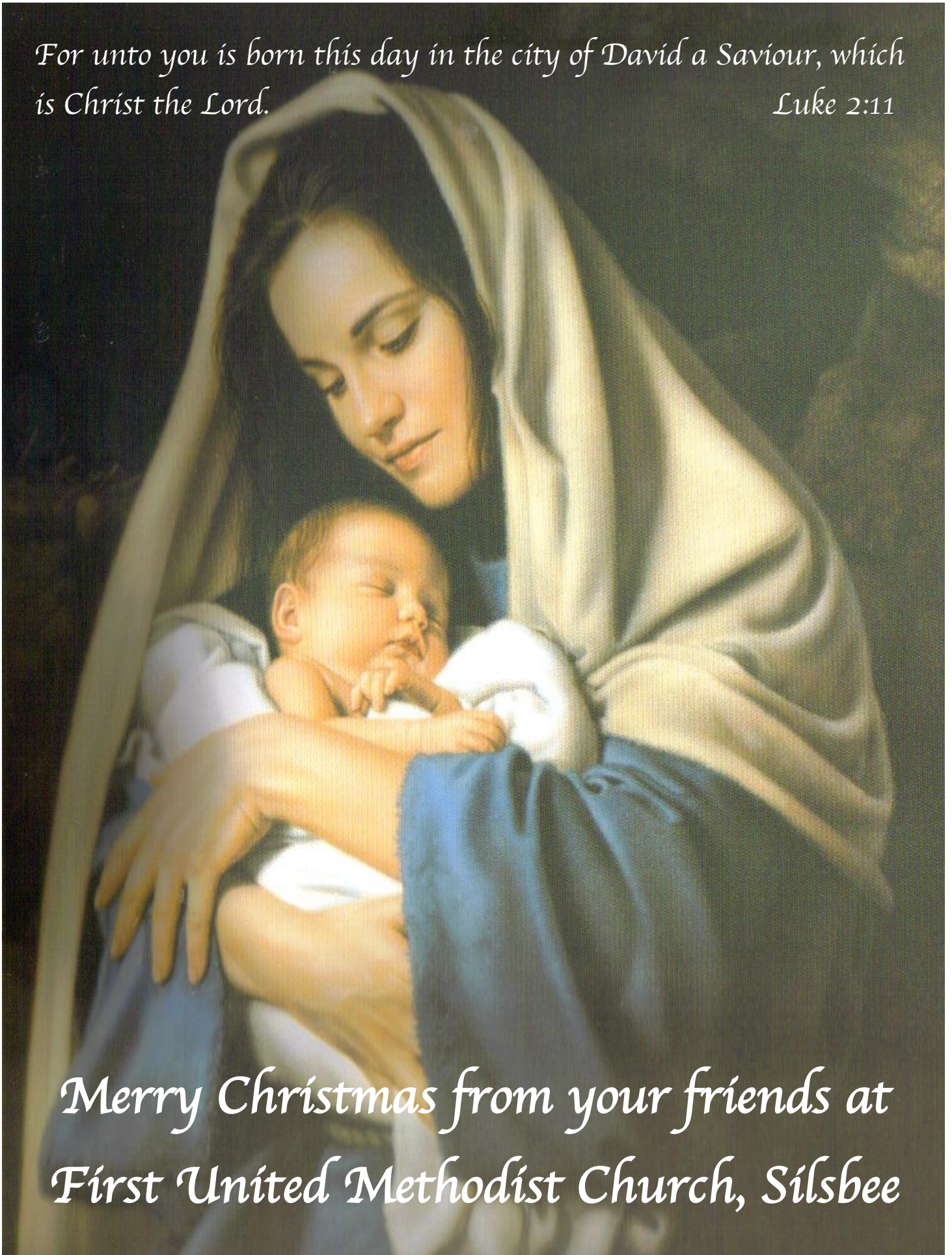


*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which
is Christ the Lord.*

Luke 2:11



*Merry Christmas from your friends at
First United Methodist Church, Silsbee*

The Miracle of Christmas

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



- * December 24 (Saturday, Christmas Eve) – *Journey to a Miracle (Luke 2:1-7)*,
 - * 5:00 pm, Children's Candlelight Communion Service
 - * 7:00 pm, Traditional Candlelight Communion Service
- * 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.

Special New Years Day Service



We will have a very special service on New Years Day, Sunday, January 1. You are urged to attend. Following Sunday School at 10, we will have unified service at 11:00. As a part of that service we will celebrate, John Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service. At noon, we will have a Covered Dish Meal – a love feast celebrating our unity together in Christ. We will not have the 9:00 am service.

John Wesley's Covenant Communion Service was first celebrated on August 11, 1755, and was based on a service designed and published in 1663 by Richard Alleine, a Puritan. It became standard practice to use Wesley's service in the London Methodist Societies on New Year's Day, and in other places whenever Wesley visited them.

