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First UMC – Iraan



First UMC - McCamey



## Everyday Disciples

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

**May 2012**

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### ***From the Pastor***

As I put the finishing touches on the May newsletter, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church is well into its second day of meetings in Tampa. This is the first General Conference where live video-streaming is available on the internet and delegates, bishops, and observers alike are providing commentary of the sessions as it happens via various social media including Facebook posts and Twitter “tweets.” Belinda and I watched the opening worship service and the first plenary session on April 24<sup>th</sup>. It was wonderful to see how so many people, representing our Connection from around the world, could come together like this.

There is an oft-used phrase that seems to fit the current situation that the Church finds itself: “May you live in interesting times.” Whether this is a blessing or a curse depends of course upon whether one believes God is active in the world or whether we are on our own. I offer this to you because the next chapter of the life of the United Methodists in Iraan and McCamey is being written right now.

***Virgilio Vazquez-Garza***, Assistant to the Episcopal Office offered this take on our time in the SWTX Conference newspaper:

“Once upon a time there was a very good man who was married to a very good woman. They were old and semi retired. They had no children. Out of nowhere, the very good man heard from God... God told him to go to a new place that God was going to show him and his wife and all his relatives...

Something that I have always wondered about this story is the discussions this very good man had with his wife and his relatives. She may have said, “I know that God has directed you to go, but... did God tell you how we are going to get there? Did you tell God that our relatives have little kids and it’s going to be very difficult to move with them?”

Some of the relatives, who were also very good people and also very practical, said to the very good man, “We know that God has directed us to go, but... did God give you any idea about how to deal with the budgetary implications of this move? How about this new land where we are going? What are the labor restrictions of that land? Will we have to deal with unions? Will we have to pay taxes to the rulers in charge of that land? How much are we going to have to pay in taxes? We know that God is God and that you have been directed to go... but we have to be practical! There are so many questions that are unanswered about issues in the new land.”

Some of the relatives, who were also very good people and also treasured their heritage, said to the very good man, “We know that God has told you to go, but did God consider what this area has meant to us? Some of our kids were born right at this place! We have had great wedding feasts right at this place! We have buried some of our loved ones right at this place! We are well known by the folks around here. We can ask for favors and we are sure that we can receive assistance. In the new land, no one will know us! We will be alone!”

Some of the relatives, who were also very good people and very good at war, said to the very good man, “We know that God has told you to go, but this is not a well planned move in terms of security! We need more time to prepare ourselves for mobile tactics! We could get caught out in the open by superior forces and be completely annihilated!”

The very good man listened to all of them. He really did not have a good answer for the all the good questions that had been asked. The very good man invited them to move on trusting in God, even though it seemed impractical, not well planned and irresponsible. They followed the very good man. Then, God blessed them. The very good man received a new name, as did his wife. Their descendents were many, just like God had promised the very good man.

Today, the people of the San Antonio Episcopal Area, who are very good people, with very good histories, face a similar call. I wonder how our history will read.”

"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! +Visits from family and friends. +Birthdays (including Ed Carpenter's uncle who is 101 this month) and anniversaries (including Lee & Dottie Mann's 60<sup>th</sup> and J.C. & Jonnie Dempsey's 70<sup>th</sup>) + Gary Elliott celebrated 40 years working for AEP. +Appreciation for all who serve to protect our health and well-being. +Roy and Alice Kephart are expecting their first great-grandson to be born this July. +Sara Hill's band at Crane did a fantastic job in competitions. +Eric Hill had several athletes go to State in track & field.

**Concerns:** +We still need rain. +Families of [Jack Phillips](#), [Bill Bancroft](#) and [J.T. Weaver](#). +Steven Hansen (Central America) and Derek Wiley (Afghanistan) are serving in the Army. +Larry Mile's cousin in Jacksonville, Arkansas, who is a firefighter, reported that, in their responding to a motor vehicle accident, his captain was killed and another fire fighter and a police officer were injured. +Those recovering from the tornadoes in Texas and elsewhere. +Traveling mercies for those away from our communities including Roy & Alice Kephart who have gone to NM. They will be back in November.

