



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

April, 2009

Two Tenors Concert – Sunday, April 5th

The Two Tenors – A Sacred Concert in White Tie and Jeans

On Sunday, April 5th we will be having a special concert. *The Two Tenors* group will be here to join us for worship on Sunday morning and later in the afternoon for a 3:00 p.m. concert. The Two Tenors, Barry Craft and Ben Owens, will be performing with saxophonist Anthony Barrand and low brass Jareth Vickers. The Two Tenors perform all across the country at various churches and community events and later this year will be on tour in Japan. We are fortunate to have them join us this year as April 5th was the only date left on their calendar for the entire year! For more information about their special blend of music, go to www.twotenors.com.

Third Annual FUMC Mexia Community Fish Fry

On Saturday, April 25th at 6:00 p.m. our church will be hosting another community fish fry. As in the past two years, there will be no charge for the fish fry. This is a great opportunity to invite friends from the community to come and fellowship. Rev. Mark Winter will be our special guest that weekend for a revival (see article below). The New Life and New Beginnings Sunday school classes will be responsible for bringing fish cookers and frying the fish. The Alpha and Omega Sunday school class will be responsible for the side dishes for the meal. The Upper Room and Dorcas Sunday school classes will provide desserts, and the choir and youth group will be responsible for setting up tables and chairs and clean up. We look forward to another great time of fellowship!

FUMC Mexia Revival

The weekend of April 25th-26th our church will be hosting a revival. Our speaker will be Rev. Mark Winter. Mark is a pastor in the Central Texas Conference who has served the last several years as a special evangelist. Mark combines preaching with drama in a unique way to share the gospel. Mark will be with us Saturday night April 25th at our fish fry and will be preaching Sunday morning April 26th and later that same evening at a 6:00 p.m. worship service. We are encouraging all of our members to attend and invite family and friends from the community. The point of a revival is not just to be spiritually nourished for ourselves, but to invite others to a relationship with Jesus Christ. For more information about Rev. Winter go to page six of this issue.

Twelve Stephen Ministers Commissioned



On Sunday, March 22, 2009, there was a joyous occasion here at First United Methodist Church as 12 Stephen Ministers were commissioned. This culminates a long period of training and preparation for this special ministry of care and concern. Our Stephen Ministers have trained extensively in such areas as dealing with feelings, crisis intervention, asserting oneself with gentleness and firmness, and numerous other topics dealing with specific aspects of helping people who are experiencing problems in their lives.

Following their commissioning, our Stephen Ministers will carry out a caring ministry in our congregation and community, working with people who are experiencing a life crisis such as hospitalization, retirement, financial setback, loss of a loved one, as well as many other problems or struggles people have in living their daily lives.

How to Refer Someone for a Stephen Minister...

Know someone who is hurting? Share the above information or pick up a brochure from the foyer, ask their permission then call Rev. Brittain, (254-562-5567), or Stephen Minister Leaders Pam Crider, (254-562-5149) or Donna Williford (254-562-9116). A Stephen Leader will contact you to discuss your needs. A person does not need to be a member of this church to receive care.

Who May Need a Stephen Minister?

People who are dealing with:

Illness/hospitalization—Chronic illness—An ill family member—Family frustrations and Challenges—Moving transitions—Loneliness—Death or serious loss—Divorce—Pregnancy/adoption—A disability—A disabled family member—Terminal illness—Self-esteem—Job loss
Financial setbacks, aging and elderly —Faith issues—Major changes in their lives —
Other concerns

What Does a Stephen Minister Do?

Listens
Encourages
Keeps confidence
Prays
Supports
Walks beside hurting people

Mission Work Day – Peyton Building

We will have a work day in the Peyton Building on Saturday, March 28th. We will be using our mission trailer and will be doing various projects around the building, not the least of which is painting. If you would like to volunteer, we will begin work at 9:00 a.m. If you have any questions contact Bob Henry, chairperson of our Outreach Committee.

Children’s Easter Egg Hunt

On Saturday, April 4th Parkview Regional Hospital will be hosting a community-wide Easter egg hunt for children in our community. The egg hunt will take place in the city park from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Women of Faith Conference – Dallas, TX

The women of our church will be attending the Women of Faith Conference in Dallas, TX on Friday, August 21st and Saturday, August 22nd. The group will leave on Friday at 7:30 a.m. and return Saturday evening. Deadline to sign up for the conference is April 8th. The cost for the event is \$79 per person and includes a box lunch on both Friday and Saturday. Our group will be making hotel reservations at a hotel in the DFW area for Friday evening. If you have any questions or would like to register, you may contact Tammy McCulloch at 254-625-1660. Registration forms will be available on Sunday mornings after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Women’s Bible Study

We have just begun a new women’s Bible study on Wednesday evenings. The group is led by Brandi Ellis and Jodi Maki. They meet in the parlor from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and are studying the Beth Moore study on Esther. If you would like to join the group, simply show up on Wednesday evenings. Child care is available.

