

FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH,  
LAKE JACKSON,  
TEXAS



**First Church strives  
to be like Jesus!**

- Praising God!
- Teaching God's Word!
- Loving one another!
- Strengthening families!
- Sharing the Good News!

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# The Messenger

Volume 43, Issue 22

November 20, 2013

## **SANCTUARY RENOVATION PROGRESS - 5th Report, Nov 15, 2013**

### ***We have our design!***

After discussion with many representatives of the church, our architect, PBK, has prepared renderings of the renovation design. These have been shared with the church for several weeks now by slides on the sanctuary screen prior to Sunday services, on posters displayed in the narthex, and on the church's Facebook page. The changes are exciting and include the following:

- *God has blessed the renovation with a substantial gift from a church member for the purchase of new pews!*
- We will increase the spacing between the pews to make access easier.
- A significantly remodeled chancel area with moveable pulpit and lectern. placed further forward, closer to the congregation; a place for the choir, piano and organ, and space for the Praise Team. It will retain its focus on the Cross.
- The choir loft and its overhang will be removed and that open area of the sanctuary wall will be closed off to match the rest of the wall on that side of the sanctuary.
- The foyer will be enlarged and the ceiling raised to make our greeting area even more fellowship-friendly.
- There will be additional handicap seating and handicap-accessible restrooms.
- There will be new carpet and flooring treatments. The areas in the sanctuary that were carpeted will still be carpeted but with new carpet of a different color that will coordinate with the pew padding.
- Lighting will be enhanced with the addition of pendant lights.

Please note that the renderings do show the planned configuration but do not yet reflect specific color selections because we are still in the selection process. We believe God is blessing our work and think you will be very pleased with the changes.

### ***We are in the construction phase!***

We dismantled and removed all the pews and almost all the wood has been sold. We have done nearly all the demolition ourselves, resulting in significant savings to the project. The asbestos abatement was completed ahead of schedule, resulting in additional savings, as well.

### ***We are meeting the budget challenge!***

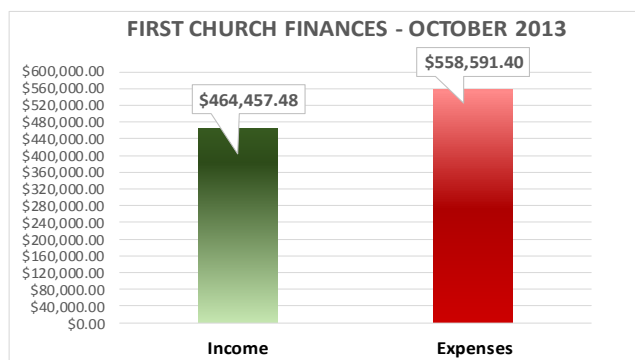
The team, including PBK and Durotech, is working very hard to be good stewards and stay on budget. The generous gift of new pews certainly helped with this challenge, and we are managing scope and material to control cost while preserving quality and elements of the design described above. What does this mean for you? Well, we still need your help! Please continue to pray for us! This is an exciting project for the glory of God. None of what we do here is for us, but is for His Glory. Please treat the sanctuary and narthex as an area under construction with associated potential for construction hazards. Please feel free to contact any of the team with your feedback or questions. We should be back enjoying worship in a renovated sanctuary in February 2014.

*Sanctuary Renovation Team*

## Stewardship and Finance Team

The Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines **stewardship** as: "the conducting, supervising, or managing of something, especially: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.." Christian stewardship is based on the belief that everything we have is from God. We have been entrusted to manage our gifts and our resources wisely by generously sharing them with all of God's children.

*Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."*



1 Corinthians 4:2

**Staff & Ministry leaders are holding expenses below budget while we have a significant income shortfall.**

**It's not too late to send in your 2014 Estimate of Giving card!  
First Church needs and appreciates your support!**

Memorandum  
Memorandum  
**Just a Reminder**  
Memorandum  
Memorandum



Pastor Lynne Settlemyre will begin her ministry at First Church on Sunday, December 1st.

Please make plans to worship\* with us that day and show your support for her and First Church.

