

CHURCH MATTERS

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 7 APRIL 8, 2015

COME, ENTER THE KINGDOM

Easter morning the sun rises; we celebrate the miracle of the Resurrection and celebrate God overcoming death. Then the sun sets, Monday arrives and we still have the stresses of a bad boss, financial trouble, world crisis that overwhelm us and so much more. We celebrate one day and yet life still goes on. What does the resurrection mean for the rest



Join Pastor Steve as he preaches from the book of Acts and looks at the Kingdom of God. The series will begin April 12, and conclude June 17.

You are invited to Come, Enter the Kingdom of God!

of our lives? It seems to mean so much on Sunday, but how it applies to the rest of our lives is sometimes a question. How do we bring the kingdom of God to the world around us?

CAR WASH

We're washing cars! The E1ement Students are holding a car wash on the morning of Sunday, April 19th. This fundraiser will be a "donations accepted" carwash. So, you pick the price! The carwash will begin immediately following the 8:30 a.m. worship service, and will conclude as soon as we get all of the cars washed! On that morning, please bring your car keys to the table we will have set up underneath the porte-cochère entrance by the Swor parlor. When you get ready to leave Eules First that morning, just come back to that same table to pick up your keys!

Along with the other fundraisers we have already done this spring, the funds raised from this carwash will help to support E1ement Students' mission and service projects, in particular our annual Central Texas Conference Youth in Mission (CTCYM) mission trip. From June 14-20, the E1ement Students will be traveling to Bossier City, Louisiana to put Christian faith into action by repairing and rebuilding homes and small facilities weathered by age, poverty or natural disaster (for more information on CTCYM,



visit www.ctcym.org). The E1ement Students will be joining their specific efforts with students and adults from Acton UMC in Granbury, Martin UMC in Bedford, Smithfield UMC in North Richland Hills, and our neighbor here in Eules, the Tongan UMC.

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CAR WASH

What: Car Wash benefiting E1ement Students

When: Sunday, April 19
8:00 a.m.— noon

Who: All dirty cars!

Where: Parking Lot

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.

Aaron's big brother and mom	Family of Mildred Fuller, Melba Taylor's sister	Kellsey Abbott, Sherwood and Cheri Abbott's granddaughter	Michele Heroux and family, Amber Hawthorne's friend	Renae Robinson and sons	Military: Chris Mulford, Pat Bailey's grandson Colton Hardaway and Kayla Davis, son and daughter of Michael and Lore Osborn Daniel Collier, Bob Collier's grandson 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 Rohlfling's son
All God's children	Family of Samuel Peabody, Gwendolyn Manjoe's nephew	Kevin Maines	Michelle and Baker Ingram	Robbie Breaux, Audrey Coats' friend	
Alton and Reta Ray	Gene Bergeron, Candy Klasen's uncle	Kimberly Massey	Milford Roop	Robert Nail	
Arthur Schirmer	Gloria Daves	Kristina Braylock, Linda Martin's friend	Mimi Maloney	Robin Biles	
Audrey Bradford, Jay Bradford's mother	Gordon and Linda Roberts, Nancy Bickel's friends	Linda Trail	Nancy Jane Langford, Susan Downey's friend	Rocky Giles	
Baby Thomas Harrison	Heather Keto	Lisa Moffatt, Lynne and Alan Moffatt's daughter-in-law	Neal Draper, Patsy Brown's son-in-law	Ron Gray, Charlotte Everett's friend	
Bea Cortez and family, Jackie Robinson's friend	Helen, Faye Stinneford's friend	Lois Birdwell, Paula Wood's friend	Nick and Lisa Schoenberger, Ron Coats' friends	Ronnie Pepper, TJ Pepper's brother	
Bert Poss, Leah Bennett's brother	Hendrickson family	Lois Weems, Joyce Humphrey's mother	Nicole Mizell	Ruby Stevenson, Susan Downey's grandmother	
Burton family	Honor Vaughn, Teresa Sprague's mother	Lori Outlaw, Dodie Davis' friend	Nita Soape, David Davis' friend	Ryane Barker	
Cameron Mode	Jake Shoope, Jo Kemp's friend	Marlene Hill	Nolan Hardwick, Barbara Collier's father	Shayla Herigan, Eileen Mode's friend	
Carla Miller, Susan Downey's mother	James and Ila Gravely	Martha Wells	Ollie O'Sallis and her family and friends: Christopher, Steven, Sean, Latoya, Andrea, Urias, Jackie, Jay, Gertrude, Gwen, Tina, Janice, and sister Rosa and family	Sheri Gibbs, Tami Polenz' sister	
Carol Rust, Dottie Rust's daughter	James Hardaway, Milford Roop's friend	Mary Ann and Larry Oberbeck, Janet and Mac Ledbetter's friend	Pat Holland, Cindy Balentine's sister	Sherry and Ricky Pride, David Davis' friends	
Chris Mulford, Pat Bailey's grandson	Jamie Saunders, Judy Mulholland's sister-in-law	Mary Byrne, Michelle Barker's friend	Paula Brown	Stan Clarke, Sue & Richard Morrow's friend	
Cindy Gravely	Jim Favorite, Doris Brown's brother	Mary Heyduck	Phil Mulholland, Judy Mulholland's brother-in-law	Susan McGehee	
Crystal Frier, Janice Kasten's niece	John Lewis	Mary Ledbetter, Mac Ledbetter's mother	Pierre Tshimanga's family	Sydney Marie Peel, Pat May's great niece	
Dee Anne Erhart, Candy Klasen's friend	John Russo, David Davis' friend	Max Krempel, Randy Pilney's friend	Rebecca, Sarah Miller's friend	Terron Muller, Les Foley's niece	
Donna Bertram	Jordan Mizell, Nicole Mizell's nephew	Maxine and Bill Wallace, Kimberly Knighton's friends		Tina Marie Beatty, Linda Martin's niece	
Doris Alexander, Dottie Rust's sister	Julia Smythe & family, Eleanor Toweh's friend	Michael Sprague, Steve Sprague's brother		Tisha Burke, Hedy Taylor's friend	
Duane Little, Graham family friend	Kaneishia Walton, Jim and Lauralee Arnold's friend			Warner Muirhead	
Elida Schirmer				Yvonne Gordon	
Family of Justin Lusk, Sharon Menix's grandson					

