

# B'ridge

edition of

## The United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections—Section A  
Volume 158 Number 2  
May 13, 2011

### First United Methodist Church

419 West Walker  
Breckenridge, Texas 76424

*"Making Disciples  
for Jesus Christ"*

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8:30 am "Come As You Are" Worship

9:45 am The Well, Praise &  
Worship Service

10:45 am Traditional Worship

**May 15, 2011**

**8:30 & 9:45 Services**

Judy Hart Preaching

**10:45 Service**

Youth & Senior Sunday

**May 22, 2011**

**Guest Speaker**

Dr. Gary Lindley

Director of Church & Growth  
Development

### CHURCH STAFF

**Jeff Miller**

Pastor

**Jay Walker**

Director of Youth Ministries

**Elaine Goswick**

Financial Secretary

**Jaclyn Morehart**

Director of Communications

**Wayne White**

Music Director

**Janice Smith**

Organist/Pianist

**Joe and April Lechner**

Sr. High & Children's Ministries Directors

**Robert & Monica Burchett**

Jr. High Ministries Directors

**Sheila Tonne**

Learning Tree Director

**Beth Morris**

Nursery Director

**December Owen**

Nursery Attendant

**Jim Demson**

Custodian

**Evelyn Barker**

Housekeeping

## Youth Sunday & Senior Recognition Sunday

May 15, 2011

## End of Year Youth Parties

Wednesday, May 25, 2011



## Congratulations to our 2011 Confirmation Class!

*Andrew Byerly*

*Michael Lin*

*Zachary Luke Morris*

*Ryley Wayne Overman*

*Zarian Delagarza*

*Harley Ray McCarthy*

*Russell James Overman*



## Mother's Day at FUMC



**Longest Mother Member  
at FUMC: Virginia Toland**



**Newest Mother Member  
at FUMC: Monica Burchett**

## New Additions to FUMC's Website

You can now Donate Online on the church's website at  
[www.firstumcbreckenridge.org](http://www.firstumcbreckenridge.org)

Just click the link on the upper left corner of the homepage,  
"Click here to Give Online!" The link will lead you to FUMC Breckenridge's account at My Giving Solutions and you are able to give to specific funds, such as General Tithes & Offerings, Building Capital Improvements, Memorial, Youth, Learning Tree, WinGS, and United Methodist Men.

Also, the newsletter you receive in the mail can be viewed and printed from the church's website. To view the latest newsletter, click on "E-News Letter" on the right column of the homepage.

## Welcome New Members!



Please extend a warm welcome to new members Dawn Wright and her daughter Amanda Ruffin. They joined FUMC Breckenridge on May 1st by profession of faith. Dawn and Amanda have been attending here for several weeks and we are excited to have them join our church family.

## More FUMC News On Pages 4A, 5A & 8A

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# Quilting & Craft Group News

We have had a large donation of fabric given to our Quilting & Craft Group. This donation will be a huge help in our newest mission project. Our plan is to make a lap quilt for all the residents at both of our local nursing homes.

Also, we would like to start having classes on making a quilt or purse, etc... If you are interested in participating in the mission project or any of these classes, please contact Linda Venekamp at 254-559-0406.

The Quilting & Craft Group meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday morning of the month from 10:00 to Noon. The craft room is upstairs in the BIG Room, the classroom on the east side of the stairwell. Anyone interested in quilting, making craft projects, scrapbooking, etc... is invited to join us.

## Give a Penny— Save A Life (Imagine No Malaria)

There is not much one can do with a penny in today's economy. There is no longer what we called penny-candy. The copper penny almost seems superfluous. I have heard rumors over the past years of talk of doing away with the penny. Mine usually end up in the small tray by the cash register at the convenience store. If I see a penny on the ground I leave it for someone else.

We may think there is not much one can do with a penny—BUT ONE PENNY CAN SAVE A LIFE! ACTUALLY IT CAN SAVE 100 LIVES.

Just one penny per day; (that's only \$3.65 per year—the price of a latte) can save lives. If each person who attends worship would give just one penny per day we will be able to save over 100 lives over a three year period.

