



# *the Methodist* **Connection**

Monthly Newsletter of First United Methodist Church  
*Of Bridgeport, Texas*

August 2013

## From the Pastor's Pen

### “Looking Forward”

Years ago when I was pastor in a town of under 2,000 members I worked regularly with the youth, as we had no other paid staff to do so. I remember hearing a conversation between some of the boys about one of their “exciting episodes,” which I certainly do not recommend that anyone try. They were challenging one another as to which one could drive in reverse to the next town, which was more than twenty miles away. Wait you haven’t heard it all...the challenge included looking only in the rear view mirror through binoculars, turned the wrong way. Clearly this was a disaster waiting to happen.

We often take time in life to look backwards, maybe even through binoculars, but progress, real progress, is only made when we move forward. So, I invite you to take a few moments and maybe some prayer time to think with me about where we go, going forward. I am currently reviewing a couple of study opportunities that look really great but I’m wondering who might be interested in them.

The first one is a follow-up course to Financial Peace University called The Legacy Journey. Of course it requires the prerequisite that you have been through the FPU course,

## Mark Your Calendar

- 8.11**  
Mission Sunday
- 8.14 & 28**  
Youth @ the Young’s
- 8.21**  
Ski trip meeting
- 8.25**  
Promotion Sunday ~  
blessing of Macpacks &  
Backpacks
- 9.4**  
Restart of Wednesday  
Night activities

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## Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

### From the Pastor's Pen cont.

you have been through the FPU course, so it would not be open to everyone. Dave Ramsey says that ever since he finished teaching the first course of FPU, people have been asking, “what’s next?” The Legacy Journey is the answer. In Financial Peace University there are seven steps to obtaining the goal of Financial Peace. At the completion of the course, 9 or 13 weeks, most people are still working on Step Two or Three and it takes an average of 18-24 months to finish Step Three.

The Legacy Journey focuses on Steps Three through Seven and gives participants encouragement and tools to accomplish each of those steps well. So if you have been through the basic course and are interested in something that will help you stay on track and complete the steps, The Legacy Journey may be just what you are looking for. If so, drop me a note or give me a phone call so we can talk about it more.

The second opportunity also has a limited audience, but a broader one. It is called Marriage 101, and consists of six classes plus two more on line, that help strengthen marriages. No, your marriage does not have to be in trouble, but it could be. The idea is to provide coaching and encouragement to couples who want to grow in their relationship with each other and the Lord, or maybe just want a check up to be sure they are maintaining their marriage well. After all, we do check ups for our physical health, or vehicles, and even our houses. Is anything more important than maintaining a great marriage. The biblical model is that our marriages, as Christians, should represent the relationship between Christ and the church. That’s a pretty high bar and we might benefit from some coaching to have a better chance of attaining it. Again, if that sounds like something you are interested in, please let me know so we can talk further about it.

See you Sunday in the place where Christ has high expectations for all his followers!

Yours in Christ,

Bro. David (home: 940-683-1724; [davidrucker@fumcbridgeport.org](mailto:davidrucker@fumcbridgeport.org))

Picture: Legacy Brass Concert from June

## Choir News

Wednesday night Choir practice will be at 6:00 pm for the rest of the Summer.



### *First UMC Church Family,*

*Thank you to so many of you being a part of Bridgeport Gives Back! You gave of your time, your money, your encouragement, your prayers & it made a difference in our community.*

*Thank you again, Charli Franks, Denise Bailey, Marti Hines, Shelley McComis, David & Brenda McComis*

### Mission Sunday

9 am Sunday School  
10 am Worship  
11 am Lunch  
6 pm Youth Stock Holders Banquet

