

open hearts
open minds
open doors



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

INFORMER

July 2009



Rev. Don Yeager

“MEMORIES OF MISSION TRIPS”

I had the privilege of going along on the 2009 Senior High Mission Trip to Cortez, Colorado, June 13-20, and I returned home more inspired than ever by our own youth and young people from churches all over the country who choose to spend a week or more of their summer vacations to serve others. You would also have been impressed to see nineteen of our teenagers along with about forty youth from Nebraska painting homes, working with kids, and visiting nursing homes with such enthusiasm, dedication, and energy.

Trips like this one bring back memories of other mission trips I’ve been a part of. My first one was to Anchorage, Alaska in 1983, and since then I’ve been to places like San Antonio, Del Rio, and Beeville in Texas, as well as “exotic” locations like Monroe, Louisiana; Newton, Kansas; Oneida, Tennessee; Hayti, Missouri; and the Texas-Mexico border (3 times).

Each trip is unique and carries its own special memories. Cortez was undoubtedly one of the prettiest places we’ve worked, surrounded as it is by mountains, but the servant hearts of the youth were even more impressive than the scenery.

If you ever have the opportunity to go on a mission trip, I would highly recommend it. You will come away with your own special memories and feeling better than ever about the future of the church and of our country.

Grace and peace,

Don Yeager



Pastor Don's sermons are posted on his "blog" at <http://know-christ.blogspot.com>.



JULY COMMUNION OFFERING

The July Communion Offering is designated for our First UMC local benevolence fund. Each month we have a number of people who need assistance with gas, lodging, medicine, utilities, bus tickets, etc. Recently we were able to help a local resident with something as simple as a 3-day bus pass for TAPS so they could get back and forth to work. We try to help those who do not receive help from other agencies. Your gifts will allow us to keep sharing God's love.

Thanks to your generosity we were able to present a check for \$300 from the June Communion Offering at Annual Conference to help the Sabine Pass UMC recover from Hurricanes Rita and Ike.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JULY

Sermon Series:

“David: A Man after God's Own Heart”

- July 5 “When You're on Top of the World (David the King) ” 2 Sam. 5:1-5, 9-10
- July 12 and “When God Asks You to Obey (David the Ark)” 2 Sam. 6:1-5, 12b-19
- July 19 “When God Says ‘No’ (David and God's House)” 2 Sam. 7:1-14a
- July 26 “When You Are Tempted (David and Bathsheba) ” 2 Sam. 11:1-15



Thanks Be to God!

We Hold in our Prayers...

We offer our prayers of healing for:

Margene Parr, Brenton Porter, Dawn Boykin, Esther McGowan, Olive Clancy, Rusty Duncan, Margaret Hatcher, William Cowdrey, Gloria Pierpont, Doris Adams, Pat Peale

We offer our prayers of sympathy for:

Alton and Wanda Kite on the death of their son, Kevin Kite, and the family of Lewis Rigler

We offer our continued prayers of support for:

Duane Waskow, Pearl Fortenberry, Audrey Studstill, Cecil Sawyer, Duffy Proffer, Margaret Ruth, Mundy Peale, Morgan Beste, Mary Hawkins, Debra Harrison, Yvonne Cuellar, James Hatchel, Tom Binford, Irene Adcock, James Lane, Rebecca Schafer, Madison Clark, Mary Yearta, Roumaine Mecca and Galilee UMC in Cameroon (our partner church)

We offer our prayers of support for:

Military personnel: Alisa Davis, Jerry Horn, Bradlee Brackeen, Jarred Anderson, Christopher Phillips, Stephen Ruzicka, Jason Brown, Jonathan Dameron, Craig Fiske, David Nichols and Cory Chapman



We celebrate the birth of:

Avery Atcheson born May 6 to Jason & Suzanne Atcheson

Please update the church office monthly so that we will know to keep names on the prayer request list.

Notes to the Congregation:



Dear First UMC,

Thank you for your wonderful contributions of food. VISTO can only distribute what it receives in donations. Thanks for helping those in need.

Michelle Baldwin
Executive Director, VISTO

Dear Friends at First Church,

Thank you for your generous gift in support of the Sabine Mission Project. Your contribution will be used to help raise the sanctuary and Education buildings to the required level of 14 feet above sea level.

Sincerely,
John Thornburg

Dear FUMC and UMW,

I wanted to thank you all for thinking about me at this important time in my life. Thank you so much for the Bible to help me stay grounded in my faith throughout college. I appreciate all your love and support.

Thank you,
Chaney Shauf

Dear FUMC Congregation,

Thank you for your generosity. The FUMC Education Scholarship will be very helpful to me in continuing my education. It means so much to me to know the great people of FUMC care so much about my education.

