

July 5, 2013



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

The last three weeks has been something of a sabbatical from the pulpit for me. You were treated to two sermons by Nancy Ratchford and one by Scott Moore who was here for Immigration Sunday. Kudos to Nancy and the rest of the staff for ministering to your needs during my absence. I was actually here two of those three Sundays, but gone during the weekdays to Choir Camp, Cape Cod (vacation), and Summer Church Camp.

As always, Choir Camp was very helpful to me and to all the other church staff and church members who attended not only in the techniques of singing, but also in the many workshops we attending dealing with leading in worship. The pastors were treated to a day with Dr. Michael Hawn, a nationally famous professor in the area of worship at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas.

Our family trip to Cape Cod, Massachusetts was a family reunion with all my kids, grandkids, and with Paula's side of the family in honor of her parents' 60th wedding anniversary. We had a large house on the beach in Falmouth, and really enjoyed our time together.

It was my privilege to be a cabin counselor and small group leader in Senior High Summer Camp at Lakeview during the third week of my absence from Silsbee. I have not yet heard overall statistics, but I know that in my little group of ten students one accepted Christ for the first time, two rededicat-

ed their lives to Christ, at least two decided to explore Christian ministry as a career, and two expressed a desire to be baptized. I especially enjoyed watching one of the young men grow in his self-confidence and in his faith-confidence during the week as the group accepted him and nurtured him. It was great watching him power his way straight up the 25 foot wall of tires, netting, and handholds at the ropes course. Sometimes you can just see kids grow right in front of your eyes.

A special thanks to the other five adults who served as counselors: Jenny Pachall, Elizabeth Auer, Dillon Cain, Krystin Medford, and Brady Day. We had ten of our youth attend camp in the various age levels. Everyone had a great time and grew in their faith.

I plan to be around awhile for the near future, so let me know if I can be help to you in your faith journey in Christ,
See you Sunday,

Pastor Dan

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In Loving Memory

Joan Holt

Linda Roberts
 Patrick and Elizabeth Richardson
 LaVerne and Sheila Ross
 Mary Grace Bower
 Gus and Johni Ruth Dunbar
 Jack and Dolores Nicar
 Lester, Jeanette, and Phyllis Landgraf
 Irene Redkey
 Martha and Dana Bradshaw
 David and Karen Cobble
 Allan and Dagma Murphy

Hazel Scruggs

Jack and Dolores Nicar
 Lester, Jeanette, and Phyllis Landgraf
 Marianne Deadmon
 Joyce McClung
 Martha and Dana Bradshaw
 Judy Jackson
 Dr. Ralph Disch
 David and Karen Cobble
 Allan and Dagma Murphy
 The Victory Class

Lucien Pippis, Sr.

Martha and Dana Bradshaw

The church office received a call this week that a former church member, Audrey Billings, passed away on June 30 at the age of 102. Her funeral services will be in Tyler, TX. For more information, please contact Nancy Ratchford for details.

Gifts and Presence

Worship

06/09	121
06/16	95
06/23	99
06/30	136

Sunday School

06/09	73
06/16	54
06/23	57
06/30	86

Gifts

06/02	\$6,704.95
06/09	\$6,343.80
06/16	\$5,283.00
06/23	\$2,886.00
06/30	\$6,044.51



The Primetimers will meet Tuesday, July 30 at 10:00 for our July gathering. We will have our Bible study followed by a covered dish luncheon. We look forward to seeing you there. Invite your friends for this great time of Bible study, friends, food, and fellowship!



**Texas
 Conference
 Choir
 Clinic**

Last month, Lyna Johnson and Ali Day accompanied the Darbys, Jenny Pachall and Nicholas Trainer to choir camp. We all returned refreshed and ready to share what we learned with our home church. We already have the dates for the next Texas Conference Choir Clinic: June 9 - 13, 2014. Put these dates on your calendar now! Check out the TCCC website, www.TexasChoirClinic.org. It's a family experience, there is something for everyone. We earmark some of our music budget to help pay for choir camp, and scholarships are available through the choir camp board as well, so please don't be put off by the cost. Remember, June 9 - 13, 2014, join us next year!

Paula Darby

Staff Opening & SPPRC Meeting

The position of Financial Secretary on our church staff is currently open, and we are receiving applications at this time. Applicants should be skilled in accounting and have computer knowledge. Specific familiarity with Power Church, the church data base and accounting program, is not required, but applicants must demonstrate the competency to learn the program. Applications are available in the church office.

