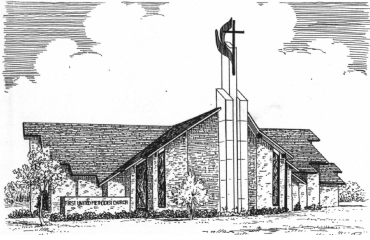


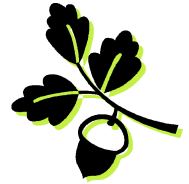
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



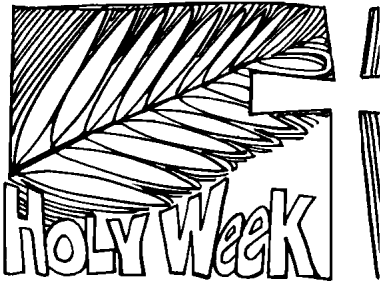
## THE ACORN

Red Oak, Texas

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



APRIL 2011, Issue 3



### HOLY WEEK SERVICES, APRIL 17 – APRIL 24

#### Palm Sunday Worship

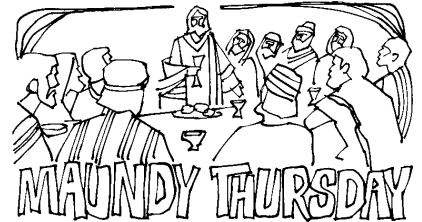
**Sunday, April 17th , 8:30 & 10:50 AM**

*Congregational Procession with Palm Branches*

#### Holy Thursday Service & Communion

**April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00PM**

There will be a re-enactment of the Last Supper with disciples re-counting how they were chosen by Jesus and their disbelief upon hearing that one among them will betray Jesus



#### GOOD FRIDAY, April 22

**"PASSION OF THE CHRIST"**

**4:00 PM— Sanctuary**

**Tenebrae Service of Light & Darkness—7:00 PM**



#### Easter Egg Hunt!

**Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10 am to 12 pm**

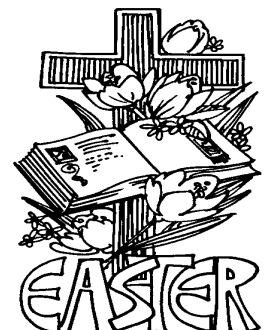
We are having an Easter Story read by the Pastor Allen at 10 am followed by an Easter egg hunt. We will have the Easter Bunny available for pictures also. Come bring your Easter Basket & Join us for a fun-filled morning!

#### EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES

**SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH**

**8:30 & 10:50 AM**

***Full Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir & Brass Ensemble***



## Schedule of Servants:

**-Communion Servant;** Sandra Doyle

**- Flowers given by**

4/3 Wammack Family  
4/10 Almond Family in honor of their Anniversary.  
4/17 Palm Sunday—Jane Aberg in memory of her mom's Birthday.  
4/24 Easter Lilies

**- Acolytes**

4/3 Katelyn Newport & Brooke Vassallo  
4/10 Nathan Wilson & Matthew McKnight  
4/17 Katelyn Newport and Alexis Palma  
4/24 (8:30) Nathan Wilson  
4/24 (10:50) Drew Davis and Michael Plumb

**- Prayers for Pastor**

4/3: Don Newman & Curtis Doyle  
4/10 Jerry Pomeroy & Mike Stricker  
4/17: Don Newman & Terry Brown  
4/24: Jerry Pomeroy & John Persefield

**-Ushers & Greeters —**

8:30 Bud & Beth Norris  
10:50 Sue & Jordon Brown  
Shannon & Jody Smock, and Barbara & John Persefield.

