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First UMC – Iraan



First UMC - McCamey



Everyday Disciples

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

March 2011

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FROM THE PASTOR

A Job vs. a Ministry

By Mickey Anders, The Beginning of Ministry

There is a lot of truth here....

Someone has said there is a huge difference between having a job at church and having a ministry at church.

... If you are doing it because no one else will, it's a job. If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry.

... If you're doing it just well enough to get by, it's a job. If you're doing it to the best of your ability, it's a ministry.

... If you'll do it only so long as it doesn't interfere with other activities, it's a job. If you're committed to staying with it even when it means letting go of other things, it's a ministry.

... It's hard to get excited about a job. It's almost impossible not to get excited about a ministry.

An average church is filled with people doing jobs. A great church is filled with people involved in ministry.

~~~~~  
The Pecos River Dispatch reported recently that the population of both Iraan and McCamey had decreased since the census was last taken in 2000. The 2010 census reported what is obvious to us: there are not as many of us in our communities as there was just ten year short years ago.

I mention this to highlight an important aspect of discipleship: Anyone can claim to be a church member, but not everyone can claim to be an active member.

To be a member means more than just joining a group or sending in a check to cover the membership dues for a year. To be a member of the body of Christ means being a discipleship of Jesus – and to do that means giving of ourselves in service to the world in His name. Every church needs more disciples. Can the Lord count on you?

*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:** Kim Radford Avirett, family of Lewis Blackburn, Tommy Bullard, Eddy Carpenter, Sandy Coe, Jonnie Dempsey, Verla Flading, Giselle Holland, Burton Mann, Billie McKenzie, Doris McKenzie, Shane McKenzie, Wanda Morrow, Kathy Pearce, Geraldo Salazar, Leigh Scallorn, Philip Shankle, Barbara Snyder, Alfred lee Teal, Teresa Valenzuela, Jean Vandigriff and Henry White. Those people struggling for freedom. Rain.

**Recent Prayer Joys:** the prospect of beginning a confirmation class in Iraan! The completion of the McCamey Convalescent Center's multi-purpose room; Those who attended the Lay Ministry Training in Sonora; The success of the Smile on Wheels program; help with lunch for Carolyn Andrew's funeral; help with lunch for Lewis Blackburn's funeral; Jace Wiley's visit (and his mom, too!); The new church web sites; those who tend to church chores; New Zealand's earthquake victims.

**Please pray** for those living on Bryant Cv. and E. 10th Street in Iraan and for those living on Brown Avenue and Elliott Street in McCamey.

**Please lift** up the ministries of the Rev. Malford Hierholzer and the congregation of [Hilda United Methodist Church](#) in Mason County (Texas).

## PRESENCE

Average Weekly Worship Attendance  
Iraan: 16 McCamey: 41  
Convalescent Center: 23

Average Weekly Faith  
Formation Attendance  
Iraan: 8 McCamey: 9

**GIFTS:** The 5-Star Church Program was developed by the Southwest Texas Conference Board of Global Ministries in 1990 to encourage local churches to grow in mission outreach every year. 5-Star churches receive an award certificate and special Annual Conference recognition.

### To become a 5-Star Church:

- \*Pay Apportionments 100 Percent or more.
- \*Contribute to the annual One Great Hour of Sharing special offering.
- \*Contribute support beyond that to a project in each of the following five categories: Project in the Southwest Texas Conference; Project somewhere else in the United States; Project in another country; Project related to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief); One United Methodist missionary supported by the General Board of Global Ministries.

## UMC Quick Quiz

1. When does the season of Lent begin?
