



THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST MIRROR

First United Methodist Church

Mexia, Texas

June 16, 2006

Church Staff

Brad Brittain, Pastor

Richard Morgan, Minister of Music

Martha McCain, Administrative Assistant

Walt Harrison, Minister of Youth

Wynona Lipsett, Organist

Mary Benson, Fiscal Coordinator



. . . a note from your pastor

"What's in this box? . . ."

That is a question I have been asking over and over again for the past several days! Everything has been turned upside down and inside out! I am, however, comforted by the fact that I finally found my toothpaste. It was packed in a box with a toaster and basketball. Go figure. I must have packed that box!

Just as our family's life has been turned upside down and inside out, so has yours as a congregation. Whenever there is a change in pastors at a church, it creates a lot of anxiety. Questions like this undoubtedly arise: "Can the new guy preach?" "Does he have a sense of humor?" "How does he do communion?" "Can he sing?" (The answer to that one is "NO!")

Max, Polly, Paul, and Matthew have been a part of your church for six years, and you have developed a special bond with each of them. I am honored to have the opportunity to succeed my fishing buddy here at Mexia, and understand that it will take time for us to get to know one another. Just as we unpack the house and ask, "What's in this box?", you and I will be asking that question of one another over the coming weeks as we discover each other.

Alisha, Benjamin, Andrew, and I are all excited to be here, and I especially consider it a privilege to be your pastor. In an effort to get to know you as soon as possible, I would like to visit with each of you as soon as possible in your home or at the church. There will be a sign-up sheet distributed during our worship services over the next few weeks to set up our visits, or you can simply call the church office and I would be glad to visit with you.

In Christ, Brad Brittain

*Remembering you in
our thoughts and prayers*

Robin Adams Jayce Black Jeanie Brown
Shirley Brown Joe Bounds Cindy Brooks
Dr. Buchmeyer Pat Bugher Olen Clary
Lindsey Cotton Brenda Greer Craft
Sherrie Dolph Jeremy Ferguson Nancy Flagg
Andrew Gordon Rick Hart Russell Hawkins
Melissa-Heath Hill Ruby Hitt Rena Hodge
Ellie Hoskins Albert Hudson Debbie Johnson
Patsy Johnson Gladys Jones Noreeta Lane
Henry and Dottie Lawson Holly Lewis
Cheryl Lipsett Don McCord Jerry McKeand
Kyle Morgan Peggy Morrison Cathy Murray
Francis Owens Estalee Price
Sunday Crider-Pirkle Jim Ramsey Keith Ritz
Mike Ray Richard Reasoner Robert Redding
Mike Rule Beata Schueller Vickie Smith
Nancy Spence Patti Smith Dale Stepp
M.R. (Billy) Sterling Debbie Sunday
Jackie Sunday Micky Sunday Chad Thomas
Vickie Taylor Faye, Tasha & Jackson Tacker
Cindy Williford Richard Williams Bryan Wilson
Our American 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



Birthdays

Jean M. Williford-3rd, Valerie Bolton-5th,
Sonia Kendall-8th, James Hitt-12th,
Jean Blunt-15th, Polly Burkhead-20th,
Matthew Paschal-20, Jean A. Williford-21st
Lou Ann Williford-21st,
Connie Colon-23rd, Larry Hensley-23rd,
Scott Bolton-23rd, Cheryl Hancock-24th,
Kent Kendall-25th, Nell Robinson-25th,
Bill Goswick-26th, Sammie Carter-26th,
Dave Weihausen-26th, Joe Paschal-29th,
Randy Kott-30th

Anniversaries

Robert and Kit Willett, 2nd
Larry and Hermine Sewell, 7th
Woodrow and Fannie Lelia Wilson, 8th
Greg and Kay Goodrum, 13th
Lewis and Jean Blunt, 14th
Kenneth and Jana Paschal, 15th
Dan and Sue Franks, 26th
Art and Kathy Nutt, 26th
Bill and Lula Goswick, 28th
Carl and Jean Williford, 29th
Don and Wynona Lipsett, 30th

A Message From Ben Franklin

God governs in the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured in the Sacred Writings that “except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it” [Psalm 127:1, KJV]. I firmly believe this. I also believe that, without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel.

—Ben Franklin at the
Constitutional Convention of 1787

Dear FUMC
Church Family,

Thank You!
THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for the Luncheon you held for me and my fellow graduates, and thank you for the wonderful Bible I received. I couldn't have asked for a better church family with more love and support, because everyone has been great. Thanks in and Lots of Love!

Melody Mack



God and Country
Freedom Celebration 2006
Tuesday, July 4th

Parkside Full Gospel Church

presents
9 local Christian groups
Christian Contemporary & Southern Gospel Music
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

UNDIGNIFIED WORSHIP BAND

performing at 5:30 p.m.

ApologetiX

performing at 6:30 p.m.

**515 South Canton
Mexia, TX 76667
254-562-6636**

**Free Admission
To all!!**

**Come and Be
Changed**



...from your
music director

Selecting hymns for worship is a fearsome task. How do you keep everyone happy? The short answer is that “you don’t!”

