

## THE ACORN

Red Oak, Texas

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

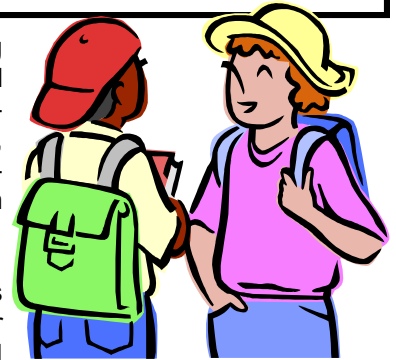


AUGUST 2011, Issue 7

### Backpack Blessing Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>

Can school be starting already? YES! It's that time of year again. As you are shopping for groceries or your own children's school supplies, please pick up a backpack and some extra school supplies for those children in our community whose families are unable to afford them. These supplies and backpacks should be at the church by Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. Also, if you would like to sponsor a child through North Ellis County Outreach and provide his or her entire list of supplies and backpack, please call the church office to receive the grade of a child to support.

AND...you certainly do not want to miss our own **Backpack Blessing** at both services on Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. Children, college students, and adults who attend, work in or with the schools, bring your backpacks, satchels, and briefcases to receive prayers and blessings as you begin this school year. **WEAR YOUR BACK-PACK!**



### RALLY DAY— AUGUST 21 — 9:30 AM

Breakfast will be provided during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall by the Children's Council. The children will receive their certificates and graduation recognition into the next grade for Sunday School. They will find out who their teacher is for the next school year. Next year we will be offering 4 elementary classes for Sunday School. The children going into 3rd grade will be presented with Adventure Bibles during the church services. Come enjoy and meet your teacher.

### Committee Meetings Scheduled

#### Sunday, August 7

- 12:00 pm - Youth Fundraiser Luncheon for Mission Trip 2012
- 12:30 pm - All Program Committees Meet

#### Sunday, August 14

- 12:00 pm - Hot Dog Watermelon Lunch by Lord's Acre Committee
- 12:00 pm - Finance Committee Meeting
- 1:30 pm - Administrative Council Meeting

**Texas Sales Tax Holiday**  
is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 19-21.

## Schedule of Servants:

### - Flowers given by

- 8/7 Herbert Shelton in memory of Eris Shelton  
8/14 Jessica Aberg in honor of Jane (Mom's Birthday)  
8/21 Mary & Tim Brownlee in honor of Earlene's Birthday  
8/28 Melody Durazo in honor of Nick's Birthday.

Flower sign up still needed for Dec. 11

### - Acolytes — TBA

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

### - Prayers for Pastor

Volunteers needed—call the church office

- 8/7 TBA / Curtis Doyle  
8/14 Don Newman & Mike Stricker  
8/21 TBA & Terry Brown  
8/28 Don Newman & John Persefield  
9/4 TBA & Keven Davis

### - Ushers & Greeters —

- 8:30 Steve & Charlotte Yeadon  
10:50 Jody Shannon Smock, Eva & Shelly Rudd, & Chuck & Renee Fouts. (sub :Judy Cox & Joe Cadenhead on 14th for Fouts).

### - Counters

- 8/7 Melody Durazo & Stephanie Vassallo  
8/14 Jerry Kirby & Tim Brownlee  
8/21 Lionel Hazard & Suzanne Barry  
8/21 Brandy Young & Curtis Doyle  
9/4 Melody Durazo & Stephanie Vassallo

### - Sound Technicians

- 8:30 service**  
8/7 Don Newman  
8/14 Scott Sackett  
8/21 Les Mitchell  
8/28 Les Mitchell  
9/4 Scott Sackett

**10:50 Service:** Tom Rogers, Kayleigh Kitzman, & Jack Smiley

**-Video:** Carolyn Haffey, & Heather Rodenberg (Youth ONE)

## ATTENTION: UM MEN

The United Methodist Men will The Monthly Men's Breakfast will be held on **Saturday, Aug. 13th at 8:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Terry Brown & Bill Belote will be the cooks this month. All men are invited to attend this great breakfast & meeting.

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



Men's Breakfast

## PARENT'S DAY OUT

**RAISED \$1000**  
during the Rummage sale

**Thank you so much for your help and support.**

**The Laugh & Learn Day School will be able to purchase some much needed equipment.**



**The Laugh & Learn Day School will be able to purchase some much needed equipment.**



## 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](http://WWW.FUMCRO.ORG) and follow the link at the donation button.



