



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."

DAN'S DIVINITIES

May 12, 2010

***8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." **9** When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.*

Acts 1:8,9

Perhaps because it occurs on a Thursday (40 days after Easter) and is often preceded by important Sundays like Mother's Day (tough competition!), Ascension Day is often overlooked on the church calendar (May 13, this year). But perhaps it would not hurt to reflect on it here in this space for a moment.

Wouldn't it have been nice if Jesus could have just kept up his appearances for the entire history of the Church? He could walk into our morning worship service this Sunday and we could see him, feel his scars, and without a doubt believe him! Would not everyone believe if he just perpetually stayed on earth?

But the Father chose to send the Church the Holy Spirit instead. Jesus said that it was good that he went away, because then the comforter could come (John 14, especially verse 28). Because Jesus ascended into heaven and sent his Spirit, the life of the Son of God can be duplicated in millions of lives, in unlimited fashion. Every life can be transformed according the image of Jesus. The ministry of Jesus can be spread to every corner of the globe, not just in one locale like it was when Jesus was on earth.

The Spirit calls us to faith, to witness, and to becoming whole as fully saved and sanctified believers. The Spirit comes to build the church that the Gospel might be spread to every land. The Spirit comes that every believer might be the witnesses of Christ's miracle of transformation and eternal life.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Dan



*“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure”
Hebrews 6:19*

Over the past few years, our missionaries in Unalaska have developed a few kits to assist them in their ministry to workers and their families who come to Unalaska seeking employment. Sometimes they find themselves without work, without food, without a place to stay, or even a way to return to their homes, which may be thousands of miles away.

WE CAN HELP! The following is a list of some of the items that we can collect and send to help these families have just a few comforts that most of us take for granted:

Ramen noodle packets

Oatmeal packets

Disposable cameras

Playing cards

Puzzle/Word Search Books

Duffle Bags

Mechanical pencils

Soap/Shampoo

Toothbrush/Toothpaste

Pocket Combs

Deodorant

Wash Cloths/Small Towels

Expandable Plastic File Holders

Monetary Donations



Grief Recovery Workshop

Pastors Dan and Nancy will be conducting a Grief Recovery Workshop beginning on Thursday, June 17th, at 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., and will meet every other week for six sessions. It will be directed towards those who have lost spouses, children, parents, or other loved in death, and will be based on material

written and assembled by the Reverend Marilyn Dickson, a United Methodist pastor. The course will include training on the process of grief, the nature of loss, and problems associated with grief such as stress management, anger, guilt, and denial. We will talk about practicing forgiveness and how to cope with holidays and special days.

If you would like to participate, you may register online at www.silsbeeumc.com or by calling the church office at 385-5568. The cost of the participant manual is \$13 and may be paid at the first session of the class. Pre-registration is necessary so we can order materials.

The following letter was written to pastors by David Fisher, the local lawyer who is heading up the One in Mercy organization. David and his family attend South Point Church in Lumberton. I thought it was worth offering to all of our church members.

Pastor Dan

Dear Dan,

As I drove home after church on Wednesday evening, I wondered why so few members come. Other church parking lots looked pretty empty too. Not many attended their church services either. Even fewer members come to prayer meetings. It seems that people have more exciting or more important things to do.

Why does the zeal of church members wane? God explains our condition in Hosea 11:7 when He says, "*My people are bent on backsliding from Me. Though they call to the Most High, none at all exalt Him.*"

Backsliding does not require that I forsake all religious activities and start hanging out in bars. It does not necessarily imply abandonment of morals. It also means sliding in the wrong direction with less affection or enthusiasm for God. Less devotion to Him. Less worship of Christ. Less prayer to the Father. Less hunger for the word of God. Less filling of the Holy Spirit. In other words, I backslide when my passion for Him cools down and I experience less desire for God's glory.

Your path heads towards what you exalt. Stop and see which direction you are going. Who do you really place first in your life? Who and what is most important to you? The world will be drawn to Jesus when we exalt Him. They know what is most important to us and what we really exalt. They can tell if we exalt money, success, wealth, social status, political control, friendships, tradition, routine, new cars or hanging out with the "right kind" of people. They will come to Him when they see His power, the evidence of it in our lives and our love for one another. When these are missing, they aren't interested in Him or our churches.

