

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH,
LAKE
JACKSON,
TEXAS



First Church strives
to be like Jesus!

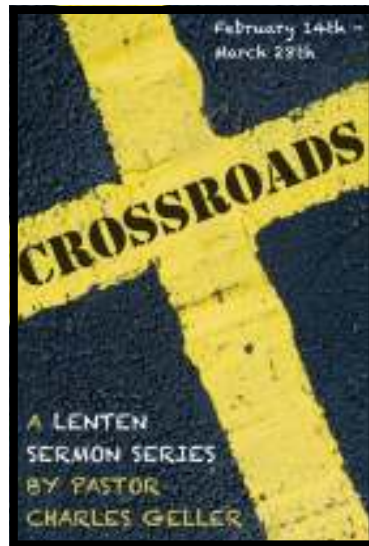
- Praising God!
- Teaching God's Word!
- Loving one another!
- Strengthening families!
- Sharing the Good News!

The Messenger

Volume 40, Issue 5

March 3, 2010

Upcoming Lenten and Easter Services:



February 14th - March 28th

The "CROSSROADS" Sermon Series began on Sunday February 14th and will continue through Sunday, March 28th. Join us as we journey together towards the cross through the Lenten season, exploring topics such as "what is life worth."

Thursday, April 1st: Maundy Thursday Service

7:00 pm in the Sanctuary, remembering the Last Supper

Friday, April 2nd: Good Friday

Chapel open for prayer - 9:00 am - 8:00 pm

Sunday, April 4th: Easter Sunday

Experience Easter at First Church as we celebrate the beauty of salvation through our risen Savior Jesus Christ! This year's theme, "Easter Changes Lives" represents the life altering events surrounding the cross, resurrection and Jesus' ascension into Heaven.

- 6:45 am (Sunrise Service)

- 8:00, 9:00 & 11:00 (Worship Services)

* communion will be held on Sunday, April 11th

Curious About Upcoming Events?

Visit the church website to find out information on all of our upcoming events! The website is full of content about First Church each of our ministry areas. It also has an interactive calendar to make sure that you are aware of everything coming up. Simply go to www.ljfumc.org to visit us online!



Do we have your e-mail address?

We are in the process of gathering everyone's updated e-mail addresses so that we can begin to reach out to you electronically. Please update your information with the church office if you have not already done so!

297-3046 phone

297-3243 fax

ljfumc@swbell.net



Pastor Charles Geller

God is looking for men and women with a broken will. You know, that selfish will that says, "I will have it my way God. I will live for you if you do it my way!" He is looking for people that have made the decision to say yes to His purposes regardless of the cost. He cannot and will not negotiate His ultimate best for our lives.

"The ultimate measure of a man (person) is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." God is calling for men and women who will walk with Him all the way to the end. He is looking for people that will accept the challenge of living for Him in the 21st Century. The Bible is very clear that there is an incredible reward waiting for the "sold out" believer. Brokenness is not a condition for salvation; however, it is a condition

for effective Spirit driven ministry. Those who attempt to put conditions on God will never find the fulfillment and joy that God offers His children.

In today's Christian culture, we often say to God, I will serve and love you under my conditions. I cannot help but think that God finds our ineffective manipulation humorous, but tragically sad. We act as if God really needs us. Granted, in a way He does; however, ultimately He can find others to replace us in a heart beat. The cemeteries of the world bare testimony to that axiom. When we sign a blank check and allow God to fill in the amount, we are moving towards Godly abandonment.

Life as a believer is rather interesting. We basically have two choices: We can have an

attitude that is striving to live as a giver, or we can live as a taker. Abandonment means that we are determined to live life as a giver.

Take a moment and think about the people that have most positively influenced your life. Are they givers or are they takers? The people that have impacted my life are those who live lives sold out to Jesus, making the choice to strive to live a life abandoned to Him while seeking a life that is altruistic through giving.

'O God, create in us a heart that seeks to live for you. Help us to see the foolishness of negotiating with you. Help us to find joy in your purposes, and fulfillment in an abandoned life to Jesus.

Amen!
Peace!
Pastor Geller

Living a life abandoned to Jesus

NEW!

Personal Devotional - The Day Before the Cross

As we journey together through the Lenten season towards the cross, let's take a moment to step into the sandals of Jesus and relive the final day before He made the ultimate gesture of love.

