

THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONNECTIONS

First United Methodist Church
Mexia, Texas
September, 2008



... ***“Sunday School Challenge?”***

We are emphasizing our Sunday school program during the month of September. Our goal as a church is to start at least two new Sunday school classes each year. We have challenged each of our Sunday school classes (adults and children) to double the size of their class by the end of the year. That means making phone calls and inviting current church members who do not belong to a Sunday school class to join a class. I have had the privilege of teaching the Upper Room Sunday school class for the past month and one thing that I admire so much about this particular class is how close-knit they are as a group. They have literally been through thick and thin together, and many of them have told me that having the support of a Sunday school class has made all the difference in their lives. The same can be said for our Dorcas Sunday school class. They too have been together for years and have loved and supported one another as a group. Our younger generation needs to develop that same sense of being a part of a support group such as a Sunday school, and I think our church needs to make growing our Sunday school program a top priority. In addition to developing friendships, it is obviously a great way to grow as a Christian through Bible study and conversation. Thank you to all of our Sunday school teachers who have been so devoted through the years. If you are not currently a member of one of our Sunday school classes and would like more information, please give me a call so we can find the right class for you and your family.

In Christ,

Brad

Message from Director of Music, Dr. Richard Morgan...

Chancel Ringers, the adult handbell group, will resume rehearsals on Monday, September 8th at 6:00 pm in the Handbell Room, in Fellowship Hall across from the Kitchen. If you would like to join this group (all are welcome), talk to Richard.

Simply Singing September, describes what the Chancel Choir will be doing for the upcoming month. The Choir invites any and all who enjoy singing to take advantage of this limited commitment. If it has been a while since you have sung in a group, or if you never have, this is your opportunity. If you like to sing, but don't think you could sing in the Choir,

this is your opportunity to discover that it really might be possible. We will be singing music appropriate for whoever comes. Our task will be to help you become comfortable with your voice and singing in a group. Your task is merely to come and try it out for this limited time. You might be pleasantly surprised at what you can do.

We would be lying if we didn't say that we hope some of you will remain beyond the month of September, but we also know that a month's commitment is the most that many of you may be able to do. We will enjoy your company and contribution for whatever amount of time you are with us.

Message from Program Coordinator, Charlotte Posey...

Thank you to everyone who provided a delicious dessert for the Annual Teacher Appreciation Lunch for the Mexia ISD. The luncheon was held at the Mexia Junior High School Cafeteria on Friday, August 22. Teachers and Administrations seemed delighted to have such a wide variety of desserts to choose from. Thank you for providing our teachers with this treat as they begin the new school year.

The BBQ Cook-off was a hit with approximately 125 people attending. Thank you to all who entered their favorite BBQ dish. And thank you to everyone who brought the great side dishes. We had a feast! People really seemed to enjoy the wonderful food and especially the fellowship around the tables.

We began a new ministry and connection with Navarro College on Monday, August 25th. Our church hosted a "donut day" for the students as they completed registration and began classes at the Mexia campus. We will have more opportunity for student ministry with Navarro in the near future.

Message from one of our Youth Leaders, Kortney Kelsey...

As the new school year starts back up and everyone begins to slow down from the long summer break, our lives become more routine. The youth members are having to do the same thing. With summer vacation being over we are going to start turning more towards mission and learning about our faith with others. We will still be having fun with activities and events like our upcoming lock-in, but we want to see a Christian influence being put into our schools and community. So this month we are going to be working up different plans and events to keep our minds busy with a mission, and to keep our hearts busy with Christ. Please keep our youth in your prayers, and thanks to the church and all who help us.

BBQ Cook-Off

Thank you to everyone who came and participated in our BBQ Cook-Off. We had a great crowd and everyone enjoyed the fellowship and great tasting BBQ. The winner of our Best Overall category was Don Beene and his brisket. Don also won first place in the brisket category. Bette Thetford won the best chicken category (some of the best chicken I've ever eaten), and Randy Machacek won first place for his delicious ribs. Thank you to everyone else who entered the contest. We look forward to doing it again next year!



Thank you Johnnie Christian for taking the BBQ Pictures.

