

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH,
LAKE
JACKSON,
TEXAS



First Church strives
to be like Jesus!

- Praising God!
- Teaching God's Word!
- Loving one another!
- Strengthening families!
- Sharing the Good News!

297-3046 phone
297-3243 fax
ljfumc@swbell.net

The Messenger

Volume 40, Issue 3

February 3, 2010

PLUG INTO A BIBLE STUDY THIS SPRING!

- Alpha Program

Alpha presents the core beliefs of the Christian faith and shows you some practical applications of truth to life. Alpha is presented in a ten-week informal setting with each Wednesday evening including a meal, a video, and small group discussion. It is aimed at those who seek to learn more about the Christian faith or those wanting to brush up on its basics. Alpha has shown us that it's possible to learn about the Christian faith and to have fun at the same time. It's people of like age and interest meeting together, making new friends and looking at some of life's tough questions. It also offers the chance to ask anything about God or religion where no question is seen as too simple or no response too hostile.

Join us for a no-strings-attached "Alpha Sampler" on February 3rd at 6:00 in the Asbury Room. There is no charge for the course or manual but a \$5 donation to cover the meal is appreciated. Childcare is also provided. To register or for more information contact Bill Stell 297-3046 or billstell@swbell.net



- Marriage Covenant

Meets on Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm in the Round Table Room. Studying marriage topics this Spring. Childcare is provided.

- Beth Moore Bible Study

Meets on Thursday mornings at 9:30 am in the Asbury Room. A Study of Revelation, "Here and Now/ There and Then". Nursery is provided.

- Small Groups

Tuesday evenings at Daniel & Robin Johnson's home. Studying the book of John. 6:00 pm, childcare available.



Mark your calendars! First Church's
Ash Wednesday Service is coming up
on February 17th at 7:00pm



Pastor Charles Geller

I have learned so much from the heart and writings of King David. This man loves to worship the Lord. Psalm 27 tells us that he finds his meaning to life, his purpose, his joy, and his significance in worshipping God. He loves to go to the temple and express his love for God. I must say, he is not shy about it at all.

“The one thing I ask of the Lord – the thing I seek most – is to live in the house (tabernacle) of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord’s perfections and meditating in His temple.”

This entire Psalm is an x-ray of a man’s heart. He reveals his passions and his greatest desires. David overtly expresses where he finds his greatest fulfillment and protection.

“For He will conceal me there (His sanctuary) when troubles come; he will hide me in His sanctuary. He will place me out of reach on a high rock.”

In this Psalm, David is dealing with life at its rawest. He has some kind of enemy that seeks to “eat his flesh” (devour me). We are not sure what kind of enemy this is

How to Touch The Heart of God

that seeks to make his life so miserable, but there is no doubt that someone or something seeks to destroy him. We have all kinds of things, in this life, that seek to disturb us. Situations, circumstances, people, events, reports, and of course the big one is Satan. Of course, Satan’s entire goal is to get us to stop loving God. He wants to cause enough havoc in our lives that we find ourselves cursing God. Just ask Job about that fact! David tells us that he finds his identity, his worth, his value, his self-esteem, and his security in God.

“Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident (in the Lord).”

Notice that in verse 8 of this cogent Psalm, David expresses his relationship with God in such an intimate way.

“My heart has heard you say, ‘Come and talk with me.’ And my heart responds, ‘Lord, I am coming.’”

Each and every day, God is calling us to come and talk with Him! He wants to be so involved

in our lives. He is like a father saying to His children, “Kids, come and jump into Daddy’s lap and let’s talk.” He holds His breath as we make the choice to come or run. Just like a human father, when your child chooses to come and share moments of intimate time with you, it just blesses your heart. Right? When David made the decision to come to God, he said to his Father in Heaven,

‘Lord, I’m coming!’

Wow! I want to live my life in the spirit of, “Lord, I’m coming.” I want to make God happy by jumping into His arms multiple times each day. Not only will I receive the blessing, but I will “bless” Him by just wanting to be with Him.

Have a great week and I will see you next Sunday in the Sanctuary of the Lord. Let’s make Him (our daddy) happy!

