

# The Methodist Messenger

## March 2010

### CENTRAL TO DERIDDER - CENTERED IN CHRIST



### Church Staff:

*Rev. Mike McLaurin*



*Linda Labue*



*Dawn Crawford*



*Michael Litters*



*Jason Korner*



*Sammie Jo Perkins*



*Judy Kay*



*Elizabeth Vincent*



*DiAnne Kindler*



#### COMING IN APRIL

**Easter Egg Hunt at Hauser Hill**

Saturday, April 3rd

**Easter Services**

Sunday, April 4th

**TCL Planning Retreat**

Friday & Saturday, April 9th & 10th

**Confirmation, Bibles Given,**

**Children Sing, Joint Service**

Sunday, April 11th

**Gospel Sing Featuring**

**Lindley Creek @ 6 pm**

Sunday, April 11th

**John 13 Car Wash**

Saturday, April 10th

**Parsonage Open House**

Saturday, April 24th

**Youth Christian Sexuality**

**Workshop Begins**

Thursday, April 29th

### ONE COLUMN WIDE (BUT NOT TOO DEEP!)

Isaiah 55:6 reads, "Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near."

Remember the days of childhood when a good game of "Hide and Seek" was played? For me, it was best played just before dark when the shadows were longest.

When we read these words from Isaiah, we might be inclined to wonder, "Isn't God always near to us, or does God play a kind of "Hide and Seek" game sometimes?"

God inspired Isaiah to write these words at a time when Israel was returning from exile. You see, Israel had acted contrary to God's ways, and for that, Israel had been in captivity in Babylon. But now God was inviting her to return home. In many ways, they believed that God was more easily found in "the promised land" to which Israel would be returning.

Of course, we know that God is everywhere at every moment, but this speaks a special word to us. During Lent, a spiritual examination of our own lives is in order. Like in any exam, questions must be answered. Questions like: Have I exiled myself from God's presence? That's easier to do than we think. It happens when we forget to have time each day with God. Or, Am I trying to hide from God? Jonah tried that one and found himself fish bait! And this one: If God seems far away, who moved?

This Lent, let's think about where we are in relationship to God's presence. God will always be as near—or as far—as we allow God to be.

Your Pastor,  
Bro. Mike



#### DO YOU KNOW?

Do you know how people come to be elected an officer in a United Methodist Church? We have an eleven member Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development which starts meeting in the summer in anticipation of the Fall meeting of Charge Conference. The committee goes over the membership in an effort to have as broad a representation as possible on our committees, boards, and council. The committee members contact each nominee to see if he/she will accept the nomination. Church members may ask a committee member about a certain position in the church, too. Members of the committee are: (Class of 2010) Marty Smith, Trey Elliott, and Elaine Bremer; (Class of 2011) Tyler Cobb, Richard Chavez, Peggy Chisholm, (Class of 2012) Tim Kindler, Bobbye Nothnagel, Rebecca Prather. Ex officio: Barbara Haynes, Lay Leader, and Mike McLaurin, Pastor.

#### SPECIAL CHARGE CONFERENCE MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>

A special meeting of the Charge Conference has been called for by Pastor Mike McLaurin and granted by District Superintendent Steven Spurlock for Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6 PM in the Conference Room. The purpose of this Charge Conference will be to approve the basic concept of a major renovation project for First United Methodist Church's buildings and to elect the Building Committee. The Charge Conference consists of the members of the Church Council.

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*The Methodist Messenger* was written and edited by Rev. Mike McLaurin, Jason Korner, Linda Labue, Dawn Crawford. Deadline for submissions each month is 4 p.m. on the 15th.

