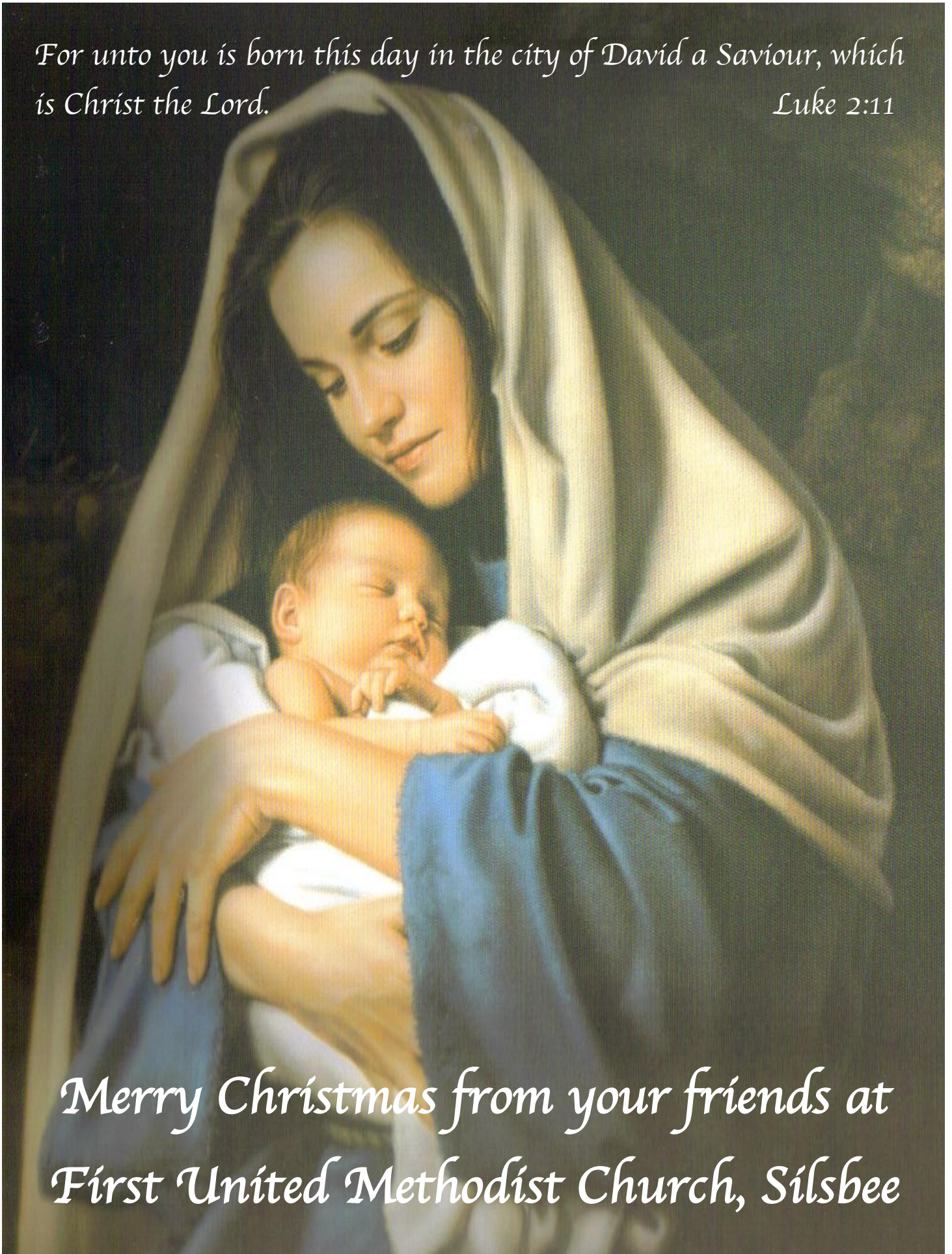


*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which  
is Christ the Lord.*

*Luke 2:11*



*Merry Christmas from your friends at  
First United Methodist Church, Silsbee*

## *The Miracle of Christmas*

Dr. Darby's sermon series for the Advent through Christmas Day is *The Miracle of Christmas*.



- \* December 24 (Saturday, Christmas Eve) – *Journey to a Miracle (Luke 2:1-7)*,
  - \* 5:00 pm, Children's Candlelight Communion Service
  - \* 7:00 pm, Traditional Candlelight Communion Service
- \* December 25 (Sunday, Christmas Day) – *The Manger (Luke 2:8-20)*. We will have a unified worship service at 11:00 a.m. There will be no 9:00 a.m. service or Sunday School.

## **Special New Years Day Service**



We will have a very special service on New Years Day, Sunday, January 1. You are urged to attend. Following Sunday School at 10, we will have unified service at 11:00. As a part of that service we will celebrate, John Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service. At noon, we will have a Covered Dish Meal – a love feast celebrating our unity together in Christ. We will not have the 9:00 am service.

John Wesley's Covenant Communion Service was first celebrated on August 11, 1755, and was based on a service designed and published in 1663 by Richard Alleine, a Puritan. It became standard practice to use Wesley's service in the London Methodist Societies on New Year's Day, and in other places whenever Wesley visited them.

