

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!

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First UMC -
Lake Jackson

The Messenger

Volume 42, Issue 2

January 18, 2012

It's A New Year -

Renew...

Refocus...

Recommit...

COME JOIN THE ACTS 29 REVOLUTION:

There are 28 chapters in the book of Acts! We are the 29th chapter that is currently being written in the 21st Century. We are God's feet, hands and eyes to a World that needs to know His love. Come join in and be a part of this great Story that God is writing... the Church Alive in the 21st Century!

A Slave to Jesus



Pastor Charles Geller



Find Pastor Geller
and First Church on
Facebook!

It has become quite apparent to me over the last 62 years, that most love that is given out is conditional. Perhaps it is just human nature to expect something in return for love. Perhaps this is why some folks have an extremely difficult time accepting the unconditional gift of the cross from Jesus Christ. 2Corinthians 8:9 says, “You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.” Extraordinary! Here is a man who lived and breathed a perfect life! For our sakes he took on our sin so that we could be free to live eternally with his father. Extraordinary! The apostle Paul said, “I am willing to love you whether you love me or not.” He was willing to live the life of destitution, poverty, or whatever condition he found himself in so that you and I could hear the gospel. His only purpose in life was to serve his Lord, Jesus Christ!

I hear so many discussions about servant life in the contemporary church. Our understanding of servant leadership is vastly different from the way the apostle Paul and Jesus understood it. Oswald Chambers says, “The real test of the site is not one's willingness to preach the gospel, but one's willingness to do something like washing the disciples feet—that is, being willing to do those things that seem unimportant in human estimation but count as everything to God.”

It never entered the apostle Paul's mind that he would be considered the 2nd greatest human to ever walk on this planet. That was just out of the realm of his comprehension. The apostle spent his time not trying to become famous, but rather simply serving his master, Jesus, one day and one mission trip at a time. The apostle saw himself as a living sacrifice being offered up each day to Jesus.

In the modern church it would do us all well to consider the example of Paul. After 33 years of ordained ministry, I have seldom ever seen anyone serve without conditions. I understand the need to match aptitudes, passions, spiritual gifts, and other gauges with a person desiring to serve; however, what happens to the jobs and ministries that no one else wants. In many ways contemporary leadership has lost the understanding of what it means to be a bond servant. When the apostle Paul referred to himself as a servant, the actual Greek word would've translated, “ultimate slave.” Consistently through the New Testament, he refers to himself as a slave for Jesus Christ. Remember that this word slave indicates that a person has given up all rights and privileges to his master. In our case, or better yet, in the apostle's case, it means that one voluntarily surrenders all rights and privileges to King Jesus, his master. This is a difficult pill to swallow! I personally believe that it can only be accomplished one moment at a time as we make a conscious decision to serve Jesus as head of the church. Total commitment for me simply means giving all that I understand about myself today, to all of God that I understand about him today. I'm not sure but I can do much better than that. In my weakest moments, perhaps even in my strongest moments, without his grace providing me the strength to obey him, I might be a deserter.

Even as I write this I feel my heart beating a little faster. Living as a slave for Christ is a decision that should not be taken lightly. Remember, this is different from something like African slavery where the slave had no choice. That kind of slavery ranks as some of the most horrid moments of American history. I know this might sound oxymoronic, but being a slave for Jesus Christ should be considered one of the highest privileges that a human being can experience. Even though it is our choice to voluntarily become a slave for him, we must realize that in some sense, he chose us before we ever chose him.

There are times I tend to complain, gripe, sulk, and demand my own way. There is no room for this in the life of a slave. Especially in the case of a Christian, for we have chosen to be under the authority of Jesus. There are times that I will intentionally do things contrary to my natural instincts. Let me give you an example, I remember vividly standing in the restroom at Asbury Theological Seminary staring down at toilet tissue that had been scattered around the room. I remember sensing a gentle nudge from the Lord to pick it up. My first thought was, “That's somebody else's job.” The longer I stood there, the greater the conviction was upon me to pick up the toilet tissue. I know for some this may sound ridiculous; however, at that moment I was experiencing a faith crises. Why did it need to be somebody else's job? Was I too good to pick it up, was I just too lazy, or because I was a seminary student was that beneath me? I think you get the point. I realize that story shows my immaturity; therefore, I have made it a lifelong goal to recognize that I have a high calling of a slave to Jesus Christ. Trust me, I have a long way to go, but every once in a while I recognize progress.