BIRTHDAYS

April	14 –Karl King, Justin McGehee, Ethan Putnam	20 –Nancy Pilgrim, Mimi Maloney
9 –Heidi Graham, Brandon Young		
10 –Jerrie Keller, Vic Torres, Shelly Dunlap	15 –Christian Kramer	
11 –Dale Miller	16 –Betty Overstreet	
12 –Liam Heyduck	18 –Thomas Hurlbut, Jimmy Payton	

ANNIVERSARIES

April	24 –Jerry & Glendora Waldrup
1 –Larry & Charlotte Everett	25 –Jerry Sr. & Mimi Maloney
5 –Steve & Yvonne Rolfling	26 –Robert & Cheryl Cheek
15 –Martha & Cecil Wells	
20 –Randy & Emily Peters	

MEMORIALS

In Honor of Helen Payton's Birthday/ Memorials:
Robert and Sonia McMillon

In Honor of Helen Payton's Birthday/ Memorials:
Jimmy Payton

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Food Pantry Volunteer Schedule: 24 –Doris Brown Trish Franklin,
April Dottie Rust, Jill Schaneberg
 10 –Darlene Carter, Gloria Food Bank Day is April 15th. We
 Daves, Brenda Hurlbut, leave the Church parking lot
 Maggie Lucas at 8:15 AM and will return
 17 –Phylliss Augustus, Marie around 12:30 PM. We need you
 Bean, Kathy Chapman, Judy and want you for this mission. For
 Torres every hour each person works, the
 Euleless Food Pantry receives credit

on our monthly food bill.
Food Pantry needs: Ramen
 Noodles and Tuna Helper



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S BAKE SALE

A United Methodist Women's Bake Sale is Sunday, April 12. Proceeds benefit Euleless First UMW missions.

Please bring your homemade goodies to the Food pantry area anytime between 8:15 a.m. and

10:30 a.m. making them available for the congregation to purchase before 8:30 a.m. service, during the Sunday School hour, before the 11:00 a.m. service, and if there are any treats left, after the 11:00 a.m. service. Come and

treat yourself or your family and support missions here at Euleless First and beyond.

CANTATA THANK YOU'S

Great job choir for sharing the story of Jesus' death and Resurrection through music, song and drama. Thank you for transforming our space into a place that helped us live and feel the story.

All your hard work to present the production truly benefited our worship services throughout Holy Week. Thank you Mark and Vicki for your guidance and leadership. Thank you Carol and Anicia for directing the appearance of the sanctuary and the dramatic presentations. Together the choir shared their gifts in a magnificent way. Thank you to all that participated.