\* Services at 8AM, 9AM, 11AM & 5PM

### Blood Drive at First United Methodist Church Sunday, November 24 8AM to 1PM



The Donor Coach will be parked outside the church this year due to the sanctuary renovations currently taking place. Sign up online at [giveblood.org](http://giveblood.org) . Use donor code 4134

## Sympathies and Memorials

### SYMPATHIES

**On the death of Lee Huebel, husband of Laura Huebel and son of John Huebel**  
**Condolences can be sent to:**

Laura Huebel  
 1010 Baron Ridge Dr.  
 Seabrook, TX 77586

and

John Huebel  
 517 Oak Drive  
 Lake Jackson, TX 77566

**On the death of Jared Burris, grandson of Dorothy & Joe Morris**  
**Condolences can be sent to:**

Dorothy & Joe Morris  
 513 Southern Oaks Dr.  
 Lake Jackson, TX 77566



### In Our Prayers...

Pastor & Kathy Geller  
 Roger & Jan Crouse  
 Suzanne Sargent  
 Carl & Laney Spoonmore  
 Linda Neumann  
 Bill & Sandra Clarke  
 Bob & Eleanor Walker  
 Laura Huebel

Margurite Verrett  
 Frances & AG Snelgrove  
 Chelsa & Nikolai Leatherwood  
 Jerry & Rainbo Johnson  
 Shirley Rylander  
 Wynama Wheeler  
 Andy & Deana Wheeler & family  
 Pastor Lynne & John Settlemyre

*If you or someone you know  
 would like to be added to our  
 prayer list, please contact the  
 church office.*



***Congratulations to Deana & Andy  
 Wheeler on the birth of their new  
 granddaughter, Kahlen,  
 (pronounced Kaylyn) born Thurs-  
 day, November 14, 2013.***

For anyone who corresponds  
 with Frances & A.G. Snelgrove...  
 please make a note that, as of  
 November 20, they have moved. They are  
 now living at the Country Village Care facili-  
 ty in Angleton and are in Room #17. Their  
 new telephone number is (979) 308-4038.

**NEW  
 ADDRESS**

## Girl's Night Out

Girl's Night Out will be Friday, Nov 22nd, at 5:30 at  
 Picket Fence  
 Restaurant in Clute (located inside Cherotel Hotel  
 on Hwy 332). For more  
 information and reservations call Mary  
 Helen at 297-6968 or email  
[mh-israel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mh-israel@sbcglobal.net)



Join us at 9 am Monday mornings  
 in Wilson Parlor. We will pray for  
 our children, their schools and  
 their teachers. No  
 homework, just a prayerful heart.

## Newsletter



Here below are due dates for submitting information to be included in The Messenger for the remainder of 2013. Please email your requests to [ljfumc@ljfumc.org](mailto:ljfumc@ljfumc.org). Thank you!

NEWSLETTER DATE	DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS
DEC 4	NOV 27
DEC 18	DEC 12



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Time: 9:30 am  
Place: Wesley Hall/Sanctuary  
Date: Monday, November 25

Can you believe it is already that time again? We will be decorating for the Advent Christmas Season on November 25, before we all gather with family and friends for Thanksgiving. It is a different kind of time for our church this year but the reason for the season never changes. December 1 is the first Sunday of Advent and will coincide with Dr. Lynne Settlemire's first time in the pulpit at First Church. We would like to have our seasonal decorations in place before that day so please come help, and enjoy the fellowship as we prepare our church and our hearts for this special time.

For over 123 years, The Salvation Army Angel Tree Program has provided Christmas assistance for disadvantaged children and senior citizens. Through the Angel Tree program, donors can become personally involved because they are able to choose a specific need with which to help. Once an individual has been registered as an "Angel," The Salvation Army makes a promise that we will provide Christmas for that individual. The promise includes a variety of gifts for each child or senior. In order to accomplish this, The Salvation Army depends on the generosity of individual donors, corporations and organizations.



This year First Church will have Angels available on Christmas trees, beginning November 24. One tree will be located by the Chapel and the other will be in the Pre-school wing near Wesley Hall. Gifts may be brought to the Church Office during regular business hours, or placed near one of the trees on Sundays. Please deliver all new and unwrapped items to the church on or before December 17. Help make this holiday season a little brighter for someone by participating in the Angel Tree program. You will be glad that you did!



