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First UMC – Iraan



First UMC - McCamey



Everyday Disciples

The newsletter of the United Methodists in Iraan & McCamey

January 2011

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*When I sat down to write something appropriate for the start of our second year together, this prayer came to my attention.
May God grant us safe passage through the coming year.*

A Prayer for the New Year

Holy God, God of our yesterdays, our today, and our tomorrows.

We praise You for Your unequalled greatness.

Thank You for the year behind us and for the year ahead.

Help us in Your new year, merciful God, to fret less and laugh more. To teach our children to laugh by laughing with them.

To teach others to love by loving them. Knowing, when Love came to the stable in Bethlehem, He came for us.

So that Love could be with us, and we could know You.

That we could share Love with others.

Help us, Lord, to hear Your love song in every sunrise, in the chirping of sparrows in our backyards, in the stories of our old folks, and the fantasies of our children. Help us to stop and listen to Your love songs, so that we may know You better and better.

We rejoice in the world You loved into being.

Thank You for another new year and for new chances every day.

We pray for peace, for light, and for hope, that we might spread them to others.

Forgive us for falling short this past year.

We leave the irreparable past in your hands, and step out into the unknown new year knowing You will go with us.

We accept Your gift of a new year and we rejoice in what's ahead, depending on You to help us do exactly what You want.

I say it again, we rejoice! Amen.

Every blessing, *Pastor Charles*

"As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your "prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness?" The United Methodist Book of Worship, p. 93

PRAYERS

RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS: Leslie Adams, Al Alexander, Cleatus Brooks, Lewis Blackburn, Tommy Dale King Bullard, Jonnie Dempsey, Donnie Feagan, Mary Garcia, Peggy Garner, Robert Gill, Greg Haggard, Linda Harrison, Tom Hill, Giselle Holland, Eeva Huffaker, Jordan Jernigan, Elmer Jones, Payton Kennedy, Rod Kephart, Kade Kothman, Jim & Teresa Lovingood, Billie McKenzie, Lois Ann McKenzie, Shane McKenzie, Kathy Pearce, Geraldo Salazar, Doug Smith, Barb Snyder (Pastor's aunt), Albert Lee Teal, Brittany Templeton, the Turk family, Teresa Valenzuela, Jean Vandigriff (Pastor Charles' mother), 1LT Bradley Ward and Henry White.

Recent Prayer Joys: Cole is DONE with all his chemotherapy treatments; Brittany Templeton's surgery went very well; Gladys Dorris' doctor is confident her surgery will go well; Coy & Joan Coe are doing much better; The wonderful Christmas Eve worship services; the joy-filled "Christmas pageant in-a-bag" worship! The guests who worshipped with us in December; Successful holiday baking without burning fingers!

Please pray for those living on S. Grave Ave. & W. 12th Street in Iraan and for those living on Ellis Avenue and W. 5th Street in McCamey.

Please lift up the ministries of the Rev. Matt Pennington and the congregation of the [First United Methodist Church](#) in Bronte (Texas).

PRESENCE (December)

Average Weekly
Worship Attendance
Iraan: 16 McCamey: 32
Convalescent Center: 20

Christmas Eve at...
FUMC-McCamey: 31
Convalescent Center: 21

Average Weekly Faith
Formation Attendance
Iraan: 8 McCamey: 8

GIFTS: [Human Relations Day](#) is one of the six special offerings received by United Methodist Churches to celebrate our connectional work. This day of social action and raising awareness aims to heal social ills at the national level.

It supports [Community Developers](#), [United Methodist Voluntary Service \(UMVS\)](#), and the [Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program](#). The first two programs are administered through the General Board of Global Ministries.

UMC Quick Quiz

(answers on page eight)

1. The first "*Wesleyan Covenant Service*" took place in what year? Where was it held?
2. Who is the San Angelo District Lay Leader?
3. Where would you look to find the "*standards of doctrine*" of the United Methodist Church?



