



FIRST UMC – Iraan
 P.O. Box 816 (401 S. Harte St.)
 Iraan, Texas 79744
iraanumc@gmail.com
 (432) 639-2333

FIRST UMC – McCamey
 P.O. Box 964 (1601 S. Burlson)
 McCamey, Texas 79752
mccameyumc@gmail.com
 (432) 652-8824

Pastor's Phone #
 Cell # (432) 208-8201
 Parsonage # (432) 652-3476

First UMC – Iraan



First UMC - McCamey



Everyday Disciples

The e-newsletter of the United Methodists in Iraan & McCamey

January 2012

INDEX

P. 1	Index	P. 6	UMW & UMM
P. 2	New Year's Resolutions	P. 7-8	Outreach Ministries
P. 3	Prayers – Presence – Gifts	P. 9	Witness Ministries
P. 4-6	Nurture Ministries	P. 10	Events in January
P. 4	Worship in January	P. 11	Thank You Notes

"New Year's Resolutions"

The late Erma Bombeck made these New Year's resolutions:

1. I'm going to clean this dump just as soon as the kids grow up.
2. I will go to no doctor whose office plants have died.
3. I'm going to follow my husband's suggestion to put a little excitement into my life by living within our budget.
4. I'm going to apply for a hardship scholarship to Weight Watchers.
5. I will never loan my car to anyone I have given birth to.
6. And just like last year...I am going to remember that my children need love the most when they deserve it the least.

Numbers 1-5 make us laugh, but number 6 makes us think. If we only make one resolution let it be number 6: To love our children "the most when they deserve it the least."

Isn't that what God has done and does every single day of our lives? God loves us the most when we deserve it the least, because we are all sinners fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 5:8), but *"where sin increased, grace abounded all the more."* (Rom. 5:20).

When we deserved God's love the least *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3:16).

So, as you begin this New Year resolve not only to love your children the most when they deserve it the least, but to love your neighbor the same way, because God loved you the most, so much that God gave you God's one and only heavenly Son. *"If you who are evil know how to give good things to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good thing to those who ask Him?"* (Matt. 7:11).

The greatest gift we can give is our love. Resolve to love the unlovable, because that is the way of the Cross.

- The Rev. Dr. Richard Leaver

Dr. Leaver is currently Chaplain of Collingswood Manor assisted living community in Collingswood, NJ, a United Methodist Homes facility.

"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

Joys: +Visits from family and friends
+Children who are willing to serve in worship
+The rain we got last month
+Birthdays & anniversaries.

Concerns: +We continue to need rain. +Families of Billie McKenzie, Pete Mitchell and Bill Teas +**Continued**

Prayers: +Our church. +Our schools. +Our country and our leaders. +Our military and their families. +The unemployed. +The homeless. +Victims of natural disasters. +Countries fighting for freedom.

Healing prayers: Aaron Braden, Tommy Zale King Bullard, Dottie Brewer, Eddy Carpenter, Sean Chavez, Jeanene Christian, Sandy Coe, Cleo Darby, Jonnie Dempsey, Mary Faust, Samantha Fitzgerald, Terry Gill, Greg Haggard, Billie Harris, Jane Harrison, Maxine Hyden, Elmer Jones, Kash Kelso, DeWayne Lindsey, Aurora Lopez, Julie Lynch, Lois Ann McKenzie, Shane McKenzie, Maylee Mahone, Pat Miller, Jerry Phillips, Freda Pippin, Jack Perry, Helen Remy, Edith Reynolds, Doug Smith, Emma Smith, Melody Smith, Sue Sorrels, Alfred Lee Teal, Amy Templeton, Jean Vandigriff, Colton Ward, Henry White, Tammy Williford, Elma Wolfe and all who are being treated at the Odessa Cancer Center.

Please be in prayer for the Rev. Steve Peyton and the congregation of the [First UMC – Robert Lee](#) and the First UMC - Water Valley.

8 year-old Samantha Fitzgerald (Glen Smart's great-niece) can be visited at www.caringbridge.org. Type: SamanthaFitzgerald when prompted for the web site name.

PRESENCE

Average Weekly Worship Attendance

Iraan: 14 McCamey: 34

Christmas Eve Service: 42

Convalescent Center Christmas Eve: 20

Average Weekly Faith Formation Attendance

Iraan: 10 McCamey: 8

GIFTS

+What we do with our money, including our giving, cannot be excluded from our Christian discipleship so praying about giving matters.

Without prayer at the heart of Giving in Grace we run the danger of divorcing it from the spirituality of both individual Christians and the ethos of the church.

