

February 16, 2011



Methogram

“The mission of First United Methodist Church of Silsbee is to bring glory to God, to go and share the Gospel with all, and to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

The Methogram is a publication of:
First United Methodist Church
670 North 5th Street,
Silsbee, Texas 77656
Phone: (409) 385-5568
Fax: (409) 385-7219

Rev. Dan Darby
Senior Pastor

Rev. Nancy Ratchford
Associate Pastor

Jennifer Suitt
Office Manager
Office@silsbeeumc.com

Come Visit Us At:
www.SilsbeeUMC.com

DAN'S DIVINITIES

I must confess that the last two sermons on Matthew 5:27-32 from the Sermon on the Mount have been very hard to preach. When I preached on interpersonal relationships and human sexuality, I knew that all of us were squirming a bit. Last Sunday when I preached on the Christian family, divorce, and remarriage, I looked over the audience and saw people that are the midst of marital crisis or who been divorce or remarried. These are very personal issues. And when I preach on hot topics like that, I never really know what people are hearing, and how they are interpreting my words.

Allow me to briefly summarize what I understand to be the Christian teaching about these topics.

Christian teaching about human sexuality is quite counter-cultural to our permissive society. The scriptures and the Church, however, teach that sexuality is a good gift of God that is to be practiced in the sacred commitment of marriage. Outside of the marriage covenant, sexual intercourse leaves its participants inappropriately vulnerable. Without marriage, the couple is not ready to provide a home for children, is threatened by the spread of disease, and is not spiritually and psychologically ready for the sharing of the inner self in this most intimate of human actions. The Christian ideal is fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness. As I said, that is radically different from the practice and philosophy of our society. If we, the church, would begin to practice this Christian ethic, we would transform our society for the better. If you are not practicing fidelity in marriage or celibacy in singleness, it is time to consider a

change in lifestyle. If you repent and seek the Lord's forgiveness, he will forgive you, accept you, and help you overcome the past.

The second topic was that of the Christian family, marriage, divorce, and remarriage. God's intention is that a man should be joined to his wife and be one flesh in an intimate, caring, and supportive partnership marked by love and kindness. We vow to have that kind of relationship when we get married, and we should strive to live up to those vows, putting up with each other's faults and forgiving one another's sins against us. Because of our human shortcomings, however, sometimes our marriages become destructive to personal wholeness instead of constructive. In such cases, we should strive to address the issues that are hampering the marriage and correct them. Marriage counseling should be sought, and both parties should work with the counselor to learn how to be supportive of each other. In cases when one of the marriage partners chooses not to be committed to the marriage and demonstrates such infidelity through actions such as adultery or domestic violence, a divorce may be necessary in order to protect the health of the members of the family. But divorce should be a rare last resort, not commonplace as it is in our society. (According to the head of Family Services of Southeast Texas, the divorce rate in Hardin County is a whopping 70%!) If we make Jesus Christ the Lord of our marriages, he will restore health and bring wholeness to our families.

Continued on Next Page

Inside this issue:

Gifts	2
Word Puzzle Answers	2
Presence	2
Memorials	2
Thought for the Day	2
Methodism 101 Info	3
Upwards Soccer	3
Acolyte Information	3
Bible Word Puzzle	4

DAN'S DIVINITIES

Answers to February 2, 2011 Puzzle



Gifts

February 6, 2011

\$9,379.20

February 13, 2011

\$8,119.75

SouperBowl of Caring	\$350.07
Christian Care Center	\$156.00
Fire Alarm (given by Victory Class)	\$168.00
Prior Year Giving	\$340.00



Asbury Lennox
Martha Bradshaw
Dana Bradshaw

Continued from Previous Page

For those who are divorced or in the process, know that divorce is not an unforgiveable sin. If you are single as a result of a divorce, it is important that you remain single for a significant period of time, and spend time dealing with your personal issues that may have contributed to the failure of the marriage. Ask Christ to bring you to wholeness. If both parties are willing to remain single and deal with their issues, remarriage to each other may be a possibility as you grow in Christian maturity.

When the healing of the marriage is no longer possible, and the divorcee' has worked through the grief and personal

issues surrounding the failed marriage, remarriage to another person may be within the plan of God for your life.

Marriage is a sacred trust from God. We should honor it, treasure it, and protect it. For those who are divorced or remarried, know that God loves you and wants to bring healing to you. Let the Holy Spirit heal your wounds.

This Sunday, I will tread on a bit safer ground – The Christian Disciplines. Of course, if we practice them, we may find that they are not so safe after all. God just might get a hold of us!