On the penny is stamped the words, "IN GOD WE TRUST." God is trusting us to IMAGINE NO MALARIA and save lives.

## Thank You

Dear FUMC Youth,

Thank you so much for the beautiful Easter Lily. It was so kind of all of you to think of me on the most wonderful holiday. I love spending time with you! I'm so grateful!

Love,  
April

Dear FUMC Youth,

Thank you so much for the wonderful Birthday Bouquet. I had such a great time spending my birthday with all of you. You made my birthday extra special this year!

Thank You & Many Blessings,  
April

To FUMC Breckenridge:

Thank you for the beautiful flowers that expressed your sympathy in our recent sorrow.

Sincerely,  
The Family of Geraldine Colbert

# Youth News

## MISSION: Possible

Our FUMC-Youth did another successful **Car Wash at Whoa -N-Go** on April 30 from 9:00am to 12:00 Noon. We have the best time at those car washes with sports cars and muddy pick-ups. Those BGE kids always show up in force, and do a good job. They are really great.

**COW PATTY BINGO!** During Frontier Days on Saturday May 7th we had Cow Patty Bingo and it was a success again this year, thanks to the great people of Breckenridge. We waited in 100 degree weather as Sophie the Cow took her time and sampled every inch of grass. Eventually, at 4:15pm, Sophie selected a square, "B5," and we all rejoiced for the winner, Nick Burke, as well as ourselves. Sophie was happy too; I could tell. When this event became available to FUMC, the timing could not have been better. The youth at First United Methodist Church needed funds to go on a mission trip and so they could do work for others. We have not traveled abroad on a mission trip like this one in a while, which makes this all very exciting. Everyone was very supportive of this effort and we really appreciate it. Thanks to everyone here and abroad who signed up for a square, or several, this trip is going to be possible. God provides.

Speaking of Frontier Days, FUMC youth showed up and had a great time. Events like this make me very proud to be from Breckenridge. Wasn't that some awesome lemonade? We ate some great food, got some sun, beat up some cars, bought some stuff, bounced and slid, watched a pet show, got dunked, witnessed Jaclyn "cover" an outlaw with a shotgun during an Old West shootout, (you go, girl!) and watched Nicole, Christian, Truett, and others strut their stuff at the Miss Breckenridge/Mr. Breckenridge pageant.

I want to thank the following: The kids of FUMC, their parents, and friends who asked for a square. Thanks for getting this Cow Patty Bingo project funded and finished; Sandy Morris for all she does for the kids of this town and for me. She organizes and I run errands, but we make a good team; Tim and Beth Byerly, for providing Sophie the Cow, the panels for the cattle pen, their time, patience, and painting expertise for this event. Thanks to them, I learned a little bit more about the digestive habits of cows and what makes a good cattle pen. They have probably forgotten more about cattle than I will ever know. I want to thank the following folks for their donation of some awesome consolation prizes:

Bella Floral, Ernie's Spanish Kitchen, Gebo's, Lisa Langford (Mary Kay), Sonic Drive-in, Texas Funwear, Turner Seed, Whoa-N-Go and Wishes. Congratulations to Nick Burke & the Consolation Prize Winners, (sounds like a band) who are being notified at this time.

My nervousness about the funding of the mission trip has passed for now, so I can move on to nervousness about the actual trip itself, the tools, the driving, the food, the sleeping quarters, the driving. Have I mentioned the driving? (Again, kidding.) Remember, I am not "officially freaked out, just nervous." Anyway, Jerry Overman will be there. As I have told him, he brings a calming effect on most of our events. I think he uses some Aggie mind trick, in conjunction with a special part from a multi-tool, or something, but it works. It should be in interesting trip, to say the least.

On May 8th, FUMC confirmed Ryley Overman, Russell Overman, Andy Byerly, Zarian DeLaGarza, Luke Morris, Michael Lin, and baptized Harley McCarthy! We also have other BGE kids who want to be confirmed and baptized. WOW! God is working on these kids. Give them a handshake the next time you see them, because they are the future of the church. Youth /Senior Recognition Sunday is May 15th.

