


THE MESSENGER
Of First United Methodist Church
November 2011

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Ponderings of Your Youth Director

It's not often I get to share my thoughts, especially from my role as "Youth Director." I just want you to know that First Methodist has been blessed with exceptional "tweens" and teenagers these past 3+ years. I was glad to have started a youth group back in 2008, yet it feels like I have begun a new youth group again this year. In 2008, we had lots of boys in youth group. In 2011, it's now entirely all girls: squeely, loud, hyper, fun-loving, and terrific girls. Hopefully we'll get more boys soon before I end up in coma, from pink-overdose. J

When we gather for Sunday afternoon youth group, we start off with some fun games that may involve marbles, or pool noodles, or toilet paper (dizzy mummy!). After the fun, we get a snack and drink, watch a Bible or Christian related video, open our Bibles, read, study, discuss, explore, laugh, discover and pray. We share "highs and lows" of the week, and we send them into the week from there.



In our youth room, we have posters up of picture collages from the previous 3 years of youth group (the collages were displayed outside the sanctuary during Kids + Youth Sunday). At first, I can feel sadness at all the dozens of youth who have come and gone in three years. Yet, I am thankful: thankful for how we impacted so many when they were with us, thankful for all we've done, and thankful for the ones we have right now. Our Youth Group is full of energy, full of life, and full of great potential to impact the world in unique and beautiful ways. I am also grateful for the adults and parents who have stepped up to help our youth ministry succeed in the coming months and years. We've got a good team, let me tell you!

I look forward to seeing what God will continue to do through our great youth ministry!
 -"Pastor G", Youth Group Dude

The Messenger **November 2011**

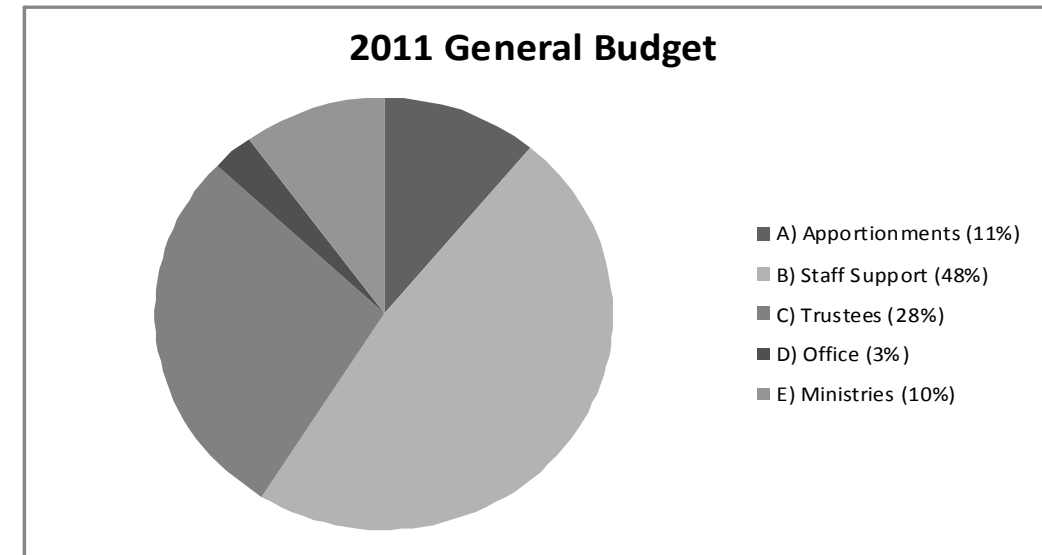


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 of Brazoria, Texas
Remaining Faithful by our
Prayers + Presence + Gifts +
Service + Witness



Thank you for your support of the General Budget. With each contribution, you support our Apportionments, our Staff, our Trustees (Building, Grounds, Maintenance, Insurance), our office and administration costs, and our exceptional ministries (like Adult Discipleship, Worship, Children's Ministry, Outreach & Mission, Youth Ministry, Congregational Care, and so many others).