NURTURE – OUTREACH – WITNESS

**The Ministries of the
United Methodist Churches
in Iraan and McCamey**

Nurture

	January	SCRIPTURE LESSON	SERMON
Epiphany Sunday	2	Isaiah 60:1-6	<i>“A light for the nations”</i>
Baptism of the Lord Sunday	9	Isaiah 42:1-9	<i>“Come to the water”</i>
Second Sunday after the Epiphany	16	John 1:29-42	<i>“Come and see”</i>
Third Sunday after the Epiphany	23	Matthew 4:12-23	<i>“Time to fish or cut bait”</i>
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	30	I Corinthians 1:18-31	<i>“Does it make sense to you?”</i>

First UMC in McCamey will be receiving **new members** on Sunday, January 9th. If you are interested in uniting with this community of faith, please contact Pastor Charles by January 5th. Those wishing to receive the **Sacrament of Baptism** on that date are also requested to contact Pastor Charles by January 2nd.

Christmas Pageant 2010



We celebrated the birth of our Lord at the First UMC in Iraan (on December 19th) with a “**Christmas pageant in-a-bag!**”

It was great!



With beautiful angels, a feisty Mary & Joseph and an innkeeper complete with a real dog, our Christmas pageant was a blessing!





At the First UMC in McCamey, we celebrated the birth of our Lord on Christmas Eve with a "Christmas pageant in-a-bag!"

Following the service, we shared Jesus' birthday cupcakes and some warm mulled cider, yum!



Thanks to everyone who took part in our Christmas pageant!

See YOU in 2011!

The December meeting of the **United Methodist Women** took place at the home of Peggy Garner with nine present.

Cytha Peters presented the program which spoke to us from the perspective of the various players in the Nativity story. A tasty potluck, including homemade tamales, was enjoyed by all.

We followed the meal with a gift exchange – what fun! Theodora Matthews provided a special touch for the gathering by reading the story, *“Time for a Cup of Christmas Tea.”*

We are looking forward to another fantastic year in 2011 with the UMW!



The next meeting will take place on **January 10th at 7:00 p.m.** (in the adult church school room, off the fellowship hall).

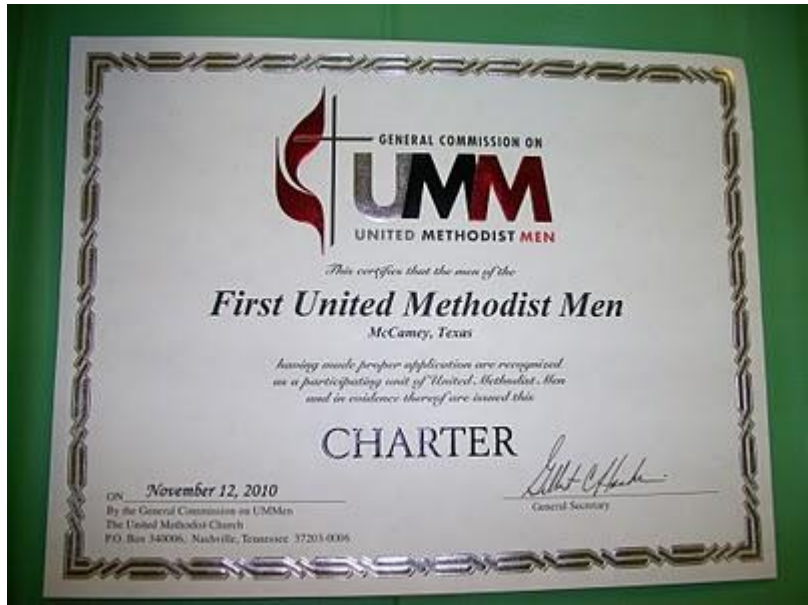


The United Methodist Men are officially back at the First UMC in McCamey after a long absence. The unit's charter has been received and will soon be hanging in the kitchen of our church!

Jim Witcher provided a wonderful casserole and biscuits for our breakfast.

We decided that our mission focus would be on the community food pantry and securing a project in McCamey with The United Methodist Church's **NOMADS** (*Nomads On a Mission Active in Divine Service*) next year.

Due to the first Saturday of January being New Year's Day, the next men's breakfast will be on **February 5th**.