+Prayer matters to us because money is a spiritual issue and our use of it is crucial to our spiritual growth. It is no accident that Jesus talked about money matters more than he ever did about prayer or faith. This is because how we handle our money has a direct bearing on how we grow in our faith.

+Thinking, talking and acting with integrity around money is not a necessary evil but a natural part of the worshipping, praying, missionary life of the Church. *"Just as you excel in all things - in faith, speech, knowledge in utmost eagerness and in our love for you - so we want you to excel also in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7)*

*Please keep in your prayers **Derek Wiley** and all American military and civilian support personnel serving in Afghanistan. Please lift up **Ryan Wiley** and all of the service members serving overseas.*

Please also lift up in your prayers the families who look for the safe return of their loves ones.



NURTURE – OUTREACH – WITNESS

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

NURTURE MINISTRIES

Worship in January

Sundays in January	January	SCRIPTURE LESSON	SERMON
<i>Epiphany of the Lord Sunday</i>	1	Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3	<i>A new day</i>
<i>Baptism of the Lord Sunday</i>	8	Mark 1:4-11	<i>This we believe</i>
<i>Second Sunday after Epiphany</i>	15	I Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)	<i>Third time is the charm</i>
<i>Third Sunday after Epiphany</i>	22	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	<i>What would it take today?</i>
<i>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</i>	29	Mark 1:21-28	<i>The Word of the Lord</i>

New members will be welcomed on Sunday, January 8th during the morning worship services. Persons who have previously joined the local church who are interested in recommitting themselves to the fellowship of believers will also be recognized.

Fellowship

The **FUMC – Iraan**
January breakfast potluck
will be on the 22nd, starting
at 8:30 a.m.

McCamey UMC on the Town

“No muss – no fuss – no program!”

Our monthly gathering in December took place at Benoit’s where we gathered for some good food and great fellowship.

This month’s gathering will be on **Friday, January 20th** at Elena’s (starting at 6:00 p.m.).



If the primary purpose of the local church is to make disciples for the transformation of the world, then the first step is to make of each member a disciple of Jesus Christ capable of transforming first themselves, and then we can look at transforming the world.

UMC Quiz (answers on page nine)

1. The comic ‘super hero,’ *Supergirl*, has a pastor named after a real-life UMC pastor. Who is he?
2. Fetter Lane Moravian Church in London is important in Methodism’s history for what reason?
3. A beautiful hymn for New Years Day is, “*Another Year is Dawning*,” who wrote this hymn?

Be sure to check out the on-line **Sunday school!** Look on either the [Iraan](#) or [McCamey](#) websites for this great resource.



The December meeting of the UMW took place at the home of Louise Carll on the 12th. Cytha Peters offered the program and Louise Carll served as hostess.

Next UMW Meeting:
January 9th at the First UMC in McCamey at 7:00 p.m.

2012 UMW Reading Program

UMW members are encouraged to take part in the [2012 UMW Reading Program](#). The Reading Program encourages members to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. It offers an excellent opportunity to deepen your spirituality and to broaden your understanding of our mission work. Click the books shown on the link above to explore the 2012 Reading Program selections and purchase online.

For 140 years, members of United Methodist Women and predecessor organizations have been involved in mission that includes prayer, study and action. The Reading Program is a study opportunity, but it should also lead to action.

Links you can use:

+[San Angelo District UMW](#) +[SWTX Conference UMW](#)
+[South Central Jurisdiction UMW](#) +[The United Methodist Women](#)
+[SWTX Conference UMM](#) +[The United Methodist Men](#)

The December UMM meeting took place on Monday, December 5th, a very cold night in McCamey. The men who gathered enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Glen Smart. Pastor Charles led the discussion from [Bad Boys of the Bible](#) on Abraham.



The January meeting will be on the 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at the church. We'll be looking at the story of Lot found in Genesis, chapter 19. Please join us!



***Thanks to everyone at the First UMC in McCamey for the donation
of poinsettias for use in the sanctuary during Advent:***

Jennifer Aguilar in memory of James & Bernie Colbert

In memory of Mattie Whitaker

Joan & Coy Coe in memory of Mr. & Mrs. H.L. Wagon

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Dill

Luann Elliott in memory of Foye & Bettye Stricklin

Jack & Peggy Garner in memory of our loved ones

The Jacobsen family in memory of Harvey Jacobsen

Billie Mitchell in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Bill Parham

In memory of Louie Parham

The Myrick family in memory of David Myrick

Sherry Phillips in memory of Jewel & Nath Stephenson

In memory of Kenneth & Faegene Babcock

Gloria Odom in memory of Eddie Odom

In memory of Gomer & Louise Rogers

Cytha Peters in memory of John & Gladys Elliott

The congregation in honor of Pastor Charles & Belinda Alkula

Outreach Ministries

Let's Get Radical: Think Justice

Radical means “from the root or foundation.” That is how Jesus changed lives and how we, his followers, are called to change the world. Being in ministry with the poor requires a radical or fundamental approach to overcoming not just the consequences but also the causes of poverty. It's a matter of justice.

