



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. Burlison)
 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

March 2012

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From the Pastor

“March Madness,” the very mention of the phrase causes the hearts of many sports fans to start racing and likely as many non-sport fans to roll their eyes in mock horror. This refers, of course, to the NCAA basketball tournament which begins with the conference tournaments, continues with “Selection Sunday” and continues through “the brackets” complete with “bracket buster upsets,” all the way to the “Final Four” and the eventual crowning of a new champion.

There are a lot of traditions that have developed over the years since the first men’s tournament in 1939. Then, only eight teams were involved; in 2012, sixty-eight schools will take part. In the years since that first tournament, thirty-five teams have “cut down the nets.” Among the women, fourteen teams have claimed the prize since the first NCAA tournament in 1982.

I mention this about the basketball tournaments because it occurs to me that the Church is also engaged in its own version of “March Madness.” No, we are not going to gather in the school gym for a church-wide free-throw contest (though that might be fun!). Rather, we are already into the season of Lent and the lead-up that will see us arriving once more on Easter morning.

As happens all too frequently in the life of the Church, and in the lives of individual Christians, we can get “all spun-up” in the busy-ness of the Church, in the frenetic whirl that is our own life, and forget to enjoy the gift of God that is life.

The purpose of Lent you see isn’t to make us tired from yet another obligation to squeeze into an already full calendar. It isn’t supposed to make us desire to get to Easter so that we can move on to the next event which already is peering around the corner of our calendars.

No, the season of Lent is designed so that our time isn’t “mad,” but purpose-filled with the grace of God that comes from being present with and to God. I invite you then, as you move through the days given to you this month, to “ponder anew what the Almighty can do” in your life and in the world unfolding with promise – not mad, but marvelous!

Every blessing, **Pastor Charles**

The PPRC for First UMC (McCamey) and First UMC (Iraan) met with our district superintendent, the Rev. Larry Altman, on February 21st. Bishop Dorff has appointed the Rev. Ken Houston, Jr. (currently serving as pastor of [Island in the Son UMC - Corpus Christi](#)) as the new pastor of the First UMC - Iraan/ First UMC - McCamey. The appointment is effective July 1st.

Rev. Houston and his wife, Lynn, are very familiar with west Texas and are looking forward to working among the people called United Methodist in the Permian Basin. Please join me in lifting up Rev. Houston and Lynn in prayer as they prepare for this new chapter in their life and in the life of the Iraan and McCamey communities.

"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: +The rain we had last month.
+Visits from family and friends. +Colton Ward has had his last chemo treatment.
+Ryan Wiley has returned from Afghanistan +Birthdays & anniversaries.

Concerns: +we continue to need moisture. +The families of Cy Crum, Cheryl (Reeves) Bostick, Cleo Darby, and J. W. Nave. +Steven Hansen (Army) is stationed in Central America. Shawn (Nadine Andrews' great-grandson).

Healing prayers: Nadine Andrews, Linda Boice, Elena Bradford, Aaron Braden, Tommy Zale King Bullard, Louise Carll, Dottie Brewer, Mac Carpenter, Sean Chavez, Jeanene Christian, Joan Coe, Sandy Coe, Billy Craig, Jonnie Dempsey, Mary Faust, Samantha Fitzgerald, Louisa Garcia, Terri Gill, Greg Haggard, Shaylee Henning, Billie Harris, Jane Harrison, Maxine Hyden, Elmer Jones, Kash Kelso, DeWayne Lindsey, Aurora Lopez, Dollie Lynch, Julie Lynch, Lois Ann McKenzie, Shane McKenzie, Maylee Mahone, Pat Miller, Kathy Pearce, Jerry Phillips, Freda Pippin, Jack Perry, Helen Remy, Edith Reynolds, Cory Smart, Doug Smith, Emma Smith, Eva Smith, Melody Smith, Sue Sorrels, Alfred Lee Teal, Jean Vandigriff, Colton Ward, Henry White, Simone Woodall, and Elma Wolfe.

Continued Prayers: +our church.
+our schools. +our country and our leaders. +our military (Ryan Wiley, Derek Wiley, Steven Hansen, Kameron Hansen) and their families. +the unemployed. +the homeless. +victims of natural disasters. +countries fighting for freedom. +Unspoken prayers.

Please be in prayer for the Rev. Mark Deaton, the associate pastors, and the congregation of the [1st UMC of San Angelo](#).

PRESENCE

Average Weekly Worship Attendance
Iraan: 16 McCamey: 28 Ash Wednesday: 13

Average Weekly Faith Formation Attendance

Iraan: 10 McCamey: # Not Available

GIFTS

FUMC – Iraan: It was reported at the February Ad Board the following concerning our giving in support of the ministries of the congregation: The budget for 2012 is \$55,875, or \$4,656.25 per month. In January, we received \$2,760 with \$7,178.79 being spent (including \$3,551.17 for property insurance for the year). The amount spent did not include any payments toward our share of the 2012 apportionments.

