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First UMC – Iraan



First UMC - McCamey



## Everyday Disciples

*The newsletter of the United  
 Methodists in Iraan & McCamey*

# July 2011

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# From the Pastor

I want to share the following blog post from [the Rev. Joseph Yoo](#), a pastor at Valencia UMC (in California). Pastor Yoo asks a question that we, as United Methodists and as Christians, must ask ourselves if we are to be faithful servants of God:

## **How Is It With Your Soul?**

John Wesley would open up all small group meetings with “How is it with your soul?” That’s a far deeper question than, “How are you?” I mean, how is your soul doing? How is your spirit faring? I mean, really, *how are you?*

I have had to step back a bit here and there to really ask myself, “How is it with my soul?” And in asking this question, I have to also really look at my everyday life and the things I do every day.

What are the things that I’m engaging in that bring my soul closer to its rightful owner, God? What are the things that I’m doing that are putting a wedge between God and myself? What are the things that I’m doing in my life that really makes my soul shine brightly and flourish? What are the things that I do that cover my soul’s light with dark clouds? It’s really embarrassing to admit that I seem to be doing things that are not helpful to my soul. Or to be more accurate, activities, which aren’t that important, but take precedence and priority over God.

When things are difficult for me, when I’m moody and on the fritz, I know it’s because I haven’t been caring for my soul. Someone once told me that prayer is to our souls as breathing is to our bodies. I neglect prayer, quite often. I neglect God, too. And I just feel... heavy.

But worship refreshes me. I don’t mean *just* the worship on Sundays. But things that make my soul feel connected. The worship that happens every day: Reading a chapter of Proverbs when I wake up; engaging someone in conversation about God; meditating on the Words of God; riding my bike with music blaring in headphones; praying; laughing; basking in the weather and the glories of God.

Basically I am refreshed by anything that reminds me of God, who God is, and who I am in God’s plan. Anything that helps me remember that God is in charge and I belong to God, never the other way around, is good worship.

So, how is it with your soul? What are things that you do that bring you closer to God on an everyday basis? What are things that you do that pull you further away from God, on an everyday basis? What are the things you do to engage in worshiping, adoring and praising God in your daily life?

***How is it with your soul?***

"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:** Some rain in June! Maurine Jacobsen's granddaughter's wedding; Bradley Ward has returned from Iraq; Pastor Charles' reappointment to Iraan/McCamey; visits from family and friends; New residents at the convalescent center.

**Healing Mercies:** Tony A.'s cousin Joel got a clean bill health, i.e., no more signs of cancer. Miley B.'s successful surgeries; Elena B.; Sheila H., (Belinda A.'s mother).

**Concerns:** Prayers for the families of Al Alexander, Hickman family, Manuel Luna, Kade Kothman, Diana McAnally, Russell Morris and for the Rodriguez family. Healing prayers for Edna Earle Benton, Miley Barrandey, Tommy Bullard, Ed Carpenter, Eddy Carpenter, Joanne Darby, Jonnie Dempsey, Verla Flading, Sheila Hammit, Greg Haggard, Maxine Hyden, Billie McKenzie, Lois Ann McKenzie, Shane McKenzie, Billie Harris, Maylee Mahone, Kathy Pearce, Helen Remy, Lawrence Schneider, Neil Sconiers, Doug Smith, Alfred Lee Teal, and Ryan Wiley. Those responding to natural disaster; our need for rain.

**Please pray** for those living and working on US 190 and TX 349 in Iraan and for those living on Mesa Avenue and Juno Avenue in McCamey.

**Please lift** up the ministries of the Rev. Bill Harris and the congregation of [St. Luke UMC](#) (San Angelo).

## PRESENCE

Average Weekly Worship Attendance

Iraan: 19 McCamey: 31

Convalescent Center: 23

Average Weekly Faith Formation Attendance

Iraan: 10 McCamey: 12

## GIFTS:

### **The Twenty and the One**

A well-worn one-dollar bill and a similarly distressed twenty-dollar bill arrived at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired.

As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation. The twenty-dollar bill reminisced about its travels all over the country.

"I've had a pretty good life," the twenty proclaimed... "Why I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the finest restaurants in New York, performances on Broadway, and even a cruise to the Caribbean ..."  
"Wow!" said the one-dollar bill. "You've really had an exciting life!" "So, tell me," says the twenty, "where have you been throughout your lifetime?"

The one dollar bill replies, "Oh, I've been to the United Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Lutheran Church ..."  
The twenty-dollar bill interrupts, "What's a church?"

