

November 7, 2012



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

We serve an amazing God. I think many of us felt the Holy Spirit talking to us in our worship services last Sunday. His presence was almost palpable. During the second service when the choir came forward to receive Holy Communion, I noticed that Jenny Pachall, our Director of Music, was in tears. The weeping continued throughout the Communion Service even after she had returned to the choir loft. One of our choir members, Lyna Johnson, reached over to her, embraced her head, and prayed for her in her ear. A part of her Spirit-led prayer was that Jenny was to be bold. Jenny says that she immediately sensed that the Lord was bringing her to her knees, not literally, but spiritually, and that she knew she had to speak a message to the congregation.

When I introduced the final hymn, Jenny interrupted the service. I thought she was going to give some special instructions for singing, but instead flowed from her mouth the word of the Lord for our congregation. Through Jenny, the Lord told us that he loves this congregation, and that this congregation is not dead. We are alive in the Spirit, and he is doing things in our midst. “Do not stop fighting!” was one of the phrases the Lord spoke to us. The Lord has a special plan for our church, and for our nation as a whole. She said that God is smiling on us as his children, and that he wants us to be thankful, and to continue our discipleship and outreach. The Lord, through her, also had some personal words of encouragement for me as your pastor, which I deeply appreciated and through which I was encouraged.

I felt that we had a taste of the New Testament Church last Sunday. I was reminded of St. Paul's words, “Now concerning

spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. . . . There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good” (I Corinthians 12:1,4-7, NRSV). The gift that Jenny exercised was the gift of prophecy, and through it, the Body of Christ was edified.

St. Paul also said in I Corinthians 14 that all things in a worship service have to be done decently and in order. But, frankly, we have gotten so much order in our congregation and denomination, that we often miss the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Let us thank the Lord for breaking into our worship service in a special way. And thank you, Jenny, for being bold and obedient so that the Lord used you to bring us this message of encouragement. The recording of this worship service is on our website if anyone would like to view it.

God loves this church, is present and active in it. Through the ministry of the church people's lives are being transformed. The time of the Babylonian Exile is over for our congregation. He is going to work through our church members to rebuild Jerusalem. We are the apple of his eye, his beloved children. A new movement of the Spirit is happening among us. The Lord is making all things new.

I will see you Sunday as we worship our Lord together,

Pastor Dan

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In Loving Memory

Arlen Moyer

Faye R Byars

Steven Dvorman

Allan and Dagma Murphy

Phillip Haynes

David and Dr. Joyce Reed Sheffield

| Presence | Gifts |
|---|--|
| <p><u>Worship</u></p> <p>10/28 123</p> <p>11/04 135</p> <p><u>Sunday School</u></p> <p>10/28 70</p> <p>11/04 67</p> | <p><u>10/28/2012</u></p> <p>\$6,056.00</p> <p><u>11/04/2012</u></p> <p>\$7,878.10</p> <p><u>UM Student</u></p> <p>\$161.00</p> |



Worship

On November 11, I will be preaching on "The Power of the Powerless." We will use the example of a starving young widow and foreigner, who became the grandmother of the greatest king of the Old Testament (Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17). From the New Testament, we will take the example of an impoverished widow whose name has been forgotten to history whom received high praise from Jesus (Mark 12:38-44).

Speaking of powerful women, on November 18 and 25, Nancy Ratchford will be filling the pulpit, so that will be a treat for all. The Darbys will be on vacation.



All Faiths Day School Board: Monday, November 12, at 4:00 p.m., Cravens #200.

Finance Committee: Monday, December 3, 7:00 p.m.

Church Officer Training Retreat: Saturday, January 12, 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.



A new support group for those grieving the loss of a loved one will begin on Monday, December 3, at 10 a.m. in Cravens

Hall, room 200. The group will meet every Monday for twelve weeks at 10:00 a.m., skipping Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. The curriculum will be *Understanding Your Grief: Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart*.

The author, Dr. Alan Wolfelt writes: "Think of your grief as a wilderness—a vast, inhospitable forest. You must journey through this wilderness. To find

your way out, you must become acquainted with its terrain and learn to follow the sometimes hard-to-find trail that leads to healing. In the wilderness of your grief, the touchstones are your trail makers. They are the signs that let you know you are on the right path. When you learn to identify and rely on the touchstones, you will find your way to hope and healing."