Peace!

Pastor Geller

If you or someone you know would like to be added to our prayer list, please contact the church office.

Barbara Carter
Edna Good
Mary Ann Leveridge
Carol Jane Spratt
Jeri & Mark Bearden
Annette Bedell
Chris Carter
Russell Anders Family
Judy Morrow
Kay Alcott
Waldine Taska
Peggy Wille
Frances Bitter
Steve Steigerwald

Bill & Verna Zimmerman
Martha Dennis
Ken Truman
Amy English
Brad & Jenny McCoy
Helen Bryan
Kim West
Andrew Gore
Moira Ginther
Elaine & Barry Roebuck
Margarite Verrett
Betty & Tom Weber
Craig Rios
Sean Speed

Bubba Hicks
Crystal O’Connor
Ken & Barbra Miller
Cliff Childers
Bill & Joyce McClutchen
Mandi Liddell
Mary Beulah Palmer
Faye & Don Woodward
Helen Otto
Ryan Hemphill
Church Staff
Church Volunteers

Praying for

Sympathies

We extend our love & sympathy to:

Manuel & Diane Salazar in the death of Manuel's Brother, Jose G. Salazar, Sr.
Manuel Salazar
6707 CR3
Sweeny, TX 77480



Memorials

In memory of Harry Wille From:
Gayle & Horace Driskill, Mrs. Myrtle W. Walls, Mr. & Mrs. J.E. Brittain, Kay Alcott, Jim & Kaye Murray, Jeri Bearden, Jim & Terry Verboon, Mark T. Corwin & Ethel Tracy

In memory of Dave Rooke From:
Betty Stork

In memory of Buddy Kennedy From:
Betty Stork

In memory of Werner Stork From:
Betty Stork

In memory of L. Z. Bryan From:
Ron Engle

In memory of Joe Anne Allen (Sister of Wyanama Wheeler) From:
Jean Good
Pat Kennedy

In memory of Dolores Alexander (Sister of Pat Gauntt) From:
Sandy Reinhart
Andy & Deanna Wheeler

In memory of Joe Anne Allen (Sister of Wyanama Wheeler) From:
Terry & Diana Morrow

Thank Yous!

From the family of Harry Wille:

To all our friends at First United Methodist Church, the family of Harry Wille wishes to express their deepest thanks for all the love, prayers, food, many kindnesses and support which have been given to us during our time of sorrow. Words cannot express how much we thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts. Each and everyone of you demonstrated the Love God has for His children.

The Family of Harry E. Wille, Jr.

A very special thanks to the January servers for First's
Foods and Fellowship:

The Kim Bowers Family, Beverly Barnhart, Norma Stell, Sharon Zimmerman & The Rodney Ilsing Family



*Thank You
Note*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010



July 19-23
5:30 - 8:15 pm

Children ages 3 years -
4th grade welcome!!

Put it on your calendar now!!

Mission Kids!

We are doing some AWESOME stuff this Spring!! For the next few months, we will be focused on "Love Your Neighbor" with special crafts & mission activities involving helping those in our community & within our own church!

Dates for the Spring

February 16, March 2, April 6, April 20

****Note** Time change:**

4 - 5 pm 1st & 3rd Tuesdays!

Other Dates for the Summer!

Lakeview Church Camp

July 12-16

Starting this summer!!

A NEW, EXCITING MINISTRY for our kids & the kids in our communities! FUMC Children's ministry will be offering 5 day camps for children aging 2 yrs - 4th grade!

The dates are: **August 9-13**

The themes are:

- **All Creatures of our God & King:**
2 camps - 2 yr olds, 3-4 yr olds
 - **Space/Science**
 - 2 camps: K-2, 3-4 grades
- **Scrapbooking: 1 camp: 3-4 grades**

More info to come soon! If you'd like to help in any way, contact **Mindy Standlee!**



Super Bowl Sunday! -
February 7th

Sub Sandwich Sale

We need youth & adults to help assemble, wrap and sell sandwiches on Sunday
Meet in the kitchen at 7 am.

