

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# GO DOWN

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

www.fumcshreveport.org  
fumc@fumcshreveport.org

Office .....424-7771  
Music Office .....429-6887  
First Beginnings  
Child Development  
Center .....429-6890  
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Shreveport, LA 71165  
PO Box 1567



## FUMCServes Love Feast

For many years now, FUMC Shreveport has spent its Christmas Day opening the doors to share in the celebration with 300-500 of the community members. Many of the agency kitchens shut down for the day to allow their workers to have the holiday off. So FUMC offers the invitation to the homeless, agency clients, low-income individuals and families, volunteers, and congregation members to join us. A hot meal is served, toys and supplies are distributed, songs about the birth of our Savior are sung together, and Santa usually makes his rounds for the kids. We ask for volunteers to come during the hours of **8am and 2pm**. Not everyone is expected to be present for the entire time. Feel free to decide between taking an early shift to assist with meal prep, a middle shift to assist with operation, or the later shift to assist with cleanup. And if you are unable to attend Christmas day but would like to take part in the event, we'd love to have you for our Love Feast Prep City Saturday the **Saturday before on December 17th!** We encourage you to invite individuals and families that you feel would enjoy joining with us for this occasion!

## 2013 Haiti Summer Trips!

**-May 14th-25th** (12 day trip. For Commitment Team Members, but a few spots open for Non-CTM. Cost-\$2000. **Objective:** To teach subject & trade classes to the children at both villages.)  
**-May 14th-July 21** (10 week trip for Summer

Teachers. 2 spots left available. Cost-TBD.  
**Objective:** To teach 2 months of French and English classes to the children of Bighouse and Darivage.)  
**-July 14th-21st** (Week trip. Open to all. Cost-\$1700. **Objective:** To complete small projects, deliver supplies, and care for the surrounding families in the village communities.)  
Contact Britney (bwinn@fumcshreveport.org) if you are interested in traveling with us!

## November City Saturday

We've had such an exciting start to our church-wide, monthly City-Saturdays! We kicked off in September by partnering with The Hub: Urban Ministries where 38 congregation members and friends came together to play Bingo with the homeless downtown. This past month, in October, 33 pairs of hands came together to help scrape, paint, and repair floors in a neighborhood home in Allendale. This coming City Saturday, on **November 19th**, we will be meeting in the old PAC parking lot at **8am**, loading the can goods (that have been collecting in lobby wheelbarrows throughout the church for a couple of months) into vans, then drive over to our partnering ministry, Centerpoint Community Service, where we will put together Thanksgiving Baskets for local families. All ages are welcome, and it will last from 8am-noon! If you have any questions, email Britney Winn, Director of Serving Ministries, at bwinn@fumcshreveport.org. Hope you'll join us!

## Goodwill

Go through your closets and select items you no longer wear to donate to the FUMC Goodwill Clothes Collection on **Sunday, Nov. 6**. Church youth will bag your gently used clothing and accessories when you bring them to the Hunter Motor Lobby. In turn for our donations on the first Sunday of each month, Goodwill gives the Serving Ministry vouchers to be used in their stores by those in need.



## Christmas Bear Collection

Be on the lookout for bears! Soft, fuzzy, stuffed ones, that is. The annual Christmas bear collection begins **Sunday, Nov. 27, and continues through Sunday, Dec. 11**. That's only three Sundays to place your bears at the altar rail in the sanctuary or in FaithLink. The Serving Ministry sorts these and delivers them to Central Elementary in the church neighborhood. The school gives them to the children at their Christmas parties. Bears that measure 12 to 24 inches are best for this age child.

