

**THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST MIRROR**  
*First United Methodist Church*  
*Mexia, Texas*

*December 2, 2005*

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**Church Staff**

*Dr. Max K. Burkhead, Pastor*  
*Richard Morgan, Minister of Music*  
*Martha McCain, Administrative Assistant*

*Mary Benson, Fiscal Coordinator*  
*Wynona Lipsett, Organist*  
*Michael Robbins, Building Superintendent*

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**Advent is about preparation. It is about expectation. It is about the coming of Jesus. Red Sovine, who is now deceased, was a country singer who usually did ballads and recitations dealing with life on the highway and being a truck driver. Some may have not heard of Red Sovine, but many years ago he recorded a piece about Jesus coming and visiting in a person's home. The question was asked, "What would you do if Jesus came to your house for a day or two?" He goes on giving examples of what a person may or may not do. Would it change the nature of our conversations? Would we dust off a bible and put it out in place of our magazines? Would our music tastes change? Wouldn't we give our very best if Jesus came to spend a day or two? It's a very simple message, but one that is true. What would change if Jesus came to your house? What would we do if Jesus came to be a part of our church family? I wonder, if anything about us would change? Isn't that the question of Advent? Advent means that we are in the process of preparing our hearts and our lives and our homes for the coming of Jesus. It is not about Santa Claus. It is not about snowmen. It is not about shopping to find the perfect gift. It is about getting ready and making a way for the coming of Jesus. It is also about repentance and turning away from our sins. Have you thought about what people hear you say under your breath when you are agitated? Do you ever think about what it means to say thank you even when you believe things aren't up to your standard? Think about it and think about the fact that Jesus is here, whether we realize it or not.**

*Max K. Burkhead*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Robin Adams Cathy Bottoms Jeanie Brown  
Joe Bounds Beth and Bob Boucherant  
Kamrye Brown Michelda Brown Cindy Brooks  
Pat Buyher Charles and Ann Burgoon  
Herman and Mary Collier Brenda Greer Craft  
Sherrie Dolph Roy Englebert Jeremy Ferguson  
Nancy Flagg Brad Goss Penny Gray  
Andrew Gordon Russell Hawkins  
Melissa-Heath Hill Rena Hodge Ellie Hoskins  
Albert Hudson Debbie Johnson  
Percy Kennedy Lorena Kerzee Joey Lane  
Bill and Shirley Lane Henry and Dotty Lawson  
Holly Lewis Karen Liddell Don McCord  
Sam McKeever and Family Peggy Morrison  
Stg. Rick Musticchi Jim Ramsey Mike Ray  
M.R. (Billy) Sterling Keith Ritz Mike Rule  
Jack Sanders Buddy Stewart Vickie Smith  
Nancy Spence Patti Smith Debbie Sunday  
\*Leo and Jeffalene Stuver\* Micky Sunday  
\*Virginia Simmons\* Tasha and Jackson Tacker  
Faye Tacker Vickie Taylor  
CPL Timothy Ross Watson Cindy Williford  
Jerry Willett Richard Williams Bryan Wilson



### *Birthdays*

*Seth Wilson 7th*  
*Wendy Anderson 7th*  
*Pat Simmons 11th*  
*Roma Wells 11th*  
*Rebecca Davis 11th*  
*Kit Willett 13th*  
*Tabitha Willett 14th*  
*Gary Beard 15th*  
*Fannie Lelia Wilson 15th*  
*James McKeand, Jr. 15th*  
*Caroline Kendall 17th*  
*Paul Burkhead 18th*  
*Sherry Miller 18th*  
*Pat Neill 20th*  
*Carl Williford 23rd*  
*Sheila Walitsch 24th*  
*Fay Broughton 29th*  
*Cody Baker 31st*




**God...**  
**has appointed**  
**a time for**  
**every matter,**  
**and for every**  
**work.**

Ecclesiastes 3:17

### *Anniversaries*

*Tim and Sadie Edwards 28th*  
*Ed and Pat Cunningham 27th*

**Poinsettias have arrived and they are beautiful! It's not too late if you wish to make a purchase in "memory of" or in "honor of" a loved one, please contact the church office. The cost will be \$15.00.**



Dear Ladies of the Dorcus Class,

As you have done so beautifully for so many years, thank you for the nice lunch at the time of my sister, Mildred Aycock Wright's funeral service!

You do that so beautifully, and I want you to know that it was so much appreciated by family and out of town guests.

