

# First United Methodist Church

Red Oak, Texas

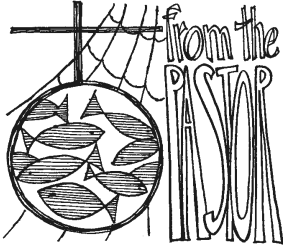
## *The Acorn*

"A Small Package of Large Possibilities"



Issue 2009 - 6

February 10, 2009



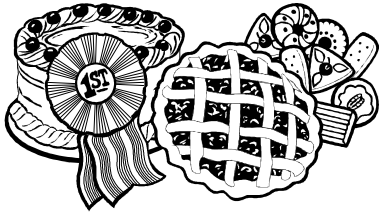
### Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

The rain came last night with lots of wind. I pray that we will be able to get more rain as we need it badly. I can tell the weather is changing often as my allergies are all stirred up. Spring is right around the corner and the weather is acting that way.

Yesterday was a great day at our church. We recognized the scouting program and those that support them. In March we will be recognizing the Girl Scout program as well. I feel it is important that we continue to support these programs as they help the boys and girls to become leaders in the group and on into life. It is wonderful that God has given us the opportunity to support these young people and that we are willing to follow through with the support.

Finance committee met yesterday after second service. Looking at our financial situation is a little stressful to put it mildly. We continue to need money to pay our bills and our connectional obligations. The church is already behind in our connectional giving which will be helped some by the Cajun Dinner the finance committee is hosting on March 7<sup>th</sup>. There is also the electric bill that needs to be paid each month. I would ask each of you to conserve energy at the church as much as possible, the last two months the electricity was \$2384 and \$2477. Please be in prayer for our church. If you have not turned in a pledge card for 2009, you can still do that so we have a better idea of what to expect as income this year.

Sunday we will be talking about "being touched by God." See you Sunday, Pastor Doug

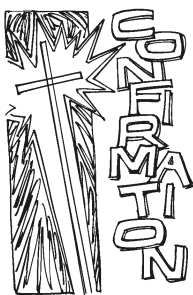


### Come and Enjoy!! Our Annual Lord's Acre



### "Red Hot Chili" & "Dessert" Cook-off February 15<sup>TH</sup> - 12:00 PM

The Lord's Acre Committee presents once again the Chili & Dessert Cook-Off! This year we will have special judges to impartially decide on the best entries of the Cook-Off. Join us in the Fellowship Hall on this coming Sunday 2/15 at 12:00, noon. Contestants in both categories pay \$10 to participate. If you haven't signed up call the Church Office before Sunday. It is not too late to enter. You can sign up in the fellowship hall Sunday morning until 10:30 a.m. All Chili and Dessert entries must be in the fellowship hall NO LATER than 11:00 a.m. Entries will be judged during the second service by the judges who will not be part of the committee. There will be separate judges for the Chili and for the Desserts. Prizes will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in each category. Come and enjoy fellowship and help us raise funds to pay towards our remaining loan for the building repairs and toward the Parsonage reserve account.



### Confirmation Classes Starting Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>

Confirmation is for children 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and up that have not taken confirmation. Classes will be held on Wednesday for 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Confirmands will have dinner together at the end of class. Classes will conclude on Pentecost Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. If you have not registered your child or youth please contact Pastor Doug and the church office at 972-617-9100.



## Youth ONE News!!

On Sunday the youth attempted to re-evaluate Valentine's Day - we participated in some of the lovey-dovey stuff, but then looked at the different ways to love that the Bible

talks about.

A HUGE thanks to the Brown and Hardi families for the delicious meal and for helping with our activities! Next week we are having movie night. We will be watching the movie "**Princess Bride**". Dinner is with the Rudd and Byars families. Feel free to bring your camp chair or blankets to have a great seat for the movie! Have a great week! **Mara**

## ONE GOD, ONE FAITH, ONE WAY



### Wednesday Fellowship Dinner

**February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.  
in the Fellowship Hall.**

Please come join us for the Wednesday Fellowship Dinner on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. The Menu consists of Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Peas & Cookies. *Freewill offering.*

**LOST & FOUND:** Please check the box behind the door in the kitchen for lost items. Also a pair of **prescription glasses** where found in the sanctuary and are in the church office.

### Military of the Week: Clifton Dugger

Please note that the address for Clifton is changing on Feb. 10; He is being medically discharged due to injuries he received in Iraq. He is the grandson of Rita Dugger. Please keep him in your prayers.

**Clifton Dugger**  
**4016 Lively Lane**  
**Dallas, TX 75220**

## PARENT'S NIGHT OUT FOR VALENTINE'S EVE



**Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> - 6 - 10 pm**

### This is a fund-raiser for the Children's Council Activities for the Year

We will accept children ages 6 weeks and up and the cost is \$15 per child. Sign up sheets are in the foyer. Turn them into the Church office. Bring your children dressed in Winter PJs and be sure to bring a blanket and a sack dinner! And don't forget to take Mom out somewhere real special, Dad! For any questions or concerns please contact Elizabeth Sanden at (214) 733-3009



### ELLIS COUNTY OUTREACH

Don't forget the church continues to provide oatmeal in canisters and 12 oz packages of pasta on a monthly basis.