Your [Human Relations Day offering](#) supports vital community ministries that teach and advocate for justice, especially among people struggling to survive in the margins of society.

For example, students at United Methodist-related [Philander Smith College](#) in Little Rock, Ark., are becoming more involved in social concerns with help from the United Methodist Voluntary Service program. Combining academics with activism, the tiny, historically black college—with “Think Justice” as its motto—is teaching students to pursue justice for a better world.

During one Thanksgiving week students explored and responded to the worsening plight of hunger and homelessness in central Arkansas. They hosted a Faces of the Homeless symposium, volunteered at a shelter and soup kitchen, slept in cardboard boxes outdoors overnight and collected food and clothing for 100 needy families. Other lessons have come from a letter-writing campaign to lobby for tougher drunk-driving laws and public forums with consciousness-raising guest speakers.

Your gifts to **Human Relations Day** (Jan. 15) provide avenues to restored relationships through ministries like Youth Offender Rehabilitation, Community Developers self-improvement programs and United Methodist Voluntary Services community advocacy programs. It's time to think and support justice, to become radical in changing lives and changing the world. [Please give generously.](#)



The 2011 McCamey Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is an annual outreach program sponsored by the McCamey Ministerial Alliance.

This year saw thirty-nine local children having a happier Christmas morning due to the generosity of McCamey community residents.





The Next **Badgers for Christ** will be on January 18th at Noon.

The **EXCEL program** (a youth ministry supported by the McCamey Ministerial Alliance) will gather this month on the 18th at 7:00 p.m. The location will be announced.

If you would like to be a speaker at a **Badgers for Christ** lunch gathering, please [contact the pastor](#).

Speakers are needed for these dates:

January 18

February 15

March 21

April 18



McCamey Food Pantry

As the New Year begins, please remember the community food pantry located at the First Baptist Church (FBC) in McCamey as you go to the store.

Non-perishable donations can be brought to the FUMC-McCamey and placed in the fellowship hall. Frozen items or other perishable items should be taken directly to the FBC. [Visit this link](#) for the list of food needs.

Contact Judy Eyler at FBC with any questions regarding the food pantry: [First Baptist Church of McCamey](#), 820 Burlison Ave. (P.O. Box 1230) McCamey, Texas 79752

McCamey Convalescent Center (MCC)

The weekly worship service at the MCC has changed times to 2:00 p.m. on Sundays.

Dianna Sykes, from Iraan, is taking the lead in offering this ministry.

The Thursday morning coffee & donuts gathering (10:00 a.m.) will continue as it has in the past.

UMC Quiz Answers

1. [The Rev. Larry Varvel](#), Supergirl's [United] Methodist minister, first appeared in *Supergirl* Vol. 4, issue #3.
2. The Moravians used a site on Fetter Lane from 1740 onwards. It was the first Moravian chapel in Britain and was officially registered in 1742. John and Charles Wesley were inspired by the experiences they shared with the Moravians and met with the Fetter Lane society frequently throughout 1738, but eventually broke away from the society in 1739. See [Fetter Lane Moravian Church](#) for more information.
3. The lyrics are by Frances R. Havergal (1836-1879) with the music by Samuel S. Wesley (1810-1876), grandson of Charles Wesley.

Witness Ministries



COUNCIL OF BISHOPS
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 10, 2011

Dear United Methodist Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ who calls us to faithfulness during a time of great and unsettling change around the world that God loves so deeply and also within the Body of Christ where Jesus is both head and redeemer.

We give thanks for each one of you as you seek to be faithful witnesses and fruitful disciples wherever God has called you to live and share the grace that offers salvation to the world. Your faithfulness brings encouragement, inspiration and hope to us and to all who live in the influence of your witness.

In a time when the world seems to be torn apart with division, inequality, injustice, hatred and violence, as Christians we bear responsibility to give witness to "*a more excellent way*" (First Corinthians 12:31). The church is not exempt from struggles. We are not the first to experience upheaval in culture and church and we are not the first to have serious and deep disagreements about issues of great importance.

One of the deep disagreements and divisions within the church is over the practice of homosexuality, recently heightened by a group of clergy who have declared that they will perform holy unions in opposition to the *Book of Discipline*. This has caused different experiences of deep pain throughout the church. As the bishops of the church, we commit ourselves to be in prayer for the whole church and for the brokenness our communities experience. Furthermore, we "*implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons*" (§161.f). We will continue to offer grace upon grace to all in the name of Christ.

