

December 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**  
670 North 5th Street,  
Silsbee, Texas 77656  
Phone: (409) 385-5568  
Fax: (409) 385-7219

Rev. Dan Darby  
Senior Pastor

Rev. Nancy Ratchford  
Associate Pastor

Jennifer Suitt  
Office Manager  
Office@silsbeeumc.com

Come Visit Us At:  
[www.SilsbeeUMC.com](http://www.SilsbeeUMC.com)



Merry  
Christmas  
from your  
pastors and  
church staff!

Thank you for your love  
and support of us all year long.  
Your receptivity makes our jobs  
rewarding.

It is our pleasure to serve  
the spiritual needs  
of our congregation.

During this time  
of preparation for the celebration  
of the birth of Christ, may your life be  
filled with the warmth of God's Spirit.

May you experience the reality of God's saving grace,  
and his touch upon your life. May the Spirit of Christmas  
bring peace and hope to you and your family.

## Inside this issue:

Gifts and Presence	2
Memorials	2
McDonough Hall Update	2
Church Finances	2
Acolyte Information	3
Sneak Peak into January	3
Advent Activities	4

# In Loving Memory

**Arlen Moyer**

Sam and Jeanette Tobey

**Syble Rudisaile**

Jack and Carol Jordan

**Rhonda Carter**

Ed and Sonia Cain

**Ray Martin**

Ed and Sonia Cain

**Ann Nell Herbst**

Sam and Jeanette Tobey

**Cesar Dominguez**

Sam and Jeanette Tobey

**Bill Ratchford**

Sam and Jeanette Tobey

**Ruth Bradshaw**

John and Connie Otto

**Wayne McClanahan**

John And Connie Otto

Presence		Gifts
<b><u>Worship</u></b>		<b><u>11/11/2012</u></b>
11/11	125	\$4,689.52
11/18	125	<b><u>11/18/2012</u></b>
11/25	132	\$5,805.93
12/02	146	<b><u>11/25/2012</u></b>
		\$1,841.49
<b><u>Sunday School</u></b>		<b><u>12/02/2012</u></b>
11/11	79	10,000.00
11/18	68	<b><u>Methodist</u></b>
11/25	59	<b><u>Home</u></b>
12/02	87	<b><u>Waco</u></b>
		\$219.00
		<b><u>UMCOR</u></b>
		\$500.00

Dr. Darby's sermon series for Advent and Christmas Eve will be:

- December 16: Luke 1:26-38, "Nothing is Impossible with God"
- December 23: Luke 1:39-56, "Blessed are You!"
- Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. service, Luke 2:1-20, "A Savior Is Born!"

## McDonough Hall Renovation Update

Our booth at the Christmas in the Big Thicket fair last Saturday netted about \$600. These funds will go to the renovation of McDonough Hall. A huge debt of thanks goes to Karen Cobble for organizing the booth. Jan Wilson has been instrumental during the last few months in organizing and conducting our Fund Raisers, and she has been helped by the members of her Sunday School Class and a myriad of other church members. Thanks, everyone, for pulling together in this effort.

The work in the North Wing classrooms is nearing completion. Currently, work is being done in the hallway of the North Wing.

## Church Finances



We need your help to finish the year strong with our church finances. After having a fairly good October with a general budget income of \$34,953, our contributions fell precipitously

in November, and our income was only \$24,386 for the month. Meanwhile, our expenses rose sharply to \$42,687, leaving us with a huge deficit

for the month of \$18,301.14. Our General Fund checking account was down to \$4446 at the end of November. There was talk in Finance Committee last Monday night about delaying the payment of some bills so we could be sure and make payroll.

I don't know why the bottom fell out of contributions in November. I presume that some of us are just behind in our giving. We need you to make up the lost ground in December! Thank you for your help in this area.

## Sneak Peak into January!

At the church we are going to start the New Year on Epiphany Sunday, January 6, with a **John Wesley Covenant Renewal Service**. During this service we will be asking you to renew your covenant with and commitment to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. As the Wise Men came to the cradle of Jesus to offer their gifts, their worship, and their lives, you, too, will have the opportunity to start off the New Year in a spirit of renewal and consecration. The service will be a part of both morning worship hours at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

On Saturday, January 12, there will be a **Leadership Training Event** in Cravens Hall, Room 200, for all of our local church officers. It is for all members of the Church Council, Finance Committee, Staff and Pastor Parish Relations Committee, Nominations and Lay Leadership, Trustees, Hospitality, Evangelism, Mission, and Education groups. We will be talking about our vision, mission, and goals for 2013, and how we want to go about achieving them.

