

Embracing Grace. Growing Leaders.

VOLUME LXIII NO.7 SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA JULY 2011

PAT'S PERSPECTIVE



What has happened to the American dream? Throughout our history, God has blessed our nation in a marvelous way.

He has allowed her to enjoy unprecedented wealth, fortune, power and influence. America has been the world leader in medical and technological advancement. Our nation has pioneered space exploration and scientific research. America has given its citizens, through the free enterprise system, the world's highest standard of living. She has opened her arms to millions of immigrants and refugees from all around the world. While other nations build barbed wire fences to keep people from getting out, America has greeted long lines of people wanting to get into our country to become a part of the American dream.

The American dream, like any other worthwhile dream, has a high price. It must be carefully guarded and preserved, lest the next generation lose sight of its real significance. From time to time a dream must be renewed, refocused and recaptured. Recapturing the American dream involves passionate involvement in fighting for a worthy cause.

Where is your holy discontent? Bill Hybels raises an important question: "What is it that motivates people to work where they work, volunteer their time to groups they serve and donate money to the causes they support?"

I think a part of the answer is that people get motivated to get into the game; they devote their vocational lives, volunteer their energies, and donate their hard earned money to make sure the problem that God calls them to solve gets fixed.

The reason millions of people choose to do good in the world is because there is such wrong in the world. They experience a firestorm of frustration deep within their soul and spirit. We live in a broken world that badly needs restoration. God is in the restoration business. Attempting to do restoration work under your own strength results in frustration, anger and ultimately failure.

I believe enormous untapped energy and resource are lying dormant in the lives of many good people. When this energy and ministry potential is unleashed that which is enslaved can be set free, and that which has been broken can be mended, and that which is diseased can be healed, and what is hated can be loved, and what is dirty can be made clean, and what is wrong can be made right. God says to each of us, "Suit up, get in the game. I'll partner with you and I'll involve you in making some badly needed changes in my world."

Recapturing the American dream can become reality. It's not the impossible dream. It will take prayer, sacrifice, commitment, and paying the price. I can think of nothing greater than to give your life to that of insuring the future of this great country for future generations and for others who will come along behind them. Will you join me in praying for our country? Will join me in working for the renewal of our great nation? Edward Hale once wrote, "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something and what I can do, I should do, and with the help of God, I will do it."

See you Sunday in church!




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Shreveport, LA 71165

Office.....424-7771
Music Office.....429-6887
First Beginnings
Child Development
Center.....429-6890
PRAYER LINE.....429-6898

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



CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMPS

Register your children today! Contact Mrs. Billie or Ms. Emily at 424-7771 for more information.

Panda Mania: V.B.S. 2011, Where God is Wild about You!

It's easy to read about incredible miracles in the Bible, but at Panda Mania the kids will learn to look for miracles that surround them everyday. Kids will learn to look for evidence of God in things like a sunset, a rainstorm, a laugh, a kind word, or a tasty snack. Even preschoolers will be looking for "God Sightings" throughout the week.



This wild celebration takes place **July 11 - 15; Monday, 8:30-Noon, and Tuesday-Friday, 9:00-Noon.** Children age 3 through grade 5 are invited to a week of Bible lessons, games, snacks, crafts, and Chaddar's video. After VBS Madness will be from 12pm-5pm and is for completed 4th-6th graders.

Something new for VBS 2011! There will be a separate VBS for fourth and fifth graders - a preteen VBS - and a separate VBS for three year olds in the new Children's Ministry Building. How exciting!! It is our hope that you will include this event in your summer plans. Friends are always welcome.

Mission Week: Join us **July 24-28 from 8:30am -7pm** for a week of mission, games, worship and more. The mission project will be held off site and will be

light construction. Each day we will work at our job site and then back to the church for games and worship. Each day your child needs to bring water bottle, sunscreen and Bible. This Mission Week is for completed 5th and 6th graders. The last day we will have a lock-in at the Church for all those who participated!!

End of Summer Trips:
August 1: End of summer day trip for completed 1st and 2nd graders to Tyler, Texas for a fun day in the sun!!
August 3: End of summer day trip for completed 3rd and 4th graders to Dallas.

August 5-7: End of summer trip for completed 6th graders! This year we will head to Schlitterbahn in New Braunfels, Texas.

