



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

May 1, 2007

... *“Keeping Time”*

I was reading a devotional from William Barclay and thought what he had to say about a watch was interesting and worth passing on to you:

A watch counts the hours. So does the wise person.

“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” Psalm 90:12

In the longest life, time is short. Like the watch, we should count the hours.

A watch keeps time well. The useful person is the punctual person.

An immense amount of time can be wasted in waiting for other people. “Punctuality,” as someone has said, “is the politeness of princes.” Unpunctuality is discourtesy. It is bad to waste one’s own time; it is worse to waste that of other people.

A watch has a mainspring inside it, and it is the mainspring which keeps it going. The wise person has strength within.

“The life which I now live is not my life,” said Paul, “but the life which Christ lives in me.” Galatians 2:20

The wise person’s secret is the presence and the Spirit of Christ within his or her heart.

A watch is wound up by someone else. So the life of the good person does not spring from his or her own strength and own methods.

Inspiration is Christ. He or she goes in the strength of the Lord.

A watch, when it is damaged, has to be returned to its maker.

It must be so all through life with us. When life goes wrong, and when we go wrong, then there is nothing to do but to take it back to God so that He may forgive and mend us to send us out to work better in the time to come.

The next time you look at your watch, remember that all the days of your life are precious gifts from God.

In Christ,

Brad

**Welcome to First United Methodist Church
****Our Mission Statement******

The mission of FUMC Mexia is to make and grow disciples of Jesus Christ and bear fruit for the Kingdom of God.

Remembering you in our thoughts and prayers...

Michael L. Bove, Edward Didier
James Dorman, Bob Fain, Debbie Hullum
Jean Miller, Krystal Olcholski
Pvt. First Class Brad Perry & Angie
Specialist David Peterson & Chloe, Vera Posey
RaShay Reasoner Mary Redding, Hermine Sewell
James & Merl Shivers, T.G. Temples, Lisa Truss
Virginia Tech. Community

Our American Troops in Iraq

Message from Christian Education/Program Coordinator—Charlotte Posey

My thoughts have been on two passages of Scripture lately. Philippians 1:21 says, "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." The other verse comes from Philippians 2:21. It states, "For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus."

I am grateful for all of you because you readily step up to the plate when a new activity for the church is introduced, when a new Bible study is offered, or when help is needed in a specific way. You truly die to self and are the hands and feet of Jesus on a regular basis. You are not selfish with your own time and interests but choose to serve Christ. And I know that God is smiling down on this sweet church fellowship. Please know that your servant hearts are also seen by our Community and well received.

So many of you have recently given of your time and talents for FUMC's First Annual Fish Fry that we had on April 21st. Thank you for all you do.

Charlotte

Message from Youth Ministry Director—Walt Harrison

Greetings!

I heard a story a long time ago and was reminded of it last night and Karen was trying to gather our animals in the house for the evening. As Karen stood holding the door begging our cat to come inside I was just struck with how good that crazy cat has it. If he sits in the window long enough we let him out. He may stand at the back door looking through the glass at the great big world outside and we let them out. While inside every want and need are taking care of. Like clockwork when I let the dogs out in the morning I fill up the cat bowl. The cats lay around in an air-conditioned climate with no worries except for a playful look by the dogs. Now lets go back and think about that cat looking out a the world. Out there they have no protection the predators outnumber them. It's a dangerous place for house cats. But when they have spent a few hours outside and begin to feel the need to get back in the security and Karen is standing at the back door with the door wide open calling, "kitty kitty," the cat walks around looking at the door but will not come when called. As much as Karen tries the cat will not come inside until it's ready. Isn't that like God's Grace? Its there we all know it, whether we admit it or not. God is just standing at the back door of his house just welcoming us in and we act just like that crazy cat. We keep looking back at the outside thinking of all the things we want to do and ignoring the dangers that lay in wait for us. The really cool part about God is, his door is much bigger than our door and he does not lose his patience with us when we don't enter the first time he calls us!

What an awesome God we have!

I want to again thank our wonderful church for the support you have given our youth program. These young people know how much you care for them. We are growing faster than I ever imagined. It's a good thing that the pace of growth for our group was set by God and not me; otherwise we would still have a handful of youth not 30 something! Time has flown by we are now in the month of May and school will be getting out. This year during the summer I would like for some of you to open your homes and allow us to meet there. I will have a sign up sheet after church on Sunday so please swing by and sign up for a Wednesday night.

Last thing; please keep our youth in your prayers. The world is attacking them from all sides and they need our prayers.

In Christ,
Walt

Fish Fry Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in and supported our community fish fry. It was a great time, but more importantly, it was an opportunity to reach out to our community and introduce new people to the church. We have received several letters from people in the Mexia community thanking us for hosting this fish fry and making people feel welcome.

“Our Faith – Our Church” Sundays in May

Several adults in our church have made the following comment to me: “I love how our church does Confirmation class for the kids. I wish there was something like that for adults. I wish there was a class I could attend to learn more about the basics of the Christian faith, this church, and the United Methodist in general.” Well, now you have it! On **Sunday mornings in May at 9:30 a.m.**, I will be leading a class for anyone who is interested in learning more about our faith, our church, and our denomination. The class will meet in the sanctuary. See you on Sunday!

Peacekeepers & Friends Lock-In—Saturday May 7th. Contact Children’s Coordinator, Cheryl Hancock for more information at 562-7822

Pulpit Swap – Mother’s Day

Grady Brittain, Brad’s father, will be preaching here on Sunday, May 13th. Grady is the pastor of Salado UMC in Salado, TX and will be retiring this June. Brad will be preaching in Salado. If you want to see how washed up and worn out Brad will be in thirty years, come and join us on Mother’s Day!

