

November 30, 2011



Methogram

“The mission of First United Methodist Church of Silsbee is to glorify God and transform lives in Christ

The Methogram is a publication of :
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Come Visit Us At:
www.SilsbeeUMC.com

Dan's Divinities

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth (John 1:1&14).

We have entered into the Advent Season! It seems early, but the world has already beat the Church to the punch with the greatest shopping day of the year – Black Friday. The news said that a full 50% of the U. S. population shopped on Black Friday either in stores or online. I was lured down to Sam's by a \$20 coupon and bought a few things, but did not find anything for Christmas presents. One of these days, however, I've got to take the time to shop for and buy a present or two. My little angel, Rebecca, says that it's too early to set up the tree and put out all our decorations, but we will have to squeeze in the time for that, too.

Of course, there is something more important than all the temporal preparations for Christmas, it is the spiritual preparation. If we miss out on the spiritual aspect of Christmas, we have missed out on Christmas itself. To help us with that preparation, we are trying to offer a lot of resources at the church. First, and foremost, is our Sunday Services. Please make every effort to make Sunday worship a priority for you and your family during this advent season. It is more important than hunting, fishing, cleaning the house, getting your rest, playing golf, or whatever might have you out of church. My Advent and Christmas sermon series this year is *The Miracle of Christmas*. Look elsewhere in the newsletter for the details of that, and all the other Advent and Christmas activities planned.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Dan

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Unified Services on Christmas Day and New Years Day

Since Christmas and New Year's Day both fall on Sunday this year, we will offer only one service at 11:00 am on each of those days. On Christmas Day we will gather in the Sanctuary at 11:00 a.m. for a more traditional service, and on New Year's Day, we will gather at 11:00 a.m. in the McDonough Fellowship Hall for a Praise Service followed by a **Covered Dish Meal** at noon. We will not have Sunday School on Christmas Day, but we will meet at 10:00 am for Sunday School on New Year's Day. Both days will be great time of being together as an entire church body.

Come and Celebrate
Advent and Christmas with
First United Methodist Church

The Miracle of Christmas

Dr. Darby's sermon series for the Advent through Christmas Day is *The Miracle of Christmas*. The series will be:



- * December 4 – *Joseph the Carpenter (Matthew 1:18-25)*
- * December 11 – *The Christmas Cantata: A Thrill of Hope* performed at the 11:00 a.m. service. We will also have the 9:00 a.m. service as normal, with Pastor Nancy Ratchford preaching.
- * December 18 – *Mary's Visit to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56)*
- * December 24 (Saturday) – *Journey to a Miracle (Luke 2:1-7)*, 5:00 and 7:00 pm, Candlelight Communion Services
- * December 25 (Sunday, Christmas Day) – *The Manger (Luke 2:8-20)*. We will have a unified worship service at 11:00 a.m. There will be no 9:00 a.m. service or Sunday School.

Other Christmas and Advent Activities

- * Saturday, Dec. 3,
 - * 9:00 am visit our booth at Christmas In the Big Thicket
 - * 5:00 pm, The Party Before the Parade
 - * 6:00 pm, Christmas Parade viewed from the Church lawn
- * Sunday, Dec. 11: *One Starry Night* Family Christmas Event (3-5 pm)
- * Sunday, Dec. 18, Sing for Your Supper (4pm) - Bring some soup or cornbread, join us for caroling, and then we will meet afterwards in McDonough Hall for supper.
- * Christmas Eve Services 5 & 7 pm



In Loving Memory

Carolyn Donalson

Jack and Dolores Nicar

George Wright

Jack and Dolores Nicar

Wilma Ludwig

Chris and Gaye Lokey
 Lester, Phyllis, and Jean Landgraf
 Martha and Dana Bradshaw
 Jack and Dolores Nicar
 Pat and Lynn Hardy
 Allan and Dagma Murphy
 Sarah Mathews
 Robert and Yvonne Neyland
 The Class of 1952—San Augustine, Texas

