



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

January, 2009



... “The Danger in Playing it Safe”

As I write this article I am sitting in the living room of my grandparents' home in Shreveport, LA. It is the last day of our family Christmas vacation and we have had a great time visiting with family and friends. Alisha and I have noticed that as our boys get bigger the presents we buy them seem to get smaller yet more expensive. It's called technology -- ipods, video games, etc. With all the neat, new games and toys it's interesting how one game has seemed to survive for decades and decades -- *Monopoly*. I had not played *Monopoly* in over ten years until we played the other evening. Alisha and I started out playing with our two boys but ended up playing each other. The boys wore out and went to sleep, but we played on into the night until Alisha defeated her poor husband! The next day we played with my sister and brother n' law. I am proud to say that Alisha and I succeeded in bankrupting my sister. The name of the game in *Monopoly* is to acquire property, and in the process, acquire as many houses and hotels as you can. My brother n' law and sister are rather conservative when it comes to money, so they had a hard time parting with their money even when it was fake. On the other hand, Alisha and I were buying up property and houses right and left. Our strategy was simple -- you have to lay some money out in *Monopoly* if you want to win. As my poor sister went bankrupt she said to her husband, "We lost because we played it too safe." Now *Monopoly* is only a game and I suppose it's okay to play it too safe in such a game, but in real life it's not okay. It's not okay to play it too safe when it comes to living, especially when you are a Christian. It's easy to play it safe when it comes to our faith. It's easy to occupy a pew and never take any chances. It's easy to say "No" when we are called to do something challenging for God and God's Church. Perhaps all of us should look in the mirror as we embark on a new year and answer the following questions: Have I played life too safe? What can I do this year to take a chance for Christ? Where is my comfort zone and how can I step out in faith? God doesn't expect us to be reckless with our faith, but he certainly expects us to trust him and take on projects and ministries that we cannot accomplish without him. Have a great New Year and whatever you do -- don't play life too safe.

In Christ,

Brad

Message from Christian Ed./Program Coordinator Charlotte Posey...

On January 17th, the women of our church and their guests, have a treat in store for us. We will be having a luncheon from 12 noon to 2 PM where we will have a lot of fun, fellowship, and an opportunity to hear an amazing testimony. Our luncheon is called, "Yahweh Sisterhood." Why this title? It means sisters in Christ.

We will hear Joy Weaver, etiquette expert and TV personality tell her story, how her mother was told to abort her child or die. Joy's mother refused. Come hear Joy tell how God had amazing plans for her life. She believes in "believing God" for big things, and her life has been tremendously blessed by her big faith.

Joy has been on "The View" with Barbara Walters, featured in Southern Living Magazine, a regular on "Good Morning Texas," and is author of her first book, "How to Be Socially Savvy In All Situations." Zig Ziglar has endorsed her book. She has a crisp and fun way to let you in on some important tips on how to be "Socially Savvy" that you won't want to miss.

Please call the church office to let us know that you will be there (ASAP) as there is limited space. The luncheon will be held in Fellowship Hall. The United Methodist Women (night group) will be decorating our luncheon tables. Thank you UMW for doing this. This is going to be a great day of fun and fellowship, so mark your calendars and make your reservation and come enjoy this event.

Message from Preschool Director, Sherry Miller...

What's Going On With The Playground!

Many of you have noticed the heavy excavation equipment and work going on this week on the Playground that is attached to the Peyton Building. We have even had some calls, "What's Going On?"

This has been a project we have planned for several months now. In order to meet a new minimum standard for our State Licensing Requirements, we have to make the playground surfacing deeper! Many thanks to Terry Don Shivers and his crew for taking on this project.

The old pea gravel surfacing will be removed and dug 12 inches deep. We will then replace this with drainage system and playground bark mulch. The fencing also had to come down and will be put back up after the surfacing is complete.

The funds for this project have been donated to the church and Preschool by Ann Pendleton in honor and memory of her mom, Bobbie Pendleton. Ann comments, "Mother loved to watch the kids playing out on that playground!" We will honor Bobbie by dedicating the "new" playground in a few weeks. Many thanks to Ann for her love of this ministry.

Message from United Methodist Woman Day Circle, Sammie Carter, Secretary...