New Worship Service Meeting

We will be having a meeting on Monday, May 14th at 7:00 p.m. to discuss and begin planning for a new worship service on Sunday mornings. Anyone interested in participating in this service and planning the service is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Honoring Our Graduates – Sunday, May 20th

We will be recognizing all of our graduates on Sunday, May 20th in our 10:30 a.m. worship service. This includes anyone in our church who is graduating from high school, college, graduate school, etc. After the worship service our United Methodist Women will be hosting a lunch for the graduates and their families. Congratulations Graduates!

Peacekeepers Bowling Trip

On **Saturday, May 26th** the Peacekeepers (4th and 5th grade group) will be going bowling in Waco. For more information contact our Children's Coordinator, Cheryl Hancock, at 562-7822.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be the week of **June 11 – 14, Monday through Thursday**. We will meet each night for supper at 5:00 p.m. and begin our program at 6:00 p.m. In addition to having activities for children two and up, we will also have a Bible study / worship service for adults. If you would like to volunteer to help in any way, contact the church office at 562-5567 and we will get you in touch with Jackie Tidwell. Thank you to Jackie and all the others who are coordinating this year's VBS.

From the Worship Committee—Holy Week 2007

Originally written for the *Mirror, Easter 2002*, (with some changes), but continues to say thank you each and every year for the blessings received during the remembering and celebrating the risen Lord,

Thanks be to God for:

...the minds and hearts of those who, months ago, began planning, ordering, and providing the supplies and symbols that help us remember the sacred blessings that Easter brings;

...the hands that emptied and filled our altar area during Holy Week and Easter;

...the feet that made trips from van to sanctuary to adorn our church with white lilies;

...the muscles and strong backs that bore our rugged cross in, out and again back into our sanctuary and out again to show the living cross;

...the willing, helpful fingers of the youth who arranged the flowers so beautifully brought by the church family;

...the long arm with an extension of one member who hung our banners;

...the voices that read scripture, sang, and joined with the playing of instruments carrying us from Hosannas, through the sorrow of suffering, to Alleluias - all helping us to remember and celebrate the resurrection of Christ our Savior and the promise of eternal life.

May Birthdays

6th—Alisha Brittain, 7th—Sue Franks, Odessa Hancock, 10th—JR Crutchfield, 11th—Randy Ewers, 14th—Ann Withrow, 15th—Kathy Morgan, 16th—Sammie Carter, 19th—Merl Shivers, 20th—Jordan Hullum, 21st—Pat Cunningham, Louise Howze, Chris Wallitsch, Joclyn Ewers, 25th—Grandon Britt, May 27th—Wilma Wilson, May 28th—JC Hawkins, May 29th—Vicki Beard

May Anniversaries

5th—Pat & Ann Neill 17th—Kelly & Stephanie O’Hare
18th—T.D. & Janise Shivers 21st—Lowell & Jay Posey

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the cards, memorials, and expressions of concern during the recent death of my dear, sweet sister, Wanda Gordon Brashear. "She is just away in a land of light and peace, where warmth and love abound and worldly difficulties cease, but her memory remains and the love she left within our hearts will help to ease our pain." God bless each of you and your sweet, sweet caring.

Kathy and Joe Paschal and family

Preschool Graduation
&
Parents Lunch
May 23
8 am-12 Noon

Menus for May

Wed. 2nd—Beans & Cornbread
Sun. 6th—Breakfast Casserole
Wed. 9th—Ham
Wed. 16th—Gumbo
Wed. 23—Chicken Spaghetti
Wed. 30th Chicken & Dumplings

Deadline for submitting an article for
the June Connections Newsletter is May
23rd

Welcome Our Newest Members

Gary and Vicki Watson
 Cass, Kellie, Mica, Shelby, and Brandon Candy
 Rae Lynn, Zachary, and Blayke Stanford
 Clint, Jill, Molly, and Tyler Flatt

Attendance in April		
	<u>SS</u>	<u>Worship</u>
4/01	61	141
4/08	60	233
4/15	67	197
4/22	39	154
4/29	57	159

Fannie Lelia Wilson Memorials
 Wynona & Don Lipsett,
 Louis Willett, Alleen Womack
 Bug & Joan Paschal

Wanda Brashear Memorials
 Sue & Dan Franks,
 Wynona & Don Lipsett
 Bug & Joan Paschal

Christopher Williford Memorials
 Gary & Donna Findley, Kyle & Cheryl Hancock, Diane Burks, Sherry Manning,
 Wynona and Don Lipsett, Berry Alewine, Louis Willett, Lady & Bob Fain,
 Mrs. E.T. Morse Jr., Bug & Joan Paschal

Dolores Benson Memorials
 J.R. & Loda Crutchfield Michael & Sherry Miller
 Lady & Bob Fain Wynona & Don Lipsett
 Dale & Margie Garner

Jule Floyd Memorials
 Gary & Donna Findley
 Klye & Cheryl Handcock
 Lady & Bob Fain

Virginia Oliver
 Lady & Bob Fain
 Alleen Womack
 Lillie Mae Atkins

Additional Memorials

Mrs. Evelyn Butler	Wynona & Don Lipsett
Miriam Wallace	Abbe Wallace
LD Archibald	Wynona & Don Lipsett
LaShon Sanders	Lois Willett
Marjorie Green	Lady & Bob Fain
Chuck Parks	Bug & Joan Paschal

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

Brad's Cell: 254-625-2435



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