



. . . Never Say “Never”

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Luke 15:8-10

I read an interesting story the other day in *USA Today*. It was about a man named Ray Heilwagen and his wallet. Ray served our country in WWII as a part of the Army’s 79th infantry division in 1944. He was injured in France and received a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. While serving in France, he lost his wallet.

A few weeks ago Ray received a call from Stephen Breitenstein of Palatine, Ill. Breitenstein’s father, who also served in France during WWII, recently died. Digging through his father’s possessions – ironically on Veteran’s Day – Stephen found an old wallet. He figured his dad found it during the war and brought it home, hoping to find the owner. Not knowing how to do so, he left it in a drawer for more than six decades.

As things turned out the wallet belonged to Ray Heilwagen. Using the Internet, Breitenstein tracked down Heilwagen. He said, “Did you lose a billfold?” Amazingly, Heilwagen remembered that he had lost his wallet during the War and told Breitenstein that it belonged to him. Heilwagen said of Breitenstein, “I was impressed that a stranger would go to such trouble to locate me and return my wallet.”

That’s an amazing story of finding something that was once lost. Ray Heilwagen never could have imagined retrieving his wallet that had been lost for 62 years, but sure enough, he found it. This story should serve as a lesson to all of us that we should never give up on anything. We should not give up on lost wallets, and more importantly, we should not give up on lost friends and family. God has an amazing way of turning people around and restoring what was once broken and lost. Never say, “Never”.

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...
In our thoughts and prayers...

Names are removed from the prayer list
after being on for two weeks.
To have a name placed on the prayer list either
call the church office at 254-562-5567 or
e-mail: admin@fumcmexia.org
If you wish the name to be on longer
then two weeks
just let the office know.

Our American Troops in Iraq

Dear Church Family,

Prayers really do make a difference! Many of you have been asking about our beautiful daughter-in-law Cheryl, and the good news is that her chemo treatments are completed and her medical reports are showing no signs of cancer—and she is back at her job at a middle school in Mesquite. Chuck and Cheryl and their family are so appreciative of your thoughts and prayers through their difficulty. Prayer is truly amazing! We often pray for the names on the prayer list but have no idea who the people are. However, these are Real people with real needs and God does tend to them

Wynona & Don Lipsett

Confirmation Class Beginning

We will be beginning our Confirmation class on Sunday, February 4th after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. We will have lunch together in the fellowship hall and then have our class until 1:00 p.m. Kids 5th grade and up are welcome to attend. We will also need mentors for each confirmation participant. If you feel called to be a mentor please join us for lunch on the 4th. If you have any questions or would like to register, contact the church office 562-5567.

Email, Email, Email!

If you have email and would like to receive weekly updates on information regarding the church, please email bradbrittain@hotmail.com and we will get you added to the list. Remember, James McKeand does an outstanding job keeping our web page up to date. Our website address is www.funcmexia.org.

Disciple Bible Study

It's not too late to get in on one of our Disciple Bible Study classes. Disciple is a program in which over a year-long period participants will have read and discussed over 80% of the Bible. This class is great for the person who is new to reading the Bible and for those who have read it for years. We have two classes taught by Rev. Brittain on Wednesdays – 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Call the church office to register or simply show up.

The Jesus I Never Knew

We have a new Monday morning women's Bible study entitled "The Jesus I Never Knew". The class is being led by Charlotte Posey in the boardroom at 9:30 a.m. This is a discussion type class in which there is little or no "homework" involved! Come and join us!

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday before Easter Sunday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word lencten, which means "spring". The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. We will be marking the beginning of the Lenten season with an Ash Wednesday worship service on **Wednesday, February 21st at 6:00 p.m.** The most significant part of the service is the imposition of ashes. When we are marked with the ashes we are reminded of our mortality and need for repentance. Make time on the 21st to share with your church family in this special time of worship.

Valentine's Banquet: "Ribeyes from the Ribeye"

Brad says, "I have a new nickname: 'Ribeye' Someone once jokingly called me, 'Rabbi'. One of my friends decided that was not appropriate for someone like me, so he nicknamed me, 'Ribeye'. Therefore, we will have our first annual 'Ribeyes from the Ribeye' Valentine's Banquet on Friday, February 9th at 6:00 p.m. In addition to a steak supper, we will have entertainment provided by the Steeple Singers." Tickets are \$10 per person. Call the church office to make your reservation.

Seasoned Saints Sunday

On Sunday, February 25th we will be honoring the Seniors of our congregation. There have been so many members who have given many years of service to this church over the years, and we wanted to honor them in our 10:30 a.m. worship service. After the service we will have a lunch in their honor as well.

Adult Mission Trip April 9-13

A group from our church will be going to Baldwin, LA the week of **April 9-13** to help sort relief supplies at the United Methodist (UMCOR) warehouse. Relief supplies are sent from all across the United States to the warehouse in Baldwin, and our group will be working with others to sort and package all kinds of supplies: flood buckets, health kits, school supplies, etc. The cost of the trip is \$200 per person, plus meals on the road as we travel. To register call the church office 562-5567.

