



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

October, 2007

... ***“Consecration Sunday is Coming!”***

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church’s mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation’s finance committee has selected the *New Congregation Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, “What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?” During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church’s ministry.

Every attendee and member who completes the Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship members will make their commitments as a confidential act of worship. We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Consecration Sunday Chairperson,

Michael Miller

“Hey, Church!”

Last Tuesday I walked over to the fellowship hall about 3:30 p.m. to visit with the volunteers who help with our God’s Gang After-School Program. I was very impressed with not only the amount of adult volunteers but the attitude amongst the group. Everyone genuinely wanted to be there interacting with the kids. If you have never seen what goes on during God’s Gang I highly recommend you taking time some Tuesday to see what a wonderful ministry our church provides to these children.

When the kids arrived there was instant energy and joy. They really wanted to be at the church and I could tell they looked forward to the program. At the beginning of the program, the kids have time to play and burn off some of that pent up energy from a long day at school. I was visiting with Ann Neil while some of the kids played basketball in the parking lot. She told me the neatest thing about what one of the kids who participates in God’s Gang calls her at school (Ann teaches 4th grade at Simms Intermediate). Instead of calling her Mrs. Neil, he calls her “Church”. I loved it! He called her “Church” (No, not Church Lady for all you Saturday Night Live Fans). He thinks that when he sees Ann he sees the Church. And he’s right, not just about Ann, but about all of you who faithfully live out your calling in your daily lives. You are the body of Christ and believe it or not, people notice.

In Christ,
Brad

Message from Music Director, Richard Morgan...

I hope everyone enjoyed the first performance in our *Spirit and Arts* series as much as I did—and I don’t listen to country music very much! Candice Myers is truly gifted as a musician and as a Christian evangelist. She moved many of us in unexpected ways. Isn’t that the mark of the Holy Spirit?

This series will offer something for everyone, at some point or another. For instance, take our next presentation, on October 28, which I am now able to officially announce. Our guests on that day will be *Jubilate*, a select choral group within the music ministry of Christ United Methodist Church in College Station.

This auditioned ensemble of 15 singers, directed by one of our alumni, Mike Wright, presents a diverse collection of musical styles. Recently, the group sang for worship at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. while part of the Sanctuary Choir tour in the nation’s Capitol. Voices 4, a men’s quartet, is comprised of singers from *Jubilate* and will be part of the program on October 28. Pianist for both groups is Condy Carter, 24-year accompanist of the Singing Cadets of Texas A&M and primary accompanist for the music ministry of Christ UMC.

Our own Chancel Choir will join *Jubilate* on a couple of numbers, and assist in leading this service of music and arts.

Spread the word about all of our performances, invite your friends, let’s make this *Spirit and Arts* Concert Series an engaging and uplifting event for our entire community.

Message from Christian Education/Program Coordinator, Charlotte Posey...

In case you didn’t notice, we have started a new “Welcome Center.” It is located in the foyer just off the sanctuary. There will be coffee, juice, and something to snack on each week before Sunday school and church. Church members and guests are welcome to come and enjoy refreshments before Sunday school and church.

It is our desire for guests to immediately feel a part of us as they come to worship with us. So

please, bring your guests by the "Welcome Center" on Sundays and allow us to get to know them.

I am also looking for those who would like to assist me at the center. It would only take about 30 minutes of your time on any given Sunday. I need help making coffee and the snacks, and also just being at the center to greet folks. Contact me by calling the church office if you would be willing to help in this way. Thank you in advance for your spirit of servant hood.

Message from Youth Director, Walt Harrison...

"All Hands on Deck," if you were in the Navy this would be a time to alert every person on the ship to report to their work station. Usually these times would be during some type of crisis. Well, God is calling for "All Hands and Feet!" We need your help! We have a large number of teenagers and not enough adults. Our Church's future depends on you making the decision to serve. Statistics have shown that 20 percent of the total membership of a church are the active people who serve. It is my prayer that you come and join us as we move from membership to discipleship. I can promise you it is such a blessing to see the light of our Savior shine through the faces of these young people.