Women's Wonder Full World Retreat

Join us Saturday, August 20, 9am-3pm in Storer Activity Center for an unforgettable travel-themed retreat the women of our church are doing together. It includes worship, Bible study, and time for laughter as well as time for quiet reflection. We'll "travel" to several different continents. While there, we'll explore wonders of a woman's heart, such as "I wonder if I matter to God" or "I wonder where God is when life is hard."

Cost is only \$25 per woman. This covers a delicious lunch and snacks, fun and refreshing activities, and a few "goodies" to remember your day. For more information, or to register, contact Stephanie Clark at 424-7771 or sclark@fumcshreveport.org. Take time to relax, to make new friends, to worship, and to explore God's wondrous love. We hope you'll join us at Wonder Full World!

- **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**
11:00am
Performing Arts 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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APPRECIATION

Our Step Up 5th and 6th graders spent their Spring Break helping others during Mission and a Mystery Trip 2011. They traveled to New Braunfels, Texas to help out at the Crisis Center of Comal County. Following is a letter we received offering thanks for the student's hard work during their spring break.

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and clients of the Crisis Center I would like to thank you for all the work your group did in painting the outside of the shelter. The building looks great and makes a welcoming statement to everyone seeking assistance at the Crisis Center. It is often difficult to find anyone to take on a project like this and we greatly appreciate your hours of work to beautify the Crisis Center Building. Please extend our thanks to all the youth and adults involved in the project.

On May 12th the agency had an open house to honor the groups who have helped in refurbishing and improving the Crisis Center building. As part of the evening we hung a plaque honoring the groups who helped. Your groups name was included on the plaque and will hang in a place of honor where everyone entering the building will know of your dedication and work in assisting the Crisis Center of Comal County.

Without your support we would not be able to meet our goal of providing services to victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.

Sincerely,
Daniel A. Perez
Executive Director

Super Summer Sundays

You are invited to join us in Bain Hall at 9:45am for a special Sunday School series on **July 10, 17, 24, and 31**. Our emphasis this year will be in two parts. The first two Sundays will focus on Haiti – It's challenges and hopes. The study encourages ongoing exchanges of cultural understanding, mutual respect and mission partnership between our church and the people of God in Haiti. The next two Sundays will focus on our involvement in the local community as well as how you can become involved in either of these opportunities. So mark your calendars and come see what your church has been doing to grow the kingdom of God in places like Haiti and right here at home.



CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council will meet **Sunday, July 17** in Hunter 101 immediately following the 11:00 worship services. Lunch reservations **MUST** be made by Thursday, July 14. Cost is \$6. Your reservation can be made on the attendance pad in worship or by calling the church at 424-7771.

Spouses are always invited to attend. A nursery and meal for children will be provided with a reservation made by July 14.

NEW CLASS

Are you...

- **Between the ages of 25-35** (give or take a few years on either end)?
 - **Engaged?**
 - **Thinking about becoming engaged?**
 - **Recently married?**
 - **Just beginning a career?**
- If you answered yes, to at least one of these, then this is for you!

Mark your calendars for **August 14, 6-8pm** and come to a cookout at the home of Lori and Robert Yokem, 308 Fletcher Dr, Bossier City. We will be discussing future plans for a Sunday school class and monthly social events. If you cannot make the cookout, the class will begin meeting the following **Sunday, August 21 in Dawson 315**.

RSVP to Rev. Pam Crews
pcrews@fumcshreveport.org.

NEW STAFF MEMBER

Dr. David Hobson to Join our Staff

Dr. David Hobson, his wife, Dr. Emily Hobson and their 3 children will be joining our church family July 1. He will serve as our Minister of Music, while continuing directorship of the Centenary College Choir, a position he began in the fall of 2007, becoming only the fourth conductor in the choir's 68 year history and the second to hold the prestigious A.C. Cheesy Voran Chair.

Hobson is a 1998 alumnus of Centenary College and the Choir, earning a Bachelor of Music degree with honors. His tutelage under Dr. Will Andress while in the Centenary Choir as well as church music classes helped shape his career upon leaving Centenary. He later completed the Master of Sacred Music program at Emory University, studying conducting with Eric Nelson. He recently received the Doctorate of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting at Louisiana State University.

He remains active in church music ministry, having served churches in Shreveport, Atlanta, and Baton Rouge, directing vocal and handbell choirs of all ages. He has also led several seminars in the area of music and worship for various churches.