#### MARCH TEXTS, TITLES & THEMES

**Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>, Luke 13:1-9 (NLT)**

"No Better, No Worse, and No Figs"

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

When Jesus was informed of the murders of some Galilean worshippers at the Temple, he perceived that the people were wondering just how bad they must have been to have suffered such a fate. Jesus said they were no better or no worse than any of them, but that all need to turn from their evil ways. He then told a story to illustrate his point. It's about a man who planted a fig tree but was disappointed with its lack of produce. He thought it should be cut down, but his gardener persuaded him to give it another chance, that with special care, it might produce, but if it didn't, then it could be cut down. It is reminiscent of John the Baptizer's words at the River Jordan: "Bear fruit worthy of repentance... every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." The call is to a turning from sin that bears good fruit in our lives.

**Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (NRSV)**

"The Parable of the Extravagant Father"

4<sup>th</sup> Sun. in Lent

While the focus of this parable falls on the older brother and his unforgiving attitude toward his little brother, we cannot miss the immediate response of acceptance of the dad. Nor can we miss the extravagant display of joy. Nor can we miss his leaving the party to appeal to his angry son. He loves his children.

**Mar. 21<sup>st</sup>, John 12:1-8 (The Message)**

"It Wasn't What I Intended, However..."

5<sup>th</sup> Sun. in Lent

Mary, ever devoted to her friend Jesus, used expensive ointment to anoint and soothe his tired feet. Judas, whose personality we are beginning to learn, protested such seeming waste. But Jesus reinterpreted what she had done, saying it was in preparation for his burial! That's the way it is and should be: we do something for God intending one thing, but God so often takes it and brings about a totally different result!

**Mar. 28<sup>th</sup>, Luke 19:28-40 NRSV**

(Service of the Palms at the beginning of worship, when the children process)

**Luke 23:13-23 NRSV** (Trial part of the Passion and source for the sermon)

"Prevailing Voices" Palm/Passion Sunday

Pilate wasn't the nicest of political rulers (remember that he had several Galilean worshippers murdered in the Temple, mingling their blood with that of the animals they had brought to sacrifice), but he really wanted to declare Jesus innocent and release him. However, each time he proposed that, the Jewish leaders and the crowd shouted him down. Finally, their voices prevailed. The world would love its voice to prevail over you and me, as well as the Church. What shall we do?

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDIES  
AND MEALS**

Our Wednesday night studies continue in March with the Fellowship Meal at 5:30 PM and the classes at 6 PM. We will conclude our studies of major world religions with Judaism on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and with Christianity on March 10<sup>th</sup>. On March 17<sup>th</sup>, we will begin a new study on eight major traditions of Christianity: Orthodoxy, Catholicism, Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism, Baptists, Pentecostalism, and Methodism. We will use the study developed by Rev. Adam Hamilton of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in the Greater Kansas City area entitled "Christianity's Family Tree." Cost of the study books are only \$10 each need to be ordered in advance by calling the church office. While the study books are not required, they are found to be very helpful. Please remember to make a reservation for you and/or your family by 4 pm on Mondays. The cost of the meal remains at \$5 per person and no more than \$15 per family, with children 5 and under eating for free. Also, remember that we will NOT meet during Holy Week (Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>).

**CONFIRMATION CLASS NEWS**

There are ten young people enrolled in this year's confirmation class! We will be taking a field trip to New Iberia on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> to study our faith lineage as we visit a Jewish synagogue, a Roman Catholic Church, an Episcopal (Anglican) Church, and a historic United Methodist Church. On Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, we will go the Wesley Center for "Confirmation Day with Bishop Hutchinson." Confirmation will be on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, at a joint 10 am service.

**LAKE CHARLES DISTRICT  
LAITY BANQUET MARCH 6<sup>th</sup>**

On Saturday, March 6, 2010, beginning at 5:30 pm, we will have our annual Laity Celebration at the Henning Memorial UMC in Sulphur. There will be a Cajun food menu and a Cajun comedian, Jonathan Perry, who will entertain. Tickets will be \$15.00 for the evening and are available in the church office. Proceeds from the evening will go to the Daughenbaugh-Matheny Scholarship Fund, which benefits area students at Centenary College and Dillard University. Please make your reservation by Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Even if you cannot attend the event, please consider making a special gift for this important scholarship fund by making your check payable to First UMC and tagging it D-M Scholarship.

