

# THE ACORN

“ A Small Package of Large Possibilities”  
Red Oak, Texas



December 2010, Issue 12

**OUR MISSION**  
Reaching Up to God  
Moving into the World  
Making Disciples for Christ

## Santa Tree Gifts Needed For North Ellis County Outreach

Merry Christmas  
from the Staff  
of FUMCRO

CHURCH OFFICE  
WILL BE CLOSED  
DECEMBER 24  
Through  
JANUARY 2

This year the NECO is allowing the client parents to “shop” for their own children. The items on the Santa are requests from the Outreach clients' children. You can bring unwrapped toy items of your choice to the church for donation and clothing items are listed on the Santas. This year the Young Marines, Red Oak Fire Rescue, Red Oak ISD Police, Red Oak Police Dept. and Texas Civil Defense have joined with NECO in the Christmas project.

Bring your donations to the Church by Dec. 12 so that we can deliver them for the Santa Christmas Project. The distribution date for Christmas will be Dec. 17, at Family Life Center of First Baptist Church on Red Oak Rd. at Main Street. The Outreach would like all donations be returned to them by Monday Dec. 13.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact Lisa Tonic at NECO 972-617-7261 or the church office at 972-617-9100.

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS HAPPENINGS

**Christmas Pageant**

**“The Littlest Angel”**

**Sunday, December 12**  
**10:50 am**

**Presented by**  
**The Children**

**Choir Cantata** — Sunday, December 5, during 8:30 & 10:50 am Services. The adult choir will present: “Emmanuel, God With Us” by Larson



*“Emmanuel, God with Us!”  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Prince of Peace,  
Mighty God.*

**Children’s Pageant Scheduled**  
Come enjoy the children’s Christmas pageant “The Littlest Angel” during the 10:50 AM worship service on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. The Angel Choir, the Methodist Music Makers Choir and children in the Puppet Ministry invite all children to participate. .

The Angel Choir, the MMM Choir and children in the puppet program have only two more practices, December 8 at 6:30 PM and a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 11, from 9:30 – 11:00 AM. If possible, all children should attend these last important rehearsals.

**Advent Event & Carols Around the Table** This year the Children’s Council and Worship Committee have joined together to offer the Advent Event and Carols Around the Table on the same evening, Sunday, December 19. We will begin with Advent Event at 5:00 pm. Advent Event is a make and take Craft event for children of all ages. We will have a Soup Supper at 6:00 pm provided by the Children’s Council and Others. Carols Around the Table at 6:45 pm is a (Continued on page 3)



## Men's Breakfast

**SATURDAY, December 11  
8:00 AM at FUMC**

### Schedule of Servants:

- Flowers given by  
12/5 **Judy Cox** in honor of **Kaylee's Birthday**  
12/12 & 12/19 **POINSETTIAS**  
12/26 **Steve & Charlotte Yeadon** for their 18th Anniversary  
1/2 **TBA**
- Ushers & Greeters — 8:30 **Mary & Tim Brownlee**; 10:50 **Nick & Melody Durazo, Sue & Jordon Brown, Jody & Shannon Smock, and Eva & Shelly Rudd.**
- Counters  
12/5 **Arnell Kimbro & Melody Durazo**  
12/12 **Jerry Kirby & Andy Malone**  
12/19 **Brian Goodloe & Betty Wood**  
12/26 **Neva Ransom & Suzanne Barry**  
1/2 **Arnell Kimbro & Melody Durazo**
- Sound Technicians  
8:30 **Les Mitchell & Don Newman**  
10:50 **Tom Rogers, Jack Smiley, and Kayleigh Kitzman**
- Power Point **Stu Dorsey**  
- Video: **Youth ONE & Heather Rodenberg.**
- Children's Church Volunteers -  
12/5 **No Children's Church**  
12/12 **Children's Christmas Program**  
12/19 **Katie & Savannah Almond & Suzanne Neel**  
12/26 **Bailey Malone & Merci Garcia**  
1/2 **Communion Sunday**

## UM MEN TO COOK FOR CHRISTMAS

Once again the UM Men will be smoking meats such as Turkey or Ham for your Christmas enjoyment. For a price of \$20 you can bring your thawed meat to the Church the morning of December 23 as early as 6:30 AM and pick it up later in the day. For mor information call John Young at 24-356-5852.