**- Counters**

4/3: Melody Durazo & Stephanie Vassallo  
4/10: Jerry Kirby & Tim Brownlee  
4/17: Lionel Hazard & Suzanne Barry  
4/24: Brandy Young & Curtis Doyle

**- Sound Technicians**

8:30 4/3 Don Newman  
4/10 Les Mitchell  
4/17 Scott Sackett  
4/24 Don Newman  
  
10:50 Tom Rogers,  
Jackson Smiley, and  
Kayleigh Kitzman

**- Video:** Carolyn Haffey & Youth ONE

## Continued from Back Page by Allen Grant

*I think I can make it now, the pain is gone  
All of the bad feelings have disappeared  
Here is the rainbow I've been prayin for  
It's gonna be a bright (bright), bright (bright)  
Sun-Shiny day.*

*I'm not sure what Johnny was thinking about when he wrote this song but it's message applies to our lives in Christ. For in Christ, we all can see clearly now. It's gonna be a bright, bright, Son-shiny day.*

*Grace and peace,  
Allen*

### Want to be a better Disciple of Jesus?

### Want to know the Bible better?

### Ever wonder what some verse means?

### Do you struggle to find a passage that is being read?

We have at least some answers for you. Welcome to Sunday School and Bible Studies at FUMCRO.

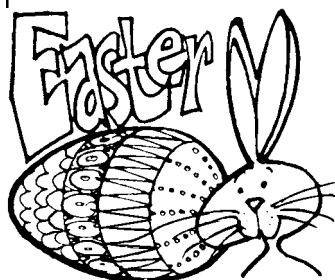
For adults we currently offer 4 Sunday School classes, and 2 Wednesday Bible studies led by our Pastor. The Senior Pastor offers a message from the Bible each week during worship but he will tell you that is not enough. April 3 is Sunday School Sunday. So why not get up a bit earlier this week and try out one of our classes.

Do you have children? Children need structured learning opportunities and Sunday School offers them a loving teacher and curriculum that will help them grow as a disciple of Jesus. Sunday School and VBS offer a strong foundation for later spiritual growth. After the sixth grade, Confirmation classes help guide their thinking in what it means to be a Christian and a member of the church.

Why not give Sunday School a try? You might find out that you have friends here and besides that you might just get to know Jesus a bit better.

## Children's Council Needs Easter Candy Donations!

We need wrapped candy and novelties for the Easter egg hunt. The only requirement is it has to fit in a small plastic Easter egg. You can donate candy, small bouncy balls, bracelets, necklaces and other small items. If you want to buy the Easter eggs that are already filled with candy and goodies, feel free to do that also. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.



**Any questions, call Jennifer McKnight  
at 214-354-8373**

**Thank you all for everything you do!  
Children's Council**

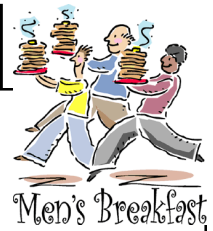
## Spring Cleaning Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>

Just in time for Palm Sunday and Easter, the Worship Committee is sponsoring a church clean-up day on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Cleaning will focus especially on the sanctuary and foyer. Cleaning supplies will be provided. Come early to choose your "job" from the task list! Join the fellowship and fun as we make our church ready for members and visitors this spring.

## ATTENTION: UM MEN

The Monthly Men's Breakfast will be held on **April 12 at 8:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Curtis Doyle Curtis Vassallo will be preparing breakfast and Don Newman will be providing the devotional. Men of all ages are invited to attend this great breakfast & meeting.

Any questions please contact Steve Smiley at 214-263-9919, or Mike Stricker at 972-765-0326.



## LION'S CLUB BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

7-11 AM

207 W. Red Oak Road  
Red Oak, TX

## Wisdom Seekers

**What:** A new group based on 12 step groups, John Wesley's classes, support groups, Christian disciplines, Emmaus 4th day group, etc. You will also be sharing your personal path to wisdom with others in the group. You can participate by listening or you can share your story or become a mentor to others. We will all be at different places on our journeys.

**Who:** For women who are interested in personal growth. Facilitated by Darlene Grant a Deacon, licensed social worker and individual interested in personal growth. I have lead a variety of groups since 1992, and had training in counseling and groups during my ministerial training during both bachelor and master's degrees.

**When:** Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 in fellowship hall (we will talk over supper).

## NAMI WALKS— Changing Minds.....One Step at a Time

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) provides support for individuals and families dealing with mental illness, and educates community leaders, legislators, and law enforcement.

Joanna Johnson is participating again in the walk, Saturday, May 7. Her goal is to raise \$100. If you would like to support her you can pay by check, or online at [www.nami.org/namiwalk11/namielliscounty/joannajohnson](http://www.nami.org/namiwalk11/namielliscounty/joannajohnson). Or contacting Joanna herself.