## Embracing Grace. Growing Leaders.

VOLUME LXIII NO.11

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

NOVEMBER 2011

### PAT'S PERSPECTIVE



**“Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks unto the Holy One; give thanks because He has given Jesus Christ, His Son” describes, for me, what Thanksgiving is all about. Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday. It has been a special time for me to praise and give thanks to God for all the wonderful blessings that He has bestowed upon my life. I don’t think the Lord wants any pompous proclamation on Thursday as much as He wants a little humble service and heartfelt gratitude from each one of us every day during the year.**

How do you express your gratitude to God and to others? How can you cultivate giving thanks with a grateful heart? Giving thanks with a grateful heart is not based solely upon circumstances. Many people mistakenly think that they can give thanks if or when...It is much easier to give thanks when things are going your way, when the bank account is full, when you are healthy, when your children are doing fine and when your marriage really is working.

I Thessalonians 5:18 states, “Give thanks in all circumstances.”

The first Thanksgiving was the celebration of the strength and

joy that comes from praising and thanking God at all times, even in the very worst of times. The pilgrims landed on Plymouth Bay on December 12, 1620. Fifty-one out of the original one hundred and two died the first year. But in 1621 they gathered to give thanks to God for His blessings and provisions. That really and truly is the secret to giving thanks; it means to give thanks regardless.

Don’t surrender the leadership of your life to negative circumstances, events, and people. Choose to cultivate and express sincere thanksgiving from a grateful heart. Start looking for the good that God will bring out of the negative experience which you are presently going through. During a difficult time it is easy to forget God, His protection, provision, providence and His power. It’s easy to forget His blessing.

Giving thanks with a grateful heart brings healing and wholeness to life. Gratitude has a very therapeutic value. It is a wonderful antidote to depression and negativism and other emotional problems. When you are getting down, depressed and begin to wallow in self-pity make a gratitude list. Write down all the things that you are grateful for. Get involved in lifting the spirits of others, especially the less fortunate. Counting your blessings can transform melancholy into cheerfulness. Remember our life is like a glass; we can either view it as being half-full or half-empty. It depends upon our perspective. When we are grateful for life it becomes easy to see the good that is always there. Gratitude nurtures within us a positive, joy-filled consciousness. May you celebrate the Thanksgiving principle!

See you Sunday in church!

- **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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# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**WOMEN**

**UMW General Meeting**

The United Methodist Women General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 1 at 11am in Hunter 101. Please note the change in time. We plan a shorter meeting that will allow people to attend during their lunch hour. Our speaker will be our own Clara Hemmings presenting "Joy to the World; Mission and Evangelism." Clara has given the interesting program at several district meetings. Lunch (\$5) will be served at 11:45am. All women of the church are invited to attend.

**Circle 8 Meeting**

The November UMW Circle 8 meeting will be held at Shirley Dunham's house on **November 14 at 2 PM**. The meeting date changed to the second Monday for November because of Thanksgiving. Visitors are welcome. If you have any questions please call Patty Colvin 929-2979.

**Pastry Stroll**

The UMW Annual Holiday Pastry Stroll will be held on **November 20 from 9:30am-12:15pm** on the Bridge, Under the Sanctuary and at the Emmett Hook Center. Purchase pies, cakes and sweet breads for your Holiday entertaining and help support UMW Missions.

**CONCERT**

**Jazz Fest**

Jazz greats, Abraham Laboriel, bass, from Los Angeles, James Johnson, Jr. piano and James Johnson III, drums, both from Pittsburgh will join with David Hardin, trumpet, Jim Bair, saxophone/clarinet, and Mark Griffith, guitar, will join forces to produce a stirring concert of the best of jazz on the Sunday afternoon concert. With open seating, the tickets are \$10 each available on line [www.emmetTHOOKcenter.org](http://www.emmetTHOOKcenter.org) or 429-6885. The concert is produced on the Texas Street Arts Series.



**Thank you**

A Special Thanks to those who attended the Treasure's Luncheon on October 13, to hear me speak on my Holy Land experience and enjoy my favorite menu prepared by Mrs. Peak and Ms. Velma. May God Bless You and I will always keep you in my Heart.  
- Leonard Gates.

