

April 8, 2015



# Methogram

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

## Dan’s Divinities

The Methogram is a publication of :  
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Most of you have already heard the news, but let me repeat the facts, and then I will make a few comments.

#### The News:

I have been asked by our Staff and Pastor Parish Relations Committee and our District Superintendent to inform you of an upcoming change in the pastoral leadership of our church. It will not be effective until July 1, but at that time, Rev. David Green will become the Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church in Silsbee . David and his wife Anita will be moving into the parsonage on or around June 25. David and I will be swapping pulpits. He is currently the pastor of Coldspring United Methodist Church, and I will become the pastor of that church on July 1. Until July 1, I will continue being the pastor of the Silsbee First UMC, and I hope to assist you in preparing the way for your new pastor.

#### The Comments:

This move has taken some people by surprise. Some have expressed great sadness at the news. Some are feeling deserted and abandoned. These are the natural feelings of grief that occur when close relationships are broken or at least changed. Indeed, we have been very close to so many of you through your life journeys during the past nine years, and the prospect of separation is very painful for us and for many of you. So, why are we moving?

During the past few years our attendance and financial base have eroded. When I first became pastor of the church, people were thrilled because we were averaging

around 150 in worship, a significant improvement from previous years. We topped out at 160 in worship for a while before we began a slow slide. Last year we averaged 135. Financially a similar trend has followed. Before I came the church was counting the paper clips trying to make ends meet. Early in my ministry we had significant surpluses and an expanding budget. More recently, we have had some years of declining budgets and difficulty in living within our means.

In view of these trends, a significant portion of the Staff and Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) felt that it was time for a pastoral change, and, because of the needs of the congregation, I agreed with them. (The SPPRC is in charge of representing the pastoral needs of the church to the District Superintendent). So a request was relayed by the SPPRC and me for a new pastor for the congregation.

So, the District Superintendent took this request to the Bishop and the Cabinet, and they have found a pastor which they believe can help this congregation. I don’t know a lot about David Green and his wife, Anita, but I do know is that he has been very effective in his last two appointments. He was the pastor of Bridge City UMC from 2003 through 2009. Those were the years of the big storms – Katrina, Rita, and Ike – along with a few minor ones.

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Both the church facilities and the parsonage were destroyed, and he oversaw the building of a new church plant and a new parsonage during his tenure. He requested a move at that time because he was exhausted from the building projects (which he completed with excellence). He was moved to Coldspring in 2009 to rest, and upon his arrival the church announced a new building project – a new family life center.

David led the church in a capital campaign in an effort to pay for the new facility in three years, and they paid it off in two and a half years. Coldspring UMC is now debt free. Coldspring has a very active youth program, and reported an average worship attendance in 2014 of 157. David has done a great job at Coldspring. His tenure for six years at Bridge City and six years at Coldspring are a testament to his effectiveness, and the Bishop and her Cabinet believe

that David will be the pastor to lead Silsbee in a positive direction.

David’s wife, Anita, will also be a big plus for the church. She is an ordained elder in the Texas Annual Conference, but is on permanent disability leave. While she is unable to manage the demands of full time ministry, my understanding is that she has been very involved in the work of ministry at Coldspring as a volunteer. She is certainly a lovely person, and I know you will come to love her.

It has been a great pleasure serving this church as your pastor for nine years. You have been most gracious to me, and have allowed our family to become very close to you and involved in the ministry here. I know that you will receive David and Anita with the same grace and receptivity with which you received the Darby family. God has great things in store for First UMC in Silsbee.

*Pastor Dan*

We still need some small new gifts for the Graduation Baccalaureate Service, ESPECIALLY gifts for the young men. Money donations and gift cards are always welcome. Please bring these items to the office by April 14. I thank you in advance for your help. God’s blessings to you,  
Dagma Murphy

*In Loving Memory*

**Dean Hill**

- Marianne Deadmon
- David and Karen Cobble
- Reid and Sharon Dickard
- F. Mark and Patricia Allen
- Freeda Duffle
- Jack and Carol Jordan