Dr. Wolfelt is an award winning author, educator, and grief counselor, and is known across North America for his compassionate messages about healing in grief.

The support group will be conducted by Dr. Dan Darby and by Rev. Nancy Ratchford. Call 409/385-5568 for more information and for registration.

McDonough Hall Renovation Update

The west wing of McDonough Hall is complete except for the hallway, which will be completed next summer. The north wing is currently being renovated. The ceilings have been replaced, and new ceilings and the walls are currently being painted. New cabinetry and flooring will be next. Give Pat and Lynn Hardy a hug; they are doing a great job in overseeing this project.

Church Finances



Our income for October was up about a thousand dollars over September, and our expenses were down over \$6000 for the same period (September ex-

penses were high due to a large insurance premium payment), so for the first time in a while, our income exceeded our expenses (by about \$2250)! That is really good news. We are still running a large deficit for the year (\$18,826.65), but it is great to have a positive report for the

month in the General Fund.

Additionally, we had \$3878.76 of income for the month for the McDonough Hall Classroom Renovation Project. If we continue supporting this project, we will be able to complete the project by next summer, paid in full.

We are on track for paying our apportionments in full this month, and we will pay our fair share goals in December. Our loan from Heartspring Methodist Foundation is being paid at a rate of \$2500 a month, and the current balance is \$195,747.64. We are making more than the minimum payment so we can pay it off as early as possible.

Jenny's Journal



Good Morning Silsbee Youth! Thank you all so much for your prayers. It was so wonderful catching up with all of you last night! We have been busy! First, I would like to thank all of you for helping make our Fall Festival a huge success! I had a blast and it was a blessing to be able to

assist in bringing so much joy to God's children! Thank you guys, you ROCK!

Second, I wanted to get your thoughts on the Casting Crown Concert. Give me some feedback guys! Did you enjoy the music? What was your favorite song? Etc. I have new concert material coming in weekly, and I would like to know what you enjoy. By the way, a big thank you to Krystin Medford, Brady Day, Marty Day, & Emily Darby for coming to share time with us at the concert. I really enjoyed the added company!

Don't forget that this Saturday is our Youth Campfire Cook-

out at Fred and Linda Miller's party barn. Make sure to bring a jacket, because it could get chilly! I cannot wait for my first long-awaited s'more of the season!!! The event will be from 5pm to 8pm. At the event, we will be discussing some play rehearsal time as well as our birthday party celebration for the year. We also need to start lending some attention to our Christmas Float!

I hope you guys have a very blessed week and do not forget to pray for our nation this week. Love to you all

Sincerely,
Jenny Pachall

CRAFT
FAIR

A Big Thank You to all who participated in the Craft Fair. It was a total success! We have some very talented, creative and generous people in our congregation... It was a joy to work with you. I look forward to our next "event" at the Christmas in the Big Thicket Festival on the grounds of our Silsbee Public Library December 1. First Methodist Church will have a table there, so come see us! Our total donations were \$4014.14, which will help greatly in the McDonough Hall Renovation Project. Be thinking of what craft you might like to make and contribute next year!!!!

Jan Wilson



A group studying how we can improve our ministry of discipleship is currently meeting in McDonough Hall on Sunday evenings from 5-7 p.m. Last Sunday, Dr. Darby lectured briefly on the necessity of discipleship, and then those attending had the opportunity to share their Christian testimonies. People talked about both the tragedies and the miracles they had experienced in their lives. A few tears were shed, and everyone came away with a sense of community with one another. If you missed last week, you are invited to join us this Sunday. We will be talking about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. The group will not meet on November 25th, since some will be returning from Thanksgiving trips.

This Sunday, November 11, is Veterans Day. We will be honoring those who have served our country, and those that continue to serve it today. Veterans are invited to wear their military uniforms to either service that morning. Also, we invite each of you to bring a framed photo of a beloved veteran to be displayed in the Narthex, and in the rear of McDonough Hall.

First United Methodist Church
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