The Staff, Pastor, and Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) will meet on Monday, July 15, at 5:00 p.m. to revise the job description and interview applicants.

In Worship

During the next four weeks, Dr. Darby will be preaching a sermon series entitled, “The Blueprints of Life,” based on St. Paul’s Letter to the Colossians.

- July 14 – “Rescued from Darkness” Colossians 1:1-14
- July 21 – “Life’s Greatest Mystery” Colossians 1:15-28
- July 28 – “Finding Your Roots and Your Destiny” Colossians 2:6-19
- August 4 – “Discovering Security in Life” Colossians 3:1-17

Paul’s letter to the Colossians is full of very poetic and lyrical language about the divine nature of Jesus Christ and about our calling and place in his kingdom. It is truly a beautiful piece of literature, which continues to be wonderful source of inspiration to us even today.

I will try to be inspirational and not to be too academic during my sermon series, but let me introduce the letter’s background to you now. Colossae was a town of Phrygia in Asia Minor, not far from Ephesus in what is now western Turkey. It was being threatened by various heresies or challenges to the Gospel as taught by St. Paul and his missionary team. Paul avoids talking about the details of these non-Christian belief systems, and instead focuses on teaching what he believes. False teaching misleads and enslaves its adherents to unproductive religious and moral practices. The true gospel liberates the Christian to achieve victory in life and reach their eternal destiny in Christ.

The church in Colossae was not founded by Paul, but by one of his co-workers named Epaphras. Colossians 1:6b-8 says,

This message has been bearing fruit and growing among you since the day you heard and truly understood God’s grace, in the same way that it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world. ⁷You learned it from Epaphras, who is the fellow slave we love and Christ’s faithful minister for your sake. ⁸He informed us of your love in the Spirit.

Epaphras appears to have been a member of St. Paul’s missionary team, which may have been Paul’s meaning when he refers to Epaphras as a “fellow slave” (of the Gospel).

Colossians is the sister letter to Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, which is somewhat longer with more developed ideas. Thus, Ephesians may have been written shortly after Paul wrote Colossians.

Colossians was a public letter to the church that was delivered at the same time as Paul’s private letter to Philemon, which is also contained in the New Testament. The subject of Philemon was Philemon’s former slave Onesimus, for whom Paul requests forgiveness for running away from his master prior to his conversion under the ministry of St. Paul. Colossians 4:9 says, “. . . he (Tychicus) is coming with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you.” So, Onesimus and his former master Philemon were residents of Colossae. Although the letter to Philemon was a private letter, it is also addressed publically to “the church (that meets) in your house” (Philemon 1:2). Thus, the church in Colossae meets in the home of Philemon. His former slave, Onesimus, brings with him at least two letters (Colossians and Philemon) and maybe three (Ephesians) with him from St. Paul who is in prison at the time (Colossians 4:10).

One interesting additional side note is that it appears that St. Paul’s letters were originally collected and preserved in Ephesus under a bishop named Onesimus, who may have been the same Onesimus who was Philemon’s former slave. If so, then forgiveness triumphed, and you and I have become the beneficiaries of a precious spiritual gift as contained in the letters of St. Paul, including this wonderful Letter to the Colossians.

I hope this helps give you a little background on the letter, and I hope you will find this sermon series inspirational to you in your walk with Christ.



Worship

Upcoming Special Music

During the month of July, the Chancel Choir will be on break. In the place of the choir anthem each week, we will be blessed by performances from members of our congregation. On July 14, Michael Suitt will provide special music during the Traditional Worship service. On July 21, Ali Day will be performing liturgical dance during both services. Lyna Johnson will sing for us during the Traditional Worship service on July 28. We look forward to these wonderful blessings!

Upward Soccer Returns!



Soccer registration continues! The registration cost per child is \$85, and registration continues through August 2. Registration is open for children between the ages of 3 (they must be 3 before September 1, 2013) and 6th grade (during the 2013-2014

school year). Registration forms are available at the church office. If you need more information, brochures, or if you would like to volunteer to coach one of our teams this year, please contact Christine Gill (201-2405) or Jennifer Suitt (385-5568). Please spread the word to friends, neighbors, and family, and help them get in on the fun again this year!

2013 Theme Verse

The leadership and staff of First United Methodist Church of Silsbee have claimed 1 Corinthians 15:58 as our theme verse for this year:

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

I Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

Pray over this verse, study it, meditate on it, and we pray that you will claim this verse for your own this year.

First United Methodist Church

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