- Pastor Geller

First's Foods Thanks



Thank you to our helpers!

A BIG "Thank You" to all those who helped in serving First's Foods and Fellowship during the month of December!

Denice Lambert
The Hicks Family

Kim Lee
Ramona & Robert Barr

Beth Moerer
Kaylyn Klehm

Trustee Thanks



The Trustees would like to thank Carpenters Hands for the cabinets that they built and installed in the Joy class Room #17 and for replacing the wheels on the chair carts.

We would also like to thank Charles (Butch) Munnerlyn and Harry Sargent for repairing some of the broken pews. Harry Sargent also repaired the Narthex-Sanctuary doors.
Thank you all for everything that you do to keep our Church Campus beautiful!

Sympathies & Memorials

SYMPATHIES

To Maria Martin and Carmen Duarte and their Families in the death of Maria and Carmen's Grandmother.
To the family of Vicki Smith in the death of Vicki's mother, Betyse Witcher.

MEMORIALS

In memory of Glenn Galloway from: Mr. and Mrs. B.A. Weaver
In memory of Cecil Griffin from: Gene and Ann Taylor



Baptism



CELEBRATION !
Baptism of Yennah Chang .

In Our Prayers...

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

Sue Scott
Frances Bitter & Family
Chris Carter
Gladys & Gordon Miller
Bill & Joyce McCutchen

Jeanette Snelgrove Kattner
Brad & Jenny McCoy
Ryan Vollemaere
Moiria Ginther
Gene Shaw

Women's Ministries

Girl's Night Out: Ladies, join us on Friday January 27 at 6:30 p.m. at El Potrillo Mexican Restaurant on Dixie Drive in Clute. For more information, please call or email Mary Helen at 297-6968, or mh-israel@sbcglobal.net.

Women's Retreat 2012: You Are Special -

Our 2012 Women's Retreat will be a "day apart" for worship, fellowship, prayer and powerful words of wisdom! Be sure to mark your calendars now and plan to attend this special event for First Church Women's Ministries!



Theme: "You Are Special"

Where: Stahlman Park | Surfside, TX

Date: Saturday, May 5th

Time: 10:00 AM - After Dinner

Cost: \$50/Person

** Lunch and dinner will be provided and childcare will be available at the Church. Please let us know at the time of registration if you will need childcare.*

Joy Ministry - Care for Children with Special Needs

Thank you First Church for the wonderful year of giving with your time, money, and building skills to make JOY a better place. God and I appreciate your loving ways. Our ministry has grown with new families/volunteers, a new room, and new toys!! We are so excited to see what God has in store for 2012!! Would you like to join us in giving JOY and LOVE to others? Look for more information coming soon about a JOY Ministry Volunteer Meeting. We need YOU to help spread the love of Christ to all children and families!!!



May God bless your new year with JOY, LOVE, and PEACE and bring you great tidings in 2012.

Happy New Year!

Kimberly Bowers,
JOY Ministry Director





KIDS SHINE Sundays
10 am

*If you can help this Spring
with our bible story or skit
from 10-10:30, contact
Mindy Standlee @ 297-3046*

Sunday Mornings!

Children's Church
Offered every week during the
9:00 service (after the music)
for children ages 5 yrs - 2nd
grade!

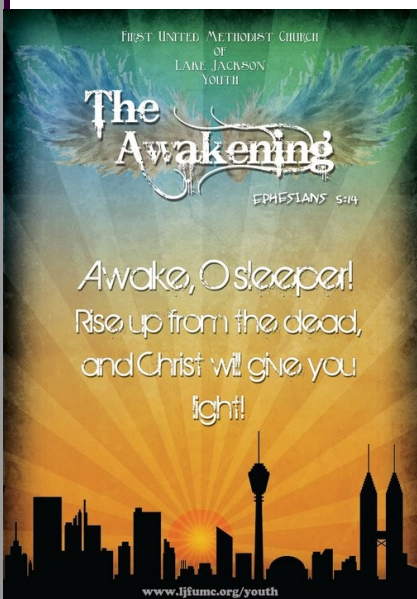
Nursery available for children
under 5 years old!