During our October meeting Bette Thetford was elected President to replace outgoing President Hugh Ann Bankhead. This will be effective at our January 2009 meeting. On Saturday, November 8th, Bette, Linda Kegerreis and Sammie Carter went to Waco to attend the Waco District UMW annual meeting. We had lunch and an enjoyable meeting in which we learned several new ideas to bring back to our meetings. During November we also stuffed Christmas bags which Hugh Ann and Linda took to the Senior Center where they were delivered along with the Meals on Wheels Christmas dinners. December 9th, was our UMW Christmas lunch where 12 members enjoyed a wonderful meal at the Hamilton House.



Welcome New Member

Jodi Greenwood
Profession of Faith 12/14/2008

January Birthday's

6th-Barbara Owens, 7th-Cass Candy, Pat Irwin, 11th-Pam Crider,
15th-Trinity Edwards, 16th-Emily Ray, 18th-Connie Beasley, Katelyn
McKeand, 19th-Brian Hullum, 21st-Bob Candy, Jo Ann Temples, 24th-
Mason Carter, James McKeand, 26th-Margaret Jackson, 28th-Boone Crider,
30th-Tommy Puckett



January Anniversaries

4th-James & Dawn McKeand, Valerie & Mike Bolton, 22nd-Pat &
Michele Irwin, 25th-Kenneth & Johnnie Christian, 26th-Bob and Lady

Wednesday Bible Studies

Wednesday Bible Studies will resume January 7th. The morning group will continue to study the book of Hebrews. The evening ladies group will continue studying "Bad Girls of The Bible" (And What You Can Learn From Them.) New faces are always welcome. Let's begin the new year by studying the Bible. The men's Bible Study will resume at 6 p.m. also. There's no better way to begin 2009.

Thank You Sandy & Barbara!

Special thanks goes out to Sandy Imes and Barbara Owens for serving our meals on Wednesday evenings. They have done a terrific job of preparing and serving our meals. As of January 1st we will not be serving meals on Wednesday evenings. We will resume our Wednesday evening meals if there is a group that would like to volunteer to cook on Wednesdays. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Brad. Thanks again Sandy and Barbara for your dedication!

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

The Alpha & Omega Sunday School class is doing just that; but not real fast. The last announcement covered Gen16-30. Guess where we are now?? (Each week we cover 2-4 chapters). Since then we have followed Jacob into Canaan & the reuniting with his brother; encountering God and coming up with a lifelong limp; Dinah's brother's deception of..... And then Joseph's journey to Egypt—Revenge????? Oh, it gets juicy now. Come and find out and see what 's next. We meet in the fellowship hall at 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings.

Special Time of Prayer

We are going to have a special time of prayer for our church on **Sunday, January 11th at 9:00 a.m.** before Sunday school. We are going to gather as a church in the sanctuary to pray for the ministries of our church in 2009. The focus of our prayer will be not to get God to bless what *we want* to do, but for us to get in line with what God wants to do through us at FUMC Mexia. Prayer is the foundation of any healthy church and I hope that you will join us as we seek God's direction for our church.

2009 Camping Schedule
Central Texas SOJOURNERS, Chapter 16
National United Methodist Campers

January 5-12– Serendipity RV – Palacios, TX

March 9-12, 2009 – Whispering Pines Resort, Tyler, TX

April 30-May 3, 2009 - NATIONAL RALLY, Thousand Trails, Cleremont, FL

June 8-11, 2009 – Mitchell RV, Perrin, TX

August 4-11, 2009 – SPECIAL Mountain Campout Circle B RV Park, Ruidosa, NM - You make your reservations with the Park at (505) 378-4990

September 14-17, 2009 – I-35 RV, Waco, TX

October 1-4, 2009 - ALL Texas NUMC Campout, Mineola, TX

November 9-12, 2009 – American RV – Corsicana, TX

Reservations required, Contact Wagonmaster, Leonard Radde, by phone, 817-556-0205 or e-mail: radde@htcomp.net or Local Representatives, Linda & Craig Kegerreis, 903-626-5313 or e-mail: linkcol@hughes.net

Your Church Staff

Rev. Brad Brittain, Pastor

Dr. Richard Morgan, Director of Music

Kortney Kelsey, Youth Director

Charlotte Posey, Christian Education/Program Coordinator

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