


THE MESSENGER

Of First United Methodist Church

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THE MESSENGER
 FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of Brazoria, Texas
 March 2011
Remaining Faithful by our
Prayers + Presence + Gifts + Service + Witness



Imagine a rural congregation serving their community for 175 years, across the 19th, 20th and into the 21st Centuries. First United Methodist Church of Brazoria was established in 1836 as a direct response to Texas' independence from Mexico. In those days, Protestant congregations could not legally be established in Texas.

Imagine a rural congregation, usually no more than 50 people, standing the test of time and events. Events such as the Civil War, Reconstruction, the advent of electricity, World War I, the roaring 20s and the Great Depression, World War II, the Apollo moon landings, the end of the Cold War, 9/11/01, and now deeper into the age of incredible technological innovations!

Imagine a weekend to celebrate 175 years of ministry. First United Methodist Church will be experiencing our "175th Birthday Weekend" on April 2 and April 3.

On Saturday, April 2, for the "Homecoming" portion of our weekend, we will host a segment called "Live Chat!" at 2pm where our previous pastors will share lots of humor, insight, reflections and memories of the years passed. Former pastors include: Rev. Chap Temple, Rev. Jim McConnell, Rev. Roy James (South District Superintendent), Rev. Ed Hillyer, Rev. Gail Harrelson, and Rev. Peter Cammarano. A reception will follow afterwards.

Throughout Saturday afternoon and evening, there will be activities on the church campus which include combined games between the present youth group and the "alumni" youth group (young adults now in their 20s who were in the youth group in the 1990s), a moonwalk, "old fashioned games" (like horseshoes, and bottle-toss) for kids, and other fun activities.

From 6pm through 9pm will be our Gospelfest portion of the weekend, which will include musical performances from over 12 groups from throughout the area and throughout the past 30 years of the life of First Methodist.

On Sunday morning, we will have a special Sunday worship service starting at 10:30 a.m. to honor God for 175 years of life and ministry. Bishop Janice Riggle Huie will be our guest preacher, and will also lead us in Holy Communion.

Come celebrate with us on April 2 and April 3, and thank God with us, as we give thanks for 175 years of Serving, Loving and Growing!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
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TIME DATE MATERIAL

Sheila's Retirement Reception

January 30, 2011



After seven years of serving as our church secretary, we saluted Sheila Pursley with a grand pot-luck luncheon. It was one of the largest lunches-after-worship we've had in a long time! It rained and poured outside. No problem. We had people eating in the Fellowship Hall, the Nursery, and the Hospitality Room.

We want to give a "thanks!" to everyone who came out to support the lunch. We also want to give a big word of gratitude to the Pastor -Parish Relations Committee for hosting the event, as well as all the spouses and friends of P.P.R.C. members who helped make it such a success!



ONE GOOD WORD AT A TIME

- Mar *6 "...and sitteth at the right hand of God the father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead."
Matthew 27:11-24
- 13 Pastor Jon Thornsbury, Guest Preacher
- *20 "I Believe in the Holy Spirit,"
John 14:22-27
- *27 "...the holy catholic church,"
Ephesians 4:2-7

*15 part series "Christians Believe..."

Every Sunday
9:30AM, Adult Bible Study
10:30 AM, Worship Celebration
Nursery Available, Kidz Quest at 10:45 a.m.



At Home: Dortha Compton, Ed Powell, Debbie Rasco, Doc & Kittie Stanger, Roger & Dorothy Kees

Assisted Living/Nursing Facility:

Sophie Anderson	Fredericksburg Nursing Home
Ann DeSteiguer	The Legacy in Bay City, TX
Dan Hutson	Austin House in Nacogdoches, TX
Louise Reed	Village on the Creek in Clute, TX
Tom Ward	Home Sweet Home in Houston, TX

Confirmation



Classes meet Sunday from 9:15 to 10:15 am. Classes will conclude on May 1st.

Kids & Youth Grow Time

The Sunday afternoon fellowship, know as Grow Time is for all ages. They meet every Sunday from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. If you have any questions please call the office (798-2220).



The Men's Prayer Breakfast group meet at 7:30 AM every third Saturday. This month they will meet on March 19th. They have a wonderful breakfast and good fellowship. All men are welcome.

Tuesday Morning Prayer Group



The group meets at 10:00 AM every Tuesday morning. Please join them – you will be blessed.



Choir Practice

The Chancel Choir practices every Wednesday at 6:00 PM. Please come join them.



MEN'S MINISTRY

Due to a very large and busy April heading our way, the Men's Group have opted not to do a spring Fish Fry. Our next Men's Fish Fry will likely be on a Friday in September.



In case you didn't know, we're on Facebook!

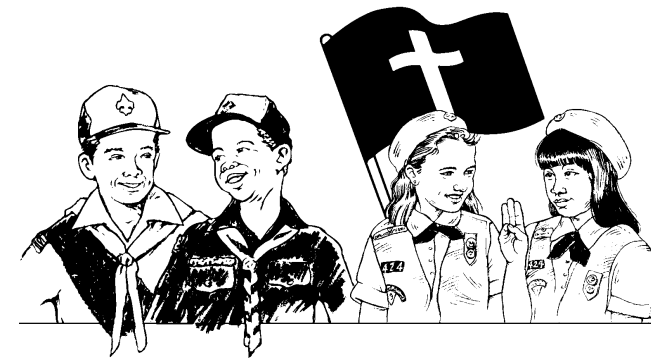
Facebook is the online network system predicted to have **one billion** users by the end of 2012.

If you're ever on Facebook, even "every now and then" or "rarely," find us and become a Fan of First United Methodist Church of Brazoria! Just type our name in the "Search" area of the screen, and it should bring us to you very quickly.

We provide weekly updates, upload pictures and videos, and have information galore, right at your fingertips! Invite former members, guests and friends of First Methodist, even your neighbor to become a fan of First Methodist on Facebook!



The next Game Night will be hosted by Bev Parsons in the Church Fellowship hall on **Friday, March 11 at 6:00 pm**. Refreshments will be provided. This is basically for those that want a little adult time for fellowship, games & some light refreshments. If you have any questions please call Bev at 964-3148.



On March 6, we will have a chance to recognize and meet all the Scouts among us! Even though Scout Sunday was February 13, we wanted to have a Sunday where we knew all of our Girl Scouts, Daisies, Cub Scouts, and Boy Scouts could participate. Expect to see lots of uniforms in the sanctuary on March 6! Afterwards, you will have the opportunity to meet them in person and extend even more warm First Methodist hospitality! We proudly support Daisy Scouts (Ages 5-6), Brownie Scouts (Ages 6-8) and Junior Girl Scouts (Ages 8 -11) every other Monday night. There are also multiple boys in our congregation who are currently in Cub and Boy Scouts. James Stanford, our Eagle Scout, will be the lay reader for March 6.

Game Night

Next Meeting: Saturday, March 19th @ 3:00 pm



Month of February 2011

The Prayer Shawl Ministry presented a green and white prayer shawl to Carolyn Shaw after Randel's passing. The chosen colors each have a certain meaning. The white represents faith, safety, purity, goodness and light. The green represents healing, harmony, hope, protection and peace. All of us in the Ministry pray that these words will hold fast in her heart during her time of healing.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or volunteering and giving of themselves for others. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season, a period of reflection and penance. In the Bible, sprinkling oneself with ashes was traditionally a sign of one's sorrow for having committed sins. The ash cross on the forehead is an outward sign of that sorrow and repentance. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday service to burn to produce ashes for this service.