

CHURCH MATTERS

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 6, 2015

FORGIVENESS

Anne Lamott says, "Forgiveness means it finally becomes unimportant that you hit back. You're done. It doesn't necessarily mean that you want to have lunch with the person. If you keep hitting back, you stay trapped in the nightmare..."

Mahatma Gandhi said, "The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong."

C.S. Lewis said, "To be a



Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you."

Forgiveness is a tricky part of being human. So many insightful people can give us profound statements about forgiveness,

yet we all have to individually work through the situations in our life that call us to forgive. C.S. Lewis is so right, God forgives the inexcusable in us thus we must forgive others. Join us beginning January 11, as Pastor Steve helps us to look at forgiveness in a sermon series that investigates the trash in our lives and God's ability to sweep it up and burn it away.

ALPHA

Are you searching for more? Do you have questions about life? Alpha is for everyone that wants to explore life's big questions. The Alpha Course is a 10 week small group study that explores foundational truths and beliefs of Christian faith in a caring, non-judgmental environment. There is no pressure, no follow up and no charge.

Everyone is different. Whether you grew up a Christian or never set foot in Church, whether you are eighteen or eighty, whether you raise kids or raise cattle... Alpha is for everyone. Running in every setting from church to pub, Alpha is an opportunity to

explore life's big questions. Is Alpha for you? In a word, yes. Alpha includes a good meal and relaxed conversation, followed by a brief talk about an aspect of the Christian faith. Then gathering in small groups, guests can ask any question and discuss opinions freely with others.

Eules First United Methodist Church is beginning its next Alpha Course with a "Come and See" dinner on Tuesday night, January 13, at 6:30 in the Family Life Center. Weekly sessions will begin the following week, Tuesday, January 20. There is no cost, but registration is required. This is a Discipleship Journey Event. Registration is available online, or contact the church office.

Volunteers are also needed to provide meals for Tuesdays. If you have questions about Alpha, please be sure to ask your pastoral staff, they can direct you to people at Eules First who have previously attended. Alpha is a great opportunity in the New Year to explore more and dig deeper.



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ALPHA

What: 10 week small group study that explores foundational truths and beliefs of the Christian faith

When: Come and See dinner Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Who: Alpha is for everyone.

PRAYER LIST

If your prayer request has been left off, please resubmit it. All requests are for 30 days only and will need to be resubmitted after that time.