**REMEMBER:**

*Everything you do is evangelism.*



NURTURE – OUTREACH – WITNESS

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

# Nurture Ministries

## *Worship in July*

Sundays after Pentecost	JULY	SCRIPTURE LESSON	SERMON
<b>Third Sunday</b>	<b>3</b>	Romans 7:15-26a	<i>“What do you want?”</i>
<b>Fourth Sunday</b>	<b>10</b>	Romans 8:1-11	<i>“You are in the Spirit”</i>
<b>Fifth Sunday</b>	<b>17</b>	Romans 8:12-25	<i>“Subjected to hope”</i>
<b>Sixth Sunday</b>	<b>24</b>	Romans 8:26-39	<i>“Nothing, really?”</i>
<b>Seventh Sunday</b>	<b>31</b>	Romans 9:1-5	<i>“Confirmed by the Spirit”</i>

**Would you like to learn about what goes into each Sunday’s sermon?**

Pastor Charles is looking to start a lectionary study group that meets each week to discuss the four lessons presented in the lectionary readings – these readings come from the Old Testament, the Psalms, the Epistles and from the Gospel accounts. Particular attention will be given to the primary text that the pastor will be preaching on the following Sunday.

What the pastor is asking for is who will join him in studying the scriptures? If you are someone who is ready to go a little deeper, work a little harder and want to learn a little more, then contact Pastor Charles and let him know some times and days you can meet. Look for the schedule in the August newsletter.



## The United Methodist Women (UMW)



The June UMW meeting was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> with ten in attendance. Cytha Peters presented a musical program featuring some nice jazz arrangements of some old standard hymns. Cytha also served as the evening's hostess and offered ice cream and cherry pie.



*The next meeting will take place on July 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the home of Louise Carll.*

**UMW School of  
Christian Missions 2011  
(July 14 – 17)**

***“Studies on Haiti”***  
Mt. Wesley Conference Center  
610 Methodist Encampment Rd.  
Kerrville, TX

### **UMC QUIZ (answers on page 8):**

1. No Methodists are known to have signed the Declaration of Independence or the Articles of Confederation but two signed the U.S. Constitution. Who were they?
2. When was Mount Wesley in Kerrville established?
3. A new supplement to the hymnal was published this year. What is it called?



In June, we joined a number of First UMC members and other Upton County residents for the annual “Cowboy Breakfast.” It really makes living in a small town fun!

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, we’ll be meeting at the church and studying Moses (from Bad Boys of the Bible).

### McCamey UMC’s on the Town:

We had a great time at our June supper at Benoit’s.

Belinda passed out bottles of bubbles to everyone to enjoy in the summer breeze!

**Next month:** July 15<sup>th</sup> at Elena’s  
(starting at 6:00 p.m.)  
*“No muss – no fuss – no program!”*



Let’s Play Ball! Or at least go to a ball game! Let’s go to the Midland Rockhounds game on July 29<sup>th</sup> against the San Antonio Missions.

If you are interested in going, we can secure tickets and have “UMC Night” at the ballpark. The tickets cost \$9 (for groups of 14 or fewer), \$7 for groups of 15 or more. Please contact Pastor Charles by July 15<sup>th</sup> if you are interested in going so we can arrange for group seating.

Car-pooling will be available.



# Iraan Fellowship

When we gather each week, we are engaged in one of the oldest practices of the Christian faith – fellowship.

To the casual observer, we are just “hanging out,” drinking coffee or juice, sharing in some treats that are home-made or store-bought. What we are really doing is being church.



## “FELLOWSHIP”

1. The condition of sharing similar interests, ideals, or experiences, as by reason of profession, religion, or nationality.
2. The companionship of individuals in a congenial atmosphere and on equal terms.
3. A close association of friends or equals sharing similar interests.

**This is who we are.**

**The July breakfast potluck will be on the 24<sup>th</sup>, starting at 8:30 a.m.**



## Celebrate with the First UMC–McCamey!

Come and celebrate Independence Day with the First UMC-McCamey on July 3<sup>rd</sup> with an old-fashioned root beer float! Following our worship service, we'll gather in the fellowship hall for a cool time of fellowship! Our celebration will include sugar-free items upon request.

### UMC Quiz Answers:

2. The same two Methodists who signed the U.S. Constitution also served as Senators in the First Congress. They were William Few (Georgia) and Richard Bassett (Delaware).
3. [Mount Wesley](#) was established by the West Texas Conference (Methodist Church, South) in 1924.
4. [Worship & Song](#) follows 2001's [The Faith We Sing](#) in continuing the tradition of congregational singing in the Methodist movement.

### **We all have preconceived notions about church. Inside and out.**

Whether it's warm memories of a tradition you love or the bitter sting of a bad experience, we've all got our thoughts.

At the First UMC in Iraan and the First UMC in McCamey, we're inviting you to join us on a journey of rediscovery: What does church really mean? Our faith rests in a loving God, not in buildings. We believe we are here to serve our community in His name, not ourselves.

**Made up your mind about church? Think again. We are.**

Got questions?



Us too.

Let's ask them together.

**RETHINK CHURCH. WE ARE.**



# Outreach

**The outreach ministries** of the church shall give attention to local and larger community ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy. These ministries include church and society, global ministries, higher education and campus ministry, health and welfare, Christian unity and interreligious concerns, religion and race, and the status and role of women.

