



Newsletter of First United Methodist Church | *May 2014*

# *the Methodist* **Connection**

## **Mark Your Calendar**

**5.11**

**Confirmation Retreat**

**5.14**

**Last Children's Wed.**

**5.14**

**Last Youth Wed. night**

**5.21**

**Senior Banquet**

**5.25**

**Office Closed**

## **From the Pastor's Pen**

Transitions are part of everyday life. They can transform us physically, mentally or spiritually but we usually don't control the timing of transitions. Sometimes transitions happen gradually. We grow older, hopefully smarter, and we progress through school, work and eventually retirement. Other transitions happen suddenly due to an unexpected turn of events. These can also involve our physical capability, our mental understanding or our spiritual maturity.

The following story involves an incident in the life of the C & W singer Charlie Pride who lived in North Dallas at the time. Charlie has sold over 70 million records and is a part owner of the Texas Rangers. At the time of this event, Charlie (now 76) still liked doing his own yard-work. As he was working in his yard a woman pulled over to the curb and motioned for him to come to her car. She rolled down the window and asked if he could do her yard also. Charlie replied that he could, so she told him where she lived a few houses down the block.

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## From the Pastor's Pen cont.

When Charlie was done with his yard, he loaded up his pickup (every C&W singer has a pickup), drove down the block, knocked on her door and she told him what she wanted done to her yard. When he was done with the requested yard-work he knocked on the door again and she told him to come around back and she would pay him. On his way to her back door Charlie went to his pickup and pulled out several of his records. When she asked how much she owed him, Charlie told her that she didn't owe him anything, but he had something to give her. Then he autographed his records, handed them to her and went back to his home.

I like the story for several reasons but especially for the way Charlie was able to take a teachable moment, and through creativity make a transformation in the life of a person who had only seen a black man in her neighborhood doing yard-work.

The transitions of pastoral leadership for youth and adults happening at FUMC Bridgeport aren't of our timing, but I am honored to be the interim pastor until July. Who knows what opportunities for transformation will happen when we believe that the God of creation is still making all things new?

(For more information about Pastor Woody, please visit the church website)

## We Are Excited to Welcome Pastor Sam Caldwell



Pastor Sam has been appointed to start serving as our new Pastor starting in July. He will be coming to us from Trinity United Methodist in Duncanville. We are his 4th appointment. His wife's name is Kathy and they have 2 daughters, one whom attends TWU and the other will be giving them their first grand-baby in April.

Pastor Sam also has a music degree and sings with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra Chorus and will be touring with them in June.

We are looking forward to this exciting new chapter in our church's life.

## 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.



# Bridgeport FUMC UMW

Several people have asked me and other board members where their pledged money goes, so I thought I would try to let you know some of the great things we do to promote women and children in our church.

Our Unit of UMW helps support the following things locally:

Refreshments for the after school Program for Elementary students

Vacation Bible School Participation and refreshments.

Help monetarily with the Food Pantry

Help with coats or clothing for children.

Help with refreshments for the youth when needed

Gives donations for the Thanksgiving & Christmas Baskets

Gives donations to the local Salvation Army unit

Help prepare and assists with the pie station at the annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Maintains and runs the cupcake walk at the Halloween Carnival

Promotes a Bible Study once a month

Promotes the UMW Reading Program by reviewing at least five books a year.

Promotes all the women of the church in their endeavor to support the church

Gives a Christmas Tea for the women of our church, as well as, women of local churches in order to form a stronger community of Christian women.

On the District & Conference level we donate to special projects for missions that support the true meaning of UMW as our mission Statement says : 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; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

United Methodist Women is trusted with pledges and donations from individual members and local member organizations, as well as mission partners and anonymous donors who have a heart for mission. We support programs in the United States and around the world that benefit women, children and youth - thereby impacting entire communities. As an agency of The United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women abides by the social principles and discipline as determined by General Conference, giving only to projects in accordance with those guidelines.

If you have any questions please contact any of the board members:

Dianne Radcliffe, President

Bunny Perry, Vice President

Verna Manning, Secretary

Shandalyn McKinley, Treasurer

Leanna Brewer, Membership

Virginia Dick, Reading Program

Eunice Rutledge, Immediate Past President & Parliamentarian



## Youth Mission Trips—

Jr High (completed 6-8th grade)

JUMMP Camp

June 9-13 Livingston, TX (Planning committee will leave on June 8th)

Sr High (completed 9-12th grade)

UMArmy

June 15-21 Richmond, TX

Deadline for commitment and deposit of \$50 due on May 4th.

We can discuss scholarships for anyone that might need assistance with deposit.

It is very important that you contact us ASAP if interested

Contact info:

Jr High ~

Laurey Stowe 940-389-1569

Sr High ~

Donna Stowers 940-577-1514



## Youth News

### Youth Summer Camp

2014 Summer camp registration is now open.

Sr. high camp date is June 30-July 5th you can sign up online at [www.bridgeportcamp.org](http://www.bridgeportcamp.org)

The cost is \$375 per child



### SR. Banquet~

This year our Banquet to honor our graduating Seniors will be on Wednesday May 21st @ 6:30 pm. We will be taking donations for their gift baskets we present them with during the banquet. If you would like any items please contact Donna Stowers.

### Sr. Breakfast ~

We will be hosting a breakfast for the Graduating Seniors of Bridgeport at our church on June 5th. If you would like to help with this event please contact Donna Stowers.





VBS JUNE 16-19  
6-8:00 PM  
(KIDS ENTERING)  
PRE-K—5TH GRADE  
COME JOIN THE FUN!

REGISTER @  
[WWW.FUMCBRIDGEPORT.ORG](http://WWW.FUMCBRIDGEPORT.ORG)  
OR CALL 683-2780