All who are dealing with aging parents	Doris Alexander, Dottie Rust's sister	Jeannie Pipkin, Carla Fink's friend	Marlene Hill	Reed Jolie	Military: Charles Everett, Charlotte & Larry Everett's nephew Chris Mulford, Pat Bailey's grandson Colton Hardaway and Kayla Davis, son and daughter of Michael and Lore Osborn Devan DeBoyington, Robin Biles' friend Dirk Van Ingen, Katie Lucas' friend Eric Sherrer, Justin Sherrer, Patric Owen, and Alan McClelland, grandnephews of Vic and Judy Torres Gail Worofka James Fiaccone, Sue Fiaccone's grandson Josh Crow, Annette Kelleher's son Justin Knighton Sam Weatherby, Gary and Carol Turner's nephew Stephen Tate Travis Thomas William Crowder, Yvonne Rohlfing's son
All who are dealing with Ebola	Douglas Stevanelli	Jeff and Amber Boshier and Mason and Tucker	Maurine Padgett, Nancy Bickel's co-worker	Robbie Breaux, Audrey Coats' friend	
Alton and Reta Ray	Elida Schirmer		Maxine and Bill Wallace, Kimberly Knighton's friends	Roger and Charlotte Martin	
Amanda Mayer and Rob Richards	Family of Bettye Hardwick , Barbara Collier's aunt	Jeremiah Anderson	Michele Heroux and family, Amber Hawthorne's friend	Sandy Swann	
Andrea Miguel, , Ollie O'Sallis' daughter	Family of Charleen Coleson, Kimberly Knighton's mother	Joe Brown, Jackie Robinson's brother	Michelle and Baker Ingram	Shayla Herigan, Eileen Mode's friend	
Anthony Mendez, Denise Foley's son	Family of Ernest Millican, Reta Ray's brother	John Dendy and family, Lee Swann's neighbor	Mike Sprague, Stephen Sprague's brother	Stan Clarke, Sue & Richard Morrow's friend	
Arthur Schirmer	Family of Welton "Bill" Bailey	John Lewis	Milford Roop	Steve Merrill, Les and Denise Foley's daughter's father-in-law	
Audrey Bradford, Jay Bradford's mother	Fred Lucas, Larry Lucas' father	Judy Lynch, Mike McGehee's son's mother-in-law	Harriet Roop, Milford Roops mother	Susan McGehee	
Brenda Jones, Denise Foley's friend	Gena Mahon, Shelly Grant's friend	Karen Andrews, Kaye Best's sister	Nick and Lisa Schoenberger, Ron Coats' friends	Sydney Marie Peel, Pat May's great niece	
Burton family	Gordon and Linda Roberts, Nancy Bickel's friends	Kay Wascher and family	Nolan Hardwick, Barbara Collier's father	Terron Muller, Les Foley's niece	
Cameron Mode	Greg and Marlene Avery	Kellsey Abbott, Sherwood and Cheri Abbott's granddaughter	Ollie O. Sallis, Christopher, Sean, Steven, Latoya,	Tim and Janna Martin and Katelyn	
Caro Kenyon	Homeless teens	Kelly Hatfield and daughter, Lilly, Lesli Cummings' friends	Pat Holland, Cindy Balentine's sister	Tim Roop, Milford Roop's brother	
Carol Rust, Dottie Rust's daughter	Honor Vaughn, Teresa Sprague's mother	Kevin Bell	Paul Jones	Trey and family, Leesh Ellsaesser and Joseph Cummings' friends	
Cecil Alford, Vera Bohnet-Farmer's brother	Hugh Huber, Mike Springer's friend	Kevin Maines	Paula Brown	Vince Bassett	
Cindi Rodriguez	Iris Elliott	Kim and Jeremy Jones	Pierre Tshimanga's family	Warner Muirhead	
Cindy Gravely	Isabel Rosero, Caro Kenyon's mother	Kim McClain	Preeti Burns, Ann Burns' daughter-in-law	Woody and Becky Kemp	
David Stewart	James and Ila Gravely	Kimberly Massey	Ray Warren, Betty Vowell's brother		
David Viggiano, Nancy Bickel's cousin	James Thompson	Lisa Moffatt, Lynne and Alan Moffatt's daughter-in-law			
Della Lynn, Jo Kemp's friend	Jeanette Jentsch and family	Lois Weems, Joyce Humphrey's mother			
Diana Wilson, Carla Fink's friend					
Donna Smith, Denise Foley's sister					

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Brian Gilby/ Burn Our Debt: Blaine Carroll
In Memory of Brian Gilby/ Apportionments: Kent & Tami Polenz
In Memory of Greg Keown/ Apportionments: Elaine Green
In Honor of Gloria Daves/ Freezer: David & Carol Black

In Memory of Robert Ledbetter Myrtle Wood/ Choir: Janet & Mac Ledbetter
In Memory of Brian Gilby & Carson Thomas/ Youth: Rob & Toni McMillon and Family
In Memory of Robert Ledbetter/ Memorial Fund: Alan & Lynne Moffatt

Memory of Iva Nail & Carol Francoise and In Honor of Mary Lib Saleh/ General Budget: Michael & Jill Eagleston

ATTENDANCE

December
7-242
14-332
21-250
24-363
25-23
28-180

DEBT UPDATE

As of January 5th , the debt was reduced from \$216,000 to \$161,537. 360 days till Debt Free! Thank you for your Generosity!

BIRTHDAYS

January
6-Jerry Tewalt, Ann Wilson, Karen Phillips
7-Brad Tribble
9-O.D. Lively
11-Bonnie Haddock, Larry Augustus
15-Stephanie Barrineau
17-Toni McMillon, Grady Tindel

18-Josephine Lambert
19-Lynne Moffatt

ANNIVERSARIES

January
9-Shane & Tara Mullin
10-Michael & Laura Henderson

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Here is the Food Pantry schedule:

January

- 9 –Darlene Carter, Kathy Chapman, Gloria Daves, Maggie Lucas
 16 –Phyllis Augustus, Marie Bean, Brenda Hurlbut, Sheri Roberts
 23 –Doris Brown, Dottie Rust, Jill Schaneberg, Judy Torres

Food Pantry Needs: Canned Vienna Sausage, Boxed Saltine Crackers and Ramen Noodles.

Our next workday at Tarrant County Food Bank is January 21, 2015. Come and join us, the more volunteers we have, the more credit is put on our monthly statement for the groceries we order.

The Food Pantry volunteers want to thank everyone that donated their unused Christmas decorations. Our clients were very appreciative. If you still have some, bring them to the Church and we will store them until next year.



