

June 2013

# Methodist Connection

Monthly Newsletter of First United Methodist Church



## From the Pastor's Pen

### Upcoming Events

6.02

Annual Conference

6.17

Jr. High Mission Trip

6.23

Sr. High Mission Trip

6.23

Jr. High Camp

6.23

Vesper's @ Paradise

### *"Disaster Ministry Training"*

Spring is always a dicey weather season, but the last few years have produced many devastating tornados, not to mention the recent hurricanes during the Fall season, and freezing weather and flooding in various places across our nation. The recent incidents in Grandbury, Moore OK and the explosion in West, TX have all hit close to home. As always the United Methodist Church responds in such disaster with relief in various ways. Often the most immediate need is through financial help, shelter, and basic necessities which we provide through the "United Methodist Committee on Relief."

For several years our Annual Conference has been training "disaster relief teams" which go into these devastated areas to help with clean up and rebuilding. At our District Section on May 19<sup>th</sup> they announced that our District is working to put together some teams. As an example since the devastating tornadoes in Joplin, MO a few years ago, some 48,000 hours have been donated through UMCOR teams and they will probably not be finished for another 10 years.

If you are interested in providing your manual labor for relief in times like these, there are some upcoming training opportunities in our conference. If you are interested, please let Derek or me know and we can get you more information.

1. UMCOR Connecting Neighbors Leadership Training—*"Preparing the Local Church For Disaster Ministry"*

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This disaster readiness program can be held in our facility and will include basic instruction on how to put together a disaster response plan for our church, as well as exploring options for reaching out to your neighborhood. The Rev. Cathy Partridge is our trainer for this class, which can be customized to our schedule and needs. Cathy can be contacted at [cathy@ffiscofumc.org](mailto:cathy@ffiscofumc.org)

## 2. UMCOR Early Response Team Training

This class can be held in our facility and will teach and train an Early Response Team how to tarp a roof, how to muck out a flooded house, and basics in disaster spiritual care. Requirements include having an identified team leader. This is an 8 hour class. All participants must have a background check. We have four certified UMCOR trainers in the North Texas Conference for this class.

## 3. UMCOR Disaster Academy, October 7-10, 2013—Location: Mt. Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center, 150 NW Skyline Dr., Fayetteville, Arkansas

This Academy is held annually at Mt. Sequoyah. Attendees include South Central Jurisdiction clergy and laity. All classes are taught by UMCOR trainers. Everything from basic disaster ministry courses to advanced classes are being offered.

These classes are coordinated through our Conference Office, the Center for Missional Outreach. Rev. Marji Bishir is the Associate Director 972-526-5000.

It would be really exciting if there were enough interest in our church or even our county to put together some response teams. Is God tugging at your heartstrings about this?

See you Sunday in the place where serving others demonstrates our Love for Christ!

Yours in Christ,

*Bro. David* (home: 940-683-1724; [davidrucker@fumcbridgeport.org](mailto:davidrucker@fumcbridgeport.org))

*Dear Members of Bridgeport United Methodist Church,*

I am excited to share with you that I have been selected to serve a summer internship with Project Transformation in Dallas, TX this coming summer. Project Transformation is a faith-based non-profit organization that provides leadership development and ministry/career exploration for college students, who in turn run summer day camp programs for underserved children and youth. At these day camps, children and youth will strengthen their reading skills through a one-on-one literacy program, receive nutritious meals each day, and enjoy many other enriching activities such as arts & crafts, recreation, and field trips.

As an intern, I will serve as an AmeriCorps member, living in community with 100 other young adults on campus at Southern Methodist University/Austin College. Each day, I'll serve with a team of ten other interns implementing a summer day camp for 70-80 children and youth in urban United Methodist churches (Project Transformation has a total of nine sites serving approximately 1,000 children and youth). Most of the children I will be working with live below the poverty line and are in need of positive role models in their lives. I cannot wait to serve in this way, but I know that I will probably learn far more from these children than what I can teach them. I have been blessed with some incredible mentors in my life thus far, and I'm excited to be able to do the same with these children.

Project Transformation's model of ministry is collaborative in nature, bringing together many churches, community partners, and individuals to support the work of the interns. As an incoming intern, I am seeking financial contributions to support the vital work I will be a part of this summer. Gifts that I am able to raise will go towards program support for the children and youth I will be working with. I invite you to be part of this experience with me.

If you are interested in supporting my service this summer, please send your contribution directly to Project Transformation at 547 E. Jefferson Blvd., Dallas, TX 75203, and write my name on the check memo line. Or, you can make a contribution through Project Transformation's website at [www.projecttransformation.org/dallas](http://www.projecttransformation.org/dallas), click the "Donate" button on the homepage and type my name into the Donation Dedication space. Your donation is tax deductible, and Project Transformation will send you a receipt.

Beyond financial support, I also ask that you pray for me and for my experience at Project Transformation this summer. This internship will be life-changing for me and I cannot wait to share with you how God is at work in this experience. Thank you for all the support you have always given me, and for your consideration of this important project that is making a difference in the lives of children, youth and college students.

Sincerely, *T.K. Bishop*



## Moore, OK

While we know that many of you want to help the people in Moore, OK whose lives have been devastated by the recent tornado, they are not yet ready to receive clothing and material things. The best thing you can do right now is donate money to Moore through your church, the Conference Office, or UMCOR.

Donations of bottled water and other personal items (such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, etc.) are also needed. For more information contact Rev. Louis Pierce at 940.631.4254

## Summertime Offering



We all get a little busy in during the summer months. So let us help make getting your tithes to the church a little easier. Come by the office to sign-up for monthly automatic withdrawals or call Tamara for more info at 683-2780

## Food for the Soul, Food for the Pantry Sunday

Please bring an item for the Food Pantry  
*Items most needed are:*

**Hamburger Helper, Pancake mix, Syrup,  
Canned Milk and Meats  
Spaghetti sauce, Peanut butter & Jelly  
Banquet Homestyle Bake  
(complete meal)**



## BIRTHDAYS

6/02 Betty Wright  
6/06 Debbie Lee  
6/07 Dianne Ratcliffe  
6/08 Nelda Adams  
6/09 Carole Laxson  
6/11 Debbie Selz  
6/11 Anna Mauk  
6/14 Aaron Peyton  
6/15 Erin Lopez  
6/16 Billy Brewer  
6/16 Lisa Davis

6/19 Frank Trail  
6/21 Sissy Higgins  
6/21 Kristy Weirich  
6/23 McKenna Myers  
6/24 Landrie Walsh  
6/26 Yvonne Messer  
6/26 Jacob Cornelison  
6/27 Peggy Johnson  
6/28 Canelia Blalock  
6/30 Richard Perry

## *Anniversaries*

6/01 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Johnson  
6/03 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Messer  
6/06 Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Wright  
6/06 Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Green  
6/06 Mr. & Mrs. Corey Ingram  
6/14 Mr. & Mrs. Leon Farmer  
6/14 Mr. & Mrs. LB McDonald  
6/15 Mr. & Mrs. Embry Hines  
6/16 Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Kronenberger  
6/18 Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Coffman  
6/25 Mr. & Mrs. John Crisp  
6/29 Mr. & Mrs. Erik Swensson







We are so excited about this year's VBS!  
In order to make this our best one yet we  
need YOUR HELP!

These are some of the places we still need  
assistance:

**3 people to work in craft tents**

**3 people to serve in the snack tent**

**1 person for celebration time**

**( daily introduction),**

**2 Tribe leaders (interact w/kids and  
lead to different activities)**

**and help with DECORATING**

Please contact Brittany @  
940-389-6019 to help makes this an  
awesome event!

# FUMC Youth

## Mission Trip Supply Needs

### Assorted Sponges

2 mops

2 cans of Scouring powder (Ajax, etc.)

8 cans wasp spray (long range)

2 fire ant powder or liquid (fast acting)

2 roach spray

2 toilet brushes and cleaner

2 boxes of trash bags

1 roll of masking tape 3/4 or 1"

1 roll of painter's tape

2 carpenter pencils

2 gallon jugs of water

1 3-5 gal water jug

1 level

1 post hole digger

2 saw horses

2 electric drills w/bits

1 gravel rake

1 Sharpshooter shovel

1 Electric Reciprocating saw

1 Hole saw

1 Electric Circular Saws w/ new blades

1 Miter box

1 yard stick

2 tape measures, 25'-100'

1 crowbar

1 staple gun with 4 boxes of 1/2" or 1/4"

staples

1 metal file/flat

2 tin snips