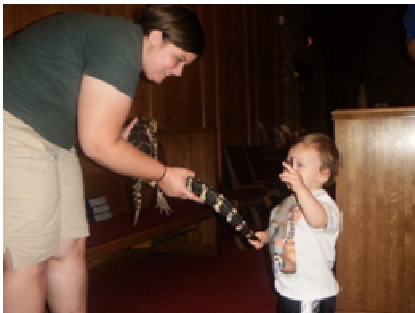
## RISK TAKING MISSION PROJECT

Imagine NO Malaria

Please sign a pledge and return it to the church office.

We Need 94 people at \$5 a month

## FUMC'S PARENT'S DAY OUT — LAUGH & LEARN DAY SCHOOL



Parents Day Out has ended for the summer. We had a great time. Every Wednesday was "Water Wednesday." The students loved every minute of it, and we certainly got our workouts on those days. We had many visitors over the six weeks. The Dallas Zoo visited one day with some very interesting animals. I think that was my favorite. We even got to touch an alligator! The children also loved jumping up into the fire truck and turning the sirens on in the police car. I am already looking forward to next summer!

We are now enrolling for fall classes. Classes are filling up fast so be sure and register soon. We have classes for infants through 4 year olds. Registration fee is \$65.00 for the year. We are open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:15-2:15. The cost is \$18.00 per day! Give me a call if you have any questions at 903-277-5061! - Christi Niven

### OUR PRESENCE & OUR GIFTS:

Attendance:	8:30	10:50	Sunday School	Offering
7/3	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$6,790
7/10	52	110	75	\$5,217
7/17	n/a	135	71	\$8,069
7/24	52	121	126	\$4,502
7/31	45	135	78	\$5,509
Direct Deposit donations				\$1,673
Needed Weekly: \$7,653 or Monthly: 33,161+				
Apportionments Paid to Date				\$8,000
No More Malaria to Date				\$1,060

# Vacation Bible School

## JULY 2011



From Jennifer:

I want to say a special thank you to all the VBS Volunteers. I have such a great church family and feel truly blessed to be a part of the church.

All had a fantastic time and the children were great!

Thank You,  
Jennifer McKnight  
Chairperson  
Children's Council



THE ACORN  
RED OAK, TEXAS



## ONE GOD — ONE FAITH — ONE WAY — YOUTHONE CORNER



### YOUTH NEWS!

It's that time of the year again, back to school. The words every teenager hates to hear and the words parents rejoice over. As the school year

starts again, remember that your teen is going to go through a transition. A new year means new teachers, new friends, and maybe even a new school. One thing that you will want to be aware of during this time is your teen's attitude. One of the major conditions that plagues teens is depression. Here are some of the signs you may want to watch out for: lack of interest in activities that they normally enjoy, tendency to isolate themselves more than usual, change in eating habit, and what they may be posting out in the social world. If you notice any of these changes, feel free to speak with me or Pastor Allen. We are here to help you on your journey through the teenage years.

One of the things that I mentioned before was watching what youR teen posts online. If your teen has a facebook, twitter, myspace, or google+, I would recommend that you also have one. Many parents are unaware of what their teen posts online. I have had many conversations with youth regarding issues that they are struggling with because of first noticing it on their social network, especially girls. If you need help with any of these social websites, please let me know and I would be more than willing to help you. Sometimes it's easier for a teen to post their feelings online for the world to see than for them to verbally speak their feelings. If you do see something that has you worried, remember to stop and take a moment before approaching your teen to speak about it. Gather your thoughts and approach them in a calm matter so they don't clam up on you. And as I mentioned before, if you need help approaching your teen about a subject, please feel free to speak with me.



### MINISTER OF YOUTH

Heather Rodenborg

FUMCROYouth@gmail.com



### CALLING ALL RANGERS FANS!!

On August 27<sup>th</sup>, the Rangers have a Faith and Family night. The band MercyMe will play before the game at 5pm, gates open at 3:30 pm. We have 30

tickets available on a first come, first serve basis. They are for section 303. Normal prices is \$15. We have them for \$12. If interested, please call Heather at 480-612-1929.

Come out and enjoy a concert and then watch the Rangers beat the Angels. Go Rangers!