ASANTE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Eules First is blessed to have the Asante African Children's Choir here for a concert on January 30th. Asante Ministries is a family of individuals and organizations caring for children in need from some of the poorest communities in Africa. Their dream is to see a new generation of Africans become change agents by overcoming life's challenges of poverty, illiteracy, and disease.

Asante Ministries is committed to walking in the love of God by providing opportunities to the poor and sharing the good news of the kingdom of God. Asante means "thank you" in Swahili, one of the leading languages in East Africa. This is how Asante Ministries works: Asante's work is built on relationships. They work with local communities in Africa, helping them to set goals that can be achieved by working together as a team. They partner with local organizations in Africa

to facilitate program operations in a manner consistent with the culture of the community. They work with individuals, churches, and other organizations in the west helping them to achieve their desire to help the poor in Africa. In order to achieve high standards of accountability, Asante monitors all projects through periodic reviews, reports, and personal visits to ensure programs operate effectively and efficiently.

The Asante Children's Choir includes children from East Africa, a region recovering from years of civil war and genocide. These wars have claimed millions of lives leaving thousands of children and women as orphans and widows. The Choir is dedicated to spreading love, hope and joy while raising awareness for the desperate plight of orphans and other vulnerable children. Their colorful clothing, pounding drums and sweet voices

demonstrate their hope and dream for a brighter future. Their inspirational stories of resilience have instilled hope in the hearts of all those who have seen them perform. The children, who have been rescued from some of life's most difficult circumstances, take pride in expressing gratitude through their music. Their performances are the true testimonies and living "Thank-You" notes sung to everyone who has invested in their lives, giving them great pride and hope for a brighter future.

The group will also need to have host families to house children and sponsors for potentially two nights. If you are able to host part of this group, please let the church office know.



FLOWER CALENDAR

NOW is the time to make your reservations for the 2015 Flower Calendar. Please contact the church office to reserve your

special dates, request a special type of arrangement, and designate whom you want to honor/remember in 2015. You

can also send an email to: church-office@fumceules.org.

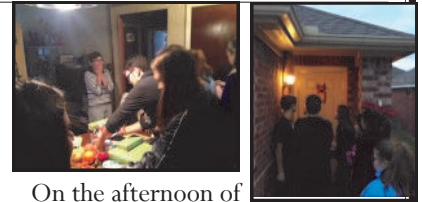
YOUTH MINISTRY



We wanted to take a moment and remind you that the annual Chili, Soup, & Cornbread Cook-off fundraiser to support the mission and service projects of E1ement Students is scheduled for **January 25th**. It's a great time to eat, fellowship, and financially support our students as they pursue mission and

service projects, including CTCYM each summer. If you would like to enter, please register at fumceless.org or speak with Shane.

In December, in cooperation with Mid-Cities Care Corps (www.midcitiescarecorps.org), E1ement Students put together holiday gift baskets for the households of nine Senior neighbors in the Mid-Cities area.



On the afternoon of December 22nd, our students delivered to each Senior neighbor one of the baskets that had been put together, spent a few moments visiting, and prayed for the recipient. We've included some pictures here from that day, and more can be viewed on elementstudents.com.

PRESCHOOL



FUMC Preschool has been enjoying a two week Christmas vacation. We look forward to resuming school on January 5. Thank you to those of you who have been collecting and donating Labels for Education

and Box Tops. More and more of you are contributing. Each Box Top is worth \$.10 so they all add up to \$\$\$ for our school.

Our annual Family Dinner and Auction is scheduled for Saturday, February 21. Please

put it on your calendar so you can come out and support the preschool. If you have items to donate for the auction or would like to have a vendor table, please contact the preschool office at 817-283-0129.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Happy New Year! With a new year comes a new week of Vacation Bible School! This year's theme is "G-Force, God in Action" from Cokesbury. The overall Bible verse for the program is Acts 17:28a, "In God we live, move, and exist." A life

with God is one of movement! If you would like to be a part of the team this year, either by teaching, leading a group, or decorating, send an email to children@fumceless. Expect to receive a meeting invite by the end of this month. Keep a look

out for new and exciting events, it's going to be a great year!
-Aubree Marlow

KIDS BEACH CLUB



Have you heard about Kids Beach Club? This is an after school program for 3rd through 6th grade boys and girls, a place where children can come together to worship God, learn Bible stories, sing, pray, eat snacks, have fun with friends and build relationships with adults who care about them.

Eules First sponsors the Kids Beach Club at South Eules Elementary School on Tuesday afternoons from 3:00 to 4:00. Our second semester will

begin on January 27, 2015. We presently are sharing the message of Christ with about 50 children each week and hope that number will grow.