At times like these we call upon each other to remember and renew our covenant with God and with one another as United Methodist Christians. As bishops chosen, consecrated and assigned by the Church, we declare once again our commitment to be faithful to this covenant we have made. As the Council of Bishops we will uphold the *Book of Discipline* as established by General Conference.

Even in the midst of our differences, we believe that we can together be about our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We invite all United Methodists, lay and clergy, to join us in strengthening our congregations unto greater vitality for the sake of our mission.

To that end, may we continue to live together in the spirit of Philippians 2:1-5: "*Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort in love, any sharing in the Spirit, any sympathy, complete my joy by thinking the same way, having the same love, being united and agreeing with each other. Don't do anything for selfish purposes but with humility think of others as better than yourselves. Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others. Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus.*"

Your brothers and sisters in Christ, *The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church*

Calendar

First UMC – Iraan

Each Sunday –

Fellowship Time @ 9:00 a.m.
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Church School @ 10:30 a.m.
Convalescent Center @ 2:00 p.m.

Each Tuesday –

Ladies Bible Study, 10 a.m. @ the
First Baptist Church in Iraan or at
4 p.m. @ the Iraan High School
Library

Each Thursday –

Coffee & donuts @ McCamey
Convalescent Center, 10:00 a.m.

Other Events

Epiphany Day – January 6th

Ad Board – January 11th @
6:00 p.m.

**San Angelo District
Celebration & Leadership
Training** – January 21st,
9:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. @
First UMC (San Angelo)

Potluck Breakfast –
January 22nd, @ 8:30 a.m.

First UMC – McCamey

Each Sunday –

Fellowship Time @ 9:30 a.m.
Church School @ 9:45 a.m.
Worship @ 11:00 a.m.
Convalescent Center @ 2:00 p.m.

Each Tuesday – Cub Scouts @ TBA

Each Wednesday – Choir @ 7:00 p.m.

Each Thursday –

Coffee & donuts @ McCamey
Convalescent Center, 10:00 a.m.

Other Events

UMM – January 2nd @ 6:00 p.m.

Epiphany Day – January 6th

UMW – January 9th @ 7:00 p.m.

Ministerial Alliance –

January 10th, 12:30 p.m. @ Benoit's

Ad Board – January 15th @ 6:00 p.m.

Badgers for Christ – Jan. 18th @ Noon

Excel – January 18th @ 6:00 p.m.

UMC Night Out– January 20th,
6:00 p.m. @ Elena's

**San Angelo District Celebration and
Leadership Training** – January 21st,
9:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. @ First UMC (San
Angelo)

*Remember:
Everything you do is evangelism.*

Thank you notes

Iraan

- +Thanks to **Kirke McKenzie** for his help in decorating the church for Advent.
- +Thanks to **James Jordan** and **Kirke McKenzie** for leading the singing.
- +Thanks to **Wanda Carpenter** for serving as lay reader each week.
- +Thanks to **Cathy Allen** for preparing the bulletins each week.
- +Thanks to everyone for lending their culinary talents for the **monthly breakfast potluck!**

McCamey

- +Thanks to **Randy Brown, Gary Elliott, Roy Kephart, Gloria Odom,** and **Mary Witcher** for their help in decorating the inside and outside of the church for Advent.
- +Thanks to **Sherry Phillips** for delivering the poinsettias for the sanctuary.
- +Thanks to **Debbie White** for her help with the Communion set-up in December.
- +Thanks to **Glen Smart** for stepping in as liturgist on December 4th.
- +Thanks to **Dollie Lynch** and **Donny Wiley** for serving as liturgists.
- +Thanks to **Jonah Adams, Gary Elliott, Cadyn Miles, and Bradyn Molina** for helping with the offering each week.
- +Thanks to **Jonah Adams, Taylor Adams, Randy Brown, Mike Sherrod** and **Donny Wiley** for helping with the readings at the Christmas Eve service.
- +Thanks to **Sherry Phillips** and **Debbie White** for their efforts with the community Angel Tree and to everyone who brought gifts for the children in our community.
- +Thanks to **Tandy Adams** and **Cytha Peters** for offering their musical gifts at the Convalescent Center on Christmas Eve.
- +++++
Thanks to **Dianna Sykes** (from the First Baptist Church in Iraan) for leading the convalescent center worship.
- +++++
Thanks to both congregations for the generous and thoughtful ways we were remembered during the Christmas season. **Dr. Charles & Belinda Alkula**