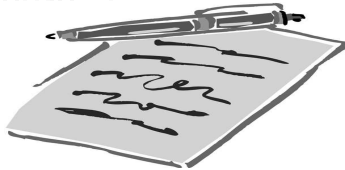


## THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

January, 2012



### —Recommitting in a New Year—

Reorganizing, priority setting & reconsidering our commitments are just some of the things that we begin to think about at the start of a new year. It is interesting to me to think about the word “commit.” “Commit” is a confusing word. It has both positive and negative connotations. You can commit a crime. The Bible talks a lot about committing sin. We’ve heard the phrase, “He or she has been committed.” But, being committed can also be a good thing. When we get a job, we make commitments to our employer regarding our work. When we get married, we make a commitment to our spouse to love, honor & cherish them for the rest of our lives. Therefore, being committed is a good and joyful part of life.

At the start of every year, I make a list of all of the things I plan to be committed to for the next year. This includes what groups/organizations I will support with my money, but it also includes where I will dedicate my time. I recently saw this list of the top ten New Year’s resolutions in America and thought it was interesting:

Spend more time with family & friends

Exercise

Weight loss

Quit smoking

Enjoy life more

Quit drinking

Get out of debt

Learn something new

Help others

Get organized

I don’t know about you, but a few of these made my list. There are several things on the list above that if accomplished would improve our physical health (like exercise, weight loss, quitting smoking & drinking). These are all good things. But, what I am most concerned about are those activities that will help our spiritual health. There are a few things on the list above that if done could possibly improve our spiritual health, like helping others. However, what I see missing on this list is increasing our prayer life, increasing our personal Bible study, and being more committed to attending worship regularly. We are all such busy people, and it can be so difficult to carve out time to nourish our hearts and souls, but this is such an important part of our lives. I encourage us in this New Year to include in our list of resolutions a few activities that will draw us closer to God, the One who made us.

In Christ’s Service

Rev. Kory Koch

## A message from the Director of the Preschool

Happy New Year from everyone at FMP! We are glad you and your family are sharing another year with us at the Preschool. We have included in this newsletter a calendar showing plans for activities for the rest of this school year. We feel they will be good and meaningful experiences for your children. As always, we welcome your comments or suggestions about the Preschool Program. Have a wonderful 2012!

Sherry Miller, Director

### 2012 HOLIDAYS SET

The 2012 Holiday Schedule is as follows:

Preschool will be closed on these days:

Jan. 16      **Martin Luther King Day**  
April 6      **Good Friday**  
May 28      **Memorial Day**  
July 4      **Independence Day**  
Sept. 3      **Labor Day**  
Nov. 22/23   **Thanksgiving**  
Dec. 24/25   **Christmas**  
Dec. 31/ Jan. 1, 2013      **New Year**

2011  
Tax  
Statements  
WILL BE  
AVAILABLE  
1-17-12

Jan. 16      Preschool is closed for Martin Luther King Day

Feb. 14      Valentines Parties – am – **all classes**

March      Vision and Hearing Screenings for Group 4 –  
Dates to be announced.

March 12-16   Spring Break – Mexia ISD Closed/ Preschool Open

April 5      Easter Egg Hunts – **All classes** – morning

April 6      Preschool Closed for Good Friday

April 10      Group 4 End of Year Field Trip to Stephen's Funtastic School Day Concert – Midway ISD Performing Arts Center, Waco, Texas 10:30 am (more details in March Newsletter)

April 28      33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Preschool Open House  
Saturday Morning 10 – 11:30

May 2      Dabbs Individual and Group Pictures – All  
Groups Infant through Group 4  
Starting at 8:45 am  
Also Group 4 Graduation Pictures



May 2 St. Jude's Trike a Thon – Groups 4  
**Bike Day for All upstairs Groups**



May 19 Spring Program in Wortham for Gymnastic Students

May 28 Preschool Closed Memorial Day

May 30 Group 4 Graduation and Parent Luncheon 12 noon

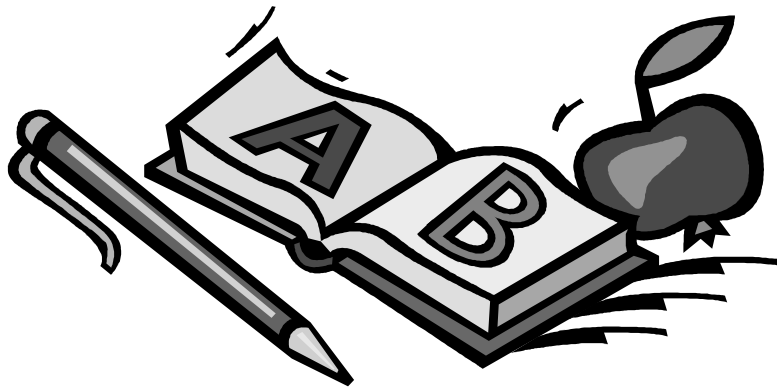
June 1 Last Day of Public School

June 4 Summer Session Begins at FMP

**Frog Time Monday through Friday– Group 1B/2/3A/3B/4**



**TUESDAYS OTHER WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**  
**Wednesdays GYMNASTICS AVAILABLE WITH JEAN ANN MAY**  
**Library Day – First Methodist Preschool Book Nook**



## Kid's Corner

December was a great month for the kids at FUMC! After much practicing, we presented a Christmas musical called An Animals' Christmas. Several of the children had solo singing and speaking parts and did an excellent job of telling the story of Jesus' birth in a different manner. On December 14, we went Christmas caroling at two of the nursing homes in Mexia. The children felt as though they were bringing a special musical Christmas gift to the people who heard them sing!

