

# The Witness

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November 12, 2009

## FROM THE PASTOR

Every month, *The Witness* newsletter lifts up the mission and ministries of FUMCDS. These ministries are made possible as we live out our Christian faith through our prayers, participation, and giving.

This Sunday, November 15 will be a moment for us to connect with each and every ministry and program we offer in a very tangible, concrete way. On "Grow One Step" Sunday we will make our estimates of giving for the year 2010. Our hope is that every household will be present to participate this Sunday.

Stewardship serves our own church community, enabling us to express our faith through worship, grow in our relationships, and serve the world around us. More than a tenth of all we receive in offerings is devoted to outreach and service beyond our walls. Church members donate even more to individuals, programs and organizations through special offerings that are independent of the church budget.

### Giving & Pledging: FAQ's

#### I give every Sunday during worship; why pledge?

Writing out our plan for giving is a concrete way of expressing our faith and our commitment to Christ. It can be a true act of worship, as we prayerfully wrestle with what God is calling us to do with all He has entrusted to us, continually asking, "What is your will for me, Lord?"

Pledging (or estimating your giving) also allows your church leadership to plan. There will always be an opportunity for spontaneous, heart-felt giving; however, estimating your giving for the year allows for the church to plan the extent of its mission and ministry. As Jesus said, "Who among you would begin to build a tower and not determine the cost?"

#### How do I pledge?

On "Grow One Step" Sunday, November 15, Estimate of Giving cards will be distributed during worship. You may indicate a set amount you desire to give every week or month, or you may determine an annual amount. These amounts can be revised at any time during the year at your request.

#### Is there an amount that I am supposed to pledge?

Just as in a healthy household, everyone participates as they are able in the work to be done, so it is in the church. Percentage giving is a guideline that encourages everyone to participate, assuring us that each gift is important. The goal in scripture is 10% of income or a tithe. One way to determine your giving is to determine a percentage of your income that you feel you are able to share with the household of faith for its common life and ministry. Our "Grow One Step" approach allows us to start where we are and move toward tithing by incrementally increasing the percentage of our giving.

I look forward to seeing you this Sunday as we grow together!

*Bob*

## Club ALMOST

In preparation for Youth Group, pre-teens meet at the Mattie House on Sunday afternoons from 4-5:00 p.m. for mission activities, fellowship, growing in spirit and in knowledge of God. **\*\*Club ALMOST will be having a bake sale on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> after the 8:30 a.m. worship service and during Sunday School hour.**

**Becky LaCombe & Luci Page, Leaders**

## Young at Heart Program Wednesday, November 18, 2009 10:30 a.m.

Activities for Young at Heart will begin in the church sanctuary on Wednesday, November 18, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. The program will consist of our regular business meeting, special music and a devotional by Rev. Bob.

After the meeting at the church, lunch will be served at the home of Barbara and Bob Hill at 405 N. College St. E. Fried turkey and all the fixins' will be provided. Do not bring a dessert unless you are asked to do so.

We will need an accurate count of how many will attend by Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

## WANT TO JOIN THE CHURCH?

There will be a Prospective New Member lunch following worship on **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** in the Mattie House at noon. If you are not yet a member of this church, but would like to know more about it, please call the church office 225-665-3919 by December 1st to reserve lunch and also childcare, if needed. Lunch is furnished to prospective members.

Coming to this informational lunch on the 6<sup>th</sup> does not obligate you to join the church. Those who choose to join the church may want to join with others of this group at either worship service on the following Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Special Gifts

The following special gifts have been given to First United Methodist Church:

### In Memory of:

- **Virgie Arnold** by Connie Brown
- **Steve Thompson** by Linda McDaniel; Richard & Lyn Easley
- **Marguerite Benton** by June Lavergne
- **Katherine Summers** by Al & Mary Ann Guitrau

## Needy Children's Fund

We are presently asking for donations to assist families with children at Christmas. We have contacted our local elementary school principals, asking them to each submit the names of two needy families. We will call each parent regarding the children's wants/needs for Christmas, and we will deliver the gifts the week before Christmas, so that the parent may put them out Christmas morning. We will also assist needy families that call the church.

If you would like to help, please make your check payable to FUMC and note "Needy Children's Christmas Fund". Thank you.

*Joyce Annison & Jeannette Prestridge*

## SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIP TO MEXICO

If you are interested in the possibility of going to the children's home - **Rancho Louisiana** in Victoria, Mexico; come to the first Team Meeting on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3 p.m. in the Mattie House. The trip is scheduled to coincide with Denham Springs' Spring Break - Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Youth age 16 and older are welcome to come as long as we have a 1 adult: 2 youth ration.

