.

Who are the Psalms about? Are they about David, Moses, some fellow named Asaph, or Herman or Ethan or someone else? No they are all about Jesus. Mr. Patterson says that "The writers of the New Testament write with the conviction that every story and psalm of the Old Testament "whispers his name." The Bible is all about Jesus.

"Read each Psalm slowly and thoughtfully two or three times. Take note of any word or phrase that stands out to you." (Patterson, page 18)

"A simple way to understand a Psalm's intent is to read it through the lense of the "three Rs:" Rejoice, Repent, and Request. Ask these three questions as you pray:

1. Rejoice: What do I find here that gives me cause to rejoice, to give praise and thanks. Then do it.
2. Repent: What do I read here that brings to light sin in my life? Then confess and repent.
3. Request: What in this Psalm can inform the way I pray for others and myself? Then make your requests of God accordingly." (page 20)

Along the way the Pastor will be preaching through the Psalms. Please pray for the Pastor and for yourself as we look to these beautiful words to learn how to speak to God.



IT'S TIME AGAIN!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**SUNDAY, JULY 10
THROUGH
THURSDAY, JULY 14
5:30 — 8:30 PM**

Ages 3 years to entering 6th Grade



Come join us for a fabulous time
at
“SHAKE IT UP CAFÉ”!

We will have fun learning about God through
MUSIC, STORIES, GAMES & MORE.

There is no cost and dinner is provided.
You can sign up your children, grandchildren

and their friends at www.fumcro.org or by picking up a registration form at the church
foyer.

We still need adult volunteers. We have about 90—100 children come through our
doors for VBS every summer. Please join us in reaching out to these children.

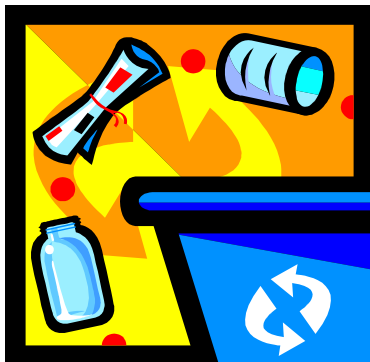
Please call Jennifer McKnight at 214-354-8373 or by email to
mcknight@sbcglobal.net or you can contact Lori in the church office.

Come join the fun and volunteer!

RO REHAB NEEDS CRAFT

Shannon Wilson at Red Oak Rehab will have a donation box in the foyer. She is looking for the following items for the residents to use in crafts.

- cans (all sizes from tuna to lg bean)
- wire clothes hangers
- paper grocery bags
- jeans
- 3 ring binders
- terra cotta pots (will even take some broken)
- laundry detergent boxes (empty) and the scoops
- oatmeal cans
- ceramic tile (broken is fine too)
- shoe boxes
- plastic rings from soda cans
- empty salt cans, cocoa cans
- plastic sunglasses (no problem if they are scratch



**FUMCRO
RECYCLES CANS, PLASTIC & PAPER**

**PLEASE PUT ONLY CLEAN PAPER IN THE
RECYCLE TRASH CANS
IN THE FOYER.**

**ALUMINUM CANS & PLASTIC CUPS OR
BOTTLES CAN BE PUT
IN THE RECYCLE BINS
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

RISK TAKING MISSION PROJECT Imagine NO Malaria



We're taking the fight against malaria to the [next level](#) in Africa. We can't do it without you. Stand with us and pledge to overcome malaria!

A [monthly donation](#) will help provide the resources that will lead to a sustainable victory over this disease. Would you sacrifice a cup of coffee to **save 100 lives**? A pledge of just \$.92 each day will provide enough resources to save 100 lives! That's only **\$28 per month**. This small monthly

sacrifice will help do the things that will lead to a victory over malaria.

Our Risk Taking Mission Team at FUMCRO has pledged \$18,000 in three years. A pledge of only \$5 a month for three years from 100 families will reach our goal. We can do it with your help.

To beat malaria, it's gonna take a global village. So, get involved! It's easier than you think.

OPERATION CONNECTION



The Risk Taking Mission Committee encourages you to remember our service men and women both in the United States and overseas.

