

April 28, 2014



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 :

**First United
Methodist Church**

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www.SilsbeeUMC.com

Dan's Divinities

Recently, I heard our District Superintendent say that less than 20% of young adults in their twenties are attending church. Initially, I was shocked by that statistic, but I am sure that it is correct, and it may actually be a bit generous. I also recall a speaker at Annual Conference last year saying that the problem is not just that we have lost our youth, it is that we have lost the parents of youth and of our young adults. That's my generation that has been lost.

Have you ever wondered why the church has lost the majority of at least two generations? The answers are not easy to come by, and I don't pretend to know all the questions, much less the answers. But join me as I think back to my growing up as a teenager in a United Methodist Church. Our youth group caught fire and began to grow. After a while, we moved out of the church facilities and started meeting at the city lake picnic area, and in the wintertime we crowded into the small home of our youth counselors. The group grew to fifty or sixty kids, many of whom belonged to other churches or no church at all.

As I look back on it, I don't remember a lot of overtures on the part of the church to draw the kids into the worship services and back into the mainline part of the church. I don't remember the church saying, "Let's sing some of your songs in our worship services in addition to our hymns." I don't remember that kind of openness.

I do remember the pastor inviting me to lead the singing at the Sunday night services because I had expressed a sense of calling to ministry, and he wanted me to get accustomed to standing up in front of people. We sang out of the Cokesbury hymnal and the congregation picked at least some of the hymns. I often felt like they were playing "Stump the Kid Song

Director" because there were a lot of the songs I had never heard. In spite of the difficulty of trying to lead unfamiliar music, it was a great experience for me for which I have always been grateful. But, nevertheless, the message was something like, "We are happy for you to become a part of our culture," not "How can we adapt our culture to meet your needs?"

Let me be clear, I am not talking about a change of style in either of our current worship services. I am talking about attitude. Is the attitude we have, "How can we adapt to meet the needs of others?" Or is our attitude, "This feels good to me, so I plan to do all I can to keep it that way"?

I am not one who feels that reaching the younger generations is dependent on whether or not we sing "Kumbaya" or some other song in our worship services. But I do think that having an Easter attitude and a sense of mission to others is essential if we are to be the inclusive church Christ calls us to be.

On Easter Sunday, Jesus breathed on the disciples and instructed them to receive the Holy Spirit so they could carry the Good News of his Resurrection to others. Let us also be Easter people, and carry the Good News to all. We have the word that the world needs to hear. Let's share it with joy!

See you Sunday,

Pastor Dan

Inside this issue:

In Worship	2
VBS Information	2
Camp Information	2
District News	2
Memorials	3
Gifts and Presence	3
Upcoming Events	3
2014 Theme Verse	4



Worship

We had a great Easter, with good attendance during Holy Week and on Easter Sunday. Even better was the spirit of worship that pervaded our worship services. Our Chancel Choir did a great job with the Cantata on Maundy Thursday, and many commented about how meaningful the Good Friday Tenebrae Service was. Good Friday was very special to me because Paula and Rebecca sang *Pie Jesu* in beautiful harmony. And I appreciate all the compliments and encouragement I have received for my Easter Sermon. Thanks, everyone.

I will be preaching from the lectionary for the next several weeks as we explore the meaning of the Resurrection together. On May 4th, we will walk on the road to Emmaus together when Jesus appeared incognito to two of his disciples and explained the cross and the Resurrection to them. On Mother's Day, May 11, we will talk about the nurture of the Good Shepherd as we look at John 10:1-18.

I know you will want to be a part of our inspiring worship services. We are striving to bring you words of encouragement every week to help you be a disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ.



It is almost that time again! Before we know it, Vacation Bible School will be starting. Our theme this year is going to be the Workshop of Wonders! Our VBS this year is going to be June 23-27. If you are interested in helping out or volunteering in ANY way, please let Glenda Delano know. Also, Dagma Murphy is asking for CDs to be used in a craft project. She just asks that one side of the CD not have any writing on it. If you have any questions, or for more information, please call the church office at 385-5568.

