

June 16, 2015



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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Dan's Divinities

It has been a great pleasure to serve as your pastor for the past nine years. Thank you for accepting me and allowing me to function in this role. This coming Sunday, June 21, will be our last Sunday with you. We had a great going away party last Sunday after church, and so many of you were there to wish us well. Thank you, thank you, thank you. You are a blessing to us. We will be loading the moving van on Tuesday, June 23, and moving into the Coldspring UMC parsonage on Thursday, June 25, which is the same day that David and Anita Green will be moving into the Silsbee parsonage. The first day on the job for both of us will be July 1. Of course, if there is a death or another emergency between June 25 and July 1, David or Nancy will be happy to assist you. Nancy will be filling the pulpit on Sunday, June 28. I know you will want to be there to support her.

We have had many personal blessings during our tenure here. We have had three grandchildren, with two more on the way. Two of our children were married. Kevin graduated from University of Houston at the head of his class in the Psychology Department. We laid to rest two pets and adopted another. Rebecca made the All-State Choir and graduated from High School, and will soon be off to the University of Houston to major in Music Education. She has served as your substitute and interim Choir Director, and has been a youth representative on the Texas Conference Choir Clinic Board.

When the church expressed a desire for a contemporary music praise service, but had no money to fund the dream, Paula stepped in and brought together a volunteer praise band, which allowed her to begin using her musical talents. She eventually assumed a paid position when Jay chose to step back

from accompanying the choir. Paula remembers with special appreciation the guidance of Julia Owens, who served as our choir director for a while before her death from liver disease. She has also worked providing musical leadership for the children's Sunday School department. Paula discovered Choir Camp while we have been here, and it has become an annual trek full of inspiration and education for us.

We got to ride out our first hurricane here (Ike), and we have enjoyed hiking in the Big Thicket and canoeing Village Creek. We have blessed by the roses, oranges, peaches, and lemons at the parsonage, and deeply appreciate the church providing us with such an excellent and comfortable home in which to live.

Eldon Reed told me when I got here that I had the best associate pastor in the Texas Annual Conference, and he was 100% correct. Nancy has been a joy to work with, and a great ministry partner with me. Rev. Reed also got me into playing tennis on a regular basis again, and that has been a blessing.

Serving Silsbee FUMC, has been my longest tenure at any church, and it is second only to Eugene Jonte for being the longest tenure of any pastor here. During these past nine years, we have received 174 new members, and we will raise that total to at least 177 this Sunday when we baptize Jarret and Maggie Bradley by immersion in the second service and receive them and their mom, Shanna Bradley, into the membership of the church. Shanna Bradley is the daughter of Roger and Karen Price of our congregation. So, that will put us at averaging almost 20 new members a year over my tenure here.

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By the way, Mike and Robin Wilson, and their young adult children Lexi and Cole joined the church a couple of weeks ago. The Wilsons live in Buna. Be sure and get to know them!

Thank you for providing an excellent staff with whom I have been privileged to work. Each and every one of them has been a blessing to me. I have attempted to give them the support they have needed to best do their work. It has also been my joy to have worked with so many of the laity in the church who have given of their time and talents to lead the church in programming, facility improvement and maintenance, administration, and all the many areas that keep the church effective. Thank you!

Nine years ago there was no functioning youth group. It seems to have gotten blown away by Hurricane Rita. Frank Eldridge, one of our high school students at the time, came to me and asked if we could start a group. I told him if he could get the kids here, I would help him lead a program. So, we did. We averaged about a dozen youth for a number of years while the group was under my care, and we have had hired youth workers since then. James Borello, our current youth director, is doing a great job, and I appreciate your support of him.

During my tenure here, Silsbee has been one of the leading churches in sending kids to summer camp, and that has been very formative for many of them. Each year I have served either as a counselor or as a camp director, and usually coordinated the logistics of getting all the kids to camp and back. It has been fun.

I have tried to be active in our community. I have worked with the Ministerial Alliance and led them in providing community worship services for things such as Baccalaureate for our graduating Seniors, Memorial Day services, National Day of Prayer services, and for various other occasions. We held a couple of Peace Keeper seminars that trained people in the art of conflict management. We offered mediation training that led to the formation of the Hardin County Mediation Services that offers services on our campus. I was also trained by the Department of Human Services to conduct premarital counseling seminars for area couples, and conducted a number of them with the aid of several area pastors.

Nancy and I have worked together to establish grief support groups that I think I have been helpful to many. We have even had a few people join our church as a result of that effort. I also have worked with the Alzheimer's Association to establish a support group for caregivers. With Nancy's and Joyce Wallace's assistance, I have conducted worship services on a weekly basis at Pine Arbor Nursing Home for a few years, and I will miss this ministry opportunity and the special relationships we have there.

