



May 12, 2008

Christian Newsletter

Bellville Methodist Believer

P.O. Box 188

Worship Services: 9:00 a.m., & 11:00 a.m.

Phone: 979-865-5976

234 S. Masonic St.

Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.

Fax: 979-865-9329

Bellville, Texas 77418

www.bellvilleumc.org

Email: bumc@industryinet.com

Senior Pastor—Rev. Robert Stutes

Assoc. Pastor—Rev. Jennifer Jackson



You are invited...



to join us in celebrating the accomplishments of our Senior Class and our Confirmation Class!

Sunday, May 18th

we will honor each class

The Graduating Seniors will be recognized at the 9:00 a.m. worship in the sanctuary.

The Confirmation Class will be confirmed at the 11:00 a.m. worship, which will also be held in the sanctuary.

At **noon** we will gather in the MAC (Methodist Activity Center) for a church-wide luncheon.

You do not need to bring any food.

Simply come and enjoy this time to celebrate their accomplishments over a great meal.

Each Week

Sundays

- 9:00 Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 11:00 Contemporary Worship (MAC) (Children's Church ages Pre-K–2nd grd)
- 5:00 Handbell Choir (102)
- 6:00 Worship Services broadcast on local cable channel 12

Tuesdays

- 9:00 Exercise (MAC)

Wednesdays

- 6:00 MYF
- 7:00 Chancel Choir (102)
- 9:00 Men's Basketball (MAC)

Thursdays

- 6:15 Prayer Training (212)
- 6:30 AA & Al-Anon (211, 217)

Fridays

- 9:00 Exercise (MAC)

Other Scheduled Events

Monday, May 12

- 7:00 Staff Parish Relations (SPR) (204)

Wednesday, May 14

- NO CHILDREN'S CHOIR
- 6:30 Trustees (202)
- 7:15 Finance (208)
- 8:00 Church Council (204)

Sunday, May 18

- 9:00 a.m. Senior Recognitions (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 a.m. Confirmation Service (sanctuary)
- Noon Church wide catered luncheon (MAC)

Tuesday, May 20

- 2:00p.m. Friendship Circle (204)
- 6:30p.m. Ruth Circle (204)

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next regular newsletter will be mailed on Tuesday, May 27. Deadline for articles is Tuesday, May 20. If you prefer to pick up your newsletter (rather than having it mailed), copies will be available in the Welcome Center on Sunday, May 25. It will also be posted electronically. (Back issues of the newsletter can also be accessed on the bellvilleumc.org web site.) Let the church office know if this is your choice, and we will delete your address label from our newsletter mailing list. Thanks for helping us to keep our postage costs under control!

THANK YOU THANK YOU

BUMC Children's Choir and Youth would like to thank each of you who supported us at the Dinner Theater April 27. It was a fun night for all, and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Dear Bellville United Methodist Church
Thank you for the gift of cookies that you delivered to Spicer Alternative School on Monday.(B.A.R.K.-April, 21) Each of our eight employees received some of your wonderful cookies. They put a smile on everyone's face. —Sincerely, Spicer Staff

To all of our church family,
Buck and I thank you for your prayers, visits from Pastor Robert Stutes, and the flower from Jan representing our church.

Buck is doing so much better now and we know and felt all your prayers are the reason.
Thank you, Buck & JoAnn Ferguson

THANK YOU ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLERS!!

The response to H.O.A., Meals—on—Wheels's request for aluminum cans to benefit its program for senior citizens has been tremendous! Fritz and Janice take the bundled cans to Columbus (to get a better deal) and the money is deposited into the Church's account for meals-on-wheels. Thank you Engelkings and ALL WHO SAVE CANS FOR THIS ON-GOING PROGRAM.

THANK YOU FOR AN AWESOME YEAR OF CHILDREN'S CHOIR

God has really worked through these kids, and we have had lots of fun. Our numbers continue to grow, and we had a great Spring program. Thank you to all the parents who prepared and served snack, helped pick up the kids from school, and rearranged their schedules for children's choir! Without your support we would not have had such a great year. Thank you to "Bussy" for driving the church van each week. Thank you to Natalie for her faithfulness, I couldn't have done it without you.

—Annie Wingo

P.S. Look for summer children's choir activities to be announced soon!!