Mike Webb; 419 Huron St., Shreveport, LA 71106

1 Lt. Dugger, Adam; Unit 35152. Box 200; APO AP 96376-3152

Warrant Officer II Michael James & Family
CMR 416, Box 1505; APO AE 09140

Damien & Rachel Guss, 31 March Dr., Beaufort, SC 29907

Koralee Arriola, 217th TC, APO AE 09366

Adam McGhee, 451 EAMXS/A—10; APO AE 09347

Fred & Christi Ballard, 2216 Buckhorn Circle, Junction City, KS 66441

Lt. Hugh & WOC 1 Sylvia Grandstaff, 33 Epps, Ft. Rucker, AL36363

Sean Acrea, 379 EMXS/MXMP; APO AE 09309

If you have a friend or relative in the Military, please let us know.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:40 am - We begin June with LIVE BIG: "**Great Are the Work of the Lord**" The bible verse is Palm 150:2 "**Praise our God! His deeds are wonderful, too marvelous to describe.**" Please bring your children to the Sanctuary by 9:40 am to begin. After singing we go to the classroom. Thank you for sharing your children with us.

Jr. & Senior Hi: Meeting in the Youth ONE Room. Lead by **Heather Rodenberg**

Sunshine Class: Meeting in classroom on the right of the Sanctuary. Rotating Teachers: June Study: **God Instructs the People of God; "God's People Learn From Prosperity."** Joshua

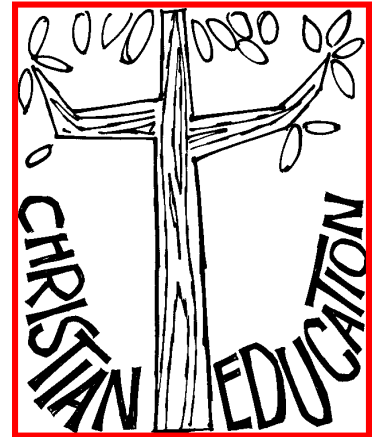
Enrichment Class: - Meets in the Fellowship Hall: Study of the Adam Hamilton book titled "**When Christians Get it Wrong.**"

Nomads: Meeting in the Church Office. Classroom Teacher: Joanna Johnson. Studying "**When the World Takes the Wind Out of Your Sails**" by Moore.

Young Adult Class - Looking for a new leader and direction. Call Pastor Allen if you would like to lead this class.

Pastor Class: Will meet in the Library, Study: Intro to Methodism

Adult Bible Study: Wednesday morning and evening bible study will resume after the summer months.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL
FOR ALL AGES
9:40—10:35 AM**

Parent's Day Out News



Hello from First United Methodist Church Parent's Day Out. First we want to thank all of you that were here Sunday, May 22 evening to see the student perform, "Looks Like Rain — A story of Noah and the Ark." We were all very proud of our students. We also graduated 9 students that will be attending kindergarten in the fall. They will truly be missed and we wish them well as they begin a new adventure.

The dates from our summer program are June 20th — July 29th. We would love for your children to join us. In the Summer we take children age 6 months through 5th Grade. Please call Christy Niven at 903-277-5061 or come by the church office to enroll your child in the summer or fall program.

The PDO Advisory Board would like to establish a Scholarship Fund to assist families when needed with tuition, registration or other fees. Funds will be gratefully accepted and carefully dispersed under the direction and at the discretion of PDO Director Christy Niven. You may make donations to the fund with cash, check or electronic donation. Simply note "PDO Scholarship" in the memo line.

God Bless — Christy Niven, PDO Director

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S CIRCLE NEWS



- **General Meeting** of UM Women will not meet until August. Jennifer McKnight will provide the August program. The Meeting will be held on the second Sunday of the month at 4:30 pm in the Sunshine Classroom.
- **Y*A*W*N (Young Adult Women's Network) Circle** will resume their meetings on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 pm in September. For more information call Melody Durazo at 469-964-4188.