Jesus waited a long time to spend the last night of His life with the disciples. (Luke 22:15) In this passage, He stated that He earnestly and eagerly desired to be with His friends.

- What did He say that caused them such shock and grief? (see verse 15)
- Who was there with Jesus? Take a moment and list them. (see verses 7-20)

He told His friends that there was one sitting among them that would betray Him (vs.21).

- Why did they discuss this among themselves asking which one of them it might be? (see vs.23)

All of a sudden, according to Luke's Gospel, these men started a debate. (vs.24)

- What was the debate all about?
- Why in the world would they be talking about this at such a time?

Jesus quickly started to teach them. He always took 'teachable moments' and equipped these men for the future. (vs. 26)

- What was Jesus teaching these friends?
- What was His ultimate goal?

Jesus talks about His disciples standing by Him in trials. (vs. 28)

- What exactly did He mean by that statement?

Jesus shocks Peter by telling Him that Satan wanted to sift him as wheat. (vs. 31)

- What was Jesus talking about to Peter?

Peter told Jesus he would be willing to go to prison and even die for Him.

- Do you think Peter was sincere?
- Do you think Peter knew what he was saying?
- Do you think Peter understood that one day he would deny Jesus? (see vs. 34)
- What do you think it would have been like to be in the Upper Room with Jesus and His friends?
- In your mind, describe the atmosphere.



We Extend Our Sympathies To:

Heather Patrick in the loss of her husband John Patrick and to Alan & Carol Edwards in the loss of their son-in-law. Sympathies may be sent to:

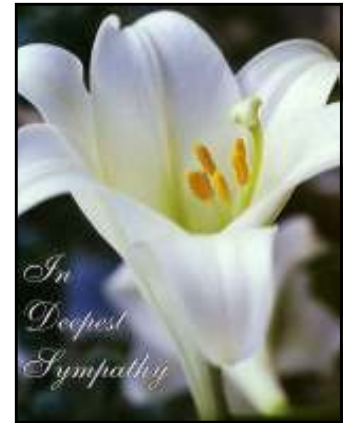
Heather Patrick, Alan & Carol Edwards
208 Live Oak Ln.
Lake Jackson, TX 77566

Mitch & Carol Escuriex in the loss of Mitch's mother Lorena Escuriex and to Lindsey Escuriex in the loss of her grandmother. Sympathies may be sent to:

Mitch & Carol Escuriex, Lindsey Escuriex
609 That Way
Lake Jackson, TX 77566

Barbra Franklin in the loss of her mother Dorothy E. "Dottie" Brooks. Sympathies may be sent to:

Barbra Franklin
53 Canyon Oak Ct.
Lake Jackson, TX 77566



Memorials

In memory of Harry Wille From:
Gerry Snyder

In memory of Bill Zimmerman From:
Jerry Zimmerman, Mrs. Pat Johnson Cummings, Gerry Snyder, James & Lorna Easton, Kenneth Evans and the Dow Chemical NOx Group

Welcome to the Family!

Congratulations to Barbara Franklin on the birth of her granddaughter, Anna Kate Johnson, born on February 2, 2010. Parents: Brooke & Micah Johnson.

Congratulations to Mark and Mindy Standlee on the birth of their second son, Joshua Allen Standlee, born on January 29, 2010. Big brother: Landon Standlee.



Mission Kids!

Be a part of this AWESOME ministry! It's always a great time to join us!

4:00 - 5:00 pm 1st & 3rd Tuesdays!!

Dates coming up!

April 6, April 20

(not meeting Spring Break)

Palm Sunday

March 28th

All children are invited to be a part of the "waving of the palms" at church! It's such a neat tradition & I hope you'll plan to attend!!

Easter Egg Hunt

April 3rd

Potluck Breakfast, Story time, Egg Hunt & a special visit from the Easter bunny! Plan to come & attend! Invite



Dates for the Summer!

Lakeview Church Camp

July 12-16

Vacation Bible School

July 19-23

Starting this summer!!

FUMC Children's ministry will be offering 5 day camps for children 2 yrs - 4th grade!