### August Events

- 7<sup>th</sup> – Youth providing lunch 12 PM.
- 6pm – Youth Group
- 14<sup>th</sup> – No Youth Group
- 21<sup>st</sup> - 6pm Youth Group
- 27<sup>th</sup> All Church Rangers game.
- 28<sup>th</sup> – 6pm Youth Group

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:40 am** - LIVE BIG in August focus on: **"We Can Help Others"** The bible verse is 1 John 3:18 **"Children, you show love for others by truly helping them."** 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: August Study: **God Instructs the People of God; "A Case Study in Community"** On August 7 we end the previous sessions of **Judges** with 13:1-8, 24-25. August 13, 21 & 28 we study **Ruth**, chapters 1, 2 and 4.

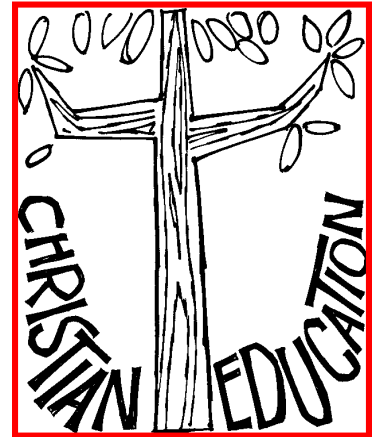
**Enrichment Class:** - Meets in the Fellowship Hall: Study of the Adam Hamilton book titled **"When Christians Get it Wrong."**

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

**Disciple Bible I Class** - Begins August 21 8:30 am. Keven & Dana Davis teachers

**Pastor Class:** Will meet in the Library.

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



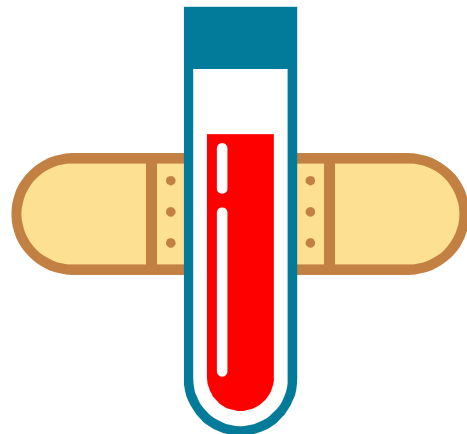
**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
FOR ALL AGES  
9:40—10:35 AM**



**DISCIPLE BIBLE I  
CLASS  
August 21  
8:30-1030 am**

Our Mission as the United Methodist Church is "to make disciples for Jesus Christ"

One of the best ways to make disciples is to participate in a "Disciple Bible Study". A Disciple Bible Study I Class will begin on August 21. Keven and Dana Davis will be leading this class. It will meet from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM on Sundays. It is 34 two hour classes. 17 before Christmas, 17 after Christmas. We will have a schedule ready by July 24th. It is a commitment, but so is following Jesus Christ. There is a small cost for the workbook. Child-care will be provided by the Church.



# BLOOD DRIVE

**SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24  
During Lord's Acre Day— Please Give a Pint !**

**We only received 8 pints of blood during our  
Carter Blood Drive. We encourage you to help  
us reach our goal of 16 pints.  
We need your help in saving lives!**

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S CIRCLE NEWS

- **General Meeting—August 14** The first fall UMW General Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 14, at 4:30 PM in the Sunshine Classroom. (Executive Team will meet at 3:30 PM.) The program will be provided by Jennifer McKnight. Please call the church office if childcare is needed.



### Prayer Shawl Ministry

- **Y\*A\*W\*N (Young Adult Women's Network) Circle** will resume their meetings on the second Monday of September at 7:30 pm due to Labor Day holiday. 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. Friday July 8th and Saturday, July 9th are scheduled for meetings at this time. 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) will resume on August 23 at 10:00 am. All women are invited.

This Circle has a potluck luncheon when they meet. Charlotte Yeadon and Melba Watson will hostess. Please bring a dish to share. Dessert and tea or coffee will be provided.. Program will be provided by Lynne Grandstaff.

- **Friendship Circle** (evening circle) The Friendship Circle will meet on Thursday, August 25, at 7:00 PM in the church library. The Bible study for 2011-2012 is *Confessing the Beatitudes*; it will focus on connecting the scriptures with daily life and difficult issues facing the world today. The study also provides a historical context for the Matthew and Luke scriptures so that participants learn more about what the Beatitudes meant to the original audience that would have heard Jesus speak them. Study books will be available the first Sunday in August from Jo Wilsford. In addition to Lesson 1 of the study at our meeting in August, we will also have a brief discussion of the book *Heaven is for Real* which several members have read and would like to discuss with others. Jo will provide the devotional and refreshments for this first meeting. All women are welcome to join us for Bible-based study, lively discussions, good fellowship, and delicious refreshments. Need more information? Call Jo Wilsford at 972-617-0672.
- **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.
- **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 15<sup>th</sup>. 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.**



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S READING PROGRAM



Ladies, please turn in your Reading Program Participation Reports no later than August 14 so that they can be reported to the District and Conference Secretaries of Program Resources. The reading program goes from Sept. 1 to August 31, but your report must be turned in by the 14th. You will receive your certificates at the Annual meeting of the UMW.

