



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

June 2008



... *“Caring Evangelism”*

Sunday, June 8th we will be beginning a new program entitled *“Caring Evangelism: Sharing Christ’s Love”*. This is a twelve-week program designed to help us become more comfortable with sharing our faith. There is not one person in this church who could not benefit from this time together and learning how to share our faith in Christ more effectively and most of all, more frequently. The class will meet Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall. We are asking that each Sunday school class consider coming together for this course throughout the summer. I will lead the first session on June 8th, with the other eleven sessions being led by various people within our congregation. None of us are “experts” in faith-sharing, but we are all called by Christ to share our faith with others in our own unique way. Just like we all have different personalities, we all communicate differently and can reach different people in different ways for Christ. I look forward to our time together and hope that you will take time to participate in this course. By the way, you do not have to be a part of an existing Sunday school class to participate. We want everyone to be involved.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
Jesus’ commission to the Church (Matthew 28:19-20)

In Christ,
Brad

Message from Program Coordinator, Charlotte Posey...

Our "Knit Together" group is continuing to grow. We will be having a dedication for this group on June 8 and taking requests for either a prayer shawl or a lap blanket. Please pray for our group to touch lives as we knit or crochet garments to give away in the spirit of Christ.

If you are interested in joining the group, please come any Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to the Fellowship Hall. Ardys Irwin is teaching knitting and we have others that are assisting her. We have had requests to start an evening group so please let us know if you would be interested in joining an evening knitting group.

Church Family,

This week the chairs of our Administrative Board met to discuss the condition and maintenance of our church facility. Our church facility consists of the sanctuary building, the fellowship hall, the Peyton Education building, and the surrounding grounds, and as a church we are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of all of those buildings and grounds. From our meeting we determined that it would be beneficial for us to have a church-wide meeting to discuss the current state of our buildings and grounds, as well as to outline a plan that is proactive rather than reactive when it comes to taking care of our church facility.

We want everyone to be informed on what our current building needs are, as well as how our maintenance needs are currently funded and how special projects will be funded in the future. We would love to have as many people as possible to come to this meeting to share ideas. We are the church together and as stewards of God's buildings we need to be intentional and proactive in not only maintaining God's buildings, but in thinking more long-term as to what purpose the buildings serve and how our facility reflects what we think about ourselves and God.

We have accomplished some major projects over the past two years and I look forward to continuing our progress as it relates to our church facility. We will be meeting *Thursday, June 19th at 7:00 p.m.* in the sanctuary. I'm excited about this opportunity to improve our church. See you on the 19th.

In Christ,

Rev. Brad Brittain

Summer Camp at Glen Lake!

It's time for summer camp at Glen Lake in Glen Rose, TX. Glen Lake Camp is the United Methodist Camp and Retreat Center for United Methodist churches throughout the Central Texas Conference. If you have kids who would like to go to camp, you may go to www.glenlake.org and find all the information you will need, including dates, costs, etc. Brad will be serving as one of the camp deans the week of June 8-13 for the junior high group. If anyone is in need of financial assistance to be able to go to camp, please let Brad know. We want as many kids as possible to have the opportunity to go to camp.



McCurdy Mission Trip Shareholder Project

We are taking fourteen adults to Espanola, New Mexico to work at McCurdy School on a mission trip. Last year we took seven from our congregation and are excited that we have doubled. If you would like to help us with the expenses of registration, room/board, travel expenses, etc., we invite you to become a shareholder in the program. A share in the mission trip is \$50, but we would gladly accept any donation to help with the trip. All shareholders and supporters of the mission trip will be invited to a dinner in August where we will share stories and experiences from the trip, as well as announce the week we will be going next summer. Checks for this project can be made payable to FUMC Mexia Memo: mission trip. Thank you for your support!

Box Top Reminder

The Parley Wiggins Circle is still collecting Box Tops for the McCurdy Mission School. The box tops will be sent with the Mission Team in July. This is a school in a poverty stricken area which is sponsored by the Methodist Church. Collecting the Box Tops for Education is one method they use to supply some of their educational needs. Just clip off the Box Tops for Education square and bring it to the collection box in the church foyer. Thanks so much.