Church Membership Records

We are in the process of updating our church membership records and filling in the "gaps". Thank you for your patience and willingness to provide us with information. If you have not completed a membership information form in one of our worship services the past few weeks, please provide us with the following: **Your name, children's names, address, telephone, birthdays, anniversaries, and email address.**

If you wish you can email the above information to bradbrittain@hotmail.com or call us at the office. Thank you.

Breakfast at the Church

We will have breakfast at the church together on Sunday, February 4th and Sunday, February 18th at 8:30 a.m. We will have pancakes on the 4th and eggs and sausage on the 18th. This is a great time to fellowship and get to know one another better

Wednesday Night Supper Menu

Here is the menu for our Wednesday night suppers in February. Meals are served from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

February 7th Soup Medley
February 14th Spaghetti (Valentine's Day)
February 21st Sloppy Joes
February 28th Chicken and Dumplings

Scrapbooking Night at the Church

Join us on Saturday, February 3rd at 5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall for an evening of scrapbooking. Supper will be provided. Simply bring your scrapbook material and have a great time! Contact Alisha Brittain if you are coming so we know how many to prepare for 562-3485.

Epiphany Reunion Group

Our next Epiphany reunion group with the boys at the State School will be on February 15th at 7:00 p.m.

February Emmaus Gathering

Our next Emmaus gathering will be on Monday, February 26th at 6:00 p.m. We share in a pot-luck meal and then have a time of worship.

Parent's Night Out

Our next Parent's Night Out will be Saturday, February 24th from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. We have special programs for children while the parents enjoy a night out. For more information and to register your children, contact Cheryl Hancock at 562-7822.

Mystery Dinner Theater

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 1st Annual Mystery Dinner Theater. We shared in some great food and had a fun time together. Special thanks to all the volunteers who made it possible.

Do you want to help but don't know in what capacity?

We have an opening for you in Family Life. Assisting with the Wednesday night supper and/or the Sunday breakfasts will be a great place to start. Contact Mary Benson in the church office or Sandy Imes at 562-2490.

Attention Campers!!

Who are the National United Methodist Campers?

They are a national family camping club organized in 1975. A small group of United Methodist families in Connecticut felt the need for camping in a more Christian atmosphere, where friends and other Christians would be welcomed, and no member of the family would be excluded. So, "N.U.M.C." was born.

National Rallies

Each year, the National United Methodist Campers hold a National Rally with families from all Local Chapters coming together in a modern day version of the old fashioned Camp Meetings. The National Rallies are held in the state or area of the National President.

This year the National Rally is being held at Glen Rose, Texas, at the Tres Rios RV Ranch near to our Glen Lake Conference Center). The date to remember is April 16-22, 2007. During our time of fellowship, opportunities will be available to take area tours, attend RV seminars, witness Mark Winters' presentation, see and hear Kenneth Wyatt, the preacher and artist, and also hear Billy Cate's "Chisholm Trail Cowboy", and Sons of the Pioneers Band.

2007 Camping Schedule National United Methodist Campers Central Texas Sojourners, Chapter No. 16

January 8-15	Serendipity RV Resort, Palacios, TX
February	OPEN
March 13-16	Whispering Pines RV Resort, Tyler, TX
April 16-22	National Rally – Tres Rios RV Ranch, Glen Rose, TX
May 14-17	Lazy L RV Resort, Sherman, TX
June/July/August	OPEN
September 10-13	Campers Paradise, Bowie, TX
October	Work Trip to Aldersgate Enrichment Center, Brownwood, TX – Dates to be advised later
November 12-15	American RV, Corsicana, TX
December	Christmas Luncheon (Date & Place to be advised)

Contact Craig & Linda Kegerreis for more information
Telephone: 903-626-5313
Email: linkco1@icountry.net

Welcome our Newest Members:
Chris and Tammy McCulloch
and their three boys Kirkland, Alex,
and Jackson

February Birthdays

1st-Art Nutt, 2nd, Joe David Wilson, 7th-Andrew Brittain, Theda Oberholtzer, Rebecca Ray, 11th-Chris Shivers, Chris Williford, 13th-Buddy Williford, 16th Roy Baccus, Walt McKeever, 18th-Brook Simmons, 19th-Noma Nell Thomas, 20th-Diane Burks, 21st-Billy Howze, Don Lipsett, 22nd-Greg Goodrum, 24th-David Maner, 26th-Lois Willett, 27th-Penny Gray, 28th-Richard Morgan, T.G. Temples

February Anniversaries

2nd Pat and Wendy Simmons, 21st Billy & Louise Howze,
22nd Jerry and Loda Crutchfiedl

Reminder

The deadline for submitting
an article for the March
FUMC Connection is
February 21st.
Contact the church office
for ways to submit your
article.

Attendance in January

	<u>SS</u>	<u>Worship</u>
01/07	80	157
01/14	55	119
01/21	72	152
01/28	59	148

Your Church Staff

Brad Brittain, Pastor

Dr. Richard Morgan, Director of Music

Walt Harrison, Minister of Youth

Cheryl Hancock, Children's Coordinator

Wynona Lipsett, Organist

Mary Benson, Administrative Assistant/Fiscal Coordinator

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



**First United Methodist Church
203 North Canton Street
Mexia, TX 76667
bradbrittain@hotmail.com**

**Non-Profit
Postage
Paid
Mexia, TX
Permit #58**

Address Service Requested