Speaking of joining the team, I would like all of you to welcome our own **Kortney Kelsey**, a recent graduate of Mexia High School and current Navarro College student, to the youth ministry team. Kortney has been a leader since becoming a part of our Church. She stood up and took the call and what a blessing it has been to have her working with our Jr. High!

November 2nd, will be the 5th quarter for the 2007 season. This is a time when churches in our area work together in providing a fun time of fellowship and praise for our students after the football game. Please sign up to help with this event. Sign up sheets will be in the foyer.

I want to leave you with this story,

God's Coffee:

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups... And then you began eyeing each other's cups.

Now consider this: Life is the coffee; the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of Life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us." God brews the coffee, not the cups..... Enjoy your coffee!

"The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything."
Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.

Unknown....

Message from Preschool Director, Sherry Miller

Do You Want to be a V. I. P.? (VOLUNTEER IN PRESCHOOL)

First Methodist Preschool is a ministry of our church since September 1979. We are starting a new program called the VIP program which gives our church members and friends an opportunity to come participate in this ministry by coming to the Preschool as a VIP. There are only a few qualifications:

1. Love for the Lord and children
2. Completed Application
3. Attendance at a one time training class

Some of the possible ways to serve are rockers (in the baby room), swingers (on the playground), dancers (dressing the dancers at dance class), library worker (filing, repairing), reader (reading books to any class), and just sharing any special talent or skill you may have. If you want to serve in any way and have an idea what you would like to do, just call the Preschool. There are a variety of age groups that you may select from - infant all the way to school agers. If you want to be a VIP, call the Preschool—254-562-7822.

Mexia Fire Fighters Visit First Methodist Preschool

On Thursday, Sept. 20, a team of fire fighters led by Director of Safety Programs, Jay Huffman, visited the Preschool to talk to the children about Fire Safety. Their special friend, Sparky the Firehouse Dog, came too and the children enjoyed hearing about calling 911, Stop Drop and Roll, and saw a firefighter dressed in full gear. They also got to crawl on the floor under the “simulated” smoke and they got to get in the big fire truck.

The presentation was informative, entertaining, age appropriate, and just plain fun. Many thanks to the Mexia Fire Department for coming to spend time with our children at FMP.

Preschoolers visit the Sanctuary to Hear the Organ

During September the Preschoolers talk about community helpers that serve in our schools and churches. Wynona Lipsett spent one morning showing the organ at our church to the children. Each group got to listen to the Big Pipes and hear the various sounds coming from the organ. Wynona even played some of our favorites to sing along, Jesus Loves Me and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. Thanks to Wynona for volunteering her time in this way.

As part of this unit, Group 5B and Sandy Hensley made cookies to give to church employees to thank them for serving the church in this way.

Charge Conference – October 7th 6:00 p.m.

Our annual Charge Conference, originally scheduled for September 18th, has been rescheduled for Sunday, October 7th at 6:00 p.m. This is the meeting where we elect our officers and leaders for the coming year, as well as talk about goals for the church. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend. This is a great opportunity to learn more about what we are doing as a church.

Wednesday Night Worship

In September we started a Wednesday night worship service. We have had a great time worshiping God in a relaxed setting on Wednesdays and invite you to be a part of the service. In addition to singing, praying, and sharing communion together, we are in the midst of a series on I Corinthians, Paul’s letter to the church at Corinth. Special thanks to all those who have worked on organizing the service and participating.

New Adult Sunday School Is Underway

There is now a “new” adult Sunday School Class which meets each Sunday morning at 9:30. The class is led by George and Jackie Tidwell, Michael and Sherry Miller, and Ann Pendleton. There are no age requirements – it’s for everyone! You are invited to come join this new group as we study God’s Word together. We have a light snack each Sunday morning when we arrive and enjoy the fellowship time together. We are currently studying a wonderful book, *The Jesus I Never Knew*, by Philip Yancey. There’s no homework! Just come and share God’s word and enjoy this new group!