## FELLOWSHIP DINNERS

### Church Dinner



The Wednesday Fellowship Dinners are held on Wednesdays at 5:40 pm weather permitting. The donations collected will benefit the Apportionments / Connectional Giving.

Menus are as listed below. If you would like to help, the crew is always in need of extra help for cleanup after the dinner is served. For more information call Mary Young 972-741-3120 or Mike Stricker 972-765-0326.

- 4/6 Roasted Chicken, Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Chocolate Chip Cookies.
- 4/13 Tacos, Pinto Beans, Chips & Salsa, Chocolate Pudding & Whipped Cream.
- 4/20 Easter Week! - No Meal
- 4/27 Hamburger Pie, Corn, Salad, Angel Cookies
- 5/4 Pancakes, Sausage Patties, Fruit Bowl, Chocolate Milk

**LAST FELLOWSHIP MEAL UNTIL SEPTEMBER**



**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 PROJECTS

**Imagine NO Malaria:** We can eradicate malaria in our world just as we have smallpox and polio. This is now more than nets, it is education, treatment and prevention. We can achieve a sustainable victory over malaria. Watch for more information and fundraisers after Easter.

**Japan Relief / UMCOR:** You can make special donations to UMCOR now by placing your donations in the offering plate and specifying UMCOR or Japan. 100% of your donation goes to relief in Japan through the United Methodist Church.

**Angel Tree Ministry:** Children of parents in prison are being provided Christmas presents and Birthday Gift cards during the year. We continue to recycle aluminum cans for this project.

**Please be generous this Easter Season**  
*Commit to a plan of consistent giving*

**This is a one-time Easter donation.**



**This is a recurring donation!**

**Participate Today.**

Electronic Giving is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to our church. Please contact the church office to learn how you can participate or go online to our website at [www.fumcro.org](http://www.fumcro.org). Thanks for your continuous support.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:40 am** - Meet in the Sanctuary for singing/video and then go to classes. March we begin a new three month focus moving toward Easter and the resurrection. Our BIG Idea is "**We believe that the Resurrection lets us know that Jesus is always with us.**" Bible Verse for April "**It is true! The Lord has risen!**" Luke 24:34

**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: April Study: **We Worship God; Unit 2 "Ancient Words of Praise."**

**Enrichment Class:** - Meets in the Fellowship Hall: Study of the gospel accounts of the last week of Christ's life until second week of May.

Beginning May 8 They will be doing the Adam Hamilton Study titled "**When Christians Get it Wrong.**" If you would like a book for this study, please let Lynne Grandstaff know by April 10th. You can also order the book online through Cokesbury, Amazon or Barnes & Nobles. (The book is available for downloading to electronic devices if you prefer.)

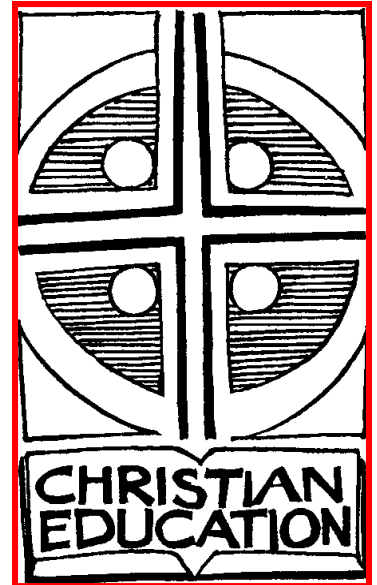
**Nomads:** Meeting in the Church Office. Classroom Teacher: Joanna Johnson. Studying "**When the World Takes the Wind Out of Your Sails**" by Moore.

**Young Adult Class** - Meeting in Room 104. Study new every Sunday from the Upper Room: "**Alive Now**".

**Pastor Class:** Will meet in the Library to study. New Study to begin.

**Adult Bible Study:** Wednesday at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm.

**Financial Peace:** Teacher: Terry Brown—Class begins at 6:00 pm on Wednesday evenings.



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

## EAT AT EL CHICO—APRIL 18 SUPPORT YOUTH MISSION TRIP



Come out to support the youth at El Chico on April 18<sup>th</sup> from 5pm to close. Come have dinner and support the mission trip.