The Monthly Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, Dec. 11th at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. The breakfast will be provided by Stuart Almond and Steve Smiley; If someone would like to provide a devotional please contact Steve at 214-263-9919. All men are invited to attend this meeting.

## DECORELLIS EMMAUS GATHERING

The Monthly Emmaus Gathering is held on the first Tuesday of each month **at 7:00 pm**. The gathering will be held at Midlothian United Methodist Church on Tuesday, December 7. These services consist of singing, communion service and a short testimonial by a former Emmaus pilgrim.

All are invited to come and enjoy the fellowship and bring a friend. If you play a musical instrument please come and join the band. There will be a Christmas celebration afterward. Please bring a covered dish, snack, dessert, or drink item(s) to share. Meat will be provided by Midlothian UMC. For more information call Lori in the church office.

## FELLOWSHIP DINNERS

### Church Dinner



The last Wednesday Fellowship Dinners will be held on December 8th. No other Wednesday Dinners will be held in December due to the church activities. The donations collected will benefit the Apportionments / Connectional Giving.

Dinner is served beginning at 5:45 pm this season. Cost is by dona-

tion only.

The menus for December 8th is Broasted Chicken, Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Chocolate Chip Cookies.

If you would like to help, the crew is always in need of extra help for cleanup after the dinner is served. Call Mary Young 972-741-3120 or Mike Stricker 972-765-0326

**Continued from page 1**

Time to enjoy sweets and snacks that the congregation brings to share. We end with the singing of Christmas Carols lead by Stu Dorsey and Sunmi Goodwin. Santa will be available in the Sanctuary for pictures during part of the activities

**Christmas Eve Communion Candlelight Services**

On Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, two communion candlelight services are scheduled. The first service at 5:30 PM will be a family-oriented service, and the later 8:00 PM service will be the more traditional Christmas Eve service. Both services will include Scripture, carols, and communion with the lighting of candles at the end of the services. Make plans now to attend this beautiful celebration of the birth of Jesus, our Lord. No childcare will be provided so that our staff may worship.



**Enrichment Class Christmas Party** will be held on Saturday, December 11 at 6:30 pm at Johnny and Inge Jones house, 106 Springfield Ln, Waxahachie, TX 75165. Call 972-617-3999 for more information.

**Lions Club Breakfast**

Have breakfast with Santa at the Red Oak Lions Club pancake breakfast on Saturday, December 18th. Pancakes, sausage, orange juice, coffee and milk -- all you can eat for just \$4 adults and \$2 children 7-11. Pictures with Santa will be available. Come and eat with your friends and neighbors at the Red Oak Lions Club on the 18th. Serving from 7 to 11 AM. Locally, Lions give to NECOR, Salvation Army (Waxahachie unit), Kairos Angel tree, Project Success (ROISD Police Dept), ROISD Education Foundation and we co-sponsor the RO Parks dept Easter egg hunt each Spring. We also give free use of our facility to the Senior Citizens of Red Oak. We pay for eye exams and glasses for those in the RO area who cannot afford them. We award a \$1,000 scholarship to a RO graduate each year.

**Parent's Night Out**

The Laugh & Learn Day School will be hosting a Parent's Night Out on Saturday, December 18 for 6:00—10:00 PM. Take this opportunity to go shopping for Christmas, Dine out without the Kids, or whatever your heart desires. Bring the kids in their PJ if you like and bring a sack dinner. Cost is \$18 for the first child and \$15 for each one after. Please sign up now, so that they can make plans to have plenty of supervision. This is a fundraiser to benefit this FUMC children's program. Parent's Day Out is open to children 6 months to Pre-Kindergarten during the school year and through 4th grade for 6 weeks in the summer.

**Choir Christmas Party** After January 1.

**(Continued from The Back Page)** upcoming Sunday, December 5 and then on the 12<sup>th</sup>, our Children will present their pageant. Special Music, singing and messages about this unlikely Savior named Jesus.