**New Members**

**Not pictured:** Bethany & Trey Culverhouse, Evon Malray, Onice Spells and Sarah & Jared Trahan



DABNEY ANDREWS



ADDIE KELLEY



LAURA WILLETT & SOPHIA

**BOOK CLUB**

**Renew & Review**

**On November 8, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.** in Hunter Room 101 Suzanne Bright will present a review of Erik Larsen's *The Garden of Beast: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin*. Larsen provides a vivid portrait of Berlin during the first years of Hitler's reign, brought to life through the stories of two people: William E. Dodd, who in 1933 became America's first ambassador to Hitler's regime, and his scandalously carefree daughter, Martha. Join us for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation preceding the review. Annual dues are \$25.00. Cost for non-members is \$4.00.

**BRIDGE**

**Bridge Lessons**

We are pleased to announce that Intermediate Bridge Lessons by Mrs. Betty Kennedy will be offered at FUMC, Shreveport, **January 3-24, 2012**. To register, please forward your name, address, telephone number and check payable to FUMC to PO Box 1567, Shreveport, LA 71165 Attn: Melanie. Classes will again be held on **Tuesday nights in Storer Activity Center on the first floor of the E&A building from 5:30-7:30pm**. Cost is \$40 each for FUMC members and \$45 for non-members.

For additional information please contact Melanie, 429-6887 or [mbarron@fumcshreveport.org](mailto:mbarron@fumcshreveport.org).

**HOLIDAYS**

**Changes in Sunday schedules for the holidays:**

Due to **Christmas** and **New Year's** falling on Sundays this year, we will be adjusting our regular Sunday morning schedule for these dates only.

Please make note of the following adjustments. **Sunday, December 25:** no Sunday School. Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary at 11:00am only. FaithLink Worship at the Love Feast in Bain Hall.

**Sunday, January 1:** no Sunday School. Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary at 11:00am only. FaithLink Worship in the Emmett Hook Center at 11:00am only.

**CHILDREN**

**Parent's Night Out:**

**Friday, November 11, 6:00-9:00pm.** The activities will be based around a café theme! Everyone will become a chef as we cook, dine, play games, (an inflatable just might be in the works), and watch clips from *Ratatouille*. The Bible lesson will remind children of God's plan for our lives and sharing God's Word with everyone we meet. Infants – Age 2 in the new Children's Ministry building; ages 3-5 in Storer Activity room and Grades K-4th in Bain Hall. Cost is \$10/child. RSVP to Mrs. Billie at [btate@fumcshreveport.org](mailto:btate@fumcshreveport.org) or 424-7771.



**"WEE" Lunch and Play Date**

Families with children ages infant-K4 are invited to join us in the Storer Activity Room on **November 20th following the 11:00 services**. Celebrate this Thanksgiving with other families with young children as we thank God for all our blessings. Come, fellowship, and enjoy a meal with a heart of gratitude! Cost is \$5. RSVP to Mrs. Billie at [btate@fumcshreveport.org](mailto:btate@fumcshreveport.org) or 424-7771.

**STEWARDSHIP**

**Count Me In**

Thank you to those who have turned in your pledge commitment cards for 2012. If you have not yet pledged, please do so by either mailing or hand delivering your cards to the church, placing them in an offering plate during one of the worship

services, or pledging online. We appreciate your generosity and are anticipating good results that will allow us to continue to grow our ministries and programs.

In keeping with good stewardship, on October 18, 2011 our Finance Committee met and voted to pay off the balance owed on the note from Phase I of our Master Plan (Education and Administration Building) with excess budget reserves. As

of September 30, 2011 the note balance was \$675,000 (rounded dollars). This decision moves us closer to achieving our goal of being a DEBT-FREE AND GROWING CHURCH. Although such action significantly reduces our cash reserves, we sincerely believe that by being faithful stewards, God will replenish our church's storehouses.