United Methodist Women Day Circle News

Lois Willett gave our program for March. The program was titled, "Peace: Journeying to Claim It." It compared the freedom of the U. S. women to the Middle East women. Lois read from Micah and the program book, which was very informative and interesting.

The program for April 21st was given by Bette Thetford . The program was entitled "Icing on the Cake", and used the analogy that the cake is the foundation for the icing — as mission giving is the foundation of our mission work. On Friday April 25th, we met at the Fellowship Hall to pack the cookies for the General Conference in Ft. Worth. The next day they were taken to Ft. Worth. Our thanks to every one that helped us on this project.

May 19th our program was given by Linda Kegerreis. The title was "Talitha Cumi (little girl)." The program told how little girls are sometimes treated in foreign countries. A very moving program.

Sunday May 25th was our senior lunch. Two senior, their families, Brad, and Hugh Ann were present for a ham lunch. Thanks to all the Parley Wiggins group for preparing the lunch.

God Bless to all.

Sammie Carter, Secretary

Message from Preschool Director Sherry Miller....

PRESCHOOLERS TO ENJOY SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The children of First Methodist Preschool (FMP) begin their summer term on Monday, June 2nd. Many special and fun activities will be happening at FMP this summer. In addition to our normal learning centers, chapel, music, and daily schedules there will be special times with students from Mexia High School.

These MHS students will lead Basketball, Football, Baseball, Twirling, Cheerleading, and Flags to the students who want to participate in these special classes. We will also have a week long dance camp as well as weekly gymnastics and computer classes.

A highlight of our summer is participation in the Gibbs Library Summer Reading Program. This will kick off on Tuesday, June 10th with a special program at the library featuring the Ringling Brothers Circus Clowns. The theme of the reading program is "Texas Reading Club Jubilee" with cowboy clowns and more. We will attend weekly story hours at the library from July 1st – July 24th. Children will have an opportunity to earn special prizes based on the number of books they read (or they have read to them) depending on their ages.

We look forward to a fun summer at FMP in 2008.

POSITIONS FILLED AT THE PRESCHOOL

The Preschool is happy to announce two new positions have been filled here at the Preschool.

Literacy and Language Development Specialist, Alisha Brittain will begin Aug. 1st in this position and will work with every age group at the Preschool with an emphasis on 3 – 5 year olds. Alisha is a professional educator with 7 years experience in Elementary Education and holds a Reading and Math Specialization. She will be bringing new ideas and activities that support literacy development and we look forward to having her at FMP.

Lead Teacher Upstairs, Anetress Mathews, begins her new position on June 1st and will be responsible for planning and setting up age appropriate learning centers for upstairs classes (age 3-5). She has been employed by the Preschool for almost 8 years. She is working on her A. A. S. Degree in Child Development at Navarro College and we look forward to the experience and skills she will share with upstairs teachers and children.

Message from our Youth Group...

Youth Group Continues during the Summer

Just a reminder...even though there's a break from school, the youth group keeps on meeting during the summer. (Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m.). The kids are excited about growing in faith and learning to be more Christ-like. How can you take a break from that?

Jill Flatt is currently leading the lessons for Sr. High youth and Kortney Kelsey is leading the Jr. High. Gael McKeever and Clint Flatt help out where needed. Any adults are welcome to join us. Come see firsthand what's going on with our youth. One of the neatest things the youth have planned is the summer work projects. We'll be going out on Wednesday evenings to do work in and around church members' homes. This is not a fundraiser; rather the youth want to serve God shoulder to shoulder (Zephaniah 3:9) to help others in need. Nothing like putting faith in action!

Of course, the youth also like to have fun. We'll be going to the Texas Rangers game on Monday, June 2nd, a paint ball park on Saturday, June 7th and to the lake on Saturday, June 14th. Gee, what will we do the rest of the month?