- **The Circle of Hope and Healing** conducts our Prayer Shawl Ministry. In the summer the group will have announced meetings June 4 and 10 are scheduled for meetings at this time. Other summer hours will be announced here. In September they will go back to their regular schedule of meeting at 10:00 am on the first and third Saturday and the second Friday of the month in Fellowship Hall at the Church. If you know someone that might need a shawl please contact Beth Norris at 214-392-0732.
- **Circle of Love** (day circle) and **Friendship Circle** (evening circle) will resume a summer break. Watch for announcements later in the summer.
- **The United Methodist Women Mission Project** is collecting disposable diapers and baby formula (powdered) for the United Community Center. In lieu of formula or disposable diapers, a monetary donation can be made. Make the donation payable to the UMW and indicate "Mission Project". We continue to collect "Box Tops for Education" and Campbell's soup labels for Education. Labels go in the mailbox on the UMW bulletin board. Baby items can be placed in the collection bag in the foyer for this purpose. Children & Youth Underwear can also still be donated.
- **Women's Reading Program:** Books are available in the Sunshine Room. Please check out your book by listing it in the spiral kept in the red binder on the shelf with the books. Book lists are turned in at the end of August 2011. Each reader must read at least one book in the four categories of Education for Mission, Spiritual Growth, Social Action,, and Nurturing for Community. You must also regularly read from Response and/or New World Outlook Magazines. If you read more than required books for the Plan, you may save your titles for the next year's Program. If you haven't read enough for the 4 books, save your list until you have read the required books. If you have any questions please contact Lori Stricker—Reading Program Secretary.
- **Cooperative School of Christian Mission: August 1-3 Evening CSCM— Hurst UMC. August 2-4 Weekday CSCM—Hurst UMC. August 5-7 Weekend CSCM — Glen Lake Camp.**



The Cooperative School of Christian Mission is scheduled for the beginning of August. Studies include "Coming Out on the Side of Grace: Forgiveness & Reconciliation," "Haiti," and "Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity." Classes are open for all adults (men and women) and for children and youth also. Attendance options include: Weekday – August 2 - 4, cost \$70; or Weekday Evening – August 1- 3, cost \$25; or Weekend – August 5 - 7, cost \$140 (commuters, \$75). The Weekday and Weekday Evening sessions will be held at FUMC, Ft. Worth. The Weekend session will be held at Glen Lake Camp in Glen Rose. The registration deadline is July 15th. If you are interested in attending this very informative, thought-provoking, and inspirational school, please see or call Jo Wilsford for registration forms or more information.

**If childcare is needed during any UMW activity, please call the church office 972-617-9100 to schedule.
Or speak to Merci Garcia, the Nursery Director.**



LADIES' LOCK-IN — JUNE 24—25

A Ladies' Lock-in is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 24 – 25 at the church. We will start about 8:00 PM Friday night with snacks and end early, about 7:00 AM on Saturday morning. All ladies are invited to come for the whole "experience" or just for the Friday night activities. The evening will be filled with fun, fellowship, a little entertainment, and a few surprises! Details will follow in a couple of weeks through emails and flyers. This is an event you definitely want to put on your calendar **now!**



UMW MISSION 2011: BURNING OF THE CANDLE



Each year at the Central Texas Conference Annual Meeting of the United Methodist Women, there is a ceremony called **Burning of the Candle**. A candle for each district will be burned at the annual meeting for the exact time that each district has funded a portion of the mission program.

Money in any amount is given by UMW units or individuals in honor or memory of relatives, friends, ministers, etc. The money collected is used to fund the UMW's total mission program, both within the United States and internationally. In 2011, it will cost **\$32.74** to support the total mission program for one minute. *(Please consider rounding up to \$35.00 for one minute.)* Names of individuals in whose honor or mem-

ory money has been contributed will be printed in a book; one amount may be given for one or more memorials or honorariums.

Although contributions may be given at any time during the year, the deadline for names to be printed in the book is **August 8th**. If you would like to contribute to the Burning of the Candle, please give your money and the name of the individual in whose honor or memory the money is given to Jo Wilsford, Charlotte Yeadon, or Jennifer McKnight by August 8th. Checks may be made payable to UMW; please write "Burning of the Candle" in the memo line.

JUNE PRAYER LIST

OUR MINISTRY TOGETHER

First United Methodist - Red Oak
Members, Leaders and Friends

INDIVIDUALS

Our Home Church Folks:

Nell Burnett (Red Oak Rehab)
Golda Punkoney (Nursing home in
Center, Texas)
Flo Miner (Debbie Anderson's mother)
Kayleen Johnson-Gallagher (Joanna's
daughter)
Hazel Butner (Margarett Butner's mom)
Judy Martin (Mike Martin's mother)
Dorothy White (Sherry Martin's mother)
Dorothy Grant (Pastor's mother)
Dorothy Doty (Dean Doty's mother)
Jack Christianson (Linda Higgins)

MEMBERS, FRIENDS & FAMILY:

