

The mission of the
First United Methodist Church
is to embrace and extend
God's grace while passionately
growing servant leaders.

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PO Box 1567
Shreveport, LA 71165
**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
Embracing Grace. Growing Leaders.



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VOLUME LXIV NO.1 SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA JANUARY 2012

PAT'S PERSPECTIVE



You are standing on the threshold of an exciting new year filled with fantastic possibilities and opportunities. If 2011 was a difficult year for you then you can celebrate that it is over and you have survived! In fact, this past year was preparation for the marvelous adventure that God has in store for you in 2012. I believe that 2012 will be a tremendous year for you.

One of the most important things as you begin this New Year is to remember that it is important to watch your thoughts, because they become words. Fear has a way of making you think things are worse than they really are. Your imagination begins to run wild leading you to conclude a worst case scenario. The Bible reminds us, "For as a man thinks in his heart, so he is." Marcus Aurelius, one of the wisest men of the Roman Empire said, "Your life is what your thoughts make it." What you think determines what you become and do in life. You become what you think about most of the time. Your thoughts control and determine almost everything that happens to you. James Allen in his classic book, "As a Man Thinketh," writes, "All that a man achieves or fails to achieve is a direct result of his thoughts."

Paul said, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Romans 12:2) When you change your thoughts

you change your life. Your thoughts determine your outlook and actions in life. Rich Devos once said, "The only thing that stands between a person and what they want in life is the will to try it and the faith to believe it is possible." When you change your thoughts you change your life.

Your thoughts determine your outlook and actions in life. Is the glass half full or half empty? The choice is yours. What you believe with constancy becomes your reality. Your thoughts determine your reality. You can have a life changing belief that makes you happy and optimistic or it can be negative and fearful and makes you pessimistic and destroys your future. Keep your mind clearly focused on what you want, and refuse to think about what you don't want; you will attract everything you need to achieve your goals. The mind acts just like a magnet. Our thoughts attract the very things that we want or the very things that we don't want depending on how we utilize it.

What do you want to achieve or become in 2012? Write it down, then picture it, believe and visualize it in detail. Trust God to direct your steps and affirm, "God is with me. He is helping me. He is guiding me." Then, by faith, put your hands in Jesus Christ's and ask him to lead you each step of the way during this year. You will be amazed at the miracles that will come into your life. You will be amazed at the most marvelous adventure the human mind can conceive.

There are no guarantees in the New Year. But if you follow what I have suggested it certainly will give you a higher chance to succeed than if you choose to ignore it. 2012 is going to be a great year, a fantastic year filled with exciting adventures and opportunities for each one of us. So let's step forward into the New Year with faith, courage, confidence and positive expectancy for what God will bring and do in our lives.

See you Sunday in church!



FUMCServes City Saturday:

We're very excited about this month's City Saturday as we plan to travel down to the Sportran Bus Station and love on those who are waiting for their buses to arrive. We will be taking down warm soup, fresh coffee, hot chocolate and scarves (knitted by the FUMC knitting group) to pass out. We hope to fill the morning with quality conversations and joyful company as we join as a body to bring light into our city. We will meet at the church at **8am and will plan to serve until Noon**. Hope to see you there!

Clothes Collection:

Go through your closets during the month of January, and find some items to share and donate to the church's monthly Goodwill clothing and accessory drive. For every five bags collected, the Serving Ministry receives a \$10 voucher to give to those with needs; the vouchers are redeemable at Goodwill stores. The clothing collection normally takes place on the first Sunday morning of every month, but because New Year's Day falls on the first Sunday, the **January collection will be postponed until February 5**.

Summer Haiti Trips:

This summer, our church will be taking 3 different groups to serve at Bighouse and Darivage Children's Homes in Les Cayes, Haiti.

Our Commitment Team will go for **2 weeks in May (14th-24th)** to teach subject and trade classes to the 123 children our church sponsors. Our 4 summer teachers will be remaining in Haiti for the months of June and July to teach French and English at the two villages. And our **week-long July team** will be traveling from the 14th-21st of the month to the two villages to build chicken coops, visit and pray for the surrounding huts/homes of Bighouse and Darivage, as well as make a supply drop. We still have spots available on the July Team (\$1700/person), and we'd love to have a few more congregation members join us! Also, the trips are exciting but the costs are great, so if you are interested in helping our teams get to Haiti this summer, your donations are welcomed!

For more information, email Britney Winn at bwinn@fumcshreveport.org.



"The Pink Panther Strikes Again"

will be the next production in the Emmett Hook Center, running **March 2-11**. Open auditions for the stage play are set for **January 8 and 9** and all interested persons are invited to audition. Phone 429-6887 for further information.