## BIRTHDAYS

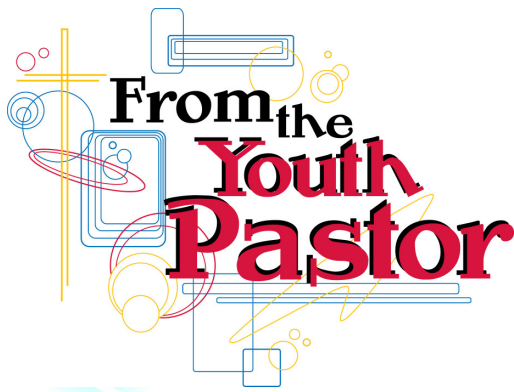
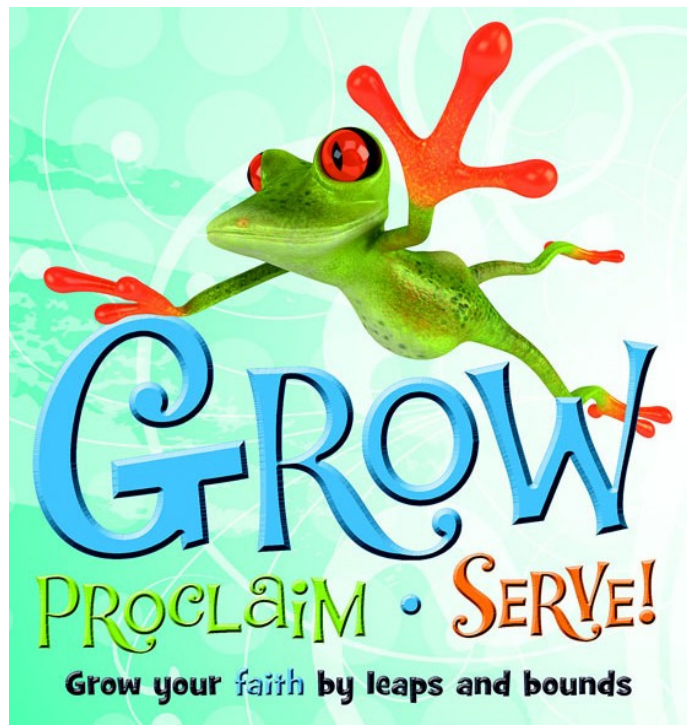
8/02 Shiloh Weirich	8/19 Erika McComis
8/03 Berry White IV	8/20 Ernest Wright
8/03 Taylor German	8/21 Jeff Green
8/04 David McComis	8/22 Char Setters
8/04 Grady Ivie	8/23 Marci Craddock
8/05 Linda White	8/24 Jay Craddock
8/05 Cassidy Craddock	8/24 Skylar Shawn
8/05 John Cowling	8/25 LB McDonald
8/07 Henry Jenkins	8/26 Travis Young
8/07 Evelyn Priest	8/28 Rhonda Wood
8/12 Nevesta Jones	8/31 Jimmy Brewer
8/18 Shanna Blalock	

## *Anniversaries*

8/03	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Reynolds
8/11	Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Peyton
8/12	Mr. & Mrs. Danny Meyer
8/12	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Penney
8/17	Rev. & Mrs. David Rucker
8/17	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Mauk
8/18	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Perry
8/18	Mr. & Mrs. Reggie Read
8/23	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Trail
8/23	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Radcliffe
8/24	Mr. & Mrs. Clay Caudle
8/27	Mr. & Mrs. Don Nimmo
8/27	Mr. & Mrs. Derek Blackmon
8/29	Mr. & Mrs. Keith Ivie
8/30	Mr. & Mrs. Butch Laxson

# Kids Corner

Our Wednesday Afternoon program will be starting up Sept. 4th from 3:30-5:00. Come join us for a fun afternoon of games, food and friends.



## Youth Ski-Trip meeting

**Wed. Aug. 21st  
from 6-8:00 pm**

Parent Sponsors wanted for  
Wednesday Night Youth 6-8:00 pm  
Contact Derek 940-577-6606

Aug. 14th & 28th our Wed. night  
Youth will meet at the home of  
Patricia Young @ 6pm.  
Contact Derek for directions