Rita Dugger
Florene Nix
Doris Maechel (Cindy Belote's mom)
Dollie Fouts
Kay Merrifield (Rene Fouts' mother)
Jo Ann Hardin (Curtis Doyle's sister)
Wanda Cutler (Paige Davis' grand-
mother)
Charles Brown (Oma's brother)
Kenneth Denney (Yeadon's brother)
Cecil Fields (Valerius grandfather)
Doug Newman (Don's brother)
Grace Weir (Keven Davis' mother)
Pauline Brown (Oma's mother)
Aunt Helen (Beth Norris)
Lina Royce (Dana Davis' mother)
Karen Herriott (Becky's sister)
Sylvia Wolaver (Gaines' sister)
Laurie DiCave (Stephanie's Sister)
Billie Howard (Terri Yates grandfather)
Ginger Alexander (Maureen Plumb's
sister)
Betty Brown (Eddie Mae Newman's sis-
ter)
Those seeking employment
Tila King (Joan's Niece)
Joy Brock
Apolonia Garcia (Joe's mom)
Bok Jin Yi (Sunmi's Father)
Dan Wright (Durazo's friend)
Dan Santos (Tony Lane Co-worker)

Continued Family & Friends

Jane O'Kelly (Dani Muckleroy)
Jack Leahy (Becky Monnette)
Julette Huartado (Merci Garcia)
Amy Pampel (Marilyn Eberhart)
Lloyd Lee Turner (Watson)
Lindzey Ward (Watson)
Nikki Benoist (Stricker)
Brian & Malisa Sweeney (Smiley)
Marge Johnson (McKnight)
Dortha Daubitz
Wayne Kimbro
Betty Wood
Braxton Pack—Fouts new grandson in ICU

Additions will be placed
in the weekly bulletins.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

1/ Avery Taylor
2/ Richard Nobles
3/ Ron Nobles
4/ Megan Grandstaff
5/ Beth Britton
6/ Suzanne Barry
7/ Danny Byars
9/ Russell Lyons
10/ Nathaniel Sanchez
11/ Gary Ashford
13/ Don Newman, Sam Grandstaff, Tren-
ton McKenney
14/ Jerry Hendrix
16/ Dustin Lane, Jay Moore
17/ Charlie Wu
18/ Martha King, Sondra Scott
21/ Nicole Zabel
23/ Sherry Martin, Clifton Jones
25/ Lori Stricker
26/ Matthew McKnight, Nicholas Wilson,
Pam Briden
27/ Lynda Robinson
28/ Miriam Vonn, Brian Goodloe
29/ Nancy Robinson
30/ Rodrigo Sanchez Jr., Suzanne Kirby,
Christine Sweetin.

OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES:

Wisdom of our leaders.

Our Nation & Our Military Service men and women.

Mike Webb (cousin of Rene Valerius)
Damien Guss (Stricker)
Harold Valyou (Wilson)
Adam Dugger
Sean Acrea (Yeadon grandson)
David Malone (Watson)
Christopher Brandon Hall (Sackett)
Fred Ballard Jr. (Stephanie Brignon)
Doug Cantrell (Suzanne Neel)
Michael James (son of Oma Mitchell)
Jason Maris (Katie Almond's nephew)
Curtis Windsor (Neel)
Robert Grandstaff
Hugh Taylor Grandstaff
Sylvia Grandstaff
Colby Jones (Lane Family) - Navy

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Here's How YOU can be in
Mission to the World

- North Ellis County Outreach
Pasta & Oatmeal
Food for Outreach
School Supplies, Back
packs & Coats, clothing.
- Mission Relief
No More Malaria
Japan Relief
Spring Storms
Diapers & Formula through
UMW
- Military Personnel
Paper Back Books
Letters from Home
- ROISD
School Supplies & Uniforms
Dollars for Prescriptions
Belts & Uniforms
- Carter Blood Donations
- Prison Ministry
Gift Cards
Christmas Gifts

SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITES

- Walk to Emmaus
- United Methodist Women & Men
- Sunday School
- Bible Studies
- Marriage Encounter
- Choir

“Castles in the Air”

The “Hippie” generation brought changes to our world and to our music, such as Don McLean song, “Castles in the Air”. To quote from the third stanzas:

“For I will not be part of the cocktail generation
Partners waltz devoid of all romance.
The music plays and every one must dance.
I am bowing out I need a second chance”.

