



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

March, 2009

... *“Mind Your Own Business”*

Last Saturday I had the opportunity to serve as a judge for the power lifting meet here in Mexia. Mexia High School hosted the event which included schools from all around the area. You are probably wondering why I was asked to be a judge in a power lifting contest. Believe me, I asked the same question when I was asked if I would be a judge! First of all, I had never even been to a power lifting meet, much less judged one, and as you can tell by my physique, I haven't spent a whole lot of time in my life hanging out in the gym lifting weights. But I thought it would be fun so I decided to give it a try. When I arrived at the school this big guy who had arms the size of my legs greeted me and told me I would be working with him at the squatting station. He then gave me a quick tutorial on how to properly judge someone doing a power squat. My task was to make sure the contestant squatted low enough. So I sat in a chair and watched these kids squat for two hours. One of the kids squatted 800 pounds!

Each of the judges were equipped with a switch that operated a light. If you flipped the switch one way then the light would light up red. If you flipped the other way it would light up white. White was good and red was bad. So if they didn't squat low enough, I flipped the switch to red. I thought to myself, "It's kind of sad that these kids train hard for this event and are being judged by someone like me who wouldn't know a squat if it slapped him in the face." I did enjoy the event, but it was a little intimidating trying to judge something I wasn't all that familiar with.

As hard as it was judging a power lifting competition, I can't imagine what it must be like for God to judge us. It's one thing to judge whether or not a kid goes low enough on a squat, but quite another to judge the fate of a human being's soul. I'm glad God has that job and not us, but sometimes we put ourselves in the place of God and judge others when we have no business judging. In Romans Paul wrote, "Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or why, do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God...So then, each of us will be accountable to God." (Romans 11:10-12) That's another way of saying, "Mind your own business, love others, and let God be God."

In Christ,
Brad

Message from Preschool Director Sherry Miller...

Safety and Security Procedures First Methodist Preschool
EVERY CHILD MUST ENTER and DEPART AT
KAUFMAN STREET MAIN DOOR
Effective March 1st, 2009

Staff Members and the Governing Board of First Methodist Preschool have met recently with our State Licensing Representative and a consultant from Baylor University to review and revise our safety and security procedures.

As we look at other large child care programs, we have decided to make some changes in an effort to provide the safest and most secure facility possible and add some new technology and equipment in the process.

Effective March 1st all doors of our facility will remain locked throughout the day – (except for the Kaufman Street Main door at peak arrival and departure times). Everyone bringing children to Preschool will need to use the Kaufman Street main entrance.

If someone comes to the other entrances they will find them locked with signs which direct them to go to the main door. This main door will only be open from 7:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. in the morning and from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the afternoons. If we have visitors at any other times they will need to ring the bell at the main door to get admittance. Arriving and departing children MUST use the Kaufman Street Main Entrance.

All our doors are equipped with panic hardware which allow easy exit from the inside in case of emergency. This meets state minimum standards and also city safety codes.

Children will still exit the building for playground outside time from the parking lot door. The staff members outside will be equipped with 2 way radios which allow them to talk to the office or kitchen staff if they need anything. They will also be requesting a lead teacher or director to come to the playground to escort each class back inside at the end of their playground time. We feel these additional safety measures and procedures are in the best interest of all children enrolled and will bring even greater peace of mind to the families we serve. If you have questions or comments, please call Sherry at 254-562-7822. Thanks.

Message from Youth Director, Kortney Kelsey...

The youth have been taking time to sit back and work on issues with friendship, prayer, and turning towards God when we need help. This month however we will be taking our annual trip to the Dallas Battle Cry event. It's a weekend trip where the kids can enjoy some of their favorite Christian bands, and be involved in some strong worship. Every year we take a group of kids to this event and it has become a major part of our year. This year we are taking a total of 13 kids to Battle Cry, and we ask for your prayers to help the kids hold on to what they find at this years event. Thank you for everyone's help and prayers.

Purpose of United Methodist Women

**The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God
and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ;
to develop a creative supportive fellowship;
and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the Church.**

Message from Parley Wiggins Circle of UMW, Kathy Paschal, Secretary.....

The Parley Wiggins Circle of United Methodist Women met for their monthly meeting Monday night on February 9th, 2009. The meeting was led by President Sue Franks. The meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7pm in the Parlor of the Fellowship Hall. Several items of business were discussed including the collection of box tops and the planning of future events for the Circle.

The program was given by Jackie Tidwell titled "Agape Love Feast". The meaning of Agape Love was discussed. It is to share in the celebration of Christ. Each member talked about the people who have had an impact on their faith. A prayer was said for each person named.

We missed those members who were not able to be there and we welcome any new members who would like to join us. If anyone would like to know more about our great group, please contact Sue Franks or Kathy Paschal. We would love to have you with us.