Thank you for helping with this ministry. You can place your donations in the grocery cart in the foyer.



### CHURCH YARD SALE to benefit Children's Council Activities Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> - 7 am

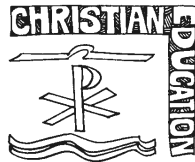
Start saving your yard sale worthy items for the Children's Council's first Annual Yard sale! We will be accepting items in the Fellowship Hall March 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>. The yard sale will start at 7 am on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. All moneys raised will go towards our upcoming Easter Fun Day and Vacation Bible School. All donations are appreciated!

## Acolyte Training Class Scheduled

Being an acolyte is an important way in which the children of the church may take part in the worship service. During the acolyte training class scheduled for **Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**, the children will not only practice how to be acolytes but also study the different parts of the worship service, the seasons of the Christian year, and the symbols of our faith.

The classes are open to **all second through sixth graders** and will take place immediately following the 10:50 AM worship service. A snack lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall and then the class will be held in the sanctuary. The class will dismiss at 1:45 PM. Children who have already completed the training are encouraged to attend for a "refresher", practice, and to sign up for Sundays. Please call Jo Wilsford (972-617-0672) if you have any questions about the training class.

**-CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL:**  
9:45 - Meet in the Sanctuary. **New Curriculum "Live Big", Hear, See and Live your Belief in God. Class begins with a video & singing in the Sanctuary.**



**-JR. & SENIOR HI:** Mara Bailey Leader Study **"Bible 101"**

**-SUNSHINE CLASS:** (In Sunshine Classroom right of the Sanctuary) Winter Study: **The Human Commitment, Old Testament People of Commitment, "Esther Risks Her Life", Esther 4:1-3, 9-17.**

**-ENRICHMENT CLASS** (In Fellowship Hall) - Study: **FaithLinks**

**-SEEKERS** (In PDO Office)-

**-YOUNG ADULT CLASS** -(In the Library) - **"The Bible Jesus Read - Old Testament"**

**-ADULT BIBLE STUDY** - Teacher: Pastor Doug.

Wednesday at 10:30 am & 6:30pm Study: **The Bible: Exodus (pm) & Leviticus (am).**

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**ASH WEDNESDAY**

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25<sup>th</sup>

6:00 p.m. Soup Supper & Grilled Cheese Sandwiches  
7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

## Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 am at FUMC Red Oak**

## Fellowship Hall

Stu Dorsey and John Persefield will provide the breakfast. Keven Davis will give the message. After the breakfast the men will have a short work day to trim the church trees. Please bring your tools and be prepared to help.



## Lord's Acre Quilt



The Lord's Acre committee is once again collecting names for the Quilt for 2009. Forms to sign up you family names are available at the church. The cost is \$5 per name. Don't be left off this year, get your name in early.

## CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

### MONTHLY MEETING

**THURSDAY, February 12<sup>th</sup> - 7 PM**

Sponsored by the American Cancer Society  
at First United Methodist Church, Red Oak

Any family member or person who has had cancer is invited to attend this support group.

## President's Day

**Monday, February 16**

**Office & Day School Closed**

**UMWomen's District Day Apart  
Burning of the Candle Ceremony**

**February 21**

**Mansfield First UMC**

(see Lynne Grandstaff for more information)



**THIS WEEK**

## WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES

### Wednesday, February 11

- 9:15 Laugh & Learn Day School
- 10:30 Pastor's Morning Adult Bible Study
- 6:00 Wednesday Fellowship Dinner
- 6:30 Children's Choir
- 6:30 Young Adult Bible Study
- 6:30 Pastor's Evening Adult Bible Study
- 7:30 Adult Choir Practice

### Thursday, February 12

- 6:30 Girl Scouts
- 7:00 American Cancer Support Group
- 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous
- 8:30 Gambler's Anonymous

### Friday, February 13

9:15 FUN FILLED FRIDAYS

**6:00 PARENT'S NIGHT OUT**

### Saturday, February 14

#### VALENTINE DAY!

8:00 UM Men's Breakfast

### Sunday, February 15

- 8:30 Traditional Worship Service
- 9:45 Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:50 Blended Worship Service
- 12:00 Lord's Acre Chili & Dessert Cook Off
- 2:30 Girl Scouts
- 4:00 Boy Scouts Troop #652
- 6:00 Youth ONE Fellowship

### Monday, February 16

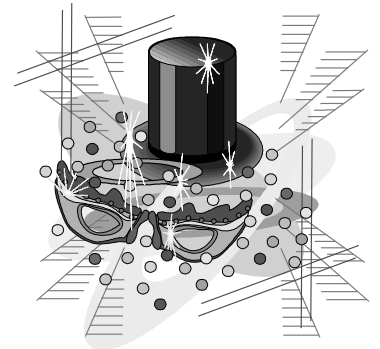
**OFFICE CLOSED - PRESIDENT'S DAY**

### Tuesday, February 17

- 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 Girls Scouts



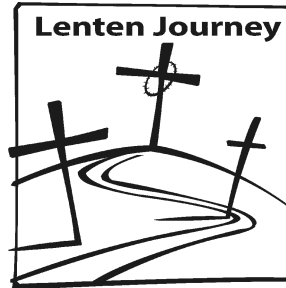
Coming Soon:



**LOUISIANA  
CAJUN FEST!!!!**

## At FUMCRO - SATURDAY - MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup> .

Date has been changed due to conflicts. Mark your calendars now for this fun time with lots of Cajun Food to benefit "Connectional Giving" (Our Church's benevolent giving to the Central Texas Conference of the UMC) Tickets available on Sunday.