2. What is the color commonly associated with Lent?
3. Who wrote the Lenten hymn, *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days?*



**NURTURE – OUTREACH – WITNESS**

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

**Nurture**

|                                   | <b>March</b> | <b>SCRIPTURE<br/>LESSON</b> | <b>SERMON</b>                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Transfiguration<br/>Sunday</b> | <b>6</b>     | 2 Peter 1:16-21             | <i>Moved by the Spirit</i>             |
| <b>Ash Wednesday</b>              | <b>9</b>     | Psalm 51:1-17               | <i>Forty Days</i>                      |
| <b>First Sunday in<br/>Lent</b>   | <b>13</b>    | Psalm 32                    | <i>Are you happy?</i>                  |
| <b>Second Sunday in<br/>Lent</b>  | <b>20</b>    | Psalm 121                   | <i>Quoth the raven<br/>(nevermore)</i> |
| <b>Third Sunday in<br/>Lent</b>   | <b>27</b>    | Psalm 95                    | <i>Rest in peace</i>                   |

There will be an **Ash  
Wednesday service** at the  
First UMC in McCamey.

We will observe the beginning of  
Lent with a service of healing &  
reconciliation. Please join us on  
**March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** as we  
begin the Lenten journey.

**Lenten Study**

Each Sunday afternoon  
during Lent you are  
invited to **“UMC 101.”**  
This six-week course is a  
survey course on United  
Methodist beliefs,  
practices and terms. See  
page eight for more info.

**Lenten Sermon  
Series**

During the season  
of Lent, Pastor  
Charles will be  
preaching from the  
Psalms, the prayer  
book of the church.



The February meeting of the United Methodist Women (UMW) took place on Valentine's Day with Belinda Alkula, Louise Carll, Bobbie Lester, Jean Myrick and Cytha Peters in attendance.



Each February, the units of The United Methodist Women take part in "[The Call to Prayer and Self-Denial](#)." This year, the offering goes to support the Retirement Benefits Fund. This fund provides pensions and health care for retired United Methodist Women deaconesses and missionaries.



**NOTE:** The next meeting will take place on **March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**



The United Methodist Men met for the first time in 2011 on February 5<sup>th</sup> with six in attendance. The breakfast “*McWitchers*” (ham, egg & cheese biscuits), provided by Jim Witcher, were very much appreciated on the cold winter morning.

**BAD BOYS OF THE BIBLE**  
EXPLORING MEN OF QUESTIONABLE VIRTUE



BARBARA J. ESSEX

Starting in March, the group will begin using “*Bad Boys of the Bible*” as a devotional resource. Please contact Pastor Charles to reserve your copy. **The next gathering will be on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m.**



## McCamey UMC's on the Town



We had a lively group on February 18<sup>th</sup> at Elena's Kitchen in McCamey as thirteen UM's gathered for supper.

**Next: March 18<sup>th</sup> at Benoit's in McCamey.**

*“No muss – no fuss – no program!”*



# Iraan Fellowship

At FUMC – Iraan, we do fellowship right!



The March fellowship breakfast potluck will be on the 27<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30 a.m.

## Confirmation Class



A confirmation class is going to be formed in Iraan! If you know of a youth who is ready to commit to being a part of the community of faith, then this is for them.

Expectations for participants include: Attendance at weekly worship, a service project, Bible study, and family involvement. The class will begin in September and conclude on Easter Sunday, 2012.

Please contact [Pastor Charles](#) by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Adult mentors will also be needed – are you ready to help?



*You're invited*

**Who:** Men and women who want to share in the celebration of Sara & Eric Hill

**What:** Baby shower for the Hill's

**When:** Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 11:00 a.m.

**Where:** First UMC – McCamey

## The 2011 Lenten Study

Each Sunday during Lent (March 13 – April 17) you are invited to the First UMC in McCamey for this year's Lenten study. Bring a sack supper to the fellowship hall at 5:00 p.m. for this hour-long group study where we'll be taking a survey course on United Methodist beliefs, practices and terms.