In Our Prayers



Ray Klentzman	Jim Oliver
Julie Muse Scheibe	Fred Bartlett
Herman Koehn Jr.	Elery Kimes
Michael Stewart	Conrad Day
Nancy Stern	Buck Ferguson
Leonard Parker	Anice Wyatt
Corinne Pavlicek	Erwin Carby
Woodrow Woehst	Harold Luhn
Betty Hudgins	Grace Mumme
Lois Westerman	Jo Anne Gilliam
Buck Hayden	Dewitt Lambert
Dick / Virginia Crick	Don Mahlmann
Bobbi Murrell	Janie Krueger
Linda Williams	Nicole Gilbert
Max Scallan	Carl Hickman
(Mona Bryant father)	Cara Seay
Janet Jones	Ronnie Fichthorn
(Batson sister)	(Miriam McReynolds cousin)
Frankie Hoppe	Nora Hein
Kim Noffke	(Terri Booth sister)
Larry Brast	Autumn Mills
David Pagel	Jim Shero
Althea Cuttino	Allen Newmann
Tony Ramirez & Family	Jerry Kiemsteadt



Please keep ALL our service persons and their families in your prayers

Michael Quintero (grandsons of J.D. & Jackie Sabrsula)
David Quintero
Tony Fourroux (in Iraq)

Thanks for all of the concerns, well wishes and prayers for my foot. It is hard to realize how important a foot is until you lose operation of one of them. Even though God gave us two, one is not an extra to be used in an emergency only. We need both of them to function normally. One of mine was operated on Thursday (April 17th) and is now recovering. My job is to not use it for a couple of months until the bones fuse together and the titanium rod and assorted screws become accustomed to their new environment. Please keep praying for us as Jan has to be the care-giver for some time now and I don't have a reputation of being easy to live with. I felt your prayers and know that God guided the surgeon's hands and that this is a miracle that it is a foot again.

—Elery & Jan Kimes

General Conference has come and gone. For ten days, 1,000 delegates from all over the world came to Fort Worth, Texas to meet, fellowship, discuss, and vote. I have listed some of the changes this year. The mission of The United Methodist Church was expanded and is now, "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World." If this looks familiar to anyone, this has been the Texas Annual Conference's mission statement since 2006. Cote D'Ivoire (located on the Ivory Coast of Africa) was formally admitted into the United Methodist Church and is now the largest regional conference in the global church. Two Texas Conferences raised \$300,000 for Nothing but Nets through a year-long campaign which wrapped up with a basketball tournament in Fort Worth during General Conference. The delegation rejected a petition that would seek changes in one's pastoral status if deemed ineffective. The delegation approved a \$642 million budget for the next quadrennium. The delegates rejected a petition that called for divestment from Israel, but urged advocating for peace in the Middle East. As you can see, many issues were discussed at General Conference. I sat in on many ordination issues and saw petitions pass that will streamline the process for people entering the ministry, which is a much needed change! Overall, I would guess that General Conference went the way most thought it would. Now we continue the work of the church, doing all that we can to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.

Shalom, Jennifer

Volunteers Needed

If anyone is interested in helping with Children's Church for the summer months (during the 11 a.m. worship service), please contact the church office at 865-5976. Thank you

SENIOR ADULTS

You are all invited to join us for:

FUN & LUNCH BUNCH

Games Food Fellowship

Thurs, June 12

10 a.m. *** Room 204

BRING A SALAD

Thurs, July 10

10 a.m. *** Room 204

BRING A COVERED DISH

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Tuesday, May 25

2:00 p.m. Room 204

All ladies are invited to join us!

RUTH CIRCLE

Tuesday, May 20

6:30p.m.

Room 204

Come join us

Safe Sanctuary Training

Our policy has changed, and that means that everyone needs to attend a training session so that your certification can be renewed.

Sunday, May 18th, 5:00 p.m., Room 206

Wednesday, May 21st, 7:30 p.m., Room 206

At each session, we will first train on the local church policy and then the conference policy. Please make plans to attend a training session. If you work with the children/youth of this church in any way, or may want to in the future, you must attend a training session! For more details or if you have questions, please call Pastor Jennifer in the church office. (You only need to attend one session.)

SUNDAY, MAY 18

9:00a.m.

"Moving On"

Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:1

message by Robert Stutes

11:00a.m.

Message by Jennifer Jackson

SUNDAY, MAY 25

"It's Not Easy Being Green"

Psalm 24:1-10

message by Robert Stutes

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Ray Klentzman

We welcome the newest member of the
BUMC church family.