## The Feast Before the Fast

In olden days, people would fast – go without food – at times during Lent. Today, many people still go without certain things during this season as a way of focusing their attention on

God. They might go without dessert, eat simpler meals, or not eat treats. Because people would often not eat sweets in this season, they would have to get rid of them beforehand. That meant having a feast!

In French, the day before Ash Wednesday is called *Mardi Gras* or "fat Tuesday." It was a day to use up fattening things in anticipation of Lent. In some cultures this has turned into a great party for several days prior to Lent. New Orleans is famous for having a large Mardi Gras festival every year.

Many countries celebrate *Carnival* for one to two weeks leading up to Lent. One of the largest in the world is held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where they use the Portuguese spelling *carnaval*.

The English name for this day is *Shrove Tuesday*. Shrove comes from "shrive" meaning to confess. This was the day that you would confess your sins and be forgiven, before going to Ash Wednesday worship services. An important English tradition for this day is to make pancakes as a way of using up all of the sweet things in the house.

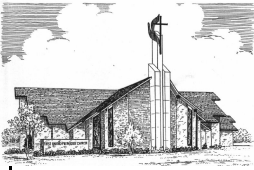
# First United Methodist Church

600 West Red Oak Rd.

PO Box 25

Red Oak, TX 75154

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## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Reaching Up To God  
Moving Into The World  
Making Disciples For Christ

*Douglas Blackford, Pastor*

*Mara Bailey, Intern Pastor*

*& Youth Minister*

*Jon Bailey, Assistant Pastor*

*Stu Dorsey, Music Minister*

*Sunmi Goodwin, Pianist*

*Lori Stricker, Office Mgr.*

*Judy Cox, Nursery./Building Mgr.*

*Casi Holmes & Dana Ellard,*

*Nursery Attendants*

*Interim Day School Director:*

*Michelle Carson*

### Office Hours

Mon-Friday 9am - 4pm

(972)617-9100

Fax: (972)576-3276

## Our Prayers

Please refer to the February Prayer list with the following additions: **Melody Durazo** - recovering from surgery; **Karen Grimsley & family** in the passing of **Catherine Brown**; **Ginger Alexander** (Maureen Plumb's Sister - pray for heart transplant); **Clifton Dugger** (medical Discharge); **Tamera & Eric Davis & baby Scout Reagan Davis**; **Grace Weir**; **Jane Aberg (Emmaus Pilgrim)**; **Polly Webb**; and the **Earl & Lynn Bar family** devastated by Fire on last Friday.

## Our Service

-Flowers this week are given in by **The Paquin Family** honor of **Savannah Almond's 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday**.

-Acolytes are: **TBA (Volunteers needed, please see Jo Wilsford before the service.**

-Ushers this week are: 8:30: **Lynne & Hugh Grandstaff**; 10:50 left door: **Stephanie & Tyler Brignon**; right door: **Shannon & Nick Wilson**; and **John & Travis Young** (counters) (Right Door counts the attendance)

-Offering Stewards are: **TBA**

-Technicians: Sound: 8:30 **Les Mitchell**, 10:50 **Tom Rogers**; Video: **Jon & Mara Bailey**.

-**Nursery** is available every Sunday. Volunteer is **Judy Cox**.

- Children's Church: **Shannon Wilson & Becky Monnette**

## Our Attendance

Last Sunday Worship

8:30 ..... 72

10:50 ..... 114

Sunday School ..... 75

## Our Gifts

Total Budget 2009 ..... \$ 377,411

Budget Needed to Date ..... \$ 43,055

Budget Received for 2009 ..... \$35,746

Budget Needed weekly ..... \$ 7,258

Apportionments/Connectional Giving for 2009 ..... \$ 50,141

**PLEASE PICK UP YOUR YEAR END STATEMENTS IN THE FOYER ON SUNDAY.**

-Do You have a "**JOY OR CONCERN**" your church family needs to know? Contact Lori Stricker (972-617-9100) or email at the address listed below.

-Web site address: [www.fumcro.org](http://www.fumcro.org)

- Up dates: [Webservant@fumcro.org](mailto:Webservant@fumcro.org)

-Newsletter & prayer requests: [manager@fumcro.org](mailto:manager@fumcro.org)

-If you have an emergency which requires the immediate attention of the pastor, please call **Pastor Doug Blackford** at **972-576-5570**; or **Jon Bailey** at **972-576-2224** or Email: [pastor@fumcro.org](mailto:pastor@fumcro.org)