Website

We are excited to share with you our new and improved website! We hope that you will find it easier to navigate and find the information you are looking for. You can now find information about our upcoming events, check the calendar, and submit an online prayer request, payment or registration all from the home page! Check out the Media section to download sermons or view bulletin and newsletter archives. Information about events like baptisms and weddings, as well as parental consent forms can be found in the Resources area. Visitors can be referred to the Guests section for a welcome from Dr. Day along with information to help make their visit great.

Visit us online at www.fumcshreveport.org!



- **First United Methodist Church**
500 Common Street
P. O. Box 1567
Shreveport, LA 71165-1567
- **Sunday Worship Services**
Traditional 8:30am & 11:00am
Sanctuary (A deaf interpreter is available at the 11:00 service)
- **FAITHLink Contemporary**
9:30am & 11:00am
Emmett Hook Center
- **Wednesday Business Luncheon**
Wednesdays at Noon
Multimedia Room, Education & Administration Bldg., 3rd Floor
- **Wesleyan Communion Service**
9:45-10:30am
Couch Chapel
(1st Sunday of month)
- **Sunday School**
9:45am
- **Televised Sunday Services**
11:00am (live)
ABC KTBS-TV Ch. 3

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STEPHEN MINISTRY

After the holidays

Christmas is past, the extended families have gone back to their homes, and the holiday decorations have been packed away. January can be a difficult time for many. Stephen Ministers can help by bringing God's warm love into your life. They will provide confidential one-to-one Christian care. One will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, to support and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of a crisis. To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with Linda Ferguson, or contact Dr. Carl Rhoads at the church office, 424-7771.

Starting Point



As our guests begin to ask questions about their next step at FUMC Shreveport we want to be there to join in the conversation. **Starting January 22**, we will offer Starting Point, a conversational environment where guests can find their next step in the journey. Any guest who has frequently attended worship services and anyone interested in joining the church will be invited to attend. For more information, please email Rev. Pam Crews at pcrews@fumcshreveport.org or call 424-7771.



Epiphany

Epiphany means "to show, make known, or reveal." Each year Epiphany is celebrated on January 6, twelve days after Christmas. The season of Epiphany continues until Lent.

Epiphany is closely associated with the visit of the Magi and the revelation to them that Christ is "Lord and King." The Wise Men represent the coming of Christ to the gentile world. For Christians, Epiphany is a reminder of God's unlimited love and mercy which is extended to all humankind through the revelation of Christ. Through Christ salvation is manifest for all those who came to Him in faith.

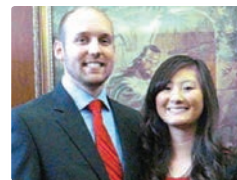
New Members

Not pictured:

Jessica & Danny Call, Polly & Ted Scurlock, Katherine & Craig Webb, Judy Reller



REGINA CONLY



KATIE & CHRIS JIVIDEN

THANK YOU

Volunteer Appreciation Day is Sunday, January 29

A Special Thank You to Our Volunteers

For every letter you've written, envelope you've stuffed, phone call you've made, and meal you've prepared
 For every guest you've made feel welcome, house you've helped build, and orphan you've brought hope
 For every child you've entertained, bus you've driven, class you've taught, and table you've decorated
 For all your help with the homeless, visits with the homebound, and time you've spent in prayer for others' needs
 Every song you've prepared, production you've made happen, and new member you have guided

For every packet you've packed and book you've shelved
 For the classes you've taught and continue to teach
 For every man, woman, child who's life you've changed
 For every moment you've spent in selfless service to others, we want to say "Thanks".

Please join us in a celebration of service at this year's Volunteer Appreciation Day during all services on Sunday, January 29th. We would like to honor you and the time you've given as a servant of Jesus Christ.

"I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you."
 Philippians 1:3

UMW

United Methodist Women:

Certificates of Recognition were handed out at the December 6 General Meeting of UMW in appreciation of UMW members who participated in The Reading Program. Members receiving certificates were:

- Plan IV (20 books): Patty Lindsey
- Plan III (15 books): Clara Hemmings
- Plan II (10 books): Ann Rhoads, Mary Thomas
- Plan I (4 books): Patricia Aura, Amy Bailey, Suzanne Bright, Patty Colvin, Velda McCormick, Betty Smith, Susan Zavalydriga
- Additional readers included Lori Baynham and Mary Wynn.

The church and our local unit of UMW praise each of these women for participating in a program, which is designed to help our members "find their passion for changing the world." The quote is taken from a speech given by UMW National President, Harriet Olson.

UMW Circle 3 meeting is **Tuesday, January 17 at 10am** at the home of Helen Evans.