UMC Quick Quiz (from page three)

1. The first "Wesleyan Covenant Service" took place on Monday, August 11, 1755, at [Christ Church, Spitalfields](#) in London, with 1,800 people present.
2. Jill Preston, First UMC – Eldorado, is the San Angelo District Lay Leader.
3. The Articles of Religion of The Methodist Church and the Confession of Faith of The Evangelical United Brethren Church form a foundation of doctrine for United Methodists. They, along with *Wesley's Sermons on Several Occasions* and *Wesley's Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament*, are "standards" of doctrine for United Methodists. (for more on these items, see [this link](#).)

McCamey UMC's on the Town



The monthly "*night on the town*" took place at Elena's Kitchen (on Dec. 10th). We had a wonderful time, lots of laughter and conversation swirled around the tables.

Belinda's mother, Sheila Hammit (from San Angelo), brought some English "[Christmas Crackers](#)" to share at the gathering. It was so much fun sharing the joke that came with each cracker and watching everyone try on their paper "crown."

You're invited to join us on January 21st at **Benoit's** in McCamey for the next "Dutch Treat" meal.

Faith Formation:

Iraan: James Jordan is leading the class (the class meets in the fellowship hall following the worship service) through the Five Books of Moses. The group is currently in the Book of Exodus.

McCamey: Bobbie Lester is leading the Adult Bible Study through Isaiah, chapters 45 – 53 (the class meets before the worship service at 9:45 a.m.).

Fellowship in Iraan



Fellowship is a part of every Sunday morning (before worship) at the First UMC in Iraan.

Each Sunday morning you can find members and guests in the kitchen and fellowship hall sharing coffee, tasty treats and some lively conversation.

In the photo (top left), some of the community that gathered on December 12th can be seen with the UMC cross (held by Wanda Morrow) which was made by Burton Lanehart (right).



January's fellowship breakfast potluck will be on the 23rd.



Outreach



McCamey Convalescent Center Christmas Party

A fun time was had by all at the convalescent center's Christmas party on December 11th. Bobbie Lester and Belinda Alkula led the group in singing some favorite Christmas carols. And then a group from the First Assembly of God Church (McCamey) joined them in singing some more carols/songs of the season. There was loads of delicious food and punch ... AND a surprise visitor arrived to the delight of everyone present!



Hey McCamey: The next **Badgers for Christ** will be on January 19th. Join us as we welcome the Badgers back in 2011.

The **EXCELL youth program**, sponsored by the McCamey Ministerial Alliance, will be hosted by the First UMC in McCamey on January 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve at the McCamey Convalescent Center

On Friday, December 24th the First UMC in McCamey provided a Christmas Eve worship service at the McCamey Convalescent Center (MCC). With the MCC dining room being renovated we took to the hallway in front of the Nurses station for our worship service. We celebrated a modified service of lessons and carols and what a blessing this service was!

Belinda Alkula led the MCC hand bell group, comprised of eight residents and FUMC members and friends, in playing *Joy to the World* and *Jingle Bells*. What fun it was to hear this energetic group!

Thanks to Belinda Alkula, Verla Flading, Nic & Amy Gray, Alice Kephart, Bill & Bobbie Lester and Cytha Peters for sharing in this special service.



(L) Bobbie Lester, Cleatus Brooks, Verla Flading and Alice Kephart ring in the Christmas season at the MCC Christmas Eve Service! (Top right) the Advent wreath we used during December – look: no flame! (Lower-right) Belinda Alkula encourages the ringers during “Jingle Bells!”

Witness

McCamey Ministerial Alliance (MMA) News

The annual **Angel Tree** in McCamey was a successful ministry: thirty-three children received gifts on Christmas Day from the community.

The Angel Tree is sponsored each year by the McCamey Ministerial Alliance (MMA). The **angel tree** was located this year in the lobby of Security Bank. Individuals and organizations stopped at the bank to select "angels" from the tree.

Thanks to **Sherriff Dan Brown** and members of his staff who helped to deliver the gifts to children in McCamey in time for Christmas.



The first meeting of the MMA in 2011 will take place on January 11th at noon. We'll be meeting at Benoit's for a "working lunch."