**Kassie Moye**

Joyce McClung

**Carolyn Jo Lee**

Charles Lee

**Ann Jeffrey**

Charles Lee

**Barbara Paret**

Charles Lee

**Ann Nell Herbst**

Charles Lee

<u>Worship</u>		
03/22		128
03/29		173
04/05		153
<u>Sunday School</u>		
03/22		91
03/29		92
04/05		44
<u>Gifts</u>		
03/22		\$2,690.00
03/29		\$4,618.30
04/05		\$6,893.00



*Dear Church family,  
 Thank you for your support, prayers, visits, phone calls, cards, Communion served at the nursing home, and the delicious meal provided for our family before the celebration of our loved one’s life.*

*The Dean Hill Family*



WOW. I have never seen a church stand behind their youth program like this church has. The youth are loved in this church and are well supported. I had a dream after about a month or two working here that the youth needed a place to call home. The youth had been meeting in Cravens hall since I started here and

it was heavy on my heart to find them a place they could call home. I knew we had room to grow and had some vacant building spaces. I toured the Gulf Coast building and then toured the Methodist center. I prayed about it and kept it to myself for a while. I presented to my youth council parents meeting that I was looking into making the Gulf Coast building or the Methodist center into a youth/outreach center. The meeting went well and so I started to talk to people about construction. When we started to look at the cost of remodel and equipping the gulf coast building it was a larger number than I felt the church and youth could bite off at the moment. We then talked and ran numbers about the Methodist center and were much more pleased. We had another meeting and the parents were on board with seeing what we could do to try and accommodate everyone in that building and to ask them to relocate to the Gulf Coast building. At that time, I asked Leslikey Luna to help me in design the Methodist center for the youth to present to the committees. Dan called the occupants of the building to make sure they would be willing to move and all agreed to do so. We then presented this to the Trustees, Finance and Church Council for approval, which we received from all committees. There will be only cosmetic changes done to the Methodist center like painting walls, moving furniture, building furniture and installing ceiling fixtures. This facility will be available to the church and community during times that Converge isn't meeting. There are copies of the design and things needed to make this building complete in my office if you would like a copy. Please continue to pray for the youth, the leaders and this project that all will be a blessing to the kingdom we serve. If you have questions or any comments, I would love to hear from you.

So with the news that we are moving into a new building and having a lot of trips coming up this summer, Converge will be doing a lot of fundraising. We will have a chopped beef sandwich sale on the Saturday before Mothers day, May 9<sup>th</sup> at Walgreens. The money will go to fund scholarships for the youth to not have to pay the full price of the trips. If a child went on every trip that was planned for this

summer with no scholarships it would cost the family over \$1200. I am hoping to keep that cost below \$300 if they attend every trip. After the summer trips are paid for the remainder of the money in from our fundraisers will be used on finishing the Methodist center.

Our trips start sooner than later and we have a lot of them. Our next trip will be Choir camp June 8-12 and the cost for this camp is \$100 dollars. Forms are due by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The next trip is Girls Chrysalis walk June 12-14. The girls that wish to go to choir camp and chrysalis can go to both, just see me for more details. Then on July 5- 11 the senior highs will be going to UMARMY in Marshall, TX. The cost for this event is \$250 per child but we will be asking for youth to only pay \$100. Then two days later on July 13 -17 we head up to Lakeview for summer camp. This trip will cost us \$275 and hope to only have the children pay \$100. We have a lot of children that will be participating in multiple trips. If your child participates in multiple trips you also get a price break from the hundred dollars per trip. This is to make sure all children can go on the trips they wish to go on. As always, full scholarships are available just call or meet with me so we can get it squared away.

There are new requirements for driving for ANY church event that you are transporting anybody beside your family. The church will need to get a copy of your driver's license, registration and proof of insurance. This information will be kept locked in a secure location. This is for our insurance and I would love to get this taken care of before the summer gets busy.

Last but not least, please continue to pray for our church, Converge student ministries and our leaders. Money is always nice but when someone tells me they are praying for me or my ministries it warms my heart. If there is anything I can do or answer for you please feel free to contact me however it best suits you. Thanks and Hope y'all have a blessed week!!



James Borello,  
Director  
Converge Student Ministries

Dear First United Methodist Church Family,

Hi! I hope that this letter finds you well.

