



## THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

June & July, 2007



### ... ***"I Do"***

It's marriage season. It's that time of year when couples tie the knot in droves. It is a shame that the concept of marriage has been watered down in our society. The attitude that many people have towards marriage is this: "If it works out great, if not, I'll find someone else." Forget about sacrifice. Forget about unconditional love. Forget about commitment. Forget about the fact that it is a holy union between male and female and God. It seems that many people are more concerned with what is in it for them instead of what they can bring to a relationship. I am deeply disturbed by the number of people who cheat on their spouses. It is one of the most selfish things a person can do, and the damage it does to children and other family members is horrendous. No one is perfect and yes, there is forgiveness with God, but at the same time, God is disgusted by the way many of our families function. A friend of mine gave me the following article on the meaning of marriage and I thought it would be good for all of us to hear it.

*Marriage is a commitment to life, the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other relationship can equal. It is a physical and an emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime. Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships. A wife and husband are each other's best friend, confidant, lover, teacher, listener, and critic. And there may come times when one partner is heartbroken or ailing, and the love of the other may resemble the tender caring of a parent or child. Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences, new ways of expressing a love that is deeper than life. Marriage is a promise, a potential made in the hearts of two people who love each other and takes a lifetime to fulfill.*

The next time you go to a wedding and the bride and groom say, "I do," think about what that really means and think about your own relationships.

In Christ,

Brad

***Message from Music Director —Richard Morgan—Some Random Notes:***

...It occurred to me as we were planning worship for Ascension Sunday that, if it weren't for the church year, we would not be reminded of Jesus' ascension to heaven. Like many of you, I learned most of the events of Jesus' life in Sunday School as a child, and then thought about them very seldom as an adult. It's good that the church year helps us to reflect on those "bible story" events, which we might not otherwise consider. As we have been reading in the gospel of John over the past few Sundays, Jesus said he would leave us, but would send "the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name [who will] teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you." The ascension is essential to Pentecost, the birth of Christ's church.

...Thanks to all the Handbell and Hand Chime ringers who made up our two groups this year. The adults and the 4-5 grade Peacekeepers were a delight to work with, and each group grew in their abilities this year. I look forward to beginning a new year with them, in the fall. The current 5<sup>th</sup> graders will graduate to junior high youth group, and we will begin a new handbell group with the junior high students and new 6<sup>th</sup> graders. What exciting times we are experiencing at this church!

...Occasionally I find it useful to remind the congregation—and myself—why I wear the robe I do on Sunday mornings. Since we ask the choir to wear robes, as ones called to assist in leading the congregation in worship, I feel it is important for the director to wear something different from street clothes. My alb identifies me with the choir, but additionally, since it is a traditional symbol of servanthood, it also signifies that I serve the entire church as a worship leader. Each Sunday as I put it on, I am reminded that I serve you. It is not a garment I wear lightly.

***Message from Youth Director—Walt Harrison—Greetings!***

Congrats Grads! We will miss you very much. I expect incredible things from all of you. Just remember to lean on the rock and not the world.

Summer is here—time to break out the suntan lotion and head to the lake! The youth will still be meeting during the summer. We may not always be in the fellowship hall but we will always leave from the church. If you are interested in hosting the youth during the summer please call me and let me know when we can come out. If you need to get in touch with me my email address is: [walter\\_harrison@xtoenergy.com](mailto:walter_harrison@xtoenergy.com) My phone: 254 -315- 7817. Please feel free to give me a call anytime.

Last but not least the youth group has increased to over 30 teenagers. Now I need you. If you would like to come and join the fun please give me a call and I will get you plugged in. Pray about it and when God moves on you pick up the phone and call me.

***Message from Children's Coordinator—Cheryl Hancock***

The Peacekeepers had a lock-in on Saturday, May 19 with 17 children in attendance. Lots of fun and good food were enjoyed by all. On Sunday, May 20 the Peacekeepers played handchimes during the worship service. On Saturday, May 26 we are going bowling in Waco followed by a picnic in the park.