Topics to be covered include:

Mar. 13 - UMC 101: From Epworth to McCamey & Iraan

Mar. 20 - The Quadrilateral: scripture, tradition, reason & experience

Mar. 27 - The Book of Discipline: Organized to Beat the Devil

Apr. 3 - The Social Principles: We really mean it

Apr. 10 - The UM Hymnal & The Book of Worship: "Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee"

Apr. 17 - "Making disciples for the transformation of the world"

This will be a great way to be introduced to some of the beliefs and practices of this world-wide tradition.

Come and learn, and be sure to invite someone!

**Remember: everything you do is evangelism.**



# Outreach



On February 12<sup>th</sup>, *the Smiles on Wheels* program was in McCamey, courtesy of the McCamey Ministerial Alliance and the Texas Dental Association's Smiles Foundation (TDASF). Over \$92,000 in dental care was received by the 192 patients, many of whom braved the chilly conditions and arrived at the Park Building in McCamey well in advance of the 6:00 a.m. start time.

The congregation of the First UMC in McCamey and the United Methodist Women (UMW) in McCamey were among the sponsoring organizations.



The February gathering of **Badgers for Christ** was attended by over 40 students, staff, and FUMC members.



The next **Badgers for Christ** will be on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.



*Would you like to offer a 5 minute talk to the students? Contact the Pastor!*

# McCamey Convalescent Center Ministry



The renovation work on the convalescent center's multi-purpose room was completed in mid-February! This space is larger and has much better lighting than what had been the case previously.



The large-print United Methodist hymnals will be introduced to the residents on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.



We'll be using these beautiful hymnals each Sunday in the 1:00 p.m. chapel service.

## UMC Quiz Answers (from p. 3)

1. The season of Lent begins the 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday until Easter observed by Christians as a season of fasting and penitence in preparation for Easter.
2. **Purple** is the color used throughout the season of Lent.
3. Claudia F. Hernaman (1873) wrote this beautiful hymn, #269 in The United Methodist Hymnal.



# Witness

## Keep in touch:

Wiley, Derek  
B-CO, 3-10 INF BN  
495 Iowa Ave., Unit #25, 4<sup>th</sup> PLT  
Ft. Leonard Wood, MO 65473

1LT Bradley T. Ward  
HHC, 1-21 IN BN, 2-25 BCT  
FOB Warhorse  
APO, AE 09336



Congratulations to Marian Brown and Belinda Alkula who completed the [Lay Speaking Ministries](#) Basic Course held at the First UMC in Sonora on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

“In past years, the primary task of lay speakers was pulpit supply, however now lay speaking encompasses much more. To participate in lay speaking ministries, a person need not commit to preaching. Lay speaker training areas include witness, stewardship, devotional life, missions, caring ministries, Christian education, Christian leadership, administration, as well as preaching and worship planning, all ministries that make up the life of the body of Christ within the congregation and community.”

- from the Lay Speaking Ministries group on [Facebook](#)

## Websites

We're expanding our e-ministry offerings at First UMC – Iraan and First UMC – McCamey!

Please visit both of our websites, [www.firstumciraan.weebly.com](http://www.firstumciraan.weebly.com) or [www.firstumcmccamey.weebly.com](http://www.firstumcmccamey.weebly.com) and see what we're all about!

The blogs of FUMC - Iraan & FUMC - McCamey:

[www.fumc-mccamey.blogspot.com](http://www.fumc-mccamey.blogspot.com) or  
[www.fumc-iraan.blogspot.com](http://www.fumc-iraan.blogspot.com)



Find us on  
Facebook



# 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** – Mar. 16, 6:00 p.m.

**Potluck Breakfast** –

Mar. 27, 8:30 a.m.

**Pastor Charles in Iraan**

March 4, 9, 16, 23