See you Sunday,

Pastor Dan

Thought for the Day

Dr. Darby is currently writing a devotional "Thought for the Day" column, which he publishes by email. If you are not receiving it, and would like to, email him at dandarby@juno.com and let him know you would like to receive it. It is always brief, and usually based on a verse or two out of the Bible. You can also find it each day on our website homepage, www.silsbeeumc.com.



Confirmation Class
Confirmation classes will start again on April 12. We will meet each Tuesday after school for a period of approximately eight weeks. During that time, we are planning to have a confirmation retreat, and conclude with a Confirmation Sunday. The final dates for the retreat and the Confirmation Sunday are still to be determined, and will be based on how the classes are progressing. If you have a child 6th grade or older that would like to participate in these classes, please contact the church office so that we can prepare the proper materials.

You Can Still Attend!

Our Methodism 101 class began this Sunday, February 13, 2011, but you can still attend! You may join the class just to learn more about our faith, or take it to aid you in your decision on whether or not to enter the membership of First United Methodist Church. It is held during the Sunday School hour at 10:00 a.m. in Cravens 207 for five to seven more Sundays.

We will address the following topics that you may find helpful:

- * What does it mean to be a Christian?
- * What do United Methodist believe?
- * Why is the Bible so important to United Methodist?
- * The background and history of Christianity, and of the Methodist denomination.
- * What are the membership requirements of our church?
- * What do we expect of our church members?
- * What we believe about of worship and the sacraments.
- * How our church is organized – church government and leadership

If you attend the class, you will not be expected to join the church, but you will be given the opportunity to join if you wish. Also, if you have not been baptized, you will be afforded that opportunity.

Please contact the church office if you would like to attend so that we can prepare class materials for you. We hope to see you there!



Acolytes

**ACOLYTE TRAINING IS COMING!
ACOLYTE TRAINING IS COMING!
ACOLYTE TRAINING IS COMING!**

To parents and youth, ages third through twelfth grades:

Acolyte training begins the week after Silsbee ISD spring break (March 8 or 10) and will continue for 4 consecutive weeks, culminating in Commissioning Sunday, which is tentatively scheduled for April 10. Our class options are Tuesday or Thursday afternoons immediately following school, specific days and times to be announced. We need volunteers for school pick-up, and for snacks. More important, we need kids! The job of the acolyte is not hard, but it does require training and the commitment of both the acolyte and the parents. Please contact Paula Darby at 385-2467 with questions, or to volunteer.

**ACOLYTE TRAINING IS COMING!
ACOLYTE TRAINING IS COMING!
ACOLYTE TRAINING IS COMING!**

Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday will be on March 9th this year, and our service will be in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. Rev. Nancy Ratchford will be preaching. We will confess our sins by writing a few words on a slip of paper, and then watch them explode in flame after we have nailed them to the cross. We will also celebrate Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes as a reminder of our mortality and of our need for the grace of God.



Community Outreach Fair



It is a couple of months away, but it is just around the corner! We will host the first of what may become an annual Community Outreach Fair on Saturday, April 30, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in McDonough Hall and on the lawn in front of McDonough Hall. We are inviting all community outreach organizations to come and host a booth, and inform the public about the services they offer. We hope that civic clubs like scouts and service organizations will come and recruit members. Organizations offering medical services will be present to offer information. Even the blood bank will be here to receive blood donations. Sports groups such as Upward Soccer and other groups are invited to come and sign up kids and promote their organizations. Drama groups, museums, government agencies, counseling centers, addiction recovery groups, private and public schools, day care centers and pre-schools, hospice organizations, ambulance services, public safety groups, and libraries are the types of groups we are asking to come and tell their

stories and make the public aware of their services.

We want our youth group and other church groups to sell refreshments and lunches during the event.

The primary purpose of the event is to be a public service to our community. A secondary goal is to raise money for the new fire alarm and emergency lighting systems we must install in McDonough Hall through the rental of booth space and sale of food items. Church groups that help with food sales may split their profits between the McDonough Hall improvements and their own projects such as summer camp scholarships. Another goal is to create community awareness of the presence and ministry of our church as we bring many new people to our campus. If the community begins to see us as a place where people are involved in the life of the community, they will be more likely to visit our congregation on Sunday morning.

We will be advertising this in the newspaper and through other media. Your suggestions for promoting this event are welcome. And if you want to volunteer to help, that would be awesome! Contact Gina Durham at 409-474-1460 for more information.

Special Planning Meeting!

If you would like to volunteer to help with the Community Outreach Fair, we are having a planning meeting on Tuesday, February 22 at 11:00 am in McDonough Hall. Please plan to attend. Thanks!

Family Movie Night is Back!



