

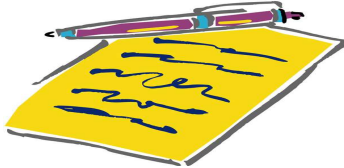


## THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

June & July, 2011



**Thank You FUMC Mexia!**

Alisha and I wanted to say thank you to the congregation for all you have done for us over the past five years. When we were appointed to Mexia Ben and Andrew were five and two. Now they are ten and seven! Time flies! It has been a real joy serving as your parsonage family and growing in faith with you. When I look back on all the ministries we have accomplished together I thank God for putting us together. I have not only enjoyed being your pastor but have equally enjoyed being your friend and look forward to continuing the relationships we have formed here in Mexia. I am excited about the appointment of the Koch family as your new parsonage family and know that you will be as gracious to them as you have been to us. It is my prayer that you and the Koch family expand the ministries we have begun together and create new ones. I leave you with this passage from I John 4:19 "We love because He first loved us." Remember that verse. We love not to earn God's love and grace towards us but in response to the grace that God has given to us in Jesus Christ. Life is a gift. Love one another.

In Christ,

Brad

## **Koch Family**

Kory, Holly, Nora, Sam & Ben



### **About Me**

My experiences in childhood and my professional life have led me to be the pastor and person I am today. My passions in ministry are missions, preaching and evangelism. Working to help others through missions is a vital part of my life. I serve as a member of the CTCYM Advisory Board, where I am able to help plan the conference youth mission trips. I especially enjoy working on wheelchair ramps. I believe that the church is meant to be the hands and feet of Christ. I also get very excited about worship, and I love to preach relevant sermon series. My passions in life are my family, fishing, and spending time with friends. A great day for me is spent with my family out on the lake on my boat.

### **My Family**

I met my wife, Holly, while we were students at Texas A&M University. We dated for three years before getting married in 1998. Soon after, we moved to Illinois, where Holly worked towards her second bachelor's degree in music from Greenville College, which she earned in 2000. Holly began her church career while she was a student, when she became the choir director at the First Baptist Church of Greenville. Since that time, she has served at First United Methodist, Colleyville, White's Chapel United Methodist Church in Southlake and First United Methodist, Springtown, where we began a time of joint ministry.

Our daughter, Nora, was born in 2005. Nora is very excited about starting kindergarten this year. She loves to sing and has already sung a couple of solos in church. She loves reading, playing outside and using her imagination. In October of 2009 our sons, Sam & Ben were born. They are full of energy and keep us very busy.

### **My Childhood**

My father is a pastor in the United Methodist Church, so I grew up as a PK (preacher's kid). I became familiar with the blessings and hardships of ministry at a young age. Some of my fondest memories as a child are of going with my dad to serve home communion to people who were either homebound, or in nursing homes or were too ill to attend church.

### **College and the Military**

After graduating from LD Bell High School in Hurst, I went to Texas A&M University to pursue an engineering degree. Two years into my degree plan, I took a break and joined the US Army. During my three-year tour of duty, I was stationed in Germany in a mechanized infantry unit. In addition to my military service, I was privileged to travel to almost all of the Western European countries and even into a few of the Eastern European countries.

Upon completing my tour of duty, I returned to Texas A&M University to finish my engineering degree. Immediately upon returning to A&M, I became active at the Wesley Foundation, the Methodist Student Center, where I grew tremendously as a disciple through worship, small groups, fellowship and mission trips. I served as the student council chairperson during my senior year.

For six years after my graduation from A&M, I worked in environmental engineering, working primarily on landfills.

### **Seminary and Professional Experience**

In 2001, I finally answered God's call on my life to enter the ordained ministry. In 2003, I began seminary at Brite Divinity School and took my first pastoral appointment to the Italy/Milford charge where I served for a little over three years. In January of 2007, we moved from Italy to Springtown because I was appointed as the pastor at First United Methodist Church, Springtown. I graduated from Brite Divinity School in 2007, and I was ordained as a full elder in 2010.

*Message from Preschool Director, Sherry Miller.....*

News From First Methodist Preschool

Summer 2011 is here! There are lots of activities and special happenings and the children and staff are looking forward to the summer months. Details of the summer calendar were in your May newsletter. If you need this information again, let us know. Public school does not start until Aug. 22 this year, so we have lots of summer days ahead. Our Fall term officially starts on August 22. Please join us anytime you can for any of our special summer activities.