## 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.

### **Each Thursday – Coffee @**

Convalescent Center, 10:00 a.m.

### **Other events:**

**UMM** – Mar. 5 @ 7:30 a.m.

**Ministerial Alliance** –

Mar. 8, Noon @ Benoit's

**Ash Wednesday Service,**

Mar. 9, 7:00 p.m.

**Chamber of Commerce** –

Mar. 15, Noon @ Benoit's

**UMC Night Out** @ Benoit's

Mar. 18 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Ad Board** – Mar. 20, 6:00 p.m.

**UMW** – Mar. 21 @ 7:00 p.m.

**Badgers for Christ** – Mar. 23, Noon

**LENTEN STUDY** – Sundays at 5:00  
p.m. (March 13 – April 17)

## ***Did you know?***

On June 22, 1956, a contract was signed between The Rusk Art Glass & Mirror Co. (of Grand Prairie, TX) and the First Methodist Church of McCamey. The contract called for the installation of stained glass and leaded art glass in the church sanctuary. These windows have added to the worship life of the church for nearly 55 years!

Total cost of the contract was a whopping \$1,794.00!

# Thank You Notes

## **Iraan:**

- \*Thanks to **Cathy Allen, Blake Andrews, Ed & Wanda Carpenter, Chris Franks, Deanna Jordan, Burton & Jo Lanehart, Lois McKenzie, Wanda Morrow, Jean Owens, Marie Richardson, Mary Rylander, Pat Schneider, Verna Sigmos** and **the Iraan Senior Center staff** for the lunch served following Lewis Blackburn's service.
- \*Thanks to **Cathy Allen** for the ministry of printing the bulletins each week.
- \*Thanks to everyone who shared their culinary gifts for our **monthly breakfast potluck**.

## **McCamey:**

- \*Thanks to **Cytha Peters** and **Mike Sherrod** for the music they played together during worship.
- \*Thanks to **Pastor Charles & Belinda Alkula, Marian Brown, Billie Mitchell and Mary Witcher** for their hours of work to clean out the kitchen and the janitor's storage room last month.
- \*Thanks to **Bill Lester** and **Jim Witcher** for changing out the ceiling lights in the church kitchen and hallways. Thanks to **Roy & Alice Kephart** for helping to tackle the electrical needs of the church.
- \*Thanks to **Mary Witcher and the others** who took food for the impromptu picnic meal that was enjoyed on Sunday night, February 20th, when we had three church meetings in a row: trustees, finance and ad board.
- \*Thanks to **Belinda Alkula** for putting together the church visitor goodies bags.
- \*Thanks to **Roy & Alice Kephart** and **Verla Flading** who have been going with Pastor Charles to the weekly coffee and donuts fellowship time at our local convalescent center.
- \*Thanks to the folks who volunteered their time at the February "Badgers for Christ" lunch gathering: **Pastor Charles & Belinda, Andy Andrews, Bill Lester, Billie Mitchell, Jean Myrick, Debbie White and Mary Witcher**.
- \*Thanks to ALL who contributed to the success of the "**Smiles on Wheels**" dental outreach program in our community, February 11-12th.
- \*Thanks to ALL church members and other churches who contributed to the funeral lunch for the family and friends of **Carolyn Duke Andrew**, whose funeral was held in our church on February 7th.
- \*Dear friends, Thank you so much for the beautiful blanket that was presented to Jace last Sunday. It will always be special to me, Jace and Derek. Derek has fond memories of his family church in McCamey. Also, thank you for letting us use your church for Jace's baby shower, and for the many gifts we received. – **Whitney Wiley**
- \*Thanks to **Theodora Matthews** for the extra-nice treats at the UMW meeting.
- \*Pastor Charles - Thanks to you and Belinda and all of the McCamey UMC for your gracious hospitality [for the funeral of Carolyn Andrew]. This church is a place of deep connection for my family, and it means so much to be able to come here for holy moments. Many blessings! - **The Rev. Clay Andrew**
- \*The members of the McCamey FUMC choir thank **Jean Myrick** for the delicious Valentine's candies that she presented to the choir members.
- \*Thanks to **Sara Hill & Cytha Peters** for their musical offering on February 27<sup>th</sup>.
- \*Thanks to **Lou Ann Watson** for the new electric knife for the church kitchen.