**Attention: Shepherds** - Please turn in your reports. They may be left in the kiosk in the narthex of the church.

**HELP LIVINGSTON PARISH BATTERED  
WOMEN**

**Christmas/& New Year's DISCOUNT FIREWORKS  
From WOW (Women Outreaching Women)**

**Monday - Thursday 10 a.m.-6 a.m.**

**Friday - Saturday 10 a.m.-until**

**Sunday: noon-6 p.m.**

**December 25<sup>th</sup> (Christmas day) – Closed**

**New Year's Eve (December 31<sup>st</sup>) 10 a.m.-until**

**½ OFF SALE – NEW YEAR'S DAY**

**January 1<sup>st</sup>: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

**Office: (225) 791-3940; Crisis Hotline: (225) 665-6713**

[www.womenowomen.com](http://www.womenowomen.com)

**Additional Highlights of 2009 Ministries**

As we continue to reflect on the year that is closing out, we think of additional programs and ministries that we have offered and enjoyed, including:

**The Living Last Supper** a dramatic musical presentation on Maundy Thursday, 2009, involving more than 80 choir and cast members from Denham Springs and Gonzales Methodist churches with more than 200 attending.

**The Handbell Ministry** involves ten ringers who play at special services such as the Groundbreaking, Hanging of the Greens and the Christmas Cantata. Our goal for the coming year is to offer bell music in worship on a monthly basis.

**The Chancel Choir sings weekly** at the 11:00 a.m. service and provides special music at Easter and Christmas. It is comprised of 25-30 members of all ages and sings music from all genres from gospel to classical.

**The Children's Choir** sings for special events and programs such as Mothers Day, Hanging of the Greens and Christmas. Our church is blessed to have a large number of elementary age children participating in this ministry. Forty children will be singing in the Christmas program on December 13, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

**Coming Musical Events:**

November 29, 2009 @ 11:00 a.m. -- Bill Mann, Guest Vocalist

November 29, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m. -- Hanging of the Greens

December 13, 2009 @ 11:00 a.m. -- Christmas Cantata with all musical ensembles and instrumentalists participating.

We are richly blessed through a Music Ministry involving over ninety people, participating on a weekly basis. The goal is always to glorify God through music.

*We give thanks to God with . . .*

**Our Prayers:**

**Members in Nursing Homes:** Connie Brown; Stella Jones; Marilyn Lobell; Fay Kling; Keith Hotchkiss; Bob Opperman

**Members in hospital:** Ochsner - Jo Roberts

**Other Concerns:**

Loretta Schultz	Hilda Neal	Shirley Callender
Joe Melilli	George Smith	John Blackman
Barney Thompson	Bill Benton	Jimmy Bamber
Ben Johnson	Shirley Hammons	Sally McClanahan

Sudy Edwards, hip break, surgery, Judy Nelson's mother

Melvin Myers, brain tumor, friend of Robbie Lamm

Hazel Creamer, cancer, Shirley Callender's sister-in-law

Sabrina Sisk, brain tumor

Canaan Dourcher, 2-1/2 yr-old child in ICU at OLOL

Gabe Hilliard, Hodgkins Lymphoma, son of Jeff & Jeanie Hilliard

Vanora Nelson, back injury, Ernestine Hood's sister

Lucy Pratt, friend of Ernestine Hood

Bonnie Bishop, Bob Blum's sister

Murphy Prejean, surgery, friend of Greg Doggette

Austin Gibson, outpatient surgery, son of Wendy & Billy

**Our Sympathy:**

Our sympathy is expressed to Tommy and Wendy Ray at the **death of Wendy's father, Joseph Bearden, Jr.**

\* \* \*

**A Record of Our Faithfulness – November 8 , 2009**

**Operating Account**

2008 YTD	\$366,989.72
2009 YTD	\$359,365.46

**Building Fund Contributions**

Received 2009 year-to-date	\$232,483.87
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Total funds available for construction	\$2,402,495.45
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**Letters from Dad**

All men are encouraged to attend a **Kickoff Breakfast for Letters from Dad** on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 a.m. at the Mattie Street house.

**Letters from Dad** is a project designed to help men to leave a legacy of faith, hope and love through the lost art of letter writing and the concept of the spoken blessing. Watch the *Witness Newsletter* for further details.

**Food Pantry**

Thanks to everyone who has contributed money & food to the Food Pantry. Thanks also to our volunteers. Our newest volunteers are Terri Whitehead, Lil George, Judy Nelson & Jeanita Slayton.