

**THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS**

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

May, 2008



**... *“Too Many Irons in the Fire”***

When asked to do things we have all at one time or another responded by saying, “My plate is full,” or “I have too many irons in the fire,” or “Now is just not a good time.” And it’s true. We lead busy lives and have many obligations and responsibilities. The problem comes when we get too “busy” with the insignificant things of life and neglect what God wants us to be doing. The fact is we all need to think about what is really important to us and what is just “fluff”. Philip Yancey wrote about a person who interrupted a busy life to spend a few days in a monastery. “I hope your stay is a blessed one,” said the monk who showed the visitor to his cell. “If you need anything, let us know and we’ll teach you how to live without it.” There are lots of things in this world that we can live without, and a schedule that doesn’t leave time for God or Christian service is one of them. Think about where God is calling you to serve and serve with a joyful spirit.

In Christ,

Brad

***Message from Program Coordinator Charlotte Posey...***

A new ministry is beginning Thursday, May 1st. All interested in learning to knit, those who already knit, or those who crochet, are invited to attend our first meeting from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall.

Bring a sack lunch if you want to eat while knitting. Tea and cookies will be provided. Come and stay the entire 2 hours or come for as long as you can. Ardys Irwin will be our teacher for new knitters. We will be making Prayer Shawls and Lap Throws to give to those who need our encouragement. Details will be explained at the meeting. This class is free and all ages are welcome.

If you desire to purchase your own knitting needles, get a pair of 13 needles. Wal-Mart, Hobby Lobby, and Michaels carry knitting supplies. We have purchased enough yarn to make 25 shawls. This will be a great start.

See you there!

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

Open House "Down by the River" Festival  
Enjoyed by All

Families and friends of First Methodist Preschool children enjoyed Saturday Morning Down by the River Activities on Saturday, April 26. There were many activities for everyone including Live Fish Tank, Bobber Floats, Inner Tube toss, Sam the Snake Tunnel, Polly Frog Bounce Houses, Picnic Snacks, and more!  
The Preschool Staff members directed the activities outside on Kaufman Street.

Another special activity included a puppet presentation in the Peyton Building in the Preschool lunchroom where Lori Beth, Polly, Pokey, Sam, Cletus, Grandpa, and J. J. were on hand to continue their lessons about how special God's wonderful world is "Down by the River". There were puppet shows daily since the "River" unit began on



The dance students (led by dance teacher Ann Hunt) presented their annual recital at the conclusion of the morning. The ten dance students presented ballet and tap performances on stage in the Fellowship Hall.

The Preschool was celebrating 29 years in ministry here at the First United Methodist Church. A great time was had by all.

Preschool Teachers Treated to  
Appreciation Dinner

The teachers at the Preschool want to express our special thanks to First United Methodist Church for the Appreciation Dinner which the church hosted for the preschool staff on Tuesday, April 29. When Brad invited all the staff and their guests it was a very special treat for us. Thanks to everyone involved!

### **2008 Kindergarteners Plan Parent Luncheon and Graduation**

May 28th from 12 noon – 1 pm there will be a parent luncheon and graduation program for the 28 children who have been attending FMP and will be starting Kindergarten in August 2008.

The children will be working hard all morning preparing lunch for their parents and guests. At 12 noon in the sanctuary we will have a graduation ceremony with singing and sharing. Immediately following this graduation, everyone will come to the fellowship hall for lunch.

It is a special time to share with families and friends to celebrate this milestone in the lives of these children.

### **Two Teaching Positions Open at First Methodist Preschool**

The Preschool Governing Board is currently accepting applications for two positions as follows:

***Lead Upstairs Teacher*** This position would include planning and setting up age appropriate learning center opportunities for the upstairs classes ages three to five years. This teacher would oversee the upstairs classrooms and children, assisting the classroom teachers as needed. They would also be in charge of the resource room jointly with the Lead Downstairs Teacher.

Pre-requisites for this position: At least 6 years experience working with young children. Schedule and salary are negotiable based on experience and education.