Please don't attempt to revive crowds by enticing members or visitors with food, fun and entertainment. These will not keep their interest. These things offer to fill them with what cannot really satisfy. Hot dog suppers, concerts, carnivals and clowns will never compete with the world's entertainment. Quit worrying about making sure the pews are more pleasant and the temperature is just right. Real worshippers could praise God in a barn as long as they seek His presence there. Real seekers will come in repentance when they realize He offers relief and healing for their misery.

More church related activities won't keep them in the doors either. Please do not mistake motion for movement in the right direction. You can burn out and grow cool in your love for Christ while heavily engaged in ministry efforts and church activities. I know. I've been there. How can we unmask the illusion and stop the slide?

Backsliding stops when I repent and turn to Him. I must repent completely as my circumstances demand. God must change my heart so that I want more of what He wants for me. More devotion to Him. More worship of Christ. More prayer to the Father. More hunger and feeding on the word of God. More filling with the Holy Spirit. Do you really want more or less? You never stay at the same position. Whether you realize it or not, you are moving forward or backwards. It depends on what you exalt.

When the church cries and agonizes for the glory and presence of God, He will be exalted. When our highest desire is for Him to save and convert souls, no matter through whom He works, He will be exalted. When we cast the net for Him instead of for ourselves, He is exalted. When we labor for His kingdom, instead of our own, He is exalted. Learn to serve instead of seeking places of honor or dignity. Continue to elevate His will as the priority in our lives. Jesus lived and died for His Father's will. By His grace, God will make us more like Jesus.

Revival will come when He alone is exalted.

To God be the Glory,

David Fisher
One in Mercy

In Memory

Mildred Barclay

Fred and Linda Miller
Joyce Wallace
Verline Adcock
Foy Adcock, Jr.
Tom and Beverly Price
James and Donna Brown
Martha Bradshaw
Dana Bradshaw
Dot Walker
The Ralph McClungs
Lester, Phyllis, & Jean Landgraf
Cecil Cain
Dr. & Mrs. R.O. Jackson
Mrs. V.C. Caraway
Corinner & Candy McWhorter
Bud & Dixie Collier
Jerry & Marilyn Cox
David & Karen Cobble
Jack & Delores Nicar
John & Patricia Pattilo
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Cassity
Mrs. Iola Jennusa
Harold & Lea Gardner
Betty Jordan
Freedra Duffle
Elizabeth Wagner

Tom Barnes

Patrick & Elizabeth Richardson
Fred & Linda Miller
Joyce Wallace
Tom & Beverly Price
James & Donna Brown
Gus & Johni Ruth Dunbar
Martha Bradshaw
Dana Bradshaw
Clark Constuction of Texas, Inc.
David & Dr. Joyce Reed Sheffield
The Ralph McClungs
Odis Wood family
Henry & Suzanne Barfield
Lester, Phyllis, & Jean Landgraf
Mr. V.C. Caraway
Allan & Dagma Murphy
Corinner, Candy, & Kathy McWhorter
Anna Carey
Janette Van Winkle
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Allan
Bob & Ann Nell Herbst
Martha Flowers
Bud & Dixie Collier
David & Karen Cobble
Irene Redkey
Jack & Delores Nicar
Tom & Sheila Eveland



In Memory

Tom Barnes

Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Cassity
Frank & Evelyn Jones
Roger, Mary, & Michael Tywater
Harold & Lea Gardner
G.M. & Vickie Durham
Elizabeth Wagner
Nancy Ann Roll
Kent Evans
Ed & Sonia Cain
E. Durham

Bill Ratchford

Fred & Linda Miller
Mary Alice Armstrong
Artie Hickman
Joyce Wallace
Verline Adcock
Foy Adcock, Jr.
Tom & Beverly Price
James & Donna Brown
Doris Cofty
Gus & Johni Ruth Dunbar
Martha Bradshaw
Dana Bradshaw
Bob & Lola Burgess
Cruse & Sharon Melvin
CPSG

