



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST MIRROR

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

September 1, 2006

Church Staff

Brad Brittain, Pastor

Richard Morgan, Minister of Music

Walt Harrison, Minister of Youth

Wynona Lipsett, Organist

Martha McCain, Administrative Assistant

Mary Benson, Fiscal Coordinator

Dawn McKeand, Building Cleaning

Kelly O'Hare, Building Maintenance



. . . *The time of your life*

Luke 14:15-24 -- Jesus said, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time of the dinner, he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.'" But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' The servant said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room for more.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

This is one of those stories that Jesus told that really needs no explanation. The message is pretty clear. All of us have been invited to share in the wonder of God's grace and love through Jesus Christ, and the choice is up to us if we wish to accept the invitation. Just like the people who were invited to the great dinner, we too have our excuses when it comes to making time for God.

I have heard many different excuses for not being a part of a worshiping community and most of them sound an awful lot like the excuses in Jesus' story -- "I don't have time today, I've been swamped at work." "I don't have time today, I've been running all over the place with the kids." "I don't have time today, I have this and that and this and that..." It's funny but I don't remember Jesus saying, "I don't have time today..." when he died on the cross for you and me. Perhaps we should all think about that the next time we think we don't have time for God. God's made time for us, so let's make some for Him. See you on Sunday!

In Christ, Brad Brittain

*Remembering you in
our thoughts and prayers*

Robin Adams Ruby Bailey Jayce Black
 Shirley Brown Joe Bounds Cindy Brooks
 Dr. Buchmeyer Pat Bugher Olen Clary
 Lindsey Cotton Brenda Greer Craft
 Jeremy Ferguson Andrew Gordon
 Cindy Haltom Jimmy Hardin Rick Hart
 Hubert and Jean Harrison Russell Hawkins
 Melissa-Heath Hill Ruby Hitt Rena Hodge
 Howze Family Ellie Hoskins Albert Hudson
 Patsy Johnson Cassandra Jones
 Noreeta Lane Holly Lewis Cheryl Lipsett
 Henry and Dottye Lawson Don McCord
 Melody Mack Kyle Morgan Peggy Morrison
 Cathy Murray Francis Owens Ann Pendleton
 John Posey Estalee Price Sunday Crider-Pirkle
 Keith Ritz Jim and Salley Ramsey Mike Ray
 Richard Reasoner Mike Rule Beata Schueller
 Vickie Smith Nancy Spence Patti Smith
 Dale Stepp M.R. (Billy) Sterling Debbie Sunday
 Jackie Sunday Micky Sunday Chad Thomas
 Faye, Tasha & Jackson Tacker Vickie Taylor
 Lisa Thibodaux Glenda Verden Gordon White
 Cindy Williford Richard Williams Bryan Wilson
All Troops in Iraq

"As I live,
says the Lord,
every knee shall bow
to me, and every
tongue shall give
praise to God."
Romans 14:11, NRSV



September

Birthdays

3rd—Larry Sewell, **9th**—Kenneth Christian
10th—Ina Beth Forrest
13th— Ross Ray, Kelly O'Hare
14th—Mike Bolton
17th— Emily Lewis, Bug Paschal
18th—Frances Williams, Kelly Ray
19th—Sandra Imes, Elizabeth Withrow
23rd—Delma Park
24th— Lady Carter-Fain
27th—Aubry Ray
29th—Kathy Paschal

Anniversaries

2nd—Bob and Patsy Henry
3rd—James and Carol Ann Dawley
3rd—J.R. and Kathleen Flowers
4th—James and Merl Shivers
5th—Tad and Ima Burroughs
5th—Roger and Michelda Brown
7th—Bill and Cathy Ward
13th—Jim and Leslie Clements
19th—Bob and Peggy Wright
29th—Bobby and Roy Baccus

Teacher Appreciation Sunday

On Sunday, September 10th, we will be recognizing the Teachers of our community during our 10:30 a.m. worship service. After the service, we will serve lunch in honor of the Teachers. We are asking that members of the church provide the side dishes for the meal. Thank you to all of our Teachers and all you do for the children!



Epiphany Fund-Raiser Luncheon

On Sunday, September 17th, we will have a Chicken Spaghetti Fund-Raiser Luncheon in the FUMC Fellowship Hall for the upcoming Epiphany for the boys at the Mexia State School. This is a wonderful outreach ministry of our church and we would love for you to join us for the lunch to find out more about this special ministry.





Our Conference has a mission program in which churches throughout our conference are recognized for going above and beyond in the area of outreach and missions. We would be recognized at Annual Conference next

year in Fort Worth if we do the following:

- *Serve the local community through outreach,*
- *Give 100% of our assigned apportionments,*
- *Have an ongoing program of mission education,*
- *Contribute to a UMCOR Advance Special, and*
- *Make a financial contribution of any size to a United Methodist missionary.*

Let's work together to become a five star mission church!

RELAY FOR LIFE

Saturday, October 7, 2006

If anyone is interested in participating on the Relay for Life Team, please call Dawn McKeand at 472-9686 or Ann Neill at 562-7961.

Team members will be collecting \$100.00 for Cancer Research. So, get your walking shoes on and help our team walk laps at the Mexia High School Football Field. Additional information will follow as this event gets closer.



...from your
music director

Methodists are a singing people—so says an article I saw recently in *Christianity Today*—and this congregation is proving that statement each Sunday. For the last two Sundays, I have chosen commitment hymns that even I didn't know, but they had very appropriate texts, and seemed singable. You, the congregation, sang with willingness and confidence, not just with a “joyful noise!”

As our congregation grows, we are looking for new choir members. We will begin working on special music for our Advent and Christmas seasons on Wednesday, October 4th. Come join the choir then. Look for a reminder of this special date. (However, you may join us anytime, and follow along with our more experienced members.)

Youth Handbell Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 6 at 4:30 p.m. right after football and other athletic practices. All 6-8 graders are welcome.

Adult Handbell Choir will resume rehearsals on Monday, September 11 at 5:15 p.m. Note the day of rehearsal! We welcome anyone with experience.

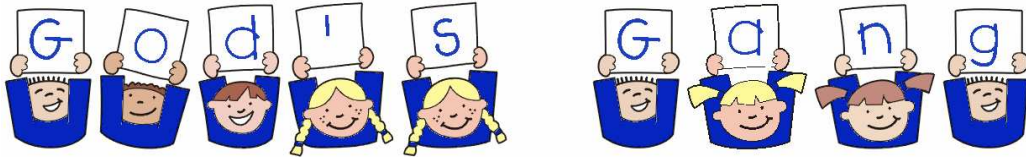
If you are interested in learning to play handbells and are an adult or high school student, you will want to join a new group, the Genesis Ringers. A couple of people have indicated interest, but we need at least 8 people to be able to form the group. We will need to find a convenient rehearsal time. Please let me know if you are interested in this new group.

Childrens Choir is already meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Choir Room, and we look forward to having more of our children join this important group.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Blessings, Richard

richard.morgan@yahoo.com



will resume on September 5th at 3:45—5:00 p.m. following school.

Our pantry is in need of snack food. . .crackers, cookies, drink mixes, gold fish, peanut butter, etc. Just place it in the kitchen with a note that it is for God's Gang. We would love for you to come by to visit and see the kids. This could be a mission that you would enjoy. If you would ever want to come by on Tuesday with fruit or cookies, the kids would love it.

One afternoon, someone brought angel food cake and cut it up into bite size pieces. The kids all went crazy because they had never seen it before. They all commented that they had angel cake. Now how neat is that.



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

**First Baptist —Sept 7th
First Methodist— Sept 14th
First Methodist—Sept 21st
First Presbyterian—Sept 28th**



Kortney Kelsey
Steve and Cindy Bullard
Barbara Owens
Brenda Woodruff

Attendance of the Month of August

	SS	Worship
Aug 06	73	138
Aug 13	54	139
Aug 20	41	162
Aug 27	76	167

FALL FESTIVAL 2006

EVERYONE GET READY! Fall Festival 2006 at the First United Methodist Church is getting closer. The date is Saturday, October 28. Booths open at 9 a.m. and the Barbeque Lunch will be served from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The day is already a success because of the energy and excitement that our members are feeling as we plan and prepare together.

Approximately 1,100 tickets to the Barbeque have already been sold! There will be 3 serving lines: (1) dine Inside, (2) dine Outside and (3) take out and delivery. We have approximately 35 smiling faces serving on the Lunch Crew that will help to cook, serve, greet and be hostesses to our guests that day. Everyone has been so willing to help and do whatever is needed. It will be an exciting day. In addition to the lunch, please note all the other activities planned for the day.



Crafts Entertainment Country Kitchen Kidfest
Funnel Cakes Live and Silent Auction Sweet Shop
***** PLUS LOTS OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP *****

Don't miss this day together at our church!
If you haven't purchased your lunch ticket yet, please call Ina Beth Forrest at 254-5284 or Sherry Miller at 562-7822. We are trying to have 100% of our church members with at least one ticket purchased to Fall Festival Lunch. We are almost there! Thanks to everyone for your support.

EPIPHANY NUMBER 4 IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Epiphany Number 4 will be held on October 7 and 8, 2006. The members of the First United Methodist Church have always been very encouraging and supportive of this ministry and your help is needed again!

During the next 6 weeks leading up to this event, our church will be asked to pray for the team, contribute to provide meals and Bibles to these youth, and some members will even come serve on the team. As you know, the Epiphany Ministry seeks to meet the basic needs to love and be loved through the message of God's grace, love, and forgiveness.

There will be 16 youth from Mexia State School participating in Epiphany 4, which will be held at Camp Rip. Approximately 35 adults from our church and surrounding churches will serve on the team and the team is blessed as much or more than the Mexia State School youth participating.

There will be a benefit lunch on September 17 to raise money for the weekend. Please plan on eating with us (donations accepted) on that Sunday to help in this ministry. Also, please start praying for the event.

Please prayerfully consider how you can be the hands and feet of God in this ministry. If you want to help or have questions, please call Brad Brittain or Michael Miller. We Need You!

Administrative Board Meeting

Our monthly Administrative Board meeting will be on Tuesday, September 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will hear reports from our different committees, as well as discuss our Fall Festival coming up in October. In particular, we will be deciding the exact allocation of the Fall Festival proceeds. Just a reminder - every member of the church is now a voting member of the Administrative Board. See you on the 5th!



A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

On Sunday, September 10th, we will have a new adult Sunday School class at FUMC Mexia. This class is designed for those who are not currently attending Sunday school but would like to be a part of a new class, and will be taught by Rev. Brittain. There is not a particular "age group" for this Sunday school class. Anyone who has an interest in becoming a part of small group and learning more about the Bible and us is welcome! We will meet in the Peyton classroom in the fellowship hall at 9:30 a.m. I look forward to seeing you!

Mission Project Update



During the month of August, we collected tubes of toothpaste to send to the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) facility in Louisiana. These tubes of toothpaste will be placed in health kits which will then be distributed all around the world to those in immediate need due to natural disasters.

We also sent \$300 to McBay Elementary School to help purchase school uniforms for those children in need. Thank you to everyone who participated in these mission projects.

Our September mission project will be collecting canned goods for the Life House food pantry. Every Wednesday at the Life House, food is distributed to those in need. If you would like to contribute, you can bring your canned goods to the church office. Thanks again for all you do for others!

Visitation Team Established

We have established a visitation team at the church. Various members from our congregation have volunteered to visit inactive members, new visitors, those in the hospital and nursing homes, and our shut-ins. It is vitally important that we involve as many people as possible in our visitation program.

In his book, *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*, Kenneth Callahan said, "Members of our churches should have one foot in the community and one foot in the church." In other words, we should be more involved in inviting members of our community into the life of God's church.

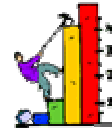


If you would like to be a part of this opportunity, contact Rev. Brad Brittain 254-562-5567 and he will get you in touch with the appropriate coordinator. Special thanks to those of you who have already volunteered. You are making a BIG difference!

Fall Festival—BBQ Tickets
(Just a reminder!)
October 28, 2006

2/3 of our Church Members have turned in their BBQ ticket request forms. If you have forgotten, we need YOU!

Our goal is 100% participation!



If you have misplaced your form, you can still get tickets!!



Thank YOU!!!

Peacekeepers

Come Join Us!!

First United Methodist Church Mexia

Sunday Mornings @ 9:30 a.m. (Starting September 3, 2006)

& Wednesday evenings @ 5:30 p.m. (Starting September 6, 2006)

For a new Intermediate Sunday School Class And a NEW Intermediate youth group for 4th and 5th graders called The "Peacekeepers"

Games SNACKS Trips

CRAFT PROJECTS

Community Outreach

And much, much more!!

We hope to see YOU there!

**For more information, contact Cheryl Hancock, Katelinn and Kyler
395-4560-home or 562-7822-work**

Memorials

**Milton Lewis— Tad and Ima Burroughs
Margaret Louise Hines—Lake Mexia Fire Department,
Upper Room
Nancy Flagg—Gary and Donna Findley, Mr. and Mrs.
Joe Allen
Dan Capehart—J.R. and Kathleen Flowers. Margary
and Margie Martin, Ed and Mary Marcotte, Marion
and Louise Howze, Upper Room Class**

Dear Members of the Methodist Church,

Words cannot express how we truly feel about the outpouring of prayers, support and love everyone has shown. God has blessed us with such wonderful friends, neighbors and family. Thank you for taking the time to pray and sending the beautiful flowers to Melody. They really brightened her day. I am truly in awe, and so is she. She continues to heal each day and get a little bit stronger. She will go on with her dreams and I know that God will use her in some mighty way. Brad, thank you for being there for the surgery and after. We really could feel all of the prayers. How special you all are in her life. Please continue to pray for her as she goes forward.



Thank you and God Bless you, Trudy and Melody

FUMC recently joined the Texas Shared Church Services (TSCS). This is a church group purchasing organization operating in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. It's purpose is to organize and combine the member churches' purchasing volume in order to negotiate lower prices and higher levels of service and quality with national vendors.

Also, In an effort to lower the costs of our electricity bills, we are also going through TSCS. We now have access to a lower rate of \$6.9 cents per KWh. TXU has been charging FUMC a rate of \$14.99 per KWh, so this should make a big difference in the utility expense that we have been paying. Kelly O'Hare will be installing lockboxes on all the thermostats. This will insure that the temperature will remain consistent through out the main building and the fellowship Hall.

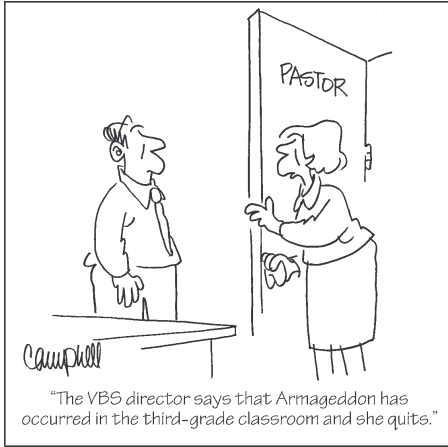



First United Methodist Church
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Address Service Requested
 Return Postage Guaranteed

*Non-Profit
 Postage
 Paid
 Mexia, TX
 Permit #58*

*Texas is home to more United
 Methodists than any other
 state. (United Methodist
 Witness)*

The next issue of the
Mirror will be on
 Friday, Sept 29, 2006.
 The deadline for informa-
 tion to be included in the
 edition will be 12:00 noon
 Monday, Sept 25, 2006.

Financial Stewards

Sept 03 Lowell Posey, Tracy Machacek
 Sept 10 Tracy Machacek, Craig Kegerreis
 Sept 17 Craig Kegerreis, Kathy Paschal
 Sept 24 Kathy Paschal, Ann Pendleton



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

For Emergencies, call:
 Brad's Cell Phone:
 903-879-0481