

# The Witness

## MISSION NEWS

In May, Rev. Hu Debo from Shreveport was our guest speaker, sharing slides and his first-hand experience during the earthquake in Haiti. He said he would let us know the next time he takes a group, so that we may have an opportunity to participate, too. The exact dates of the trip depend on flights, but around these dates:

DEPART: Thursday, October 21st or Friday, October 22nd.

RETURN: Friday, October 29th or Saturday, 30th

We will offer medical clinics in 2-3 churches. Non- medical team members may assist in running the clinics, or working with orphans, some painting, other light physical work, or investigating micro-business opportunities. As our team is formed, the actual agenda will take shape.

If you have an interest in making this trip, **contact Ginny** <[revginny@gmail.com](mailto:revginny@gmail.com)> or 772=6681) **by Wed. July 15th** for more information. Fund-raisers will offset the cost.

## YOUNG AT HEART PROGRAM

**Wednesday, July 21, 2010 - 10:30 a.m.**

Activities for Young at Heart will begin at the church sanctuary, with a luncheon to follow at the LSU Faculty Club on Wednesday, July 21, 2010, at 10:30 a.m. The Faculty Club requires that we make reservations, so it is important that we get an accurate count of who will be going and what they wish to eat.

Please arrive at the church early so we can begin on time. Our program will consist of our regular business meeting, special music by Rob Mulhearn, and a devotional by Rev. Bob

We will carpool to LSU. The cost of the meal is \$10.00, and will be collected at the restaurant.

When you are called, you will select an entrée from the following: **Fried Catfish with Shrimp Etouffee; Broiled Catfish with Shrimp Etouffee; Breast of Chicken with Pecan Honey Glaze; Shrimp Fettuccini.** We will need a count and choice of entrée by those wishing to attend by Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>.

## COMBINED FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS (optional)

**BASIC BELIEFS: September 5<sup>th</sup>-November 28<sup>th</sup>**

Confirmation Classes were so well received, that several adults asked for a similar presentation for adults. Many members have come into our church from other denominational backgrounds or have forgotten the things they learned in Confirmation years ago, so this seems like a worthwhile educational effort.

We will offer a combined adult Sunday School class in the Sanctuary from 9:45-10:45 a.m. to serve this purpose and meet this need. The classes will be taught by both laity and clergy covering foundational beliefs of Christianity, History of the Church and the time line of the UMC, sacraments, symbols, administration of the church, beliefs unique to Methodism, personal commitment to Christ and renewal of commitment. It will be a time of sharing, learning and growing together.

### OPT OUT

Some classes or members of some classes may choose not to participate. We will be getting a count of those in Sunday School who plan to participate in this combined study, and those who do not to be sure we have teachers for all students.

### ADVANTAGES:

We encourage all adults to participate:

- To build a solid foundation of understanding our beliefs, our purpose and our identity.
- To encourage unity in thought and spirit as we begin a new era together.
- To allow people to get to know members who worship in the other worship service.
- To allow people to get to know members who belong to different Sunday School classes.
- To allow inter-generational learning
- To save money on Sunday School curriculum this fall quarter, since these classes will not require books.

### Our Church Attendance:

	<u>Worship</u>
June 27, 2010	202
July 4, 2010	178

### A Record of Our Faithfulness – July 4, 2010

Operating Account	2009 YTD	\$214,042.92
Operating Account	2010 YTD	\$197,530.62
Budget amount needed to date	2010 YTD	\$244,190.16
Building fund Contributions	2010 YTD	\$108,072.00
Total funds available for construction		\$2,874,289.11

## Special Gifts

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

### In Memory of:

- **Fay Kling** by Bob & Barbara Hill; Agape II Circle; Linda Heard; Patricia Byrd Hilder

### In Honor of:

- **Rita Chiasson** on her ordination by Bob & Barbara Hill.

## Youth Stuff

**3G SERVICE DAY Giving, Growth, Group)**

**Saturday, July 17th, 8am-3pm.** We will be serving our community in the morning, worshipping around lunchtime, and ending the day with pure gross-ness! **We need:**

- Lawns care equipment - push mowers, string trimmers, shears, etc.
- Adults to supervise (especially in the morning).

\*If you can help with either or both, please contact Tony at the church office.

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**YOUTH  
BACK-TO-SCHOOL-RETREAT  
August 13-15, 2010  
Details to be announced**

## F.Y.I.

- **The Education Committee will meet Tuesday, July 13, 2010** at 6:30 p.m. at the Mattie St. house. Please make every effort to attend this meeting if you are a committee member.
- **Young at Heart** members are invited to sing with the choir on Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup> (both services).
- **Agape II Circle will not meet in the month of July.** The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. New meeting place will be the Mattie St. house.

## Update to "Shares" in Ministry to Youth, Young Adults, and Young Families

(Gifts made to this fund will be used exclusively for salary support of the Director of Youth, Young Adult, & Young Families)

- One (1) share has been given by the Men's Bible Class in memory of Steve Thompson.