Stewardship Report

April 2008

General Budget Offering

April 6	\$ 11,753.81
April 13	\$ 12,213.46
April 20	\$ 7,700.15
April 27	\$ 4,328.33

Average weekly need is approximately
\$ 10962.00

Other offerings received in April:

Building	\$ 4,635.67
Communion	\$ 159.00
Food Pantry	\$ 30.00
Society St. Stephen	\$ 265.90
Missions	\$ 25.00
Meals on Wheels	\$ 300.00
Youth	\$ 2,720.00
Methodist Men	\$ 400.00
Children's Choir	\$ 1,197.00

ANNUAL CONFERENCE BEGINS MAY 25

The Texas Annual Conference will meet in its regular session, May 25-28 at The Woodlands United Methodist Church. Pastor Robert and Pastor Jennifer will be in attendance along with our lay representatives. Our lay members are Mike Aldredge and Doris Knight, and our alternate representatives are Sue Housley and Jim Ainsworth. You can follow the actions of the Texas Conference at the txcumc.org website. This year, the emphasis will be on risk-taking mission, and we look forward to greeting representatives from Cote d'Ivoire (formerly Ivory Coast). This African country has a strong United Methodist presence, and we are partnering with them for the distribution of malaria prevention nets.

**CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY—
FOOD OF THE MONTH**

May

Canned Vegetables

Canned Meats (tuna, spam, chili, etc)

June

Canned goods, peanut butter & jelly

Also in need of brown paper bags. Please drop them off at the pantry.

(This is a good way to recycle!!)

Next distribution date is June 12

if any young people would like to volunteer on that Thurs., we could sure use the help carrying bags for the elderly.

ATTENDANCE GOAL UPDATE!

March-April '08 average 352

March-April '07 average 334

Increase 5%

(NOTE: We compared the combined totals for March and April because Easter fell in April last year and in March this year! Thanks for your faithfulness! Keep up the good work!)

CHURCH REVITALIZATION AND TRANSFORMATION

Discipleship Invitation

God loves me deeply and wants to help me be the most mature disciple I can be. Acknowledging the redeeming work of Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in my life, I accept this invitation to commit myself to the following godly practices:

1. Self—God could help me keep my ego in check if I added the following practice(s) to my daily life:
Prayer to help me understand my actions and motives for such.
2. Prayer—Jesus Christ would be honored more highly and my ministry could be deepened if I added or changed this about my daily prayer life:
Always that God's will be done.
3. Scripture—In order to let God's word saturate my mind and spirit:
I will read and study scripture daily.

Think about what you can add in response to this invitation.

WOW!!!

Growing Churches Create a Community Where People Encounter God

Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in one pretty and well preserved piece, but to skid across the line broadside, thoroughly used up, worn out, leaking oil, shouting...“Geronimo”!

FIRST STEPS INTO VOCATIONAL MINISTRY...

Did you know there is a rather extensive process for taking the first steps for exploring ministry as a vocation? There are many resources available for potential candidates for ministry, including those as young as high-school age.

Many people are not aware of these resources, which give both informational and spiritual guidance for those who might want to ask the question – “Is God calling me?”

Both Pastor Robert and Pastor Jennifer are available to assist you in working through those resources. The first step is to get a copy of a small book called *The Christian As Minister*. This is not a book that tries to get you to commit yourself early on. It is written for those who are just “thinking about it.” It helps you receive information so you can clarify whether perhaps God is calling you to serve him while earning your living doing something else, or whether God might be calling you to serve him in a vocational way!

After processing this introductory material, there are further steps down the way, and this includes being assigned a mentor who will give further guidance! This year, for the first time, all candidates will attend an annual gathering, which will take place on August 7-9 in Houston. The gathering will only take place once a year, so it will be important to keep up with various deadlines. An interested candidate who does not attend this gathering will have to wait an additional year to enroll. June 1 is the deadline to be signed up for the August meeting.

Whether you are a retired person considering new avenues of service, one considering a midlife career shift, a college student exploring vocation, or a high school student wondering if God has a special plan for you, there are wonderful resources available for you. Talk to Pastor Robert or Pastor Jennifer if you'd like more information!

REFLECTIONS

I am writing this note before our vacation, but want you to know how appreciative I am for your prayers and encouraging words. It is good to know that we are praying for each other! What a tremendous support that is.

It is good to know that things are in capable hands while I am away. Pastor Jennifer and the rest of our staff will have all things in order, I know.

May is a month of celebrations and passages – Mother’s Day, Pentecost, Confirmation, graduating seniors – what a grand time.

Pray for these who are going through transitions. Although these are happy, joyful times, they can also be stressful times. We need the Lord’s strength and watchful eye.

Robert Stutes

Bellville United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 188
Bellville, Texas 77418

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