**4TH LITTLE PIG  
DINNER & LIVE AUCTION**

Come join us for some hog wild fun and fellowship in the FUMC Gym on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, with the dinner bell ringing at 6 PM featuring a scrumptious meal and a "Hog Calling" contest (entries \$5) followed by an exciting Live Auction! Presented by the Genesis Class with tickets \$10, children under 12 only \$5. Live Auction will consist of donated baskets by local businesses and people of our community. Proceeds of the Live Auction to benefit the Agape Clinic. All other proceeds to benefit the FUMC Youth. Fun and laughter for all! Tickets are being sold by the Genesis Class members & the FUMC office (463-4491). Your support will be appreciated! Hope to see you there!

**SPRING FORWARD  
SATURDAY, MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>**

Don't forget: *Daylight Saving Time begins Saturday night, March 13<sup>th</sup>!!* The best thing to do is acclimate yourself to it by setting your clocks ahead one hour when you get up that Saturday morning. However you accomplish it, don't be late for church on March 14<sup>th</sup>!!

**GOSPEL SING FEATURING  
SANCTUARY MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>**

A Gospel Sing featuring Beauregard Parish's own "Sanctuary" will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday evening, March 14<sup>th</sup>. It will begin at 6 pm. While there is no charge for the event, there will be a freewill love offering received.

**BAMA PALM SUNDAY SERVICE**

The Community Palm Sunday Service sponsored by the Beauregard Ministerial Alliance (BAMA) will be held Sunday evening, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm at the First United Pentecostal Church. The church is located at 120 Mahlon Street in DeRidder. Come and join us for this wonderful community celebration of praise!

**HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

We will have special Holy Week Services beginning March 28. Our midday services Monday through Wednesday will have great youth appeal, as three area youth pastors will bring the messages! Here is the schedule:

*Sun., Mar. 28, 6 pm BAMA Palm Sunday Service at 1<sup>st</sup> United Pentecostal Church*  
*Mon., Mar. 29, 12 Noon Youth Pastor Doug Young of St. Luke-Simpson UMC*  
*Tues., Mar. 30, 12 Noon our own Youth Pastor Jason Korner!*

*Wed., Mar. 31, 12 Noon Youth Pastor Ben Riddle of 1<sup>st</sup> UMC Lake Charles*

*Thur. April 1, 7 pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service and Chancel Choir Presentation: "Song of the Shadows."*

*Fri., April 2, 12 Noon Way of the Cross*  
The services will be held in the Fellowship Hall except for the Maundy Thursday service, which will be held in the Sanctuary. There will be a light lunch served Monday - Wednesday, but not on Good Friday at the midday services.

**YOUTH NEWS**

Lent, Orthodoxy and Orthopraxy—three words rarely mentioned in most youth groups. Believe it or not, these three words have a lot to do with youth in the church. Most of the time we spend in church is devoted to learning about God. We go to Sunday school, we hear a sermon on Sunday morning that teaches us about God, and we participate in special Bible studies throughout the week. These activities are all focused on helping us believe the right things about God, and "believing the right things about" God is called *orthodoxy*.

There is a second important component to Christianity. Not only do Christians believe certain things about God, we are actually supposed to act in a way that honors God. We call this *orthopraxy* which simply means, "correct action." We engage in *orthopraxy* when we visit the elderly at a nursing home, when we reach out to a lonely kid at school or when we are patient with our little brother even when he's really annoying. These are difficult tasks, but they are essential to living the Christian life.

Now that we know about *orthodoxy* and *orthopraxy*, we need to intentionally pursue these two fundamental areas of the Christian life. There is no better time to do that than the season of Lent! During Lent we prepare our hearts for Easter. We've talked about Lent at youth group and we've had the opportunity to commit to special disciplines aimed at knowing God and doing things that honor God during Lent. I want to encourage you to stay true to these commitments, and I can't wait to see what happens in our lives during Lent.