Wesley found the service rich and meaningful, as expressed in his Journal: "Many mourned before God, and many were comforted" (April 1756); "I was, as usual, a time of remarkable blessing" (October 1765); "It was an occasion for a variety of spiritual experiences . . . I do not know that ever we had a greater blessing. Afterwards many desire to return thanks, either for a sense of pardon, for full salvation, or for a fresh manifestation of his graces, healing all their backslidings" (January 1, 1775).

The heart of the service focuses on the Covenant Prayer, in which participants have the opportunity to renew their commitment to God, in response to his grace. We will renounce our sins, pray for the assurance of God's forgiveness, renew our baptismal covenant, renew our commitment to Christian service, and receive Holy Communion together.

You will be blessed by this service, as you start the New Year off by renewing your covenant relationship with God.

## **Cards for St. Jude's Ranch for Children**

St. Jude's Ranch for Children has helped neglected and abused children for many years. They live on the ranch, and there are many success stories of college graduations and thriving careers. For more than 30 years, the ranch has recycled used greeting cards into new cards. Cards for every holiday are welcome, and angels and teddy bears are especially in demand. The children cut down the card fronts and make them into new greeting cards, which then are sold

online and in the ranch gift shops. You can help by only sending them greeting card fronts. The fronts must be able to be trimmed to fit the ranch's 5x7" backs, and cards are accepted through February 28. If you would like to donate some of your used card fronts, please bring them by the church office, and Dagma Murphy will send them in all at once. Please cut (don't tear) the fronts from the cards, and please remember that they can have no writing on the back.

# In Loving Memory

**Carolyn Donalson**

Suzanne Barfield  
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Hill

**Rebecca Hobbs**

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Hill

**Wilma Ludwig**

Glenn and Jeanell Green  
Philip Greulich on behalf of the Cardiac Anesthesia Team  
Bill Barclay  
Margaret Fox  
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert C. Muckleroy  
Mellissa Melville  
Mr. and Mrs. Rayford Birdwell  
Dorothy Modisette  
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Hill  
Brook and LaNita Gilchriest

**B.W. Ross**

Mr. and Mrs. Jack D. Jordan  
Suzanne Barfield  
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert C. Muckleroy

**Rev. Eugene Jonté**

Suzanne Barfield  
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert C. Muckleroy  
Butch and Dee Suitt  
Dorothy Modisette  
Freeda Duffle

**Cesar Dominguz**

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Hill  
Brook and LaNita Gilchriest

**Dan Knoll**

David and Dr. Joyce Reed Sheffield

**Lloyd Shell**

Butch and Dee Suitt

**Maurice Sevars**

Martha and Dana Bradshaw

**Beverly Price**

Ed and Sonia Cain  
Bill Barclay  
Jack and Mary Catherine Martin  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack D. Jordan  
Allan and Dagma Murphy  
Russ and Jan Wilson  
Suzanne Barfield  
Martha and Dana Bradshaw  
Pat and Lynn Hardy  
David and Dr. Joyce Reed Sheffield  
Bruce and Beth Withers  
Bob and Lola Burgess  
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Hill  
Joyce McClung  
Erin Sheffield  
Edna Dominguez  
Freeda Duffle  
Brook and LaNita Gilchriest  
Fred and Linda Miller  
Rick and Gaye Fetterolf

## Community

### Altar Call

Pastor Dan Darby has a full 8.5 x 11 inch picture of him in his pastoral robe taken in our sanctuary on the cover of a new magazine called "Community Altar Call" published by Melody and Mark McClain-Edwards. There is also a full page article about him and the ministries of the church, and another full page picture collage from church activities. Copies of the magazine are available for \$5 in the church office.

Gifts	Presence
<p><b><u>12/04/2011</u></b> \$9,940.10</p> <p><b><u>12/11/2011</u></b> \$7,333.30</p> <p><b><u>Methodist Children's Home, Waco</u></b> \$253.00</p>	<p><b><u>Worship</u></b></p> <p>12/04            153</p> <p>12/11            171</p> <p><b><u>Sunday School</u></b></p> <p>12/04            94</p> <p>12/11            86</p>



**Celebrating Birthdays  
in January**

January 1—Beth Withers

January 2—Kyle Kelley

January 3—Jessica Roach

January 4—Keli Day

January 5—Sam Karr

January 5—Richard Strong

January 6—Madeline Stirling

January 8—Gardner Stirling

January 10—Donna Brown

January 12—Taylor Georgas

January 13—Harlan Self

January 14—Bennie Kadlecek

January 15—Donna Theriot

January 15—Bruce Withers

January 16—Robyn Underhill

January 18—Tyler Doiron

January 20—Lauren Hutto

January 21—Colton Johnson

January 23—Jacob Conner

January 24—Flo Stark

January 25—Marianne Deadmon

January 26—Lisa Kilcrease

January 31—Roger Price



**January Anniversaries**

January 4—

Ryan and Ronda Harkey

9 years

January 16—

Jim and Donna Brown

31 years

January 24—

Tom and Rosie Nelson

36 years

January 29—

Darrel & Mollie Balla

52 years

**First United Methodist Church**

670 North 5th Street

Silsbee Texas 77656

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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