This year we will have two Christmas eve services, one at 5:30 and one at 8:00 pm. Both will be candlelight communion services. So if you haven't been to church for a while, this would be a good time to start back. Come on and help us to honor our Savior Jesus Christ.

This next week, you will also receive a second newsletter. The next one will be a pastoral letter from me outlining what our budget needs are going to be for 2011 and also sharing where we are for 2010.

I'm looking forward to Christmas with you. Come on by and let's celebrate together.

*Rev. Allen Grant*



Thank you to all those who donated towards the gifts for our Military. This is your last chance to get your Military friends and relatives on our mailing list for Christmas. Dec. 12 the packages will be packed and mailed. Call immediately with your addresses. Stateside or Overseas, we would like to be able to send a letter of encouragement for Christmas.



### COOKIE BAKE & EXCHANGE

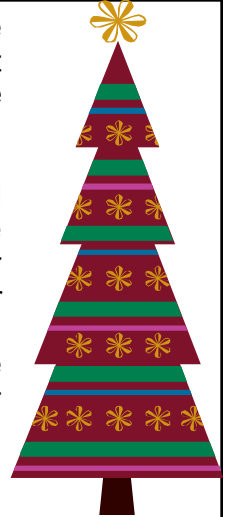
Join us on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am in the kitchen for a morning of holiday baking. The Y\*A\*W\*N circle of UMW is hosting our Holiday Cookie Bake & Exchange.

Bring a batch of your favorite cookie dough (along with a box or bag for take home) and leave with a fabulous assortment of cookies. If you have cookie sheets and a spatula, bring 'em on! We're delighted to welcome all women of the church to share this special time with us.

### Need a Christmas Gift for Someone Who "Has Everything"?

If you would like to give a meaningful gift to someone this Christmas and help missions worldwide, you might want to consider giving "A Gift to Mission" through the United Methodist Women (UMW).

You may donate any amount \$5 or more and a special Christmas card will be sent to the recipient with the message that a gift to mission has been given in their name by you. This is a wonderful way to remember those you love during this season of giving as well as assisting the work of the mission field around the world. Please see Lynne Grandstaff or Jo Wilsford for more details.



### Commemorative Ornaments & Plates

For the next two Sunday mornings, the UMW will offer First United Methodist Church commemorative plates and ornaments for sale. These lovely items have a picture of our church on the front; the plate has the church history on the back. The ornament is a perfect size for your Christmas tree. All proceeds from the sale will go toward the Lord's Acre building fund. Plates are \$15.00; ornaments are \$8.00.

### FRIDAY NIGHT BOOK CLUB

Friday Night Book Club will begin a new book and a new cycle of gatherings on Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. We had a great time with our first book – lots of spirited discussion! Now that football season is over, please consider joining us for this second go-round. It's a very informal gathering and we'd love to welcome you. We're in the process of choosing a new book and will post the title and description as soon as possible.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL:** 9:40 am - Meet in the Sanctuary for singing/video and then go to classes.

**Jr. & Senior HI:** Meeting in the Youth ONE Room. Lead by Heather Rodenborg

**Sunshine Class:** Meeting in classroom on the right of the Sanctuary. Rotating Teachers: December study: Assuring Hope; Unit 1: **Comfort for God's People**; Isaiah.

**Enrichment Class:** - Meets in the Fellowship Hall. The class is studying an Advent study by James Moore.

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

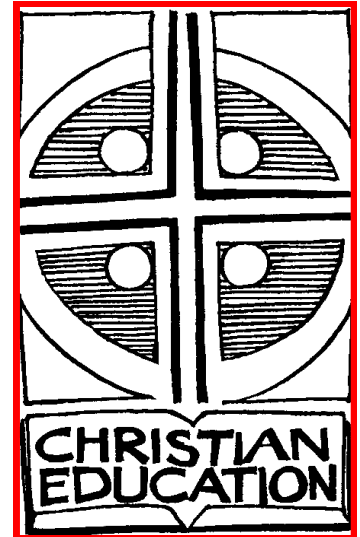
**Young Adult Class** -Meeting in the Church Library. Study new every Sunday: **Allve Now.**

**Pastor Class:** Will meet in the Sanctuary to study, "The Methodist Church, Who Are We?"

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

**Financial Peace:** Teacher: Keven & Dana Davis—Class begins at 6:00 pm on Wednesday. Last class this session is December 8th. The class will be offered again in 2011.