Don't forget...Visit **El Chico** on Sunday and/or Wednesday and present any Sunday bulletin and receive 10% off your meal. **El Chico** then donates 10% of these sales back to our church!

**11/20/2013 Wednesday**

- 7:00 AM** Emmaus group meeting - Library  
**6:00 PM** Finance Committee Meeting - Library  
**6:15 PM** Small Group Study - Wilson Parlor  
**7:30 PM** Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

**11/21/2013 Thursday**

- 7:00 PM** Barbershop Group - Choir Room  
**7:00 PM** Cub Scouts Pack Meeting- Wesley Hall

**11/22/2013 Friday**

- 6:00 AM** Men's Lost & Found Study - Asbury Room

**11/24/2013 Sunday**

- 7:00 AM** Blood Drive - Donor Van  
**8:00 AM** Classic Worship - Chapel  
**9:00 AM** Contemporary Worship - Wesley Hall  
**10:00 AM** Sunday School  
**11:00 AM** Traditional Worship - Wesley Hall  
**3:45 PM** SUBMERGE - Blue Door Room  
**5:00 PM** The Journey Worship Service - Wesley Hall  
**6:00 PM** Key Methodist Beliefs - Bible Study - Wesley Hall

**11/25/2013 Monday**

- 9:00 AM** Mom's in Prayer - Wilson Parlor  
**9:30 AM** *Decorate Wesley Hall*  
**6:30 PM** Girl Scout Troop #27028 Meeting - Potter's Place  
**6:30 PM** Stephen Ministry Meeting - Library  
**7:00 PM** Boy Scout Troop 325 Meeting - Asbury Room

**11/26/2013 Tuesday**

- 9:00 AM** Intercessory Prayer - Chapel  
**7:00 PM** Cub Scouts - Asbury Room  
**7:30 PM** Praise Team Practice

**11/27/2013 Wednesday**

- 7:00 AM** Emmaus group meeting - Library  
**10:00 AM** Friendship Club - Asbury Room  
**6:15 PM** Small Group Study - Wilson Parlor  
**7:30 PM** Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

**11/28/2013 Thursday**

- 7:00 PM** Barbershop Group - Choir Room

**11/29/2013 Friday**

- 6:00 AM** Men's Lost & Found Study - Asbury Room

**12/1/2013 Sunday**

- 8:00 AM** Classic Worship - Chapel  
**9:00 AM** Contemporary Worship - Wesley Hall  
**10:00 AM** Sunday School  
**11:00 AM** Traditional Worship - Wesley Hall  
**6:00 PM** Key Methodist Beliefs - Bible Study - Wesley Hall  
**6:30 PM** Carpenter's Hands - Room 14

**12/2/2013 Monday**

- 9:00 AM** Mom's in Prayer - Wilson Parlor  
**3:00 PM** Society of St. Stephen Meeting - Wilson Parlor  
**6:30 PM** Girl Scout Troop #27028 Meeting - Potter's Place  
**7:00 PM** Boy Scout Troop 325 Meeting - Asbury Room  
**7:00 PM** Cub Scout Committee Meeting- Room 14

**12/3/2013 Tuesday**

- 9:00 AM** Intercessory Prayer - Chapel  
**6:30 PM** Administrative Board Meeting - Wesley Hall  
*last meeting of 2013*  
**7:00 PM** Cub Scouts - Asbury Room  
**7:30 PM** Praise Team Practice

**12/4/2013 Wednesday**

- 7:00 AM** Emmaus group meeting - Library  
**6:15 PM** Small Group Study - Wilson Parlor  
**7:30 PM** Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

**12/5/2013 Thursday**

- 1:30 PM** Pastor Geller - Wilson Parlor  
**7:00 PM** Barbershop Group - Choir Room

**12/6/2013 Friday**

- 6:00 AM** Men's Lost & Found Study - Asbury Room

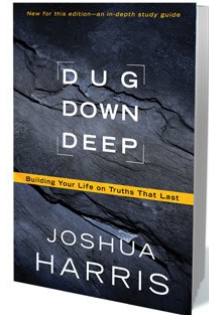
**THANKSGIVING DAY****CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**