With your dinner order purchase, the youth will receive 10% of the evening sales,

excluding alcohol, which will go towards our mission trip this summer.

Come have and have a great dinner for a great cause. Invite your friends and family to Mention FUMC Youth when they come into the restaurant.

## ALL CHOIRS & MUSICIANS ASSIST WITH WORSHIP IN APRIL



Choirs are busy practicing for Holy Week on Wednesday evenings. Handbells will practice on Sundays at 12:00pm Call Stu Dorsey for more information.

Methodist Music Makers will sing at the 10:50 am Worship Service on April 10th.

The Chancel and Handbell Choirs will be heard at both Services on Palm Sunday and Easter with a brass ensemble.

The Kids of First UMC both Angel and MMM Choirs included will sing on Easter Sunday.

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

# Mission Trip 2011

This summer our church will be sending 19 participants on a weeklong mission trip to the East Texas/Louisiana coastal regions. The trip will take place on June 12<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>. 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. We ask for you to consider giving to help make this possible. Below is a breakdown of the total cost. It's an average of about \$366 per person.

- ♦ Registration Cost = \$4050
- ♦ 3 Rental Vans = \$1899
- ♦ Estimate of Gas Cost = \$1000
- ♦ Total needed = \$6949

Please consider giving to this life changing experience. Donations can be marked "Youth Mission Trip" and dropped in the Sunday offering, dropped over during the week in the office, or mail to the church. When you give, not only are you helping change the lives of those going but you are helping change the lives of those who we are going to serve.



## TALENT SHOW/FUNDRAISER BENEFIT FOR MISSION



On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the youth will be hosting a talent show to benefit the mission trip this summer. This talent show is open to all. We will be selling sausage on a stick, soda, and chips starting at 5pm. The cost is \$5.00 with all the proceeds going to support the youth mission trip.

The talent show will start at 6pm. There is no cost to attend the show, we will be taking a free will offering

to help support the mission trip. Please come out and join us for some fun!

### Mission Trip Attendees

There will be a mandatory mission trip meeting at noon on April 17 following the church service.

### YOUTH MISSION TRIP SHARES

Donate to Youth Mission Trip. We need a total of 25 shares.

- ♦ 1 Share = \$300
- ♦ ½ Share = \$150
- ♦ ¼ Share = \$75

Please mark Youth Mission when donating.



### MINISTER OF YOUTH

Heather Rodenborg

FUMCROYouth@gmail.com

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S CIRCLE NEWS



- **DISTRICT SPRING MEETING & MISSION STUDY**—April 9 First UMC of Corsicana. Contact Jo Wilsford for reservations. The study will be led by Nanette Wyatt and will be "For the Love of God, the letters of John." Lunch will be served following the study. To carpool meet in the FUMCRO parking lot at 8:15 am.
- **General Meeting** of UM Women is held on the second Sunday of the month at 4:30 pm in the Sunshine Classroom. Melba Watson will continue the Mission Study, *For the Love of God*. Everyone is welcome to join us for this interesting study. Childcare will be provided upon request.
- **Y\*A\*W\*N Circle** will meet first Monday of the month in the church office at 7:30 pm. All are welcome. For more information call Melody Durazo at 469-964-4188.

- **Circle of Love** meets on the 4th Tuesday of the Month at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone should bring a covered dish to share. April 26th Jo Wilsford will provide the program and Inge Jones & Charlotte Yeadon will be the hostess. All the women of the church are invited to attend. May the women go out to eat, and meetings are not held in the Summer months.
- **Friendship Circle** will have its regular monthly meeting on the fourth Thursday of this month, **April 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing the last lesson, Lesson Nine: "Journey into the New Jerusalem" from our Bible study, *Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today*. The scripture is *Revelation 21-22*. Beth Norris will present the devotional, and Lori Stricker will provide refreshments. **All women are invited to become a part of this UMW circle of friends.** We always have good fellowship, delicious refreshments, and lively discussions; come join us! If childcare is needed, please call the church office. Call Jo Wilsford (972-617-0672) if more information is needed.
- **The Circle of Hope and Healing** conducts our Prayer Shawl Ministry. They at 10:00 am on the first and third Saturday (April 2 & 16) and second Friday of the month (April 8) at the Church. They continue to be very busy making shawls for many in need of encouragement, hope and healing prayers. They continue to receive requests and try to fill these requests as quickly as possible. Thank you to those who have made donations to our ministry—your generosity helps us make more shawls for future requests.



