



## FUMC Partnership with Pickle Elementary School

- Since its inception in 2007, members of First Church have donated their time, money and books to Pickle Elementary, a minority-majority school located in the St. John's neighborhood of Northeast Austin.
- During the projects history, FUMC has about 20 book sales and distributed more than 18,000 books!
- 99% of the students receive free or subsidized breakfasts and lunches.
- Pickle educates children of Spanish-speaking parents who cannot read books in English to their children.
- Despite the hardships of this population, Pickle is PROUD! The students are excited to learn, the teachers are dedicated.
- Each book is sold for 25¢ so that the students, teachers and parents have a stake in the partnership. Every penny collected at the book sales goes into the FUMC account dedicated for Pickle.
- We invited the "Book Talker" at BookPeople to entertain children in the school library. FUMC purchased copies of selected books for the Pickle library.
- FUMC has also funded two authors to visit and read to the children: PEN award finalist, David Rice, and Bluebonnet Book winner, Shana Burg.

- The kids smile big when they choose their books. Many use their Friday ice-cream money to buy themselves and their younger siblings books. These kids love to hold a book and they are eager to read in English.
- Research has shown that simply getting books in the hands of kids may be as effective as summer school — and a lot cheaper. *Seventeen high-poverty elementary schools in Florida for three consecutive years gave each child 12 books, from a list the students provided, on the last day of school. Students received books each year, paid for mostly by federal Title I money. Three years later, researchers found that those students who received books had "significantly higher" reading scores, experienced less of a summer slide and read more on their own each summer than those who didn't get books.* -study published in Reading Psychology, 2010.

### WAYS TO HELP PICKLE

- ✓ Drop new or gently used books (ages PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade) in boxes in the church office or in the Genesis classroom (behind the Library).
- ✓ Tell your friends and family to donate books. We prefer fairly current, gently used or new books. Spanish titles also needed.
- ✓ Write a check in any amount to FUMC and write "Pickle" in memo line so that your donation will be deposited into correct account.
- ✓ Volunteer at the next book sale by emailing Brooks Schuelke at [Brooks@civtrial.com](mailto:Brooks@civtrial.com). We promise to get in touch with you.