



... “Perk Up”

I couldn't believe this story when I first read it. It's about a duck in Tallahassee, Florida. Perky is the duck's name. Perky entered the headlines in January when she was shot by a duck hunter. Now that is not unusual, lots of ducks get shot by duck hunters. What is unusual is what happened when the duck hunter's wife opened the refrigerator door two days after Perky was shot. When she opened the door, Perky lifted her head and looked at her! Perky had survived the gun shot! The family took Perky to the vet where she had surgery to repair gunshot damage to one of her wings.

Some people may have a hard time believing a story about a duck who survived in a refrigerator for two days, but what about the resurrection story we tell on Easter Sunday? How much more believable is that? If you think the duck hunter's wife was surprised to see Perky alive and kickin', imagine the look on the faces of those first witnesses to the risen Christ. I believe our task as disciples of Jesus is not to “convince” people of Jesus and the resurrection. Our task is to share the story and allow the miracle of Easter to happen all over again. See you on Easter! But until then – perk up!

“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to see the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body.” Luke 24:1-3

In Christ,

Brad

**Welcome to First United Methodist Church
****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.

Remembering you in our thoughts and prayers...

Robin Adams, Michael Bowe, Neil Dean, Edward Didier,
James Dorman, Debbie Hullum, Kelsey O'Hare
Bonnie Pacher, Mike and Mary Ann Ray
RaShay Reasoner, Mary Redding, Hermine Sewell
James Shivers, Lisa Truss, The Williford Family
Our American Troops In Iraq

Message from Music Director—Richard Morgan

I am moved to write this article by my experience in a worship service a couple of weeks ago. It is often only during the sermon that I can relax, without being preoccupied with “what comes next” (Brad should be glad to read this!). In the rest of the service, though, I must work very hard to balance my own worship needs with the requirements of being a worship leader. If I don't pay enough attention to the flow of the service, then my worship suffers; if I loose focus in my worship, then my necessary attention to the service suffers. Music directors and worship leaders discuss this issue regularly, constantly seeking and sharing tips on how others deal with this challenge.

Imagine my surprise and delight when, in that service a couple of weeks ago, I found myself transported into a realm of sublime meditation. When I refocused on the present and realized (thankfully) that I hadn't missed anything, I searched for the stimulus of that prayerful state, and she was sitting not ten feet away from me.

Wynona's musical selections for Holy Communion, which she chooses so sensitively, and almost instinctively, helped draw me nearer to the divine. Her music is not merely background, merely to fill empty silence. If you truly allow it, her music can facilitate your communion with our Creator and Savior. There were no words associated with the music that day—they weren't simply arrangements of familiar hymns. In fact, the very absence of words in this case made my experience deeper.

Thank you, Wynona, for helping me worship. I pray that your efforts and talents will continue to bless us all.

Message from Youth Ministry Director—Walt Harrison

Thank you to everyone who participated in the “Iron-Man” fundraiser for our youth. We raised over \$800 for the youth and their trip to the “Acquire the Fire Youth Rally” in Dallas! We will be taking over 25 youth on this trip and will have a full report for you in the next newsletter about the event. We are growing as a group both numerically and spiritually, and wanted to extend an invitation to any youth who would like to join us. As always, we are open to adult volunteers who are eager and enthusiastic about working with kids. Thanks for all you do for our youth!

Message from Christian Education/Program Coordinator—Charlotte Posey

How would you like to be known as a person after God’s own heart? God found David to be such a person. (Acts 13:22) I recently received an e-mail from a friend reminding me that we Americans are truly blessed with the freedom to worship and to own a Bible. We are free to pray aloud in most any place. And we are free to share our faith with others without fear of losing our lives for doing so. This e-mail convicted me that I daily have numerous opportunities to worship, to study the Bible, and to serve God. Last Sunday, Brenda Woodruff and I began a new Beth Moore Bible Study, *A Heart Like His*.

“What keeps you from having a heart like God’s? If you’ve ever experienced temptations, personal inconsistencies, family problems, doubts, or failures, you could benefit from the study of David’s life. In this study, David will make you laugh and cry. He will delight you and disappoint you. David is sure to capture your interest. And God is sure to change your heart...if you let Him.” – Beth Moore

This is not just a study for women. Men are welcome to join us as well. We begin each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the Peyton classroom, adjacent to Fellowship Hall. Student books are \$15.00 and can be purchased during class time or at the church office. It’s not too late to join us and we hope to see you there.