Come earn money towards your UARMY trip!

Super Bowl Party!!

Bring a friend & come watch the big game!

5:00 pm
Nancy's house - 539 Sycamore, LJ
Bring a snack to share!

I am thrilled to be your new Youth Director and I'm looking forward to getting to know each of you. This is your program. I want your input, suggestions, likes and dislikes. Bring your friends! Lets hang out and spend time together in The Word.

Nancy

Wednesday Nights - Bible Study - 6 - 7:30 pm in the Youth Center
Sunday Nights - Youth Fellowship and Meal (bring \$2) - 5-7 pm in the Youth Center

Bring your friends!

Looking ahead...

Faith in Action - April 16-18 at FUMC, Lake Jackson

Sr. High Break Thru - April 23-25 at Camp Piney Woods, Corrigan, TX

Women's Ministry/Girls Night Out



Lenten Luncheon

Join us for lunch In
Wilson's Parlor
February 28th,
From 12:00-2:00 pm

Women's Retreat!

When: February 5-7, 2010

Where: The Lodge at Dan-
bury

Theme: "So you want to get
away?... So did Jonah!"

Girls Night Out

Meets 6:30pm on the 4th
Friday of each month at a
local restaurant. For More
information, please call
Mary Helen Israel at 297-
6968

Mission Kids

Mission Kids is open to children from 3 years through 6th grade. We meet from **4:00-5:00 p.m.** on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. We always start with an after-school snack and usually end with a little play time. This spring, we're learning different ways we can love our neighbors like Jesus taught us to. **Our next meeting will be February 16;** where we'll assemble Health Kits for UMCOR, which helps people in need all over the world. Even though disasters like the earthquake in Haiti seem overwhelming, when churches work together, God uses us all to fill the needs!

Donations needed:

- 15"x25" hand towels
- Washcloths
- Large, sturdy combs
- Fingernail clippers (regular size, not toenail size)
- Bath soap bars (3 oz or larger)
- Plastic band-aids

If you can't make it and want to donate, please contact Tamra Applying to drop off supplies by Feb. 14th. (Even if you don't have children, this is a great way to provide support for those who desperately need aid!)

Have Lunch & Support First Church!



Don't forget...

Visit el Chico any time on Sunday, present that weekend's bulletin and receive 10% off your meal & El Chico then do-

First Church Attendance & Gifts

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Jan 17</u>	<u>Jan 24</u>
Sunday Services	370	360
Sunday School	243	242
Giving*	\$13,339.61	\$9,356.00

*Note - \$16,805.00 needed weekly to fulfill our ministries.

Tuesday Morning Playgroup

Come and Play! We meet every Tuesday morning from **9:00-10:00 a.m.** in "The Potter's Place" (aka the First/Second Grade Sunday School classroom). We sing a couple of songs, do a little dance or two, read a few stories, and play a lot. The kids have fun, too! Snacks and toys are provided; just bring a sippy cup and hang out with other kids and parents for a while. Even better: Bring a friend! Questions? Call Tamra at 297-1222



Faith in Action

11th Annual Wild Game Dinner Fundraiser Friday, February 12, 2010 at 6:30 PM

St. Michael's Catholic Church

\$20 Ticket Donation

Block of 8 Tickets \$140 - Children under 12 are free

Live & Silent Auctions, "Blue Bag Raffle", Live Music

Catered by Brazosport area's Finest Cooking Teams!

Dine In Only

If you would like to donate an auction item, or purchase tickets please contact Susanne Cook 979-236-0527



Personal Devotional—Relevant Christian Living

NEW!

Welcome to this new section of the Messenger Newsletter! Moving forward, each edition will include this personal devotional section for you to read, study referenced scripture and reflect in your own life on specific questions from Pastor Geller. We hope you enjoy!

Read Psalm 62: (slowly and carefully)

In **verse 1**, the Psalmist is talking about *thirsting and longing* for God. What does this mean to you? What do you think David meant when he wrote those words? Most believe that he was seeking refuge at a key point during the rebellion of Absalom. (1 Samuel 15-18) He was more than likely in the wilderness of Judea reflecting back on his days worshiping God in the temple. (see vs.2)

When you have been in the wilderness of your life, how do the memories of a powerful worship experience help

you?

