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First UMC – Iraan



First UMC - McCamey



Everyday Disciples

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

September 2011

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From the Pastor

“I the Lord do not change” (Malachi 3:6a)

As I look back over the summer, I’m reminded that another season has come and gone. Another turn of the calendar reveals a new month, a blank slate to be filled with activities. With all the possibilities before us, however will we cope?

However, it is what it is . . . September is here, and that signals change: Change of routine, change of time schedule, change of season, change of . . . you fill in the blank. Change. It’s inevitable. In fact, it’s been said that the only thing constant in life is change. It’s also been said that it’s not possible for one person to step into the river twice — both the person and the river change from moment to moment.

Change — within us, in our circumstances and in our ways of looking at things — is inevitable. Facing personal change in the midst of a changing world can sometimes be painful and scary. Moving through change is the process of living in the transition place between giving up the old and finding our place in the new. This is certainly the case for the United Methodists in Iraan and McCamey, as together we move through change.

As challenging as changes can be, the Good News is that we are not alone on this journey of change. Jesus is our constant companion. Scripture says that He also experienced change. As He moved through life, He met new circumstances, new relationships and new situations — challenges to change — even in the way He was calling others to relate to God. It wasn’t always easy for Jesus, as the story of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane relates, as He met the challenge to discern and follow God’s will for his life, all the way through the cross to the resurrection. Change, it’s inevitable on this journey we share called life. In the middle of the confusion, the chaos, the unsettledness and the questions that come with change, we are not alone. God in Christ is with us every step we take as we maneuver these changes.

In 1 Samuel 2:2, Hannah praises God for being a rock — firm, strong and unchanging. In our fast-paced worlds, people come and go and circumstances change, but God is always present. *“There is no Rock like our God.”* As we put our hope in the One who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, we can maneuver through whatever change we encounter along life’s journey. As we stay focused on God and stay faithful to God’s call, individually and together, we will move closer to that place that God has in mind for us as the church in the world today.

Prayer: “God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.” (R. Niebuhr)

Every blessing, Pastor Charles

(reworded from the pastor’s letter in the First UMC of Washington (DC) newsletter, Sep. ‘09)

“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: +Rain in west Texas, which brought cooler weather. +God’s Amazing Grace. +Birthday celebrations. +The Lester’s and Witcher’s wedding anniversaries. +Church and parsonage renovations. +Safe travels. +Air conditioning. +Laughter in church. +Baseball game outing with church family. +Enjoying meals with church family.

Concerns: +Rain continues to be desperately needed—especially in the Horn of Africa. +Countries fighting for their freedom. +All suffering from the conflict in the Middle East. +All involved with the 2011-2012 school years. +Those struggling with life decisions. +Hurricane season which is through November.

Comfort: +For the families and friends of Shirley Coomer Badgett, Edna Earl Benton, Billy Carnes, Janey Lindsey, Bob Lynch, Dee Sewell, Charles Rogers, Neil Sconiers and Luis Valenzuela, Sr.

Healing prayers: +Jeannie Marie (West) Beck, Miley Barrandey, Tommy Bullard, Eddy Carpenter, Cleo Darby, Joanne Darby, Jonnie Dempsey, Charles H., Greg Haggard, Jane Harrison, Maxine Hyden, Kash Kelso, DeWayne Lindsey, Billie McKenzie, Lois Ann McKenzie, Shane McKenzie, Billie Harris, Maylee Mahone, Joann N., Kathy Pearce, Jimmy Peoples, Helen Remy, Doug Smith, Eva Smith, Melody Smith, Alfred Lee Teal, Colton Ward and Henry White. All who are being treated at the Odessa Cancer Center.

PRESENCE

Average Weekly Worship Attendance

Iraan: 18 McCamey: 31

Convalescent Center: 21

Average Weekly Faith Formation Attendance

Iraan: 8 McCamey: 12

GIFTS – Connectional Giving

It’s as simple as people coming together, combining their money to accomplish something bigger than themselves. United Methodists support apportioned and designated funds through their connectional gifts.

By combining several smaller gifts into a larger amount, we can effect change across the world. Individual churches can minister to a small area; however, as a connectional church, we can do big things, all in the name of Jesus Christ.

Read more about [Connectional Giving here](#).

Prayers (continued):

Please be in prayer for the residents of Laura Ave. and Glover Ave. in McCamey and S. Hill St. and E. 2nd St. in Iraan.