The dates are:

August 9 - 13

9—11 am

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES:

Tuesday Morning Breakfast:

7:00 am @ Asiel's - Volunteers available to drive you to school afterwards

Wednesday Night Bible Study:

6 - 7:30 pm: Fellowship, Coffeehouse & The Word

Sunday Evenings:

5 - 7 pm: Fellowship, Games, Music with Josh Johnson, Devotional, Prayer & a Snack Supper

*** Be Sure to Bring Your Friends!**



Upcoming Events:

Youth Center Workday: Bring the whole family to help us spruce up the Youth Center...

We are hosting the Faith in Action Camp and want to SHINE!

MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES...

- **U.M. ARMY** - It's not too late to sign up! So far we have 14 going to Somerville, June 13-19. Contact Nancy if you are interested. \$75 deposit holds your spot (needed ASAP)
- **FAITH IN ACTION** - Register by 4/4 for a great weekend serving the local community, hosted by First Church! Cost: \$50



Mission Kids

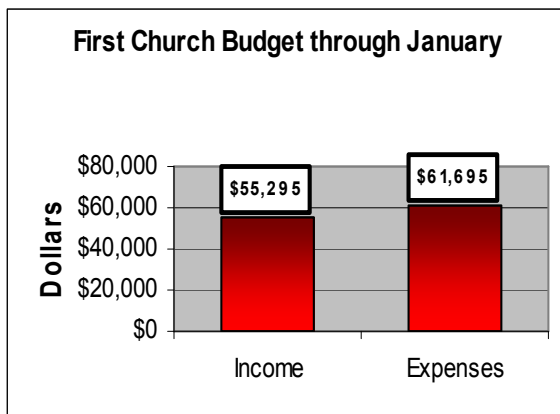


Mission Kids is open to children from 3 years old up to 6th grade (the nursery is available for younger siblings). We meet from 4:00-5:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. We start with an after-school snack and usually end with a little play time. This spring, we're learning different ways we can love our neighbors like Jesus taught us to. **Due to Spring Break, we will NOT have a second meeting in March.** Thanks to all the parents and caregivers who have shared their children with us so far this Spring, and to all the church members who supported our Health Kits for Haiti project last month. If you know of a child who needs transportation to Mission Kids, please call Tamra.

Tuesday Morning Playgroup

Come and Play: **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. Snacks and toys are provided; just bring a sippy cup and hang out with us for a while. Even better: Bring a friend! We've had to miss a few meetings due to illness, but are ready to get back to some serious playing. If you are interested, call Tamra at 297-1222, or just come by any Tuesday. We'll be thrilled to have you!

Finance Committee Update



With 2009 budget now closed, our giving was roughly 17% below our budget expenses. With the expected budget shortfall, the Finance Committee worked with our Ministry leaders in the Fall to make the difficult decisions needed to trim a similar 17% out of our 2010 budget... and this budget was approved by Charge Conference in November. See the attached graph showing our budget income and expenses through January. Thank you to all those that are honoring God with your pledge to First Church and allowing our many ministries to flourish.

Thank you for your faithfulness, Jim Hemphill - Finance Committee chairman

First Church Attendance & Gifts

Dates	Feb 14	Feb 21
Sunday Services	401	354
Sunday School	226	229
Giving*	\$18,462.00	\$5,822.70

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

First Church Annual BBQ

Join us on April 24th as we celebrate 60 years of Men's Ministry at First Church!

*Additional Details Coming Soon.

The First Church Women's Ministry will be selling deserts at the event. If you would like to help make deserts or help work the event, please contact Kathleen Lindsey or Beth Williams.



Additional Information...

Join the Nursery Team:

We are currently looking for another person to join the nursery staff. If you are interested, please contact Alexandra Edinger.

Men's Prayer Breakfast:

Calling all men! There will be breakfast served at 7am in Wesley Hall on March 10th. Join us for good food, good friends and a good word from God.

Frances Snellgroves Birthday:

You are invited to celebrate Frances' 90th birthday on Saturday March 13th in Wilsons Parlor 2- 4pm. Your presence will be a blessing. No other gifts requested, please.



Thanks to the First's Foods and Fellowship Servers for the month of February:

Ramona & Robert Barr, Sandy Reinheart, Bob Patton & Norma Stell

In Our Prayers...