With Lords' Acre just around the corner, we are busily coming up with ideas to help this endeavor. While we cannot donate a prayer shawl for Lord's Acre, many ladies are hoping to crochet/knit other items to donate for a UMW craft fair to benefit the Lord's Acre this coming fall. We need yarn—lots of yarn to fill this need. Please contact any of the prayer shawl ministry women, Jo Wilsford or Beth Norris if you have any questions as to the type of yarn we need.

- **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. To count in our quest to be a 5 Star United Methodist Women's Group, 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 have any questions please contact Lori Stricker—Reading Program Secretary.
- **Mother and Daughter Banquet, May 6<sup>th</sup>:** The 64<sup>th</sup> annual Mother and Daughter Banquet is scheduled for Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. Ladies of all ages are invited to attend this special celebration of mothers and daughters. This year's program is a play, "How's Your Heart?" After having had surgery from head to toe, there's only one part of the main character that is not perfect: her heart. Join us in the humor and fun as she searches for a "perfect" heart. Invite your daughter, or mother, or friend, or next door neighbor and join us for a delicious dinner and humorous play. Tickets for the banquet (Adults - \$6.00; children under 12 - \$3.00; children 3 and under free) will be on sale in the church office and after church services throughout April.

**If childcare is needed during any UMW activity, please call the church office 972-617-9100 to schedule.**



**BISHOP LOWRY  
of the Central Texas  
Conference of the UMC.**

## INSIDE STORY HEADLINE

### Answering the Why

Posted: 28 Mar 2011 07:36 AM PDT by Bishop Mike Lowry

The recent tragedy in Japan lifts up again a perennial question as to why. This is especially a pointed question to Christians with our belief in an all-knowing and all-loving God. Years ago Rabbi Kushner wrote a bestselling work entitled *Why Bad Things Happen to Good People*.

Abingdon Press has just published a new book entitled *Why?* written by Rev. Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor of Church of the Resurrection UMC in Kansas City. It wrestles deeply and faithfully with this tough issue. A variety of secular publications have picked up on Rev. Hamilton's book. Recently, Adam wrote an article entitled *Japan's Earthquake and the Will of God*.

Allow me to share a sampling: *"As a pastor, I've spent 25 years working through the problem of suffering with my congregation. While it is natural, in the midst of intense grief and loss, to blame both God and ourselves for terrible tragedies (God is punishing me for something I've done/God is punishing our nation for something we've done), these answers miss the mark.*

From a Christian theological perspective there are two challenges to this view: The first is that the Bible consistently teaches that God is loving, merciful and just. There is nothing loving, merciful and just about thousands of people being buried alive in mudslides or rubble or washed out to sea by a tsunami. There is nothing loving, merciful and just about a child being born with cancer, or a young person being raped and murdered. These acts of violence and widespread destruction are inconsistent with the character of God. Further, when considering whether these acts may be punishment for human sin, the central focus of the Christian gospel, which the present season of Lent is pointing us towards, is that Jesus Christ bore the punishment for human sin on the cross, there offering a prayer that would echo throughout history, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." The answer to the question why is not to be found in a vengeful God who wreaks havoc on the human race. It is to be found in understanding that we live in a world of cause and effect. Our actions can have negative consequences for us or others. Others actions can have negative consequences for us. We also know that our bodies are not indestructible, and that there are genetic and external factors that affect our health. These can be exacerbated by our lifestyle and actions. And we know that there are forces of nature at work in our planet — atmospheric, environmental and geological — that are destructive. These very forces, which can be so destructive when human beings are in their path, are also essential to our planet being able to sustain life. Our actions as human beings can exacerbate these forces, but the forces themselves are a part of our planet's essential operating system." For the full article you can follow this link [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/adam-hamilton/was-japans-earthquake-the\\_b\\_837324.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/adam-hamilton/was-japans-earthquake-the_b_837324.html). Even better, I invite you to read the book and lead a study group in your church through this thoughtful and helpful piece of writing.