Please be in prayer for the Rev. Richard Krause and the congregation of the [First UMC in Menard](#) (TX).



**First
United
Methodist
Church**

NURTURE – OUTREACH – WITNESS

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

Nurture Ministries

Worship in September

Sundays after Pentecost	September	SCRIPTURE LESSON	SERMON
Twelfth Sunday	4	Romans 13:8-14	<i>The moment at hand</i>
Thirteenth Sunday	11	Romans 14:1-12	<i>A fundamental question</i>
Fourteenth Sunday	18	Philippians 1:21-30	<i>“Living and dying in ¾ time”</i>
Fifteenth Sunday	25	Philippians 2:1-13	<i>Mind over matter</i>

September 11th Remembrance Service

The McCamey Ministerial Alliance invites you to the Sante Fe Park in McCamey for an event to honor the memory of those whose lives were lost ten years ago this month in the attacks of 9/11.

A community picnic will be held at 5:30 p.m. Hot dogs, chips & drinks will be provided. Please bring your own chairs. The service of remembrance will begin at 6:15 p.m. at the depot.





Glen Smart took a large basket of food donations to the food pantry at First Baptist Church last month. It is such a blessing to be able to share with our neighbors in this way!

We plan on launching into the fall with a renewed sense of purpose on September 3rd, beginning at 7:30 a.m. Join us!!!



Next Meeting:

September 12th
at First UMC
in McCamey,
starting at
7 p.m.

Mark your calendars:

The [San Angelo District UMW](#) meeting will take place on September 17th at [Hilda UMC](#) (5840 Loeffler Lane off Ranch Road 783 in Hilda, Texas.)

[SWTX UMW](#) meeting:
Oct. 7-8 at [First UMC, Corpus Christi](#).

The United Methodist Women were busy in August with two projects on the schedule. At the regularly scheduled meeting on the 8th, members gathered in the home of Bobbie Lester to assemble welcome baskets for the new teachers at McCamey ISD. Ten baskets were prepared using donated items, and then teams of UMW members took the baskets to the homes of the newest additions to the Badger family.

On the first day of the school year (for teachers and staff), August 15th, the UMW was one of the sponsors for the faculty/staff welcome brunch. Cracker Jacks and blessing stones were distributed to 120 MISD employees.



McCamey UMC's on the Town

"No muss – no fuss – no program!"

Our monthly gathering took us to Benoit's, where eleven were on hand for some good food and great fellowship.

Come and share a meal with us on September 16th at Elena's (starting at 6:00 p.m.).

Following the meal, those who are interested are invited to sit together at the Stanton–McCamey football game. (Game starts at 7:30 p.m.)



Jack Phillips was the happy recipient of the door prize, a six-pack of Dr. Pepper, straight from Dublin, Texas!
(Thanks to the Lester's for donating this great door prize.)

Local Fellowship

The September breakfast potluck will be on the 25th, starting at 8:30 a.m.



UMC Quiz:

1. To strengthen the Methodist work in the colonies, John Wesley sent two of his lay preachers to America in 1769 – who were they?
2. Africa University is a United Methodist-related university. Where is it located?
3. The United Methodist Church is in mission in how many countries?

Ladies Bible Study in Iraan: The First Baptist Church in Iraan (501 S. Harte Street) invites you to join them on Tuesdays starting September 13th as they resume the Tuesday women's Bible study. The book they'll be using is [A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place](#).

*"Have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them."
Exodus 25:8 (NIV)*

“Perhaps no Old Testament event so dramatically illustrates God's persistent desire to relate to His children as the building of the tabernacle in the wilderness. Through the tabernacle God initiated a deeper relationship with His Chosen People by bringing reconciliation and revealing His glory. And certainly, no Old Testament even so richly prefigures the coming of the true Tabernacle, Jesus Christ.

Beth Moore invites you to enter the sanctuary of your God and let Him reveal marvelous mysteries to you. This in-depth, biblical study explores the fascinating account of the building of the tabernacle, the significance of its intricate design, and its pivotal role in God's eternal plan, the grand fulfillment of its purpose by Jesus Christ, and its variety of meanings for your walk with God today. You will be challenged to prepare your heart, like the holy of holies, to become a home for His love and glory - a dwelling place for the Most High God.” – *from the publisher*

~Tuesdays~

**10 a.m. @ The Iraan First Baptist Church or
4 p.m. @ Iraan High School Library.**



You're Invited!

