



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

July, 2008

... *“Common Grounds Book Club”*

We are beginning a new community reading program called *“Common Grounds.”* It will be a Spiritual Journey where we read a book a month and get together for fellowship and discussion over coffee and dessert. I have talked to Lori at Coffee Cabaret and she has graciously offered to open her business for us to meet there the fourth Thursday of each month. Our first gathering will be **Thursday, July 31st at 7:00 p.m.**

The first book that we will be reading is by Leonard Sweet titled *“11: Indispensable Relationships You Can’t Be Without”*. Sweet takes a look at eleven characters from the Bible and shows us how we need these eleven types of people in our lives to keep us close to God and one another. You can purchase your book at any major bookstore, but I recommend ordering it online through Amazon. The price on Amazon is \$14.95. I look forward to discussing the book with you and hearing your insights. Please come and enjoy coffee and fellowship.

Brad

P.S. Why is it called Common Grounds Book Club? You need to come to find out.

Message from Preschool Director Sherry Miller...

GO GREEN WITH THE CHILDREN OF FUMC

The Children’s Sunday School Department is studying about “Creation” this summer and the beauty of God’s world and all He created for us. We are also carrying through with this topic in Children’s Church. We are hoping to develop a sense of stewardship in our children. The focus will be that God created the earth, the sky, and the sea and that people have a responsibility to be good stewards of God’s creation.

THE EARTH IS THE LORD’S. (PSALM 24:1)

Part of this study includes a recycling project. You will notice cans in the walkway where we are collecting paper/ plastic/ and aluminum. If you want to help with our recycling project, please bring your objects to be added and place them in the appropriate cans. (Be sure they are EMPTY).

We are looking for good stewards who will help us with delivering these recyclables to the recycle centers in Groesbeck and Mexia. If you can help with this delivery either weekly or occasionally, please call Sherry at the Preschool or Mary in the church office. We will appreciate your help!

News from our Youth Leaders, Gael, Jill & Kortney...

Summertime is supposed to be relaxed and laid back, but the youth are continuing in high gear. A van load of youth went to the Rangers game on Monday, June 2, then headed to Waco on June 7th to play paint ball. The following Saturday, they had a fun afternoon at Lake Mexia at Cass and Kellie Candy's home. It was a perfect day for swimming and water-sliding, and eating hamburgers and hot dogs.

In addition to the fun times, the youth have engaged in several work projects, including cleaning the church windows and clearing out the flower bed by the fellowship hall. On June 25, the youth went to go to a church member's home to clean up her yard and carport.

The youth meet each Wednesday from 5:30-7:30 in the Fellowship Hall. After sharing supper, they break into Jr. and Sr. high groups for Bible study and discussion. They usually end with a time of recreation and "hanging out". During the summer, the youth are also involved in performing service projects and invite church members to submit requests to the church office for work such as yard clean up, junk hauling, etc.

On July 2, the youth will be going to the Mexia City Pool, and have been invited to the parsonage on July 16 for hamburgers and hot dogs. This summer, they're also considering going bowling, roller skating and having a lock-in.

The youth M&M (Mission and Ministry) fundraiser continues to be a success. To date, they have collected \$550.50. Remember to turn in your M&M tubes to the youth on Sundays or Wednesdays, and if you'd like another tube of candy, they'd be happy to give you one. What a sweet way to support the youth!

It's wonderful to have so many youth excited about gathering together in the name of the Lord. They continue to learn and grow in faith as well as fellowship with other believers.

	<p>Youth Need Summer Projects!! Here they are cleaning the Church windows (and they did a great job)! Anyone who needs work done around the house or yard, please contact the church office 254-562-5567 and the youth would be glad to come to your home and work for FREE!</p>	
	<p>This is a summer youth mission project so we are not taking any money for any work performed. The work will be done during our weekly meeting time which is Wednesday 5:30 till 7:00ish p.m.</p>	
		



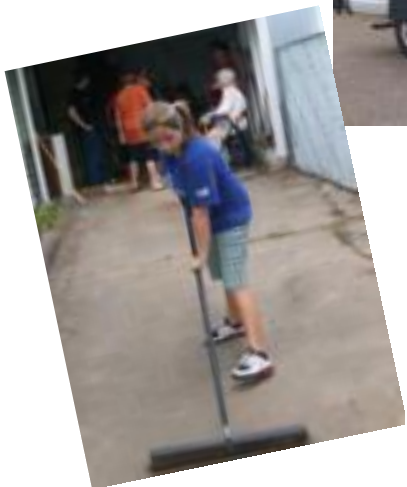
(The following is an e-mail from Gael McKeever regarding the youth going to Mrs. Collingsworth's house on June 25th)

Cleaning up Mrs. Collingsworth's place was such a blessing...and I don't mean just for Mrs. Collingsworth. The youth worked hard picking up sticks in the yard, weeding the flowerbeds, cleaning out the carport and sweeping up the porches, driveway and sidewalk.

