

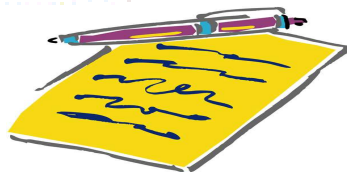


**THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS**

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

August, 2010



**.....What's Your Occupation?.....**

I have been reading a book entitled *Jesus Manifesto* by Leonard Sweet and Frank Viola. It is a book about restoring the supremacy and sovereignty of Jesus Christ in the church. In one of the chapters the authors asked the question, "What is your occupation?" Most of us think about our work when we think of the word occupation, but in this case, the word occupation refers to what occupies our minds most of the time. In other words, what occupies our thoughts occupies us. Here is how Sweet and Viola put it:

"For many Christians, their occupation has nothing to do with spiritual things at all. For others who are more inclined to divine matters, their occupation is evangelism. For some, it's church multiplication that matters most. For others, it's memorizing the Bible and learning theology. Many Christians are most occupied with social action, while others are most occupied with leadership principles. The list is endless. But all of these are 'its' -- just things. In fact, the Christian family has swung so far from its Lord that most of our preaching today is an 'it' rather than a 'Him'. The result: we focus on 'things' -- even good and religious things. And the Lord Jesus Christ is pushed off into a corner. Yet the reality is that Christ trumps everything. All told there is nothing worth pursuing outside of Christ."

There was a sign in a church I visited once that read: "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing." In our case the main thing is Jesus Christ. It is so easy to get sidetracked in our faith and make the "things" more important than worshiping and serving Jesus Christ. I know in my faith journey I will focus more on Jesus and the life he has called me to live and less on "things", and I encourage you to do the same.

In Christ,

Brad

*Message from Preschool Director, Sherry Miller.....*



**FALL TERM STARTS AUGUST 23rd**  
**THEME BASED LEARNING CENTER TIMES**  
**Create Learning Center Opportunities**

Our fall themes are set and we are working on a variety of fun and educational learning experiences for the children in all age groups. We offer learning centers that include Art, Music, Dramatic Play, Blocks, Science, Manipulatives and Library Time. Children learn through Play!

**CHAPEL TIME WILL START THE DAY OFF RIGHT!**

Ms. Sherry will again be leading chapel time for Groups 2 through 4 this fall to start the day praising God through music and hearing Bible stories each morning. The themes start with Creation and Old Testament stories of Noah, Abraham, Joseph, and Moses. The children hear the same Bible Story each day told in a different way (flannel board, marker board, books, puppets, pictures, etc.) On Tuesdays we will have “Big” chapel with our Pastor, Brad Brittain, in the church chapel area. Chapel time is a great way to start the day for everyone!

We are happy to continue our daily learning time with Jodie Maki returning as “Literacy and Language Development Specialist”. She will be using a curriculum called “Sing and Read Letters and Numbers from Frog Street Press. The “Sing and Read” program gives children multiple opportunities to interact with literature and numbers in a variety of ways. This year we will continue with Apple Annie and all the alphabet friends and will add the number curriculum to that.

**GYMNASTICS** - Jean Ann May will again offer gymnastics classes at FMP. These classes begin on September 7. These classes are open to Children, Ages 2 and up, on Tuesday mornings. Weekly classes go through mid May and the cost is \$32.00 per month regardless of the number of Tuesdays in the month. Most months have 4 Tues., a few have 3 or 5, but we average about 4 per month. If you are interested in enrolling, please return the permission slip attached as soon as possible.

**COMPUTER** - The computer classes by PC Kidz will continue in 2010 – 2011 on Friday mornings and are open to Age 3 and up. The cost is \$30.00 per child. We average 4 Fridays per month. Permission slip attached. These classes begin on Sept. 3.

Gibbs Library Reading Program End Parties Coming Soon

Celebration parties for the end of the summer reading program will be Aug. 4 (Group 6 at the Civic Center 3 pm) and Aug. 5 (Group 2B and 4 at 2:30 here at Preschool)  
Children who reached their goals will receive prizes!

Thanks! Sherry

*Message from Jill Flatt, Youth Director.....*

WELCOME BACK YOUTH!!! I hope all had a restful, fun summer. We will be gradually getting back into the swing of Wednesday afternoon meetings starting this August. On August 11<sup>th</sup> from 5 -7, we will be having a swim party at the City Pool. I will provide your entry fee, snacks and conversation!! Come visit and tell us what interesting things you did this summer. On August 18<sup>th</sup>, we are planning another outing to the Lake. Details are not finalized yet. I will text you if I don't see you on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Bring your backpacks to Church on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will be blessing our supplies before our 1<sup>st</sup> day of school. Our first official meeting will be on August 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:00. August 29<sup>th</sup> is Confirmation Sunday. All youth need to be at church to support our friends as they take their first step as a Christian in front of our Congregation. Movie Night will resume on August 29<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 6. Our movie is an old action, thriller rated PG. Our Movie Nights are going to change to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month starting in September. I can't wait to see everyone and talk about your summer activities!!! If you need to text me or send me a new cell number, my number is 747-0230. Be safe and I'll see you in August!! Mrs. Jill