UMW Sunday at FUMC

FUMC will celebrate UMW Sunday on **January 22**. UMW Sunday is an annual nationwide recognition of United Methodist Women - a women's membership organization dedicated to mission, spiritual growth and social justice. It is actively engaged in mission work with women, children, and youth around the world. All women of the church are invited to join UMW, either as a member-at-large or as an active participant in one of our UMW Circles. For additional information, please call the church office, 424-7771 or visit the women's page of our website - fumcshreveport.org.

PRAYER



Prayers of Silence and Listening

Prayer has much to do with listening to God. As we begin this New Year it is important to make time to be alone with God, letting go of the busyness of the holiday season and focusing on the plans he has for our lives. Mama Maggie Gobran was a guest speaker at the Willow Creek Leadership Summit in August 2011. She shared a beautiful introduction for moving into silence to listen for God's voice.

Mama Maggie's Secrets of Silence:

- Silence your body to listen to your words.
- Silence your tongue to listen to your thoughts.
- Silence your thoughts to listen to your heart beating.
- Silence your heart to listen to your spirit.
- Silence your spirit to listen to His Spirit. Silence...
- Leave many to be with the One. "Come closer."

STEWARDSHIP

Count Me In

Budget for 2012 adopted
 The Administrative Council adopted the 2012 budget as recommended by the Finance Committee on December 11, 2011. Because of

the generous giving of our congregation, a record budget of \$4,200,000 was adopted. With these resources our church will increase local mission funding by 115%. Our Haiti mission will also be increased by 56%. Other areas

of programming and ministry will see increased funding as well. We encourage those who have not yet turned in their 2012 pledges to please do so. Our church is truly thankful for the many blessings provided by the Lord.

NEW CLASS

NEW Sunday school class for adults ages 30-60 years will begin **Sunday, January 15** in Hunter 205. Each Sunday this class will gather for social time from 9:30-10:00am with class beginning at 10am. The class will utilize a variety of learning experiences

to strengthen our faith while connecting with the community of believers in a personal way. Some of the topics include: God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Worship, The Bible, Gifts, Ministry, Baptism, Spiritual Life, Death and Resurrection, Life in the Church, and The Faith Journey Continuing. Contact Mike or Leann Anglin at 868-2634 or leannanglin@bellsouth.net for more information.

SENIOR ADULTS



Silver Screenings

"Jailhouse Rock" starring Elvis Presley will be the Silver Screenings feature on



Renew & Review Book Club:

The setting is Ireland, and it is 1943 when Ben MacCarthy meets Miss Kate Begley, the Matchmaker. And so Nancy Waddell Hutson will introduce The Matchmaker of Kenmare by Frank Delaney on **January 10, 2012, at 10:00am** in Hunter Room 101. Delaney offers an intriguing novel filled with myth, romance, laughter, and heartbreak, as well as chilling moments as a thriller. Join Renew and Review Book Club members and guests for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation preceding the review. Annual dues are \$25.00 Cost for non-members is \$4.00. All are welcome!

Tuesday, January 17. For reservations call Brenda at 424-7771 by **Friday, January 13** and mail a check for \$14. This includes the movie and lunch. Meet at the church at 9:45am to be transported by church bus to the Robinson Center.

Treasure's Luncheon

Dr. Gale Bridger will speak on "finding the unknown God through travel" at the Treasure's Luncheon on **Thursday, January 12 at 12:00pm** in Hunter Room 101. For reservations call Brenda or Susan at 424-7771. Lunch will be served at a cost of \$6.

WEE LUNCH



Nursery & Preschool

Start the new year off by enjoying a meal with other families with young children! Join us in the Storer Activity Center on **Sunday, January 15, 12:00-2:00pm**. Please register by calling Ms. Billie at 424-7771 or 426-1363 or email her at bteat@fumcshreveport.org. The cost of the meal in 2012 will be \$10 per family.

Married Life

The Best Valentine's Gift Ever!

What does your spouse really want on Valentine's Day? Flowers die, chocolates are quickly eaten but a loving, growing relationship lasts forever. Married=Life is a small group designed to help you know, love and enjoy your spouse more. Married=Life will be led again by our wonderful Larry and Puddy LaBorde starting the week after Valentine's Day. Married=Life is engaging, enlightening and will put a new spark in your marriage. Couples will fall in love again - for all the right reasons! To find out more or register for the group call Misty, 424-7771. Free childcare is available upon request.

Holiday

Due to New Years falling on Sunday this year, we will be adjusting our regular Sunday schedule for this date only.

- Traditional and Contemporary services will worship at **11:00am only on Sunday, January 1**.
- Sunday School will not meet.
- Coffee Corner will not open.
- The 1st Sunday Wesleyan Communion Service will be postponed until February.

CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, JANUARY 2.