

January 7, 2013



Methogram

**“The mission of First United Methodist Church of Silsbee is to glorify God,
make disciples, and transform lives in Christ**

The Methogram is a
publication of :
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www.SilsbeeUMC.com

Dan's Divinities

We will have only one worship service on Sunday, January 13. That morning, we are asking that everyone come to McDonough Hall at 10 a.m. for our Ministry Fair Brunch. Beth Withers is in charge of the Brunch (and may need your help with some food), and Jennifer Suitt has put together our ministry fair. We will have ten ministry tables with several of our ministries represented on each table. You will be able to munch and browse at the same time. We will also have some round tables in the middle of the room for those who prefer to sit and eat before or after they view the ministry tables. The tables will be manned by volunteers who work or participate in the various ministries, and you can ask them questions about the ministries. Many of the ministries will have sign-up sheets available in case you want to get involved. We will have name tags available to help you get to know the people.

After the ministry fair, we will have a uni-

fied and blended worship service in the Sanctuary at 11:00 which will offer both hymns and praise music from our praise band. The choir has a very lively Negro Spiritual prepared for the service entitled, *Wake up, Sinnuh, Let the Glory In*. I will preach a message entitled “The Inception,” which will be about the inception of Jesus’ ministry at his baptism (Luke 3:15-22).

At the Ministry Fair, you will also receive a packet of materials which will contain a narrative budget and a pledge card, the latter of which we would like for you to bring back on the following Sunday, January 20, which is Stewardship Sunday. We have two worship services that day as normal. That Sunday I will be preaching a sermon entitled, “The Good Wine,” based on Jesus’ first miracle as recorded in John 2:1-11.

Pastor Dan

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Cards for St. Jude's Ranch for Children

Dagma Murphy is once again collecting cards for the St. Jude's Ranch for Children. You can help by bringing in your greeting card fronts. The fronts must be able to be trimmed to fit the ranch's 5x7" backs, and they can use all kinds of greeting cards, not just Christmas cards. If you would like to donate some of your used card fronts, please bring them by the church office, and Dagma Murphy will send them in all at once. Please cut (don't tear) the fronts from the cards, and please remember that they can have no writing on the back.

A Peacemakers Seminar will be hosted at our church on Saturday, February 9, 2013. This is open to anyone who is interested in learning to resolve conflicts, struggling to repair a broken relationship, or helping others to become peacemakers

Schedule

8:30am - Doors Open and Registration
9:00am - 3:00pm - Seminar

Registration

\$25 love offering is requested but not required (no credit cards please), and will cover lunch, two coffee breaks, and resource materials. Email: rjmfc1@sbcglobal.net or call 409-283-7290 to register. Please include the following information: Name, Address, Phone Number, and Email address.

In Loving Memory

Roddy Farmer

Martha & Dana Bradshaw
Allan and Dagma Murphy

John Golden

David & Dr. Joyce Reed Sheffield

Coton Redkey

Irene Redkey

Rhonda Lou Carter Mass

George & Pat Donalson

Matt Danaway

George & Pat Donalson

Cesar Dominguez

George & Pat Donalson

Tracy Boyd Brown

George & Pat Donalson

Jan Bennett

George & Pat Donalson

Eddie Van Winkle

George & Pat Donalson

G.E. & Nancy Ann Donalson

George & Pat Donalson

Cody Callaway

David & Dr. Joyce Reed Sheffield

Cyriel Leaster Brown

Martha & Dana Bradshaw

Louise Barnes

Martha & Dana Bradshaw

Suzanne Barfield

Joyce McClung

Irene Redkey

Allan & Dagma Murphy

The Victory Class

David & Dr. Joyce Reed Sheffield

Marianne Deadmon

Edna Dominguez

Kassie Moye

Albert & Joan Gray & Family

Lester, Jean, & Phyllis Landgraf

Joyce & Rayford Birdwell

Honorarium



Glenda Delano

George & Pat Donalson

Jeanette Tobey

George & Pat Donalson

Nancy Ratchford

George and Pat Donalson

Kay Henscey

George and Pat Donalson

Pat Boyd

George & Pat Donalson

Ludessa Porter

George & Pat Donalson

McDonough Hall Renovation Update

It is beginning to look like the project may be finished as soon as late March, or certainly by mid-summer. This is a real miracle in that most of us thought this project would probably be dragging on for years.

One of the things that has enabled the speed of this project is the Lord's miraculous provision. Charlene Dauphin offered us a matching grant of \$100,000, and by God's grace we were able to meet that with our pledges and gifts. Then, the Permanent Endowment Fund of Moody Memorial United Methodist Church in Galveston granted us \$20,000. After that, many of our church members initiated various fund raising projects. That has been half of the miracle.

The other half is the drastic reduction in the cost of the project. The project was originally estimated by the architect to be a \$900,000 project. Pat and Lynn Hardy assumed the leadership of the project, and made various changes in the project including reusing as much of the materials as possible such as our outside doors and bathroom fixtures. They also decided to do away with the suspended ceiling and put in a sheet rock ceiling with below ceiling lighting instead of recessed fixtures. This will result in a huge long term cost savings for us in heating and cooling cost, and better lighting, as well. Through pinching every penny possible, the cost of the project has come down tremendously. The last estimate I saw was \$232,000. We do not have all of those funds in hand just yet, but as people continue to pay their pledges, we should be able to cover the cost of the project without incurring any indebtedness at the bank.

