

ACORN WEEKLY

First United Methodist Church - Red Oak, TX



From the Pastor's Desk



Good morning,

This past Sunday we announced that after 34 years of full-time ministry, I am retiring at the end of June this year and moving back to my home state of Tennessee. It is my hope to be able to spend more time with my 6 grandchildren there. I have never lived near any of them. Retirement is one of those words that carries with it the idea of sitting on a porch swing or by a fire and reading all the time. No, not for me. I will continue to be active in the church there — just not on a full-time basis. God has been good to me through the years and I am sure will continue to be.

As I think about my future and as we enter this season of Lent, I recall that for all of us life changes. There are times of sadness, joy, reflection, challenge, rest and well, you get the picture. Each of us goes through various seasons of life. These next 6 weeks will be a time for each of us to reflect on what Christ has done for us. We will, I hope, spend more time praying and listening to God. Some folks will "give up" something for this period of time. Usually that involves a food or activity. Some people I know are fasting from facebook although I am not sure about that since facebook is mainly a communication device. Whatever you give up, make it something significant. And then spend that time in prayer perhaps thanking Jesus for your salvation.

Then when we get to Holy Week, come to the church to celebrate all that Christ did for you on the cross. In fact, don't wait til Easter, come on this week and let's talk about it. I love talking about Jesus.

Beginning this week until Easter, I am going to be preaching on the "I Am" sayings of Jesus.

-Allen

Notes From Larry



*I will sing a new song unto thee, O God: upon a psaltery and an instrument of ten strings will I sing praises unto thee.
Psalm 144:9*

**Andraé Crouch
1943-2015**

As another Black History Month draws to a close, I would be remiss not to mention the passing of the legendary Andraé Crouch. He was a songwriter, arranger, singer, gospel pianist and pastor, whose music career began with the formation of Andraé Crouch and the Disciples in the 1960s. In the early 70s, he began a solo career, though still touring with the Disciples, including sold-out performances at New York City's famed Carnegie Hall. In 1978, the group won the first of many Grammy awards, while also hearing criticism of their merging of the gospel message with popular styles. Andraé defended his work by pointing out that his lyrics were firmly rooted in the scripture, regardless of the musical setting he chose.

Another aspect of his career that, no doubt, brought criticism from conservative circles was his work as a producer, arranger and performer with such artists as Michael Jackson, Madonna, Elton John, Diana Ross and Stevie Wonder. He often appeared not only on popular recordings but on stage with these artists accompanied by the gospel choir from his father's church.

After his father and mother both passed away from cancer as well as his brother who had just taken over the pastorate of Christ Memorial Church of God in Christ following his father's death, Andraé decided he was called to pastor the church in the mid-1990s. Not long after taking this role, he once again stirred up a controversy by making his twin sister, Sandra, co-pastor, a practice not allowed in their denomination.

In addition to his many Grammy awards, he was named Soul Gospel Artist for Billboard Magazine in 1975 and 1977, won a Dove award in 1978, received a Gold Record for "Jesus is the Answer" and was inducted into the Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame in 1998. The songs and piano style of Andraé Crouch influenced my development as a church musician in a manner that cannot be adequately expressed in words but comes through every time I play and sing. And his songwriting left us such powerful hymns of faith as "My Tribute", "Through It All" and "Soon and Very Soon", all of which are in our current UM hymnal and are, for many, a source of comfort and strength in time of need.

-Larry



February 18, 2015

7:00 pm

Join us for Soup Supper

at 6:00 pm ,

before Worship Service!

Movie Night

Join us on Friday, February 20 at 7pm for the premier of "Hoovey". Proceeds from the event will go toward sending our youth to DeQuincy, Louisiana for CTCYM in June 2015. Tickets are \$8/ea. You may buy your tickets at the door or purchase online at :

<http://echolightcinemas.com/firstunitedmethodistchurchredoak>.



When promising high school basketball player Eric "Hoovey" Elliott collapses on the court, doctors discover a life-threatening brain tumor. Hoovey will survive the high-risk surgery, but at what cost? Can he relearn to walk, read, even to see clearly? The road is long, and meanwhile overwhelming medical bills threaten to undo everything his parents, Jeff and Ruth, have taken a lifetime to build. With seemingly no one to turn to—but with tenacity and love born of faith—an entire family regains its footing. Hoovey learns to read again, to dribble and shoot a basketball and, finally, stepping out in faith, he's back on court for another shot at his dream . . .



Laugh & Learn Preschool is sponsoring "Date Night"!

Where: First United Methodist Church

Date: Saturday, February 21, 2015

Time: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Cost: \$25 per child. Snacks Provided.

R.S.V.P.: No later than Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Contact: Teri Pearson at (972) 617-9100

Email: laughandlearn2014@yahoo.com

Or find us on facebook and send a message.

Care provided by staff of Laugh and Learn Preschool. Every member has had a background check and been fingerprinted and approved by the state of Texas. You will be required to pay upon drop off and provide contact numbers. Please feed your child dinner before drop off.

Upcoming Activities:

Thursday	2/19	6:30 pm	Stephen Ministry
Friday	2/20	7:00 pm	Hoovey Movie Night
Saturday	2/21	2:00 pm	Court of Honor & Reception: Anthony McKnight
		6:00 pm	Laugh & Learn "Date Night"
Sunday	2/22	Both Services	Prayer Shawl Blessing
		4:00 pm	Confirmation Class
		6:00 pm	Youth Fellowship
Tuesday	2/24	10:00 am	UMW Circle of Love



It's time for the 17th Annual Bluebonnet Café!



Come have a pancake breakfast and help the 4th graders at Shields Elementary raise money for their End-of-the-year Party!

When:

Saturday, February 21, 2015

Where:

D. T. Shields Elementary Cafeteria
223 W. Ovilla Rd.
Glenn Heights, TX 75154

Time:

7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Price:

Adults \$5.00 Children (10 and under) \$3.00

What's included:

Pancakes or Biscuits & Gravy, Bacon or Sausage

Also Available for Additional Cost:

Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Milk, Juice and Fruit

This event is run by the kids and offers the 4th graders a wonderful opportunity to be involved in raising money for their party. The kids host the event, take the orders, serve the food, bus tables, run the cash register and do the advanced preparations. Parents get to sit back and enjoy their breakfast and delight in seeing their kids being so responsible.



RSVP online at

www.shieldsbbcafe.weebly.com
or contact Monique Ballard at blessedballards@yahoo.com.



Walk-ins are welcome!