FUMC-Youth has a lot of kids that are Gifted & Talented and that are in Band; our kids are super smart. The G/T kids are going to the Caverns of Sonora on Friday 13th and I am going with them. Ooooooo, spooky! Dark caves, stalactites, slime,



maybe a bat or two! A bus load of 12 year olds on a day long trip, is actually the scary part. I am a kid at heart, so this should be fun. I literally cannot wait.

The BISD bands performed a great concert at the new gym on Tuesday, May 3rd at 7 pm. Our kids play really well. Mr. Richardson and Mr. Moses went on and on about the awards and No.1s that BISD students received at competition. I am not kidding, they sound awesome. They said that the level of interest from the 5th Graders to join the Beginner Band is good and they expect to maintain the current level of enthusiasm and increasing numbers. I believe that we need to be very supportive of this program and therefore, I asked Dane a lot of questions. Okay, I ask a lot of questions, regardless of the topic is; it is what I do. Dane said that the band is growing and needs instruments, specifically flutes. I told him that I was sure that some parents or college kids out there would be willing to sell or donate their high school instruments to perpetuate a thriving band program. If you are interested in helping out the kids in band, please

contact Dane Richardson. If you have a child that is interested in band, music, or has an obvious talent, the Beginner Band is currently recruiting for next year. It can't hurt to try, right?

I feel the same way about the band as I do about my church, my family, my town, my country, my job, the Buckaroos, and all other matters; I want us to be successful. I want us to grow in spirituality, in strength, in numbers, alone and as a team, and use our God-given talents to help others and lead others to Jesus Christ, by our example.

Jay Walker, Director of Youth Ministries  
Luke 6:31 (NIV)



Those Scheduled to Serve

**Sunday, May 15, Youth Sunday**

Ushers: **ERIC VENEKAMP; LANE MORRIS; ZACH MCCLYMOND**  
 Children's Church Teacher: **LANE MORRIS**  
 Greeters: **NICOLE HART & NATALIE WILSON**  
 Acolytes: **RUSSELL OVERMAN & NICK SPEER**  
 Sound System: **RICKEY TOWNSON**  
 Liturgist: **ERIC VENEKAMP & NATALIE WILSON**

**Sunday, May 22**

Ushers: **BOBBY GOSWICK, CAPTAIN; JERRY TOLAND, TOMMY DITTMAR**  
 Children's Church Teacher: **APRIL LECHNER**  
 Greeters: **SHARON & VIRGINIA TOLAND**  
 Acolytes: **RUSSELL OVERMAN & BRADY TENNISON**  
 Sound System: **RICKEY TOWNSON**  
 Liturgist: **GUYLA WHITE**

Visiting our Church these recent Sundays were:

Wes & Julie King; Dawn Wright & Amanda Ruffin; Stephen Hope; Donny & Cheryl Bird; Trey Smalley; Casey & Samantha Kuhn of Venus, TX; Mike & Lisa Story, Kelsey, Colin & Taylor of Grand Prairie; Erin Edwards of Lubbock; Ray Cockrell of Ranger; Amy, William, Christina, Elizabeth & Landon Pevey of Fort Stockton; Johnny & Sheryl Hatchison of Granbury; Karen, Nick & Emily Calafat of Grand Prairie; Karen, Josh, Chris & Garrett Jones of Grand Prairie; T.C. Harris, Jr.; Luke Lemons; Vic Johnson; Kelly Peterson; Stephanie Bird of San Angelo; Shelly Bird of San Angelo; Rose Kuester of San Angelo; Alec Wagon of San Angelo; Lyndall, Leslie & Zach Harrison of Fort Worth; Cait Gibson of Austin; Arvis Davis of Paducah; Romney & Karen Carey and Everly, Emrey & Conaghey

Current Prayer Concerns

All prayer requests should be emailed or called in to the church office, and they will be sent out from there by both phone and e-mail to our prayer warriors. Please keep the office updated on the status of the friend or family member you have on the prayer list.