Natalie Rose

Dear Gainesville First UMC,

Thank you for your continued support of our church in Sitka, Alaska. We are looking forward to several groups visiting from the Volunteers in Mission Task Force of the North Texas Conference.

Blessings to you all,
Nancy Young, Financial Secretary

Dear First UMC,

The GHS Class of 2009 wishes to express many thanks for allowing us to use the church for our Sr. Brunch. We also thank you for the use of the audio visual equipment so we could show student photo's during the brunch.

With Sincere Gratitude,
The parents and students
of the GHS Class of '09

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

We were very pleased to welcome six persons into membership in our church in late May.

Joining on May 24 was **James Akui** of Gainesville. James joined by renewal of vows and has already joined the choir.



Brian and Deborah Hines, pictured with daughter, Natalie (son, Austin was in the nursery),



Ben and Shawna Hawkins pictured with their girls, Macey and Elizabeth,



and **Ellen Madsen** all joined on May 31, which was designated as "Open Door Sunday."

Welcome to our church family!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

June:	Year to Date:
Received: 46,199.38	Received: 249,763.62
Expenses: 40,381.42	Expenses: 256,176.2
50% of apportionments are paid.	

Pager # 2 for the nursery has been misplaced. Please help us find it!!! Thank you!



Love and Logic Corner
Everything Rests on
Relationships

What makes love and logic work? Some believe it's our strong emphasis on setting limits. They think that folks who are struggling with their kids just aren't setting enough limits. Others believe that the power of Love and Logic has more to do with providing consequences for misbehavior. They think that those who're unsuccessful with kids just need to do a better job of providing bigger and more powerful consequences.

Both of these viewpoints are right...and also wrong. Limits are critical, but we'll never make them stick if we don't have good relationships with our kids. Holding youngsters accountable for their misbehavior is also essential, but have you noticed that the kids just don't seem to care that much about consequences when they come from someone they don't love and respect?

Everything rests on relationships. Limits gain their power from them, and so do consequences. So, if we want Love and Logic to have its full power, we're wise to do plenty of the following:

- Focus mostly on our children's strengths rather than their weaknesses.
- Smile at them as often as possible.
- Write them little notes that tell them how much we adore them.
- Greet them each day with a hug or a high five.
- Make sure they overhear us talking about how much we love them.
- Deliver our Love and Logic with great empathy and sincerity.

Thanks for reading! Dr. Charles Fay

- July 2 - Caitlin Turbeville, Blair Martinson
- July 3 - Jillian Enderby
- July 4 - Camille Aranda
- July 15 - Wyatt Molsbee, Ashley Hedrick
- July 24 - Zack Bell
- July 25 - Jacob Harris, Sterling Walterscheid
- July 26 - Allison Hedrick
- July 30 - Matthew Sebade



IMPORTANT SUMMER DATES
July
Kids Day Out: July 1, 8, 15, 29
Music Camp: July 13-17
Bridgeport Camp: July 21-25

See
 Page 5 for
 VBS
 Article

Sunday School News

July Teachings include:

- July 5 - Elijah and the Ravens
- July 12 - Elijah and the Widow
- July 19 - Elisha Finds a Way
- July 26 - Elisha and Naaman



ROCK SOLID GOD'S PROMISES
FOR THE TRAIL OF LIFE



Music Camp

To write ROCK SOLID, the composers chose to compare a trail hike to our journey through life. ROCK SOLID is upbeat and fun! It includes a stomp band to play rhythms along with the songs. Led by Daniel Banke, the week will be lots of work and lots of fun. Each child will bring a lunch and be prepared to stay from 10:00am-3:00pm. Parents are invited to volunteer to bring snacks for a break. If you are willing to volunteer for this, let Mrs. Patsy know. Registration forms, CD's and music books will be on the registration table at Bible School by the end of the week. Students need to learn all the songs before they come to camp so Daniel can refine them and teach the motions, along with working in the speaking parts. It will be a full and busy week! The dates are July 13-17th. The performance will be Friday evening and every participant MUST be here.

CAMP BRIDGEPORT
HERE WE COME!



Seven boys and six girls from grades 3-5 will be attending summer camp July 20-25th. This is the largest group we've taken to camp in several years. Mrs. Patsy will drive the church bus down on July 20, since Robin Hedrick is a counselor and will need to go a day early. On Saturday, there are usually parents who go down for the closing event and bring children home. However, if a bus is needed we can certainly work that out. Just let us know. Our campers will be: Jon Bell, Blake Wood, Logan Wann, Blair Martinson, Noah Kitchens, Kasabian Flowers, Nathan Riel, Lynzee Riel, Tabitha Aston, Emma Manley, Ashley Hedrick, and Scout Tatum.