Mark your calendars for
Vacation Bible School
this summer!

JULY 16 - 20, 2012!!

If you can help with any of
our summer programs,
contact

The Awakening - Youth Ministry



Upcoming Activities

2/5 - Senior High Sub Sale! This is a fundraiser for UM Army, and is open to all youth currently in high school. We will meet in the kitchen at 7am (yikes!) and will finish up around 12:30pm.

2/19 - Jr. High Pancake Supper! This is a fundraiser for the Angel Tree ministry, and is open to all youth currently in 7th & 8th grade. We will meet in Wesley Hall at 4pm and will finish up around 7:30pm

- **Sundays 5-7pm: MYF - Games, Devotional & Snack Supper (\$2)**
- **Wednesday Bible Study - 6pm to 7pm - open to grades 7-12 again!**



Find The Awakening Youth Group on Facebook!



“Epiphany began on January 6 and is marked by several events and themes in the life of Jesus: the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the wedding feast at Cana (the beginning of Jesus's ministry through signs and wonders). Each event unveils the fuller dimensions of the man we call Jesus. He is worshiped King of Kings, the dearly loved son of

God, and the miracle working Lord of the feast. Throughout the season of Epiphany (which some count as one day only, with the rest considered part of ordinary time) we focus on the ministry of Jesus: the calling of the disciples, the teachings of Christ, his miracles, and finally his transfiguration.

As we journey through a Epiphany, which leads up to Lent, we catch sight of the uniqueness of Christ. The epiphany of epiphany is that this is no more mere teacher or prophet - this is the Son of God, the Messiah.”

This excerpt comes from Seeking God's Face, Philip F. Reinders

Resolve to Spend More Time in the Word!



2012 Bible Studies at First Church:

- **Song of Solomon Bible Study** - Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm in the Asbury Room
- **Women's Beth Moore Bible Study** – Thursday mornings at 9:30 pm in the Asbury Room or Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm in Room 14
- **“Taking the Word to the World” Bible Study** - 9:30 am Tuesdays at Lake Jackson Chick-Fil-A
- **Small Group Study** - Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM in Wilson Parlor



Experience Four Action Packed Days at Gulf Coast

Adventure Weekend

THURS. FEBRUARY 23RD | 5:45pm **X-TREME STUDENT NIGHT**

FRI. FEBRUARY 24TH | 6:30pm **LADIES DESSERT XTRAVAGANZA**

SAT. FEBRUARY 25TH | 10:00am - 4:00pm **OUTDOOR EXPO**

SAT. FEBRUARY 25TH | 6:00pm **MEN'S XTRAORDINARY SPORTS EVENT**

SUN. FEBRUARY 26TH | 6:00pm **GCAW CELEBRATION RALLY**

You're Invited!

Come hear powerful worship and inspiring words of wisdom! There will be activities for all ages, with food, music, prize give-aways and family fun! This event is

FREE...

Brazoria County, TX | February 23-26

www.gulfcoastadventureweekend.com

First Church Calendar of Events

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

7:00 am - Emmaus Group Meeting [Lib]
 9:00 am - SLP Chapel
 6:00 pm - Beth Moore Study [Rm. 14]
 6:00 pm - Small Group Study [WP]
 6:30 pm - Wednesday Night Study [AR]
 6:30 pm - Praise Team Practice [Sanct.]
 7:30 pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal [CR]

Thursday, January 19, 2012

9:00 am - SLP Chapel
 9:30 am - Beth Moore Bible Study [AR]
 6:30 pm - Barbershop Group [CR]
 7:00 pm - Cub Scouts Pack Mtg. [WH]

Friday, January 20, 2012

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

6:00 am - Men's Friday Morning Prayer Breakfast [WH]