**Youth Activities**

August 11—5:00-7:00 pm Swim Party

August 18—Outing to Lake Mexia

August 22—Blessing of the Backpacks

August 23—First day of School

August 25—5:30-7:00 pm MYF

August 29—Confirmation Sunday

4:00-6:00 pm Movie Night



*Message from the United Methodist Women.....*

The UMW group invites ladies of our church to attend a Tea and Book Review in our Fellowship Hall on Sunday afternoon, August 8, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. We have also invited ladies of other churches in and around Mexia. Sara Sims will be presenting the Book Review — the title of which will be a surprise. From experience, we know none of us will be disappointed.

The UMW group doesn't have meetings during the summer months. However, we will start up again in September and hope to see some of you there. If you have any questions, please contact President Betty Thetford at 562-2643. Y'ALL COME!!!!

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Mexia ISD Appreciation Lunch**

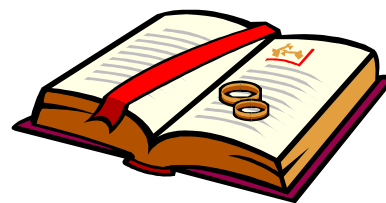
The past two years our church has made desserts for the Mexia ISD Appreciation Lunch for all the employees of Mexia ISD. This lunch is sponsored by the Mexia Chamber of Commerce. This year we will be sharing the responsibility of providing desserts for the lunch with First Baptist Mexia. Our church needs to provide enough cakes, pies, brownies, cookies, etc. to feed around 175 people. If you would like to make a dessert, you may bring it to the Junior High School Cafeteria on Friday, August 20th at 10:00 a.m. This is a great way for our church to join the rest of the community in support of MISD.

### **Blessing of the Backpacks**

The new school year is just around the corner and as a church we would like to have a special prayer / blessing for our children, parents, and employees of our schools. We ask that our children bring their backpacks or other symbolic school items to church on Sunday, August 22nd to the 10:30 a.m. worship service. If you are a teacher or another type of employee in the schools you may bring something to symbolize your work as well.

### **Confirmation Sunday**

This year we are proud to have several of our young men and women to be confirmed in the Christian faith. We had a great group this year and learned a lot from each other. We will have Confirmation Sunday on Sunday, August 29th during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. After the service, we will have a church-wide lunch in honor of the confirmands and their families. Everyone in the church is invited and encouraged to attend as we support one another.



**Beth Moore Simulcast Event**

The women of our church are hosting a Beth Moore Simulcast Event on Saturday, September 18th. Beth Moore is a popular Bible teacher who will be leading the live event from Chicago, Illinois. Churches all across the country are serving as host sites. We are hosting this event for our entire region and have opened this up to women free of charge. There will be a box lunch provided by Coffee Cabaret for those wanting to eat lunch on site. The cost for the lunch is \$6.

**Emmaus Gathering**

We will be having our monthly Emmaus gathering on Sunday, August 22nd at 6:00 p.m. We will be having a steak supper so we need those who plan on attending to R.S.V.P. to [bradbrittain@hotmail.com](mailto:bradbrittain@hotmail.com). We will eat at 6:00 p.m. and conclude our evening together with worship.

**Special Saturday Night Meal**

On Saturday, August 7th we will be having a special meal in the fellowship hall at 7:00 p.m. The meal will follow the Saturday night worship service which begins at 6:00 p.m. It will be a mystery theme / meal so be sure and attend!

**Jesus Manifesto Study**

Christians have made the gospel about so many things -- things other than Christ. Religious concepts, ideas, doctrines, strategies, methods and formulas have all eclipsed the beauty, glory, and the reality of the Lord Jesus Christ. On the whole, Christians today are starved for a real experience of the living Christ. We know a lot about our Lord, but we don't know Him very well. *Jesus Manifesto* presents a fresh unveiling of Jesus as not only Savior and Lord, but as so much more. It is a prophetic call to restore the supremacy and sovereignty of Christ in a world -- and a church -- that has lost sight of Him. Rev. Brittain will be leading this study on Sunday mornings in the fellowship hall at 9:30 a.m. The first class will be Sunday, August 29th and will run for ten weeks. You may purchase *Jesus Manifesto* by Leonard Sweet and Frank Viola through Amazon.com or any other book retailer.