A six-week [Dave Ramsey course](#) will be offered by the First Baptist Church in Iraan (501 S. Harte Street) starting September 11th at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact the First Baptist Church in Iraan at (432) 639-6040.

FAITH FORMATION in Iraan & McCamey

McCamey

+We are looking for a teacher or teachers for a children's Sunday school class on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m.

+An adult class (or two!) will be meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Iraan

+James Jordan leads the adult class on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

+Pastor Charles will be offering a **confirmation class** on the second Wednesday of each month (September – April) at 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Advent \Ad`vent\, n. [L. adventus, fr. advenire, adventum: cf. F. avent.] 1. (Eccl.) The period including the four Sundays before Christmas. 2. The first or the expected second coming of Christ. 3. Coming; any important arrival; approach. (**Source:** Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary, 1913)

Webster's Dictionary gives a definition of Advent which is clinical and to the point. But does it really get to the point of Advent for you? It may seem strange to be talking about Advent in September, but we are leaning into our God-shaped future at the United Methodist Churches in Iraan and McCamey!

Advent begins on Sunday, November 27th, and Pastor Charles is inviting you to join him in creating the second annual Advent Devotional from Iraan and McCamey UMC's.

Please send [Pastor Charles](#) an email or place a note in the offering plate that you would like to write for the devotional. Submissions may take the form of an essay, poem, prayer, thought, song, art or reflection.

We need twenty-seven people to share their faith during the season in which we observe the coming of the Messiah. Will you be one of these people? If you have a special day during this season that you'd like to write for/on, please indicate that; we will try to accommodate you. Pastor Charles will write a reflection for each day of the Twelve Days of Christmas (Dec. 25 – Jan. 5) as a means of carrying the spirit of the season into the New Year.

The devotional will be available in print and posted each day on each church's blog. The deadline for signing up will be October 15th, and all submissions are due to Pastor Charles by November 15th.



Confirmation Class Requirements

1. Attend weekly worship service.
2. Attend monthly confirmation classes.
3. Mission/ministry project.
4. Write an essay on why you should be allowed to join the church (to be presented before the Ad Board in April 2012).
5. Attend District Confirmation Retreat at Camp Butman, April 13-15.



Badgers for Christ returns to the First UMC – McCamey on **September 21st** at noon.

We'll be serving up a delicious combination of food, fun and fellowship to the students and faculty from McCamey High School.

And, of course, we'll make sure to offer up a hearty helping of faith!

Come and be a part of this exciting ministry!

Outreach



Due to lack of NOMAD volunteers, the date for the McCamey project has been moved. First UMC in McCamey will now be participating in a NOMADS project March 12 - 29, 2012.

The First UMC in McCamey will be welcoming to our community the new teachers and their families during our worship service on September 18th.

Following the service, we'll gather in the fellowship hall for a potluck lunch. We've got some amazing cooks in our fellowship, so you'll want to be there on the 18th!



The EXCELL program (a youth ministry supported by the McCamey Ministerial Alliance) will kick-off the 2011-2012 school year with a gathering at the First Assembly of God (406 E. 7th Street) on September 21st at 7:00 p.m.

The United Methodist Men of the First UMC are supporting the community food pantry located at the First Baptist Church (FBC) in McCamey.

Non-perishable donations can be brought to the church and placed in the large basket 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 Eyer 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 pantry is looking for these items (particular need exists for items in bold:
Butter – **Canned fruit** – **Canned meat** (example: tuna, chicken, sausage...)*

Cheese – Chili – Chip or crackers – Corn bread mix

***Dry Cereal** – Evaporated milk – Frozen foods (FBC has a freezer)*

*Jell-O – **Juice (any kind)** – Meat (FBC has a freezer)*

Oatmeal – Pancake mix & syrup – Powdered milk

Pudding mix – Soup – Tomato sauce/paste

Bulk items (beans, corn meal, flour, rice, sugar, etc.) are also welcomed.

Participate in the San Angelo CROP Hunger Walk

**Location: The Pavilion near Kid's Kingdom Playground
Walk: October 16th at 2:00 p.m. on the San Angelo River Walk**

[Contact Rev. Larry Altman](#) to participate.

Witness



There is an urgent need for people who want to be involved in their church!!! Please see where you can offer yourself in service to God's church. If everyone does something, no one will have to do everything. There is a ministry waiting for you to claim it.