On Sunday, January 13, will we have a **Ministry Fair Brunch** in McDonough Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. during the Sunday School hour. We ask that all Sunday School classes join us for this event. We will have a nice meal for you to snack on as you go around to the tables to review the ministries of the church. You can not only gain information about what we are doing, but also, you will have the opportunity to sign up for participation or volunteering in our various ministries. At this time we are planning to have ten tables with information about 37 of our ministries. You will also have the opportunity to pick up a packet for your family that will contain our Narrative Budget and a pledge card. We will not have the 9:00 am Praise Service that day, everyone is invited to join us for one service at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary. Please call Jennifer Suitt in the church office if you would like to sit at one of the tables and represent a ministry of interest to you.

Sunday, January 20, is Stewardship Sunday. Please bring your pledge card with you to this service, and turn them in at the conclusion of the service. I will be preaching on a stewardship theme for this service.

**Wanted:** Young men and women who are interested in helping to lead worship on Sunday mornings!

**A**ctive

**C**ommitted

**O**verseers Who Are

**L**uminescent,

**Y**oung,

**T**rained,

**E**ager

**S**ervants

Acolytes have an important job to do! They carry flames that represent God's presence with us during Sunday morning worship as they lead our pastors in a procession down the aisle. They light the altar candles and joyfully lead the congregation in worship during our traditional service. When the service ends, they retrieve the flames from the altar and lead our pastors in a recessional that represents the light of Christ moving out into the world, in and through His servants. It is an opportunity to learn and serve at the same time!

This is an office that has been reserved for young people who are currently in third grade and older. It is available until graduation from high school. Acolytes are trained and commissioned to serve for one year, then recommissioned yearly as long as they are willing to continue in the office. Training sessions are a short series of classes with our Mrs. Dagma Murphy that are arranged according to the schedule of interested students and confirmands.

Parents, if you have a son or daughter who fits the age requirement, please consider this opportunity. Not only does it offer young people a chance to serve, but it strengthens character and commitment. Some service organizations give credit hours for voluntary church activities such as acolyting, choir participation and helping with VBS. We can sing in the choir and help with VBS all our lives, but our years of eligibility to acolyte are limited. We're only young once!

Mrs. Dagma is prepared to teach the next group of acolytes, beginning in late January or early February. If your child is interested in acolyting, please call the church office (385-5568) so the classes can be scheduled.

## *Christmas and Advent Activities*

- \* December 16 (5:00 pm) - Children's Program and Party. Please join us at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary building as our children bless us with their annual Christmas program. Immediately following the program, we will be offering light snacks and desserts in McDonough Hall, and you are invited to join us. We ask that everyone bring a canned food donation for the Christian Care Center to this event.
- \* December 20 - 22 (6:30 pm) - Live Nativity Scene. Please join us each of these nights for our Live Nativity Scene. If you would like to be in the scene, please contact Jenny Pachall at 828-2776.
- \* December 23 (10:00 am) - Birthday Party for Jesus. Our children will be celebrating the birth of our Savior with their annual Birthday Party for Jesus, in McDonough Hall during our Sunday School hour, 10:00 am to 11:00 am. All children are invited to attend.
- \* December 23 (4:00 pm) - Sing for Your Supper. Beginning at 4:00 pm, everyone is invited to bring a pot of soup, and leave it in the McDonough Hall kitchen. We will be splitting up into groups, and heading out into the community for a time of caroling. At 6:00 pm, we will meet back up at McDonough Hall and enjoy a time of fellowship and food.
- \* December 24 (5:00 pm and 7:00 pm) - Christmas Eve Services. Please join us at 5:00 pm for our Family Christmas Eve Service, with sermon by Pastor Nancy Ratchford. She will be assisted during the service by the children and youth of our congregation, and this service will include a candlelight service. We also invite you to join us at 7:00 pm for our Traditional Candlelight Service. Pastor Dan Darby will be preaching during this candlelight service.

### *Dear Parents of Sunday School Singers:*

*We have a Christmas Eve tradition of one or two children singing "Happy Birthday, Jesus" during our 5:00 children's service. This year, instead of singling out a soloist, all of our Sunday School children are invited to sing it together! Can your child or children be a part of this? Please call the office at 385-5568 so I can know how many to expect, and who to contact when we practice for it.*

*Thank you, Paula Darby*

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