**Healing prayers:** Tony Aguilar, Nadine Andrews, Linda Boice, Elena Bradford, Aaron Braden, Dottie Brewer, Tommy Bullard, John Carson, Sean Chavez, Jeanene Christian, Sandy Coe, Billy Craig, Jonnie Dempsey, Denise Dulaney, Bob Faulkner, Mary Faust, Samantha Fitzgerald, Louisa Garcia, Terri Gill, Greg Haggard, Steven Hansen, Billie Lou Harris, Shaylee Henning, Billie Harris, Jane Harrison, Elizabeth Hill, Sara Hill, Maxine Hyden, Elmer Jones, Kash Kelso, Burton Lanehart, DeWayne Lindsey, Aurora Lopez, Julie Lynch, Lois Ann McKenzie, Shane McKenzie, Maylee Mahone, Pat Miller, Gloria Odom, Kathy Pearce, Jimmy Peeples, Freda Pippin, Jack Perry, Helen Remy, Edith Reynolds, Mary Rodriguez, Glen Smart, Doug Smith, Emma Smith, Eva Smith, Melody Smith, Sue Sorrels, Tom Vandigriff, Colton Ward, Arnold Wise, Simone Woodall, and Elma Wolfe.

### PRESENCE

#### Average Weekly Worship Attendance

Iraan: 16    McCamey: 34

**Holy Thursday** (McCamey): 12

**Easter Sunrise:** Iraan – 15    McCamey – 19

#### Average Weekly Faith Formation Attendance

Iraan: 10    McCamey: 4

### GIFTS

What better way to remember or honor a person close to you than to make a donation to their church. Gifts of any amount are welcome. The person or family you wish to honor or remember will receive a card from the church letting them know of your gift (*no amount is ever mentioned*). The donor will receive a card from the church office acknowledging this gift for their tax records. **How can I arrange this?** There are several ways to gift the church in honor or memory of someone. You can fill out one of the donor cards found in the church pews and send it with your check to the church office. Or you might want to just send a note to the church office with your check, noting the name and address of the person you wish to honor or that of the family of the one you wish to remember.

All checks should be made payable to the First United Methodist Church of McCamey (FUMC-McCamey, PO Box 964 McCamey, TX 79752) or First United Methodist Church of Iraan (FUMC-Iraan, PO Box 816 Iraan, TX 79744).

**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. Leigh Lloyd** and the congregation of the First UMC in Sonora (TX).



NURTURE – OUTREACH – WITNESS

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

*Worship in May*

| Worship Theme  | May       | SCRIPTURE LESSON | SERMON                                |
|--|-----------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>                        | <b>6</b>  | John 15:1-8      | <i>Getting pruned is a good thing</i> |
| <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i><br><i>Mother's Day</i> | <b>13</b> | John 15:9-17     | <i>Love, really?</i>                  |
| <i>Ascension Sunday</i>                              | <b>20</b> | Acts 1:1-11      | <i>...with great joy</i>              |
| <b><i>PENTECOST</i></b>                              | <b>27</b> | Ezekiel 37:1-14  | <i>May I have a witness?</i>          |

**A Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

O God the Holy Ghost Who art light unto thine elect evermore enlighten us.  
 Thou who art fire of love evermore enkindle us.  
 Thou who art Lord and Giver of Life, evermore live in us.  
 Thou who bestowest sevenfold grace, evermore replenish us.  
 As the wind is thy symbol, so forward our goings.  
 As the dove, so launch us heavenwards.  
 As water, so purify our spirits.  
 As a cloud, so abate our temptations.  
 As dew, so revive our languor.  
 As fire, so purge our dross.

*Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)*





**Ashor Liam Brown** will be baptized on May 13<sup>th</sup> during the worship service at First UMC in McCamey. Please join the family in celebrating our new brother in the faith with a lunch in the fellowship hall following the service.

### **FUMC – Iraan Fellowship**

Join us at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesdays at *Godfather Pizza* or on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays at the *Iraan Senior Center* for lunch.

Each Sunday, we gather for fellowship at 9:00 a.m. (except for the fourth Sunday when we enjoy a potluck brunch). The next **fourth Sunday breakfast potluck** will be on the 27<sup>th</sup>, starting at 8:30 a.m.

### **Creating a Culture of Growth**



Life and ministry are filled with doors that open into astonishingly new vistas, hidden worlds of knowledge, and emerging landscapes laden with fruit-bearing opportunities.

If your heart, mind, and spirit long for inspiration, the SWTX Conference invites you to step through one of the following [program portals](#).

### **McCamey FUMC on the Town**

*“No muss – no fuss – no program!”*

This month’s gathering will be on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at Benoit’s (starting at 6:00 p.m.).



The April UMM meeting was canceled due to most of the members not being available.

This month, Pastor Charles will lead the discussion on Jephthah from *Bad Boys of the Bible*. Please join us on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall for supper and fellowship.

