

# The Witness

Volume 11, Issue 7

April 1, 2010

## Rebuilding Program Update

As you may have noticed, construction has begun on the new building. Plumbers are installing the rough-in for the restrooms and kitchens. The steel that will go into the foundation is on site and is being prepared for installation. Less visible is the carpentry work that is going on inside the gymnasium so that it can be subdivided into a Fellowship Hall and an Activity Center. These two areas are divided by movable doors that will allow the facility to be opened for large gatherings when needed.

It is my prayer that construction will progress rapidly so that we can begin using this wonderful facility in the very near future.

## DISTRICT YOUTH EVENTS

1) One Great Day of Service at Camp Istrouma as an overnight event for all BR District Youth **April 16-17!!** Register by April 9th at [brdcym.eventbrite.com](http://brdcym.eventbrite.com) and see more details. Donation \$5-10 per person.

2) **April 28th**, the LSU Wesley Foundation is inviting all high school juniors and seniors to experience 8 p.m. worship with them & see what you have to look forward to in college. [www.lsuwesley.org](http://www.lsuwesley.org) or [wesleyfoundation.intern@gmail.com](mailto:wesleyfoundation.intern@gmail.com)

## Free H1 N1 Clinic

If you missed getting an H1 N1 flu shot, you still have an opportunity to get one.

First United Methodist Church, in conjunction with the Office of Public Health, will sponsor a **free H1 N1 clinic (injections only) on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 12 ‘til 1:30 p.m. at the Mattie St. house.** If you have questions about this, contact the church office (665-8995).



**Celebrating our Children:** Congrats to these boys who are learning discipline and excelling in their skill: **Mason Jochim**, son of Alan and Michelle Jochim, just earned his Green Belt (5th) in Taekwondo. He’s been studying since May of 2009. **Joshua Lachney**, son of Jody and Tara Lachney, just earned his Yellow Belt in Taekwondo. He has been studying for six months. **We're proud of you! Way to go Mason & Josh!**

## SPECIAL GIFTS

The following special gifts have made to First United Methodist Church:

### In Memory of:

- **Loretta Schultz** by Steve & Jana Landry; Shelley Gideon; Gene & Helen Karraker.
- **Keith Hotchkiss** by Al & Mary Ann Guitrau; Carolyn Burton.
- **Bob Opperman** by Marlene Milton; John & Carol Murray; Marguerite Cameron; Josephine Schultz; Johnny & Diane Tate.
- **Claude Slaton** by Carolyn Burton
- **Phillip Jackson on his birthday** by Minnie Allen.
- **Shirley Callender** by Marlene Milton
- **Carrie Bell Wilkinson** by Bob & Barbara Hill

### In Honor of:

- **Lela Alexander** by Chesney Varnado
- **Bob & Barbara Hill** by Wally Waldrup

## Building a Strong Youth Ministry

Like so many of you, I am excited that construction has begun on our new ministry and administrative building. I am also excited about another building project, of sorts, that I believe is going to have a tremendous impact on our congregation and our community — one that is focused on developing and fostering a new vision for our youth ministry.

Right now, we have a small, fledgling youth ministry, which has continued, thanks to the efforts of dedicated members of our congregation who saw a need and rose to the challenge. Those youth leaders agree that we need to do more. We have already begun working for a new, improved youth ministry as we prepare for the large group of children in our congregation who will soon be entering junior high and high school.

Young people look for something to be passionate about. The church has a brief window of opportunity to bring them a message of passion for Christ. With this mission in mind, a Youth Council has been established to provide oversight, leadership and accountability for our youth and young adult ministries. The Youth Council has already met twice. The development of a strategic plan to guide our youth ministry efforts is at the top of the Council’s to-do list.

As part of the planning process, the Council conducted an internal assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and barriers for our current youth program. Our next step will be to launch a Youth Ministry survey, one targeted towards youth, a second, targeting adults. We will gather feedback from both active and inactive youth, as well as their parents, and all the members of FUMC-DS. We will launch this survey on Easter Sunday, and we hope that everyone will share thoughts and ideas about how we can minister more effectively to the youth in our congregation and our community.

Our Youth Council has also reviewed and updated the job description for a Director of Youth Ministries position. Over the coming weeks, we will be working in partnership with our Staff-Parish Relations (SPR) Committee to work toward addressing staffing needs related to our youth and young adult ministries. We've already made some progress in this area, thanks in part to a commitment from our United Methodist Men's group to provide financial support for a summer youth intern position.