***Message from Christian Education/Program Coordinator—Charlotte Posey***

In a recent newsletter, I mentioned the freedoms we have to worship and pray. I received this e-mail from a dear friend since that letter, and I want to pass it along to you. It touched my heart and I know it will touch yours as well:

Back in September of 2005, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a social studies school teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with permission from the superintendent and principle, she took all of the desks out of her classroom.

The kids came into first period. They walked in. There were no desks. They obviously looked around and said, "Ms. Cothren, where are our desks?" She responded, "You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn them."

They guessed grades and behavior would earn them their desks; second period and third period, the same assumptions. By early afternoon, television news crews had gathered in Ms. Cothren's class to find out about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her classroom.

The last period of the day, Martha Cothren gathered her classes. They were at this time sitting on the floor around the sides of the room. Ms. Cothren says, "Throughout the day no one has really understood how you earn the desks that sit in this classroom ordinarily. Now I'm going to tell you."

Ms. Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it. Twenty seven U.S. Veterans in uniform, walked into that classroom, each carrying a school desk. They placed those desks in rows, and then stood along the wall. By the time they finished placing the desks in rows, the students, for the first time, perhaps in their lives, understood the price of freedom and understood how those desks were earned.

Ms. Cothren said, "You don't have to earn these desks, kids. These men earned them for you. They put them out for you today, but it's up to you to sit here responsibly to learn, and to be the best students you can be. Don't ever forget the price that's been paid."

This story also reminds me once again that Christ paid the ultimate price for you and me to be truly free. Let us never forget what He has done for us. And with His help and guidance, let us live responsibly and live selfless lives, pointing others to Christ.

**Summer Camp 2007**

If you have kids who would like to attend Summer Camp at Glen Lake in Glen Rose, TX, go to the Glen Lake website [www.glenlake.org](http://www.glenlake.org) for more information. You can either register online or download a registration form to mail. If anyone needs a scholarship please contact Brad 562-5567 and we will assist you. We don't want any children to miss out on camp for financial reasons.

**Drug Awareness Meeting**

The next Drug Awareness meeting will be on **Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m.** at Union Baptist Church on Denton Street in Mexia. We will be discussing a variety of different topics, as well as passing out informative literature on various kinds of drugs. We will focus more on organizing the group and assigning different tasks. Thank you to everyone who came to the first meeting in April. Your presence will make a difference! If you need directions to the church, contact Brad at the church office.

**McCurdy School Mission Trip**

A group of nine adults from our church will be going on a mission trip to Espanola, New Mexico the first week of July. We are excited about going to McCurdy School and helping with various projects around the school. We will be doing the following: maintenance work, cleaning, building projects, etc. Besides the group from our church, there will be around 40 other individuals from various churches in our Conference. In addition to your prayers, you can support our team members by making a financial contribution to offset some of the cost of the trip. If you would like to support us you can make a check payable to FUMC Mexia, Memo: Mission Trip. Thank you for your support!

**Epiphany – June 23 and 24**

It's that time again – Epiphany! A group from our church will be joining others for a special time of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with boys from the Mexia State School. We meet at Camp Rip at Lake Mexia, and as always, we cannot wait to see the boys and the changes in their lives. If you would like to be a part of this year's Epiphany program, contact the church office and we will get you more information. We welcome anyone who is interested in visiting during the weekend to see what Epiphany is all about. Thank you to all who will serve this year!