Currently, during the Christmas Break, the hallways are being remodeled. The suspended ceiling has been torn out and replaced with rafters and sheet rock, that as of this writing has not been surfaced. The workers will do as much as they can in the hallways before the students return. The North Wing is almost finished, and we will soon be ready to relocate the classes in the East Wing, and start on those classrooms. We have had a recent setback in that the worker doing our flooring and carpet wainscoting on the walls became ill and is not expected to recover. Pat Hardy is working hard to make other plans and find a new floor contractor.

State of the Church Report by Pastor Dan Darby

In many ways, 2012 has been a good year for our church, but it has also had its challenges. On the positive side, we embarked in faith in the major project of renovating McDonough Hall. After the architect estimated the project costing almost \$900,000 to complete, and our initial pledges toward the project were only about \$60,000, it was either silly for us to continue, or a faith venture following the leadership of the Lord. As it turned out, it was the latter. I will detail this miracle in the McDonough Hall Update article elsewhere in this newsletter, but suffice it to say right now that we will soon finish this project debt free!

Another positive for 2012 was the number of new members we accepted into the congregation. We accepted 19 new members, eight of whom joined by profession of faith. Our most recent new members are Lyna and Terry Johnson who are transferring their membership from Woodcrest UMC in Lumberton. We also baptized six children and two youth.

One of my great joys this year has been seeing some of our members step up to doing the work of children's ministry. There have been a lot of people who have gotten involved, but our miracle lady has been Glenda Delano. With very little prior experience in either leadership or children's ministry, Glenda has taken over the reins and tirelessly done an exceptional job.

Early in the year we added Jenny Pachall to our already excellent church staff as Director of Music Ministries, and, then, later in the year, added to her the responsibilities of Director of Youth Ministries. Jenny has endeared herself to all of us with her enthusiasm and zeal for the Lord.

We added a couple of new ministries this year. We are holding a weekly worship service at Pine Arbor Nursing Center. We also started hosting the Naron support group.

Finally, it has been a good year in that we have continued so many of the fantastic ministries of our church such as Upward Soccer, All Faiths Day School, Confirmation, Faith Weaver Friends, Junior Connections, UMYF, Grief Support Group, Primitives, Music Ministries, and all of our partner ministries such as Scouting Ministries, the Christian Care Center, Gulf Coast Medical Clinic, WIC, Nar-

cotics Anonymous, and the Hardin County Mediation Services. Many of these ministries, and some I have left out, will be highlighted at our Ministry Fair Brunch at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 13.

As you know, there have also been some negatives this year. The biggest one to be has been the loss of so many of our active members. We seem to have lost them in every way imaginable: death, becoming inactive, moving to other communities, and some members attending other churches. There seems to be no mad rush out the door and no mass exodus, but it hurts nevertheless. I really thought our average attendance had dropped this year, but the actual figures tell a slightly different story. Our average attendance has increased slightly from 144 in 2011 to 148 in 2012. I am anxious, however, for us to grow significantly, and I think that is God's plan for us.

Financially, it has been a mixed year for us. We had a good December with many of you giving very generously. General Fund income for December was \$42,676, which is \$9718.69 more than we spent. That certainly helped the bottom line, but we still spent \$27,409.10 more than our income. The primary reason for this in my estimation is that some of the gifts that normally are given to the General Fund went to the McDonough Hall Renovation Fund. This is the first year in my tenure that we have not had a positive cash flow. Thank God we had good reserve funds! This is a praise report. God knows what he is doing!

The direction from the Spirit that I sense is summed up in our theme verse for 2013 which the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart: *Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58, NIV.*

We as individuals and as a church will have ups and downs, but are called to continue to stand firm in doing the Lord's work. God is right here with us, empowering us. Our work is not in vain. He is growing his Kingdom through us, and we are accomplishing his purposes.

Pastor Dan

Presence			
<u>Worship</u>		<u>Sunday School</u>	
12/09	201	12/09	87
12/16	138	12/16	78
12/23	171	12/23	73
12/30	122	12/30	73

Gifts	
<u>12/09/2012</u>	<u>12/30/2012</u>
\$8,541.00	\$8,796.00
<u>12/16/2012</u>	<u>Big Thicket Booth</u>
\$4,625.00	\$630.75
<u>12/23/2012</u>	<u>Christmas Eve Offering</u>
\$7,234.00	\$265.00



Acolyte training will begin in February, led by Mrs. Dagma Murphy. Any kids and youth (ages 3rd grade and older) that are interested in becoming an acolyte should contact Miss Dagma for more information on dates and times.



During the Fall session, Faithweaver friends collected \$66.00 for the McDonough Hall Renovation fund. They also sent 54 cards to the shut-in, sick, and older members of our congregation. What a blessing to see young children in active ministry!

2013 Theme Verse

The leadership and staff of First United Methodist Church of Silsbee have claimed 1 Corinthians 15:58 as our theme verse for this year:

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

I Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

Pray over this verse, study it, meditate on it, and we pray that you will claim this verse for your own this year.

First United Methodist Church
670 North 5th Street
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