In February, I surrendered to God's call to go into missions. In early March, I went on a mission trip to South Padre Island and I fell in love with missions there. I still don't know exactly when or where He'll lead me, but I trust that He will reveal that in His time.

This summer, He has given me an amazing opportunity to work with other college students as a team. We will work as Youth Ministers to children in Anchorage city parks. Our desire is to meet needs to break down walls in order to share the Gospel. We will do this by offering the children a nutritious lunch and engaging them in Bible Stories and Recreational Activities, creating a safe place for them. The neighborhood parks that we targeted are impoverished, and the children need positive role models. Our goal is to raise up generations of kids who know Christ. We will minister to Anglos, Alaskan Natives, Samoans, North Africans, and Hmongs. Anchorage has 42 language groups in the public schools. Two parks a week will have a Block Party on Thursday evening in order to engage entire families. We will also participate in light construction work in and around Anchorage. I am really excited for this opportunity because I feel that it will prepare me to eventually be on the mission field full time.

I am writing you to enlist your prayer and/or financial support. God has given me a call to "go", and I am counting on Him to call those of you He has called to "send" to help reach my goal of \$3,850.00. I had qualms about writing this letter, and I have put it off for a few weeks because I felt as if I were asking for myself. God has shown me that I am asking on behalf of the children that I will be working with that do not know Jesus. I cannot imagine never having an opportunity to accept Christ.

Please understand that I realize that not everyone is called to help every cause. I trust that you will hear God's voice and know if this is an area in which you are called to minister. I am grateful for anything you are able to give. Either way, I know that everyone is called to pray, and I would very much appreciate your prayer support.

I plan to write again after I return from Alaska to let you know everything that we did! I leave May 20 and return to Texas on August 2. Thank you for everything you have done for me; I really do appreciate it!

Thank you,  
Elizabeth Coudrain



### SUPPORT GROUPS

The **Caregivers Support Group** is meeting in the Georgas Room of the Silsbee Public Library on the fourth Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. The group is sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association and by led by Dan Darby and Alicia Beall Lockhart. Anyone in a caregiving situation for a loved one is invited to attend.



### Church Musicians

The church is calling for interested musicians to serve in the following roles: Pianist/Organist, Praise Band Leader, Choir Director, or a combination of these roles. If you or someone you know is interested and desires to serve God through the gift of music at SUMC, please contact our Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee Chair, Bob Herbst, at 409-385-3837.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### Upcoming Events and Dates:

**Sunday, May 17**

Faithweaver Friends Sunday  
Both Services

**Wednesday, May 20**

Final Faithweaver Friends for  
This school year, and end of year  
party

**Sunday, July 5**

Acolyte Commissioning Sunday  
11:00 am service

**July 13-17**

District Summer Youth Camp

**July 20-24**

Vacation Bible School



### Upcoming Meetings and Important Dates

Monday, April 13, 7:00 pm

Trustees Meeting, Cravens

Thursday, April 16, 6:30 pm

AFDS Art Show, McDonough Hall

Saturday, April 18, 5:00 pm

Birthday party for Dan Darby  
McDonough Hall

Monday, April 20, 5:00 pm

Missions Meeting, Cravens

Monday, May 4, 5:00 pm

SPPRC Meeting



I know it is totally unbelievable that a kid as young as I am is turning 60, but it is true! April 19, 1955 was a very good day! To celebrate, Paula and I are throwing a party, and you are invited to celebrate with us. We will have it on Saturday, April 18, 2015, from 5 until 8 p.m., in McDonough Hall. We will have Mama Stouffer's lasagna (the best lasagna that Sam's sells!), salad, and bread.

So, we need you to let us know how many from your family are coming. And Paula is making enough birthday cake for everyone, well at least some of us! The rest of us will have to gnaw on the table legs.

For entertainment we will have some table games, a little dancing and weeping. No, not weeping, shouting for joy for being so young! No gifts please, your presence will be the greatest gift of all.

You can RSVP by Tuesday, April 14, to my secretary, Jennifer Suitt, at [office@silsbeeumc.com](mailto:office@silsbeeumc.com) or call the church, 409/385-5568.

Dan Darby

**First United Methodist Church**  
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