Message from Children’s Coordinator—Cheryl Hancock

The Peacekeepers have been talking about "The Golden Rule": Treat others just as you want to be treated. Luke 6:31. We asked the following questions of each other: Have I said something negative to someone to make him or her frown? How can I turn something like that into something positive that would make him or her smile? I believe that if each one of us asked ourselves these two questions daily we would have a more positive influence on each other not only as Christians but simply as human beings. We have also been discussing Luke 6:27-30 in hopes that the children will learn that it is okay to pray for those who do wrong things and doing for others does not always require something in return.

Holy Week Schedule

The week before Easter is commonly referred to as “Holy Week”. It is a special week in the life of the church as we participate in meaningful worship services that lead up to Easter Sunday. Here is the schedule of worship services for Holy Week:

Thursday, April 5 Maundy Thursday—Supper 6 pm & Worship Service 7pm

Friday, April 6 Good Friday—Worship 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday—Sunrise Service 7:00 a.m. (In the courtyard). We will have a light breakfast in the fellowship hall after the Sunrise service.

Easter Egg Hunt – 10:15 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

PRESCHOOL CELEBRATES 28 YEARS! COSMIC CARNIVAL AND OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2007 9 AM – 10:30 AM & Dance Recital at 10:45

First Methodist Preschool will celebrate 28 years in ministry on April 28, 2007. It will be an exciting morning at the Preschool and the parents, church family, and community are invited to join the fun.

The Open House unit this year is “Blast Off! Our Children are Out of this World!” At the Cosmic Carnival on Saturday, April 28, there will be many activities including: Spinning Orbit Cookie/ Cupcake Walk, Asteroid Bean Bag Toss, Saturn Ring Toss, Go Fish Splash Down, Moon Walk House, Milky Way Express House, Shooting Stars Basketball Toss, Rocket Launch Football Frisbee toss, Space Helium Balloons, and Alien Face Painting. In addition to the activities outside in front of the building on Kaufman Street, the Preschool Peyton Building will be open for parents and friends to tour the classrooms and see what the children have been doing.

Space Snacks will be served outside in the carnival area. Videos of each class will be showing inside all around the building, showing typical days at Preschool including their daily class times, chapel times, music times, and more. The always popular 28 years of Preschool Memories Scrapbooks will be on display in the Lunchroom.

Also in the lunchroom the puppet stage area will be displayed with a video of all the puppet shows from the two weeks prior to Open House. Puppet characters include Apollo (the astronaut), Moon Lisa (crew member), Houston (crew member), Cheezit (crew member), Twinkle (the star), and Orbit (alien visitor). Those puppet shows will be held every morning April 16 – 27 at 9:30 am for all children attending Preschool.

Following the carnival, the dance students will present their annual recital at 10:45 in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

All the Preschool Staff Members will be present to direct the carnival activities outside and greet parents and friends throughout the morning.

Reach Out 2007

As many of you now know, our church will be hosting a program on Saturday, April 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The purpose of the program is to get people in our community into discussion about the drug problem in Mexia. Everyone in the community is invited: school officials, parents, youth, police, politicians, business people, area churches, etc. Please spread the word about this event and come with your ideas. It would be unrealistic to think we can eliminate drugs in our community, but we can take a stand and try to do something together as a community.

Confirmation Sunday, April 15th: Mentors and family members of the confirmands make note of this date and if possible be in church that Sunday to support the kids.

FUMC Golf Outing, Sunday April 15th, A group from the church will be going to the Big Cedar Golf Course in Fairfield for lunch at 1:00 pm followed by golf. Cost \$42 per person. Contact the church office to register

Fish Fry – Saturday, April 21st

Our church will be hosting a fish fry for the community of Mexia on Saturday, April 21st from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This is **NOT** a fundraiser. We will be serving fried catfish, beans, cole slaw, hush puppies, etc. This is a great opportunity for us to invite our friends and neighbors to the church. There is no cost for the meal, and we will have enough food to serve 500 people (dine-in and take-outs). We will serve until we run out of food! Spread the word!

Administrative Board Meeting Scheduled —April 24th

Our next Administrative Board meeting will be **Tuesday, April 24th at 7:00 p.m.** Remember, every member of the church is a voting member of the Administrative Board. We encourage all our members to attend and keep informed on what is going on at the church.