Wednesday Evening Suppers

Wednesday, September 3rd we will resume our Wednesday evening supper program. The meals will be served from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. each Wednesday. The menu for September is as follows: **September 3 – Hamburgers, September 10th – Taco Salad, September 17th – Chicken Spaghetti, and September 24th – Sloppy Joes.** We have carry out plates upon request. Special thanks to Sandy Imes and Barbara Owens for providing our meals.

New Children's Ministry Program – K through 5th Grade

We are beginning a new children's ministry program for children K-5th grade. The program will be on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and will consist of music, games and activities, arts and crafts, etc. We will split the group up into two age groups – K-3rd grade and 4th and 5th grade. If you have children or know of children in this age group please invite them to the church to participate in this new program. If you have any questions or would like to help in this new ministry, contact Alisha Brittain at 254-562-3485. The program begins Wednesday, September 10th.

Habitat for Humanity

Our church is excited to be participating in a new Habitat for Humanity project here in Mexia. We will be helping with the "Blitz Build" on Saturday, September 6th and Saturday, September 13th. The home we will be helping build is located on 921 E. Titus in Mexia. If you are interested in helping, meet at the construction site at 6:30 a.m. on September 6th and 13th. You may work as long as you are able. Habitat provides all the major tools, however, if you would like to bring some basic tools that would be fine. Youth 16 and under must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. This is a great local mission project in which we can join with others in our community in making a difference.

Stephen Ministers to Begin Training

We have several members from our congregation who have applied to become Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministers provide one on one care to people in our congregation and community. Donna Williford and Pam Crider have been trained to lead this group of Stephen Ministers. We will begin our training Wednesday, September 17th and by February of 2009 we will have several trained Stephen Ministers ready to receive those in need! Please pray for those who are going through the training. It is an intensive 50-hour training course that requires a deep commitment. Thanks again to Donna and Pam for stepping out in faith and getting this important ministry started in our congregation.

FUMC Golf Scramble – Sunday, September 21st

Attention all golfers and "wanna be" golfers, we will be having another golf scramble on Sunday, September 21st at Battle Lake Golf Course in Mart. We will tee off at 1:30 p.m. Invite your friends and others in our community to participate. We will pay for our individual green fees at the golf course.

Common Grounds Book Club

The next gathering for our Common Grounds Book Club will be Tuesday, September 23rd at Coffee Cabaret at 7:00 p.m. The book we will be discussing for September is “*Jim and Casper Go To Church*”, by Jim Henderson. It could be the pilot script for a sitcom: a pastor hires an atheist to help him critique several Christian churches throughout the United States. For the authors, however, this experiment was no joke. Henderson, a veteran Protestant minister, truly believes that evangelism requires listening to the good, the bad and the ugly about Christianity in order to be a better minister. So he hired Casper, an atheist copywriter and musician, to serve as "fresh eyes" and observe how a variety of Christians engage the Divine through worship. Their travels took them to a mission-minded church, an Emergent church and to Joel Osteen's mega church, among others. In the book, Henderson peppers his partner with questions about each service, and Casper comments on everything from preaching to music to the geographical location of the churches. The take-home point, which is simultaneously simple, profound and of great importance to Christianity is, "Why are there such glaring discrepancies among churches regarding what it means to be a follower of Christ?" You may purchase your book from Amazon.com or other booksellers.

New Adult Sunday School Class

We will be starting a new adult Sunday school class on Sunday, September 28th. The class will be led by Don and Sharon Beene, among others. The class will be using the curriculum “*Genesis to Revelation*”. This study is designed to work through the Bible beginning with Genesis. This is a great opportunity to get the big picture when it comes to understanding the Bible. The class will meet in the library in fellowship hall building.

Epiphany

We are excited about our next Epiphany October 4th and 5th at Camp Rip at Lake Mexia. This is a great ministry in which our church shares the love and grace of Christ with boys from the Mexia State School. Thank you to all who have volunteered to help and make a difference in these boys' lives. If you would like to come out to Camp Rip the first weekend of October and see what Epiphany is all about, please join us! We would love to have you!

Wesleyan Theology Class

We are going to have a class on Methodist theology, and in particular, the theology that formed and shaped John Wesley. We will be reading the book “*The New Creation: John Wesley's Theology Today*” by Theodore Runyon. In addition to this book, for those who would like more background on Wesley and the history of the Methodist church, I recommend reading “*Wesley and the People Called Methodists*” by Richard P. Heitzenrater. If you would like to be a part of our class / discussion group, you may purchase the book at Amazon.com or other booksellers. We will have three class sessions that meet on Sunday evenings – October 12th, 19th, and 26th. We will meet from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Navarro College Ministry

Our church has recently received grant money from the Central Texas Conference to begin ministry and outreach to Navarro College here in Mexia. We have been discussing different possibilities for ministry with Guy Featherston, Dean of Navarro College. Once we have an outline of our plan for ministry, we will let you know how you can get involved.

Landscaping Project

Special thanks to Karen Harrison, Mike Bolton, and the rest of the landscaping design team for their work in preparing landscaping plans. Karen presented information to our Trustee committee in August and we are looking forward to getting to work on this special project. Thanks again to all who have contributed to the landscaping fund. We have collected \$6,115.00 so far! The first phase in the landscaping project will be on the east side of the church. We will keep you updated as we go.

International Food Festival Has been Canceled

Thank You Church Family

Pam and I would like to say a very "Special Thanks" to our wonderful church family for allowing us the opportunity to go to the Stephen's Ministry Conference.

Our mission is to train others in the ministry, so we can be there for people and help ones in time of need.

Thank you all for being open to this ministry and making the commitment you made to let us go for the leadership training. We thank you for trusting in us and believing in us to do this.

Our thank you seems so small compared to all you have done for us. We ask your continued prayers as we begin the Stephen Ministry training.

Your Stephen Leaders,
Pam Crider & Donna Williford

Dear Church Family,

Thanks for the Scholarship to Glen Rose Camp. I have had the best time ever at camp. I meet a friend there each year and we always get the same cabin.

Thanks very much,
Paige O'Hare



FUMC Welcomes New Members

Don & Sharon Beene
John Fletcher

September Birthdays

3rd—Larry Sewell, 4th—Charles Yelverton, 6th—Trevor Owen,
9th—Kenneth Christian, 10th—Ina Beth Forrest, 13th—Kelly O’Hare,
14th—Mary Marcotte, Mike Bolton, 16th—Mica Candy, Kay Hynes,
17th—Emily Lewis, Bug Paschal, 18th—Frances Williams,
19th—Sandy Imes, 20th—Wendy Simmons, 23rd—Delma Park, 24th—Lady Carter-
Fain, Danette Day, 26th—Brandi Ellis, 28th—Doug Allen, 29th—Kathy Paschal

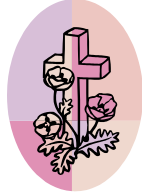


September Anniversaries



2nd—Bob & Patsy Henry, 3rd—James & Carol Ann Dawley,
J.R. & Kathleen Flowers, 9—Roger & Michelda Brown, Tad & Ima
Burroughs, 7th—Bill & Cathy Ward, 10th—Bob & Barbara Candy,
13th—Jim & Leslie Clements, 19th—Bob & Peggy Wright,
29th—Bobby & Roy Baccus, 30th—Walt & Gael McKeever

Memorial



Billie Rhyne

Bill & Lula Goswick
Adult Fellowship
Upper Room Class



Arland Albright
Joe & Nance Bounds

Chris Williford
Bob & Pam Crider

John Morgan
Donna & Buddy Williford
Don & Wynona Lipsett
Adult Choir
Ed & Pat Cunningham

Old Magazines Needed

National Geographic, Texas Highways, Arizona Highways, Field and Stream.
Contact: Bob Henry 254-353-2561

Tool Trailer Update

Earlier this year our church raised funds to purchase a trailer to be used for various mission projects. In January we had a "tool shower" where we outfitted the trailer with appropriate tools for mission projects. Our tool trailer now has our church logo on the side with a thank you to all those who supported the project on the front of the trailer. Special thanks goes out to all who made this possible, and to Bob Henry for taking and having the signs put on the trailer. We look forward to putting the trailer to use as we serve others in our community.



Your Church Staff

Brad Brittain, Pastor
Dr. Richard Morgan, Director of Music
Charlotte Posey, Christian Education/Program Coordinator
Wynona Lipsett, Organist
Mary Benson, Administrative Assistant/Fiscal Coordinator
Mike Bolton, 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.