How do you "gaze upon His power and glory" when you are in worship?

Verse 3 talks about God's love. What does David mean when he says, "*Your unfailing love is better to me than life itself?*"

David praises God in this Psalm. What does it mean to praise God? How do you praise God?

David says that he will honor God all of his life days (vs.3). How does David do this? How do you do this each day?

Read Matthew 5:6: (slowly and

carefully, perhaps look at it in several different translations)

Jesus tells his disciples that they are "blessed when they hunger and thirst for God." What does He mean when he makes this statement?

What does it mean to you to "hunger and thirst for God?"

What are the rewards for "hungering and thirsting for God?" What does Jesus tell them is the reward?

First Church Calendar of Events

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

7:00 am - Emmaus Reunion Group [Lib]
 8:30 am - Moms Group [WP]
 6:00 pm - Alpha Bible study [AR]
 6:00 pm - Youth U-Turn Program [YC]
 6:00 pm - Covenant Marriage Class [RT]
 6:30 pm - Advent Small Group [Cy Parks' home]
 7:30 pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal [Choir Rm]

Thursday, February 4, 2010

9:30 am - Beth Moore Bible Study
 11:00 am - Clergy Covenant Group [WP]
 5:15 pm - Praise Team Practice [Sanctuary]
 6:00 pm - Webelos Pack 325 Den [AR]
 6:30 pm - Barbershop Group [Rm 23]
 8:00 pm - SLP Teacher Workout [Rm 7]

Friday, February 5, 2010

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

5:45 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast [WH]
 8:00 am - Women's Retreat - Danbury
 6:00 pm - Boy Scout Den 3 [AR]

Saturday, February 6, 2010

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

8:00 am - Women's Retreat - Danbury

Sunday, February 7, 2010

8:00 am - Traditional Worship [Chapel]
 8:30 am - First Foods [WH]
 9:00 am - Contemporary Worship [Sanctuary]
 10:00 am - Sunday School for all ages
 11:00 am - Traditional Worship [Sanctuary]
 3:00 pm - Confirmation [AR, Lib, CH, AR]
 5:00 pm - Youth Garage Bible Study
 8:00 am - Women's Retreat - Danbury

Monday, February 8, 2010

5:30 pm - Webelos II Cub Scout Pack 325 Den Meeting [Rm 14]
 6:00 pm - Wolf Den Pack 325 [AR]
 7:00 pm - Boy Scout Troup 325 [WH]
 8:00 pm - SLP Teacher Workout [Rm 7]

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

9:00 am-8:00 pm - Chapel Open for Prayer
 9:00 am - Tuesday Morning Play Group [Potter's Place]
 7:00 pm - Boy Scout Troup Committee [Lib]

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

7:00 am - Emmaus Reunion Group [AR]
 8:30 am - Moms Group [WP]
 6:00 pm - Alpha Bible study [AR]
 6:00 pm - Youth U-Turn Program [YC]
 6:00 pm - Covenant Marriage Class [RT]
 7:30 pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal [Choir Rm]

Thursday, February 11, 2010

9:30 am - Beth Moore Bible Study
 1:00 pm - Proverbs Study [Lib]
 6:00 pm - Tiger Pack 325 Scouts [Rm 14]
 6:00 pm - Webelos I Pack 325 Den [AR]
 6:30 pm - Barbershop Group [Rm 23]
 8:00 pm - SLP Teacher Workout [Rm 7]

Friday, February 12, 2010

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

5:45 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast [WH]
 6:00 pm - Joy Ministry Fun Friday [WH]

Sunday, February 14, 2010

8:00 am - Traditional Worship [Chapel]
 8:30 am - First Foods [WH]
 9:00 am - Contemporary Worship [Sanctuary]
 10:00 am - Sunday School for all ages
 11:00 am - Traditional Worship [Sanctuary]
 5:00 pm - Youth Garage Bible Study

