

## THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

November, 2008



### ... *"They Signed For Us"*

There is a book entitled "*They Signed For Us*", which gave sketches of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence. Benjamin Franklin was the oldest at age 70. Thomas Jefferson was the youngest at age 33. The last line of the Declaration of Independence reads: "And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor." The persons who signed the Declaration of Independence paid a great price for our liberty. Robert Morris, for example, was a shipping merchant who personally lost 150 ships during the war and received no compensation whatsoever.

Countless numbers of people have sacrificed for our great country. Just as people have sacrificed for the United States, millions have sacrificed over the centuries for the Christian faith. I am amazed at how the Christian church is growing in parts of the world where they do not have the "freedoms" that we enjoy. Perhaps the church is growing in those areas because they have to fight for their right to worship. I wonder what would happen to our churches if we didn't have the right to assemble freely? We are free, but how do we view our freedom? Is our freedom a license to do as we please and forget about everyone else? Of course not. If we are disciples of Jesus Christ then our freedom is the opportunity to do what we ought to do in the name of Christ. Specifically, that means loving and serving others and seeing our church as the Body of Christ where we love and support one another. When we give our lives completely to Jesus Christ then we realize what it means to be truly free. Just as the forefathers of our country gave sacrificially of themselves to a higher cause and each other, we too can commit ourselves to one another as a church and ultimately to God. Paul said it best in Galatians: "For freedom Christ has set us free." (Galatians 5:1)

In Christ,

Rev. Brad Brittain

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

We are having a great time in our new study, "Bad Girls of the Bible and What You Can Learn From Them." The author of this study makes a fresh approach in applying Bible truths to our lives, fun and informative. We are close to having a full room each week, but there is always room for you. After a night off on October 29th because of Trunk or Treat, we will resume the following week on November 5th and continue each Wednesday until December 3rd. All are welcome to attend.

***Message from Youth Director Kortney Kelsey...***

The youth had a great time during the month of October. We always have fun with our lessons on Wednesday nights, and enjoyed having a Halloween party. In November we are going to focus more on expressing our faith in Christ with others. On November the 16th we are going to have Youth Sunday where all the youth will be in charge of the Sunday worship service. After the worship service we will have a church wide luncheon sponsored by the youth.

Thank you for keeping our group in your prayers and know that we pray for you as well. As youth director I would like to thank all those who help me with the youth everyday. What I do is lots of fun and I love every minute of it, but it's extremely hard without the help of others. Thank you to all who support and work with our kids!

***Message from Parley Wiggins Circle...***

The Parley Wiggins Circle is continuing their ministry to schools and to the school children. Members are continuing to collect Box Tops for Education which will be sent to McCurdy School in Espanola, New Mexico. If you have been saving these, you may bring them to the church and put them in the collection can on the table in the foyer.

The circle members are continuing to support local schools by collecting used school uniforms, school supplies, and by encouraging our church members to become involved in the Chamber of Commerce reading to a classroom program.

In conjunction with these projects our latest circle program was entitled, "For the Love of Children," and was given by Kathy Nutt in the home of Carol Ann Dawley.

For additional information concerning any of these projects or our evening meetings contact Kathy Nutt at 254-562-7737.

***Message from the Kitchen Committee...***

We are fortunate to have such a nice facility as the Fellowship Hall to hold our many functions. Please be considerate of the next committee or person using the facility and put supplies and equipment back where you got them. ALSO, please empty all trash cans before you leave the facility. This will help to keep the uninvited pests at a minimum. Thank You .

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

**Sparky and Friends Teach First Methodist Preschool (FMP) Children about Fire Safety**

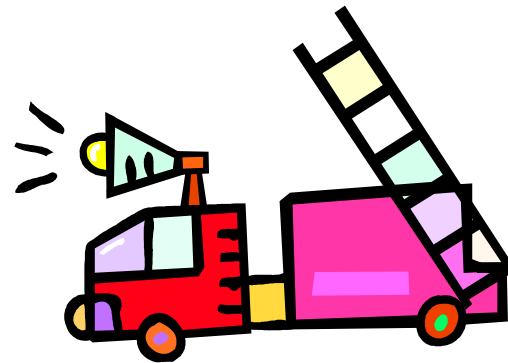
Thanks to the Mexia Fire Department for spending their time with the children at First Methodist Preschool. Jay Huffman, Director of the Safety Program, came with a whole team of firefighters and also with his friend "Sparky the Fire Dog". The program these men presented to a group of approximately 60 children ages 2 through 5 years old was wonderful.

Not only was it age appropriate for our little ones, but it was also informative, entertaining, and just plain fun. The City of Mexia should be very proud that this kind of program is offered to the children of Mexia.

We want to thank Jay Huffman and his wife, Renee, for bringing the whole team of firefighters to share time with our children.

Thanks to this group for their time and efforts in the area of Fire Safety for Children. They are the Greatest!

Check our website for pictures:  
[www.firstmethodistpreschool.com](http://www.firstmethodistpreschool.com)



**Thanks to V.I.P.s**

We have enjoyed special visits from VIPs (Volunteers in Preschool) recently. We thank Wynona Lipsett, the organist at First United Methodist Church, who spent time with each upstairs class showing them the big organ at the church sanctuary and letting them sing along to organ music.

Also, Nicole Kuehn, hygienist from Dr. Cholopisa's office, came to talk to these groups about taking care of their teeth and eating healthy.



It is wonderful to have friends who are willing to share their time and talents with the children of FMP.

### **Charge Conference**

This year our annual Charge Conference with our District Superintendent will be Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. This year we will be having a cluster Charge Conference with three other churches in our area – Coolidge UMC, Dennis Chapel UMC, and St. Luke UMC. We will celebrate our ministry together here at FUMC Mexia and look forward to what God has in store for our future. Every member is invited and encouraged to attend.

### **Veteran's Luncheon**

On Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> Grady Brittain will be preaching in our 10:30 a.m. worship service. After the worship service, we will have a pot-luck luncheon in honor of our veterans. If you know of any veterans who we can honor at the luncheon, please invite them to church that Sunday. We thank all of the men and women who have served our country and those who serve our country today.

### **District Thanksgiving Worship Service**

Our church is a member of the Waco District of the Central Texas Conference in the United Methodist Church. On Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. churches from all across our district will be gathering for a District Thanksgiving worship service. The worship service will be at Austin Avenue United Methodist Church in Waco. The District is asking that those who attend the worship service bring non-perishable food items for local food pantries. There will be some great music at this worship and we look forward to representing our church.

### **Youth Sunday, November 16th**

The youth of our church will be leading our worship service on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. The youth will plan the worship service and be responsible for leading the worship service. Please come and support our youth as they lead us in worship on the 16<sup>th</sup> and serve us lunch after.

### **Dabbs, November 21<sup>st</sup>**

Bobby Dabbs will be here on Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> for picture day at FUMC Preschool. It's always a joy to have Bobby join us! The kids really enjoy and look forward to picture day with Dabbs!

### **Mexia Community Thanksgiving Worship Service**

On Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> churches in Mexia and the surrounding area will gather for a community-wide Thanksgiving worship service. This year the worship service will be at Calvary Baptist Church here in Mexia. The time for the service is 7:00 p.m.

### **Wednesday Morning Bible Study**

Charlotte Posey is leading a Wednesday morning Bible study at 9:30 a.m. The group is currently studying the book of James and would like to invite anyone who is able to come on Wednesday mornings to join them.

### **New Men's Group**

We have begun a new men's group on Wednesday evenings. The group meets from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the back corner classroom of the fellowship hall (the room with the couches). This group of men gathers together for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. The group will be focused on the importance of being men of faith at home, as well as in the church.

### **Stephen Ministry**

Our Stephen Ministers in training have completed six sessions on their way to becoming certified Stephen Ministries. We have an outstanding group of eleven individuals who have given a considerable amount of time to be trained in this important future ministry of our church. The group will complete the training in January 2009 and be ready to provide spiritual care to those in need by February 2009. Special thanks to Donna Williford and Pam Crider for their outstanding leadership!

### **Common Grounds Book Club**

The Common Grounds Book Club will be taking a break during November and December. The group will meet again in January at Coffee Cabaret to discuss the book "Same Kind of Different as Me" by Ron Hall and Denver Moore. We will notify you in next month's newsletter as to the date and time of our January gathering.

### **Christmas Poinsettias**

As we do every Advent season, we will be decorating our sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, you may do so by completing an order form that will be in the worship bulletin on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Offering Counters**

We are in need of Offering Counters for 2009. The requirements are about 10-15 minutes of your time on a Sunday morning right after the service. You will be responsible for one month in the year. If you cannot be there on one of your Sunday's there will be a list of names that you can exchange with. If you feel this is a ministry that you can do for our church e-mail Kathy Paschal at joepaschal@sbcglobal.net.



**2009 Camping Schedule**  
**Central Texas SOJOURNERS, Chapter 16**  
**National United Methodist Campers**

**November 10-13** LAST CAMPOUT FOR 2008 –American RV Park-Corsicana, TX

**December 3, 2008** – CHRISTMAS DINNER – 11:30 AM – First UMC, Burleson, TX

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**JANUARY 5-12, 2009** – Serendipity RV – Palacios, TX

**MARCH 9-12, 2009** – Whispering Pines Resort, Tyler, TX

**APRIL 30-MAY 3, 2009 - NATIONAL RALLY**, Thousand Trails, Cleremont, FL

**JUNE 8-11, 2009** – Mitchell RV, Perrin, TX

**AUGUST 4-11, 2009** – SPECIAL Mountain Campout Circle B RV Park, Ruidosa, NM -  
You make your reservations with the Park at (505) 378-4990

**SEPTEMBER 14-17, 2009** – I-35 RV, Waco, TX

**OCTOBER 1-4, 2009** - ALL Texas NUMC Campout, Mineola, TX

**NOVEMBER 9-12, 2009** – American RV – Corsicana, TX

Reservations required, Contact WAGONMASTER Leonard Radde, 817-556-0205  
or by Email at [radde@htcomp.net](mailto:radde@htcomp.net)

or

Local Representatives are Linda & Craig Kegerreis – [linkco1@hughes.net](mailto:linkco1@hughes.net)  
903-626-5313



**Welcome New Members**

Nathan Harris  
&  
Carmen Hinton

**November Birthdays\***

3rd—James Shivers, Blayke Russ, 4th—Jay Posey, Johnnie Christian, 7th—Bob Henry, 10th—Kim Meyer, 11th—Hermine Sewell, 13th—Kendal Paschal, Michele Irwin, 15th—Peggy Wright, 16th—Betty Hawkins, Bob Candy, 20th—Brandon Candy, 22nd—Michelda Brown, 24th—Zackary Russ, 25th—Bobbie Baccus, 26th—Becky Brady, 27th—Bob Crider, Hillary Brady, 29th—Beth Kendall



**November Anniversaries\***



1st—Cass and Kellie Candy, 19th—Ed and Mary Marcotte, 20th—Glenn and Cindy Williford, 22nd—Arnold & Penny Gray

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

**Attendance for October**

	<u>SS</u>	<u>Worship</u>
10/5	41	158
10/12	44	126
10/19	30	118
10/26	74	125

**Youth M&M Fundraiser**

**\$871.47**

If you have not already done so please contact Kortney or one of the Youth for your M&M Tube. Enjoy the candy and then fill it with quarters for the youth.

**Menu for November**

November 5th    Chicken & Dumplings  
November 12th    Chili & Cornbread  
November 19th    Taco Salad

Sunday November 16th - Sausage,  
Biscuits & Gravy

Deadline for the December Newsletter  
is  
November 20th

**CORNUCOPIA CONCERT DATE  
ANNOUNCED  
November 9th at 4 pm**



We have set the date for the Cornucopia Concert for this Thanksgiving season. We are trying to consider the holiday schedule at the public schools and the community musical as we set this date in hopes of attracting the most families to come. The performances will be as follows:

Group 3A and 3B	4 pm
Group 4	4:15 pm
Group 5A and 5B	4:30 pm

Refreshments will be served following the performances. We hope you will make plans to come join us for this season of Thanksgiving and friendship.

	<p align="center"><b>Just a reminder the FUMC office will be closed the week of November 24th</b></p> <p align="center"><b>&amp;</b></p> <p align="center"><b>The FM-Preschool will be closed on November 27th &amp; 28th</b></p>
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**Your Church Staff**

- Brad Brittain, Pastor
- Dr. Richard Morgan, Director of Music
- Korteny Kelsey, Youth Director
- Charlotte Posey, Christian Education/Program Coordinator
- 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.