Dot Walker
David & Dr. Joyce Reed Sheffield
Juanita Stover
Judge Earl Stover
The Ralph McClungs
Lee & Jessica Wise
Marianne Deadmon
Henry & Suzanne Barfield
Lester, Phyllis, & Jean Landgraf
Cecil Cain
Rick & Gaye Fetterolf
Tommy & Billie Hancock
Euna Jane Robinson
The Jeffrey family
Dr. & Mrs. R.O. Jackson
Mrs. V.C. Caraway
Travis & Paula Boehmer
KTEX/KWHI Radio Brenham
Tom Whitehead, Inc.
Carolyn Warmke
Corinner & Candy McWhorter
Jeanette Van Winkle
Bob & Ann Nell Herbst
Martha Flowers
Bud & Dixie Collier
Jerry & Marilyn Cox
David & Karen Cobble
Larry & Karen Williams
Jack & Delores Nicar
Tom & Sheila Eveland
Jeffrey C. Newman

In Memory

Bill Ratchford

Gary & Debbie Felps

Juanita Felps

Sue Boatman

Wesley & Jena Gass

Ruby Belk

Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Cassity

Judy & Ron Erdman

Mrs. Iola Jennusa

Harold & Lea Gardner

Bob & Barbara Paret

Betty Jordan

Freeda Duffle

Ed & Sonia Cain

Elizabeth Wagner

Dickie Collier (brother of Jay Collier)

Martha Bradshaw

Dana Bradshaw

Joe Grossman (father of Pat Cooper)

Jack and Mary C. Martin

Travis Johnson

Tom & Beverly Price

Clarence Flowers

Joyce Wallace

Harold & Lea Gardner

Bobbie Loftin

Gus & Johni Ruth Dunbar

Bob Paret

Bob & Ann Nell Herbst

Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Cassity

Betty Ann Long

Harold & Lea Gardner

Danny Richardson

Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Cassity

Charles Weatherford

Larry & Pat Cooper

Doug & Marjorie Hughes

Larry & Pat Cooper

Worship

5/2 124

5/9 163

Sunday School

5/2 98

5/9 90

GIFTS

4/14 General \$8,997.50

4/27 General \$5,318.00

5/4 General \$7,860.50

Methodist Retirement \$139.00

5/10 General \$6,387.80

Camp Fund to Date \$2,233.00



Dear Church Family,
Thank you for the wonderful welcome to your fellowship, and the warm send off as we journey on to new adventures. We appreciate your kindness and will continue to hold you in our hearts.

Love in Christ,
Darrell and Audrey Roden



Camp! Camp! Camp!

Summer camp for children and youth entering grades 4 and up in the fall will be July 18-23 at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center. Registration is \$215 for those turning in their registration materials to the church by Wednesday, June 16. The church will pay (through fundraisers and budgetary money) 100% of the cost of children and youth who regularly attend our church. Late registration is June 28, and cost \$50 more, a cost which must be paid by the family of the registering persons.

Adults are needed to attend as counselors, with the same registration deadlines. Adult fees are \$75, which will also be paid by the church if funds are available.

Special donations to our camp scholarship fund are much appreciated!

PRAYERS

- Bud and Dixie Collier
- Bill Barclay and Family
- Louise Barnes and Family
- Nancy Ratchford and Family
- Jan Wilson
- Tom & Beverly Price
- Britt Plunk
- Wilma Ludwig
- Mabyn Day

Thank You

Your kind expression of sympathy is gratefully acknowledged and deeply appreciated. Thank you for the food provided and the coordination of the meal after the funeral.

The Barclay Family

The Tom Barnes family would like to thank our entire church family for your love and support during these hard times. The cards, memorials, food, and prayers are all greatly appreciated.

The Tom Barnes Family



Camp Fundraiser!

We will be having a camp fundraiser this Sunday, May 16 after the second service. You will be able to purchase a lunch plate, which will include a hot link, a bag of chips, and a cookie, for only \$5 a plate! If you would like to help out with this fundraiser, either by working the booth or by baking cookies in advance, please contact Shelley Jones at 658-7705. Thanks!



IN WORSHIP

The Sunday, May 16, I will be preaching from Acts 16:16-34 about Paul and Silas' ministry in Philippi. The sermon title is *Supercharged Friendship*. Sunday, May 23, is Pentecost Sunday, and I will be preaching from Acts 2:1-21. My sermon title is *Energy Crisis*.

First United Methodist Church
670 North 5th Street
Silsbee Texas 77656

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED