

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!

Phone: 297-3046

Fax: 299-6612

Email:

ljfumc@swbell.net

Visit us Online @:

www.ljfumc.org

The Messenger

Volume 41, Issue 3

February 2, 2011

First Church Women's Ministries Presents:

"Extraordinary Women of the Bible"

~ Annual Women's Retreat ~

February 11-13 at the Danbury Lodge

Presenters:

**Kalyn Hemphill (video), Laura Mays, Taylor Pelton,
Melissa Johnson, Sharron Knox, and Delia Hoskins**

Passionate Worship With:

Sharron Knox and Joshua Johnson

Please Register By Sunday, February 6th

For More Information:

Please Call 979-297-3046

Overnight: \$100 per person

(Includes weekend conference, overnight accommodations and meals)

Day only: \$50 per person

(Includes weekend conference and meals— no
overnight accommodations)

A Life Devoted to God

The seventies was a great decade for me. It was filled with many firsts in my life. I got married in 1970, enrolled in Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky in 1972 and graduated in 1976, had our first child in 1976, started my ordained ministry in 1976, recorded many music albums, toured in concerts around the nation, and moved to my first church. One of the most prudent things that I have ever done was in 1974. This event changed the history of my spiritual life. It created a new way of learning and a new accountability that I had never had before. I boldly walked up to one of my graduate professors and asked him to be my spiritual guide and mentor. He very reluctantly, after many requests on my part, said yes that he would be my mentor. He said that there would be one caveat to this agreement, and I could not imagine what that could be. He looked me straight in the face and said, "If I am going to guide you, then you must follow all of my instructions to the letter." I found out later that this was his way of weeding out the "want to be's". Many students had made this request; however, not many would agree to the above caveat. I was so young and desperate for help and spiritual guidance from a Godly man, I said yes without hesitation. That moment started the greatest spiritual relationship, other than the one with my wife, I have ever had in my life. Dr. Jerry Mercer, Professor of Preaching and Dean of the Chapel at Asbury Seminary, took this unskilled, naïve, raw, unlearned young man from Louisiana under his wing. What an honor and privilege.



**Pastor
Charles Geller**

**Find Pastor
Geller and
First Church on
Facebook!**

Well, it is over 30 years later, and he is still my mentor and my spiritual guide. As most of you know, I just spent a few days in Lexington studying with Jerry. Just being with him was a breath of fresh air for me. His devotion daily to Scripture and prayer amazes me. He is up several times during the night and most certainly early in the morning reading Scripture and praying to a God that he is totally committed to.

He is 74 years old now, and my times with him on this earth are very limited. His memory is shaded, his eyes needing magnification, and his steps guided by a cane. Even with those limitations, Jerry walks planet earth with spiritual boldness. The phone rang while I was there, and he answered it gently. It was a moving company that kept pestering Jerry and Ruth about moving. The problem was that they weren't going anywhere and had not requested a mover to call. I thought surely he was going to blast them for their countless interruptions. This was not the case. As I sipped my morning coffee, Jerry asked the lady, who had a cold, if he could pray for her! I was surprised, but not really, that he gently loved her and prayed for her. Most of us would have rudely hung up on the lady; however, once again, without saying a word, he demonstrated God's holiness in his life.

What an honor to have Jerry as my spiritual mentor. This man is committed to Scripture, prayer, and diligent study of God's Word. He wants me to test each thing that he teaches me by the Bible. In many ways, what I am and what I will ever be, is related to the investment that this humble man has made in my life. I love you Jerry!

Peace! - Pastor Geller

Thank You!



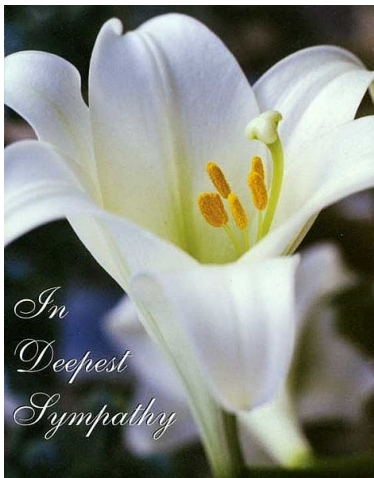
Thank you to Randy & Kim Wendel for the use of their company's lift equipment to hang and remove the lighted nativity set! Their equipment rental company is located in Houston and they pull the lift to and from Lake Jackson for each installation. Their generosity saves the church money and allows the nativity light set to be hung and removed in a safe and efficient manner.



Restoring Sight Ministry

Give the gift of sight! Bring your old glasses to the church to be recycled. This is a beautiful way to share the love of Christ by helping out those who are in need of glasses.

Sympathies & Memorials



SYMPATHIES

To Sonny & Linda Miles and family in the loss of Sonny's mother, Mary Lois (Pinson) Miles

To Kim & Randy Wendel and family in the loss of Kim's mother, Jo Kaski

To the family and friends of John Chambers.

To George Franklin family and friends in the loss of George's mother, Imogene "Gene" Franklin

MEMORIALS

In memory of Jo Kaski (Kim Wendel's mother) from:
Deana & Andy Wheeler

In memory of Gerry Snyder from:
LeRoy & Joan Hollis, Pat Cummings, Barbara & Donald Smith,
Rick's Biloxi Golf Group, Eileen Vanhoy

In memory of Gloria Sexton from:
Jackie De La Rua

In memory of Betty Stork from:
LeRoy & Joan Hollis

Finance Committee News - 2010 Year End Budget Results

2010 year-end budget results have our expenses coming in 7% above income, as we had a strong year-end stewardship response, and continued spending control by our staff and lay-leadership.

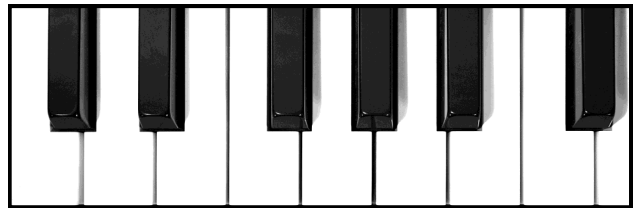
- Actual income was \$729, 274 (about 2% higher giving than 2009)
- Actual expenses were \$782, 873 (or 10% less than 2009 spending)

Our 2011 approved budget is still holding the line on spending (including a 25% reduction in conference apportionments), and the stewardship response is improved over last year. This puts us tentatively on track for income exceeding expenses this year - and we will keep you up-to-date through the year to know how we are doing... and as our financial situation improves, we are looking forward to once again expanding First Church ministries and opportunities.

Thank you for your faithful stewardship!
Jim Hemphill for the Finance Committee



The Highway Department has moved traffic onto the Hwy 332 service road. There will be ongoing changes in the months to come. Please use extra care when visiting the church, as traffic will increase on Yaupon & Azalea streets. Please, report any unusual incidents to the church office, Pastor Bill, or the Trustees.



We Are Accepting Donations for 3 Pianos!

The Trustees are accepting free fill donations for one baby grand, two upright pianos and an organ.

** Buyer is responsible for moving... Please contact the church office or any Trustee for more information.*

Joy Ministry - Care for Children with Special Needs



Joy Ministry Fun Friday! - February 18th 6-9pm

Joy Ministry provides evening care for special needs children and their siblings. Join us on February 18th for a special evening...

“Playing Games for Jesus!”

We will meet in Wesley Hall and in the Pre-School Wing. For more information or to register, please contact Kim Bowers

at 979-236-9427. **Volunteers are also needed!**

Please call Liz Myrick or Kimberly Bowers if you can help.

We would love to have you!!!



KIDS SHINE & Little Lights

JOIN US SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10 AM!!

FEBRUARY Virtue:
Kindness!

Coming up soon!!

Palm Sunday, April 17



Easter Egg
Hunt
Saturday,
April 23



Sunday, April 10th
Children's Sunday
at the 9 & 11 Services

All the children will be a part of a
special Sunday morning worship and
they will be the ones to lead!

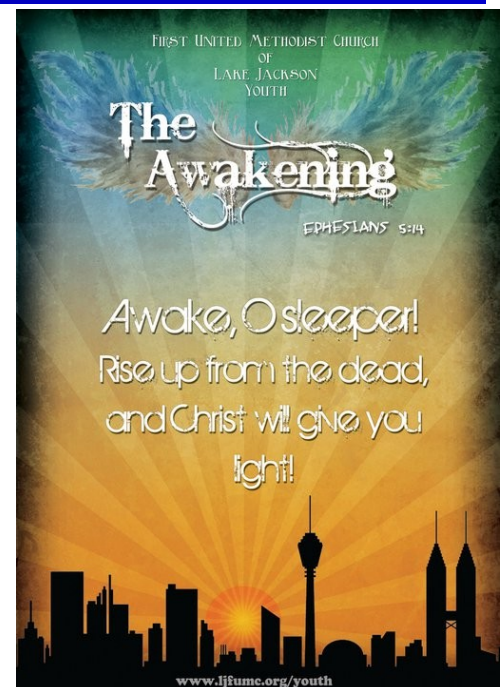


Vacation Bible School
July 11-15

Youth Ministries

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

- Join us on Facebook! Search for “The Awakening FUMC Youth” to find us, then click “Like” to join!
- Sundays 5–7pm: MYF – Games, Devotional & Snack Supper (\$2)
- Wednesday Bible Study & Coffee Shop: Meet @ the Youth Center @ 6pm – We will be studying “The Great Divorce”



Additional Activities!

Alpha Bible Study

Come discover that it's possible to learn about the Christian faith and to have fun at the same time. Alpha is a great opportunity to get to know people of a similar age and interests who are struggling with many of the same problems.

Join us every **Wednesday at 6pm** in the **Asbury Room** for a meal, video and an interesting discussion time. For more information or to register for the course, please contact **Bill Stell** at **979-297-3046** or billstell@swbell.net.

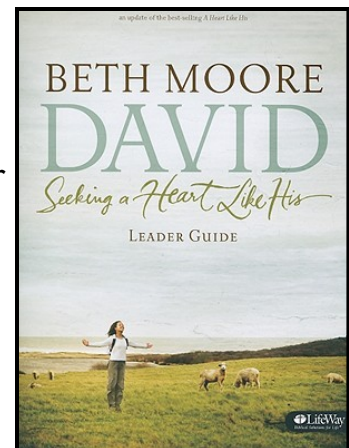


Beth Moore Thursday Morning Bible Study "A Heart Like His"

Ladies of FUMC: The Spring 2011 Beth Moore Bible Study started at First Church on January 20th! The newly updated version of the video and book "Seeking A Heart Like His", released in November, is our guide.

For additional information, please contact Bobbie Nell Higgins at 979-798-7122 or Trena Moses at 979-297-2829.

Come join us and bring a friend, you will be blessed!



Returning to Family Traditions Pot Luck Lunch!

Join us on Sunday, February 20th after our church services for a pot luck lunch! Please bring your favorite covered dish or desert and stick around for fun and fellowship as a First Church Family!

Please contact Denice Lambert for more information!

Don't miss Faith in Action of Brazosport's Annual Wild Game Dinner & Live and Silent Auctions. The event will be held at St. Michaels on Friday, February 25th. All proceeds from the dinner and auctions will be used to purchase material needed for Faith in Action youth and adult volunteers to continue to help those in need in our area. Thank you for your continued support of Faith in Action!"



In Our Prayers...

Chloe Taylor
 Jay & Lisa Gibson
 Ryan Vollemaere
 Brad & Jenny McCoy
 Faye & Don Woodward
 Jennifer San Miguel

Buck & Margaret Pennington
 Cleo Osterman
 George Franklin Family
 Tina & Eugene Moore & Family
 First Church Staff Members
 First 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, February 2, 2011

7:00 am - Methodist Men's Breakfast [VH]
 9:00 am - SLP Chapel
 6:00 pm - Beginners Alpha Study [AR]
 6:00 pm - Small Group Study [VWP]
 6:00 pm - Youth Bible Study [YC]
 7:30 pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal [Choir Rm]

Thursday, February 3, 2011

* SLP Teacher Training - No School
 9:00 am - Beth Moore Bible Study
 6:30 pm - Barber Shop Group [Rm. 23]
 6:30 pm - Praise Team Practice
 [Sanctuary]

Friday, February 4, 2011

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

* SLP Teacher Training - No School
 6:00 am - Men's Friday Morning Prayer
 Breakfast [VH]

Sunday, February 6, 2011

7:00 am - Sr. High Youth Sub Sale [VH]
 8:00 am - Traditional Worship [Chapel]
 8:30 am - First's Foods [VH]
 9:00 am - Contemporary Worship [Sanctuary]
 10:00 am - Sunday School for all ages
 11:00 am - Traditional Worship [Sanctuary]
 3:30 pm - Confirmation Class [AR]
 5:00 pm - Jr. High & Sr. High MYF [YC]