It was a blessing to me to see the youth working together, not for any monetary reward, but for the joy of showing Christian love. In an hour's time, we had completed the work. It took everyone working together to achieve such speedy results. I'm thankful for the kids, and for Jill, who all put so much love into this service project. I can't wait for the next one. I hope that others in the church (or community) will ask for our help!

Hope you enjoy the pictures. In one you can see us singing "Happy Birthday" to Mrs. Collingsworth...her birthday is July 8th. We'll be posting these and others soon on our new bulletin board in the foyer leading into the sanctuary.

In Christ,
Gael



Wonderful Wednesday
For ages K-5th Grade

What is it? Wonderful Wednesday is a children's program each Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. beginning July 16 and going through August 13. We will have activities that will help the children see and understand God's wonderful world.

Where is it? We will meet in the fellowship hall at FUMC.

When is it?

1. July 16th--We will learn about God's creation of animals with a field trip to the Mayborn Center in Waco.
2. July 23--We will learn about God's creation of the daytime sky and the sun.
3. July 30th--We will be doing activities to learn about the rain forest and God's creation of plants.
4. August 6th--A field trip to the Cook Center in Corsicana to learn about the night sky.
5. August 13--This is ocean day with lots of fun activities about the ocean.

How do I get my child involved? Fill out the registration form below and return it to the church office, the Preschool or to either Jackie Tidwell or Alisha Brittain by Monday, July 14th.

We are really excited about this program and hope that your child will want to invite a friend to be involved. We will be sending out flyers with more information about this new program.

Wonderful Wednesday Registration Form

Child' Name _____ Age _____

Parent's Name _____

Vacation Bible School
For Ages Preschool –5th Grade

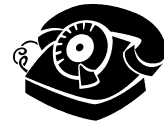
This year our Vacation Bible School will have a new look!! We are planning a Weekend Vacation Bible School! It will begin on Friday evening, August 15, from 5:30-8:00, and continue on Saturday, August 16, from 9:00-3:00, ending with a pool party at the city pool. The theme this year is Surfin' Through the Scriptures with craft, recreation, snack, Bible story time, discovery time, music and worship time.

If you would like to be involved as a worker we would love to have you participate--just contact the church office, Sherry Miller, Jackie Tidwell, Pam Crider, or Alisha Brittain.

Do you have any old telephones that you are not using?? (not cell phones)



The Preschool is looking for regular telephones, rotary style, punch button or cordless, to use in their dramatic play centers. If you have an old phone that you no longer use, please bring it by the Preschool. The children love to pretend in the Housekeeping Center. Thanks.



Summer Visitation Program

I would like to invite you to be a part of a visitation program this summer. Our goal is to visit as many homes in the Mexia area as possible, inviting the community to our church. If you would like to go and visit, you can meet me in the church parking lot on the following Wednesday evenings:

**July 2nd, 16th, 23rd
August 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th**

We will leave the parking lot at 6:00 p.m. and return by 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday. We are simply knocking on doors extending an invitation to church. I look forward to serving with you as we proclaim the gospel and share the love of Christ with our community.

Brad

Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University Class Forming

Last August our church hosted our first Financial Peace University Class. We had over 30 people from our church and community who participated and by all accounts, everyone benefited from taking the course. Financial Peace University is a 13-week course in personal finance. The topics that will be covered in the course include: Savings, How to Develop a Budget, Getting Out of Debt, Understanding Insurance, Understanding Investments, Retirement and College Planning, Careers, Giving, etc. This is a class for people of all ages and backgrounds. There will be a **free preview meeting on Monday, July 28th at 6:00 p.m.** in the fellowship hall. This meeting is designed to give you the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the program. The actual course will begin Monday, August 11th at 6:00 p.m. Karen Harrison and Alisha Brittain will be leading the course.