-Your Stewardship and Finance Committees

**Christmas Connection**

Our 4th Annual Christmas Connection Party for the residents of the Canaan Village Apartments is just around the corner. Sunday School classes are providing "shoebox" gifts for the children. Gifts must be wrapped and clearly marked with age and gender. We are also collecting boxes of Velveeta Shells and Cheese for the residents. All donations of gifts and shells and cheese should be dropped off in the Youth Area **no later than Wednesday, November 30th**. For more information, contact Rhonda Mallory or Brenda Kinnebrew at 424-7771.

**Annual Fall Banquet**

The Men's and Women's Ministries of FUMC will host their 3rd annual fall banquet on **Wednesday, November 9 at 6:00pm** in Bain Hall. A delicious dinner will be catered by Wine Country. Our guest speaker, Bill Cunningham, will speak on Living Faith. Bill has been very active in his church and community for many years. For the past several years he has headed up Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) that has deeply enriched the lives of countless people. Reserve your seat online at [fumcshreveport.org/events](http://fumcshreveport.org/events) or by calling the church office. Cost is \$15/individual or \$25/couple. Childcare is available if

requested by **Monday, November 7**.

**Youth**

Confirmation **Sunday is November 6. Please join us in the 11:00am** Traditional Worship Service as we recognize this year's confirmands.



**Freedom Groups open for youth:**

For more information about the weekly small groups for youth, contact Pete Aubin at [paubin@fumcshreveport.org](mailto:paubin@fumcshreveport.org). A list of groups can be found online at [fumcshreveport.org/atn](http://fumcshreveport.org/atn).

**FUNRAISER**

**KICKIN' CHICKEN DINNER.....**  
 Sponsored by the FUMC  
 Youth Choir  
**SMALL \$8** LEG-QUARTER  
**LARGE \$10** 1/2 CHICKEN  
 WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS  
**9:00 AM to 1:30 PM**  
**BAIN HALL**  
**NOVEMBER 13**  
 EAT IN or TAKE OUT  
 FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**SENIOR ADULTS**



**Silver Screenings**

"The Thin Man" will be the Silver Screenings feature on **Tuesday, November 15**. For reservations

call Brenda at 424-7771 by Friday, November 11 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.

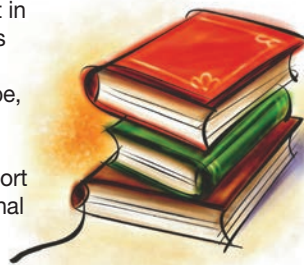
**Treasure's Luncheon**

**Jason Geslois**, staff member at Martin Luther King Health Center, will be our guest speaker. Join us **Thursday, November 10 at 12noon** in Hunter Room 101. For reservations call 424-7771. Lunch will be served at a cost of \$6.

**YOUR STORY**

**Lenten Devotional Books**

What's Your Story? Every Christian is a walking storybook about life with Christ. Each year we ask you for a story, to put in our Lenten Season Devotional Book. As we enjoy Advent and Christmas, watch for a glimpse of grace, or peace, or hope, or love that would be encouraging in the quiet time of Lent. Your story could include a scripture verse for focus, a short prayer for closing, anecdote of a personal or reflective experience. All in 200 words, of course! Stories may be sent to [nan\\_dozier@hotmail.com](mailto:nan_dozier@hotmail.com) or [sclark@fumcshreveport.org](mailto:sclark@fumcshreveport.org). See you in print!



*Poinsettia Memorials and Honorariums*

During the Christmas season, if you would like to have a poinsettia placed at the church in memory or in honor of a loved one or friend, please complete the below form and return it to the FUMC Music Department by **December 12, 2011**. The cost is \$12.00 per plant and checks should be made payable to First United Methodist Church.



Please print or type.

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

**Memorials and honorariums will be listed in the worship bulletins on December 18th.**

(Sorry, telephone, fax or email requests cannot be accepted)