



# The Messenger

Receiving His Grace, Growing through His Word, Reaching Out in the World

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2010

# Consecration



Rev. Sandra Smith, District Superintendent

## *A Message from Ken*

March 1, 2010

Sunday was a fantastic day! There are at least four worship services that I will always recall with great joy. The first was the consecration of the Community Fellowship Center in Nederland, Texas. That facility was a dream come true for the FUMC Nederland. Then came the consecration service for the sanctuary at Strawbridge UMC in Kingwood, Texas. That congregation wanted and built a sanctuary that offers space for all kinds of gatherings, from worship to performance. The third worship service was at Liberty when a baptismal drought ended. The first infant baptism in 43 years. Then came Sunday! What a service of consecration for our new J.O.Y. Hall! The District Superintendent preached a powerful and positive word. What great joy!

Following the “finger food” luncheon the DS met with the Staff Parish Committee. The agenda was for the committee to relate to the DS what kind of preacher the churches (including Liberty) wanted. There were some great expressions which showed serious thought and expectation. All I can tell you, to this point in time, is that the two congregations I pastor are positive in desire and outlook. I have no doubt that the pastor to be appointed to the mission field that includes the Liberty and Quitman congregations will have been selected after a much informed process takes place. For now, let us spend some days and week in prayer for our Bishop, DS, and Cabinet that the appointment of our new pastor will be a great match.

After all that I went home with great joy in my heart! Here I am, finishing up four tremendous years of relational ministry. Both congregations have moved forward with facility development, expanded ministries, and celebrative experiences. I am so proud of all of you who make up the Quitman/Liberty Charge. Your faith in God, your wide understanding of mission, your desire to be open and inviting makes for a powerful witness.

We still have some time together. I want that time to reflect a pastor/people relationship of trust and openness. I want this time to allow us to cast a gaze toward a future that understands that “the best is yet to be.” And I want this period of time to allow us to simply enjoy one another’s presence. My agenda for these final weeks is very simple, to assist in preparing you for your great future. There is much to celebrate! We have been so busy planning during these past four years that we need to take some time to celebrate the blessings of God.

I leave you with the great theological expression of the great New York Yankees catcher, Yogi Berra, *it ain't over til' it's over*. That's what I'm talkin' about!



### WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

FaithWeaver Friends have averaged 26 kids for the last 5 weeks. We are learning songs to help us remember our Bible verses. The next 6 weeks starting in March we will be studying KINDNESS and earning charms for our FaithWeaver Friends key ring.



### BOY SCOUT BARBEQUE DINNER

March 6, 2010

Quitman Elementary School

5:00 to 7:00 pm

Adult \$7.50

Children 12 and under \$5.00

Whole Beef Brisket \$40.00 Whole Pork Roast \$20.00

Orders placed by February 27 with

Kathleen Savage 903-857-9819

Scouts and church office



*Savor the Word*  
*Bible Study and Fellowship Meal for*  
*Mature Women*  
*Friday, March 19th*

*11 am until 1 pm*  
*Julia Gary's house*

*Come for a great fellowship meal, discussion,*  
*and scripture reading.*

*By Wednesday before each meeting:*  
*RSVP to Julia for lunch: 903.878.2772*

### Church-wide Fellowship Potluck



Sunday, March 14th,

NOON

Bring any type of food to share and  
fellowship in J.O.U. Hall



### Senior Activity Time

Thursday, March 18th

Come join us for fellowship, games, and lunch. We have so much fun and we are missing you! Our fun day is always the 3rd Thursday at 9:30 til \_\_\_\_\_. We meet in the Celebration Room. in J.O.U. Hall. Call Sue Williams if you need transportation 903-383-2118 or cell 903-243-0414

# Forever Young

## Activity Center

Celebrates their "First Anniversary"

March 12, 2010

4:30 to 6:30 pm

at the

Nutrition Center

Quitman, Texas

Refreshments Served

### UMM Mission to Arkansas

Bill Hedges will be leading a second work group to Mt. Sequoyah, Ark. to join others within the 8-state jurisdiction of the UMC from April 5-9, 2010. Work to be done includes carpentry, general maintenance and repair, landscaping, painting and cleaning. We'll take what tools we have with us in a trailer if needed. The cost will be \$93.50 per person, which includes 4 nights lodging and 11 meals from Monday dinner through Friday breakfast. (A personal check or credit card must accompany the registration form. Credit cards will be processed 1 week prior to arrival.) Evening activities beside those planned by the steering committee may include a visit to downtown Fayetteville and an Arkansas Razorback Baseball game. If interested, contact Bill at [texmethhist@aol.com](mailto:texmethhist@aol.com) or 903/763-2933 or 903/312-6688. Applications can be picked up at the church office.



