

Methodist Connection

March 2013

Monthly Newsletter of First United Methodist
Church of Bridgeport

From the Pastor's Pen

A couple of months ago, Camille and I received word that the church where my father and step-mother have been members for nearly thirty years was closing its doors and the Trustees were dispersing all of their usable equipment to churches that could use any of it. Among the equipment was a set of handbells originally donated by my parents. So we wrote to the trustees and requested the privilege of receiving them. We suggested that they could expand our range of bells, we could share them with a neighboring church, or perhaps donate them to the Denton State School, which has expressed interest in starting a bell choir.

We figured that would be the last of it we would hear. After all who ever heard of a Baptist Church giving a Methodist Church such a significant gift. A few weeks ago, I received a phone call that the bells had been awarded to our church with no strings attached—we could do whatever we wanted to do with them. The only condition was that we had to come pick them up.

So three weeks ago, I rented a van and drove to Houston, spend a couple of nights with family, celebrated our daughter's birthday a week early, and picked up the bells...and six tables, and pads, and music stands, and table cloths! We were only expecting the bells, so this was a huge bonus.

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Mark Your Calendar

3.3

Youth Girls Bible Study &
Guy's night out

3.5

DaySpring meeting @ 6pm

3.13

No Wednesday activities

3.17-20

DaySpring Event

3.28

Maundy Thur. @

Presbyterian Church

3.31

Easter Sunrise Service @
B'port camp. 7am

Article Continued ...

Since then, our bell players have inventoried the bells and inspected them. There are 4 ½ octaves—we only had three, so it expands our range on both ends. Since the bells have been in storage for a decade or two, they are in need of professional polishing at about \$7 a bell, and some need some minor repairs to the hard rubber that holds the clappers.

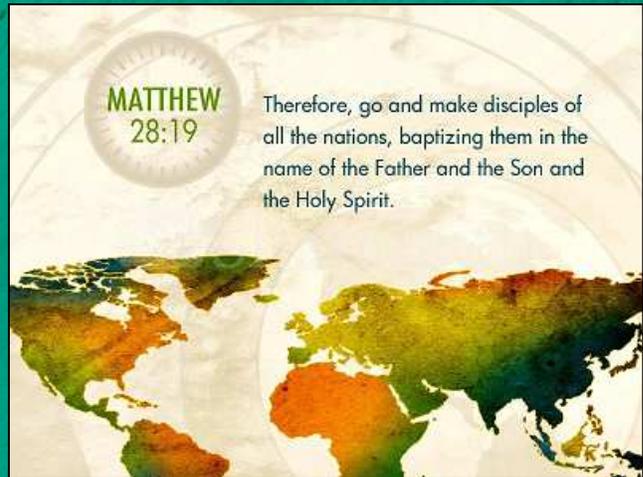
This gift would have been valued at several tens of thousands of dollars new when it was purchased. I don't even want to think about how much brand new bells would cost these days. So say a prayer of thanksgiving for the blessing.

For the next step, we could use your help in two ways, if the Lord is directing you. First we could use some donations to help pay for the polishing and refurbishing that needs to be done on the 49 bells. Second, we could use some more bell ringers! They practice at 5:45 on Wednesdays and now have some contemporary music, so playing at the first part of the second service can become a reality...all we need is people.

Bro. David

And the second is
like unto it, Thou
shalt love thy
neighbor as thyself.

– Romans 8:30



Missions

Costa Rica Missions

The Costa Rica Mission team is starting to prepare for the July 12-22 mission trip. The 6 team members from Bridgeport that will be traveling with the First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth include; Carolyn McComis, Vicki Holder, Vonne Walton, Shelley McComis, Pam Worlow and Denise Bailey. We Thank you for your prayers and support as we prepare for this opportunity to serve God by serving and loving the people of Costa Rica.

Hams and Briskets for Easter

The Costa Rica Mission team will be taking orders for Easter Hams and Briskets during the coming weeks to be prepared on our cookers and delivered on Sunday, March 24. Look for additional information in your Sunday school classroom and the church foyers.

Proyecto Abrigo (Project Shelter)

Denise Bailey will be traveling with a team to Juarez during spring break to build a home for a family in need. She ask for your prayers and, if interested, donations of beans, rice and other supplies for building or for the families. **Please call Denise Bailey [940-748-2085](tel:940-748-2085) if interested.**

Due to collaborative efforts **Methodist Missions Home** in now offering more services to people from all walks of Life and are now named **Providence Place**.