- A) Apportionments (11%) - This is our tithe to the larger church, and the support of staff and ministries that extend far beyond our city limits. It supports great efforts like the Ministerial Education Fund, our Southwest District, planting new churches and others!
- B) Staff Support (48%) - It takes a good staff to run a good church. First Methodist takes care of our staff, especially our Pastor, Julisa (our awesome admin asst.), and our nursery workers like Jo Conway. By supporting staff, we make great ministry happen!



If you would like to know more on church finances, budgeting, protocols, etc., feel free to contact Pastor Greg, Bob Engman (Finance Chair), or Danny Mikeska (Chair of Finance, starting 2012)

C) Trustees - By supporting the General Budget, you ensure that our church buildings and campus remain functional and well-maintained. About 12% of our G.B. pays for our church to be insured against storms, fire, burglary, liability, and so much more. Your support of the G.B. protects our church's campus, assets and people. Your support also ensures we have a church campus that doesn't embarrass us, but rather, one where we can celebrate every improvement.

D) Office- This newsletter you are reading was paid for by the support of the General Budget. The postage that enabled it to reach your home also is paid for out of our G.B. Every Sunday worship bulletin available on Sunday mornings were made possible by the support. This part of our general budget also gets the word out about First Methodist Brazoria - it supports our website, newspaper advertising, publicity and our membership in the Brazoria Chamber of Commerce.

E) Ministries - This is the key way we impact lives for Jesus Christ! By supporting the General Budget, you support ministries like: Feed My Lambs, Vacation Bible School, Youth Ministry, Upper Room Devotionals, the Adult Sunday School Class, the Choir, Kidz Quest, Mission: Brazoria, and lots of other Kingdom projects! Wow! What a great investment!



New Sermon Series

Seeing Jesus in the Paintings 3 Part Series

- Nov. 6 "To Condemn or not to Condemn?"
John 8:1-12
Part 1
- Nov. 13 "The Prodigal Returns Home"
Luke 15:11-20
Part 2
- Nov. 20 "Jesus Serves the Hungry"
1 Corinthians 11:20-26
Part 3
- Nov. 27 Advent 1: Journey of the Nativity
Travelers
"Ninevah"
Jonah 4:10 & 11

Every Sunday

9:30AM, Adult Bible Study
10:30 AM, Worship Celebration
Nursery Available, Kidz Quest at 10:45 a.m.
5:00 PM, Youth Group

Sermons Available on CD or DVD upon request.



Pray For Our Homebound Members

At Home: Ed Powell,
Debbie Rasco,
Doc & Kittie Stanger
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 TEJEDA Veteran's Home, Floresville, TX

If you would like to send a card or letter to any of our homebound members please call the office (979/798-2220) or email (julisa@brazoriainet.com) for their addresses.

A MAN MOURNING THE SUDDEN DEATH OF HIS YOUNG WIFE WONDERED, "WHERE WAS GOD WHEN JENNY DIED?" UNABLE TO SLEEP ONE NIGHT, HE TURNED TO SCRIPTURE AND READ PSALM 116:3 (NIV): "THE ANGUISH OF THE GRAVE CAME UPON ME: I WAS OVERCOME BY TROUBLE AND SORROW." THE MAN'S ANGUISH ECHOED THE PSALMIST'S.

READING ON, HE DISCOVERED VERSE 15: "PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD IS THE DEATH OF HIS SAINTS."

"WHAT DOES IT MEAN BY PRECIOUS?" THE MAN WONDERED. THE FOOTNOTE PROVED HELPFUL: "NOT IN THE SENSE OF HIGHLY VALUED, BUT OF THAT WHICH IS CAREFULLY WATCHED OVER." THE WIDOWER PICTURED GOD WATCHING OVER HIS WIFE IN HER LAST MOMENTS. "THAT'S WHERE GOD WAS." THE MAN THOUGHT WITH RELIEF, "WITH JENNY THE WHOLE TIME."