Pot-Luck Lunch—Sunday, April 29th

We will be having a pot-luck lunch after the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, April 29th. Bring your favorite dish and join in the fellowship. This is a true pot-luck. Whatever you bring is what we eat!

Sunday Night Gospel Concert, April 29th

On Sunday, April 29th at 6:09 p.m. (Brad will explain the 6:09 thing later!) the Teel family will be leading us in gospel music. After the concert we will have a reception in the fellowship hall. If you are unable to attend, tune in to Northland Cable and watch the program on television.

Visitation Program

"But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

Romans 10:14-15

Plain and simple -- as followers of Jesus we are called to invite others into a relationship with Jesus. It's what we have been commissioned by Jesus to do. It's our number one priority as a church. Sharing our faith begins with relationships and one of the most important things we can do as a church is to form new relationships. We all need to be more intentional about inviting others into our fellowship.

On Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. we have a group who gathers at the fellowship hall to go out two by two to invite people in our community to church. If you have interest in this ministry, join us on Monday evenings. If you would like to be an active part of the visitation program but are unable to visit on Monday evenings, that is not a problem. You can visit on the days that are most convenient and suitable for you. We have plenty of cards with names of families to go invite and would be glad to distribute them to you. If you are hesitant about visiting and inviting others to church, I would be glad to go with you, as would others in the church. If you have any questions give me a call at the church office 562-5567 or contact Mike Bolton. Thanks!

Brad

April Birthdays

2nd—Jackie Tidwell, 4th—Mary Ann Ray, 5th—Ed Marcotte, 6th—Austyn Edwards, 9th—Nancy Hughes, 12th—Lewis Blunt, Ginger Kott, 17th—Kathleen Flowers, Linda Kegerries, 19th —Bob Wright, Ed Cunningham, Dan Franks, Trey Fulmer, Mike Ray, 20th—Cindy Williford, 22nd—Lindsey Beard, 26th—Michael Miller, 27th—Janise Shivers, 30th—Lula Goswick

April Anniversaries

5th—Wayne & Nancy Hughes, 7th—Buddy & Donna Williford,
20th— Nathaniel & Angel Nance

COME AND JOIN THE HEAVENLY STITCHERS

"Kick Off" meeting April 21st
Fellowship Hall—10:00 a.m.
Brown Bag your lunch

Welcome Our Newest Member
Starlene Yelverton

Attendance in March		
	<u>SS</u>	<u>Worship</u>
3/04	69	159
3/12	60	116
3/18	60	155
3/25	52	131

Fannie Lelia Wilson Memorials

The Upper Room, Adult Fellowship, Sue & Dan Franks, Bette Thetford
Tad & Ima Burroughs, Sonia Kendall & Family, Ruby Bailey, Robert & Emily Ray
Evie & Butch Nichols, Lady Carter-Fain, Hugh Ann Bankhead
Kenneth & Johnnie Christian, Lillie Mae Atkins, Billy & Louise Howze
Elmer & Martha Beene, Brett, Chana, Blair & Chet Beene

Jean Hancock Memorials

Lady Carter-Fain, The Dorcus Class, Hugh Ann Bankhead
Linda Morris, Lillie Mae Arkins, Joyce Cashell
Barry & Martha Helweg,

Christopher Williford Memorials

Ed & Mary Marcotte, Joe & Kathy Paschal, Bette Thetford
Kenneth & Johnnie Christian, Roy & Bobbie Baccus, Sonia Kendall
Gary & Vicki Beard, Ina Beth & Jack Forrest, James & Susan Anderson
Ima & Tad Burroughs, Theada Oberholtzer, Sue & Dan Franks
Marion & Louise Howze, Dr. & Mrs. Wesley Pittman & Duke Pittman
Marcus & Molly Frost, Holloway & Louise Martin, Ray & Ruth Henderson
Robert & Emily Ray, Elmer & Martha Beene, Brett, Chana, Blair & Chet Beene
Ray & Donna Denton, Dennis & Sandra Savage, Lillie Mae Atkins
Bob & Peggy Wright, Sallie Ramsey

Additional Memorials

Steven Henderson	Ray & Ruth Henderson
Evelyn Butler	Robert & Emily Ray
Linda Sims	Elmer & Martha Beene
	Brett, Chana, Blair & Chet Beene

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

Lowell Posey, Building Maintenance

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

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

Friday

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Office 254-562-5567

Brad's Cell: 254-625-2435



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