NEW MEMBERS



PHIL & CARLA STEWART AND MADELYN



JANE BURT



LARRY CASEY

GUEST SPEAKERS

Sunday School Leaders, If you'd be willing to have a guest speaker from the Serving Ministries Team come and speak to your Sunday School class during the month of August about the direction we're headed with Local and Global Missions at FUMC, please email Britney Winn, Director of Serving Ministries, at bwinn@fumcshreveport.org or call 424-7771 ext 113. Keep a look out for our FUMC SERVES awareness campaign that will be running throughout the month of July!

Pray that...

Fact: One out of every three people will be affected by cancer in his or her life time. That is an astonishing amount of people. Imagine the effect it would have if all of these people were united in prayer and asking God for a cure! On **Saturday, July 23, 2011, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**, the Prayer Ministries of First United Methodist Church, Shreveport,

will be hosting the second annual "PRAY THAT..." event. People from all around the area will be uniting in prayer for the cure for cancer. We will be praying in very traditional ways and also praying through the arts. In the Sanctuary, there will be sharing of testimonies, scripture, written prayers, musical offerings, healing prayer, communion, and the

opportunity to pray at the altar. Across The Bridge and on the third floor of the E & A building, there will be adult and kid-oriented activities including sculpting, painting and cross-making. Contemplative forms of prayer including a labyrinth walk and Stations of the Cross, meditation, and journaling will be located in the multi-media room. We hope you and your

children will join us for this powerful day of prayer. "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD. – Jeremiah 29:12-14
A nursery will be provided for those who desire it, but children are encouraged to join in.

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT SENIOR MINISTRY

Silver Screening

"High Society" featuring Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, & Grace Kelly will be the Silver Screenings feature on **Tuesday, July 19th**. For reservations call Brenda at 424-7771 by Friday, July 15th and mail a check to the church for \$14. This includes the movie and lunch. Meet at the church at 9:45 am to be transported by church bus to the Robinson Center.

Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit August 11-12, 2011

First United Methodist Shreveport is an official satellite location for The Global Leadership Summit 2011 - the Willow Creek Association's annual world-class leadership event broadcast from the Willow campus near Chicago. As a host site for this event, we truly believe the Summit to be one of the

Treasurers' Luncheon

Liz Swaine, Executive Director of Downtown Development Authority, will share plans for the continuing Development of downtown Shreveport for the Treasurers' Luncheon on **Thursday, July 14th, at 12:00 noon** in Hunter 101. For reservations call Brenda at 424-7771. Lunch will be served at a cost of \$6.00.

most accessible and affordable opportunities for leadership development available anywhere.

This year Bill Hybels has lined up a strong team of speakers including Howard Schultz (President of Starbucks Corp.), Michele Rhee (Founder, Studentsfirst.org) and Dr. Henry Cloud (Psychologist, Author and Leadership Consultant).

You can see more authors and a taste of the Summit at

EMMETT HOOK CENTER OPENING!

The Emmett Hook Center Opening Gala, including open house, food and performance of "Crazy for You" is scheduled for **July 22 at 7:30pm**. Tickets are \$40 Adult and \$20 Child. Additional performance dates (\$22 Adult/\$12 Child) – July 23, 29 and 30th at 7:30pm and July 24 at 3:00pm. Please call 429-6887 for additional information.



willowcreek.com/summit.

As a member of First Methodist, you and your friends get a discounted rate if you register through www.fumcshreveport.org/events. The cost is only \$99 for this 2-day, world-class leadership boost that will help you 'lead where you are' and achieve your God-given potential. Scholarship information available by contacting Laura at 424-7771.



Paint Your Heart Out

It takes less than three hours to paint the exterior of a house if you have a large team doing the work. On May 21, 43 people gathered at the church at 7:30 a.m. to paint a house just a few streets from the church. The

group did painting and landscaping as part of the City of Shreveport's Paint Your Heart Out program. This is the 19th year of the program, and over 1,200 houses have been painted by teams of volunteers like ours. FUMC has participated in every PYHO, and this year's group of participants was one of our largest. The city screens low-income, elderly applicants whose houses need painting and then hires out the prep work and provides all the paint and supplies. The Desiderata class funded the materials for the landscaping, and members of the Questers class prepared and served food. The Serving Ministry Team thanks all those who were a part of this event.

INDEPENDENCE DAY



CELEBRATE AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE!

Enjoy a 4th of July Dinner (\$7 Adult, \$4 Child) and a rousing program of patriotic music. **Sunday, July 3, 12:15 p.m.** in Bain Hall. Register by June 30th. Please call 424-7771