Wesley found the service rich and meaningful, as expressed in his Journal: "Many mourned before God, and many were comforted" (April 1756); "I was, as usual, a time of remarkable blessing" (October 1765); "It was an occasion for a variety of spiritual experiences . . . I do not know that ever we had a greater blessing. Afterwards many desire to return thanks, either for a sense of pardon, for full salvation, or for a fresh manifestation of his graces, healing all their backslidings" (January 1, 1775).

The heart of the service focuses on the Covenant Prayer, in which participants have the opportunity to renew their commitment to God, in response to his grace. We will renounce our sins, pray for the assurance of God's forgiveness, renew our baptismal covenant, renew our commitment to Christian service, and receive Holy Communion together.

You will be blessed by this service, as you start the New Year off by renewing your covenant relationship with God.

Cards for St. Jude's Ranch for Children

St. Jude's Ranch for Children has helped neglected and abused children for many years. They live on the ranch, and there are many success stories of college graduations and thriving careers. For more than 30 years, the ranch has recycled used greeting cards into new cards. Cards for every holiday are welcome, and angels and teddy bears are especially in demand. The children cut down the card fronts and make them into new greeting cards, which then are sold

online and in the ranch gift shops. You can help by only sending them greeting card fronts. The fronts must be able to be trimmed to fit the ranch's 5x7" backs, and cards are accepted through February 28. If you would like to donate some of your used card fronts, please bring them by the church office, and Dagma Murphy will send them in all at once. Please cut (don't tear) the fronts from the cards, and please remember that they can have no writing on the back.

In Loving Memory

Carolyn Donalson

Suzanne Barfield
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Hill

Rebecca Hobbs

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Hill

Wilma Ludwig

Glenn and Jeanell Green
Philip Greulich on behalf of the Cardiac Anesthesia Team
Bill Barclay
Margaret Fox
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert C. Muckleroy
Mellissa Melville
Mr. and Mrs. Rayford Birdwell
Dorothy Modisette
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Hill
Brook and LaNita Gilchriest

B.W. Ross

Mr. and Mrs. Jack D. Jordan
Suzanne Barfield
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert C. Muckleroy

Rev. Eugene Jonté

Suzanne Barfield
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert C. Muckleroy
Butch and Dee Suitt
Dorothy Modisette
Freeda Duffle

Cesar Dominguz

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Hill
Brook and LaNita Gilchriest

Dan Knoll

David and Dr. Joyce Reed Sheffield

Lloyd Shell

Butch and Dee Suitt

Maurice Sevars

Martha and Dana Bradshaw

Beverly Price

Ed and Sonia Cain
Bill Barclay
Jack and Mary Catherine Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Jack D. Jordan
Allan and Dagma Murphy
Russ and Jan Wilson
Suzanne Barfield
Martha and Dana Bradshaw
Pat and Lynn Hardy
David and Dr. Joyce Reed Sheffield
Bruce and Beth Withers
Bob and Lola Burgess
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Hill
Joyce McClung
Erin Sheffield
Edna Dominguez
Freeda Duffle
Brook and LaNita Gilchriest
Fred and Linda Miller
Rick and Gaye Fetterolf

Community

Altar Call

Pastor Dan Darby has a full 8.5 x 11 inch picture of him in his pastoral robe taken in our sanctuary on the cover of a new magazine called "Community Altar Call" published by Melody and Mark McClain-Edwards. There is also a full page article about him and the ministries of the church, and another full page picture collage from church activities. Copies of the magazine are available for \$5 in the church office.

Gifts	Presence
<p><u>12/04/2011</u> \$9,940.10</p> <p><u>12/11/2011</u> \$7,333.30</p> <p><u>Methodist Children's Home, Waco</u> \$253.00</p>	<p><u>Worship</u></p> <p>12/04 153</p> <p>12/11 171</p> <p><u>Sunday School</u></p> <p>12/04 94</p> <p>12/11 86</p>



**Celebrating Birthdays
in January**

January 1—Beth Withers

January 2—Kyle Kelley

January 3—Jessica Roach

January 4—Keli Day

January 5—Sam Karr

January 5—Richard Strong

January 6—Madeline Stirling

January 8—Gardner Stirling

January 10—Donna Brown

January 12—Taylor Georgas

January 13—Harlan Self

January 14—Bennie Kadlecek

January 15—Donna Theriot

January 15—Bruce Withers

January 16—Robyn Underhill

January 18—Tyler Doiron

January 20—Lauren Hutto

January 21—Colton Johnson

January 23—Jacob Conner

January 24—Flo Stark

January 25—Marianne Deadmon

January 26—Lisa Kilcrease

January 31—Roger Price



January Anniversaries

January 4—

Ryan and Ronda Harkey

9 years

January 16—

Jim and Donna Brown

31 years

January 24—

Tom and Rosie Nelson

36 years

January 29—

Darrel & Mollie Balla

52 years

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