Monday, February 15, 2010

9:30 am - Carriage Inn Women's Circle
 6:30 pm - Stephen Ministry Meeting [Lib]
 7:00 pm - Boy Scout Troup 325 [WH]
 8:00 pm - SLP Teacher Workout [Rm 7]

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

9:00 am-8:00 pm - Chapel open for prayer
 9:00 am - Tuesday Morning Play Group [Potters Place]
 3:45 pm - Mission Kids [WH]
 6:30 pm - Missions Committee [Lib]
 7:00 pm - Boy Scout Meeting [Rm 14]

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

7:00 am - Emmaus Reunion Group [AR]
 8:30 am - Moms Group [WP]
 6:00 pm - Alpha Bible study [AR]
 6:00 pm - Youth U-Turn Program [YC]
 6:00 pm - Covenant Marriage Class [RT]

— WH=Wesley Hall WP=Wilson Parlor AR=Asbury Room BR=Body Rhythmics Room YC=Youth Center Lib=Library
 RT=Round Table Room CH=Chapel AW=Adult Wing

Partners in Ministry

Ministers Every Member of the church
 Senior Pastor, Ext. 103 (FT)..... Charles Geller
 Executive Associate Pastor, Ext. 107 (FT)..... Bill Stell
 Music & Fine Arts Ministries, Ext. 109 (PT)..... John Richardson
 Contemporary Worship Leader (PT) Joshua Johnson
 Youth Ministries, Ext. 111 (PT)..... Nancy Mikulencak
 Children's Ministries &
 Communications, Ext. 108 (PT)..... Mindy Standlee

Church Secretary, Ext. 100 (FT)..... Celeste Davis
 Membership Secretary, Ext. 101 (FT) Tricia Easter
 Financial Secretary, Ext. 102 (PT)..... Ginger Mitchamore
 School for Little People, Dir., Ext. 110..... Miranda Corn
 Treasurer
 Organist (PT) Barbara Carter
 Custodial/Grounds (FT)..... Dora Riojas,
 Diane & Manuel Salazar

FT=Full Time

PT=Part Time

Experience the Journey!

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First United Methodist Church
404 Azalea
Lake Jackson, Texas 77566

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First Church Receives Hospitality Award -

First Church, has been recognized by United Methodist Communications (UMCom) as an official "Welcoming Congregation" for the third year in 2009."

"Welcoming Congregations" are a select group of United Methodist congregations nationwide that meet criteria including embracing newcomers and providing opportunities in discipleship. The recognition program is part of a larger effort launched in late 2000 by UMCom, the denomination's communications agency, to use modern technology and the common language of television to spread the Good News of Christ to a world in need.

Senior Pastor Charles Geller said, "We are pleased that our congregation is a part of this welcoming effort by our denomination and its members. We have 58 dedicated members on our Radical Hospitality Task Force who joyfully serve in greeting first time and returning guests each week. We love to see new guests coming and sharing in our passionate worship experiences. These 58 Hospitality Team Members represent our congregation which has a heart for God and for people."



For the past 8 years, "Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors" has been the theme of the denomination supported with a series of national cable TV advertising, supplemented by regional and local church participation. The overall aim of the effort was to invite people, to enter into connection with the Christian community as they seek meaning and purpose in their lives. The new campaign, Rethink Church, seeks to capitalize on the previous campaign, targeting 18 to 34 year olds and inviting church to think of the motto as a verb, not just an adjective as in: "Together we can....Open hearts, Open minds and Open doors".

Associate Pastor Bill Stell reported, "Last September we tried a new outreach emphasis by offering the Alpha Course, a basic course that explores the core belief of the Christian faith in search of practical applications. We canvassed the community, left door hangers in neighborhoods, put up banners and signs, mailed newsletters, and even had an open house event, where among other things, we promoted Alpha. We had 80 people take the ten week course. Some have joined our church and many of our members have found new enthusiasm and commitment to the various ministries of our church. We perceive Alpha as something similar to an adult confirmation class that meets one wherever he/she is and takes them into a deeper relationship with God. We will be offering Alpha twice annually and our next session begins February 3, 2010."