



Medina Messenger

Newsletter of the Medina United Methodist Church

DMay 2008

From The Heart Of Bill...

A couple of years ago our church celebrated our 125th anniversary. We called it CELEBRATION SUNDAY and we had a record attendance as we celebrated 125 years of continuous ministry in Medina.

But did you know that at one time Medina UMC was a NEW CHURCH START? I know that's hard to imagine with our rich history... but at one time our church was just a dream in a few people's hearts. In fact, our church was birthed in one of our denomination's most explosive periods of growth. Our fastest period of growth was from 1870 - 1920 when we averaged a NEW CHURCH START every day!

In 2005, the Council of Bishops identified 7 "paths" for the church's mission and outreach with the number one priority being NEW CHURCH STARTS. The United Methodist Church wants to start 650 new congregations with 63,000 members by the year 2012 with a goal of eventually meeting and even surpassing the average of one church start a day that we had in our heyday.



I'm reminded of Jesus words in Luke 10:2 when He said, "The harvest is plentiful... but the laborers are few... therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." There has never been such an exciting time to be a Christian. The harvest is indeed plentiful. While our population has exploded, 35% of the population doesn't attend church at all. What an opportunity considering the fact that statistically... NEW CHURCHES are more likely to reach this unchurched section of the population.

Once upon a time...a long time ago... we were a new church. In an effort to "offer Christ to all," others took a risk and reached out to begin our congregation.

Now we are being asked to do so for others.

In June of 2006 the Southwest Texas Conference voted overwhelmingly to conduct a Capital Campaign entitled "Offering Christ Today for Tomorrow" to raise funds for new church development. The theme for the campaign comes from Psalm 78:6 "That the next generation might know."



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Medina United Methodist Church
(Reed Avenue)
P. O. Box 208
Medina, TX 78055
(830) 589-2646
www.medinaumc.org

Rev. Bill Stegemueller
bill@medinaumc.org



Medina United Methodist Church Worship Schedule

Sunday

9:45 a.m. – Sunday School
11:00 a.m. – Traditional Service

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. – Mid-week Study

Administrative Council meets the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise announced.



Our Vision

"We invite everyone into the family of GOD, where the LORD is praised and felt, love is shared, and lives are blessed."

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The money from this effort will be used for new church development, clergy training and support, land acquisition and new church 'startup kits.'

The goal for the Southwest Texas Conference is to raise \$5,000,000. Our Conference has already raised more than half of that amount! We are now in the "Congregational Phase" of Offering Christ Today for Tomorrow which means every Congregation of the Conference will be given the opportunity to be a part of this great endeavor. Many of you have already stepped up and made a pledge for this effort. Medina United Methodist has already raised \$1,250 for the campaign!

Our church has already committed a percentage of the proceeds from the Street Sale on May 3rd and you will have opportunities to make your contributions in the near future with future Offering Rail Offerings and other opportunities.

As your pastor, I am so proud and inspired by your generosity and your willingness to make this happen! I believe the Church is called to give itself away. I think of Jesus words Mark 8:35 can also be applied to the church when He says, "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and

the Gospel's will save it." The church was never called to play it safe and to be satisfied with the status quo. I'm convinced that the moment we try to hold onto what we have... we lose it; and the moment what we give what we have away... we gain so much more!

Bishop Martinez's has said, "I am convinced that the success of our efforts is essential to the health of our denomination. While we are naturally focused on worldwide evangelism, we dare not forget the unchurched who are our neighbors. When we offer Christ today we ensure that our children and grandchildren will know the unspeakable joy of life in Christ tomorrow." Together we can be part of this great effort of : Offering Christ to All Today for Tomorrow ". . .that the next generation might know."

I really believe the future of the United Methodist Church is riding upon us being a part of this great move of God. I think if we don't take advantage of this incredible opportunity... we're going to completely miss the excitement and joy of being a part of something a lot greater than ourselves.