Blessings,  
Jason

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- March 1 Elizabeth Smith  
Bill Sweikert
- March 2 Amanda Chapman
- March 3 Peggy Chisholm
- March 4 Thomas Gilmore  
Lela Bailey
- March 5 Richmann Taylor
- March 6 Robert Bennett, III  
Marion Gipson  
Dana Welborn
- March 8 Elizabeth Anne Jones
- March 9 David Robinson  
William "Billy" Craig
- March 10 Wesley Taylor  
Sandra Wertz  
Mike McLaurin
- March 11 Carolyn Midkiff
- March 12 Shelton Chavez  
Lauren Redler
- March 14 Lauren Blankenship  
Brittany Crowe  
Dustin Nothnagel  
Abel Nichols
- March 15 Ken Reviel  
Kelly Welborn
- March 16 Gary Thorne
- March 17 Bud Crowe  
Kevin Erpelding
- March 18 Will Chapman
- March 21 Bobbye Gehron  
Zack Major
- March 23 Marcie Hauser  
Billy Brister
- March 24 Margaret Crowe
- March 25 Crystal Ingram
- March 26 Patrick Wertz  
James Buxton  
Casey Wertz
- March 27 Pat Brown
- March 30 Daisy Geiger

**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

- March 5 John & Edwina Courtney
- March 12 Richard & Leslea Maattala
- March 13 Clyde & Bobbye Gehron  
Nordahl & Wanda Schroeder
- March 14 Bill & Addie Sweikert
- March 15 Raymond & Gloria Marcello
- March 18 Peter & Jesslyn Langbein

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

VBS will be the evenings of June 13-17. Preparation for VBS week has already begun. If you would like to volunteer for VBS in any way please contact Melissa Cobb, Stephanie Chavez or Jason Korner.

**AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM**

The AARP Driver Safety Program will be held at the Beauregard Sheriff's Department Training Center located on Bolivar Bishop Drive on Saturday, 3/13/10, from 8 AM to 1 PM. Those attending may receive a discount on their auto insurance. The cost is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members. The class size is limited, so call Beauregard Council on Aging at (337) 463-6578 for registration.

**LEARNING CENTER NEWS**

My, oh, my what a wonderful day! The Lord has blessed us tremendously with a wonderful place to live, work and play. So often, we are amazed by these children that have been placed in our care. I would venture to say we could write a very interesting, awe-inspiring book full of stories about childhood experiences, some funny and some very serious.

We're moving right along into spring with so many activities coming up. One very important date I want everyone to put on his/her calendar is our End of Year Program, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at 11 AM in the main sanctuary. We plan to have a slide show before the program again this year. So, come early to get a front row seat as it will begin at 10:45 AM.


The Learning Center registration is coming up Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> for the church family, then March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> for all others.

Until Next Time,  
Sammie Jo Perkins, Director

**FOCUS GROUPS**

Thank you for volunteering to serve on a Transforming Church Louisiana Focus Group! You will be contacted soon as to which one you have been assigned and when it will meet on the weekend of March 19-20.

