Week at a Glance - July 16, 2014

Vital Signs
Weekly Contributions:
- General Donations: $8,930.41
- CDC Income: $8,428.50
- Restricted: $16,074.38

2014 Connectional Giving Balance: $62,454.00

Upcoming Events
July 16
- Prayer in the Parlor—6:00am
- Work on Prayer Trail—8:00am
- Wednesday Bible Study—12:00pm
- WOW Game Night and Pot Luck—5:45pm
- Youth Intermission—6:30pm
- Praise Team Rehearsal—7:00pm

July 17
- Lunch with our Neighbors—10:30am
- Youth Thunderous Thursday—1:00pm
- Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting—5:00pm

July 19
- Stitch and Share—2:00pm
- Youth Adult Baseball Game—4:30pm

July 20
- Retro Youth—5:00pm

July 21
- Work on Prayer Trail—8:00am
- Children’s Family Fun Day—9:00am
- Radical Hospitality Committee Meeting—5:00pm

July 22
- Prayer Group—6:00am
- Hope Circle-Sponsored Ladies’ Bible Study—6:30pm
- Men’s Bible Study—6:30pm

Would you like to go on an UMCOR Mission Trip?
UMCOR is the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Call the church office at 254-634-6363 with questions or to sign up for the trip to the UMCOR Depot in Louisiana October 12-17!
Youth Thunderous Thursday is tomorrow Thursday, July 17. Youth meet at 1pm at the church for bowling at Hallmark Lanes. Cost is $12 per person, including shoes. Youth can be picked up at 4pm at the church.

Next week's Youth activity is the River/Cavern Tour overnight trip, leaving on Thursday, July 24 and returning Friday, July 25.

POC is Sarah at Sarah.Stone@fumc-killeen.org.

Prayer Trail Clean Up Help Needed!!

Jerry Dugger is organizing Prayer Trail Workdays every Monday and Wednesday mornings, 8:00am to 11:00am. Work runs through August. The workers will be preparing areas around the trail to plant wildflowers. Brush needs to be cleared, so if you come to help, please bring your own gloves and hand tools. Any help is appreciated—come for an hour if you cannot come all morning. If you cannot work, come and join in the fellowship! If you have questions, call Jerry at 254-319-6835.

Want to volunteer for VBS?

Sign up online at http://2014.cokesburyvbs.com/FUMCKilleen
Or you can fill out a volunteer sheet at the Welcome Center in the foyer.
VBS is July 28-August 1.
POC is Abby at Abby.Smith@fumc-killeen.org.

Family Fun Mondays

Meet at the church at 9AM on Mondays.
This Monday, July 21 we will go to the Cameron Zoo in Waco.
There will be no Family Fun Day on Monday, July 28 because of Vacation Bible School.
POC is Mandy at Mandy.Tirella@fumc-killeen.org.

Vacation Bible School Volunteer Meeting
Thursday, July 17 at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall!
Looking to beat the Dog Days of Summer?

Join us for a River/ Cavern Tour trip

July 24-25, all registration forms and money are due to Sarah no later than July 20th!

Cost is $50/person, includes food, floating, and entrance into Natural Bridge Caverns for 2 tours!

Who can go?

INCOMING 6th-12th graders!

http://www.fumckilleen.com/youth-ministries/

The United Methodist Men (UMM) are planning a Work Day at Methodist Park on Saturday, July 26 from 8:00am to 1:00 pm. If you feel led to help or have questions, you may contact the UMM at methodist.men.killeen@gmail.com.

There will be an Executive Committee Meeting and a Church Council Meeting the evening of next Wednesday, July 23.

Mission Corner

July Food Pantry Donation to the Killeen Food Care Center is peanut butter. You may bring donations to the church office any time.

Lunch with our Neighbors Schedule:
7/17/14—New Dimensions Sunday School Class
7/24/14—FUMC Staff
7/31/14—Abigail Circle

Pastor Jeff will be doing Brown Bag Sermons at all three services on Sunday, July 27. Show up this Sunday, July 20 and he may choose you to bring an item back in the Brown Bag!

Sarah still has 18 FREE lawn tickets to this Saturday’s Round Rock Express baseball game!

Game time is 6:05pm.