The First UMC in McCamey contributed to the **food bank (at the First Baptist Church)** in December. The food came from the Community Thanksgiving Service. Thanks to Glen Smart (right) who made the delivery.

The blogs of FUMC - Iraan & FUMC - McCamey:

www.fumc-mccamey.blogspot.com or
www.fumc-iraan.blogspot.com

We soared past the 15,000 "hit" mark last month! The sky is the limit!



We have 67 members on the two Facebook groups – can we reach 100 members in January? Will you help?



Calendar

First UMC – Iraan

Each Sunday –

Fellowship Time @ 9:00 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Church School @ 10:30 a.m.

Other events:

Ad Board – Jan. 12, 6:00 p.m.

Potluck Breakfast –

Jan. 23, 8:30 a.m.

Pastor Charles in Iraan

January 5, 19, 26

First UMC – McCamey

Each Sunday –

Fellowship Time @ 9:30 a.m.

Church School @ 10:00 a.m.

Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

Convalescent Center @ 1:00 p.m.

Each Wednesday –

Choir, 7:00 p.m./Bells, 8:00 p.m.

Each Thursday – Coffee @

Convalescent Center, 10:00 a.m.

Other events:

UMM – No breakfast this month

UMW – Jan. 10 @ 7:00 p.m.

Ministerial Alliance –

Jan. 11, Noon @ Benoit's

Ad Board – Jan. 16, 6:00 p.m.

Chamber of Commerce –

Jan. 18, Noon @ Benoit's

Badgers for Christ –

Jan. 19, Noon

EXCELL Youth – Jan. 19,

7:00 p.m. (at First UMC)

UMC Night Out @ Benoit's,

Jan. 21 @ 6:00 p.m.

Epiphany of the Lord, January 6th

Epiphany's literal meaning is "manifestation" – an indication of the existence or presence of something, especially of a divine being.

The season continues until the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday.

It is the third and final observance of the Christmas Cycle (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany); the other cycle is the Easter Cycle (Lent-Easter-Pentecost).

Thank You Notes

Iraan:

*Thanks to **Burton Lanehart** for the lovely crosses he has been making and sharing with the congregation.

*Thanks to **Deanna & James Jordan** for decorating the sanctuary (and the outdoor Nativity display). It was beautiful!

*Thanks to [William G. Hartwell](#) who shared his musical gift during our worship service on December 19th.

*Thanks to **Belinda Alkula, Marie Richardson, Deanna Jordan and Ronnie Ward** for bringing the goodies for our fellowship time last month.

*Thanks to **Deanna Jordan** for sharing her home-made soup gifts with the congregation!

*Thanks to Ed & Wanda Carpenter for the fabulous biscuits & gravy for breakfast!

McCamey:

*Thanks to **Belinda Alkula** for introducing the bells to the residents of the McCamey Convalescent Center (MCC). Thanks also to **Joan Darby, Verla Flading, Nic & Amy Gray, Roy & Alice Kephart, Bill & Bobbie Lester, Cytha Peters and Mike Sherrod** for sharing in the MCC ministry activities.

*Thanks to **Yajaira** (pronounced "Yah-Hi-Rah") **Cavazos**, who takes cares for our children during the worship service each week.

*Thanks to **Glen Smart** for delivering the FUMC contribution to the food bank at the First Baptist Church.

*Thanks to **Bill Lester** for filling in for Coy Coe as our usher during December.

*Thanks to **Roy Kephart** and **Randy Brown** for setting up the Nativity display (complete with lights and bales of straw) in the church courtyard. Thanks to **Gary Elliott** for the straw!

*Thanks to all of the **church musicians** for sharing their gifts with us this month - Louise Carll, Cytha Peters, Marilyn Whitaker and the choir give so much in service to the Lord!

*Thanks to everyone who helped decorate the church for Advent and Christmas: **Belinda and Pastor Charles, Louise Carll, Bill & Bobbie Lester, Billie Mitchell, Jean Myrick, Gloria Odom and Jim & Mary Witcher.**

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**From Pastor Charles & Belinda:** Thank you to both congregations for the very generous and thoughtful gifts which were given to us for Christmas. The love, support and kindness y'all have shown us over the past year have meant so much to us, thank you!