**Wonderful Wednesdays**

We have two more Wonderful Wednesdays. We have had a great time with the first two Wonderful Wednesdays going to the Waco Mammoth Site and the Waco Water Park. On Wednesday, August 4th we will be taking the children to the Mayborn Museum in Waco and on Wednesday, August 11th we will be going to Fort Parker for a Pioneer Day. If you would like to enroll your children, bring them to the church by 9:00 a.m. each Wednesday. Wonderful Wednesdays is for children 1st grade through 5th.

**Choir Rehearsals**

Choir Rehearsals begin Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m. Our choir members would like to extend an invitation to any and all who would like to join them. They are looking forward to a great year!

**Choir Clinic -- Saturday, August 14th**

There will be a choir clinic at the home of Dan and Sue Franks on Saturday, August 14th, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Dr. Randall Hooper, Director of Choral Activities at Texas A&M University at Commerce will be the clinician.

**Administrative Board Meeting**

Our next Administrative Board meeting will be Tuesday, August 31st at 7:00 p.m. We will be discussing programs for the fall, as well as getting updates from our committees on various topics. We also hope to have some information on our facility study that is in the process of being conducted by RBDR Architects in Waco. Every member of the church is a voting member of the Administrative Board.

**Wednesday Night Suppers / Programs**

Our fall Wednesday night suppers and programs will begin Wednesday, September 8th. We will have supper every Wednesday beginning at 5:00 p.m. followed by various Bible studies, children and youth programs, adult handbells, and choir. We will have a fish fry on Wednesday, September 8th to kick things off. Bob Candy is catching the catfish as we speak!

**Pastor's Bible Study**

Rev. Brittain will be leading a Bible study this fall every Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. The first class will be Wednesday, September 8th. Bring your Bible to class as we will be studying the parables of Jesus. Jesus' parables have so much to teach us on many different levels. We look forward to a good study together.

**Old Time Revival at FUMC Mexia**—We will be having an old time revival here at FUMC Mexia in October. Rev. Joel Robbins will be preaching on Sunday night and Monday night -- October 10th and 11th at 7:00 p.m. On the morning of Sunday, October 10th Joel's wife, Rev. Christi Robbins, will be preaching at our 10:30 a.m. worship service. Joel and Christi are both pastors in the Central Texas Annual Conference and live in Ovilla, TX. On Sunday night we will have a snack supper at 6:00 p.m. before the worship service. Please pray for this revival and spread the word!

**Charge Conference**

This year our Charge Conference will be on Tuesday, September 21st at 6:00 p.m. At Charge Conference we adopt the church budget for 2011, as well as approve all nominations for the various committees. This year we will be having a cluster Charge Conference with other United Methodist churches in our area. We will meet in the sanctuary.

**Hearing Tests**

Representatives from Brown Hearing will be at our church on Tuesday, August 31st to conduct hearing tests from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



**Memorial**

**Pat Neill**

Lady Carter-Fain

**Nell Robinson**

Lady Carter-Fain

**Estalee Price**

Lady Carter-Fain, Buddy & Donna Williford,  
TG & Joann Temples, Peggy & Bob Wright, Hugh Ann Bankhead

**Jackie Vaughn**

Lady Carter-Fain

**Larry Giebenrath**

TG & Joann Temples, Ruby Bailey, Bette Thetford

**Bill Goswick**

TG and Joann Temples

**Mellie Merle "Sunshine" Scott**

TG & Joann Temples, Martha Carlson, Bette Thetford

**Janie Copley**

Buddy & Donna Williford



**Honorarium**

**Wynona and Wietig Family**

Pat & Ed Cunningham



### August Birthdays

1st—Harlon Brady, 11th—Brad Brittain, Walt Harrison, 12th—Woody Woodruff, 14th—Kristen Allen, 15th—Tim Edwards, Arnold Gray, Kortney Kelsey, Bob Ray, 16th—Murray Agnew, Brenda Woodruff, 17th—Donna Findley, Randy Machacek, 19th—Craig Kegerreis, 21st—Bennie Green, Karen Harrison, 26th—Lillie Mae Atkins, Ima Burroughs, 29th—Ann Burgoon, 31st—Charlie Agnew

### August Anniversaries

7th—Becky and Harlon Brady, 8th—George & Jackie Tidwell, 15th—John & Charlotte Posey, 20th—Kyle & Cheryl Hancock, 25th—Bob & Emilie Ray, 26th—Doug & Kristen Allen, 29th—Charles & Lisa Paul, 30th—Cindy & Ed Neubauer, 31st—Larry & Sandy Hensley



### Your Church Staff

Rev. Brad Brittain, Pastor  
Arthur Nutt, Director of Music  
Wynona Lipsett, Organist  
Jill Flatt, Youth Director  
Jackie Tidwell, Children's Coordinator  
Sandy Imes, Administrative Assistant/Fiscal Coordinator  
Cass Candy, Building Maintenance  
Barbara Owens, Cleaning

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.