

December 20, 2010



Methogram

“The mission of First United Methodist Church of Silsbee is to bring glory to God, to go and share the Gospel with all, and to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

DAN’S DIVINITIES

It’s beginning to look and feel a lot like Christmas!

Feelings are a funny thing. With all I do around the church to get ready for Christmas, you would think I get into the mood for Christmas the day after Thanksgiving. But, to tell you the truth, it did not begin to *feel* like the Christmas season until last night when Paula and I began wrapping gifts. I wasn’t even in a good mood, but as I wrapped, it occurred to me that Christmas is almost here!

I hope on Christmas Eve you will really get into the feel of Christmas by attending our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 5:00 or 7:00. As always, there will be lots of special music and Christmas Carols, candles, and, of course, the Christmas story. The services will be shorter this year, because we are trying to cram less into them.

Holy Communion will be celebrated during the thirty minutes before the start of each service on a come and go basis. There are often people there who are not comfortable taking Holy Communion, so I hope that this will make them feel less coerced and more at ease.

The Christmas season does not end with Christmas day. I was watching ESPN a few days ago, and the sports commentator said that that day (December 13th) was the first day of the twelve days of Christmas because it was the twelve days before Christmas. Fortunately, he knows more about sports than the church year! The reality is that we are in the season of Advent prior to Christmas Day, and the twelve days of Christmas starts on Christmas Day. Then we start Epiphany on January 6.

I’m going to jump the gun on Epiphany a bit by preaching on the Magi or Wise Men (Matthew 2:1-12) on December 26, which is the natural continuation of the Christmas story. I plan to retell the story dramatically, dressed as one of the Magi.

Then, on January 2, I will preach on the flight to Egypt to escape Herod’s wrath (Matthew 2:13-23). As we enter the New Year, there are some spiritual dangers we need to flee as we recommit ourselves to Christ and set some new directions for our lives.

We will be having both the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Worship Services on both December 26 and January 2, and Sunday School at 10:00, following the usual schedule.

May Christ be the center of your Christmas Celebration, and may you be blest with every joy and happiness that Christ has to offer!

Pastor Dan

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Wesley Study Bibles Are In!



If you placed an order for a Wesley Study Bible, they have arrived! You can pick your bible up in the church

office during any of our regular office hours throughout the week. Please bring your payment of \$24 at that time. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the church office at 385-5568.

Answers to December 8, 2010 Puzzle

B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M		T	W	O	
O		W			A		V			J	O	E	L
R	E	E	D		T	H	E			E		A	D
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M	E	E	T		R		A			E	A	S	T
A				J	A	C	O	B					A
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Y			E		E	L	I	S	H	A			
		E	A	R	S		E			O	N		J
E	D		O		A	D	D			A	G	U	E
L	E	A	D		S		I			E			W
I	N	N			S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S

Gifts

December 12, 2010

\$8,866.75

Audio/Video Training

Have you ever had an inkling to run a sound system or a video system? Now is your chance! Chuck Pierce, owner of Advanced AV Solutions, who installed our sound and video systems will put on a training workshop on Saturday, January 8, from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. We

would like everyone who is currently working with audio or video to attend, along with anyone else who is interested. Please clear your calendar and make every effort to attend. This is a one time training that will not be repeated in the near future.

A Special Thank You

The Children's Christmas Pageant was a joyful reminder of the meaning of Christmas. Thanks go to the actors in great costumes, the excellent readers, the Children's Choir with wings and halos, and the wonderful soloists. To all the people who gave of their time and talents, we who attended appreciate your efforts.

I have attended many of these pageants through the years, and they always are such a blessing.

Janette Van Winkle



Thank s for all the cards and prayers we have received this year. We are blessed in so many ways. We are wishing every blessing for our church this Christmas and in the New Year.

Love,

Dean and Willa Dean Hill

Christmas Eve Services, 5pm and 7pm

Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve

- * **Family Service** - 5:00 pm. This family style service features our children and youth participating in the worship service by reading scriptures, singing specials, and concluding with the lighting of the candles. Pastor Nancy Ratchford will be preaching.
- * **Candlelight Service** - 7:00 pm. Our traditional candlelight service includes beautiful special music, the reading of the Christmas scriptures, and concludes with the lighting of the candles. Pastor Dan Darby will be preaching.



Come and Go Communion of Christmas Eve

We will break from tradition this year and serve Holy Communion on a come and go basis during the 30 minutes prior to the worship services, which begin at 5:00 and 7:00 pm. Before the 5:00 pm Family Service, Communion will be offered from 4:30 pm to 4:55 pm. Before the 7:00 pm Candlelight Service, Communion will be offered from 6:30 pm to 6:55 pm. Communion will be taken by Intinction, and after receiving the elements, you are invited to kneel at the altar rail for a moment of prayer. You may also leave your communion offering on the altar rail at that time. Our Christmas Eve Communion offering this year will be for our local Jean Dinkle Scholarship fund, which provides college

scholarships to our graduating seniors. We have several graduates this year, and we want to be able to offer as many scholarships as possible. The advantages of doing it this way include a shorter worship service, being able to pray at the altar rail, not being rushed, and those who feel reticent to take Holy Communion are not compelled to receive the elements (we will have visitors who may not wish to take Communion).



Marjorie Eldredge

Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Cassity

Carolyn Lee

Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Cassity
Bill Barclay

Presence

Worship

12/12	178
12/19	174

Sunday School

12/12	103
12/19	107

We have accumulated quite a pile of dishes in the Cravens Hall kitchen that are left over from funeral meals and covered dish luncheons. If you have a dish that was left at the church, please stop by and pick it up at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

Christmas Word Search

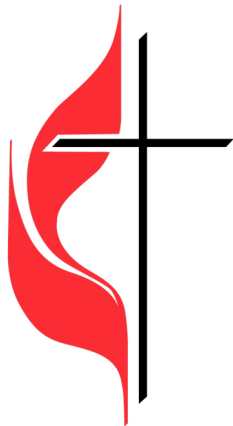


- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Advent | Mulled Wine |
| Angels | Party |
| Baubles | Presents |
| Bells | Queen's Speech |
| Birth of Jesus | Reindeer |
| Boxing Day | Robin |
| Carol Singing | Rudolph |
| Chimney | Santa Claus |
| Christmas Cake | Scrooge |
| Christmas Pudding | Shepherds |
| Christmas Tree | Snowman |
| Crackers | Star |
| Elves | Tinsel |
| Family | Turkey |
| Food | Wise Men |
| Holidays | Wrapping Paper |
| Holly | Yule Log |
| Ivy | |
| Mince Pies | |
| Mistletoe | |

First United Methodist Church

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