Monday, February 7, 2011

6:30 pm - Stephen's Ministry Mtg. [Lib]
 7:00 pm - Cub Scout Pack 325 Committee Mtg. [Rm. 14]
 7:00 pm - Troup 325 Mtg. [VH]
 7:00 pm - Venturing Crew [YC]

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

9:00 am - Chapel Intercessory Prayer
 9:30 am - Taking the Word to the World
 Bible Study [Chick-Fil-A]
 4:00 pm - Women Leave for Beth Moore
 Live Study @ HFBC
 7:00 pm - Boy Scout Committee Mtg. [Lib]

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

9:00 am - SLP Chapel
 6:00 pm - Beginners Alpha Study [AR]
 6:00 pm - Small Group Study [VWP]
 6:00 pm - Youth Bible Study [YC]
 7:30 pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal [Choir Rm]

Thursday, February 10, 2011

9:00 am - SLP Chapel
 9:00 am - Beth Moore Bible Study
 6:00 pm - Pack 325 Webelo 1 [VH]
 6:30 pm - Barbershop Group [Rm 23]
 6:30 pm - Praise Team Practice [Sanctuary]

Friday, February 11, 2011

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

6:00 am - Men's Friday Morning Prayer
 Breakfast [VH]
 5:00 pm - Annual Women's Retreat
 [Danbury Lodge]

Saturday, February 12, 2011

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

9:30 am - Annual Women's Retreat
 [Danbury Lodge]

Sunday, February 13, 2011

8:00 am - Traditional Worship [Chapel]
 8:30 am - First's Foods [VH]
 9:00 am - Contemporary Worship [Sanctuary]
 10:00 am - Sunday School for all ages
 11:00 am - Traditional Worship [Sanctuary]
 3:30 pm - Confirmation Class [AR]
 4:30 pm - Submerge Youth Group [AR]
 5:00 pm - Jr. High & Sr. High MYF [YC]
 6:00 pm - Carpenter's Hands [Rm. 14]

Monday, February 14, 2011

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

6:00 pm - Pack 325 Bear Den Mtg. [AR]
 7:00 pm - Troop 325 Mtg. [VH]
 7:00 pm - Venturing Crew [YC]

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

9:00 am - Chapel Intercessory Prayer
 9:30 am - Taking the Word to the World
 Bible Study [Chick-Fil-A]
 4:00 pm - Women Leave for Beth Moore
 Live Study @ HFBC
 7:00 pm - Boy Scout District Committee Mtg. [Rm. 12]

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

9:00 am - SLP Chapel
 6:00 pm - Beginner's Alpha Bible Study [AR]
 6:00 pm - Small Group Study [VWP]
 6:00 pm - Youth Bible Study [YC]
 7:30 pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal [Choir Rm]

Thursday, February 17, 2011

9:00 am - Beth Moore Bible Study
 9:00 am - SLP Chapel
 6:30 pm - Barbershop Group [Rm 23]
 6:30 pm - Praise Team Practice
 [Sanctuary]

Friday, February 18, 2011

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

6:00 am - Men's Friday Morning Prayer
 Breakfast [VH]
 6:00 pm - Joy Ministry Fun Friday
 [VH]

Sunday, February 20, 2011

8:00 am - Traditional Worship [Chapel]
 8:30 am - First's Foods [VH]
 9:00 am - Contemporary Worship [Sanctuary]
 10:00 am - Sunday School for all ages
 11:00 am - Traditional Worship [Sanctuary]
 12:00 pm - Family Traditions Covered Dish Lunch [VH]
 2:00 pm - FUMC Trustee Meeting [LIB]
 5:00 pm - Jr. High & Sr. High MYF [YC]

First Church Attendance

Dates	January 16	January 23
Sunday Services	314	342
Sunday School	163	205

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Experience the Journey!

First United Methodist Church
404 Azalea
Lake Jackson, Texas 77566

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Taking the Word to the World Bible Study New Time & Location!



121 Highway 332 W # A
Lake Jackson, TX 77566

Starting Tuesday, February 1st, the **Taking the Word to the World Bible Study** will begin meeting at a new location and time. Come and enjoy breakfast and study God's Word with Pastor Geller at the Lake Jackson Chick-fil-A every Tuesday morning at 9:30 am.

For more information, email
Pastor Geller at cggeller@aol.com



facebook

Join the First Church Community on Facebook!

All you have to do is search for **"First UMC - Lake Jackson"** from your Facebook account to find our page and then click **"Like."** Come and join us on Facebook and connect with your church family online!