The Scouts are moving to the Cornerstone House so the Scout House is up for bid for removal.

We will accept and consider any offer.

Trustees

## ***Lines From Liberty.....***

We have not yet achieved 60 attendees at a regular Sunday Service but we recently had 58! Remember that we are looking for a 2010 “goal” of 70 present .maybe when the weather gets better?

The second coat of primer/sealer paint has been applied to the Sanctuary. Some of us are anxious for the final coat so that our Church will be back to its proper color. The Trustees continue to be active, now plans are being made to modify the Sanctuary entrance with a wheel chair ramp, and beautiful new doors. Wall/ceiling insulation is being investigated and a “soft” spot in the floor is going to be fixed.

Jesus cautioned that good deeds should be done quietly, that rewards will come in Heaven. Living under His guidance, an anonymous “someone” has recently donated \$5,000 to Liberty “in honor of Ruth Colley”, directing that the funds be used for the “piano fund” or, if not needed there, then to go into the “Sanctuary Improvement” fund. As we no longer had a second piano in the Fellowship Hall, several months ago a “piano fund” was established and has slowly been growing. With the \$5,000 donation, the fund exceeds our goal. AND, recently an acquaintance of Deborah Dopson learned that we were looking for a used piano so she donated a good quality piano from her home. Now we have two pianos and a substantial “piano fund”! The whole matter is being considered by your Council.

The young people’s Sunday School is going strong. They also have a “fund” which gets small monthly contributions but has recently received \$50 from one person and \$100 from another. We are told they are considering the purchase of some “play ground” equipment to be set up in Colley Park.

The Rummage Sale (or Garage Sale or Spring Sale or whatever it should be called) is set for March 20 which is coming up fast. Remember to bring your items to be sold soon! You can bring them on Sundays or at 6pm on Tuesday evenings or probably at any time by calling any Council Member. We DO NOT desire clothing items this year.

Early preparations for the Easter Sunrise Service on April 4 are underway. A “clean up” day will certainly be scheduled before then. We want 150 or more attendees this year!

At the February Council meeting, Wood Country Sheriff Bill Wansley attended at the request of Stuart Boswank. The Sheriff talked about the recent church fires, law enforcement activities and security measures that we might consider. Our several law enforcement agencies are keeping a close watch on Liberty as, anytime anyone is at the Church grounds other than on Sunday, they are almost certain to be checked by some policeman.

The bi-monthly “Game Day” at Liberty has been discontinued. Participants are encouraged to attend the monthly “Senior Activity Day” at First UMC and the “Forever Young” group in Quitman.

Crafty Christians can use your help on the first Thursday of every month.

Don’t miss out on the monthly Dinner at Liberty...the deserts are getting even better!!

## ***In Sympathy .....***

Ruth Colley, still at home in Holly Lake with her daughter Barbara Locke, has seriously declined in health recently. Pray for her and her family.

Bill Folmar’s lymphoma has returned and he is again involved in chemotherapy. By the way, Marie Folmar’s name is Marie, not “Maria” as I erroneously said several times in the February “Lines”.

Donnie Taylor has been in hospitals now for over five months with surgeries, infections, and a knee-level leg amputation. He has just recently been moved to the Heritage House and, hopefully, will be allowed to go home soon. Donnie has been a continuous member of Liberty Church for over 40 years. His Taylor and Clanton ancestors were among the originating families of Liberty. Lord, give him the strength he needs.

Billy Fields arrived in Cyprus (not Turkey as I previously guessed) but quickly developed a physical problem and has returned home. He is seeing a vascular surgeon and an urologist but no diagnosis is yet known.