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. 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 at 972-765-0327.

**“My Sister the Father”** by Reverend Meridith Whitaker is available in our UMW library. This book counts toward Education for Mission.

The stories in this book are a collection of personal events that span the 25 plus years of Reverend Whitaker's ministry. The Cookson Hills Center is a community center operated by the United Methodist Church to meet the needs of the people of the Cherokee, Adair and Sequoyah counties in Oklahoma. The people in this book are an eclectic collection of persons who have had their lives changed because Christ has been introduced to them through this ministry.

Ladies, come by the Sunshine class room and check out a book from the UMW library and begin your reading for next year!

## UMW MISSION 2011: BURNING OF THE CANDLE



The money collected for the Burning of the Candle ceremony is used to fund the UMW's total mission program. In 2011, it will cost **\$32.74** to support the total mission program for one minute.

Money in any amount may be given by individuals or UMW units as an honorarium or memorial. A candle for each district will be burned at the annual UMW conference meeting for the exact time that each district has funded a portion of the mission program. Names of individuals in whose honor or memory money has been contributed will be printed in a book; one amount may be given for one or more memorials or honorariums. The deadline for names to be printed in the book is **August 8<sup>th</sup>**.

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 8<sup>th</sup>. Checks may be made payable to UMW; please write “Burning of the Candle” in the memo line.

## AUGUST 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)  
Grace Weir (Keven Davis' mother)  
Pauline Brown (Oma's mother)  
Karen Herriott (Becky's sister)  
Sylvia Wolaver (Gaines' sister)  
Laurie DiCave (Stephanie's Sister)  
Ginger Alexander (Maureen Plumb)  
Betty Brown (Eddie Mae Newman)  
Tila King (Joan's Niece)  
Joy Brock  
Apolonia Garcia (Joe Garcia's mom)  
Jane O'Kelly (Dani Muckleroy)  
Jack Leahy (Becky Monnette)  
Amy Pampel (Marilyn Eberhart)  
Lloyd Lee Turner (Watson)  
Lindzey Ward (Watson)  
Nikki Benoist (Stricker)  
Brian & Malisa Sweeney (Smiley)  
Marge Johnson (McKnight)  
Betty Wood  
Molly Boyd  
Wayne Kimbro

**Amy Pampel (Marilyn Eberhart)**  
**Judy Stricklin (Kimbro's)**

### Continued Family & Friends

Donna Ingram (Stricker friend)  
Aunt Rosella (Mike Stricker)  
Norma Jean Stricker (Mike's Mom)  
Martha Bryant  
Charlotte Irwin  
Mike Stanford (Fouts)  
Tamare Lee  
Karen D'Andrea (Neva Ransom)  
Robert & Laura Floyd & Baby  
Aunt Ruth Honza (Garcia)  
Sophie McClellhon (9mo. baby w/ leukemia)  
Caden Holmes  
Those seeking employment &  
Those newly employed.  
Needed RAIN



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

1/ Amy Doty  
2/ Robert Grandstaff, Gabryl Holmes  
4/ Lilliana Palma, Johnny Wood  
5/ Debbie Anderson  
6/ Dayson Fouts  
7/ Jean Wammack, Lexi Belote  
8/ Katelyn Newport, Tyler Brignon, Eric  
Board  
10/ Amanda Yates  
11/ Anna Harvey, Heneri Ann Short, Leean-  
dra Coffey  
13/ Levi Turrentine  
14/ Sandra Doyle, Chuck Fouts, Sean Acrea.  
15/ Jane Aberg, Joshua Trees  
19/ Helen Malone  
20/ Sarah Doty  
21/ Florene Nix, Ginger Peters, Casi Holmes  
23/ Chelsea Belote  
24/ Katie Norris  
26/ Jordn Holmes  
27/ Earline Brownlee, Jason Cox  
28/ Dolores Moore, Johnny Green-Grabham  
29/ Zoe Brignon  
30/ Lucus Board  
31/ Renee Fouts, Robert Kindred

If you would like to add a name to the prayer  
or birthday list or if your family birthday's are  
not on the list, please call the church office  
972-617-9100 or email [manager@fumcro.org](mailto:manager@fumcro.org).