### **UMC Quiz** (answers on page 8)

1. What event is remembered on the fortieth day after Easter?
2. In which English city did John Wesley have his “heart-warming experience?”
3. **The Day of Pentecost** is the “birthday of the church.” How many days after Easter is Pentecost?

### **Faith Formation:**

**Iraan:** James Jordan is leading a discussion of II Corinthians each week.

**McCamey:** The adult class will be concluding its study of the Gospel According to John this month.

**Don’t worry if you’ve not attended a class before, you’ll always be welcomed!**



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

The April meeting of the United Methodist Women took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> with eight in attendance. Peggy Garner presented the program which looked at the activities of the UMW around the world.

**Next meeting:** The annual **Mother-Daughter potluck supper** will be on May 14<sup>th</sup> at the church in McCamey.

## Proposed Reorganization of Women's Division

### Proposed Changes, What's Staying the Same, & The Proposed Advantages

#### **Proposed changes:**

1. The Women's Division will structurally separate from General Board of Global Ministries.
2. The title of "Women's Division" will become "United Methodist Women."
3. The board of directors will reduce its size from 50 to 25 members, with the task of fiduciary management.
4. A Program Advisory Group, composed of 70-80 members, will recommend programmatic policies to the Board of Directors.
5. The term "unit" will be replaced with "local organization of United Methodist Women."
6. Fewer officers will be required.

#### **What's staying the same:**

1. The PURPOSE.
2. The focus of United Methodist Women for women, children & youth.
3. The priority of social justice and advocacy work.
4. The streams and processes of funding United Methodist Women mission.

#### **The main advantage:** More flexibility.

The proposed reorganizing of the Women's Division Board of Directors and United Methodist Women leadership teams independently from GBGM means more flexibility to grow in mission with women, children and youth around the world.

#### More flexibility...

- Enables mission teams at all levels to organize how they best see fit to fulfill the Purpose and do the work according to their communities, churches, and members' needs.
- Enables your mission team to remain the same if your organizational structure is working for you.
- Enables the Women's Division to advocate more strategically on behalf of women, children and youth within The United Methodist Church by moving from a division to an agency.
- Enables the Women's Division to broaden its priorities across the church by working directly with other agencies through the General Secretaries' Table.
- Enables United Methodist Women members from every Annual Conference representation on the Board of Directors and Program Advisory Group and thus fuller participation in the organization.

Keep in mind, these are proposals to be brought to General Conference in 2012, and we do not know what will result from the voting. Any changes will not be implemented officially until January 2013; however, the Women's Division will prepare for implementation following General Conference.

# OUTREACH MINISTRIES



**THE LUNCH FOR  
THE  
IRAN HIGH  
SCHOOL  
SENIOR CLASS,  
HOSTED BY THE  
FIRST UMC-  
IRAN,**



Our final Badgers for Christ lunch for this school year was on April 18<sup>th</sup> with thirty-five students, faculty and FUMC members present.

## **School Kit Assembly & Shipping Instructions**

In some countries, children don't have books or school supplies. Many have no schoolrooms; classes are held in inadequate or half-destroyed buildings, tents, or even the open air. School kits may be these children's only educational resources. Click on this link to go to the [United Methodist Committee on Relief \(UMCOR\)](#) website to find out how you can help.

Click [here](#) for the school bag pattern.



## **Ice Cream Social**

The annual ice cream social for the McCamey High School senior class will be held on **May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** in the First UMC Fellowship Hall.

The communion rail offering at the First UMC in McCamey this month will go in support of Mount Wesley.

# WITNESS MINISTRIES



*General Conference continues this month (through May 4<sup>th</sup>) - Please continue to lift up the delegates in your prayers.*

## McCamey Ministerial Alliance (MMA) News

bac·ca·lau·re·ate  
noun \,ba-kə-'lōr-ē-ət, -'lär-\

a: sermon to a graduating class b: the service at which this sermon is delivered (from the [Merriam-Webster online dictionary](#)). Origin of *baccalaureate*: From the medieval Latin *baccalaureatus*, from *baccalaureus*, bachelor, alteration of *baccalarius*. First Known use: circa 1649.

Pastor Charles will be offering the message to the McCamey High Class of 2012 at the annual Baccalaureate Service on May 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. in the McCamey High School auditorium. At this service, the scholarship from the McCamey Ministerial Alliance will be presented to a graduating senior selected by the MMA member churches.

## San Angelo District News

### **6th Annual Soup Kitchen Open Golf Tournament**

Date: Saturday, May 12, 2012 Time: 8:30 a.m. Course: Quicksand Golf Course, San Angelo  
Cost: \$70.00, which includes green fees, cart, two mulligans, and lunch.