### **Belk's Charity Sale 20-70% off storewide**

**Rarely Discounted  
Brands**

**The Sale is only 4 hours  
from 6am—10 am  
Saturday, April 16**

**Buy your tickets at FUMC  
for \$5 off  
To benefit our  
"lighting project"**

**The church will use  
the funds to put in  
more lighting along  
the walk ways.**



## National Day of Prayer, May 5<sup>th</sup>

May 5<sup>th</sup> is designated on the calendar as the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Observance of the National Day of Prayer. The theme for this year is "A Mighty Fortress is Our God."

Because prayer is a very significant and vital part of our Christian spiritual life, the church sanctuary and altar will be open for prayer from 12:00 Noon to 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. A notebook in which to record prayer requests will be available as well as candles to light as intercessory prayers are made for specific persons. If the weather is nice, the Prayer Garden at the entrance of the church may also be used.

Everyone is invited to come for a time of quiet reflection and prayer.



**First United Methodist  
Church  
Sanctuary Open  
Thursday, May 5th,  
12:00–7:00 PM**

## JESUS AS A PART TIME FRIEND BY JOAN POMEROY

**Read: Matthew 28:20 "And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age."**

Have you ever thought about Jesus being a good time friend, when things are going well and you are happy you feel that Jesus is your friend? But what happens when things get tough, as at times they do for all of us, then do you blame Jesus? Is he no longer your friend? Do you turn from him and become mad at His father, mad at the world and sad inside? When I am sad inside it is a miserable world, like a cold and windy day where everything is gray.

It has always amazed me how some people can come through a tough time, one of those times when it seems only dark clouds cover their world, and they continue to thank Our Heavenly Father and his son Jesus for all the blessings in their life. Does this amaze you? Yet other people become angry, bitter, and resentful. Some people even become chronic complainers. You know the type who can not find anything good to say about anything.

After thoughtful prayer, and lots of observation, I think the difference is their relationship with Jesus. To have such a friend that you can turn to in times of happiness and time of trouble is to have a full time friend. A dependable companion, who will show you the way, bringing sunshine to the gray, windy, cold day.

It has taken me a while to learn that Jesus is a full time friend who is always there to comfort and guide me. It take time to build relationships, and so many people today don't believe they have the time to build a relationship with Jesus, but I feel, who can afford not to? I certainly can't!

Prayer: Dear Jesus, please help me, to remember to thank you and praise you in good times and in bad times and to always remembering that you are a full time friend.

Joan Pomeroy  
Organizer of Writing for Enjoyment

## APRIL 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 Punkney (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)  
Elliott Woolridge  
Lisa McKenzie (Lori Stricker's Sister)  
Kally Robbins  
Roland Stevens  
Laurie DiCave (Stephanie's Sister)  
Sandra White  
Billie Howard (Terri Yates grandfather)  
Ginger Alexander (Maureen Plumb's  
sister)  
Betty Brown (Eddie Mae Newman's sis-  
ter)  
David Horn  
Linda Peterson's sister  
Those seeking employment

### Continued Family & Friends:

Tila King (Joan's Niece)  
Joy Brock  
Apolonia Garcia (Joe's mom)  
Stuart Almond  
Vickie Serrao  
Bok Jin Yi (Sunmi's Father)  
Additions will be placed  
in the weekly bulletins.



### **APRIL BIRTHDAYS:**

1/ Elizabeth Sanden, George Sweetin  
2/ Lori Schuster, Curtis Vassallo  
3/ Philip Trees, Jonathan Sackett  
4/ Karen Ross, Helen tenNapel  
6/ Melissa Schupmann  
7/ Nathan Wilson, Melissa Schupmann  
8/ Sue Rogers, Tammy Ashford  
10/ Suzanne Neel, Jacob Moore  
11/ Ellie Davis  
13/ Braylon Voigtlander  
16/ Dana Ellard, Ryan Smith  
17/ Alexis Palma, Cindy Casey  
18/ Sherry Grandstaff  
20/ Jake Ashford  
21/ Rebecca Mayer  
22/ Cora Hendrix  
23/ Mary Voigtlander  
24/ Elizabeth Neel  
26/ Matthew Sackett,  
Sarah Kerzee, Adrienne Zabel  
28/ Cory Pryor, Linda Wolaver  
29/ Drew Davis  
30/ Ethan Ellard