Sunday, January 22, 2012

8:00 am - Traditional Worship [Chapel]
 8:30 am - First's Foods [WH]
 9:00 am - Contemporary Worship [Sanctuary]
 10:00 am - Sunday School for all ages
 10:00 am - Confirmation Class [BDR]
 11:00 am - Traditional Worship [Sanct]
 3:30 pm - Confirmation Class [BDR]
 5:00 pm - Lessons for Youth [Rm. 37]
 5:00 pm - Submerge Forward Motion Lessons [BDR]
 5:00 pm - The Awakening Youth Group [YC]

Monday, January 23, 2012

6:30 pm - Stephen Ministry [Lib]
 7:00 pm - Troop 325 Mtg. [WH]

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

9:00 am - Chapel Intercessory Prayer
 9:30 am - Taking the Word to the World Bible Study [Chick-Fil-A]

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

7:00 am - Emmaus Group Meeting [Lib]
 9:00 am - SLP Chapel
 10:00 am - Friendship Club [AR]
 6:00 pm - Beth Moore Bible Study [Rm. 14]
 6:00 pm - Small Group Study [WP]
 6:30 pm - Wednesday Night Study [AR]
 6:30 pm - Praise Team Rehearsal [Sanctuary]
 7:30 pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal [CR]

Thursday, January 26, 2012

9:00 am - SLP Chapel
 9:30 am - Beth Moore Bible Study [AR]
 5:45 pm - Cub Scout Bear Den Meeting [AR]
 6:30 pm - Barbershop Group [CR]

Friday, January 27, 2012

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

6:00 am - Men's Friday Morning Prayer Breakfast [WH]

Saturday, January 28, 2012

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

7:00 am - Confirmands Ropes Course
 12:00 pm - Cub Scout Pinewood Derby

Sunday, January 29, 2012

9:15 am - Sunday School
 9:15 am - Confirmation Class [BDR]
 10:30 am - The Gathering [Sanct.]
 3:30 pm - Confirmation [BDR]
 5:00 pm - Lessons for Youth [Rm. 37]
 5:00 pm - The Awakening Youth Group [YC]
 6:30 pm - Admin Board Meeting [Chapel]

Monday, January 30, 2012

7:00 pm - Troop 25 Mtg. [WH]

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

9:00 am - Chapel Intercessory Prayer
 9:30 am - Taking the Word to the World Bible Study [Chick-Fil-A]

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

7:00 am - Emmaus Group Meeting [Lib]
 7:00 am - Methodist Men's Breakfast [WH]
 9:00 am - SLP Chapel
 6:00 pm - Beth Moore Bible Study [Rm. 14]
 6:00 pm - Small Group Study [WP]
 6:30 pm - Wednesday Night Study [AR]
 6:30 pm - Praise Team Rehearsal [Sanct]
 7:30 pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal [CR]

Thursday, February 2, 2012

9:00 am - SLP Chapel
 9:30 am - Beth Moore Bible Study [AR]
 11:00 am - Clergy Covenant Group [WP]
 5:45 pm - Cub Scout Bear Den Meeting [AR]
 6:30 pm - Barbershop Group [CR]

Friday, February 3, 2012

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

6:00 am - Men's Friday Morning Prayer Breakfast [WH]

Sunday, February 4, 2012

7:00 am - Youth Sub Sandwich Sale [WH]
 8:00 am - Traditional Worship [Chapel]
 8:30 am - First's Foods [WH]
 9:00 am - Contemporary Worship [Sanct]
 10:00 am - Sunday School for all ages
 11:00 am - Traditional Worship [Sanct]
 11:00 am - Confirmation Class [BDR]
 5:00 pm - The Awakening Youth Group [YC]



First Church Attendance

Dates	January 1	January 8
Sunday Services	144	300
Sunday School	—	175

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Experience the Journey!

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Lake Jackson, TX 77566

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A FIRST CHURCH FAMILY GATHERING

**Sunday, January 29th, 2012
10:30 AM**

Sunday School - 9:15 AM

**Bring your friends and family and join us as we
all gather together on January 29th at 10:30 am**

for a special joint Worship Service!

**We'll praise Jesus with through powerful
contemporary and traditional worship.**

Sunday School will take place at 9:15.

***Please note that there will not be a pot-luck
luncheon or First's Foods on this Sunday.***