Here is a list of the complete cast:

God of the Empty Tomb: A Dramatic Celebration of Easter

Created by: Joel Lindsey & Tony Wood

Arranged & Orchestrated by: J. Daniel Smith

Judas: Matt Taylor

John: Leland Brown

Jesus: Dave Lewis

Miriam: Amber Hawthorne

Joshua: Thomas Hawthorne

Woman Who Was Healed:

Danielle St. John

Child Raised from the Dead: Sara Taylor

Priests/Soldiers: Pierre Kenyon, Ric Grant, Wayne Weyer, Bob Menton, Joe Tindel, Bernardo Schirmer, Leland Brown

Other Solo's: Linda Lewis, Mark Baker, Nancy King, Clay Smith, Carla Fink

Drama: Anicia Brown

Costumes/Staging: Carol Bolton, Carla Fink, Larry Kramer, Ann Wilson

Sound: Mike Springer

Directors: Mark and Vicki Baker



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



April is here! Happy Easter, He is Risen!! I hope everyone had a great time celebrating Jesus with their families. There are some fun things coming in the next few months starting April 25 at 1pm in the Library, join us for another movie day! Come in your PJ's, enjoy some snacks, and watch a movie! May 23 from 2-4pm in the Family Life Center come be a part of the end of school year party for

the kid's Sunday school classes! The details are still in the planning stages, but be prepared to play outside in the water and get messy!

June 22-26 is Vacation Bible School! We are in need of teachers, an assembly leader, a story teller, and lots of volunteers to lead the children to each of their activities. Please prayerfully consider volunteering your time for this great event!

Our theme is G-Force: God in Action, what better way to show God in action than giving your time teaching children about the Lord!? If you have questions about any of the upcoming events or would like to volunteer for VBS, please email children@fumceules.org for more information.

-Aubree Marlow

PRESCHOOL



The Preschool's Annual Easter Parades were Wednesday and Thursday, April 1 & 2. The kids were adorable in their Easter hats: Easter bunnies, ducks, chicks, bonnets. They also had Easter egg hunts, and Easter class parties! Thank you parents for providing the candy eggs!



Parent/Teacher Conferences were held Monday April 6. It is always exciting to think of how much children have grown. Just like spring, they too are springing up!

It is time again for our annual Wheels Day, April 8 and 9 from

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This is a fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Hospital. We know that it is important to teach children about giving to others, and that not all kids are healthy and well. This is our way of helping others in need. We hope to teach our students to have compassion for other children who are ill. The PK1 (4 year olds) and PK2 (3 year olds) students will be riding laps around our east parking lot for a Trike-a-thon. They have asked for donations based on the number of laps that they ride. Many volunteers are needed to

keep our students safe. Students who collect \$35 or more will receive a *Bikewell* bear t-shirt. Those who collect \$100 or more will also receive a *Bikewell* bear backpack.

Finally, children have already begun practicing for their spring program in May. This year's theme is Dinosaurs! It will be a wonderful time. Keep an eye out for more information soon. It is so wonderful to see young children singing and sharing! God bless each of these children.

YOUTH MINISTRY



On the morning of March 28, 2015, the E1element

Students hosted a rummage sale to help raise funds for mission and service projects. We couldn't have accomplished this without your help. Thanks to your generosity of donating your

stuff, we raised over \$1900 to support our efforts to help others - that's more than twice the amount we were hoping to raise! As we get closer to our Central Texas Conference Youth in Mission (CTCYM) trip we are almost through with our fundraising efforts. We hope that you will allow us to wash your car on April 19th and will encourage

folks you know to buy some nachos and chili-dogs from us during the Eules Arbor Daze Festival on April 24th & 25th.

Thank you so much for all of your support in helping to create an opportunity for our students to put their faith into action through mission and service!

FROM THE PASTOR

If you can't see it, be it!

Following Easter, we are going to spend the next several weeks focusing on the early church and the Kingdom of God. This is prescribed by the Lectionary - a three year cycle of scripture readings that takes one through the entire Bible.

Here's my reason for this focus: I fully believe God has initiated His Kingdom on earth already. We pray for this to be a reality whenever we say the Lord's Prayer: "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...."

Since God's Kingdom is already here, we, as God's people, get to spread this good news and invite others to be a part!

Of course, sometimes our lives seem far from the Kingdom of God. Sometimes, as we look around or watch the news, it is really hard to believe the Kingdom of God is actually here already. But we believe it is.

Some people say seeing is believing. I think that sometimes believing is seeing. God's Kingdom can be very hard to see sometimes. But you and I, as followers of Jesus, know that it is

already here. (Matthew 16:28, Luke 17:21, for instance)

Whether or not it looks like it, the Kingdom of God is already here.

As God's people, I believe we are called to portray the presence of the Kingdom, especially when it is most invisible around us. We can be loving, we can forgive, we can treat others as we want to be treated.

We can be the presence of God's Kingdom even when we can't see it.

So, if you can't see it, be it.

SPRING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

It is **NOT TOO LATE** to register for these two spring educational events.

First, **God's Grand Plot** is a one day retreat event. It provides a view of the entire Bible as one story of God's hand on the human journey. The day includes an historical overview of the Bible, the Bible's organization, and how God's story affects the human heart. God's Grand Plot will be Saturday, April 11, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the Swor Parlor. There is no cost and materials will be provided. Registration is requested to ensure enough

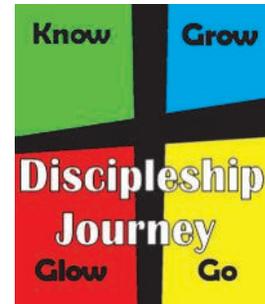
materials. Please contact the church office by Thursday, **April 9**, to register at 817-283-4421, or go online to register on our website, fumeless.org.

Second, **Serving From the Heart** is scheduled for April 18 from 10 to 12, and April 25 and May 2 from 9 to 3 in the Swor Parlor. *Serving From the Heart* helps to meet the challenges ahead by discovering your gifts and talents now. God's plan for the church calls for each member of the Body of Christ to play a vital role. Sometimes we think that serving God is an obligation, a duty, and that it isn't

meant to be enjoyable. The truth is, though, that God wants us to find joy and fulfillment when we serve. That happens when we serve in a role that matches who God created us to be.

Serving From the Heart is a journey of self-discovery as one learns more about how the Body of Christ is intended to function, and what that means to each person.

Please contact the church office by Sunday, **April 12**, to register at 817-283-4421, or go online to register on our website, fumeless.org.



HIGHWAY UPDATE

The last newsletter indicated that we expected an appraisal of our property and program to take place soon. This happened the week before Holy Week. Our attorney and I toured the campus with two men from the appraisal

team. Afterwards, he (our attorney) said that he felt it went well.

We should expect to receive an initial offer from the developer, SouthGate Mobility Partners, by early summer.

In the meantime, we continue to seek God's vision for our congregation and our future. God will provide, and God has an exciting future for us!



DO WE ACT OUR SIZE

Earlier this year Pastor Steve shared this blog with leadership of Eules First. This is an excerpt from a blog post by our Bishop Lowry. The question he posed to leadership is, "Do we as a church act smaller than our size?" We challenge you with the same question. What can we be more open about so that we can act more our size, and thus grow—spiritually and numerically.

Most churches operate as one size smaller than they really are. Thus, they tend to shrink to a smaller size just to fit the way they are operating! We (the UMC) have tended to staff for one size smaller than we are. Over the

last 10 years this has changed, and I see many churches staff bigger than they actually are! This can hurt the importance of a shared lay ministry. It is tricky and important to staff for growth without over-staffing.

As church growth breaks into the next size category it is much like going through the sound barrier. Moving to a bigger size means engaging in church operations differently. People unconsciously often resist such change. It is not uncommon to see a pattern over a 20 or 30 year time period of a church that approaches a size and then falls back to the smaller size (especially among larger

churches). This is because it is difficult to change the way we consciously operate! Changing to a larger size is a category shift and requires "doing church" differently. A lot of congregational fights are really over system issues that have to do with size.

Context — that is the ministry area, mission field, and congregational history — affect the way our "typology" interacts with our ministry, but no church is exempt from wrestling with the issues presented by a category shift!

NEWSLETTER CHANGES

The Eules First Untied Methodist Church Bi-Monthly Newsletter is getting a facelift. While it might not look drastically different we are moving from a bi-monthly addition to a monthly addition.

In an effort to continually be responsible for resources, the Finance Committee, and Church Council have encouraged the newsletter to go to a monthly format.

What does this mean for you? Not much, except that you only receive church news via mail once a month. If you receive your newsletter via email, you also

receive weekly newsletter reminders. To subscribe to weekly emails, and to receive the newsletter via email go to fumceless.org/about-us/newsletter/ then click on "subscribe here."