To God be the Glory Great Things He has Done (and will continue to do if we let Him!)

Bill

UMW MEETING (United Methodist Women)

The UMW will meet on Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. in the Craddock Cottage.

Program Leaders: Carolyn Penland and Schatzie Norris

Hostess: Clara Ann McWilliams

*Come and enjoy the Program, Refreshments and Fellowship!
Men are invited, too!!*

*Guess who's
having a
birthday?*

**Dorothy LeSturgeon
will be 89 years young
and is inviting everyone
to her birthday bash**

May 24th

from 5PM - ?.

**The bash is being held
at Corky McHaney's
ranch on FM 337
on the river.**

**Just bring a covered
dish, meat will
be provided.**

Happy Birthday!

GRADUATION *Sunday*

On Sunday, May 18th we will honor, recognize and pray for our graduating seniors. Immediately following the service we will have our FEAST and FELLOWSHIP Potluck to celebration their achievements!

Susanna Wesley's Rules

She had 19 children, and raised them well with the following 16 rules:

1. No eating between meals.
2. All children in bed by 8:00 p.m.
3. Take your medicine without complaining.
4. Subdue self-will in each child.
5. Work with God to save the soul of each child.
6. Teach each child to pray as soon as he can speak.
7. Require all to be still during family worship.
8. Give children nothing to cry for.
9. Give them only what they ask for quietly.
10. To prevent lying, punish no fault which is first confessed.
11. Do not allow a sinful act to go unpunished.
12. Command and reward good behavior.
13. Preserve property rights, even in the smallest of matters.
14. Strictly observe all promises.
15. Require no daughter to work before she can read well.
16. Teach children to fear the rod.

Would it not be wonderful if godly mothers would set up a few rules by which their children could be raised? If we had more mothers like Mrs. Wesley, maybe we could have more sons like Charles and John Wesley.

Deadline for the Dan Matthews Memorial Scholarship approaching

**Deadline for the
Application is May 9, 2008**

Students affiliated with of Medina United Methodist Church who are planning to attend college this year or who are currently enrolled at a college are invited to apply for the Dan Matthews Memorial Scholarship.

This next Communion Sunday, we will take up an additionally Communion Rail Offering to supplement the Scholarship.

Applications to receive the scholarship have to be made in writing by May 9, 2008. Students who wish to be considered for the scholarship are invited to make an application to the Dan Matthews Memorial Scholarship, Medina United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 208, Medina, TX 78055.

The application should include:

Name, address, phone number of the student

The status of achievement (High School Graduate, years of college completed, etc.)

The student's approximate grade-level (A, B, C, etc.)

A brief summary of the goals of the student, short term as well as long term.

Methodist Summer Camps 2008

3rd-4th Grade

Rev. Bill Duke, Dean
June 15-18 - Mount Wesley
Cost: \$ 210
Deadline: May 30th

5th-6th Grade

Rev. Jason Teague, Dean
June 22-26 - Mount Wesley
Cost: \$ 270
Deadline: June 6

New this Year!

2008 M.A.D. CAMP
(Music and Drama)
4th, 5th and 6th Grade
Rev. Ron Welborn, Dean
July 29-August 2-Mt. Wesley
Cost: \$300
Deadline: July 14th

Also don't forget our local privately owned camp of Jim and Pam Behling: Deer Creek Camp. For more information visit their website at www.deercreekcamp.com

New Members

Jim and Sara Watson joined with us by transfer of membership from another denomination.

Their address is:

PO Box 303
Medina TX 78055
(830) 589-2964
WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

Then Jesus said to them...

"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's"

Mark 12:17

All of us have spent time and money recently rendering to Caesar what is his as we prepared and paid our income taxes to our government. We had to figure out what we owed and come up with the money to meet that obligation.

How much time and effort goes into your family's planning about how much you will give back to God? He doesn't set deadlines or threaten punishment, yet everything we have that is good comes from Him. How will you meet this obligation?