POC is Sarah.Stone@fumc-killeen.org.

Join us this Saturday, July 19 at 2pm in the FUMC Parlor for Stitch and Share!

All are welcome!
Compassionate Care Ministry

Are you interested in volunteering for FUMC's Compassionate Care Ministry? There are nine areas of focus of this Ministry which is supported by me and coordinated by Beverly Tuggle.

The nine areas of Compassionate Care are:
- Prayer Team
- Hospital Visitation
- Joy Team (surgery sitters)
- Nursing Home
- Homebound
- Card Ministry
- Bereavement
- Benevolent Coordination
- Stephen Ministry

If you wish to volunteer in any of the above mentioned areas or want more information about them, please contact Beverly Tuggle at 254-289-2407.

If you know of someone who is in a nursing home or is homebound, please call the church office at 254-634-6363 so they can be cared for by our teams. Prayers for this ministry are always welcome as well.

If you know of someone with a need where the Compassionate Care Ministry can help, please let us know. We are delighted to be serving God by loving and serving others.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Cynthia

In an effort to improve our communications, the Week at a Glance is moving to a Month at a Glance!

All submissions for the September Month at a Glance are due to Abby Smith by Thursday, August 7, 2014.

Questions? Contact Abby at Abby.Smith@fumc-killeen.org or 254-634-6363.

Don’t forget to wear your nametag!

Lunch With Our Neighbors is a wonderful ministry that needs your support. It began out of our church and now feeds up to 65 people each week.

The fund that we use to provide some of the items for the meals and sack lunches is dangerously low. Please consider giving a special offering to this vital ministry. Just mark LWON on the bottom of the check or envelope.

We are also looking for a few other people to take on a monthly leadership role. This is an EASY role which includes picking up items from the church and delivering them to the Moss Rose Center where the meal is held. In addition, you would stay during the Thursday lunch and provide any support needed, assist with clean up and return supplies to the church.

I ask that you prayerfully consider giving one or two months a year to this vital ministry. Contact Darrel Charlton at 254-698-3421 or Pastor Cynthia at 254-634-6363 for more information.

Is God calling YOU to step out and be the hands and feet of Christ so we CAN sustain this incredible ministry?

In Christ,
Pastor Cynthia
In lieu of the normal devotion, I wanted to share with you a recent blog from our Bishop Mike Lowry regarding a Christian response to the border crisis. Please read it devotionally.
In Christ,
Pastor Jeff

A Christian Response to the Border Crisis
From Bishop Mike Lowry

The image of protestors angrily greeting three busloads of mostly women and children in San Diego is both vivid and powerful. Primal emotions were stirred. The victims were often terrified younger children. The great issue – immigration reform – is a need we must address. Virtually all agree on the need for significant reform. The passionate debate revolves around what kind of reform. Good Christians disagree, often strongly! It is important to emphasize the last statement. Good Christians can disagree with each other with passionate conviction about how to best reform the immigration system and respond to the border crisis.

So what is a Christian response? Allow me to modestly suggest that there isn’t “a” (as in singular) Christian response. There are multiple Christian responses. Our faith offers us deeper moral guidance. It presents a biblical and ethical framework out of which we may respond.

As I watch a report of the shouting and screaming at buses filled with children, I could not help but recall the words of Jesus. “Allow the children to come to me,” Jesus said. “Don’t forbid them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people like these children” (Matthew 19:14). Whatever the best strategic answer to the crisis is, further victimization of young children is not the answer. Adults are the ones who need to be held accountable across the spectrum and across national and ethnic lines.

The second passage that comes to me is the famous one called the “Judgment of the Nations.” It is well known.

“Now when the Human One comes in his majesty and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his majestic throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them from each other, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right side. But the goats he will put on his left.

34 “Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who will receive good things from my Father. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. 35 I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. 36 I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.’