As always, there are many others in great need of your daily prayers:

|               |                |                    |
|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Arlin Harris  | Scott Crawford |                    |
| Donnie Taylor | Bill Folmar    | Chuck Shampine     |
| Mary Belew    | Betty Young    | Teddy Shampine     |
| Bud Harbin    | Lee Kennard    | Jerry Potts        |
| Jacob Bingham | Billy Fields   | All the rest of us |



## ***A Thought for March.....***

Our Heavenly Father..... **THY WILL BE DONE.**

THE NORTHWEST DISTRICT

REV. SANDRA SMITH  
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT  
300 WEST ERWIN  
TYLER, TX 75702

OFF: 903.593.1861  
FAX: 903.593.0074  
sandrasmith@txcumc.org

CELL: 713.516.3523  
RES: 903.593.6027  
www.nwdumc.org

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing to say thank you, *thank you*, **thank you** for paying 100% of your apportionments in 2010.

I know that it would have been easy for you to make a very different decision, and use those precious dollars in some other way. But you chose to join millions of United Methodists in our Texas Annual Conference and throughout the United States in combining our strength to make a difference.

Because of what you gave, tens of thousands of health kits can be delivered to Haiti without additional administrative costs. The cost of the program is paid for by your apportionment dollars.

Because of what you gave, Russell Memorial UMC in Wills Point, whose sanctuary was destroyed by arsonists, received a \$10,000 check from our own Conference's disaster relief fund. They have hope to move forward from this tragic loss – because you paid your apportionments.

Because of you, United Methodist missionaries around the world are delivering the good news of Jesus Christ to those who have never heard it.

Because of you, retired pastors receive a decent pension, young pastors within our own Conference receive special training to equip them for the church's future, seminary students receive scholarships, the families of pastors in crisis get counseling, and campus ministries located in colleges and universities such as Tyler Junior College and UT Tyler are staffed with ministers leading young people to Christ.

Because of you, we have a new staff person on the Conference level, Rev. Dan Conway, who will serve as the Administrator for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, enabling us to grow our work among the younger generations of United Methodists.

I could go on and on – but what I really want to say is, thank you for sharing your strength with that of many, many sister congregations. What you give makes a difference.

Blessings,

*Sandra*

*I look forward to working with you in 2010!*

Sandra Smith  
Superintendent, Northwest District



A MINISTRY OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Have you noticed **BLUE Containers** around the church building. They are **not for trash or glass**. They are for Aluminum and plastic **ONLY... RECYCLE**



**Crafty Christians**  
Thursday,  
March 4th  
10:00 am At  
Liberty



**Quitman / Lake Fork  
Kiwanis Club  
2010 Flag Program**  
If you are interested in helping to provide flags around the church on legal holidays, @ \$30 each.  
Please contact the church office.

NOTE: Gloria Jeane & George Rosewall have relinquished their land line phone. They can be contacted on their cell phones 214-478-1509 or 214-478-3418 and their mailing address is P O Box 526, Mineola, TX 75773. [grosewall@wildblue.net](mailto:grosewall@wildblue.net) If you have changed your email address, your home address or phone numbers please contact the church office or make a note in the red attendance book on Sunday.

**United Methodist**  
**MEN**  
Quitman, Tx  
**Nurturing our Men**  
**Serving our Community**  
**Building our Legacy**

Our March meeting should be of interest to our entire church family – and all are invited to attend. On Tuesday, March 16, missionaries to Brazil, Mark and Leslie Benton will be sharing from their hearts. Join us on Tuesday evening. Potluck meal begins at 6:30 pm, and the program will start at about 7:15 pm.

