



“Lessons From an Improvised Paint Stick”

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped paint the church office. When I started painting it was clear to everyone that I needed some serious help, and a few kind souls rolled up their sleeves and pitched in – Mary Benson, Jim Benson, John Burks, Barbara Owens and Lowell Posey.

The first day we painted I realized I had not picked up any paint sticks to stir the paint. So I improvised and used a wooden ruler. However, this wasn't just an everyday run of the mill ruler. This ruler had a message. On the back of the ruler were ideas on how to manage stress. I thought that was appropriate since my office was a disaster area and we hadn't even really begun the project!

Listen to what the ruler had to say: Enjoy the moment – Celebrate each day – Release the past – Develop a sense of humor – Learn to forgive – Build a quiet space into each day – Learn to accept shortcomings -- Put your focus outside yourself and on others – Exercise – Find something to care about and believe in.

I'm not suggesting we replace the Bible with my improvised “paint stick”, but I think we can all gain something from the words. We can all learn to enjoy the moment. We can all learn how to forgive. We can all take time for others. And last but not least, as Christians we have something to care about and believe in. His name is Jesus Christ and there is a hurting world out there that needs to know Him. What can you do to share Christ with others?

In Christ,

Brad

Message from Your Music Director—Richard Morgan

Words are powerful. Words and music combined are more powerful still. I hope that, as we travel through the season of Lent, you will pay attention to the words of our hymns and anthems. Let them provide material for your meditation throughout the week. Remember our anthem last Sunday (February 25)? *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world*, but to save it. Lent does not have to be a “downer” season, when you consider such an idea. Our religious experience is not about condemnation, but about repentance and salvation and love and peace and . . . And we could go on and on, with what meditations that anthem can trigger.

On March 4, our anthem will be *Heavenly Light*, which has this phrase: “Thy rays were given on great and small to shine,” reminding us that the Light of Christ shines on all creation.

Powerful words, powerful ideas, expressively enhanced by music. May you find blessings in our anthems and hymns in this season.

Richard

Message from Youth Ministry Director—Walt Harrison

This week I was driving down the road near where I work and I saw something that made my heart turn a flip. I saw a couple of puppies stick their head up out of a bar ditch next to a culvert. Now this location was not right in front of someone’s house, this was out in the middle of, scratch that, you had to pass nowhere to get to where these puppies were. I had to pass that location 2 more times that day and finally I called Karen and told her what I wanted to do. Of course she agreed with me (she is a bigger softie than I am), so we went that night to pick up the 3 dogs that I thought were there. When we arrived at the puppies location not 3 dogs greeted us but 5. So we took them home and now I am at the story I really want to tell you....

I began to watch the puppies and their habits. When one puppy would wander around our yard he was very cautious and alert. But when two puppies would head out they were unstoppable! Nothing seems to bother them. Then at night when they would all lay down they would all huddle up into one great big puppy ball. It looked so safe and secure I wanted to get in there with them.

Don’t you think that Christians are like those puppies? When we try to go it alone seems like we don’t cover a lot of ground for looking around. When we take a buddy it’s a lot easier to tackle anything. After all don’t I remember something about 2 by 2? And when we get home and are with our family, is that not the greatest feeling in the world! No matter how hard my day has been after I have been around our youth the world seems to melt away and that also goes for my church family as well.

We have an exciting time ahead of our youth group. We are gearing up for Acquire the Fire. For those of you who don't remember what Acquire the Fire is, it's a two day event that is designed to be an in your face approach to who our Lord is and what the world is not. It was an awesome time last year and I expect it to be the same this year.

The last Sunday of Spring break (March 18) will be the Iron Man competition and hamburger lunch. I know you have to eat so come and join us and bring your checkbook be prepared to laugh till it hurts!

I also would like to ask all of you to pray for our youth. My heart has been breaking over the last month for what these young people have to deal with. I want you to pray for them to stay in the Word and stay connected with Christian peers to keep the evils of the world from taking over their lives. Just remember that the God we serve is greater than the world we live in.

I also want to thank all of you on behalf of my sister and her husband, Crystal and Michael Dunn for your prayers for their new baby Aubrie Ann. Aubrie is home now and doing well. Karen and I could not be more proud of our little niece unless she was ours!

In Christ,
Walt

Message from Christian Education/Program Coordinator—Charlotte Posey

Didn't we have a great time at the Valentine Dinner? Thank you guys for the hard work. I believe all of us ladies felt loved and appreciated. And the food was delicious. The quartet did an outstanding job of entertaining us. It was fun laughing and reminiscing. Thank you everyone for participating.

March 18 – We will be offering a new Beth Moore study, "A Heart Like His," during the Sunday School hour for all women interested. Brenda Woodruff and I will be co-leading the group. This is a wonderful study of David.

Message from Children's Coordinator—Cheryl Hancock

Greetings from the Peacekeepers. We have been having lots of fun with our lock-in in January and visiting the Haven, the Manor and the Bowie House on Valentine's Day in February. We are also working very hard at our Peacekeepers Ringers handchime group each Wednesday night. In March we are planning to make St. Patrick's treats to hand out. We also have 8 members of the Peacekeepers attending the confirmation class.

In our thoughts and prayers...

Robin Adams Melody Anderson Michael L. Bowe James Bowe
Edward Didier Michael, Crystal and Aubrie Dunn
Paul Dunn Jean Hancock Debbie Hullum Stacia Kiehl
Mike and Mary Ann Ray
Sallie Ramsey Hermine Sewell Don Seubert
Beata Schueller Woodrow Wilson

Our American Troops in Iraq

Blessings from F.U.M.C. Preschool

First Methodist Preschool wants to thank our church family for the “blessing” we received when you all gave so generously so that we could purchase our new oven. We are so excited. It is in place and in use to cook for the 100+ children who experience God’s love here at FMP.

The full blessing basket was more than money to buy a stove. It represented to us the love and support of this church for our Preschool program. Everyone gave so joyfully and THAT was the best blessing of all. Thanks to you all!

Much love, Sherry

Bob and Pam Crider are having a Celebration to honor their friends on Saturday, March 31st at the Mexia Civic Center. Please come at 6 PM for refreshments and fellowship. The entertainment starts at 8 PM. If you want to be in style with the entertainers, wear an Elvis suit. Bob is wearing a Hawaiian shirt so everyone dress very casually. Please RSVP with names to: P.O. Box 988, Mexia, TX 76667 or cox@glade.net or 254-562-5149. This is gonna be fun, so mark your calendars now for this event.

Thank You from Gods' Gang

To: Our Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the wonderful Christmas gifts. We cannot express how much it means to these kids. If you could only see the delight in their face. You would know what a blessing you truly are.

From: Sue Franks, Valerie Bolton, Ann Neill, Joan Paschal, Julia Hamilton, Cindy Bullard, Wilma Wilson, Pam Crider and Jackie Tidwell.

**"BELIEVING GOD": BETH MOORE WOMEN'S
BIBLE STUDY BEGINS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7**

Please join us for our next women's Bible study beginning Wednesday, March 7th. We will be studying Beth Moore's *Believing God* which is an in-depth study of Hebrews Chapter 11. During this study we will explore what we know about God and what we believe about Him which are two very different things.

The group will meet in the Parlor from 6-7 p.m. each Wednesday and continue for 20 weeks, concluding the study in July. Please note that we will not meet during Spring Break (March 14th) or July 4th.

If you have any questions or would like to reserve a study guide, please contact Gael McKeever at 729-2914 or email mckeever@copper.net.

ACOLYTE WORKSHOP SUNDAY, MARCH 25th

There will be an acolyte workshop immediately after morning worship on Sunday, March 25th. All current acolytes plus any who are interested in serving as acolytes are invited to take part.

The focus of the workshop will be the significance of Holy Week, including Palm Sunday and Easter. Please join us for this very special event. Lunch will be served and the workshop will conclude at 1:00 p.m. If you need additional information, contact Gael McKeever at 729-2914 or email mckeever@copper.net.

Peacekeepers will not meet on March 14th due to Spring Break.

Nominating Committee Meeting -- This Sunday, March 4th at 11:45 a.m.

The Nominating Committee will be meeting immediately after the 10:30 a.m. worship service to nominate a Long-Range Planning Committee for the church.

Don't Forget Daylight Savings Time – Sunday March 11

Choir Concert – Sunday, March 25th 6:00 p.m.

The choir from **Christ United Methodist Church in College Station, TX** will be singing here at FUMC Mexia on Sunday, March 25th at 6:00 p.m. We will be serving the choir a meal at 5:00 p.m. before the concert, and will have a reception following the concert at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 5th Meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 6th Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 8th Sunrise Service 7:00 a.m. in Courtyard, Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Easter Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Welcome our Newest Staff Person – Charlotte Posey

Charlotte Posey is joining our staff in a part-time position as Christian Education / Program Coordinator. We are excited about the new and different programs that our church will be offering. We look forward to involving more members in the ministry of the church. Charlotte will be working to coordinate and help with the process of involving more members in various ministries. Send her an e-mail: charlotte@fumcmexia.org

Confirmation Class Mentors

If you volunteered to be a mentor for one of our Confirmation students, please join us this Sunday for lunch after church and for our class. We will match up mentors and students at the meeting. The lunch and class concludes at 1:00 p.m. Thank you for your willingness to serve!

Congratulation to Michael Miller who has been selected by the Texas Public Employees Association to receive the *Unsung Hero Award* for his excellent work with the Epiphany Program at Mexia State School. Michael has been the primary person involved in establishing and coordinating the Epiphany Program for the juvenile offender client population at Mexia State School. He is one of two recipients from over 50 nominations.

March Birthdays

1st—Connie Carter, Kay Goodman, 2nd—Jack Forest, 3rd—Chris McCulloch, 4th—Brittany Fulmer, Joey Lane, 5th—Austin Beard, Kenneth Paschal, Lowell Posey, 8th—Benjamin Brittain, 9th—Dawn McKeand, Zane Ward, 10th—T.D. Shivers, Nathaniel Nance, 12th—John Burks, Lane Neill, Tracy Machacek, 14th—Carol Ann Dawley, 16th—Tad Burroughs, 19th—Clint Flatt, 21st—Larry Baccus, Ann Neill, 22nd—Kamry Brown, Colton Brady, Patsy Henry, 24th—Jackson McCulloch, 27th—Annie V. Britt, Loda Crutchfield, 28th—Wynona Lipsett, 29th—Tammy McCulloch, 30th Bob Fain

March Anniversaries

9th—Joe and Kathy Paschal 16th—Allen and Joy Johnson,
22nd—Craig and Linda Kegerreis

**Memorial Gifts Honoring
Hubert Harrison**

Gary and Donna Findley,
Kyle, Cheryl, Katelinn
and Kyler Hancock,
Sonia Kendall

Attendance in February

	<u>SS</u>	<u>Worship</u>
2/04	64	146
2/11	78	139
2/18	75	152
2/25	85	157

Tours for 2007 Rally

At Glen Rose

April 17 & 18

(Tours of Ft. Worth, Fossil Rim Wildlife Center & Dinosaur Valley St. Park

National United Methodist Campers, Inc.

Registration For 2007 Rally

Tres Rios Camp, Glen Rose, TX

April 19-22

Living The Faith

(Pick up your Registration & Tour itinerary in the church office)

Reminder

The deadline for submitting an article for the April FUMC Connection is March 21st.
Contact the church office for ways to submit your article.

Your Church Staff

Brad Brittain, Pastor

Dr. Richard Morgan, Director of Music

Walt Harrison, Minister of Youth

Cheryl Hancock, Children's Coordinator

Charlotte Posey, Christian Education/Program Coordinator

Wynona Lipsett, Organist

Mary Benson, Administrative Assistant/Fiscal Coordinator

Lowell Posey, Building Maintenance

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.

Office 254-562-5567



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