Gayle Driskill
Matthew Wilsey
Mary Ann Leveridge
David Nimmo
Jeri & Mark Bearden
Annette Bedell
Chris Carter
Russell Anders & Family
Judy Morrow
Charelle Burnett
Waldine Taska
Peggy Wille
Craig Rios
Steve Steigerwald
Carol Jane Spratt
Ida Ruth Lentz
Melissa & Stephen Batchelder
Jay & Wanda Sheehan

Verna Zimmerman Family
Jesse Hibbetts
Ken Truman
Amy English
Brad & Jenny McCoy
Helen Bryan
Kim West
Andrew Gore
Moira Ginther
Elaine & Barry Roebuck
Margarite Verrett
Betty & Tom Weber
Kim West
Sean Speed
Betty Farmer
Jeri Masterson Friends/Family
Boyd Schiller
Heather Patrick & Family

Bubba Hicks
Crystal O'Connor
Ken & Barbra Miller
Cliff Childers
Bill & Joyce McClutchen
Mandi Liddell
Mary Beulah Palmer
Faye & Don Woodward
Helen Otto
Clell & Marry Sechrest
Heather Patrick
Frances Bitter
Helen Bryan
A.B. Fields, Jr.
Josh Daigle
Church Staff
Church Volunteers

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

First Church Calendar of Events

Wednesday, March 3, 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]
 6:00 pm - Disciples' Bible Study [Rm 7]
 7:30 pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal [Choir Rm]

Thursday, March 4, 2010

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

Friday, March 6, 2010

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

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

Sunday, March 7, 2010

8:00 am - Traditional Worship [Chapel]
 8:30 am - First Foods [VH]
 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

Monday, March 8, 2010

5:30 pm - Wolf Den Pack 325 Meeting [AR]
 7:00 pm - Boy Scout Troup 325 [VH]
 8:00 pm - SLP Teacher Workout [Rm 7]

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

9:00 am-8:00 pm - Chapel Intercessory Prayer
 9:00 am - Tuesday Morning Play Group [Potter's Place]
 11:00 am - Traditional & Contemporary Worship Planning [Lib]
 7:00 pm - Boy Scout Troup Committee [Lib]

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

7:00 am - Emmaus Reunion Group [AR]
 7:00 am - Men's Lenten Breakfast [VH]
 8:30 am - Moms Group [WP]
 10:00 am - SLP Board Meeting [WP]
 6:00 pm - Alpha Bible study [AR]
 6:00 pm - Youth U-Turn Program [YC]
 6:00 pm - Covenant Marriage Class [RT]
 6:00 pm - Disciples' Bible Study [Rm 7]
 7:30 pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal [Choir Rm]

Thursday, March 11, 2010

9:30 am - Beth Moore Bible Study
 11:00 am - Clergy Covenant Group [WP]
 1:00 pm - Proverbs Study [Lib]
 6:00 pm - Finance Comm Meeting [Lib]
 6:00 pm - Tiger Den Scouts [Rm 14]
 6:30 pm - Barbershop Group [Rm 23]
 8:00 pm - SLP Teacher Workout [Rm 7]

Friday, March 12, 2010

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

5:45 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast [VH]

Sunday, March 14, 2010

8:00 am - Traditional Worship [Chapel]
 8:30 am - First Foods [VH]
 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, March 15, 2010

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

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

9:00 am-8:00 pm - Chapel open for prayer
 9:00 am - Tuesday Morning Play Group [Potters Place]
 11:00 am - Traditional & Contemporary Worship Planning [Lib]
 4:00 pm - Mission Kids [VH]
 6:30 pm - Missions Committee [Lib]
 7:00 pm - Boy Scout Meeting [Rm 14]

Wednesday, March 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]
 6:00 pm - Disciples' Bible Study [Rm 7]
 7:30 pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal [Choir Rm]

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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404 Azalea
Lake Jackson, Texas 77566

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Get Connected: Spring Adult Bible Studies!

- Alpha Program

Alpha 2010 has kicked off at First Church and everyone is welcome to come and join us!

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. 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.

- Disciples' Bible Study

A Lenten study beginning February 24th at 6:00 pm.
Will Meet on Wednesdays at 6:00pm in Room 7
(The Wayfarer's Class).

- Small Groups

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