**Letters from Dad:** Second Tuesday - December 7 & 14, 6:00 pm



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

### THE TRUE COST OF LOW PRICES

**Proverbs 14:31** "He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God."

Hasidic Rabbi Levi Yitzhak of the Ukraine tells this story. The rabbi visited the owner of a tavern. Two peasants were at a table. They were drinking with reckless abandon with arms around each other saying how much they loved each other. Ivan said to Peter: "Peter, can you tell me what hurts me?" Weary-eyed, Peter looked at Ivan: "How do I know what hurts you?" Ivan's answer was swift: "If you don't know what hurts me, how can you say you love me?"

Many of us have a clear conscience about the United States having accumulated and possessing more wealth than any other country. Few of us understand how our lifestyles are supported by the blood, sweat and tears of very poor people, most of them women and some of whom are children or slaves. – Vincent Gallagher

**The True Cost of Low Prices – The Violence of Globalization** by Vincent Gallagher will be the basis for an 8-week pre-Lenten study that challenges us to take personal responsibility for the hardships suffered by those who labor to bring us our food, clothing, and almost all our consumer goods. If we are informed about the choices we make, each one of us can make a difference.

The study group will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:15, January 12<sup>th</sup> through March 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be led by Katie Almond and Elizabeth Sanden. There is a class sign-up sheet in the foyer on the information table. Please join us for this journey.

This book counts for the United Methodist Women's Reading Program

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



### MINISTER OF YOUTH

Heather Rodenburg

FUMCROYouth@gmail.com

## YOUTH OUTREACH PROJECT

The holidays are a time when we start to see more homeless people and people looking for help on the streets. We can struggle with giving them money and we feel bad when we ignore them. The youth have a solution:



We will be collecting cereal bars, fruit snacks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, Chap Stick, men's tube socks (new in bag), and granola bars. With these items we will be putting them together and creating manna bags to hand out to those on the streets. We have a goal of creating 100 bags. If you can donate any of these items, please bring them to the church by December 12<sup>th</sup>. Please drop in the bin in the hallway or put in the youth room. The youth will then be assembling them and handing them back to the congregation to carry around in their car to hand out to someone they come across asking for help. This is a great way to help make a difference in the lives of those we come across that are need.

## YOUTHONE FELLOWSHIP EVENTS ONE GOD — ONE FAITH — ONE WAY

### December Events

- 1<sup>st</sup> – 6:30 pm Bible Study
- 5<sup>th</sup> – 6 pm Youth Group
- 8<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm Bible Study
- 12<sup>th</sup> – 6 pm Youth Christmas Party at the Sackett's home, 730 Pierce Rd., Red Oak.
- 19<sup>th</sup> – No youth group due to Advent Event and Carol's Around the Table. We will be attending this beginning at 5:00 pm.

Also, don't forget the calendar is also listed on the website at [www.FUMCRO.org/Youthone](http://www.FUMCRO.org/Youthone)

## WRITING FOR ENJOYMENT

Writing for Enjoyment, is a group of writers who are meeting at the First United Methodist Church, 600 Daubitz Dr., Red Oak, Texas On Tuesday at 12:30 to 2:00p.m.

This group is a bit different from the Write On group that meets at Navarro, College or the Resource group that meets at Sims Library. The focus of the Writing for Enjoyment is simply, we write for the pure pleasure of writing, and having the group gives the members a chance to share their pieces. A topic is picked each week and if you write truth, or fiction it doesn't matter. Sharing your writing is important, not whether the piece is perfect.

Joan Pomeroy, Member of the FUMCRO—505.660.5587

## Mary's Gift by Joan Pomeroy

Have you noticed how rushed this holiday season is? Thanksgiving being a few days later makes the holidays shorter. I certainly feel it! As I write this piece, my Christmas shopping is not done yet, and there is still the wrapping of presents and the cookies to bake. Oh yes, the decorating; Wow! How will I get it all done? I guess a miracle will have to happen!