March 3

Glenn Green

Album "Made to Praise"



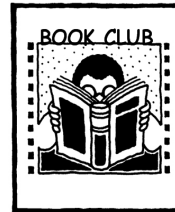
*Music and Youth Minister in the church for the past 20 years. He has performed across the country for many audiences. He has worked with organizations such Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Mother's Against Drunk Drivers (MADD), YoungLife and others by bringing a message of hope to the schools and community. A desire to reach new listeners with the Gospel, Glenn and his family have undertaken a new ministry, his first independent album, Made to Praise.*

**"A Study of New Testament Parables"**

Leader: Bill Hedges

| <u>DATE</u>          | <u>PARABLE</u>                  | <u>SCRIPTURE TEXT</u>            |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| March 10             | Introduction to Parables        | Mark 4: 10—13, Matthew 13: 10—17 |
| March 17             | "Laborers in the Vineyard"      | Matthew 20: 1—16                 |
| March 24             | "Two Debtors"                   | Luke 7: 36—50                    |
| March 31             | "The Friend at Midnight"        | Luke 11: 5—8                     |
| April 7 (Ken Archer) | " "                             |                                  |
| April 14             | "The Rich Fool"                 | Luke 12: 13—21                   |
| April 21             | "The Great Banquet"             | Luke 14: 15—24                   |
| April 28             | "Lost Sheep, Coins, Son"        | Luke 15                          |
| May 5                | "The Unjust Steward"            | Luke 16: 1—13                    |
| May 12               | "The Judge and the Widow"       | Luke 18:1—8                      |
| May 19               | "The Pharisee and the Publican" | Luke 18: 9—14                    |
| May 26               | "The Camel and the Needle"      | Luke 18: 18—30                   |

**Church-wide Fellowship Potluck  
Sunday, March 14th, NOON**



**BOOK CLUB**

The Book Club will meet on **Monday, March 8 at 2:00 pm in the Church Library. March's book selection is The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl by**



Join us on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm as we host Comedian Bob Smiley for night filled with laughter and fun for all ages.

Bob Smiley (yes that's his real name), has spent the last 12 years making people laugh. He's been to every state except Rhode Island (come on Rhode Island, join the group!). He has taken his comedy tour overseas to

England, Wales, Canada as well as 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries such as El Salvador, Honduras and Eastern Kentucky! It has been said that Bob has a heart for bringing people closer to God by getting them to laugh at everyday stories and not so everyday situations (of course that quote came from his mom, who also can't understand why he hasn't been called up into the NBA). The bottom line is, Bob uses standup comedy and humor writing as a way to draw people in so he can tell them the Good News of Jesus Christ.

To see a sample of Bob's comedy, you can go to [www.bobsmiley.com](http://www.bobsmiley.com) and watch clips of him in action. Tickets will go on sale soon so keep watching for more information.



Quitman FUMC is made up of so many wonderful people! Once again an anonymous giver has donated two really fine fiction books by Donna Van Liere. One is called "Angels of Morgan Hill" and it is an enchanting story. The other is "The Christmas Promise" - but it is a good story any

month of the year. Don't wait until next Christmas to read this delightful story.

Another new book this month is one that was selected for the Reading Club and discussed in its February meeting. It is titled "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen. It is a fictional account of circus life in the 1900's. It gave an interesting perspective of life on the carnival circuit - the problems and hardships that both the people and the animals endured. It is an eye-opening story recommended for our reading by Jan Nisbet, one of our newest members.



*I don't know how to thank you all for the love and kindness you have shown to me and my family during this sad time in our lives. The luncheon was wonderful, the service comforting, the food brought to our home, the flowers, memorials, cards and most of all your prayers haven such a blessing to us. I feel so blessed to be part of such a caring church. Please know that I appreciate each and everyone of you more than I can adequately express.*

*Yours in Christ,  
Carolyn Manning  
And Sons*

~~~~~

*Dear Friends,*

*I want thank each of you who visited me, prayed for my healing, sent beautiful cards and even brought food when I returned home from my knee transplant.*

*You have been so kind.*

*Frank Dalhoff*

~~~~~

*Thank you dear Church family,  
for the food, cards and visits while recuperating from surgery.*

*Blessings,  
Lorna Bowie*

~~~~~

*I want to thank everyone for the loving concern, cards, food, gifts and prayers during James Neal's illness and death. It was a great comfort to know the fellowship and caring deeds that are shared at the First United Methodist Church at Quitman.*

*A special thanks to Bro. Ken for the time that he made to visit and pray with James. Also to Gloria Jeane, Connie and Bro. Ken for help with the preparation and deliverance of a beautiful service. I could not imagine having the support and love that the church showed during our time of need.*

*God Bless You All,  
The Family of James Neal  
(Brother of Glenda Barnett)*