Reading: Dig Up a Good Book with Dinosaurs  
(Summer Reading Program 2011 – Gibbs Memorial Library)  
June 28 – July 28

FMP will again be participating in the summer reading program at Gibbs Memorial Library. This year's theme is "Dig Up a Good Book". Each child in Groups 2 through 4/6 will have the opportunity to earn a special reward from the library by reading a required number of books (or for non readers having the books read to them) by July 28. We will keep reading logs here at Preschool for the books read here. All books must come from Gibbs Library. GROUP 4/6 will attend the story time at Gibbs Library at 2:30 on Thursdays beginning June 30,  
**READING PROGRAM END PARTY!**

Groups 2 and 3 will attend the "end" party here at FMP on Thurs. Aug. 4.  
Group 4/6 will go to Mexia Civic Center on Wed., Aug 3 for their end party.

**SUMMER CAMPS BEGIN IN JUNE**

Please notice the list posted in the hallway of children who have registered for Summer Camps which are led by Mexia High School Students. These begin June 13<sup>th</sup>. There is still space so come by the office if you want to register. \*NOTE THE DATE CHANGES \*

June 13 – 17           Flags  
June 20 – 24           Cheerleading  
June 27 – July 1       Twirling

**DAILY CHAPEL TIME**

We continue this summer with chapel time for all groups each morning. The chapel times will be based on a Bible story for the week and will also include prayer time, music and activities. We think that daily chapel time is important and we always try to emphasize Christian Education and want each child to grow in understanding and love for themselves, their families and others in the world. We also want each child to grow in awareness that God loves them and Jesus is a special friend! Ask your child about their Bible story they learned at Daily Chapel Times.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
GROUP 4 AND 6**

***JUNE 6 – 9 (MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY) THESE TWO GROUPS WILL PARTICIPATE IN VBS Shake it Up Café FROM 8:30 AM TO 11:30 AM.***

Hey MYF and families!!

Can you believe the end of another MYF season is here??? It is amazing how fast time flies. We want to wish our 2011 Graduates: Alexia Bowe, Sam McKeever, and Collin Bailey. CONGRATULATIONS and the best of luck in their adventures. We have enjoyed our time with you.

We also want to thank Mrs. Gael McKeever for donating her time for the past 4 YEARS to our MYF group. She has been our dedicated parent helper and backbone of our MYF since Sam joined our youth. Since Sam will be graduating, she will be helping him transition into other parts of our church and community. I will certainly miss her company and support. THANK YOU MRS. GAEL!! WE LOVE YOU.... And will miss you!!!! On that note, if anyone is interested in helping with the youth, I will need a helper each Wednesday starting this fall. If you can only help one time to one month at a time, I would appreciate any and all help.

We had a super time at Mr. and Mrs. Simmons house to celebrate our Seniors and our successful year. Thank you for letting us use your beautiful pool. We are very fortunate to have a loving church family. And what a time we had!! Splashing and eating and laughing!!!

Here is a recap for you: Our year started off with a bang! Over the Summer, we helped with Vacation Bible School and Wonderful Wednesdays. We had a back to school bash and helped with Beth Moore Simulcast in September. We had our Youth Service and Trunk or Treat in October, traveled to Corsicana to see a movie together in November, and went caroling to our Nursing homes and Bowie House as well as having a LIVE nativity scene in December. We had our Lock-In in January, Concerts in February (WinterJam) and April (Rock and Worship Roadshow), and had a wonderful set of lessons on the 7 deadly sins in March and April. We held a pancake supper fundraiser in March, and helped with the Fish Fry in April, as well as having Movie Nights every month!!!

We have a few upcoming events in the Month of June! (We will not meet regularly during the Months of June, July, and part of August.)

June 6 – 9- MYF will help with the Vacation Bible School!! June 15<sup>th</sup> – we will babysit the Koch's children so they can move in from noon until 5, then travel to the city pool to swim or hang out. June 26<sup>th</sup> Movie Night or Outing. I would like to go back to Corsicana if we can. HOPE YOU CAN JOIN THE FUN!!

JOY AND PEACE,

*Mrs. Jill*

A message from UMW.....

The UMW hosted a luncheon for our graduating seniors and their families and some friends on May 15th in the fellowship hall. The honorees were Alexia Bowe, Sam McKeever and Collin Bailey.

Diane Burkes prepared an outstanding meal along with her helpers, Tracy Machacek, Cheryl Hancock and Sue Franks. Hugh Ann Bankhead and Bette Thetford did a great job of decorating with a beautifully set table and decorations in all the school colors. Linda and Craig Kegerreis took turns with the camera and are going to make a CD for the graduating seniors to remember the luncheon. Craig also gave a short devotional that really fit the occasion.