Waco District Spiritual Growth Meeting

Saturday, March 28th

Woodway United Methodist Church

9:00 a.m.—registration, refreshments, fellowship
time, resource room, silent auction

10:00 a.m.—we will be hearing from Celia Esparza,
United Community Centers Director from Ft. Worth
who will be bringing us our mission message, followed by
Martha Longbotham from Groesbeck who will be bringing us our
spiritual growth message, "God in My Life."

Be sure to spread the word to the women in your church. We want
everyone to have the opportunity to hear the great messages these
women will be bringing to us.

Message from United Methodist Women, Day Circle, Sammie Carter...

The March program, '*Dealing with Fasting during Lent*,' was presented by Lois Willett.

Our UMW representatives to attend the Waco District Spiritual Growth Day Meeting on March 28th will be Bette Thetford and Linda Kegerreis. The Waco District is in charge of the Laundry and Linen Closet; thus the UMW will be collecting laundry detergent, dish soap, bath linens, and toilet tissue, etc., for this effort during the upcoming months. Packages with First United Methodist Women of Mexia's name on them with such items may be left at the Cogdell UMC in Waco at any time.

A luncheon for five (5) high school seniors and their families will be hosted by the United Methodist Women on May 31st and Hugh Ann will be in charge of decorating.

We always welcome new members. Just contact President Bette Thetford at 562-2643 or come to our meeting on April 20th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

This will be my last report as Stuart and I are moving to Kemah, Texas to be closer to family. Johnnie Christian will be the new Secretary.

Message from Preschool Director Sherry Miller..

PRESCHOOL STAFF PARTICIPATES IN SPRING TRAINING

Staff Members of the First Methodist Preschool will be participating in the Spring Child Care Conference on Saturday, April 4, 2009, at the First United Methodist Church in Fairfield, Texas. The conference is sponsored by the Limestone, Freestone and Navarro County Extension Service; First Methodist Preschool, Mexia; and Noah's Ark Preschool in Fairfield.

The conference, '*The Joys (?) of Working in Preschool*,' is presented this year by Connie Fox. Connie Fox owns Teacher's Resource Workshops and is an Early Childhood Education Trainer and Consultant. She is the author of a series of books written specifically for preschool and childcare situations. With over 20 years of experience in the classroom, Ms. Fox blends practicality with humor and a unique understanding of children.

In addition to Ms. Fox's presentation, there will be other sessions including:

- Jammin' and Jumpin' for Joy by Clara Roberson, McBay Elementary Physical Education Teacher
- Building Loving Relationships by Betsy Monico
- Make and Take It by Wendy Gallegos, Fairfield Elementary School
- SIDS and Shaken Baby Training by Lindsey Barak, R. N., Assistant Director of Women's Services, Navarro Regional Hospital.

The Preschool Staff participates regularly in training events to increase skills and knowledge in Early Childhood and to meet minimum standard requirements for training.



30th Open House
“Shake It Up, Mother Goose”
Nursery Rhyme Festival
9 am - 10:30 am /10:45 am Dance Recital
FIRST METHODIST PRESCHOOL
Saturday, April 25th, 2009

First Methodist Preschool will celebrate 30 years in ministry on April 25th, 2009. 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 emphasis this year is “Shake It Up, Mother Goose”. From April 13th– April 24th we will have daily puppet shows featuring Mother Goose, Jack and Jill, Humpty Dumpty, Mary Quite Contrary, Little Boy Blue and Dock the mouse from Hickory, Dickory Dock.

The children will be enjoying many nursery rhymes during the 2 week unit. As playful and fun as the rhymes themselves, the activities will engage students in cooking, crafts, singing, games and more. Nursery rhymes are timeless tales with rhyme, repetition, colorful characters and simple stories. Our unit will strengthen print awareness, phonics, and comprehension. And we are going to have so much fun! The puppet shows will be held every morning in the Preschool lunchroom during these two weeks from 10:00 a.m.– 10:30 a.m.

At the Nursery Rhyme Festival on Saturday, April 25th, there will be many activities for the entire family. Following the festival the dance students will present their annual recital at 10:45 a.m. 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.

Need an Extra Job?!
Nursery Workers Needed On Sunday Mornings
First United Methodist Church

We need one or two nursery workers on Sunday Mornings to care for our children in the Peyton Building. The pay for this position is \$10.00 per hour. The hours are 9:15 to approximately 11:45 a.m. According to our policy, nursery workers must be at least 18 years of age and must give us permission to file their Criminal Background Check. If you would like to apply, please contact Brad, Mary, or Sherry. We have been short nursery workers the past few weeks. The senior high students have been helping out, but we realize that we can no longer use them to fill this position because they are not 18 years old. We appreciate the senior high students for their willingness to help out. We can use them as aids or helpers if we have the primary paid nursery worker that is of age. If we can not fill this paid position, we will begin recruiting adult volunteers from our church so that we can continue to offer this very important ministry to families who attend our church. Thank you for prayerfully considering either applying for the paid position or being willing to volunteer from time to time.