Summer Camp and Choir Camp

Now is the time to sign up for Choir Camp on June 9-13 and Summer Church Camp on June 16-20. Call the church office if you would like to attend either camp and if you need help registering. All registration will be done online. So far we have ten children and youth signed up for Church Camp along with two adults. Several others have indicated an intent to register. We appreciate the money that so many of our church members given so that our campers can attend free of charge. We are also receiving scholarships from our district through our Fair Share giving.

District News

On Wednesday, April 30, there will be District Conference at 6:30 at Woodcrest UMC in Lumberton. The business of the conference will be to approve the sale of the Impact Church property in Port Arthur. Our delegates to the district and annual conferences are Bob Herbst and Marianne Deadmon.

Following the District Conference, there will be a Pre-Annual Conference meeting led by Rev. B.T. Williamson, who is the Assistant to the Bishop. Expected business of the Annual Conference will be discussed. Annual Conference will be in Houston at the Hilton Americas on May 25-28.

In Loving Memory

Gus Dunbar

Dr. Joyce Reed Sheffield
Dean & Willa Dean Hill
Cecil & Marjorie Cassity

Frances Richardson

Dr. Joyce Reed Sheffield
Cecil & Marjorie Cassity

Emma Lou Brownlee

Martha Bradshaw
Dana Bradshaw

Harry Gibson

Martha Bradshaw
Dana Bradshaw

Bob McClelland

Cecil & Marjorie Cassity

Elisabeth Louise Lowry

Martha Bradshaw
Dana Bradshaw

Mary Francis

Dr. Joyce Reed Sheffield
Patricia Donalson
Cecil & Marjorie Cassity

Neil Sumler

Martha Bradshaw
Dana Bradshaw

Mary Nelson

Martha Bradshaw
Dana Bradshaw

James "Shorty" Skinner

Cecil & Marjorie Cassity

Gifts and Presence

Worship

04/13	166
04/20	174

Sunday School

04/13	55
04/20	81

Gifts

04/13	\$3,906.00
04/20	\$8,339.15



Upward Soccer

We are currently in the process for looking for a coordinator of the program. So far, none of our church members have been able to coordinate the program. If a coordinator is not found within the next couple of weeks, we will have to drop the program from our ministry outreach to the community. If there is anyone interested in coordinating the program, please contact Dr. Darby.

Upcoming EVENTS

Sunday, May 25. Nancy Ratchford will preach at both worship services.

Senior Sunday, June 1, 10:00 a.m.. We will have a brunch for our graduating high school seniors and their families, and present Bibles to them in worship services.

Sunday, June 1, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Baccalaureate Service for our graduating seniors in McDonough Hall

Sunday, June 1, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. and Tuesday, June 3, at 7-8:30 p.m. Camp Counselor Training.

Sunday, June 8, Confirmation and Pentecost Sunday.

June 9-13, Acolyte Training.

Sunday, June 15, Acolyte Commission Service at 11:00 a.m., and Father's Day

June 16-20, District Camp

June 23-27, VBS

Sunday, June 29, Worship Service with the White Horse Band, 9:00 a.m.

July 6-12, Hosting UMARMY on our campus.

Volunteer Opportunity

As a part of our outreach to our community, we are hosting a Baccalaureate Service for our graduation seniors from high school on Sunday Evening, June 1, from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. We need a kitchen crew, cooks, and hosts. We also need donations of food or cash, and donations of gifts for door prizes. Please call the church office, and volunteer your services!



Be on the lookout for an exciting worship experience coming on June 29th to our 9:00 am worship service, as we welcome The White Horse Band! More information on this amazing service coming soon. You can visit our church website www.silsbeeumc.com or our Facebook for a link to the band's Facebook page.

2014 Theme Verse

*The Spirit and the bride say,
'Come.'*

*And let everyone who hears
say, 'Come.'*

*And let everyone who is
thirsty come.*

*Let anyone who wishes take
the water of life as a gift.*

Revelation 22:17 (NRSV)

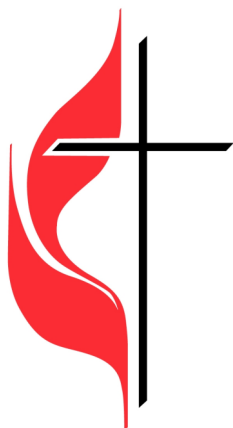
Come to the King in 2014!

First United Methodist Church

670 North 5th Street

Silsbee Texas 77656

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