Early in my tenure I helped lead local mission teams into

the Golden Triangle area to work on Hurricane Recovery, and then Paula and I got to go with some of you to the UMCOR Sagar Brown Mission Depot in Baldwin, La. In more recent years, I have served on the Texas Annual Conference Board of Church and Society and attempted to build awareness of the problems surrounding immigration and human trafficking in our nation.

We have also done a lot with facility improvement during my tenure. You were still finishing \$70,000 of repairs from Hurricane Rita when I arrived. Then Ike hit and we had \$70,000 of additional repairs and improvements. After that we worked a lot on handicap accessibility. We have put in handicap accessible bathrooms in three of our buildings, made places for wheel chairs in the sanctuary, built a wooden ramp on the front of the Methodist Center, and built a number of concrete ramps for several of our buildings. We also worked on making our parking lots more handicap friendly.

We purchased the R.Z. Best home and property behind the McDonough building, sold the house to be moved, and played Upward soccer on the field for a number of years.

Almost from the day I arrived, I had workers with children and parents approaching me about the need for renovating McDonough Hall. Pat and Lynn Hardy took the challenge of renovating the fellowship hall area, and did an absolutely superb job. It was changed from a seldom used room to a gorgeous facility that we use several times a week. Up until that time we had talked about renovating the sanctuary to accommodate contemporary worship, but the McDonough Hall fellowship hall, which we eventually renamed the Dauphin Room, made that unnecessary because the Dauphin Room made a perfect home for that service. We had initially anticipated that it would take well over \$100,000 to complete that project, but the Hardy's completed it for something like \$70,000.

But we still did not know what needed to be done for the rest of the building. We did a few things like addressing drainage problems for the building, but we could not come up with a master plan. So, after a few years of struggling with the issue, we hired an architect to give us a plan that would make the interior of the classroom section of the building look like new. We all went into sticker shock when we saw his plan that called for almost a million dollars of renovations. And that was the Chevrolet plan, not the Cadillac plan! The Hardy's again agreed to take a look at the project, and after considerable planning, they said they believed they could get the job done for no more than \$500,000.

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We called a Charge Conference meeting to approve the plan, and it was approved by a strong majority on the condition that we not borrow any money for the job, and that everything would be done on a pay as you go basis. The problem was that our Capital Fund Campaign had only yielded \$60,000 to be paid over three years! I had no trouble believing that this project would stretch out over 10 years or more and perhaps never ever be completed. "O, ye of little faith!"

Mrs. Charlene Dauphin made a matching grant of \$100,000, which we matched with the \$60,000 of pledges and about \$40,000 of reserve funds. We received a grant of \$20,000 from the Moody Permanent Endowment Fund in Galveston. And the Hardy's went to work, vowing to keep working until we ran out of funds. But as they worked, the cost kept coming down, and the money kept flowing in, and they never had to stop working. In a few months they were done and we had a facility that looked brand new and that has been 100% functional. They finished the project for around \$220,000, and we had over \$7000 left over, which we still have in the bank that will be used to help replace the first McDonough Hall air condition unit that goes bad (and yes, our AC man tells us that you won't have to wait long to spend that money!) God used his people to bring about a miracle!

Of course there have numerous smaller projects like the putting up of a new ceiling and lights in the Craven's fellowship hall and the renovation of the Narthex to include a historical records center that have all be good things

that have been accomplished, too. It has been a busy nine years!

Paula, Rebecca, and I are definitely experiencing some grief issues about leaving this congregation, and some of you have expressed to me how hard this transition is for you as well. But the Lord is still on the throne, and all of us will trust him that his plans are greater than our plans, and his ways are higher than our ways.

We are looking forward to the new opportunities for ministry in Coldspring. That church has fewer members but slightly more attendance than Silsbee. Many of the members are retired people living on Lake Livingston. Their challenge appears to connect more with the younger generations of people in their community. They have hired a church growth consultant, a youth director, an assistant to the youth director, and are looking for a children's director to help them in this mission. So there are some exciting challenges there.

I know that you will welcome David and Anita Green as your new pastoral family. I know you will allow David to do weddings, funerals, baptisms, and so on for your family. If you open your hearts to them, they will serve you well and lead this church into a very bright future.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Dan

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 and Pastor Parish Relations Committee Chair, Bob Herbst, at 409-385-3837.



This Sunday, Dr. Darby will be preaching on the Resurrection of Christ. In the first service, we will respond with the chorus, "Victory Chant." The chancel choir anthem will be "The Lord of the Dance." We will conclude the service with "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again."