The next meeting will be March 9th at 7:00 pm. Kathy Nutt will be giving the program with Kathy Paschal as Hostess. Please join us! You just don't know what you are missing!

Message from UMW Day Circle, Sammie Carter, Secretary...

Our first meeting of the year was held on January 19th. At that meeting we made some changes in our budget and set up our programs for the coming months. The February program was our Pledge Service led by Linda Kegerreis. In March our program will be, "Lent: This is the Fast I Choose" presented by Lois Willett. Hugh Ann Bankhead will lead the April 20th program, "Meditations: Who am I at the Table?" May 18th Bette Thetford will lead the program, "Creating Communities Through Information." June is the Senior luncheon for the FUMC Senior Class and their family. There is no meeting in July as we take a break. August 2nd will be our tea and book review, provided by Kathy Morgan. Our Chairperson is Bette Thetford. September 20th is UMW Day at the Church. We will be having Kathy Morgan back with us doing a dramatic reading from, "Bad Girls of the Bible." On October 19th, Sammie Carter will present "Native American Mission Study, The Potluck, Listen and Learn Around the Table." November 16th, World Thanks Offering, "United Methodist Woman, First United Methodist Church, Sheridan Wyoming," Annie V. Britt will give the program. December we have our Christmas dinner and the Christmas party at the Mexia State School. As you can see we have a full and, we hope, a fruitful year ahead. New members are welcome. Just call Bette Thetford at 562-2643.

Spaghetti Lunch – Sunday, March 1st

This Sunday, March 1st, we will have a spaghetti lunch after the worship service. Joe Paschal will be providing his world-renowned, award-winning spaghetti. In addition to sharing a great meal together and enjoying one another's company, we will be hearing about the plans for the upcoming renovation of our kitchen. The Trustees have been working hard on the plans and are looking forward to sharing more about the project with the church at the lunch. There is no cost for the meal and everyone is invited.

Landscaping Update

This month we will be beginning our landscaping project. We are having a sprinkler system installed and then will begin landscaping around the church. On Saturday, March 7th, we will begin landscaping on the east side of the church. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. and spend the morning trimming trees. If you have any tree trimming equipment, please bring it with you. Thanks again to all who have supported this project and for those who will roll up your sleeves and work together.

Stephen Ministers Commissioning Service

The time has finally come for our twelve Stephen Ministers to be commissioned. Stephen Ministry is a caring ministry of the church where individuals are trained to offer care to those in need. Stephen Ministers help individuals through all sorts of crises in life: divorce, grief, depression, life changes, etc. Our Stephen Ministers began training in September of 2008 and have just completed 50 hours of training. On Sunday, March 22nd, we will commission our Stephen Ministers during our 10:30 a.m. worship service. Please come and support these servants who have responded to God's call.

Common Grounds Book Club

The Common Grounds Book Club will be meeting at Coffee Cabaret on Tuesday, March 31st at 7:00 p.m. We will be discussing the book *“Thank God It's Friday: Encountering the Seven Last Words from the Cross”* by William Willimon. The book can be purchased online at major book retailers. We invite anyone interested in reading a good book and having discussion over coffee and dessert to join us.

Thank You Dorcas Class!

Special thanks to the Dorcas Sunday School Class for donating funds to remodel the chapel. We have installed a new ceiling with additional lighting, have repaired the floor near the altar, and have completed a re-wiring project. We would also like to thank all of our members who have volunteered their time in making this project possible.

Trustees Report -- Remodeling Update

Our remodeling project in the fellowship hall is progressing. We have completed one class room and the chapel. Our next project will be the kitchen. The Trustees are in the process of making plans to update our kitchen. Thank you to all who have donated funds to continue this important project. We will keep you updated on our progress as we move along.

McCurdy Mission Trip Applications

We have applications for the McCurdy Mission trip this summer to Espanola, New Mexico, available in the church office. The date for this year's mission trip is July 11-18th. So far we have sixteen members registered to attend. If you are interested in attending you need to get your application in as soon as possible as spots are filling up fast. If you have any questions about the trip, contact Brad and he can provide you with all the details.

Heifer Project Update

Special thanks to the children of our church for hosting the bake sale for the Heifer Project. The bake sale raised \$391! Thank you to everyone who baked for the project and for those who supported it by purchasing baked goods. We will keep you updated on the animals that we purchase as a part of the Heifer Project to help feed the hungry.