The youth want to thank everyone who has been participating in the M&M (Mission & Ministry) fundraiser. To date, we've collected **\$291.25**. We've got plenty more M&M tubes, so when you run out please see any youth on Wednesdays and Sundays and we'll be happy to give you another. The youth are thankful for the support they receive from the church. *You're awesome!*

Youth Need Summer Projects!!



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!**



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.



Message for the Children's Sunday School Department....

What do you recycle at your house? Every day people throw away more garbage and every day more of our beautiful earth is being filled with more garbage dumps and landfills. With a little effort we can reduce the amount of garbage we throw away by recycling and reusing things. The children's Sunday School classes will be learning about creation and becoming good stewards of God's world. One of our activities will be recycling bins (We will let you know when we have a location.) to collect glass bottles, aluminum and newspapers. Will you help us recycle and keep God's earth a clean and beautiful place to live? We will let you know when you can start bringing in your recyclables.

Thank you for helping us!

Jackie Tidwell

2008 FUMC Scholarship

The First United Methodist Church Scholarship Committee has announced the following Scholarship winners for the 2008-2009 school year and the schools they will be attending:



Kortney Kelsey
Shelby Bolton
Scott Bolton
John Irwin
Tommy Irwin
Morris Maner
Michael Bowe

Navarro College
Texas A & M University
Texas A & M University
Sam Houston State University
Blinn College
Navarro College
TSTC, Waco

Scholarship Committee Chairman , Arthur Nutt
Members, Phyllis Brubaker & Ann Neill

Welcome New Members

Micah & Brooke Anderson

June Birthdays

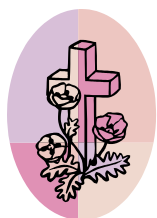
3rd—Jean Marie Williford, 5th—Valerie Bolton, 8th—Sonia Kendall,
9th—Valaree Hathaway, 15th—Jean Blunt, 20th—Matthew Paschal,
21st—Jean Williford, 22nd—LouAnn Williford, 23rd—Connie
Colon, Larry Hensley, 24th—Cheryl Hancock, 25th—Kent Kendall,
Nell Robinson, 26th—Bill Goswick, Sammie Carter, Dave Weihausen,
29th—Joe Paschal, 30—Randy Kott



June Anniversaries



5th—Clint & Jill Flatt, 7th—Larry & Hermine Sewell,
11th—Brandi & Trevor Owen, 13th—Greg & Kay Goodrum,
14th—Lewis & Jean Blunt, 16th—Margaret & Wayne Jackson,
17th—Brian & Shelly Hullum, 24th—Sheila & Chris Wallitsch,
26th—Brenda & Woody Woodruff, Dan & Sue Franks, Art & Kathy Nutt,
27th—Randy & Joclyn Ewers, 28th—Bill & Lula Goswick, JC & Betty Hawkins,
29th— Carl & Jean Williford, 30th—Wynona & Don Lipsett



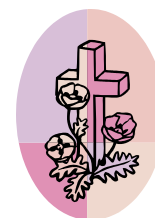
Memorials

Merl Shivers

John & Charlotte Posey,
Marion and Louise Howze,
James & Diana Bradley,
Pam & Bob Crider,
Lillie May Atkins,
Gary, Vickie, Lindsey and Austin Beard,

Gary Huckabee

Donna & Gary Findley



Reserving the Sanctuary and/or Fellowship Hall

In order to avoid conflicts we are asking that when you want to reserve the Sanctuary and/or the Fellowship Hall you first contact the FUMC office. The office has a form that needs to be filled out before any reservations are made. Your date will then be reserved on the calendar and the right staff will be notified as to how and when to have the Sanctuary and/or Fellowship Hall ready for your event.

Thank you for your help with this matter.

Attendance for May

	<u>SS</u>	<u>Worship</u>
05/04	55	155
05/11	9	145
05/18	46	123
05/28	50	132

**Update on Heating/Air
Commitment Cards**

Committed: \$43, 682.00
Received: \$26,803.00

June 24

Deadline for the July
Newsletter

Organ Update

We have raised the amount needed.
Thank You!

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.