## The Awakening - Youth Ministry

\*\*\*\*\*NEW FORMAT for SUNDAY NIGHTS\*\*\*\*\*

**SUNDAY NIGHTS ARE BRAND NEW FOR LJFUMC YOUTH! WE'VE CHANGED UP THE FORMAT FOR SUNDAY NIGHTS! FROM NOW ON, WE WILL ATTEND WORSHIP AT THE JOURNEY AND, AS SOON AS THE MUSIC IS OVER, WILL GO TO THE YOUTH CENTER FOR OUR OWN BIBLE STUDY. RIGHT NOW WE ARE STUDYING "DUG DOWN DEEP" BY JOSHUA HARRIS. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS STUDY ON HOW TO GROW A DEEPER FAITH AS YOUTH AMIDST AN OBSTACLE COURSE OF SIN AND DISTRACTION. BRING YOUR FRIENDS FOR FUN, GAMES, FOOD AND DEEP SPIRITUAL DISCUSSION! SUNDAY NIGHT 5-7PM**



Connect with The Awakening Youth Group on Facebook!



The desk pictured here is available free of charge. It is currently located in the Joy Ministry room at the church and is no longer needed. Anyone interested, please contact Aaron or Sharon Zimmerman at (979) 665-5974 or (979) 285-9484 or joyministryljfumc@gmail.com.

Attention: Children of First Church

### November 24 - Special Crafts

We have been asked to make special Chrismons for our Christmas decorating in Wesley Hall. A Chrismon is a Christian symbol representing Jesus Christ. This term comes from the Latin phrase meaning "monogram of Christ". Come join us during Children's church and Sunday school to learn more about the traditions and to put together these crafts for our church!!!



**THANKING GOD!!!!**

As I sit and think about all the changes that are going on in our town, at our church, and in the world, I can't help but PRAISE GOD for it all. GOD is behind the scenes making all things work for His glory. We might not understand why things happen but we do know for sure that GOD loves us and cares for us. So remember during this holiday season to be joyful always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

As we gather with family and friends, take time to thank GOD for the little things and for the BIG events. He enjoys His people when He hears them say "Thank you", just like you like to be given thanks when you do something for others.

May GOD be with you during this holiday season and give you time to be joyous, time to pray, time to just thank Him for what He is in your life.

THANK YOU GOD FOR MY FAMILY, MY FRIENDS, MY JOBS, AMERICA, MY CHURCH ,  
AND FOR EVERYTHING!!!!



PRAISING GOD ALWAYS,  
Kimberly Bowers  
Children's Ministry Director

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!**

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Graders - Time to get SUBMERGED in Snowballs on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at **3:45pm**

# Submerge

The 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders at First Church met on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. We read the story of the healed lepers in Matthew and discussed why only one was thankful. We also made special thank you cards for Pastor Geller. Our last meeting this year will be on December 8<sup>th</sup> and we will be **SUBMERGED in Snowballs** from 3:45 to 4:55. Come and join the fun!!

The spring schedule will be out soon, too. All 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to attend. Fifth and sixth grade friends are welcome, too. Drop-off is at 3:45pm in the blue door room and pickup is at 4:55. Contact Kim Copeland at [copeland.kim@att.net](mailto:copeland.kim@att.net) or 832-741-3932 if you have a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grader and are not currently receiving Submerge emails, or if you would like more information.

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**Experience the Journey!**

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**"A big THANKS to the dozens of volunteers that joined together to make this year's church BBQ event very successful. We had great weather, a good turnout, and raised significant funds that will be used to support the various church ministries. I think the children's activities were a big success, too. With your help, we served 1,216 plates of delicious food!"**

**Jay Gibson, BBQ Chair**

Also, *THANK YOU* to all the ladies who baked delicious goodies to make this year's 'Bake Sale' very successful. Our ministry mission this year was to reach out and help First Church Youth with upcoming projects. We raised nearly \$600! Thank you ALL for the baked goods, as well as your time and your service.



We also want to send a BIG to Kelly Johnson for her *amazing* skills at selling desserts at the drive-thru. Great job KELLY!!!

**First Church Women's Ministry**



**Start Connecting with your church family on Facebook! Join our page at "First United Methodist Church - Lake Jackson"**