***Literacy and Language Development Specialist*** This position would include working with every age group at the Preschool with an emphasis on the 3-5 year olds. This teacher would plan for opportunities for language development, pre reading skills, and oral language activities. This would include overseeing the Music, Book Nook Library, and Computer Areas.

Pre – requisites for this position: A Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education or Early Childhood Education and experience working with young children. Schedule and Salary are negotiable based on experience and education.

Both positions have paid vacation/sick leave, paid holidays, and opportunity for participation in the Pension Plan through the General Board of Pensions of the United Methodist Church.

Applications are available at the First Methodist Preschool office.

**Nothing But Nets**

On April 21<sup>st</sup> our church hosted a group of bicyclists from various United Methodist churches in the Houston area. The group was raising money for the Nothing But Nets program. Nothing But Nets is a program in which money is raised to purchase mosquito nets to send to Africa to prevent malaria. Our church helped by providing this group a place to stay overnight, as well as supper and breakfast. Special thanks to all of our members who showed up and served. You were outstanding! By the way, this group that we hosted has raised over \$140,000 for Nothing But Nets!

**Mystery Preachers**

We have two more mystery preachers coming – in the month of June. Brad will be swapping pulpits with these two pastors as he did with Rev. Louis Carr from St. Luke UMC in Mexia. Special thanks to Louis and his message to the church!

**Administrative Board Meeting Scheduled**

Our next Administrative Board meeting will be *Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.* All members of the church are members of the Board and encouraged to come and participate. We will be highlighting ministries of the church, as well as outlining programs and ministries for the summer.

**Men's Retreat May 16-18**

The men of our church will be going on a retreat to Stillwater Lodge in Glen Rose, TX the weekend of May 16-18. We are looking forward to a fun weekend in which we all grow closer to one another and share in some good fellowship. If you have registered for the trip please pay your registration fee of \$125 by Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Youth Group M&M (Mission & Ministry) Fundraiser...**

The youth group is kicking off an exciting new fundraiser and hope that all members of the congregation will participate. The youth will give you a tube of M&M Minis to enjoy. In return, we're asking you to fill the tube with quarters.

The money collected from this fundraiser will be used for youth mission and ministry. We plan to make this an ongoing project, so when you fill one tube with quarters (and by the way each tube holds \$14.00 worth), there will be another one available. Keep these tubes on your dresser, in your car console, or wherever you throw your loose change. Whenever you get a quarter, just pop it in the tube.

The M&M Minis will be available after church on Sundays or during Wednesday night activities from any youth or youth sponsor, or you can pick one up in the church office.

Who can resist M&M's...and helping support the youth of our church as well?

## Fish Fry Update


Thank you to everyone who helped with and attended our community fish fry. The weather was great, as well as the food and fellowship. Special thanks to Gary Beard and the Steeple Singers for providing entertainment. We had nearly 300 people attend the fish fry! Again, it was a wonderful evening and a great gesture on your part as a church to do something like this for the community.



### **Family and Friends Are Invited to Acolyte During the Summer**

Once again, we will open the invitation to have families and friends serve as acolytes during June, July and August. If you and your friends and family would like to acolyte, please sign up in the foyer on Sunday mornings. For more information, contact Gael McKeever at 254/729-2914.

**Thank You**



I would like to thank the congregation for coming to my fund-raiser lunch on March 9th, I hope you all had fun, watching me get my hair cut, and some of you cutting it! I certainly did. I would especially like to thank my family, My mom, my grandma, my aunt, my grandfather, and Gael McKeever.

My grandmother, aunt, and grandfather Helped with the preparing of the meal. Gael McKeever made us a great pineapple upside-down cake for the meal. Last but certainly not least my mother did most of the planning for the meal.

Also a big thanks to Walt Harrison and Bob Crider for leaving me some of my hair!