### 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.

### Military Continued:

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

### 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  
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 OPPORTUNITIES

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

## QUARTERLY REPORT

Sometimes I have mixed emotions; I suppose that some of you do as well. This article has given me mixed emotions. Most people don't like to hear about our finances, but at the same time, it is only fair to keep the church informed of our physical condition as we try to do our spiritual condition. So let me start with the latter.

Spiritually, we are growing and learning. New people are beginning to come to church, some older members are starting to return and at the same time, many of our members are actively involved in carrying the ministry of Christ into the world. Our Parent's Day Out Ministry is growing and breaking even financially. Visitors are showing up every week at worship and the other activities during the week are growing. We are open for business 98 hours per week. WOW! Ministry is happening here in Red Oak and around the world because of you and your faithfulness.

At the beginning of 2011, I asked you to consider increasing your offering by 20%, which meant if you gave \$20 per week, then the increase would be \$4 per week. Or if you gave \$200 per week, then the increase would be \$240 per week. I am thrilled to report that several of our members have done exactly that and as your Senior Pastor, I want you to know that I greatly appreciate your faithfulness in giving.

Here at the end of the first quarter, our projected income should be \$94,170 so we could pay all of our bills and move ahead for the year. So far this year we have received \$85,374, which means we still need another \$8,796 to be even. Last year, we received a little over \$13,000 from the Waxahachie District to pay out our connectional giving and so far this year we have paid \$8,000 on our mission work beyond our local church.

First, let me say that all bills that are due are paid. We still owe some every month, but we are not trailing behind. Then, second, I want to say how incredibly proud I am of our staff. Each of them works hard to keep spending under control.

We are now in the middle of the Lenten Season – a time of prayer and preparation for Easter. I would like to ask you to pray again over your gifts to the church. Remember that special offerings for Japan, Haiti, Mission Trip and so many others are important but those should come after we pay our tithes and offerings to God.

We are almost \$9,000 behind in our offerings. With an average attendance of 150 adults, if each of us could pay an extra \$58.67 we would catch up and be able to be even. I know for some that may be a lot. All I am asking is for you to pray about the on-going ministry of your church this week. Thank you for being such a gracious and faithful people. God has blessed Darlene and me by calling us to this place of service.

Allen

**ATTENTION:** A technical problem has delayed the Quarterly Statements of giving for Members. Every effort is being made to get the program working and statements printed of your records for the first Quarter of 2011.

First United Methodist Church  
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Red Oak, Texas 75154

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Stu Dorsey, Music Minister

Sunmi Goodwin, Pianist

Lori Stricker, Office Manager  
[manager@fumcro.org](mailto:manager@fumcro.org)

Judy Cox, Building /Nursery Mgr.

Christy Niven,  
Day School Director

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

Office Hours  
Monday–Friday 9 am– 4 pm  
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(nursery provided at all services)

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



## THE BACK PAGE BY ALLEN GRANT

**Good morning,**

*This morning, I had my annual eye check up and right now my eyes are still a bit dilated. The world looks so differently when your eyes are more wide open. I can see more light and yet, things are still blurry. When I go outside today it is cloudy but too bright to be out without Sunglasses. Inside, looking at the computer and under the fluorescent lights, I have moments when I need to put my dark glasses back on. Going through this experience this morning, I have been thinking about what changes happen in us when we open our eyes to Jesus.*

*When a person allows the living Lord to enter their lives, the days become brighter, but not blurry. When Jesus enters, you begin to see things much clearer – no, not with your physical eyes but with your spiritual eyes. When our spiritual vision is clearer, we are able to forgive easier and to love even more than ever.*

*Johnny Nash wrote a popular song many years ago. Do you remember, "I Can See Clearly Now?"*

*I can see clearly now, the rain is gone,  
I can see all obstacles in my way  
Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind  
It's gonna be a bright (bright), bright (bright)  
Sun-Shiny day.*

(Continued on page 2)