**O.H. REAUGH**  
**RONNIE PENDLETON**  
**JOHN ED CONNER**  
**DORIS HOGAN**  
**JEAN HAYWORTH**  
**JOHN & EUNITA TRIMBLE**  
**PAT SHOEMAKE**—friend of Jerry Overman's mother  
**GENE VELMAN**—friend of Ruth Green, cancer  
**JOE ED PESCH**—father of Tim Pesch  
**KATHY JOHNSON**—friend of Pat Adams  
**DAVLYN SPEER**—niece of Roy & Eileen Speer, cousin to Pendleton's and Gipson's  
**JUNE BEAUCHAMP**—friend of Linda Venekamp  
**BILLIE JEAN WHITE**—grandmother of Jaclyn Morehart & Jay White  
**RUSTY CREECH**—uncle of Linda Venekamp's son in law  
**SIRENA OTTS**—niece of Guyla White, Lyme Disease  
**JERRY STROUD**—friend of Guyla White, oil rig accident  
**TOM BURDEN**—friend of Rick Pendleton  
**WILBUR HIGHT**—friend of Rick Pendleton  
**JACK MITCHELL**—brother of Sue Lodor  
**BILLY REID**—son in law of Jean Hayworth  
**JOANN DABBS**—grandmother of Sandy Morris  
**KEVIN TURNIPSEED**—friend of Susan Pendleton  
**SHERRY MORGAN**—friend of Guyla White  
**KENDALL HAYWORTH**—grandson of Jean Hayworth  
**SHARON REED**—wife of Rev. Bill Reed, St. Paul/Eolian Pastor  
**STEVE HASSAR**—brother in law of Elaine Goswick's sister, Glenda Boyd Hassar  
**STEVE KINNARD**—brother of Martye Underwood  
**MARTY VENEKAMP**—brother of Joey Venekamp  
**RON FELTON**—father of Jannette Miller  
**LEN WILLIAMS**  
**LARRY BRADFORD**—father of Lara Townson  
**SHERI FORREST**—mother in law of Linda Venekamp's daughter Rachel  
**SANDRA OVERMAN**—mother of Jerry Overman  
**DALE CARY**  
**EVELYN GRIMES**—aunt of Susan Pendleton

**JEAN SPRAIN**—mother of Kay Warner  
**JEREMY BROWN**—nephew of Tim & Beth Byerly  
**JIM OLNEY**—former Brownwood District Superintendent  
**IRIS PATTERSON**—mother of Lisa Langford  
**AREA CHURCHES**  
**PRESIDENT OBAMA, OUR NATION, AND OUR MEN & WOMEN IN THE SERVICE**  
**THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
**WORLD PEACE**

Those in extended care. . .

**MORIE EPPERSON**—Villa Haven  
**SHIRLEY REGER**  
**SYLVIA SEBELIST**—mother of Jean Hayworth  
**GERTRUDE PETTY**—mother of Sharon Toland  
**MAVIS OVERMAN**—grandmother of Jerry Overman  
**LENA MADENBURG**—aunt of Roger Tonne—Villa Haven  
**EVELYN WHITE**—mother of Wayne White, Cedar Crest

Condolences:

Our Christian condolences to Danny and Marsha Gipson on the death of his mother, Berta Gipson. Funeral services were held on May 9th in Lone Oak, Texas.

Please call the church office if you know about a member being ill or having a death in the family. We would appreciate knowing when something happens in the daily lives of our congregation.

Please pray for our servicemen & women in harm's way:

**ZACHARY KARL**—South Korea, Camp Casey—grandson of Bobby & Elaine Goswick  
**KYLE CLEAVENGER**—Afghanistan—nephew of Tim & Beth Byerly  
**BRITTON HOWELL**—Iraq—nephew of Julie Harris—is now home  
**ARIC HOLLY**—son of Sherry Strickland  
**BRANDI PENDLETON**—daughter of Randy Pendleton

If you are aware of any other church family and friends serving our country in harm's way that we need to include in our prayers, please contact the church office with that information.