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!

KIDS DAY OUT - EVENT SCHEDULE

- July 1 Sherman Splash Aquatic Center 10:00 - 4:00p
-Bring: \$5.00, sack lunch, 2 drinks, sunscreen, towel and swimsuit.
- July 8 Ft. Worth Zoo 9:00 - 4:00p
-Bring: \$5.00 sack lunch, 2 drinks, sunscreen/hat or Cap and comfortable shoes.
- July 15 Leonard Park Zoo (Trolley) /Muenster Pool 10:00 - 4:00p
-Bring: \$5.00, sack lunch, drink, sunscreen, towel and swimsuit.

July 22 - NO KID'S DAY OUT

- July 29 Eureka Park, Denton / Movie Grill 10:00 - 3:00p
-Bring \$5.00 and sunscreen



Greetings, Youth and Parents,

Well we survived the Mission Trip another year. This trip for me was truly special and I didn't even know why until I came back home.

Funny how these types of things happen. I won't tell you everything that happened; you'll have to come to Mission Trip Sunday for that.

I will tell you this; we have an awesome group of kids! I will tell you these two stories that I will remember the rest of my life. From the girl who never cries, who came up to me the last night of the trip sobbing, saying, 'You have been here for us (the seniors) from the beginning, and I just realized that'. And then there was Jay. He came running up to me Tuesday night right after he got off the phone with the baseball coach from NCTC, to tell me that he made it as a walk on. I was the first person that he told. He didn't call home or go find Blair, he found me first.

When I think about how much I try I touch the lives of the youth that I work with, here is the proof. When I can't make it through the story of Llama, Llama misses Momma with out sobbing, you know why. I look forward to sharing more stories about our trip on Mission Trip Sunday.

Peace and God Bless,
Mama Llama a.k.a. Shawna

NEW SUMMER HOURS: 6/10/09



Sunday Schedule:

5:00 p.m. Snack Supper

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

ALL YOUTH

Wednesday Schedule:

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

ALL YOUTH

NO SNACK SUPPER



Sr. High Mission Trip 2009



Group photograph taken on Thursday 6/18/09. A total of 28 of our youth and adults participated in the Youth Works mission projects in Cortez, CO. (Not pictured are Don and Towana Stafford).

NEW JR. HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

Cathy Nardi has just begun a class for the Jr. High students in room 205 upstairs in the Education Bldg. Stop by and join her at 9:45 a.m.

Thank You Blair Brown...

Blair has been assisting with the youth for the past year and a half since I took over the youth program. In May Blair received his associates degree from NCTC and will be attending the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) to work on his Bachelor's degree. He will be living closer to UTA and therefore his last day with our youth program will be on July 5th.

Blair has been a great help and asset to our youth program. I know that we will all miss his presence and the way he fit in and yet led you during our trips, missions and studies. Best wishes always and be sure to visit whenever you are in town.

**Dates
to put on your
July calendar:**



- July 5** Swim Party at the Brown home (Blair Brown) from 5-7p bring swimsuit (no 2pc suits), towel and sunscreen.
- July 11** All-Day Scrapbooking
- July 13** Main Event Cost \$20 unlimited bowling, laser tag, golf, and a \$10 game card Leave church at 3pm return home around 10:30-11:00 pm.
- July 20 - July 25** Sr. High Camp (NO YOUTH)
- July 29-August 1** Mystery Ramble to ?????????????? Please sign up ASAP Cost is \$75 and this is open to Jr. and Sr. High Youth. I will also need MALE adult leaders to help with this trip. If you are interested please let me know.



United Methodist Women

Mizpah Circle, thanks for helping with VBS food. See you in September for the "MIXER".
Patsy and Gwen

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



As I write this article, VBS has not yet started. But I am already certain that this year will top every other year of VBS. Why am I so sure? Because God has answered so many of my prayers for good leaders, willing workers, idea people that have offered amazing thoughts and carried through with action, and each time I felt disappointed or frustrated, God has placed the right person with the right words and willing hands to pull me back up. And so, I am so excited to begin to Explore and Discover God Everywhere at Camp Edge. Hopefully, there will be lots of pictures to prove my point when this shows up in the July Newsletter. I feel so blessed to be your Children's Ministry Director.



2009 VBS Group Picture

Total # of registered children for VBS was 128. They collected a whopping 337 pounds of food for VISTO (this included Raman Noodles!)