We just want to thank again everyone who participated in preparing for the luncheon and those who attended. What fun and fellowship we all had. Congratulations to Alexia, Sam and Collin and know our prayers and love go with you. We wish you well in all of your future endeavors.

We will be having a book review and tea Sunday, August 7th. Nan Brown will be bringing us her entertaining review. Please mark your calendars.

Bette Thetford

To the First United Methodist Church,  
Thank you very much for the scholarship that I received while attending TSTC.  
Michael Roy Bowe

To the First United Methodist Women,  
Thank you for the wonderful family luncheon for my high school graduation including the plaque and photo album. It was greatly appreciated.  
Alexia Marie Bowe



**Memorial**

**Steve Coffey**  
Donna & Buddy Williford

**Joyce & Randy Johnson**  
Rebecca Bosley



### June Birthdays

5th—Valerie Bolton; 8th—Sonia Kendall; 9th—Valaree Hathaway;  
15th—Jean Blunt; 20th—Cindy Neubauer; 22nd—LouAnn Williford; 23rd—  
Connie Colon, Larry Hensley; 24th—Cheryl Hancock; 25th—Kent Kendall;  
26th—David Weihausen; 29th—Joe Paschal, Clare Bowe

### July Birthdays

1st—Sarah Crider, Cash Ellis; 2nd—Peyton Allen, John Posey, Helen Stephens;  
3rd—Sam McKeever; 5th—Hugh Ann Bankhead, Jan Puckett; 7th—Shelly Hullum,  
Neal Bowe; 8th—Ruth Collinsworth, Tom Irwin, 9th—James Dawley; 11th—Bette Thetford,  
Payton Wallitsch; 12th—Ruby Bailey, 13th—Carmen Hinton, Ernest McFarland;  
15th—Kyler Hancock, Joan Paschal; 19th—George Tidwell, Sharon Beene;  
20th—Molly Flatt; 21st—Viola Moss; 22nd—Brittany Brady; 23rd—Kathy Nutt;  
24th—Ann Pendleton; 25th—T.J. Hathaway; 26th—Elaine Bounds; 30th—Ross Goodrum;  
31st—Wayne Hughes

### 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—JC & Betty Hawkins; 30th—Wynona & Don Lipsett

### July Anniversaries

7th—T.J. & Valaree Hathaway, Karen & Walt Harrison; 11th—Michael & Sherry Miller;  
19th—T.G. & Joan Temples; 24th—Randy & Tracy Machacek; 25th—Grandon & Annie Britt

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



To the First United Methodist Church,  
Thank you so much for the Bible that I received upon my high school graduation. Also, receiving a scholarship will greatly assist me with college costs.  
Thank you for being such a big part of my life.  
Alexia Marie Bowe

## Announcements

### **Vacation Bible School -- Shake it Up!**

We would like to invite children in our community to Shake It Up! -- our VBS program this summer. VBS will be the week of June 6-9th from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. You may register your children by calling the church office or coming by and completing a registration form. The Shake it Up program connects cooking with biblical lessons and should be a lot of fun for the kids.

### **McCurdy Fundraiser Lunch**

On Sunday, June 5th after our 10:30 a.m. worship service, we will have a baked potato lunch in the fellowship hall to help support our team from the church going to McCurdy this summer. Our church has supported the McCurdy School in Espanola for the past five years and looks forward to another great mission trip. Thank you to all those who have supported the trip in the past and will do so again this year.

### **Annual Conference**

This year the Central Texas Conference will be having its Annual Conference in Waco the week of June 5-8. Michael and Sherry Miller will be serving as our lay delegates at Annual Conference. If you would like to attend any of the special worship services, they will be held at FUMC Waco the evenings of the 5th, 6th, and 7th. For worship times and more information on Annual Conference go to [www.ctcumc.org](http://www.ctcumc.org)

### **Welcome our New Pastor**

Kory Koch's first Sunday as pastor of FUMC Mexia will be June 19th. We are excited about welcoming Kory, Holly, Nora, Sam, and Ben. The Kochs are excited about serving here in Mexia and are looking forward to meeting all of you. Please join us as we welcome our new parsonage family!

### **Your Church Staff**

Rev. Brad Brittain, Pastor  
Arthur Nutt, Director of Music  
Wynona Lipsett, Organist  
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.