

# Methodist *connection*



February 2014  
Monthly Newsletter of  
First United Methodist of  
Church Bridgeport

## Mark Your Calendar

**2.19**

No Wed. night children's or  
youth

**2.22**

District Laity with the  
Bishop

**2.23**

Family Game Night & x-box  
Tournament

## Book Club

Plain Wisdom by  
Cindy Woodsmall & Miriam Flaud  
to be reviewed in February.  
Date to be announced

## From the Pastor's Pen

This is My (Your) Story.

First I must say a big "Thank You" to everyone who has been praying for me and checking on me during my recent illness...and to the staff and lay leadership for covering for me. I'm gradually improving, but still don't have much voice. I do hope to be back in the pulpit on Sunday.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the stories some of you have been willing to share with me in response to my invitations at the end of some recent sermons. Now I have to confess that I have a next step to suggest to everyone. For Lent, which begins this year the first Wednesday in March, I want to do a sermon series entitled, "This is My Story." It will be based on the stories of some people in the gospels whose lives were significantly touched by Jesus and totally changed. In conjunction with that series, I would also like to have the opportunity for people in the congregation to share your stories.

Your story might be how you first committed your life to the Lord, how he helped you through a difficult time, a healing, equipping you to do some kind of ministry which blessed you and others (and maybe surprised you in the process). Actually anything goes as long as it is intended to give God the glory for what He has done in, for or through you.

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## Food for the Pantry Food for the Soul

Please take a shopping bag (located outside of the Sanctuary) the last Sunday of the month and when you go shopping, buy some of the items listed on the bag. Then bring the bags back on Communion Sunday (first Sunday of the month) morning, or dropped off at the church during regular business hours.

Thank You, and God Bless.



And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

– Romans 8:30

# United Methodist Women

## About United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women is the largest denominational faith organization [for women](#) with approximately 800,000 members whose [mission](#) is fostering spiritual growth, developing leaders and advocating for justice.

Members raise up to \$20 million each year for programs and projects related to women, children and youth in the United States and in more than 100 countries around the world.

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a **community of women** whose purpose is:

- **To know God** and to experience freedom as whole persons through [Jesus Christ](#).
  - **To develop a creative supportive fellowship.**
- To expand concepts of mission** through participation in the global ministries of the church.

The Purpose is adopted by the General Conference of the United Methodist Church as the official mission statement of United Methodist Women. Out of the Purpose are four mission foci:

- To be a community of women
- To know God
- To develop a creative and supportive fellowship
- To expand concepts of mission

**We will be having our local membership and pledge drive soon, look for more information in our church bulletin and the church monthly newsletter.**

**Locally we support our after school program, the food pantry, VBS and the Salvation Army, as well as Bible Studies & Monthly Book Reviews located in our church.**

**Women of the church please consider joining our local UMW.**

**For further information feel free to contact any of our local UMW Board members: Dianne Radcliffe, Bunny Perry, Verna Manning, Shandalyn McKinley, Leanna Brewer, Virginia Dick, Eunice Rutledge.**

## From Pastor's Pen cont.

So I'm looking for six to twelve volunteers. You can tell your story in your own way in a 2-5 minute format or we can do it as an interview, or some combination of both. Now don't be shy. One of the ways we grow is by telling our stories. It gives us a chance to clarify what God is doing in our lives and it gives others a chance to examine how God might be working in their lives. Give me a call or drop me an email to tell me you are interested.

Finally, I want to extend an invitation to our men to consider a Men's Walk to Emmaus. I know a number of people have been on a walk as I've heard rumblings about it. There will be a men's walk the first weekend of March at a Christian camp near Wichita Falls. It is a three day spiritual adventure during which you get a short course on the Christian faith and applying it to one's own life. Many find it to be a wonderful growing experience. You do need a person who has been to sponsor you, so if you don't know anyone, I can be your sponsor or help you find one. I will have the privilege of being one of the workers for that weekend, so I'd love to have some of our men in attendance. Let me know if you are interested.

See you Sunday in the place where God is always near!

Yours in Christ,

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

## Habitat Project

A big THANK YOU to the following folks who gave up a big part of their Saturday to help with Habitat house in Decatur on January 18.

Embry & Marti Hines  
Gaylord & Brenda Kennedy  
Rick & Vonne Walton  
Keith & Carolyn McComis  
Gary & Pam Worlow  
Chip Wood  
Denise Bailey

Also, a huge THANKS to the following who provided the lunch to the entire team of 25 that day:

Billy & Leanna Brewer for the big pot of chili, chips and crackers  
Betty Tackel & Lillian Farmer for the sandwiches  
Ray & Letha Tebbets for the cookies and tea.

We had a beautiful day to work and accomplished more than the Habitat leaders expected for the day. The team put up roof trusses, finished doing the Tyvek wrap, put up the "dead wood" to prepare sheet rock, caulked, worked on fascia framing and lots of other miscellaneous items. We even finished early, with everyone on the way home by 2:30.



# What's the Buzz?



Come join us for our new "Buzz Sunday School! We have crafts, devotions and are learning fun new songs. Ms. Brittany teaches K-2nd. Ms. Shelley's 3rd-5th graders are taking a journey down Route 66. We

are learning about the 66 books of the Bible. And once a month we are working on our mission project...Puppet Ministry.

Wednesday "Faith Leapers" grades K-5 have started "13 Most Important Bible Lessons about Living with Jesus" join us at 3:30 every Wednesday for this exciting adventure.



## Teen Beat // A LOOK INTO THE HEARTS OF OUR YOUTH



CONFIRMATION 2014