The Bishop's Blog

To subscribe to the latest posts from Bishop Mike Lowry, please visit [www.BishopMikeLowry.com/subscribe](http://www.BishopMikeLowry.com/subscribe)

Here is a sample of the Bishop's Blog:

From a Christendom Mentality to a Missional Reality

May 3, 2011

Monday afternoon (May 2, 2011) at the Council of Bishops (COB), we heard Professor Dana Robert of Boston School of Theology address the historic leadership role of the office of bishop from the 3rd paragraph of the Nicene Creed. "We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church." Dr. Robert posed the following questions to the bishops gathered:

1. "What does it mean for United Methodist bishops to represent the 'oneness' of the church?"
2. What does it mean for United Methodist bishops to represent the 'catholicity' of the church?"
3. In changing from a Christendom to a missional context, how should the role of the bishop evolve?"
4. What are the most important spiritual qualities necessary to be a bishop today?"

Even more pointedly Dr. Robert framed the questions from a historic perspective with the telling comment, we are "caught in transition from a Christendom mentality to a missional reality."

This discussion may sound somewhat dry and technical, yet it directs our attention bluntly to the 3rd point of the *Call to Action* to "reform the Council of Bishops" focusing on the active bishops assuming responsibility and public accountability for a new missional culture with measurable fruitfulness. I have often said that, in my experience clergy, understand that Christendom is over but haven't yet really engaged in a new missional reality (i.e. are still operating out of a Christendom modality).

Like much of the church, the COB is wrestling with the painful change from an old mentality to a new reality. One thing is clear. God is calling us to a new world. Like the Exodus of old the Lord is going before us.

I ask you to keep in your prayers two special areas of concern that we have lifted up in COB—the victims of the tornadoes in Alabama and the people of the Ivory Coast recovering from a civil war. I also ask for continued prayers for those recovering from the Possum Kingdom Fires.

Newsletter Deadlines

Please have information for The B'ridge Newsletter to the church office by:

**Noon on Wednesday, May 18th for the May 27th Issue**

This will allow us to let people know what is going on sooner. We appreciate your help!

**If you have a mail pocket outside the church office, please check it often.**



Camp EDGE VBS is Coming!

It's that time again to start preparing for Vacation Bible School! This year's theme is an extreme adventure camp where children Experience and Discover God Everywhere (EDGE). Camp E.D.G.E. VBS is not your typical stroll through the woods. It's an action-packed, adrenaline-filled expedition that teaches kids their strength and might come from God. Through rockin' contemporary music, larger-than-life recreation games, mind-boggling science activities, extreme sports videos, and cool, challenging crafts, kids will learn how to live on the E.D.G.E. in their faith.

Camp Edge will be held from July 11–15th at FUMC. Please contact April Lechner or Jay Walker for more info or to volunteer!

Supplies Needed for VBS:

- Undecorated artificial Christmas trees
- Tree stumps
- Large logs or driftwood
- Pine needles or dried leaves
- Pinecones
- Artificial flowers
- River rocks
- Outdoor folding chairs
- Camp stools
- Camp stoves
- Metal plates, bowls & utensils
- Coolers
- Canteens
- Marshmallow roasting tongs
- Small plastic swimming pools
- Lanterns
- Flashlights
- Binoculars
- Maps
- Mountain bikes
- Skateboards
- Snowboards
- Skis or ski poles
- Ropes
- Carabiners
- Hiking boots
- Inflatable raft
- Oars
- Kayak or canoe
- Helmets
- Compasses
- Butcher paper—green, brown, dark blue, light blue, black white
- Tissue paper—various solid colors
- Posterboard—white, green, yellow, blue, red
- King sized sheets—blue, brown, green, white
- Large sheets of cardboard
- Foam board
- Blue cellophane
- Sheets of Styrofoam
- Green pool noodles
- Brown paper bags
- Newspaper
- White cotton batting
- Mini lights—white & colored
- Plastic tablecloths
- White votive candles
- Battery operated tea lights