The Tournament Planning Committee is working hard to insure we will be successful in achieving our goal of raising \$15,000 for the Soup Kitchen. If you would like more information, please contact the Rev. Nathaniel Hankins at First UMC (San Angelo), (325) 655-8981.

### **San Angelo District Conference/Caucus**

Date: Saturday, May 19, 2012 Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: St. Luke United Methodist Church, 2781 W. Ave N, San Angelo.

This is for all Clergy, District Committee Members, and Annual Conference Delegates

## **UMC Quiz Answers:**

1. The fortieth day after Easter (this year is on May 17<sup>th</sup>), is the day on which the Christian feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ is observed.
2. Aldersgate Day (May 24<sup>th</sup>) marks the event (in 1738) that took place in London where John Wesley had experienced the sure effect of God's grace for the first time.
3. **Pentecost** occurs fifty days after Easter. This year the date is May 27<sup>th</sup>.



# 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 –

Pizza Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m. @  
Godfather's Pizza

### Each Thursday –

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

### Other Events

**Iraan High School luncheon  
for the senior class** – May 2<sup>nd</sup> @  
Noon

**Ad Board** – May 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.

**Mother's Day** – May 13<sup>th</sup>

**Ascension Day** – May 17<sup>th</sup>

**San Angelo District Conference**  
– May 19<sup>th</sup> at St. Luke UMC (2781 W. Ave.  
N., San Angelo)

**Aldersgate Day** – May 24<sup>th</sup>

**PENTECOST – May 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Potluck Breakfast** – May 27<sup>th</sup>  
@ 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** – May 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.

**Ministerial Alliance** – May 8<sup>th</sup> @  
10:00 a.m. (First Assembly of God)

**Mother's Day** – May 13<sup>th</sup>

**Celebration Meal** – May 13<sup>th</sup> following the  
worship service.

**UMW** – May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.  
(Mother-Daughter supper)

**Ice Cream Social for MHS Class of 2012**–  
May 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.

**Ascension Day** – May 17<sup>th</sup>

**UMC Night Out** – May 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00  
p.m. @ Benoit's

**San Angelo District Conference**  
– May 19<sup>th</sup> at St. Luke UMC (2781 W. Ave. N.,  
San Angelo) @ 1:00 p.m.

**Piano Recital** – May 20<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 p.m.

**McCamey High School Baccalaureate** –  
May 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.

**Aldersgate Day** – May 24<sup>th</sup>

**PENTECOST – May 27<sup>th</sup>**

# THANK YOU NOTES

## **Iraan**

+Thanks to all the wonderful cooks who share their delicious creations each month on our fourth **Sunday breakfast potluck**.

+Thanks to **Allan Turpin** for taking such good care of our church grounds.

+Thanks to everyone who shares in **the Tuesday fellowship** at Godfather's Pizza.

+Thanks to **Cathy Allen** for preparing the bulletins each week.

+Thanks to **Kirke McKenzie** and **James Jordan** for leading the singing each Sunday.

+Thanks to **Wanda Carpenter** for being our lay reader and substitute Sunday school teacher.

+Thanks to **James Jordan** for being our Sunday school teacher.

+++++

***Thanks to everyone (from both congregations) who contributed flowers and palm branches for our Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services.***

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## **McCamey**

+Thanks to **Gloria Odom** for taking care of the communion table decorations.

+Thanks to **Debbie White** for serving as greeter and for the communion elements on Palm Sunday.

+Thanks to **Cytha Peters** for the extra musical offerings on Holy Thursday, Jack Phillip's funeral service and the community Easter Sunrise service.

+Thanks to **Mike Sherrod** for sharing his musical gifts last month.

+Thanks to everyone who supported the meal which was served prior to the funeral service for **Jack Phillip's family**:

+Thanks to everyone who supported the **April Badgers for Christ** lunch: **Andy Andrews, Billie Mitchell, Debbie White, Jim Witcher** and **Mary Witcher**.

+Thanks to **Andy Andrews** and **Jim Witcher** for bringing the devotional for the Badgers for Christ.

+Thanks to **Mary Witcher** for the fellowship hall decorations.

+Thanks to **Debbie White** for taking the task of nursery worker.

+++++

**From Gloria Odom:** I wish to sincerely thank all of those who have been so kind to remember me during my illness. All of the kind expressions of concern, the flowers, visits, food and phone calls have surely blessed my path through this trying time. God bless each and every one of you for your love and concern.