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Please remember to save us your toiletries from vacation as we use for gift bags or VISTO. Magazines continue to be taken to care centers, etc. Call if you want to be a homebound communion helper...you will be blessed.

Have a great summer...Gwen

New Sunday School class will begin September 6, 2009

WE WANT YOU! This class will serve singles, newlyweds, young couples or singles with children. Suzanne Yeager will lead the lessons. Please join her September 6 and all Sundays following, for a class designed just for you. She will be using the Focus on the Family series "That the World May Know" for her lessons. These DVD's are filmed in the Holy Land and feature Ray Vanderlaan leading a study group. Mr. Vanderlaan is a noted Biblical historian. His presentations include Biblical history and customs as well as insights into what the Bible can say to us today. Please join us as we embark on an adventure to the Holy Land! For more information contact Suzanne at 940-665-1717 or Patsy in the church office, 665-3926.



The month of July might seem like a relatively boring time for the Director of Music Ministries since the choir and handbell choir have the month off, but I am finding it to be a time for planning great things here at First Church. The summer music camp is now just around the corner (July 13-17). I know that the children participating in that will find it to be a fun and rewarding experience. In August, the chancel choir will have their own music camp of sorts as we venture to the Prothro Center for a two-day retreat. It promises to be a time of both music-making and great fellowship. Since I am a strong supporter of Christmas in July, I might as well take this opportunity to announce one more important event: the Festival of Christmas Music on the evening of December 13th. In addition to performances by the chancel choir and handbell choir, the children's Christmas pageant will take place that evening. To cap it all off, a reception will follow as a way of honoring the musicians for their hard work. Yes, I realize that it is only July, but go ahead and mark your calendar now. This will be an event that our entire church family will want to attend.

Daniel Banke
Director of Music Ministries

Library News

While attending Annual Conference, several books jumped off the table and into our hands, begging to be taken home to the Church Library. We hope you enjoy this rather varied group of books:

Who's Who in the Bible, The Old Testament and the Apocrypha, The New Testament by Joan Comay and Ronald Brownrigg

The Wesley Study Bible, New Revised Standard Version: "We need to know who we are. Even more, we need to Be who we are. Therefore, we offer the *Wesley Study Bible* to the people called Methodists across the world, trusting that it will serve as God's instrument to help us be clear about who we are, shape us as people going on to perfection, and encourage us to live lives that truly reflect our faith in Christ." Joel B. Green, editor.

Liz Curtis Higgs (author of *Bad Girls of the Bible*), *Embrace Grace, Welcome to the Forgiven Life*. "For every woman who confesses, "I know God forgives me, but I can't forgive myself," Liz Curtis Higgs answers, "Yes you can!"

Hagar, Sarah, and their Children, Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Perspectives by Phyllis Tribble and Letty M. Russell. "To the myriad children of Hagar and Sarah, now unto the thousandth generation and beyond, comes the responsibility of seeking understanding, doing justice, and walking humble with one another.

Take One by Karen Kingsbury from her Above the Line Series. "Three short years, two best friends, one unbelievable dream."

~ Come in, browse and check out your church Library!~

the INFORMER

First United Methodist Church
214 South Denton Street
Gainesville, Texas 76240
(940) 665-3926

Non-Profit Organization
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Permit No. 146
Gainesville, TX 76240

Rev. Don Yeager, Pastor
Worship Services: 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

V.I.S.T.O. FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

V.I.S.T.O. has announced their donation needs for the month of July. They are requesting 18 oz. or larger Jelly in plastic containers, 18 oz. Peanut Butter, and 1 lb. box saltine crackers, 17.25 oz. box of Mac and Cheese and 18 oz. canister of Oatmeal. Donation bins are located next to the elevator.

V.I.S.T.O. also accepts monetary donations. For more information on how you can donate, please contact V.I.S.T.O. at 668-6403.



Serving in Worship This Month



July 5th	Madeline Harris & Jacob Harris
July 12th	Chaney Farr & Tabitha Aston
July 19th	Ty Uselton & Blake Wood
July 26th	Nathan Riel & Lynzee Riel

USHERS and GREETERS



Usher Captain:
Kent Wooldridge

Greeters:
Adult Leaders and Seekers
Sunday School Classes

the INFORMER

Newsletter Article Deadline

All articles and information for the August 2009 issue of "The Informer" need to be submitted no later than **Wednesday, July 20th**. You may drop off your information to the church office or email it to office@fumcgainesville.com.

SECOND TIME AROUND MINISTRY

**105 S. Denton Street
Gainesville, Texas 76240**

Monday / Tuesday / Thursday / Friday
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
665-7939