<p align="center"><b>FUMC Confirmation Class</b></p> <p>Caroline Kendall, Clynt Platt, Colton Brady,          Jackson McCulloch Kolt Reasoner,          Brittnay Wilson, James McKeand, Amanda          Verden, Tyler Flatt, Katelinn &amp; Kyler Hancock</p>	Attendance in May		
		<u>SS</u>	<u>Worship</u>
	5/06	56	155
	5/13	71	176
	5/20	69	145
	5/27		

**Special Sunday – July 15<sup>th</sup>**

On July 15<sup>th</sup> we will be having a special worship service at Fort Parker State Park. We have rented the Activities Building and will be worshipping together at 10:30 a.m. After the worship service, we will share in a picnic lunch together and spend the afternoon playing games, etc. For those who are unable to worship at 10:30 a.m. at the lake, we will have a worship service in our sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. There will be no Sunday School on that day. We hope you can make plans to share in this special service and time of fun and fellowship.

**New Vacation Bible School Date**

Vacation Bible School will be July 30 thru August 2 in the evenings. The title of this year's VBS is Lift Off! As we have the past two years, we will be working together with First Presbyterian Church of Mexia. We will have more information about volunteer opportunities and registration in the coming weeks. Thank you in advance for all those who will be serving during VBS!

**Email Addresses, Etc.**

We are beginning to send more and more information out to the congregation via email. If you would like your email address included, please email Brad at [bradbrittain@hotmail.com](mailto:bradbrittain@hotmail.com), and he will add you to the list. Also, if you have not done so already, please give us your family information (Name, children, address, telephone, email, anniversary, birthdays, etc.) You can provide us with this information by calling Mary at the church office 562-5567 or by emailing Brad. We want to have as accurate records as possible and keep as many people as possible informed on what we are doing as a church.

**New Member Appreciation Dinner**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our New Member Appreciation Dinner. I especially wanted to thank the staff of the church and others who worked to make it such a nice evening. We are grateful for all our new members and want as many people to get involved in the ministries of FUMC Mexia as possible. It has been a joy to see all the new faces at the church.

**June/July Newsletter**

This newsletter will serve as the newsletter for both June and July. We will resume our monthly schedule in August. If you have anything you would like to add to the newsletter, you may email it to Mary Benson in the church office at [admin@fumcmexia.org](mailto:admin@fumcmexia.org). Deadline for the August Newsletter is July 25th.

**\*\*\*\*Our Mission Statement\*\*\*\***

The mission of FUMC Mexia is to make and grow disciples of Jesus Christ and bear fruit for the Kingdom of God.

***News from First Methodist Preschool—Sherry Miller Director***

We are bringing another school year to an end and planning for our summer activities here at the Preschool. We will begin our 29<sup>th</sup> year of operation in the Fall.

During May the oldest two groups participated in a “Trike – a – Thon” to benefit St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital. The children had a wonderful time riding their trikes and bikes across at the Palestine Street Parking Lot (bike trail!) and also raised \$600.00 for the children at St. Jude. The children know the importance of helping others.

These same 2 groups will participate in a Graduation and parent luncheon on Wed. May 23. These 27 children will be attending Kindergarten when school starts in August 2007. We are blessed that First Methodist Preschool and the FUMC have been able to share in those first five very important years of their lives.

The children who are enrolled for the summer 2007 are signing up now for the various sports clinics, twirling, cheerleading, flag corp dance camps, computer classes, sprinkler days, and Gibbs Library reading program. These special activities bring a change of pace to the summer here at the Preschool and the children always enjoy these special opportunities.

Thanks to the First United Methodist Church for providing such wonderful support for this ministry.

**Thank you First United Methodist Church!** The scholarship will be a great help in pursuit of a higher education. This church is very big part of my life. The continuation of my education is very important to me and I hope to make all of you proud as you are helping me to follow my dreams. Thank you very much for the scholarship and for all you do for me. Sincerely, Kortney Kelsey

**Calling all travelers!**

Are you going to South Carolina in June? Do you know someone who is? (Specifically Columbia, SC.) If so, would you be willing to assist the Handbell Choirs? We are sending our 3-octave handbell set (3 heavy suitcases!) to be serviced and refurbished. To my knowledge this has never been done, and they are now in significant need of attention. Jeffers Handbell Supply suggested that, if anyone from our congregation or connections would be willing to transport them, we could save on shipping costs, which are not small. Contact Richard by email or cell phone if you are able to assist us. 254-315-1833