During the week of June 8-12, six youth and four adults had an awesome time at Texas Conference Choir Camp. We had a lot of fun, met a lot of people, relaxed, sang, and hung out with others in our age groups as well

as with our families. If you have a musical bone in your body, I suggest you join us next year, because once you go, you will be hooked. We still have a busy summer ahead of us. The next trip on our calendar is UMARMY. This is a life-changing experience. We will be leaving on Sunday July 5, after our dedication during the Praise Service at 9am. We will be heading to Marshall, Texas for the week. There, the youth will be building wheelchair ramps, painting houses and doing light carpentry work. We will also be eating and worshipping as a camp together. This is a large camp with almost 135 senior high kids. We are grateful to the Boy Scouts for letting us use their trailer for our tools and luggage. We are still in search of tools that are needed for this camp, such as a posthole digger, power saws, levels, and other basic tools for carpentry. If you would like to donate these items please bring them to the church BEFORE July 3.

The last camp for the summer will be Southeast District Youth Camp. We'll be leaving for Lakeview on July 13 (departure time TBD) with eighteen kids and five adult counselors. Our week will consist of messy games, personal small groups, pool time, snow cones, evening worship, and a giant water slide to name a few. Kids (and adults!) will have the daily opportunity to develop life-long friendships, flee comfort zones, and encounter Christ in a way they may never have previously experienced. Please pray for a fun week of personal and spiritual growth for our kids and counselors alike. We are still in need for donations for scholarships for both District camp and UMArmy. If you would like to make a donation, please write "Camp Scholarships" on your check. Thank you for your love and support for our youth and our youth program.



James Borello
Director
Converge
Student Ministries



Parsonage Renovations

The Trustees are making around \$7000 of renovations to the parsonage in preparation for the new pastoral family. You are invited to make a donation to help with this project. Almost the entire interior of the parsonage is being repainted. New mini-blinds have been installed in the living room, dining room, kitchen and breakfast area, and new flooring is being in those same rooms. Please mark your donation "Parsonage renovation."

In Loving Memory

Dean Hill

Pat Donalson
Oscar Morrison

Juanita Woodard

Marianne Deadmon
Oscar Morrison

Sam Karr

Daily Walkers SS Class
Pat Donalson
Oscar Morrison

Rowena Caraway

Marianne Deadmon
Pat Donalson

Hugh Smith

Fred and Linda Miller

Mona Parks

Victory Class
Marianne Deadmon
Pat Donalson

Katherine Birdwell Walker

Oscar Morrison

In Honor of the Darby Family

Oscar Morrison

Worship

05/31	111
06/07	133
06/14	126

Sunday School

05/31	59
06/07	57
06/14	65

Gifts

05/31	\$4,419.00
06/07	\$9,150.00
06/14	\$4,962.00

Upcoming Meetings and Important Dates

Monday, June 22, 6:30 pm

Church Council Meeting

June 29—July 3

Acolyte Training in the
Sanctuary

Sunday, July 5, 11:00 am

Acolyte Commissioning
UMArmy Dedication

Monday, July 6

Church office closed

Sunday, July 19

Welcoming lunch for David
and Anita Green, more
details in next newsletter

New Address



The new address information for the Darbys will be Coldspring UMC, 1 Cemetery Road, Coldspring, TX 77331-1520. The parsonage address is 591 Lakeview Drive Loop, Coldspring, TX 77331. Phone numbers are CHURCH: (936) 653-2287 HOME: (936) 653-2288. Our cell phone numbers at least for now will remain the same: Dan, 409/828-2849, Paula 409/828-2848, Rebecca 409/828-2846. Our email address are also likely to stay the same: Dan, dancdarby@juno.com; Paula, sapphire41@juno.com; Rebecca, pineapplelover7@gmail.com.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you, thank you, thank you for being a part of the celebration of my completion of the Course of Study for Local Pastors. Thanks to our beloved Senior Pastor Dan, it was an overwhelming surprise to me! It has been a long journey, but I have been supported and encouraged by your prayers and love. Thanks to the Unity class for the wonderful breakfast goodies. Thanks for all your sweet cards and letters. Most of all, I thank God for calling me to serve at First United Methodist Church in Silsbee with all of you. It has blessed my life more than anyone will ever know.

I love you all,

Pastor Nancy



Communion
for the
Homebound

To all those who have been receiving homebound Communion, you haven't been forgotten! Due to vacations during the summer, we have decided to take a break during the summer and to start up again the first Sunday in September.

If there is anyone who is not receiving this service, and needs it, please call the church office at 385-5568 or

Mickey Stanton at 373-4303, and we will add you to our list.

If anyone would like to be a server, we would love to have your help in this great ministry!

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

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