Here’s what drives me as I choose hymns. First, I consider the liturgical theme of the day, which is always reflected in the scripture readings. In that mix, I include Brad’s sermon topic. Thus, in some way, each hymn should have a purpose in the service—it’s never there just because I like it, or so that it will make us feel good.

Second, I consider familiarity. Since I am still new to the church, and Max used to choose most of the hymns, I am not entirely sure what this congregation knows. There are many wonderful hymns and spiritual songs in our two hymnals that we haven’t sung yet, and I’m not sure if you know them. However, the choir usually gives me good feedback. If the hymn might be unfamiliar but it is a great one for the occasion, I consider how easy it might be to sing. Often the best hymns are the simplest. If they are easy to sing, then we are more likely to be able to sing them “with the Spirit.” If they are hard and unfamiliar, I usually pass them by, unless they are so important that it is worth making the effort. Then, I will try to work a new hymn into the service, with Wynona playing it and the choir singing it as an introit or even an anthem. When the time comes, hopefully we will be ready to sing the new song.

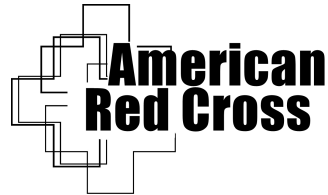
Third, I consider styles of music. Some of us like the old Southern gospel hymns; some of us are turned on by early American spiritual songs; some of us love the hymns that came out of the classical tradition; some of us respond to music that has been influenced by pop and folk cultures. I try to maintain a balance of styles.

Now, this brings me back to that very first question above—how do you keep everyone happy? All I can do is try to make someone happy each time I choose a song, but ultimately, the real question is: does our worship rise up to God like a sweet-smelling incense?

If you’ve gotten to the end of this long discussion, I would like to ask each of you to do something for me. Would you let me know what your favorite hymns are? This will help me to know what is liked by you, the members of the congregation. Email me, or give Martha a list to pass on to me. Anonymous or not, I look forward to hearing what is meaningful to you.

Blessings, Richard

richard.morgan@yahoo.com



Mexia Community Blood Drive
Wednesday, June 21st
Mexia Civic Center
12:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.

June and July Donor Incentives

There will be 2 winners in each prize drawing.

1st place: \$400.00 gas card, **2nd place:** \$200.00 Mall Certificate,
3rd place: \$100.00 certificate @ Lowes. Promotion will run from 6-1-06
thru 7-31-06. Winners will be announced on 8-15-06.



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

Calvary Baptist Church

June 22, 2006

Calvary Baptist Church

June 29, 2006

Financial Stewardship

Needed each week:

\$4,649.88

Needed to date: (as of June 11)

\$111,597.12

Received to date:

\$96,717.56

Shortfall:

-\$14,878.56

Attendance

Sunday School

Jun 04 54

Jun 11 53

Worship

Jun 04 140

Jun 11 132

June, 2006

Dear Church Family,

As I was driving away on Sunday afternoon, several thoughts kept creeping into my head. I was thinking about how little the boys were when we arrived and how big they are now!

You have watched Paul grow into a wonderful young man and I know that he has made you proud. He has made us extremely proud and we are looking forward to his great successes at TCU. As a church, you have helped Paul grow into the young christian man that he is today - through his sunday school teacher, youth ministers and as a congregation. He will always call Mexia home and I thank you so much for giving him a "home" to call his own.

Matthew was going into 2nd grade when we arrived. What a bundle of energy he was and is and amazingly, you guys kept up with him! You never tired of him. As a church family, you have helped him grow into an amazing young man. Mexia will always be a huge part of Matthew's life. I know that he will miss going to the Sunday School parties at Christmas.

Little do you realize just how much I grew while being your pastor's wife! Even though I didn't sing in the choir or attend bible study, I grew way beyond who I thought I was or ever could be!!! As a teenage girl, I knew that I was called into the mission field. I never pursued this part of my life, but God never let me forget it. I married a preacher! When Max was out of town, I was always on call. I never had to be "on call" until we arrived in Mexia. My own ministry grew while we were in Mexia and through you, I became the person God knew I could be. I will miss being a part of the "pancake crew" at Christmas and I will certainly miss being called "Rosa". I thank you for all of this!!!

Words will never express how fortunate I feel that we were able to be at FUMC Mexia for six wonderful years. Thank you for the gift card. We haven't decided how it will be used, but I know for sure that it will provide something wonderful for our home. No matter what we purchase, it will be a wonderful reminder of our time in Mexia.

Polly Burkhead



First United Methodist Church
203 North Canton Street
Mexia, TX 76667
admin@fumcmexia.org
brad@fumcmexia.org
www.fumcmexia.org

Address Service Requested
Return Postage Guaranteed

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

*Quit gripping about your
church; if it was perfect, you
couldn't belong.*



"Your enthusiasm during my sermons is flattering, Andy, but I must ask that you stop pumping your fist and yelling 'Woop! Woop!'"



The next issue of the
Mirror will be on
Friday, June 30, 2006.
The deadline for informa-
tion to be included in the
edition will be 12:00 noon
Monday, June 26, 2006.

Financial Stewards

June 18: Nancy Hughes, Cindy Williford
June 25: Cindy Williford, Michael Miller
July 02: Michael Miller, Ed Cunningham
July 09: Ed Cunningham, Bill Ward



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