Mission Trip Shareholders Dinner

A special thank you goes out to all who supported our McCurdy mission trip this year through the shareholder program. As a way of saying, "Thank you", our mission trip team is going to host a dinner in honor of our shareholders on **Sunday, August 3rd at 6:00 p.m.** in the fellowship hall. If you are a shareholder you will receive a special invitation in the mail to attend the dinner. Thank you again from the entire McCurdy mission

Stephen Ministry Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to get our Stephen Ministry program off the ground. We especially would like to thank those who organized and served the hamburger lunch to raise funds for the program. Donna Williford and Pam Crider will be attending the Stephen Ministry training in Dallas later this month. When they get back from their training, Donna and Pam will be certified to train others in our church in becoming Stephen Ministers. More details in the August newsletter!

Air Conditioning Commitment Card Update

Special thanks to everyone who contributed to our fund raising efforts for our new air conditioning units over the past year. Last summer we had a total of \$32,778 committed towards the project, of which we have received \$28,850 to date. Thank you for going the extra mile to take care of our church facility!

How Many People Have We Invited?

As a church we invited 126 people to be a part of our church in the month of June! Thank you to everyone who has invited family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc. Each month we will report how many people in our community we invite to church. It is making a difference!



FUMC Seniors Clay Lewis and Michael Bowe with Rev. Brittain

To The First United Methodist church:

I want to extend my appreciation for the scholarship that I received for the upcoming school year.

I will be attending T.S.T.C. and this will greatly assist me in paying for college.

Thank you again for all your support.

Michael R. Bowe



To the United Methodist Women:

Than you for the wonderful luncheon you provided to me and my family for my graduation.

It was greatly appreciated.

God Bless

Michael R. Bowe



Welcome New Members

Jan and Tommy Puckett
Lisa, Charles & Brandon Paul

July Birthdays

1st—Sarah Crider-Dunn, Cash Ellis, 2nd—John Posey, Helen Stephens,
3rd—Sam McKeever, 5th—Hugh Ann Bankhead, 7th—Shelly Hullum,
8th—Ruth Collinsworth, Tom Irwin, Jimmy Thomas,
9th—James Dawley, 10th—Jim Clements, 11th—Sadie Edwards, Bette Thetford,
Payton Wallitsch, Tammy Platt, 12th—Estalee Price, Ruby Bailey,
13th—Molly Goodrum, 15th—Kyler Hancock, Joan Paschal,
19th—Clynt Platt, George Tidwell, 20th—Molly Flatt, 21st—Viola Moss,
22nd—Brittany Brady, 23rd—Kathy Nutt, 24th—Ann Pendleton,
25th—T.J. Hathaway, 27th—Anthony Branch, 30th—Ross Goodrum,
31st—Wayne Hughes



July Anniversaries



2nd—Jimmy & Noma Thomas, 6th—Gary & Vickie Beard,
7th—T.J. & Valaree Hathaway, Kathy & Richard Morgan,
9th—Starlene & Charles Yelverton, 11th—Michael & Sherry Miller,
19th—T.G. & Joan Temples, 24th—Randy & Tracy Machacek,
25th—Grandon & Annie Britt, 27th—Brad & Alisha Brittain

Memorials



Merl Shivers

Bob & Peggy
Frances Lenamon

Ken Kegerreis

Dan & Stephanie Vickery
Larry & Raylene Renfrow



Special FUMC Office Notice:

The FUMC Office will be closed on July 3rd and 4th for the Fourth of July weekend. The office will also be closed from July 7th through July 11th as Brad will be on the McCurdy Mission Trip and Mary will be out of town. We will be checking the voice mail and E-mails. If it is an emergency you can call Brad's cell 254-625-2435 or the McCurdy School at 505-753-7221.

**PART TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION
OPEN AT THE PRESCHOOL**

The Preschool is anticipating hiring a part time administrative assistant to help with accounting and record keeping approximately 20 hours per week. The position will require excellent computer skills, organizational skills, and people skills. The hours and salary are negotiable based on experience and education. If you are interested in applying please contact Sherry at the Preschool. *Deadline for applying is July 7th, 2008.*

July 24th

Deadline for the August Connections
Newsletter

Attendance for June

	<u>SS</u>	<u>Worship</u>
06/01	47	126
06/08	9	94
06/15	35	119
06/22	31	120
06/29	13	103

Your Church Staff

Brad Brittain, Pastor
Dr. Richard Morgan, Director of Music
Charlotte Posey, Christian Education/Program Coordinator
Wynona Lipsett, Organist
Mary Benson, Administrative Assistant/Fiscal Coordinator
Mike Bolton, 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.