~~~~~

*Dear church friends,*

*Thank you so much for the many cards, words of comfort and prayers that we received after the loss of our Step-Mother and Grandmother. It is so wonderful to have such a loving church family.*

*Sincerely,  
Lynn, Connie, Kevin and Kyla  
Spencer, Christy, Brody and Mitch  
Weston and Alaina*

### MARCH LAY READERS

|          |           |                  |
|----------|-----------|------------------|
| March 7  | Communion | Joe Fitzgerald   |
| March 14 |           | Raymond Peek     |
| March 21 |           | Randy Dunn       |
| March 28 |           | Darrell Slabaugh |

Please notify Carol Denson at 903.383.7036 as soon as possible if you are unable to serve on the assigned date. Please report no later than 10:40 for duty on Sunday morning. Thank you.

### MARCH GREETERS

|          |                          |
|----------|--------------------------|
| March 7  | Billie Kleebauer         |
|          | Neal Poppenhusen         |
| March 14 | Hariett Bevil            |
|          | Lorna Bowie              |
| March 21 | Darrell & Debby Slabaugh |
| March 28 | Randy & Vicky Selman     |

If you are unable to serve, please get someone to replace you and notify Carol Denson at 903.383.7036 as soon as possible. Thank you.

### MARCH ACOLYTES

|          |                        |
|----------|------------------------|
| March 7  | Allie Medlin, Crucifer |
|          | Mandy Hubbard          |
|          | Mikayla Hubbard        |
| March 14 | Garrett Peek           |
|          | Raelyn Peek            |
| March 21 | Julia Simpkins         |
|          | Brenley von Reyn       |
| March 28 | Baylee Eberhart        |
|          | Josh Medlin            |

If you are unable to serve, please get someone to replace you and notify Carol Denson at 903.383.7036 as soon as possible. Thank you.

### MARCH USHERS

**8:30 AM Service**  
Ernest Burford (Team Leader)  
Bill McPherson

**11:00 AM Service**  
Darrell Gary (Team Leader)  
Jimmy Johns  
Emmett Dixon                      Bob King  
Brad Medlin

If you are unable to serve please get someone to replace you and notify your team leader as soon as possible or Dave Simpkins.

March  
**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO**

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Jacob Damskov     | 10 Jack Robinson      |
| 3 Jane Colburn      | 11 Neal Poppenhusen   |
| 4 Jack Neel         | 12 Gina Lange         |
| 4 Jeannie Parsons   | 12 Gordon Stone       |
| 4 Vicky Selman      | 13 Launae Steinburgen |
| 4 Jessi Otto        | 15 Greg Eberhart      |
| 5 River Asmussen    | 17 Brooklyn Marcee    |
| 5 Frank Dalhoff     | 18 Josh Farrell       |
| 6 R. V. Harris      | 18 Margaret Rierson   |
| 6 Bill Herring      | 19 Jake Jackson       |
| 6 Donnie Sims       | 19 Joan Collins       |
| 6 Debbie Randle     | 20 Chuck Davis        |
| 7 Clarence Lee      | 21 Will Burroughs     |
| 7 Jerry Nichols     | 22 Beth Hedges        |
| 7 Tonda Tiffie Shaw | 26 Martha Johnson     |
| 8 Sara Morgan       | 26 Winona Bithell     |
| 8 Maxene Robinson   | 30 Bobby Jack Brown   |
| 9 Sandra Evans      | 30 Harriett Bevil     |
| 9 Mitchell Emmert   | 30 Jeff Gyorfy        |
|                     | 31 Glenda Barnett     |
|                     | 31 Whitney Watson     |

# Church-wide Fellowship

## Potluck

Sunday, March 14th

NOON

J.O.Y. Hall



Call the church office for the details.  
 903-763-4127

**First United Methodist Church**

406 E. Lane Street

903.763.4127

Early Worship 8:30 am

Sunday School 9:45 am

Worship 11:00 am

**Liberty United Methodist Church**

Worship 9:30 am

Sunday School 10:45 am



First United Methodist Church  
 P O Box 1643  
 Quitman, TX 75783

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