New Children’s Church Program

We have a new ministry at the church for children K thru 2nd grade. It’s called “Children’s Church” and takes place after our Children’s Sermon in the 10:30 a.m. worship service. After the Children’s Sermon the children are escorted to the fellowship hall where they continue to worship. This is not meant to be a program to “get the kids out of the sanctuary”. Children are always welcome in our worship service in the sanctuary, but at the same time, we wanted to provide a creative time of worship designed specifically for this age group, so that parents would have a choice on Sunday mornings. Special thanks to Cheryl Hancock and Angie Rogers for getting this program started. If you would like to volunteer or have questions, contact Cheryl at 562-7822.

Lifehouse Mission Project

On Saturday, September 22nd a group from our church gathered for a work day at the Lifehouse. The Lifehouse is a ministry for those recovering from drug and alcohol abuse. We had 12 adults and four youth who worked on installing a new door and insulating windows around the building. Our next project at the Lifehouse will include painting. We will notify you when our next work day will take place. Thank you to all who participated. You made a big difference!

Golf Outing – Battle Lake Golf Course

We will be having an afternoon of golf fun on Sunday, October 14th at 1:30 p.m. We will be playing at Battle Lake Golf Course in Mart. After we finish with the golf, we will have a cookout at the pavilion there at Battle Lake. The cost for both the golf and the meal is \$40 per person. Please pay in the church office by Wednesday, October 10th to reserve your spot.

Mystery Dinner Theater, “A Pageant to Die For”

On Saturday and Sunday, October 20th and 21st, we will be having a Mystery Dinner Theater. Pat and Wendy Simmons have once again assembled a star-studded cast! Rev. Brittain will be making his acting debut. Okay, so the acting may not be that good, but the evening will include lots of good food, entertainment, and food. Gilberto’s Restaurant from Fairfield will be catering the meal (fajitas). The cost per person is \$25 per person. Proceeds from the evening will go towards raising funds for a mission trailer for our church to be used in local projects and other projects outside of the area. Make your reservations by calling the church office. Space is limited both evenings so reserve your spot today!

Acolytes Visit Synagogue in Corsicana

On Sunday afternoon, Sept. 16th several of the acolytes along with a few adults had the privilege of visiting Temple Beth-El, the Jewish synagogue in Corsicana. After sharing a Mexican-style luncheon in the Fellowship Hall, the acolytes traveled in the church van to Temple Beth-El. Upon arriving at the beautiful, historic structure, the group proceeded to tour the grounds. Shortly after that, Mrs. Samuels, a long-time member of this reformed Jewish synagogue, arrived and led the group into the building. Mrs. Samuels shared the vivid history of Temple Beth-El and explained some of the Jewish traditions and

celebrations. The group was interested in hearing the connection between the Jewish and Christian faiths.

The acolytes will continue to have workshops and field trips to help expand their understanding of serving in the church. Anyone Kindergarten and above is welcome to join the group. Please contact Gael McKeever at church or call 729-2914 if you would like more information about this important ministry.



Emmaus Invitation

Our Emmaus Community would like to cordially invite you to participate in a Walk to Emmaus. If you would like to feel closer to God, enjoy His companionship, and learn more about His will for your life, then maybe this is just what you're looking for. If your interested see any Emmaus member or Walt Harrison, Brad Brittain, Mike or Valerie Bolton for more information. Welcome to our newest Emmaus members: James McKeand, Gilbert Reyes, Kelly O'Hare and Donna Hausman. The Emmaus group meets the fourth Monday of the month in the FUMC Fellowship Hall. We will have our next Emmaus Gathering on Monday of October 22nd at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for food, fun and fellowship

Parley Wiggins Circle Saving Labels

Parley Wiggins Circle is collecting Campbell's Soup can labels and Box Tops for Education labels to be sent to the McCurdy School in New Mexico to be used as they desire. This is one of our mission projects and we will be collecting them throughout the year. There will be a container in the Church foyer for collecting these labels and box tops. Check out the list of products attached to the container to see where you can look for the Box Tops for Education labels. (The list is extensive). Each of these labels is worth 10 cents so FUMC Mexia can really make a difference! Periodically, we will report in the Newsletter, how much we have collected.