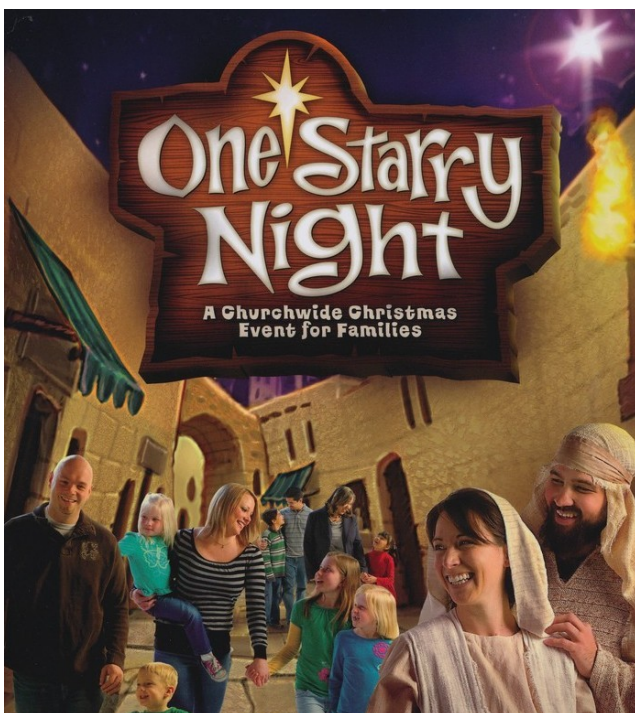
B.W. Ross

Allan and Dagma Murphy

Rev. Eugene Jonté

Jack and Dolores Nicar

Gifts	Presence
<u>11/20/2011</u>	<u>Worship</u>
\$7,093.90	11/20 138
<u>11/27/2011</u>	
\$4,520.66	11/27 120
<u>11/20/2011</u>	
\$4,2000 (towards 2012 Pledges)	<u>Sunday School</u>
<u>Thanksgiving Service</u>	11/20 81
\$155.00 (for Christian Care Center)	11/27 85



Sunday, December 11, 3-5 pm **One Starry Night** - a family Christmas event. Join us for an afternoon of travelling back in time to Bethlehem on the night of Jesus' birth. Visit *the Marketplace, the Inn and the Stable* and talk to Mary and Joseph. Study the stars with *the Wisemen* and don't forget to stop by *the Census Taker*. Travel to all the stations to enjoy the crafts, food, and to remember the true reason for the Christmas season. You and your kids will **NOT** want to miss this special event. Please call the office to register or pick up a form at the FaithWeaver sign-in. A church wide fish fry and a birthday party for Jesus will follow at 5 pm.

Stewardship Report

I want to thank each of you who have participated in our Stewardship Drive this year. We have received 78 pledges totaling \$270,952. The really wonderful news is that on average, these 78 persons or families have pledged to increase their giving by 8.8%. Wow! Thank you!

Based on the 2011 giving records of those who currently give to the church but did not pledge, added to the amount pledged, we anticipate that our contributions next year will be at least \$378,380. When we add to that amount what we anticipate from loose plate offerings, church school offerings, interest earned, building use fees, and a grant, we believe that our total income for the year will be at least \$433,295. This amount is \$35,684 short of our total 2012 budget of \$468,979.

Some of you may be asking how we can be short that much when so many increased their pledge. The answer is that among those who have been giving in the past some have died, some have moved away, and some (who did not turn in a pledge) were not able to give as generously this year as they have in the past so our estimates of what they will give in the future went down.

So, how will we meet our budget for next year with a possible \$35,684 shortfall? The faith answer is that God will provide. He always has in the past, and we will trust Him to do so for next year. The practical answer includes: First, our estimates are very conservative, especially among those who did not turn in a pledge card, and some may be more generous next year than this year. Second, we will have new members as the year progresses who will begin giving, and, thus, possibly increase our income. Third, we will be as conservative as possible in our spending and try to keep our spending within actual revenue. And, finally, if our expenditures do exceed our income next year, we have enough reserves to cover the difference and can make any necessary budgetary adjustments in the future to match our income.

I am always a little cautious and concerned when it comes to finances, but I would have to say that I am thrilled with the generosity of this congregation. You are providing for the needs of our church, and we are going forward with strength. Thank you!

Pastor Dan

Thanks to all of you who provided cookies and cakes for the Community Thanksgiving Service. Our reception was a great success because of your generosity. The leftovers will be put to good use serving our Faith Weather Friends on Wednesdays. We will also have plenty for our Family Christmas Event on December 11.

*Thanks again,
Dagma Murphy*



Celebrating Birthdays in December

December 1—Kanon Mackey

December 3—Lee Davis

December 3—Amber Wilson

December 4—Eden Rowland

December 7—Nick Trainer

December 8—Jarrod Droddy

December 10—Garrison Forse

December 10—Caleb Henry

December 10—Reagan Robinson

December 11—Martha Bradshaw

December 12—Ruth Moyer

December 13—Irene Beard

December 13—Lee Caldwell

December 13—Judy Erdman

December 14—Debra Vick

December 19—Verline Adcock

December 19—Carol Colvin

December 19—Harold Erwin

December 21—Lee Guedry

December 22—Abbie Williams

December 24—Crystal Crook

December 24—Adrian Hugon

December 25—Dee Suitt

December 27—Will Hardy

December 29—Megan O'Quinn

December 29—Levi Smart



December Anniversaries

December 12—

Tim & Brandie Blincoe
13 years

December 16—

Alan & Joanna Watters
22 years

December 19—

Tom & Sheila Eveland

December 29—

Larry & Karen Williams
39 years

Lighted Christmas Parade Float!

This year, for the first time, our church is entering a float in the lighted Christmas parade on December 3, 2011. Mike and Judy McMullen are coordinating the efforts to put together a live nativity scene float. If you would like to participate in the actual float, or walk beside the float during the parade, please contact the church office and let us know! Also, if you would like to help decorate the float, they will be meeting in the church parking lot on Saturday, December 3 at 10:00 am to put everything together. Join us and help make this a great float!





CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Orders for Christmas poinsettias are now being taken. Please fill out the form and bring it by the church office.

The cost of each plant is \$12.00

We have 40 plants ordered so order early so that you may have a plant.

Name _____

No. of Plants _____

In Memory Of _____

In Honor of _____

Payment is due by December 19th.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 29
Silsbee, Texas

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