# Weekly Schedules

## Week of May 15–21

### Sunday, May 15 Youth & Senior Sunday

8:30 am "Come as You Are" Worship  
 9:30 am Light Breakfast in the B.I.G. Room—Provided by Elementary UMYF  
 9:45 am Sunday school  
 9:45 am The Well—Praise & Worship Service  
 10:45 am Traditional Worship Service  
 12:00 noon Senior Luncheon in BIG Room

### Monday, May 16

5:30 pm Staff-Parish Relations Committee Meeting in Library

### Tuesday, May 17

5:30 pm Faithfully Fit Forever in Upstairs Fellowship Hall  
 6:00 pm Men's Bible Session

### Wednesday, May 18

5:00 pm Bell Choir Practice  
 6:00–7:30 pm Youth Cooks for Workers and Groups Meet  
 6:33 pm The Well—Praise & Worship Service  
 7:00 pm Choir Practice

### Thursday, May 19

6:45 am United Methodist Men Breakfast  
 9:30 am & 5:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study  
 5:15 pm Finance Meeting in Library with TMF Consultant, Dick Young  
 5:30 pm Faithfully Fit Forever in Upstairs Fellowship Hall

### Saturday, May 21

6:00–9:00 am Angel Food Distribution in CLC  
 9:00–Noon Children's Chest Open

## Week of May 22–28

### Sunday, May 22

8:30 am "Come as You Are" Worship  
 9:30 am Light Breakfast in the B.I.G. Room—Provided by Mixed Nuts  
 9:45 am Sunday school  
 10:45 am Traditional Worship

### Monday, May 23

12:00 noon WinGS Brown Bag Lunch Meeting in Fellowship Hall

### Tuesday, May 24

5:30 pm Faithfully Fit Forever in Upstairs Fellowship Hall  
 6:00 pm Men's Bible Session at home of Cody Owen

### Wednesday, May 25

2:00 pm WinGS Birthday Party at Villa Haven  
 5:00 pm Bell Choir Practice  
 6:00–7:30 pm Youth End of Year Parties  
 7:00 pm Choir Practice

No Well Praise & Worship Service

### Thursday, May 26

9:30 am & 5:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study  
 2:00 pm WinGS Birthday Party at Cedar Crest  
 5:30 pm Faithfully Fit Forever in Upstairs Fellowship Hall

### Saturday, May 28

10:00–Noon Craft Time

## Men's Bible Session

Tuesdays at 6:00 pm at the home of Cody Owen

## Need Your Carpets Cleaned?

J Williams of *Essential Carpet Care* has been cleaning carpets in Breckenridge for the past 9 years. J's husband, Len Williams, is currently undergoing chemo therapy treatments and is unable to work. Please give J a call at 254-246-0277. Any work is greatly appreciated!



## Faithfully Fit Forever

FFF's schedule—

Evening class: T Th—5:30pm–6:30pm

Morning class: Sat—9:00am–10:00am

Sign up in the office. Invite your friends and neighbors.

If you aren't familiar with FFF, it is an exercise class, hosted by FUMC Breckenridge that focuses on the health of the body, mind and spirit.

Classes are held 3 times per week, and each session has 3 parts:

- 40 minutes of exercise (aerobic type activity to music)
- 10 minutes of health education
- 10 minutes of faith and devotion

FFF is designed for all ages and women and men of all exercise backgrounds.

FFF is meant to bring exercise to you with as few barriers as possible. It is a great chance for fellowship and gives us a chance to "present our bodies as a living sacrifice" to the Lord.

This is a great way to invite others to church. Come join us for Fun, Fellowship and Fitness! It's never too late to start.

If you are interested, please contact the church office at 559-8208 or catch Linda Venekamp or Jannette Miller at church. All participants must complete a questionnaire prior to attending classes.



## Sunday Morning Breakfast Calendar

May 15th—Elementary UMYF

May 22nd—Mixed Nuts

May 29th—Potluck

## Ladies' Bible Study

Guyla White is leading a new 6 week Bible study, "A Letter from Jesus," based on the devotional book, *Jesus Calling*, by Sarah Young. The study began Thursday, May 5th at FUMC. There are 2 different times to choose from, 9:30 am or 5:30 pm. Books are \$9 each and are available at the church office.