Thank You

FUMC Congregation, Many thanks for the prayers, cards, & visits up lifting my spirit during my recovery from my fall. It really helps to know that friends are pulling for you to recover soon. Yes, I am slowly improving and look forward to returning to my old self.
Craig Kegerreis

FUMC Vacation Bible School Class, thanks for your donation of school supplies for McBay Elementary School Children.
Sincerely, McBay Elementary School

FUMC is organizing a book drive for McBay Elementary School.

NEW & GENTLY USED Story BOOKS are to be collected. We will have more information on this project soon.

October Birthdays*

5th—Gael McKeever, 6th—Katelinn Handcock, 7th—Aileen Womack, 9th—Steve Bullard, Donna Williford, 11th—Glenn Williford, 12th—Shelby Candy, 13th—Kyle Handcock, 15th—Jackson Tacker, 19th—Elizabeth Withrow, 22nd—Michelda Brown, 24th—Cathy Ward, 28th—Julia Faye Hamilton, 29th—Woodrow Wilson, 30th—Starlene Yelverton

October Anniversaries*

1st—Seth & Wilma Wilson, 15th—Mike & Mary Ann Ray, 18th—Bob & Pam Crider, 21st—John & Diane Burks, Jack & Ima Beth Forrest, 24th—Steve & Cindy Bullard

* If we miss your Birthday or Anniversary please notify the FUMC office so we can update our records.

Guidelines from our Webmaster, James McKeand

1. Before I can post photos of anyone on the FUMC website, I need written permission of the person (parent or guardian, in the case of minors). I will try to make up a simple form that will be on the website to print out and have signed.
2. Photo submissions should include Caption and Description. Identify the persons in the photo and describe the event.
3. Photos will be processed to speed loading (I will resize and crop to fit).
4. The information on the site, www.fumcmexia.org does not spontaneously appear. I need input to be able to keep the site up-to-date. If any group would like a sub-page on the Ministry Page I will gladly meet with them to put a page together.

J. R. Crutchfield Memorials

Mary & Jim Benson, John & Diane Burks, Buddy & Donna Williford, Constance & Wayne Coulter, Dennis McFall, and The Georgia Kin: Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Steen, Mr. & Mrs. Keith Wilson, Mr. & Mrs. Kirk Wilson, Mrs. Mildred Horosky. Mr. & Mrs. Dale Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hunt. Mr. & Mrs. Dan Schoop, Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Coulter, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Steed & Family, Mrs. Charlotte Wilson, Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Crutchfield, Mrs. Margaret Greene, Mr. & Mrs. Lee Willingham, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Whitfield, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Drumheller

Welcome Our Newest Member

Jonathan Bowen

Attendance for September

	<u>SS</u>	<u>Worship</u>
9/2	35	112
9/9	55	127
9/16	32	162
9/23	52	138
9/30	37	145

Memorials

Virginia Nutt	The FUMC Chancel Choir
	John & Diane Burks
Mrs. Harvey Fore	FUMC Upper Room
Eleanor Lammens	Tad & Ima Burroughs
	FUMC Adult Fellowship

Update on Commitment Cards

Committed: \$46,766.00
 In Hand: \$14,854.50

If anyone is interested in a church pew contact Brad. The long pew that was in the foyer is in storage at the present time and is looking for a new home.

Deadline for submitting an article for the November Newsletter is October 25th.



Trunk or Treat

Wednesday, October 31st

5:30-6:30 pm

FUMC Parking Lot

There will be treats in the circle of cars in the parking lot where the children can walk around the circle and “*Trunk or Treat*” the adults who have parked and are ready to great them.

Wear your costumes!!

There will be Games and Refreshments!

Dress up, brings a friend, and come enjoy games, hot dogs, drinks, popcorn and trick or treating around the car circle!



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

Mike Bolton and Barbara Owens, Building Maintenance and Cleaning

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - 1:00 -4:00 p.m.

Friday

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.