# MARCH 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast  9:30am Children's Chapel  1:30pm Believing God Bible Study	<b>2</b> 9:00am Bible Study  6:00pm Worship Team	<b>3</b> 5:30pm Wednesday Evening @ FUMC  7:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>4</b> 8:30am Women's Prayer Breakfast  <b>6:00pm            Special            Charge            Conference</b>  6:30pm W.O.W.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 5:30pm District Laity Banquet
<b>7</b> Communion  <i>Bring canned            meat for            God's Food Box            today.</i>	<b>8</b> 9:30am Children's Chapel  1:30pm Believing God Bible Study	<b>9</b> 9:00am Bible Study  10:00am Mary Martha Circle  6:00pm Worship Team	<b>10</b> 5:30pm Wednesday Evening @ FUMC  7:00pm Bell Choir  7:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>11</b> 9:00am Staff Meeting  <b>5:00pm            Finance            Meeting</b>  6:30pm Methodist Men  6:30pm W.O.W.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:00pm 4th Little Pig Dinner & Live Auction
<b>14</b> 6:00pm Gospel Sing	<b>15</b> 9:30am Children's Chapel  1:30pm Believing God Bible Study	<b>16</b> 9:00am Bible Study 11:00am Merry Methodist Luncheon <b>6:00pm            Church            Council</b> 6:00pm Worship Team	<b>17</b> 5:30pm Wednesday Evening @ FUMC  7:00pm Bell Choir  7:00pm Chancel Choir 	<b>18</b> <b>5:00pm            Trustees            Meeting</b>  6:30pm W.O.W.  5:30pm Rosemary Cady Circle	<b>19</b> TCL Focus Groups	<b>20</b> TCL Focus Groups
<b>21</b> <b>Noisy            Offering</b>	<b>22</b> 9:30am Children's Chapel  1:30pm Believing God Bible Study	<b>23</b> 9:00am Bible Study  6:00pm Worship Team	<b>24</b> 5:30pm Wednesday Evening @ FUMC  7:00pm Bell Choir  7:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>25</b> 9:00am Staff Meeting  6:30pm W.O.W.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 6:00pm BAMA Palm Sunday Service	<b>29</b> 9:30am Children's Chapel  12:00pm Noon Service Soup & Sandwich	<b>30</b> 12:00pm Noon Service Soup & Sandwich  6:00pm Worship Team	<b>31</b> 12:00pm Noon Service Soup & Sandwich  7:00pm Bell Choir  7:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>Every            Sunday</b> Worship 8:40 & 11 am Sunday School 9:45 am Jr. High UMYF 6:00pm EvenSong 6:00pm Sr. High UMYF 7:15pm	<b>Every            Monday</b> 6:00pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Community Basketball	<b>Every            Wednesday</b> 12:00pm Prayer Shawl  <b>Wolf Scouts            meet every            Friday @ 6p.m.            in the            Wesleyan            Classroom</b>

## Sharing the Compassion of Christ Through Our Giving

<b>Projected General Fund Budget for 2010</b>	<b>\$505,745.00</b>	
<b>Monthly Need</b>	<b>\$ 42,145.42</b>	
<b>Money Received for January 1, 2010 – January 31, 2010</b>	<b>\$ 35,658.82</b>	
1/03/10	Pledged Gifts	\$ 9,062.00
	Loose Plate	\$ 251.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 9,313.00</b>
1/10/10	Pledged Gifts	\$ 6,004.00
	Loose Plate	\$ 137.20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,141.20</b>
1/17/10	Pledged Gifts	\$ 7,730.00
	Loose Plate	\$ 104.40
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,834.40</b>
1/24/10	Pledged Gifts	\$ 5,074.00
	Loose Plate	\$ 197.27
	Other	\$ 1,089.95
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,361.22</b>
1/31/10	Pledged Gifts	\$ 4,730.00
	Loose Plate	\$ 278.00
	Other	\$ 1,001.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,009.00</b>
<b>Money Received for January 2010</b>		<b>\$ 35,658.82</b>
<b>General Fund expenses for January 2010</b>		<b>\$ 41,872.09</b>

### Gifts were given in February

#### In Memory of

**Hazel "Sis" Plunkett**  
Mamie & Macon Rathburn  
Nordahl & Wanda Schroeder  
Carl & Susan Slover  
June Brandt  
Mary & Billy Brister  
Joanna & Ray Hauser

**David Cryar**  
Jerry & Joyce Lewis  
Linda & Vincent Labue

**Gordon Condit**  
June Brandt

**Edith Swearingen**  
Mamie & Macon Rathburn

**Bill Creel**  
Mamie & Macon Rathburn  
Mr. & Mrs. W.E. Kilman, Jr.

**Merle Rumsey**  
Mr. & Mrs. W.E. Kilman, Jr.

**Bolivar Bishop**  
Jerry & Joyce Lewis

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