FUMC – McCamey: It was reported at the February Ad Board the following concerning our giving in support of the ministries of the congregation: The budget for 2012 is \$85,267 or \$7,105 per month. In January, we received \$6,817.10 with \$6,847.93 being spent. Our expenses each month include \$824.30 (10% of our 2012 apportionments) and \$817.23 for property insurance.

Your financial support of the ministries of our congregations are a spiritual discipline. Are you praying about your financial decisions?



**First
United
Methodist
Church**

NURTURE – OUTREACH – WITNESS

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

NURTURE MINISTRIES

Worship in March

Sundays	March	SCRIPTURE LESSON	SERMON
<i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>	4	Mark 8:31-38	<i>Three choices</i>
<i>Third Sunday in Lent</i>	11	John 2:13-22	<i>Clearing the deck</i>
<i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i>	18	John 3:14-21	<i>No exceptions</i>
<i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>	25	John 12:20-33	<i>Are you willing to die?</i>

Daylight Savings Time begins on **March 11th**. Please remember to set your clocks one hour ahead before going to bed on the 10th!



Remember:

Every day is a good day to begin your Lenten discipline. Each of us can do something that requires something from us: time, effort, discipline. It doesn't have to be something "heroic" or even difficult, just that whatever you do, as you journey towards Easter, should be done to strengthen your walk with the Lord.

FELLOWSHIP

The **FUMC – Iraan** March breakfast potluck will be on the 25th, starting at 8:30 a.m.

McCamey FUMC on the Town

“No muss – no fuss – no program!”

Our monthly gathering in February took place at Benoit’s with thirteen on hand. A special treat was the celebration of Jack & Peggy Garner’s 65th anniversary.

This month’s gathering will be on **Friday, March 16th** at Elena’s (starting at 6:00 p.m.).



In addition to our monthly breakfast potluck, **First UMC – Iraan** members may also be found enjoying each other’s company on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays (11:30 a.m.) for lunch at the Iraan Senior Center and on Tuesdays and Thursdays for pizza at Godfather’s Pizza (at 11:30 a.m.).



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

UMC Quiz

1. Although not required of United Methodists, fasting has long been a Christian practice. What did John Wesley say about fasting?
2. Who wrote the hymn, “Behold the Savior of Mankind,” first published by the Rev. John Wesley in A Collection of Psalms and Hymns in 1737 under the title, “On the Crucifixion”?
3. What does the season of Lent symbolize?



The United Methodist Women (UMW) met in February at the church with the theme, "[A Call to prayer and Self-denial.](#)" Bobbie Lester presented the program which took as its inspiration the idea that as the UMW, "*we support mission institutions near and far ... and we are blessed.*"



The scripture verse for the program was Proverbs 3:3-4 - "*Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.*"

Next meeting: March 12th at Louise Carll's home.



Theodora Matthews encouraged everyone to make reading [Response](#) magazine (from the UMW) and [New World Outlook](#) magazine (from the General Board of Global Ministries) a regular part of your reading list.



The February UMM meeting took place on Monday, February 6th.

Jim Witcher (well, Mary Witcher!) provided a delicious meal for us with a chicken casserole, salad, and banana pudding on the menu. Pastor Charles led the discussion from [Bad Boys of the Bible](#) on Jacob (Genesis 27:1-40).

The March meeting will be on the 5th at 6:00 p.m. at the church. We'll be looking at the second half of the story of Jacob in Genesis

Please join us!



OUTREACH MINISTRIES



THE UPPER ROOM
Living Prayer Center

With the support of United Methodist Men across the United States, **The Upper Room Living Prayer Center** has prayed for millions of individuals since April 1977. Trained volunteers answer the phone, and more than 300 covenant prayer groups around the world pray for the requests received at the Living Prayer Center.

The Upper Room Living Prayer Center currently receives approximately 20,000 calls for prayer each month. More than 7,000 requests are submitted through [the web page](#).

In need of prayer? Call The Upper Room Living Prayer Center toll-free prayer line at 800-251-2468, 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. (CST) or visit its [web page](#) anytime. Your prayer request will be e-mailed to a global Covenant Prayer Group network of prayer volunteers who will intercede on behalf of your need.



Forty-one were on hand in February as Pastor David Snodgrass presented the message. The lunch featured chili dogs, chips, home-made chocolate chip cookies and drinks.

With spring-break taking place in March, we'll not be meeting this month.

Our final Badgers for Christ this school year is on April 18th.

The United Methodist Men of the First UMC – McCamey are supporting the community food pantry located at the First Baptist Church (FBC) in McCamey. In cooperation with the McCamey Ministerial Alliance, the UMM will be placing a cart at the Super S market for donations from the community.

Non-perishable donations may also be brought to the church and placed by the table at the entrance between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall. Frozen items or other perishable items should be taken directly to the FBC.

Contact Judy Eyler at FBC with any questions regarding the food pantry:

[First Baptist Church of McCamey](#)

820 Burleson Ave./P.O. Box 1230

McCamey, Texas 79752 (432) 652-8674

The communion rail offering at the First UMC in McCamey this month goes in support of the [One Great Hour of Sharing](#).