Exciting things are happening as momentum builds for a new, improved youth ministry program at FUMC-DS. Watch for updates from our Youth Council, and please pray for God to lead us in making youth discipleship a priority; in providing opportunities for youth to serve God in our church, community and world; and in insuring a place for youth as an active and vital part of our congregation.

Sincerely,  
**Lisa Comeaux**  
Youth Council Chair

## YOUNG AT HEART Wednesday April 21, 2010 South Park Picnic Area

Activities for Young at Heart for April will be a picnic at South Park on Vincent Road, on Wednesday, April 21, 2010. **There will be no program at the church this month.** Meet at the park around 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. We will need a count of those who plan to attend by Sunday April 18th.

Fried chicken, coleslaw, baked beans, bread, and drinks will be provided. **We will need ten (10) desserts. If you will volunteer to bring one, please call Marlene Milton at 665-8845.**

Bring a lounge chair if you wish.

### Thank You

Once again I send my appreciation to you, my church family, for your support. Your kind thoughts, hopes, concerns, and prayers during my surgery, recuperation and continuing treatment are valued even more than the food, flowers, cards, visits and transportation.

To the church staff and my loving and helpful friends, thank you and God Bless!

**Lela Alexander**

### **Last Sunday For Family Camp Registration**

No matter what family status or church membership, everyone is invited to Family Camp at nearby Camp Istrouma on April 9th-10th. This is a perfect opportunity to invite friends who don't have a church home. The 24-hour event begins at 5 p.m. Friday and ends at 5 p.m. Saturday.

Three sessions will be led by Rev. Lee Allen from Broadmoor United Methodist Church on the subject: Family Relationships. Special programming will be provided by the camp staff for children under 13 years old during the 3 sessions. \$10 will hold your personal or family registration. No other fees are necessary. The Education Committee of the Church Budget will cover the cost.

Register at sign-up tables outside the sanctuary on Sundays, or by calling the church office Monday-Thursday during the week. **If you can't come Friday night, register to come for any part of Saturday. Come! Let's enjoy time together!**

### **Cleaning for a Reason – for Chemo Patients**

If you know any woman currently undergoing Chemotherapy, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning – one time per month for four months while she is in treatment. All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. "Cleaning for a Reason" will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service.

Please pass this information on to bless a woman going through breast or other cancer treatment. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help these women. <http://www.cleaningforareason.org>



### **We give thanks to God with . . .**

#### **Our Prayers:**

**Members in Nursing Homes:** Connie Brown; Stella Jones; Jo Roberts

**Members in LaPlantation:** Fay Kling; Wally Waldrup

#### **Members in Hospital:**

#### **Other Concerns:**

Bill Benton                      Hilda Neal                      Margarine Smith  
George Smith                      Wilbert Hutchinson  
Dean Reese, motorcycle accident, John & Betty Blackman's son-in-law  
Johanna Stroud, breast cancer, friend of the Doggettes  
John Blackman, recuperating from eye surgery  
Tommy Hazleton, doing better, asks continued prayers  
Linda McDaniel, at home after surgery & rehab  
Paul Enger, brain aneurysm surgery, friend of Ginny Allen  
Frank Villeneuve, surgery for brain tumors, friend of Terry Alwood  
Ethel Sheets, medical tests, Jan Allen's mother  
Kristi Rutherford, in critical care, friend of Lela Alexander  
Mike Hardin, in OLOL, Janice Azlin's son  
God's guidance – Youth Minister for FUMC-DS  
Liz Perrin, leukemia, mother of Kellen Perrin, fiancé of David Waldrep

#### **Our Presence:**

	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Worship</u>
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### SUMMER CONFIRMATION DATES

Confirmation classes have been scheduled for three consecutive Tuesdays and Wednesdays for our 2010 Confirmation Class:

**Tuesday, May 25th & Wednesday, May 26th**

**Tuesday, June 1st & Wednesday, June 2nd**

**Tuesday, June 8th & Wednesday, June 9th**

Two lessons will be presented per day on this daily schedule:

11 a.m. - 12-noon      Lesson A  
12-noon - 12:30 p.m.      Lunch (Provided)  
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.      Lesson B

Classes are open to anyone completing 6th grade, or who is a youth or an adult who has not participated in a confirmation class. Register now with Rev. Ginny Allen at [revginny@gmail.com](mailto:revginny@gmail.com) or 225-772-6681.

### FOOD PANTRY

Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> is Food Pantry Sunday at FUMC. This month we are especially asking for donations of **peanut butter and jelly**, but any nonperishable food you choose to give will be welcomed. Please place these items in the barrels provided in the narthex of the church.