Anniversaries

- 3/04 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Watson
3/12 Mr. & Mrs. Brandon McComis
3/20 Mr. & Mrs. Randy McComis
3/25 Mr. & Mrs. Roy Dick
3/25 Mr. & Mrs. Cody Weirich

Prayer and Care ~ Prayer Shawl Ministries

Thank you for the shawl and all of your prayers that has sustained me throughout my recovery and continues to do so even now! Blessings!

Mary Nell Ebert

YOU'VE

NEVER

SEEN ANYTHING

LIKE

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3/02 Della Mann | 3/20 Jett Davenport |
| 3/02 Tammy McGuire | 3/23 Doug Younger |
| 3/03 Mignon Hudson | 3/23 Luan Reisch |
| 3/04 Tom Messer | 3/28 Elizabeth Reynolds |
| 3/07 Beverly Crisp | 3/29 Nancy Eaton |
| 3/07 Jared McComis | 3/29 Barry Whitehead |
| 3/08 Carol Colbert | 3/30 Tiffany Novicke |
| 3/08 Sandy Simmons | 3/30 Lonny Benham |
| 3/12 Brittany Whitehead | 3/30 Mason McComis |
| 3/14 Cindy Angell | 3/31 Debra Moyers |
| 3/15 Letha Tebbetts | 3/31 Steve Young |
| 3/15 Dale Davis | 3/31 Bailey Higgins |
| 3/15 Vicki Holder | |

In Memory of:

Jack Terrell

William Lopez

Don Silver

Given By:

Doug & Lynda Bridwell

Doug & Lynda Bridwell

Gaylord & Brenda Kennedy

Deanna Dimmitt

The Master Storyteller

First United Methodist Church

608 17th St • (940) 683-2780

March 17-20

Sunday 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Nightly 4:30 BibleQuest • 6:30 Worship & Drama

For the month of March we will be having a penny drive for the kids to raise money for the Food Pantry. The children will either bring it **Wednesday's and/or Sunday's**. This will be a competition between **boys vs. girls** and whomever has the most by the end of **March 31st** will either get to silly string or pie depending what the winning team wants) **Brittany Whitehead** the following Sunday April 7th during Sunday School.



We need lots of eggs and candy for our Easter Egg Hunt! Please drop donations by the church office or give to Brittany Whitehead. Egg Hunt will be on Easter March 31st at 10:50. We will be meet for Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall at 10 am to do crafts and dying eggs and have our egg hunt during the last 10 min of Sunday school.



Sunday, March 17th, starts the Wesley Putnam Dayspring Revival. The children will sign in at 4:30 for BibleQuest. The weekdays the children can arrive at 3:30 pm after school to do homework, play games, and have snacks then move into BibleQuest.

BibleQuest is designed for children grades K-6. Children are encouraged to walk closely with Jesus through the many activities of BibleQuest—memorizing scriptures, helping at home, inviting friends, singing songs, praying, and listening to stories of the people in the New Testament. Every child will sign in and be given a memory book, buttons, and stickers. Awards will be given at the beginning of the last evening service.





YOUTH



*Guy's at Bridgeport Pizza
Hut March 3rd @ 6pm*

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

March 6th, 20th, 27th @
Jr. High 3:30-5 & SR. High 6:30-8
No Wed night activities Mar. 13th



Parents Youth Meeting 6:30
March 4th

JR. HIGH CAMP OUT FRIDAY
3-8/3-10 FOR MORE INFO
CONTACT DEREK 940-577-6606

MYSTERY MEAL

Show up @ 6pm on
Mar.17th and we will see
where we go.
Bring \$10 for food

Come hear the Master's Storyteller as he presents a unique blend of story and song. If Elijah, a prophet

from the Old Testament, appeared today, what would he look and sound like? Through the imagination

of Wesley Putnam, "the Master's storyteller," you might meet Elijah as a Bronx cop, or see Daniel from

the lion's den as a West Texas cowboy. These and other stories bring ancient characters to life and convey truth in a fresh, relevant way for our generation.

There will be refreshing times of praise and worship, as Wesley and his wife, Felicia, bring an exciting blend of old and new songs to help people express their love for God. This time of renewal is for kids too.

BibleQuest is a fast-paced program designed to make learning Bible facts and truths exciting for elementary students. You will be amazed at how much they learn in a short time. You won't want to miss a single night!

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PO Box 237 / 608 17th St.

Bridgeport, TX 76426