MAY WE, TOO, BE ASSURED THAT GOD TRULY CARES FOR HIS SAINTS —NOT ONLY AT DEATH BUT ALSO IN LIFE, THROUGH GRIEF AND INTO HEALING.

REMEMBER WITH THANKSGIVING THOSE WHO HAVE HELD FAST TO THEIR FAITH.



ALL SAINTS' DAY

2011 5th Annual Christmas Braxxon

Saturday, November 5, 2011

9:00am—4:00pm

First Presbyterian Church

310 S. Virginia St.

(one block west of Brooks St./Hwy 36,
behind Feed Store)

Brazoria, TX 77422

979/798-7757

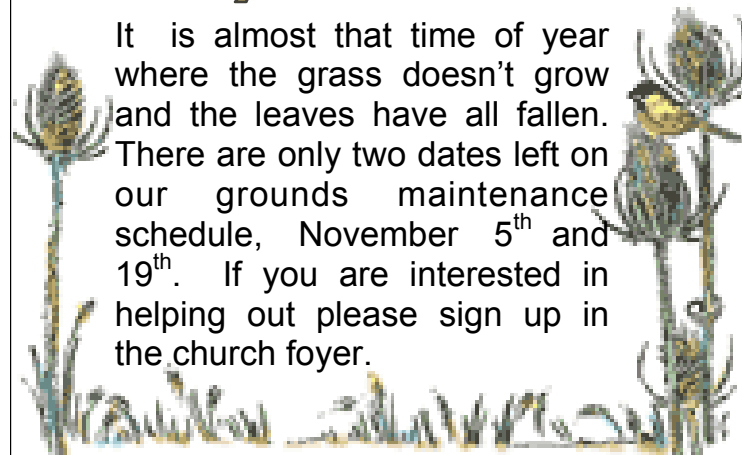
Community Thanksgiving Worship



THIS YEAR WE WILL NOT BE JOINING WITH OUR PRESBYTERIAN FRIENDS FOR A THANKSGIVING SERVICE. DR. REV. DEBBIE MEASELLS WILL BE OUT ON STUDY LEAVE. SHE SENDS HER APOLOGIES AND LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING US NEXT YEAR.

Church Grounds Maintenance

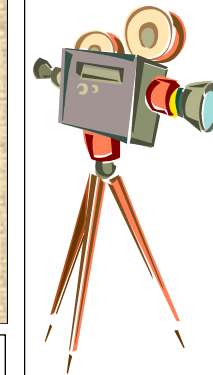
It is almost that time of year where the grass doesn't grow and the leaves have all fallen. There are only two dates left on our grounds maintenance schedule, November 5th and 19th. If you are interested in helping out please sign up in the church foyer.



SAVE THE DATE



One of our church-wide holiday events this year is to view the Lighted Boat Parade on the San Bernard River. The Frazees are hosting this event the evening of Saturday, December 10, 2011 at their house in Lazy Oak Ranch on the bank of the San Bernard River. They'll provide hospitality, drinks like we have at pot-luck, spaghetti with meat sauce and required paper goods for enjoying the food and drink. More details will follow in next month's newsletter. The Frazees hope to see you on December 10.



Family Movie Night On the Lawn!

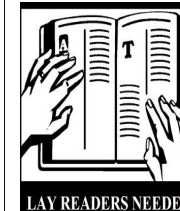
Come join us on Saturday, November 12th on the Church Lawn at 6:00 pm for our primer family movie event. The feature movie will be "Soul Surfer".

Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Please bring Lawn chairs and blankets. For more information contact Christen English @ 979/798-5567.



SENIOR GAME NIGHT

This month's SENIOR GAME NIGHT will be hosted by Lillian Compton and Carolyn Shaw on Friday, November 11th at 6:00 pm in the church fellowship hall. We ask that you bring something to contribute to snack time.



We are in need of Lay Readers. If you are interested please call Pastor Greg @ 979/248-4462.

LAY READERS NEEDED