## CHURCHWIDE BLOOD DRIVE Sunday, July 25, 2010

### Prayer Concerns:

#### New this week:

**Kambry Maddox**, cousin of Holli Smith  
**Jana Orillion**, test on crystals in ear 7/20  
**Joyce Annison**, home after knee replacement surgery  
**Ima Jean Roberts**, mild heart attack post-op hip replacement, Myra Taylor's grandmother  
**Luci Page's mom**, failing health  
**Gerald & Julie (34) Futch**, lost everything in house fire on 7/4 (4-H Club Rd.)  
**Judy Nelson**, ulcer on Eye  
**Charles Gibson**, moving home, Sue Fairchild's father  
**Abner & Mattie Cook**  
**Jim Shoptaugh**, declining health.  
**Dr. Frank Fazio**, ENT in BR, leg wounded & son, **Michael** (22) died in freak accident when branch fell on them.

#### Hospitalized:

**Mike Hardin**, back in OLOL w/circulation problems, son of Janice Azlin  
**Jordyn Wesley** (12), recovering in Dallas hospital following back surgery.  
**Margie Martin**, BR General BB, Mattie Cook's sister  
**Gene Davis**, colon surgery; also caregiver for his wife who has Alzheimer's & Parkinson's, Diane Boso's brother

#### Recovery:

**Martin McArthur**, hip replacement surgery, Katie Ellis' stepfather  
**Jo Schultz**, at home recuperating from hip replacement surgery  
**Opal Bradley**, TIA, Sue Ballard's mother  
**Dot. Wells**, recuperating from surgery  
**Tammy Earles**, cancer surgery, Sherry Powell's sister

#### Cancer Patients:

**Mikel Walker**, bone cancer  
**Sherry Leonardo**, lung cancer, friend of Ginny Allen  
**Bobby Tallo**, cancer, friend of Heather Williams  
**Helen Allen**, cancer treatment, friend of Ginny Allen  
**Margaret Alito**, recurrence of cancer, sister of Cary Neal's co-worker  
**Brenda Lowe**, colon cancer, DSHS coach  
**Nelson Ducote** (78) cancer, Jody Lachney's uncle in Willis, TX  
**Donnie Brown**, cancer treatment, Bill & Marie Brown's son (1<sup>st</sup> Baptist)

#### Other Continuing Concerns:

**George Smith**  
**Hilda Neal**  
**Norma Fox**, Richard's mother  
**John Page, Sr.**, Alzheimer's, Wesley's dad  
**Mae Matthews**, Teresa Ellis' mother  
**Jerry Gremillion**, bacterial meningitis, Lana Kiker's former co-worker  
**Carla**, PSU up, scans in 6 wks, Lana Kiker's sister  
**Mike Picou**, awaiting heart transplant, friend of Jenny Barclay

#### In Nursing Homes:

**Connie Brown**  
**Stella Jones**  
**Wendy Gibson's aunt**

#### In LaPlantation:

**Wally Waldrup**

### **Building Update**

Drive by slowly and look at the progress that has been made on the erection of some of the walls and some of the support beams. The forming and pouring of the foundation was a slow process, but now that walls are going up we will soon see the roof and the entire facility taking shape. It has been a long, involved process, but we will occupy the new building in less than a year. Pray for good working weather & no problems with materials & manpower. Please drive by rather than go onto the slab; it is too dangerous for a close-up view at this time.

### Prayer Concerns (continued):

#### Prayers for Comfort:

**Allie & Carley Crain's 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin, Jason Crain (22) & girlfriend were killed in a one-car accident 6/27/10**  
**Tony Bowlin, Jerry Lockett & Betty Johnson**, at the accidental death of their son & grandson, **Justice**

#### Military Service & Families:

**Sam Allen**: Spangdahlem USAF Base Germany

#### Ongoing Concerns:

**Tony & Sarah's first baby, a girl**, due in late July

#### Praises:

**Elaine Day's brother**, clean report after 2 rounds of chemo  
**Tamra Blum's niece**, good report – no cancer

### *Thank You*

Dear Church,

Your cards, your calls, your visits & food were such great blessings to me. Actually, the whole episode was like a spiritual renewal for which I am extremely grateful. Thanks for your thoughtfulness and caring.

Love, **Jimmie Lee DeLaune**

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To all VBS Directors, Parents, Workers & Children:

Again this year you were so generous to assist the Nursing Home Ministry. Each toilet article you brought will assist someone in our local nursing homes who are in need. May God bless each of you for your help. God willing, next year we will be in our new educational building for the best VBS ever.

**Jewell Whitehead**

**FUMC Nursing Home Ministry**

\* \* \*

I would like to thank all of you who have been concerned with my medical procedure Monday. Thanks to Rev. Ginny for being there early. Thanks to the Congregational care committee for the flowers.

Love, **Dot. Wells**

### **THANKS TO ALL - OUR BODY OF CHRIST**

The Education Committee would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who cooperated to make Vacation Bible School's *Galactic Blast* - a great VBS! It was truly a ministry, not only to children, but everyone involved in the event, and even to our congregation as praises were shared in Sunday worship!

We are grateful to all the planning, leadership, clergy and staff support, the assembly actors, technical/sound crew, photographers, nursery workers, decoration crew, crafts team, story team, food team, recreation team, music team, and the group leaders who transferred children from one location to another safely and on time. It takes many, many willing hearts to make this event as successful as it was!

We appreciate ALL those who contributed time, food, supplies and prayed for this event! It takes the entire Body of Christ working together as one - and we are grateful that is the kind of cooperation and support we felt! **THANK YOU TO EACH OF YOU** for contributing your part! **YOU** make a difference and no part was too small!