“Wesley”
Sunday, March 6
5:00 p.m.
McDonough Hall

From the movie website:

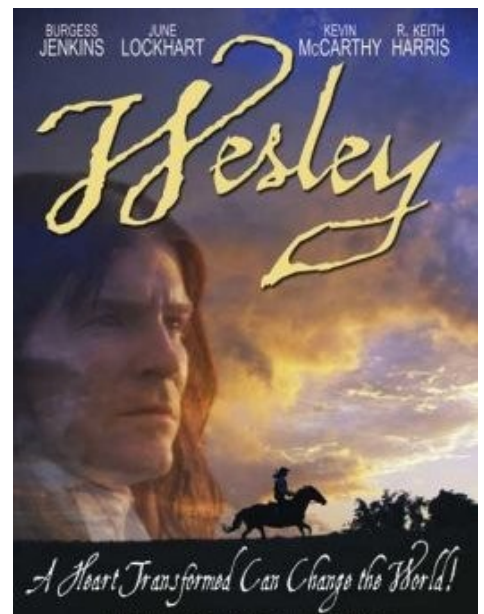
What happens when a smart, talented young man desires to serve God...but is mostly driven by his fear of death and Hell? How is

a conflicted heart torn by love and desire? And what happens when that heart finally discovers grace?

In this powerful true story, based directly on the private journals of John and Charles Wesley, we glimpse the private struggles of one man who would go on to found the Methodist movement - and another who would become one of the most prolific and beloved hymn writers of history. Together, they would transform the face of England with revolutionary ministries to the poor and down-trodden, creating a movement that laid the

groundwork for the eventual abolition of slavery.

Please join us for film, food, and fellowship! Invite your friends and family for this wonderful telling of the life of John Wesley.



Presence

Worship

2/6 144

2/13 169

Sunday School

2/6 108

2/13 95

Young Adult Bible Study

The Young Adults are meeting again! Our weekly Bible study has resumed meeting on Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m. We will meet again this week in the home

of Nancy Ratchford. Please come join us and enjoy food, fellowship, and study. If you have any questions, you can contact Nancy Ratchford at 385-5568

Methogram Deadline

If you have news or information to be included in the next Methogram, please submit to the church office no later than 12:00 p.m. on Monday, February 28, 2011. You can call Jennifer at 385-5568 with the information, or email your articles to office@silsbeeumc.com

Sermon on the Mount

S	K	I	N	G	D	O	M	O	F	H	E	A	V	E	N	I	M	X
E	B	S	W	P	S	K	K	N	R	E	G	N	U	H	D	I	P	
T	U	E	A	S	E	C	L	O	R	D	S	P	R	A	Y	E	R	R
I	V	D	A	E	S	E	M	J	U	D	G	E	M	E	N	T	V	L
R	F	U	S	C	Y	M	A	E	B	F	O	O	T	S	T	O	O	L
C	A	T	E	Z	A	D	U	L	T	E	R	Y	L	E	S	H	C	P
O	L	I	L	M	B	R	E	T	H	R	E	N	R	S	L	N	H	E
P	S	T	P	S	E	R	U	S	A	E	R	T	R	S	D	I	I	A
Y	E	A	I	E	K	R	E	M	V	E	L	D	N	A	C	A	L	C
H	P	E	C	D	Q	V	C	O	M	Q	I	X	H	P	S	T	D	E
G	R	B	S	U	K	C	L	I	I	W	T	G	R	S	T	N	R	M
N	O	R	I	T	T	B	S	M	F	W	K	A	V	E	L	U	E	A
I	P	V	D	I	Q	H	P	A	A	U	Y	B	L	R	A	O	N	K
T	H	C	Z	T	M	L	G	I	A	E	L	I	L	T	S	M	O	E
S	E	C	V	L	K	Q	N	I	R	L	X	B	J	U	R	A	F	R
A	T	T	P	U	R	R	O	C	L	K	C	U	L	P	L	O	G	S
F	S	T	E	M	P	T	A	T	I	O	N	U	F	M	R	X	O	C
S	Z	R	I	G	H	T	E	O	U	S	N	E	S	S	A	N	D	E
N	E	I	G	H	B	O	U	R	N	D	E	S	S	E	L	B	O	

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Adultery | Love |
| Alms | Mammon |
| Beam | Merciful |
| Beatitudes | Mountain |
| Blessed | Multitudes |
| Brethren | Neighbor |
| Candle | Peacemakers |
| Children of God | Pluck |
| Corrupt | Prayer |
| Disciples | Raca |
| False Prophets | Righteousness |
| Fasting | Salt |
| Footstool | Sand |
| Hunger | Seek |
| Hypocrites | Temptation |
| Judgement | Treasures |
| Kingdom of Heaven | Trespases |
| Light | Twain |
| Lord's Prayer | |

First United Methodist Church

670 North 5th Street
Silsbee Texas 77656

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 29