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

On Saturday, April 4th Parkview Regional Hospital will be hosting a community-wide Easter egg hunt for children in our community. The egg hunt will take place in the city park from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Scholarship Applications Available

Scholarship applications are available in the church office for any graduating seniors who are active members of FUMC Mexia, and for those wishing to renew their scholarships. You may pick up your application in the church office Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Volunteers Needed

Our church is seeking to offer another Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University course this year. If you have taken the Dave Ramsey course and would like to volunteer to facilitate the class, please contact Brad. We would like to continue this important ministry in our church but we need volunteers to lead the course. If you have taken the course, you know that Dave Ramsey does all the teaching, so you will not be asked to teach as much as you will be asked to facilitate.

Sunday School Class News

New Life Class Starts Study of David

The New Life Sunday School Class will begin a new study on March 1st. They will be studying the book "Facing Your Giants" by Max Lucado. This is a study of the life of King David. David experienced nearly every one of lives ups and downs in the course of his lifetime, but always remained "*a man after God's own heart*". The author does an excellent job of relating the experiences of David to those of our own lives. If you would like to join this study, please contact Carol Ann Dawley at 562-7897 so a book can be ordered for you. All are welcome!! Please join us for this thought-provoking study.

Alpha to Omega Sunday School Class

Have you read the Bible all the way through recently???

The Alpha to Omega Sunday School class is doing just that; but not real fast. The last announcement covered the introduction of Exodus. Now it's Moses' time to tell about the "*leaving*" of Egypt, who went, who died *and* who lived.

We are now ready to find out about "the rest of the story" of the Exodus.
(Each week we cover 2, 3, or 4 chapters, mostly less).

Come and find answers with us and see what's next.

We meet in the fellowship hall @ 9:30 A.M. Sunday mornings.



Welcome New Member

Glenda Willett



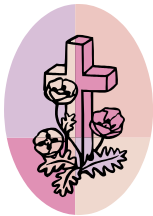
March Birthdays

1st—Connie Carter, 2nd—Jack Forrest, 3rd—Chris McCulloch,
4th—Brittany Fulmer, 5th—Austin Beard, Kenneth Paschal, Lowell Posey, 8th—Benjamin Brittain, Charles “Bubba” Paul, 9th—Dawn McKeand, 10th—T.D. Shivers, 12th—John Burks, 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—Micha Anderson, Annie V. Sheffield-Britt, Loda Crutchfield, 28th—Wynona Lipsett, 29th—Tammy McCulloch, 30th—Bob Fain



March Anniversaries

9th—Joe and Kathy Paschal
22nd—Craig and Linda Kegerreis



Memorial

LaVerne Wilson

Mildred & Billie Pollard
Dinah Steninger

Knit Wits Update

The Knit Wits will not be meeting again until March 12th. To date they have given out 48 Prayer Shawls. If you know of someone who could use one please let the office know.

Thank You

Dear FUMC Congregation,

Thank you for the scholarship I received this year. It really helped out with paying for school to become a pharmacist. Next semester I plan on attending Texas Tech in Lubbock where I will finish my undergraduate studies, and then hopefully I will get into Tech’s graduate pharmacy school in Amarillo. I can’t tell you all how much it means to me to have your support as I am going through college.

Thanks again,
Tommy Irwin

Two Tenors Concert – Sunday, April 5th

On Sunday, April 5th, *The Two Tenors* will be here during our Sunday morning worship service and for a special concert at 3:00 p.m. The Two Tenors, Barry Craft and Ben Owens, will be performing with saxophonist Anthony Barrand and low brass Jareth Vickers. The Two Tenors story began in 1993 when tenor Barry Craft was settling down into his favorite chair with a diet soda and popcorn to watch the television program "Pavarotti and Friends." Having been chosen by Mr. Pavarotti to be one of the few participants in his very first vocal competition in 1980, Barry chuckled to himself that he wasn't one of Mr. Pavarotti's "friends" on that particular evening.

Pavarotti has always been a person "of the people" and on his Pavarotti and Friends program he performed with the British rock singer Sting. Barry was amazed that the two singers gave a moving performance of Cesar Franck's Panis Angelicus, certainly not a song associated with Sting. While observing these two world-renowned artists perform together using drastically different musical styles, Barry had an idea. What about having two singers with different backgrounds and styles, one traditional and one not-so-traditional, performing a sacred concert together?

Special Women's Prayer Group

All women of Mexia are invited to participate in a prayer cell group praying for Anne Graham Lotz who will be in Waco, Texas, September 11th and 12th at the Ferrell Center. The first meeting will be held at First United Methodist Church in Mexia on March 10th, at 7:00 p.m. So please call friends and co-workers and ask them to attend this special event.

Your Church Staff

Rev. Brad Brittain, Pastor

Dr. Richard Morgan, Director of Music

Kortney Kelsey, Youth Director

Wynona Lipsett, Organist

Mary Benson, Administrative Assistant/Fiscal Coordinator

Cass 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.