Truly,

Roland M. Aycock



# *News from the...*



*On Sunday, December 4th, we will be placing the Chrismons on the Chrismon tree. For those of you that are not familiar with the history of the Chrismon, we would like to tell you a little bit about the origin of this decoration.*

## What is a Chrismon?

Chrismon (CHRIS<sup>t</sup>-MONogram) ornaments were first developed in 1957 by Frances Kipps Spenser of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA. when she set out to create decorations appropriate for a church Christmas tree, An evergreen tree, ancient symbol of eternal life, forms the background for tiny white lights and gold Chrismon designs, based on biblical and theological concepts familiar to believers. The symbols used are interdenominational and the heritage of all Christians. Chrismons are a type of Christmas Tree decoration used in many churches and often in the homes of Christians. Technically, if the ornaments on a Christmas tree are comprised mostly of Christian symbols, the tree is known as a "Chrismon Tree." Most Chrismons are white with gold decorations of beads, ribbon, glitter, etc. Common Chrismons incorporate images such as the fish, a symbol for Christ (the Greek word for "fish" forming an acronym that spells out "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior"). Other symbols are the cross, stars, angels and the Greek letters Alpha and Omega. ("I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the beginning and the end." Revelations 22:13.)



**Currently we are \$7,400 away from paying all of our conference apportionments for 2005. Many are helping to move the church in a positive direction financially. But, it takes everyone. If you need to catch up on your giving to the church or you just need to be obedient and start tithing, then there is no better time than right now! *Thanks!***




## **Annual Breakfast with Santa**

***Hosted by Preschool Governing Board***

**Breakfast with Santa has become a favorite family holiday event for our Preschool families. This year, our puppet musical will stress the Joy of the Christmas Season as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall from 8:30 a.m.—10:00 a.m. Santa will be greeting the children during that time. Pancakes, sausage, juice—all you can eat—will be served. The children may go visit Santa before or after their breakfast. There will be one (1) puppet show lasting from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Please make Breakfast with Santa and the puppet musical part of your family Christmas this year.**

The Pastor/Parish Relations Committee will meet in the Boardroom on December 13, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. Every member needs to be in attendance. This is an important meeting closing out 2005.



*The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.*  
James 5:16

**Men's Prayer  
Breakfast  
Thursday's  
6:30 a.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church  
December 15, 2005  
December 22, 2005**

**Financial Stewardship**

**Needed each week:**

**\$5,288.46**

**Needed to date: (as of Nov 27)**

**\$253,846.08**

**Received to date:**

**\$201,898.49**

**Shortfall:**

**\$51,947.59**

**Attendance**

**Sunday School**

**Nov 20 63**

**Nov 27 55**

**Worship**

**Nov 20 125**

**Nov 27 123**

5th Annual Christmas Dinner Theater  
*Voices of Christmas*



Amahl's Mother - Jodi Commander  
Amahl - Michael Savage

Act 1

*Amahl and the  
Night Visitors*

An Opera in One Act  
By  
Gian-Carlo Menotti



King Kaspar - Mike Clements  
King Melchior - Dr. Ron Stephens  
King Balthazar - Theiss Jones

Act 2



IN CONCERT

*The Chorale and Orchestra*  
Presented by the Music Ministry  
of  
First Baptist Church Mexia Texas  
at the  
Christian Life Center

December 9, 10, 11, 2005  
Doors Open at 6:00 PM  
Dinner Served at 6:30 PM Nightly

Tickets:  
\$12 Tables 1-11  
\$10 Tables 12-33

500 E Carthage  
Mexia, Texas 76667  
(254) 562-5576

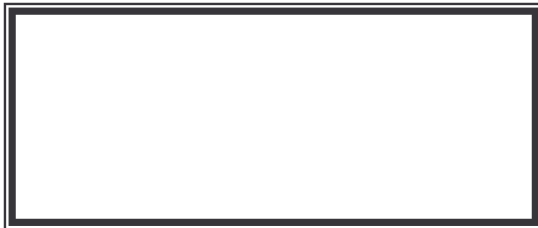




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**ATTENTION!**

The next issue of the  
Mirror will be on  
Friday, December 16, 2005.  
The deadline for information  
to be included in the edition  
will be 12:00 noon  
Monday, December 12, 2005.

**Financial Stewards**

Dec 04: Dawn McKeand and Art Nutt  
Dec 11: Art Nutt and Scott Mack  
Dec 18: Scott Mack and Nancy Hughes  
Dec 25: Nancy Hughes and Cindy Williford



Monday—Friday  
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.  
1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

For Emergencies, call:  
Pastor's Cell Phone:  
903-388-9207