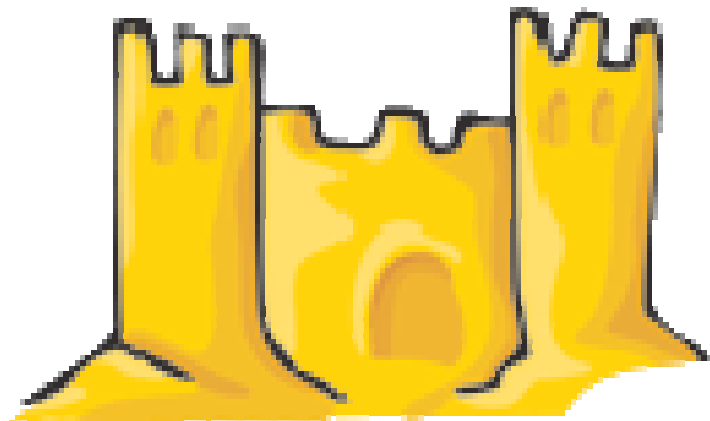
It may be a symbolism to many that the words in “Castles in the Air” states, “The music plays and everyone must dance” and yet to me it represents the many responsibilities we have in our lives, and, when the time comes, we must address these responsibilities.

In prioritizing these responsibilities, the first on my list is to devote some time for prayer. For when I start the day out in prayer, by the end of the day I do not feel so unraveled. I consider it loving myself. I also treat myself nice. Have you done anything nice for yourself lately? It is astonishing how much of a better place the world is when we take time to take care of ourselves. Somehow it leaves more time to take care of others.

The word love, as mentioned above, is defined in the context of “a virtue representing all of human kindness and compassion.” The quote from the NIV Bible Mathew 22:39 “And the second commandment is: Love your neighbor as your self”, then begins to make a little more sense. I have studied this quote and realized that the key word in this statement is “as yourself”. How, can we love others, if we do not love ourselves. And if we do not respect ourselves, how can we respect others?

The Hippie generation brought many changes. To me, it marks a time in our history where personal values were put to the test. Many failed, yet the values taught to us in the Bible hold as true today as they did in the time of Jesus.

Joan Pomeroy
Writing for Enjoyment



First United Methodist Church
PO Box 25
Red Oak, Texas 75154

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Rev. Allen Grant
Senior Pastor
972-333-4197
pastor@fumcro.org

Heather Rodenberg, Youth Minister

Stu Dorsey, Music Minister

Sunmi Goodwin, Pianist

Christy Niven, Day School Director

Judy Cox, Building Manager

Merci Garcia, Nursery Manager

Lori Stricker, Office Manager
manager@fumcro.org

Worship Times: Sunday
8:30 & 10:50 am
Sunday School 9:40 am

Office Hours
Monday-Friday 9 am-4 pm
(972) 617-9100
Fax: (972) 576-3276
Website: www.FUMCRO.ORG
(nursery provided at all services)

Located at 600 Daubitz Dr. (formerly Red Oak Rd.)
Red Oak, Texas

PENTECOST
Wear Red
June 12



THE BACK PAGE BY ALLEN GRANT

I know it's hot outside and most of us are planning for summer activities but I have been doing some advance planning for Christmas. You know, Advent begins right after Thanksgiving and to properly prepare for those important spiritual days, I want to ask for your help. I would like for us to have an Advent Devotional Guide so that our congregation could worship, pray and prepare for the coming of the Christ Child together. And that is where I need your help. Would you be willing to write a one page devotional thought for publication?

Remember Advent is a spiritual journey. It is the journey from Galilee to Bethlehem for Mary and Joseph. It is the journey of the shepherds and the wise men. It is the journey of the angels who came to announce the birth of Jesus. What about your journey?

Do you think you could write a page about your favorite Christmas story from when you were a child? Do you have a favorite Christmas scripture that you would love to share with others? Perhaps you could write about a special gift that came to you at Christmas. Or about a special spiritual experience that you had one Christmas. What makes Christmas special for you?

I think your story will help someone else. For some Christmas is sad. Perhaps the story of how you got through a sad Christmas will bring hope or peace or joy to someone else. Will you help? I am putting together a one page outline for you to follow. It will be available in the church office. Sounds like a long way off but we need them back by October 1 so there is time to get them printed in the midst of all the other stuff we do that time of year.

So to cool you off this summer, think about Christmas and what Christ has done for you. — Allen