WITNESS MINISTRIES

Please be in prayer for the delegates preparing for the [2012 UMC General Conference](#) in Tampa.



Informational Debate on Proposed Church Restructuring Plan

The Southwest Texas Conference United Methodist Men are sponsoring a debate on the proposed UMC restructuring plan to be presented at the 2012 General Conference in April.

The panel: **Mr. Jay Brim**, Conference Lay Leader; **Rev. Dr. Kim Cape**, General Secretary, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; **Rev. Tim McClendon**, a candidate for bishop in the Southeast Jurisdiction. Moderator: **Gil Hanke**, Executive Director of the UMM in Nashville

Where: [Windcrest UMC](#), 8101 Midcrown Dr., San Antonio, TX 78239 and also broadcast by webinar.

Date: Saturday, March 31, 2012, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Email questions and comments to umcdebate12@gmail.com prior to March 12th at 5:00 p.m. Questions and comments will be taken from the floor and by webinar participants during the debate. A reception will follow at Windcrest UMC.

RETHINKGREEN CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION

Saturday March 3, 2012 9am to 4pm @ Gruene UMC (New Braunfels)

Part of being good stewards is taking care of God's creation, the earth. This fun, informative event will not only inspire, but will give participants real, practical things they can do at their local church and in their daily life. The event starts with a morning worship and plenary session for everyone, followed by six breakout sessions. Cost: \$20

UMC Quiz Answers:

1. Fasting has been a part of Methodism from its early beginnings. John Wesley considered fasting to be an important part of a Christian's life, and he personally fasted weekly. Visit [this link](#) to learn more.
2. This hymn was written by the Rev. Samuel Wesley, Rector of Epworth and father of John & Charles Wesley (and seventeen others!). Found in the UMC Hymnal, #293.
3. Lent is the period leading up to Easter, recalling Jesus' 40-day fast in the wilderness.

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, 9:45 a.m.

Other Events

Daylight Savings Time begins
March 11th

Ad Board – March 14th @
6:00 p.m.

Potluck Breakfast –
March 25th @ 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 Wednesday – Choir @ 7:00 p.m.

Each Thursday –

Coffee & donuts @ McCamey
Convalescent Center, 9:45 a.m.

Other Events

UMM – March 5th @ 6:00 p.m.

Ministerial Alliance –

March 6th, 12:30 p.m. @ the First
Assembly of God (406 E. 7th Street)

Daylight Savings Time begins –
March 11th

UMW – March 12th @ 7:00 p.m.

UMC Night Out– March 16th,
6:00 p.m. @ Elena's

AD Board – no meeting in March

LOOKING AHEAD:

April 1st – Palm Sunday
April 5th – Maundy Thursday
April 6th – Good Friday
April 8th – Easter Sunday

THANK YOU NOTES

Iraan

- +Thanks to everyone for lending their culinary talents for the **monthly breakfast potluck!**
- +Thanks to **Wanda Carpenter** for serving as Lay Reader.
- +Thanks to **Kirke McKenzie** for leading the singing!
- +Thanks to **Dianna Sykes** for leading the Convalescent Center worship and for playing piano on February 19th.
- +Thanks to **Lee Mann** for getting the pizza bunch going!

McCamey

- +Thanks to **Marilyn Whitaker** for her music ministry on February 5th.
- +Thanks to **Coy Coe** for filling in as our greeter this month.
- +Thanks to **Gary Elliott, Cadyn Miles, Bradyn Molina, Ashley Ricks** and **Abby Venegas** for serving as ushers.
- +Thanks to **Jim Witcher** for providing the meal for the UMM supper in February.
- +Thanks to **Andy & Ruthie Andrews, Gloria Odom, Donna & Donny Wiley** and **Pastor David Snodgrass** for helping with the February Badgers for Christ lunch.
- +Thanks to everyone for supporting the refreshments following the memorial service for [Cheryl \(Reeves\) Bostick](#): **Jennifer Aguilar, Louise Carll, Luann Elliott, Maurine Jacobson, Alice Kephart, Bobbie Lester, Dollie Lynch, Connie Miles, Billie Mitchell, Cytha Peters, Sherry Phillips, Pam Smart, Gloria Odom, Debbie White, Donny Wiley, Marilyn Whitaker, and Mary Witcher.**

Thanks to everyone who provided the meal for the family and visitors for [Cleo Darby](#): **Luann Elliott, Maurine Jacobson, Alice Kephart, Bobbie Lester, Dollie Lynch, Connie Miles, Billie Mitchell, Gloria Odom, Cytha Peters, Pam Smart, Debbie White, Donny Wiley, and Mary Witcher.**

++++
Thanks to God for leading me to a greater understanding of what is His will for my life, my future! It is with a renewed sense of purpose that I return to be with my sweet husband and the dear people of west Texas, after being away in Georgia, for the last three months. I look forward to sharing with you the Lenten journey, which I pray will lead us to a new appreciation of God's gift that is Easter!

In His service, **Belinda Alkula**