37 “Then those who are righteous will reply to him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? 38 When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

40 “Then the king will reply to them, ‘I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.’” (Matthew 25:31-40)

Regardless of our political orientation (Republican, Democrat, Tea Party, Green and/or – if there are any of you left – WHIG, We Hope In God), Christians see and help those in need. I served in the Rio Grande Valley as the Pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church in Harlingen, Texas. Among our good friends was another young couple in the church, Myron and Sandy Merchant. (They kept our son Nathan while I took Jolynn to the hospital for the birth of our daughter Sarah. We’ve stayed in touch over the years.) Committed Christians, they tried to faithfully respond in the swirling environment of immigration and border issues. Myron was Captain in the Border Patrol. I remember well him calling me one day. The church had been collecting clothing for those in need. Over the phone Myron asked, “Do you have some shoes? We’ve arrested an illegal immigrant we are going to send back but he doesn’t have any shoes. Could we help him?”

Myron did his duty faithfully and within the context of Christian care. Wherever we come out on the best immigration policy for our nation, we are to engage that policy with Christ-like care and compassion.

A third piece of moral guidance we might apply in seeking the outline of a Christian response comes from the Book of James. Often forgotten near the back of the New Testament, it contains marvelous practical advice. James, the brother of Jesus, warns the first Christians (and us) of the power of the tongue. He writes of the spiritual and moral importance about what and how we say things. He warns us against improper hurtful angry speech.

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A Christian Response to the Border Crisis (continued from previous page)

“We all make mistakes often, but those who don’t make mistakes with their words have reached full maturity. Like a bridled horse, they can control themselves entirely. 3 When we bridle horses and put bits in their mouths to lead them wherever we want, we can control their whole bodies.

4 Consider ships: They are so large that strong winds are needed to drive them. But pilots direct their ships wherever they want with a little rudder. 5 In the same way, even though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts wildly.

Think about this: A small flame can set a whole forest on fire. 6 The tongue is a small flame of fire, a world of evil at work in us. It contaminates our entire lives. Because of it, the circle of life is set on fire. The tongue itself is set on fire by the flames of hell.

7 People can tame and already have tamed every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish. 8 No one can tame the tongue, though. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we both bless the Lord and Father and curse human beings made in God’s likeness. 10 Blessing and cursing come from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it just shouldn’t be this way!” (James 3:2-10)

Each image – a bridle for a horse, a ship at sea, and flame in the forest – is used to illustrate the power of words and importance of not letting our speech descend into poison. Christian maturity for James (what John Wesley would call moving on to “perfection”) involves controlling our tongue (verse 2).

At a minimum wherever you come out on the political and personal spectrum of immigration and border patrol, we must guard our tongues. Christians are to be a people who speak gracefully. Civil discourse should be one of the ways we are known as Christian.

I often list these three modest elements as a partial framework for our response to the border crisis regardless of where one stands on the political spectrum. Christians are to give witness, offer evidence with their lives, of 1) compassion for children, 2) care for those in need, and 3) communication that is civil (literally grace-filled).

This and other writings by Bishop Lowry can be found online at http://www.bishopmikelowry.com/.

Dear Church Family,

The Central Texas Conference Center for Mission Support continues to be in contact with our fellow Texas conferences regarding the ongoing refugee crisis along the U.S. southern border, including Texas. We have learned that there is an urgent need for donations of the following items:

| Baby Toiletries (infant to toddler) | Hygiene Products (sanitary napkins, no tampons) |
| Disposable Diapers                  | General Toiletries                                |
| Baby Wipes                          | Trash Bags                                       |
| Nido Baby Formula/Powered Milk      | Small Towels                                     |
| Rebozos (baby sling/wraps)          | Small Backpacks                                  |
| Children’s Blankets                 | Easy Open Snacks                                 |
| **New** Tennis Shoes: Women sizes 6, 6.5 and 7 | Easy Open Juices                                      |
| **New** Tennis Shoes: Children sizes 2-12 | Reading Glasses                                 |
| **New** Women’s Cotton Underwear (sizes 5 and under) | Watches |
| **New** Children’s Cotton Underwear |                                                |
| **New** Women’s Pants (small sizes) |                                                |

Please note that all donated items must be new at this time and only those items on the list will be accepted. Please ensure all donations are contained and labeled before being dropped off.

Regardless of our personal political views or opinions, it is our call as Christians to reach out where there is a need. Many innocent children find themselves in limbo without necessary food and clothing. Please consider making a donation of any of the above items if you are able. The Church will make sure they get to the drop off location.

All items are DUE to the church office by **Monday, July 21 at 12noon**. Thank you for being the Body of Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor Cynthia