Now that January is here our Wednesday night Kid's Klub has started back up again. We are meeting at 5:30 in the Peyton Building with the younger children working with Kay Roark and Sharon Beene, while the older kids meet with Patsy Henry, Jackie Tidwell, Linda and Craig Kegerreis. We have music time, Bible storytime, drama, cooking, arts and crafts and best of all –kid friendly food!

Sunday School begins at 9:30 on Sunday mornings—we hope to see you there and be sure to bring a friend!!!

Jackie



MYF NEWS:

Thank you to Kevin and Matt Zachary, and Molly and Tyler Flatt for helping with the Children's performance on December 11<sup>th</sup>. This mini cantata was fantastic and it was soo great to see the church packed with people! I am very proud of my youth who take an interest in developing the younger children in our church.

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, the MYF traveled to Waco to go skating. Thank you to Mrs. Belinda Zachary for helping drive the kids to go skating. We had so many that wanted to skate and hang out. Chelsea, Matt, Kevin, Caroline, Hannah Yelldell- Caroline's friend, Tyler, Caitlyn Harlin - Tyler's girlfriend, Molly, Colton, Brandon, Micah, and Alexia all went skating. We had sooo much fun and look forward to going again real soon.

We had our movie night on December 18<sup>th</sup>. We watched "Green Lantern." It is a super cool movie about a young man who had to overcome a tragedy from his youth to help find the will to help others by putting others first. He had always run from responsibility. With the green ring "choosing" him, he could not run anymore and had to face and take on huge responsibilities like saving our world. We have this movie in our movie collection if anyone would like to watch it.

Our next meeting will be on January 8<sup>th</sup>. We will be planning our spring meetings and adventures.

Hope to see you at MYF - Sundays from 4-6

*Jill Flatt*



**A message from UMW.....**

UMW of FUMC-Mexia met for their Christmas party on Tuesday, 13 December 2011 at Frankie's Restaurant. There were 11 members present. A wonderful time of fellowship was held by all.

The first meeting of 2012 will be held on Monday, 16 January 2012 at 10:00 am in the board room of the church. This will be a business meeting. No program will be given.

Cheryl Karkheck, Secretary



**Announcements**

**Opportunity to help neighbors**—Mike Bolton is starting a ministry to help our neighbors with minor home repair, yard work and possible handicap ramp construction. If you know of a potential client or would like to volunteer to be on the mission team, please contact Mike Bolton or Kory Koch.

**Next Sermon Series**—Starting with the service on January 8th, the new sermon series will be “Game Day.”



**Christmas Card Box**— Please check the card box in the foyer to see if you have received cards. There are several cards in the box to be retrieved.

**Annual Ladies Luncheon**—This year the theme will be "A Servants Heart" and we will be honoring our area charities. The luncheon will be at First Baptist Church (CLC) on Saturday, January 21st. The doors open at 8:30 am, worship starts at 10:00 with lunch served during the event. Please let Holly Koch know if you are interested in attending.



**Valentine's Party**—We are in the planning stages of a valentine's party. Please keep the two week-ends around the 14th of February open to enjoy in the fun. Watch for announcements regarding this fun event.



**Memorial**

**Blake & FaNell Forrest**  
**Capt & Mrs. Blake S. Forrest**  
**Louneita & John Sims Stubbs**  
Margaret F. Barrow



**Honorarium**

**Jack and Ina Beth Forrest**  
Margaret F. Barrow



### **January Birthday's**

3rd-Kim DeCarlo, 6th-Barbara Owens, 7th-Cass Candy, Pat Irwin, 10th-Gilbert Reyes, 11th-Pam Crider, 15th-Trinity Edwards, 16th-Emily Ray, 18th-Connie Beasley, Katelyn McKeand, 19th-Brian Hullum, 21st-Bob Candy, 24th- James McKeand, 26th-Margaret Jackson, 28th-Boone Crider, 29th-Paige O'Hare

### **January Anniversaries**

4th-James & Dawn McKeand, Valerie & Mike Bolton, 22nd-Pat & Michele Irwin, 25th-Kenneth & Johnnie Christian, 26th-Bob and Lady Fain, 30th-Billy & Carmen Hinton

\*If we missed your Birthday or Anniversary please notify the FUMC office so we can update our records



### **Your Church Staff**

Rev. Kory Koch, Pastor  
Arthur Nutt, Director of Music  
Wynona Lipsett, Organist  
Holly Koch, New Beginnings Praise Director  
Jill Flatt, Youth Director  
Jackie Tidwell, Children's Coordinator  
Sherry Miller, Preschool Director  
Sandy Imes, Administrative Assistant/Fiscal Coordinator  
Bob 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.