What is the Holy Spirit asking you to do in **GOD'S church?**

Please contact Pastor Charles to discuss your interest:

Administrative Committees

Finance/Stewardship: Iraan: James Jordan; McCamey: Bill Lester.

Pastor/Parish Relations Committee – PPRC:

Iraan: Wanda Carpenter; McCamey: Donny Wiley.

Trustees: Iraan: Dr. Edwin Franks; McCamey: Dollie Lynch.

Areas of Service

Nurture Ministries: Education, fellowship, funeral meals, shut-ins, worship, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, etc.

Outreach Ministries: NOMADS, Badgers for Christ, McCamey Convalescent Center, Ministerial Alliance, etc.

Witness Ministries: Lay speaking, public relations, community events, cards, prayer list/chain, evangelism, Scouts, etc.

Our Church Conference will be held in October, which means that everything has to be done by the September Ad Board meetings (at both churches). Pastor Charles is asking for Lay Ministry Committee members to meet with him before church (Iraan) on September 11th and after worship (McCamey) on September 11th to finalize the slate of offices.

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

Confirmation Class –

September 14, 5:00 p.m.

Ad Board –

September 14, 6:00 p.m.

Potluck Breakfast –

September 25, 8:30 a.m.

Pastor Charles in Iraan –

September 7, 14, 28

First UMC – McCamey

Each Sunday –

Fellowship Time @ 9:30 a.m.

Church School @ 9:45 a.m.

Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

Convalescent Center @ 1:00 p.m.

Each Wednesday –

Youth Quake @ 6:00 p.m.

Choir @ 7:00 p.m.

Each Thursday – Coffee @

Convalescent Center, 10:00 a.m.

Other Events

UMM – Sept. 3 @ 7:30 a.m.

9/11 Remembrance – Sept. 11 @

5:30 p.m. (picnic); 6:15 p.m.

(service) at Santa Fe Park

UMW – Sept. 12 @ 7:00 p.m.

Ministerial Alliance –

Sept. 13, Noon @ Benoit's

UMC Night Out–

Sept. 16th, 6:00 p.m. @ Elena's

Welcome Teachers Potluck –

Sept. 18 @ noon.

Ad Board – Sept. 18 @ 6:00 p.m.

Badgers for Christ – Sept. 21 @ noon

EXCELL – Sept. 21 @ 7:00 p.m. @ the

First Assembly of God Church

UMC Quiz Answers

1. Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmore came to America in 1769.
2. [Africa University](#) is located in Mutare, Zimbabwe.
3. The United Methodist Church is in mission in more than 125 countries.

Thank you notes

Iraan

+Dear **Charles & Belinda** – Thank you so much for all the ways you blessed Daddy, and all of us! You give so much to the friends at the McCamey Convalescent Center. Worship time is wonderful. Thank you for caring so much and sharing. Belinda, thank you for the hand-held crosses. They will always remind us of God’s love! ***The family of Charles Rogers***

+Dear **Wanda Morrow**, Thank you so much for inviting me to spend the night in your home during the Iraan Christian women’s weekend retreat. I enjoyed our slumber party. And I enjoyed spending time with you, **Wanda Carpenter and Deanna Jordan** at the retreat. It was so much fun! ***Belinda Alkula***

+Thanks to **all who are praying** for the church and its ministries.

McCamey

+Dear **Cytha & Choir Members** – The flowers you sent to me were beautiful. Thank you for thinking of me. Thank you also for being so faithful to the choir all these many years. We weren't a large group, but you did a nice job. We sang some really nice songs. ***Love, Louise***

+Thanks to **Tandy Adams, Belinda Alkula, Pastor Charles, Maurine Jacobsen, Jean Myrick, Lou Dell Myrick and Sherry Phillips** for taking part in the welcome back for teachers and staff at McCamey ISD.

+Thanks to **Belinda Alkula, Bill & Bobbie Lester, Jean Myrick and Cytha Peters** for your participation in the McCamey Convalescent Center ministry last month.

+Thanks to **Bill Lester** for fixing the parsonage toilet, which no longer whistles and yodels when flushed!

+Thanks to **the leadership of the church** for their commitment to work together to make things better!

+Thanks to **Mary Witcher** for her decoration ministry in the fellowship hall and to **Gloria Odom** for her efforts on the communion table.

+Thanks to **Jonah Adams** for his ministry as our acolyte.

+Thanks to all who support the “Badgers for Christ” ministry.

+Thanks to **all who are praying** for the church and its ministries.