JW McKeand

### **Mexia Garden Club**

Invites you to attend the second bi-annual

#### **“Backyard Garden Stroll”**

*Five Beautiful Gardens*



Sunday, May 18, 2008  
3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Don & deLou Corbitt  
George & Jackie Tidwell  
Larry & Kathleen Brown  
Don & Bennie Green  
Bette Williams

Tickets \$5.00

#### Contact Information:

Kathleen Brown—562-2611 Robilyn Reed—562-5014 Debbie Burgess—562-6885  
Audrey McCullough—562-7657 Tina Schnell—578-3395 Juanita Lyde—353-2103

**Welcome New Members**

Bob & Barbara Candy & Alice Jones  
Kay Hynes  
Shelli Sears and children Harrison and Grayson Edwards  
Dustin Wilson

**Congratulations to our new Confirmands:** Harrison Edwards and Trey Fulmer

**May Birthdays**

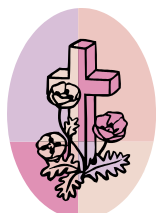
6th—Alisha Brittain, 7th—Sue Franks, Odessa Hancock, 11th—Randy Ewers, 14th—Ann Withrow, 15th—Kathy Morgan, 16th—Sammie Carter, 20th—Jordan Hullum, 21st—Pat Cunningham, Joclyn Ewers, Louise Howze, Chris Wallitsch, 24th, Harrison Edwards, 25th—Grandon Britt, May 27th—Wilma Wilson, May 28th—JC Hawkins, May 29th—Vicki Beard



**May Anniversaries**



5th—Pat & Ann Neill                      18th—T.D. & Janise Shivers  
20th—Bug & Joan Paschal                21st—Lowell & Jay Posey



**Memorials**



**Walter Dreier**

Mike & Valerie Bolton  
Dan & Sue Franks

**Vera & Billy Posey**

Buddy & Donna Williford

**Betty Fitzgerald**

Mike & Valerie Bolton

**Barbara Wylie**

High Ann Bankhead

**Merl Shivers**

Upper Room, Tad & Ima Burroughs, Ruby Bailey Howze, Ann & Pat Neill, Sonia Kendell Starlene & Charles Yelverton, Bobby & Roy Baccus, Craig & Linda Kegerreis, Martha Carlson, Ivan Jackson Family, Jim & Mary Benson, Bette Thetford, Joan & Bug Paschal, Mr. & Mrs. O.Y. Goswick, Mr. & Mrs. Billy McClure, Jim & Rebecca Bosley, Florence Thornton, Jimmy Haskins, Lola Focke, Farmers St. Bank of Groesbeck, Mr. & Mrs. Billy Turner, Leo & Jeannie Bradshaw, Alleen Womack, Clare & Marc Robertson, Otto & Margie Mills, Dan & Sue Franks, Creative Quality Builder, Loda Crutchfield, Shirley Long

**Menus for May**

**\*Wednesday Night Dinners:**

5/07 Chicken Spaghetti  
5/14 Taco Salad

**\*\*Sunday Breakfast:**

5/18 Sausage, Biscuits & Gravy

\*Wednesday Meals will resume in the Fall

\*\* Sunday Breakfast will remain the third Sunday of the month.

**Attendance for March**

	<u>SS</u>	<u>Worship</u>
04/06	49	141
04/13	45	115
04/20	36	104
04/27	54	148

**Update on Heating/Air Commitment Cards**

Committed: \$43,682.00  
Received: \$26,348

Just a reminder that this drive will end in June.

Deadline for the June Newsletter will be **May 27th**

**Organ Update**

Amount Needed: \$7,500.00  
Raised to date: \$6,412.65

A Special *Thank you* to Johnnie Christian and Sherry Miller for the pictures in this edition.

**Your Church Staff**

Brad Brittain, Pastor

Dr. Richard Morgan, Director of Music

Cheryl Hancock, Children's Coordinator

Charlotte Posey, Christian Education/Program Coordinator

Wynona Lipsett, Organist

Mary Benson, Administrative Assistant/Fiscal Coordinator

Mike Bolton and Barbara Owens, Building Maintenance and 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.