Please note: Beginning in April, all entries for the newsletter must be submitted to the minister of communication, at communication-minister@fumceless.org the 15th of each month for the next month's publication.

Thus, all entries for the May edition are due by April 15.

The newsletter will be printed and mailed on April 22.

We realize that this is a big change, but want to highlight some features that the change will bring: Each month we will have the church calendar on a separate 8x10 so that you can hang it on the fridge. It will also have a list of highlighted activities on the other side. You will always get a message from the pastor, as well as education about ministry and missions. This is a wonderful chance to look at what we tell others about our church and how great a place it is!

RANGERS BASEBALL



The annual church outing to the Rangers Baseball game is set for May 3, when the Rangers take on the Athletics. The first pitch is set for

2:05 p.m. The game will be followed by a Casting Crowns Concert! The Fresh Start Sunday School Class will host a family tailgate party beginning at noon in the southwest corner of the parking lot. Ticket prices will be

published soon. We'd like to give a big thanks to Larry Lewis for securing 125 tickets. To purchase tickets, find Larry Lewis or Dave Lewis.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Raising Cheerful Givers

Part 6 of 7 –

TEENS AND THE DANGERS OF CREDIT

This is sixth in a series of articles on “Raising Cheerful Givers”. Helping our children understand financial principles will not only help them manage their money, but also become joyful stewards. When you left home, how well prepared were you to make serious financial decisions? We spend 18 years preparing our children for adulthood, but only a few hours teaching them the use of credit and money. Yet, the failure of most marriages can be attributed to problems with credit and money. Even more importantly, the misuse of money destroys a Christian witness. As parents we have a great responsibility. In her book, *Branded: The Buying and Selling of Teenagers*, Alissa Quart writes that “those under twenty-five are now the fastest-growing group filing for bankruptcy.” As we discussed in earlier articles, it is critical to lay the groundwork early in our children’s lives by teaching them how to share, how to handle small amounts of

money and to let them experience the positive value of delayed gratification. Once they reach teen years, they will be faced with bigger decisions that involve higher-risk, large-ticket items and will be less open to parental advice and suggestions. One of the best things to do while teens are still at home is to take them to a local bank to open their own checking account, perhaps with a debit card. Such accounts help to teach the discipline of tracking money. They provide an opportunity each month to review the statements together as you teach them how to manage an account. Once they have learned to manage a simple account, they can more easily graduate to transactions such as house and car payments. If your teen or young adult will be leaving soon for college or off on their own to work, they will be bombarded with offers for car loans and credit cards. Unfortunately, this is the time too many young people naively pile up debt that takes years from which to dig out. The device that digs the hole is often a personal credit card. Our consumer culture works overtime to convince young people they deserve a fantasy

lifestyle. Teens need to understand that when they put money into investments others pay them rent for using their money. But when they borrow, they have to pay others to rent the money. And if they bounce a check or miss a payment, no matter how good the excuse, debt quickly turns into high interest loans, often as high as 25%, and additional credit becomes impossible to get. As Christian parents we need to give our children practice in using all the tools they need to manage bank accounts, credit cards, consumer loans and investments by the time they graduate from high school. This will give them a solid foundation for their family finances in the future, and provide them with the ability to continue the practice of joyful, generous giving to impact Christ’s kingdom.

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Online Giving Link

NEW MEMBERS

Eules First United Methodist is excited to welcome our newest members. Nicole Mizell and her children Alex, Owen, and Ian joined on March 22. Also on March 22, Curtis Borland joined our church family (not pictured) his new bride is Barbara (Ledbetter) Borland.

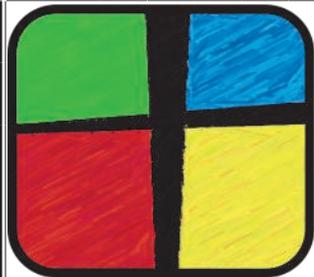
Also, Courtney Swanigon and her children, Donovan and Brooklyn, joined us on March 29. Be sure to stop and welcome them all to our church family. With them in our presence, we will never be the same.



Nicole Mizell joined March 22. Pictured with children Alex, Owen and Ian Pyron.



Courtney Swanigon joined March 29. Pictured with children Donovan and Brooklyn.



Euleless

First United Methodist Church

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

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fumceuleless.org

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

Euleless First United Methodist Church

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