June Birthdays

3rd—Jean Marie Williford, 5th—Valerie Bolton, 8th—Sonia Kendall, 9th—Valaree Hathaway, 15th—Jean Blunt, 20th—Matthew Paschal, 21st—Jean Williford, 22nd—LouAnn Williford, 23rd—Connie Colon, Larry Hensley, 24th—Cheryl Hancock, 25th—Kent Kendall, Nell Robinson, 26th—Bill Goswick, Sammie Carter, Dave Weihausen, 29th—Joe Paschal, 30—Randy Kott

June Anniversaries

2nd—Robert & Kit Willett, 5th—Clint & Jill Flatt, 7th—Larry & Hermine Sewell, 13th—Greg & Kay Goodrum, 14th—Lewis & Jean Blunt, 16th—Margaret & Wayne Jackson, 17th—Brian & Shelly Hullum, 24th—Sheila & Chris Wallitsch, 26th—Brenda & Woody Woodruff, Dan & Sue Franks, Art & Kathy Nutt, 27th—Randy & Joclyn Ewers, 28th—Bill & Lula Goswick, JC & Betty Hawkins, 29th— Carl & Jean Williford, 30th—Wynona & Don Lipsett

July Birthdays

1st—Sarah Crider-Dunn, Cash Ellis, 2nd—John Posey, Helen Stephens, 3rd--Sam McKeever, 5th—Hugh Ann Bankhead, 7th—Shelly Hullum, 8th—Ruth Collinsworth, Tom Irwin, Jimmy Thomas, 9th--James Dawley, 10th—Jim Clements, 11th—Sadie Edwards, Bette Thetford, Payton Fulmer, Tammy Platt, 12th—Estalee Price, Robert Willett, Ruby Bailey, 13th—Molly Goodrum, 15th—Kyler Hancock, Joan Paschal, 19th—Clynt Platt, George Tidwell, 20th—Molly Flatt, 21st—Viola Moss, 23rd—Kathy Nutt, 24th—Ann Pendleton, 25th—T.J. Hathaway, 27th—Anthony Branch, 28th—Brittany Brady, 30th—Ross Goodrum, 31st—Wayne Hughes

July Anniversaries

2nd—Kent & Beth Kendall, Jimmy & Noma Thomas, 6th—Gary & Vickie Beard, 7th—T.J. & Valaree Hathaway, Kathy & Richard Morgan, 9th—Starlene & Charles Yelverton, 11th—Michael & Sherry Miller, 19th—T.G. & Joan Temples, 24th—Randy & Tracy Machacek, 25th—Grandon & Annie Britt, 27th—Brad & Alisha Brittain

**Memorials**

Fannie Wilson	Buddy & Donna Williford
Jean Hancock	Buddy & Donna Williford
Wanda Brashear	Lady & Bob Fain
Chris Williford	Randolph & Virginia Knott
Steve Henderson	Lady & Bob Fain
Virginia Oliver	Buddy & Donna Williford,
	Louise & Halloway Martin

**Bobbie Pendelton**

**Memorials**

Sonia Kendall  
Clifton & Frances Williams  
Bette Thetford  
John & Diane Burks  
Tad & Ima Burroughs

**Your Church Staff**

Brad Brittain, Pastor

Dr. Richard Morgan, Director of Music

Walt Harrison, Minister of Youth

Cheryl Hancock, Children's Coordinator

Charlotte Posey, Christian Education/Program Coordinator

Wynona Lipsett, Organist

Mary Benson, Administrative Assistant/Fiscal Coordinator

**Summer Office Hours**

**Monday-Thursday**

**9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - 1:00 -4:00 p.m.**

**Friday**

**Closed**

**Office 254-562-5567**

**Brad's Cell: 254-625-2435**



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