### 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— Has her wings!!!**  
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

## ATTENTION:

### **COMING SOON! Wednesday Night Activities to Begin September 14<sup>th</sup>**

The Wednesday evening activities for fall—fellowship dinner, children’s choirs, puppeteering, and Bible studies—will begin on Wednesday evening, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Watch Sunday morning announcements and September newsletter for specific details!

### **Back to School Fair: Red Oak ISD: See Insert.**

**Waxahachie Community Theatre** will be holding auditions for “Bye, Bye, Birdie” ages 14 and older here at FUMC Red Oak on August 22 and 23 at 7:00 PM. Show dates are Oct. 28, 29 & 30.

### **SAVE THE DATE:** Crunchtime 2012 Theme: The Amazing Race Feb. 3-5, 2012

Crunch Time is a 3 day annual retreat for high school juniors and seniors hosted by the Texas A & M Wesley Foundation. The retreat aims to help teach high school youth about how to maintain a Christian lifestyle while in college Contact: Mark Porterfield at 979-846-4701. Web: [tamuwesley.org/crunch\\_time.shtml](http://tamuwesley.org/crunch_time.shtml) Twitter: @Crunchtime2012 or Email: [tamucrunchtime@gmail.com](mailto:tamucrunchtime@gmail.com)

**LORD ACRE DAY: SEPTEMBER 24TH 9:00—4:30 PM** Silent Auction, BBQ Lunch, Live Auction, Lord’s Acre Quilt auctioned. Also the Carter Blood Mobile will be here, too.

Please check out the **THANK YOU FROM THE CITY OF DEQUINCY, LA** on our bulletin board next to the office.

## ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOK

Would you like to have an Advent Devotional Book? Would you like to share your favorite Christmas story or spiritual thought about Christmas? This year, I want to invite our congregation to create a study guide for Advent. I know its summer now but it takes time to organize and print a book for this many people. So if you would like to help, complete the form below and return to the church by September 1. We are not going to sell these but plan to give them away.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture for the Day \_\_\_\_\_

(Please list your favorite verse or short passage above.)

Your passage does not have to be an Advent or Christmas passage. Obviously we would like for you to start with those stories, but the point is to make this your own)

Please type out your story on one page and submit to Lori in the Church Office.

Once this is compiled we will submit the booklet to the Upper Room for possible publication in its devotional guide.

I give my permission for First United Methodist Church of Red Oak and the Upper Room to publish my story for Advent or other usage in the church.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address Service Requested

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Red Oak, TX  
75154  
Permit #16

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

Heather Rodenburg, 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

Lynne Grandstaff, Bulletin Editor

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](http://www.FUMCRO.ORG)  
(nursery provided at all services)

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



## THE BACK PAGE BY ALLEN GRANT

Hey everyone, as I write this, I am preparing to be gone for two weeks on vacation. Actually it will be a personal Mission Trip with my grandsons to my mother's home in Memphis. We are getting her house ready for sale and need to do some repairs on it. Those should take a couple of days and then I will be able to relax, play and visit. Thank you for encouraging me and other staff to take care of ourselves. You are a wonderful people who know the value of down time and rest. Just like Jesus did, all of us need rest too.

Darlene will still be here at home working while I am gone so she and Heather will be on-call for pastoral care duties. Both of them are quite capable of caring for you in any crisis that may come up.

This past week has been another amazing week. 55 Junior High students and adults have invaded Red Oak, ministering to some of our members and others on the Jr. High Mission Trip. I greatly appreciate the ministry of Rev. John Nader, the Associate Pastor at Ovilla UMC. John has been the Center Director for this trip. They have painted, built some ramps and done general repairs on homes. They even came to the church to help us trim back some plants in anticipation of upcoming repair work on the educational building.

I noticed that last year on this date, I asked you to make a Holy Covenant with God to invite 2 persons to Christ every week for the rest of your life. How are you doing? That was an awesome thing that you did. Now we are a year into that commission. Who have you invited to come worship with you this week? Who have you shared your story of faith with today? Who is on your heart and prayers that needs to be in this church worshipping and growing? Take a moment right now and pray for those people. Mention them to God and you might be surprised what the Holy Spirit does with you in the next few days.

Thank you for your support of mission and ministry in Red Oak and around the world. I want you to know that I pray for you every day. I am thrilled to be serving Christ with you right here in Red Oak, Texas.

Allen