## Lot for Sale at The Cliffs

The church has a lot for sale at The Cliffs on Possum Kingdom Lake. Several amenities are included with the purchase of the lot, such as access to the pools and free rounds of golf throughout the year. If you or someone you know is interested please contact the church office.

The Local Benevolence fund is below \$200. This fund is used to help local families with their utilities.

## Pastor's Column

### Kielbasa and Kraut for the Soul

"Wouldn't it be cool if we could see Space Mountain with the lights on." We (mostly family) were at Disneyland to celebrate its birthday. I believe it was the 25th birthday celebration. The party started at midnight! After going through the gates, we headed directly for Tomorrowland to ride Space Mountain, when my sister made the comment about the seeing the inside of Space Mountain with the lights on.



Just in case you do not know, Space Mountain is a steel roller coaster at Disneyland and Walt Disney World (The track is actually patented). After one boards their rocket in a space port and immediately proceeds to mission control where is heard, "This is mission control. Please remain seated at all times...You are go for launch."

The ride consist of many turns and small dips with the illusion of speed given by the fact that the track is barely visible to the riders. The ride actually takes place inside a very large darkened room.

We were about 90 seconds into our flight when the space vehicle came to a halt on the tracks. Because the space vehicles glow in the dark we could see that others vehicles were still moving along the tracks. That raised our level of anxiety. But within seconds all the space vehicles came to a halt. We were instructed by mission control to remain seated. Due to technical difficulties the ride was shutdown. After several minutes the lights to Space Mountain came on and we were escorted off the ride.

Whereas it was a memorable experience, it was disappointing not to finish the ride. It was also disappointing to see how small the room really is that houses the ride. The illusion the darkness created was all extinguished by the lights. The ride is more exciting and complete with the lights-off, because you don't know when the next turn, twist or dip is coming.

Sometimes God calls his people to take a venture like Space Mountain. Venture into unknown territories where we do not know when the next turn, twist or dip is coming. Some examples are; God calling Noah to build a large boat, God calling Abram to leave his homeland and venture off to an unknown place, Moses leaving the comfort of the palace and to lead God's people out of slavery in Egypt and journey into an unknown wilderness, Ruth leaving her homeland to go on the journey with Naomi to Judah, God giving Nehemiah a vision to rebuild the war ravaged Jerusalem, God calling Paul, a devout Jew to take the good news of Christ to the non-Jewish world, "What more can I say? I would run out of time if I told you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets." (Hebrews 11:32 CEB).

What makes Space Mountain exciting is not knowing exactly where you are going. But you also know you are safe. What makes the Christian journey exciting is not knowing exactly where you are going. But you also know you are safe when God has called you to take the journey.

See you at the place of exciting journeys.  
 Pastor Jeff

## Vitality Scoreboard for FUMC

	2007	2009	2011
Disciples in Worship	121	128	132
New Disciples	4	14	2
Growing as a Disciple	18	25	19
Engaging in Mission	?	59	78
Giving to Mission	\$48,623	\$57,516	\$18,026

**Disciples in Worship:** average worship attendance  
**New Disciples:** number of people who joined by profession of faith

**Growing as a Disciple:** number of small groups  
**Engaging in Mission:** number of people engaged in local mission

**Giving to Mission:** total amount given by local to church to other organizations

## Children's Chest Director Needed

Nancy Carter is resigning as the Children's Chest Director effective May 2011. If you are interested in volunteering for this position please contact Linda Venekamp or the church office. Nancy has done an outstanding job to get things organized and we hope to continue that!

## Acolyte Rotation Schedule

Below is the new rotation schedule for the acolytes. If you are unable to be at church on your Sunday, please call the Overman's at (254) 549-3507 and you can trade for a different Sunday.

- 1st Sunday—Russell Overman and Nick Speer
- 2nd Sunday—Maggie Bates and Coy Harris
- 3rd Sunday—Levi Lechner and Zach Willis
- 4th Sunday—Luke Morris and Brady Tennison
- 5th Sunday—May (Coy & Levi)