This is where YOU come in. First of all we ask for your PRAYERS for this ministry – the children and their families, the leadership, and the school faculty and staff. We also need funds to provide Bibles, curriculum, supplies, snacks and prizes. If you would like to provide FINANCIAL SUPPORT, please

make your donation to Eules First UMC and designate it for "Beach Club."

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED! The more the merrier. We especially lift up the need for a leader for the 5th and 6th grade boys. If your heart is tugging at you to share God's love and you can give an hour a week to make an impact on a child's life, please contact Pastor Beverly at beverly@fumceless.org or call the church office (817-283-4421) as soon as possible.

FROM THE PASTOR

Happy New Year! Whether your 2014 was the best ever or the worst yet, it was an exciting year to be part of Eules First!

I want to thank you all for your commitment to the ministry of this Church. Together, we can follow God more faithfully than we could separately! God is certainly stretching us, moving us toward the Kingdom!

I want to share some information you may not know. This news is about your faithfulness. Before I give you the news, thank you for your faithfulness!

One of the largest single parts of our annual budget is something called Apportionments. These are a collection of items that we pay, as a United Methodist Church, to support ministries that happen beyond our congregation.

As of October, we were not sure we would be able to pay all of our apportionments this year...funds were tight.

Ask someone who has been a United Methodist for a long time and you'll likely hear about how important it is to pay out this part of the budget. We are a team, a family. We do our part.

Here's the good news: Thanks to your generosity, we paid 100% of our apportionments!

But that isn't all. You also, since September, pledged to pay off our debt by the end of this year.

But wait, there's more! The Christmas Eve offering received more than four thousand dollars for the Methodist Children's Home.

And that's not all! I've told you of Eddie Massey's generous gift of almost ten thousand dollars.

I hadn't yet told you that David and Carol Black, two of our long-time members, donated two thousand dollars to replace our large freezer (in honor of Gloria Daves) that broke recently.

Another couple in our church wrote a thousand dollar check to UMCOR - the United Methodist Committee on Relief (umcor.org). One hundred percent of that gift goes directly to the need.

All of you, and your friends and family are so generous that I'm sure you must be gaining a deep appreciation of God's generous abundance, and how God intends for us to live in it.

It is a privilege and honor to pastor such a generous congregation!

HIGHWAY UPDATE

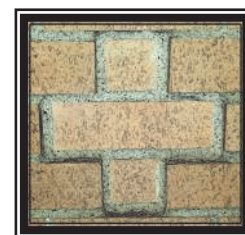
Here we are: 2015. This is the year that very likely we will have some movement on the widening of Airport Freeway.

As you know, preliminary lines have been drawn showing us how much property the project will

take from us. You also know we have retained an attorney, Dan Foster of Womack McClish in Austin, to represent us. Mr. Foster and his firm come highly recommended by several other clients, including churches.

The highway project won't be finished this year. It is not likely our negotiations with them will conclude this year.

What we do know is this: God is present to guide us through whatever is ahead.



ABUNDANCE

Eules First's annual stewardship campaign concluded on Sunday, November 25 with our Thanksgiving Dinner. It was a wonderful month of learning about *Abundance: Giving is Receiving*.

Eules First ended 2014 giving in response to God's Abundant grace. We successfully paid out our apportionments to the

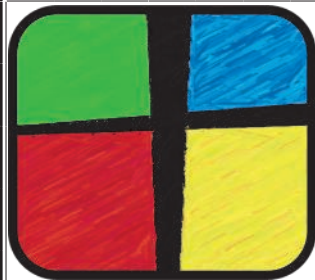
Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, and gave over \$4000 to the Methodist Children's Home for our Christmas offering.

We are still finalizing our 2015 budget, but numbers so far look good. We have \$319,370 pledged. With 97 families pledging, 16 have never pledged before! Most importantly we can say that the

number of families that are pledging to give has increased by 50 families in the last several years. That is a great barometer for the discipleship journey occurring in this congregation. If you have not yet pledged, it is never too late to commit to a body of faith in profound ministry.



Online Giving Link



Euleless

First United Methodist Church


Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

106 N. Main St.

Euleless, TX 76040


Phone: 817-283-4421

fumceuleless.org

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 [Youtube.com/sheyduck](https://youtube.com/sheyduck)

 [Pinterest.com/EulelessFirstUMC](https://pinterest.com/EulelessFirstUMC)

 [Instagram.com/EulelessFirstUMC](https://instagram.com/EulelessFirstUMC)

Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Euleless First United Methodist Church

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