THE ALMOST-AMAZING MARKO A Children's Ministry of Mark Winter's One Man Show Ministries

Mark your calendars for FUN! The Almost-Amazing Marko will be at the First United Methodist Church, Mexia on Saturday April 25th and Sunday April 26th to help celebrate FUMCs' Third Annual Community Fish Fry. The Almost Amazing Marko is a magician, comedian and Good News preacher, all rolled into one! Who knows what Marko will bring to the show? Whatever he brings out of his bag of tricks, you'll giggle, clap and cheer! Marko's show begins during the Fish Fry in the parking lot at the First United Methodist Church Mexia at 6:00 p.m.

The Almost-Amazing Marko is actually Rev. Winter, a fulltime evangelist of the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Winter formed his One Man Show Ministries in 1999, using drama as the primary tool to communicate the Gospel. He lives in Fort Worth, TX with his wife, Laura. They have three children.

"Mark's ability to impact children for Jesus is incredible."

Rev. Jon Mark Fowler, Pastor
Ballinger, Texas

"The Almost Amazing Marko' visited our school and was a hit with our K – 4 students. Marko told stories of honesty and what it means to do the right thing. He sprinkled in magic, humor and dramatics, and encouraged students to get on the right track."

Faye Kuhn, Principal
Southwest Elementary School
Pratt, KS

Pastor Mark,

"We certainly enjoyed your ministry to the children and us! We were very impressed with your ability to capture the attention of all the children for 45 minutes! That is not an easy task, but you made it look easy. Our children loved it!"

Chuck and Angie Gilliland, Parents
Dublin United Methodist Church
Dublin, TX

Check out Marko's website at www.onemanshow.org.





Welcome New Members

Ed, Cindy, and Joey (son) Newbower

April Birthdays

2nd—Jackie Tidwell, 4th—Mary Ann Ray, 5th—Ed Marcotte, 9th—Nancy Hughes, 12th—Lewis Blunt, 15th—Regan Hullum, 17th—Kathleen Flowers, Linda Kegerreis, 19th —Bob Wright, Ed Cunningham, Dan Franks, Trey Fulmer, Mike Ray, Shelli Sears, 20th—Cindy Williford, 23rd—Grayson Edwards, 26th—Michael Miller, 27th—Janise Shivers, 30th—Lula Goswick



April Anniversary

7th—Buddy & Donna Williford

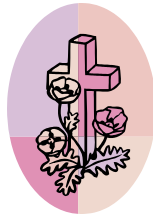
Memorials

LaVerne Wilson

Lola Focke

Ray Sealy

George & Jackie Tidwell
Joe & Kathy Paschal
Wendy & Pat Simmons
Mr. & Mrs. O.Y. Goswick
Joe & Kathy Paschal
Upper Room Sunday School Class
Buddy & Donna Williford



Reservations

Just a reminder that if you want to reserve the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall you need to check with the FUMC office. Get your date on the calendar and fill out the reservation form. This is to make sure that there will not be two groups there at the same time.

Deadline for the May Newsletter
is
Friday April 24th.

“Alpha to Omega.” Sunday School Class

Have you read the Bible all the way through recently???

The Alpha to Omega S.S. class is doing just that; but not real fast. We are in the Book of **EXODUS** and the last announcement covered the “leaving” of Egypt, who died and who lived and the crossing of the **Red Sea**. We are now ready to find out about the **10 Commandants and why do we have them—you will be surprised as we study them.**

(Each week we cover 2,3, or 4 chapters, mostly less).

Come and find answers with us and see what’s next.

We meet in the fellowship hall @ 9:30 A.M. Sunday mornings

Holy Week Schedule



Mid-Day Prayer Services – Monday, April 6th through Wednesday April 8th
12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the chapel. This will be a special time of prayer with
time for corporate, guided prayer and time for personal prayer.



Maundy Thursday Worship Service – Thursday, April 9th 7:00 p.m.



Good Friday Worship Service – Friday, April 10th 7:00 p.m.



Community Sunrise Service – Sunday, April 12th 7:00 a.m. in the City Park

Easter Sunday Worship Service, FUMC—Sunday, April 12th 10:30 a.m.

Your Church Staff

Rev. Brad Brittain, Pastor

Dr. Richard Morgan, Director of Music

Kortney Kelsey, Youth Director

Wynona Lipsett, Organist

Mary Benson, Administrative Assistant/Fiscal Coordinator

Cass Candy, Building Maintenance

Barbara Owens, Cleaning

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00p.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.