Isn't this the time of year miracles happen? I think about the miracle of Mary's gift, the baby Jesus. Our Heavenly Father sent his only Son to us, but wasn't Jesus Mary's child too?

Mary's pregnancy could not have been easy, but the trip to Bethlehem must have been a challenge, riding on the back of a donkey. And then to go into labor, with no women folk to be with her, only her husband in the stable with the animals and nothing to put on her first born child but rags.

I wonder if on that special night of nights, when the angels and archangels were singing, and the star was shining brightly, the night that has been celebrated throughout the centuries, if Mary heard any of this? I wonder what her thoughts were as she gave birth to Jesus. Would any of us want to have our children born under those circumstances? I wouldn't. Did she know that it would take so many years for her gift to mature, to be the leader he was? So when I give gifts this year, I will remember and think about Mary and the gift she gave so unselfishly to us. I will also say a prayer of thankfulness for Mary and her gift.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S CIRCLE NEWS



- **Y\*A\*W\*N Circle** will meet **Saturday, December 11th, at 9:00 am** in the Church kitchen. They will be hosting a Cookie Bake & Exchange. All women of the church are invited to join us. Bring a batch of your favorite cookie dough to bake. There's lots of laughter and you leave with a fabulous assortment of holiday treats.
- **General Meeting** of UM Women for December 12 at 4:30 pm and begins with a Christmas Program presented by the Y\*A\*W\*N Circle. Dinner follows in the fellowship hall. Circle of Love provides the decorations and beverages, Friendship Circle provides the dessert and Hope and Healing Circle provide bread. Everyone should bring a covered dish to share. All the women of the church are invited to attend this Christmas Celebration. Child-care will be provided upon request.
- **Circle of Love** meets will meet in January.
- **Friendship Circle** will meet on **Thursday, December 16th, at 7:00 P.M.** The meeting will be held this month at Jo Wilsford's house (208 S. Hillside). The Bible study is "Journeys Through *Revelation*: Apocalyptic Hope for Today." The group will discuss Lesson Five: "Singing Hymns of Hope: Interludes of Salvation for God's People." and the scripture *Revelation 7- 8.5*. This lesson focuses on Jesus, the Lamb, becoming the Shepherd, leading people to God's shelter and to springs of the water of life. Sandra Doyle will provide the devotional, and Jane Aberg will provide refreshments. All women are invited to become a part of this UMW circle of friends; if you still need a copy of the study book, see Jo Wilsford. We always have good fellowship, delicious refreshments, and lively discussions...come join us! If childcare is needed, please call the church office. Call Jo (972-617-0672) if more information is needed.
- **The Circle of Hope and Healing** conducts our Prayer Shawl Ministry. They will meet Dec. 4 and 18th at 10:00 am at the Church.
- The United Methodist Women are collecting underwear for Children of all ages. If you would like to donate towards this effort there is a blue collection bag in the foyer for this purpose.



# THE BACK PAGE BY ALLEN GRANT



Hey everybody, it is so busy around here that I have a hard time working. People have been everywhere doing something. Christmas trees and wreaths are going up everywhere. It's a winter wonderland. The Festival of Trees may be history by the time you get this, but this week, we are steeped in the Christmas Spirit.

This past Sunday we Hung the Greens (don't worry no Green family members were harmed in this event). Now we have decorated our church with symbols that came originally from pagan worship practices. Yes, that is true, but what is also true is that we have adapted those symbols and blessed them with Christian meanings. Evergreens, berries, candles, wreaths and poinsettias all come from some other tradition but all give rich meaning to our celebration of the birth of Christ.

So over the next few weeks, we will be honoring and preparing for the Christmas celebrations. There will be something for everyone. We have our Choir Cantata this (continued pg.3)



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

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**Rev. Allen Grant**  
Senior Pastor  
972-333-4197  
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Heather Rodenburg, Youth Minister

Stu Dorsey, Music Minister

Sunmi Goodwin, Pianist

Lori Stricker, Office Manager  
manager@fumcro.org

Judy Cox, Building /Nursery Mgr.

Michelle Carson,  
Day School Director

Bailey Malone, Day School Assistant

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