- The Book of Discipline ¶ 252.2b

*First UMC in Iraan hosted a portion of the VBS activities in Iraan in our fellowship hall, June 13-17. Each evening, dozens of children came to our church for craft projects connected to the theme, "Big Apple VBS: Connecting faith and life." Thanks to everyone who supported this effort through their time and talents!*



# Witness



## 2011 Annual Conference Report By Belinda Alkula

Amazing things happened when more than 1,300 people gathered in Corpus Christi, Texas, June 8-11 (Wednesday-Saturday) for the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the Southwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church! Every time we walked into the American Bank Convention Center, we could feel the buzz that was in the air. The Holy Spirit was moving! Lay and clergy delegates had come from across the width and breadth of the conference to “be about” (to buzz!) about the work and ministry of the church for those four days.

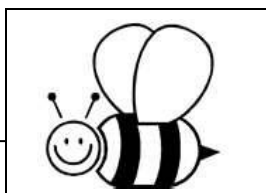
Ready, set, action! We worshipped together. We sang together. We prayed together. We stopped to remember and thank God for the lives of actively involved lay and clergy members of the conference who had died during the previous year. We celebrated and thanked God for the combined years-worth of ministry of Spirit-led ordained clergy who were about to retire/ transition into new chapters of their lives. Reports were given. Motions were made and seconded. Discussion ensued. Votes were counted. More motions were made and seconded. More discussion ensued. More votes were counted. We elected our delegates and their alternates to the 2012 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. History was made, as it was the first conference to include participation by a deaf lay member to Annual Conference.

Bishop Dorff’s Episcopal message was that the “time is now” to embrace reformation in the church. The challenge before us is how we individually and collectively “be” about the church in our daily lives. How are we to “be” the hands and feet and heart of Jesus in a world of people who are desperate to know and feel the one and only “blessed assurance:” That the saving and redemptive love of Jesus is for them?

The message is clear. We have the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide us. God is with us. Nothing can stop us “if” each of us is willing to do his/her part. Christianity is not a spectator sport. It is about Christians “buzzing”/being active in building up the Kingdom of God in the here-and-now!

The question before us each day is not “What Would Jesus Do (WWJD)?” The question before us each day is “What Would Jesus Have Me Do Today?” Amazing things can and will happen “if” we are willing to get “buzzy” and “bee”/”BE” the church ... in His name, empowered by the Holy Spirit... surrounded by the love and the power of our Most Holy Triune God! Amen!

In His name, *Bee-linda*



# 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** – July 13, 6:00 p.m.

### **Potluck Breakfast –**

July 24, 8:30 a.m.

**UM's @ Rockhounds'**

**Game**, July 29 @ 7:00 p.m.

**Pastor Charles in Iraan –**

July 6, 13, 20, 27

## 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 Thursday – Coffee @**

Convalescent Center, 10:00 a.m.

### **Other events:**

**UMM** – July 2 @ 7:30 a.m.

**Floats & Fellowship** – July 3 @  
Noon

**UMW** – July 11 @ 7:00 p.m.

**Ministerial Alliance** – July 12,

Noon @ Benoit's

**UMC Night Out**, July 15,

6:00 p.m. @ Elena's

**Trustees**, July 17 @ 5:00 p.m.

**Potluck**, July 17 @ 5:30 p.m.

**Ad Board**, July 17 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Rockhounds' Game**, July 29 @  
7:00 p.m.





# Thank you notes

## **IRAAN**

\*Thanks to everyone who brings treats for our **weekly fellowship time** and for our **monthly breakfast potluck!**

\*Thanks to everyone for supporting the **Vacation Bible School** in June. The use of the fellowship hall & kitchen and the refreshments prepared for the volunteers was appreciated so very much!

\*Thanks to Logan and Ayden for serving as our ushers each Sunday.

## **McCAMEY**

\*Thanks to the following for contributing their gifts of food items and/or their time to support our hospitality ministry for the **Billie Reaves funeral lunch**: Jennifer Aguilar, Belinda Alkula, Ruthie Andrews, Karla Campbell, Louise Carll, Joan Coe, LuAnn & Gary Elliott, Maurine Jacobsen, Alice Kephart, Bobbie & Bill Lester, Dollie Lynch, Theodora Matthews, Connie Miles, Billie Mitchell, Grace Moody, Jean Myrick, Amy Navarrete, Gloria Odom, Cytha Peters, Sherry Phillips, Silvia Ricks, Lou Ann Watson, Debbie White, Donna Wiley and Mary Witcher.

\*Dear Pastor Alkula – I wanted to thank you again for the beautiful service and for coming to San Angelo with us... I also wanted to thank the church family for the beautiful green plant in the basket that was sent to the service...  
– **Sharon Willis**

\*Thanks to **Cytha Peters, Belinda Alkula, Bill & Bobbie Lester and Roy & Alice Kephart** for their participation at the Convalescent Center services.

\*Thanks to **Mary Witcher** and **Billie Mitchell** for their work in making the fellowship hall so inviting.

\* Dear Congregation – Thank you very much for the wonderful service and baptism. Also for the beautiful quilts. It will be a day we will never forget. Thank you for making us all feel at home. **Andrew, Robin, Stella & Elliott Dillon**