

## Double Issue

**February  
&  
March  
2009**

# In Stream

Silver Creek United Methodist Church  
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## Pastor's Page

We are living in uncertain times. Unemployment continues to rise (6.5% at the close of 2008), the stock market is bouncing around at what we hope is the bottom of the market, and the number of home foreclosures continues to increase. Some analysts are saying that the global economic slowdown that we are currently experiencing could extend into 2010. Every week, I hear a new story about someone losing a job, a company declaring bankruptcy, or a branch office of some corporation closing down or stopping production.

In the midst of this economic downturn, the question for all of us becomes, "How will we respond?" As the church, we know that we are called to do something - it has never been the position of the Christian Church to sit back and watch things unfold without getting involved. As a people of faith, we are commissioned to engage the world in a creative, life-giving manner, and economic crisis affords us the perfect opportunity to do just that.

In the early days of the church, when Christianity was more of a movement than a religion, the book of Acts tells us that the disciples and other members of the movement met in each other's homes and shared all they had. This sounds strange in comparison to the rugged individualism of American culture, but it was a true interpretation of the life that Jesus calls us to, especially during periods of uncertainty. For the early church, strength and support was found in community, and they found that the more they shared with one another the stronger they became. Our food pantry, backyard missions projects, and neighborhood fellowships are ways that we, too, can engage in this experiment of faithful living and sharing. The need in our community is greater than it has been in many years, and we have an opportunity to make an impact in many lives through the ministries that are already in place.

The one thing I know we must not do is scale back on what we give to this community. While the world saves and stores away, the church is called to give even more. While we are cutting back on some of our operating expenses at the church, we are actually increasing the percentage of our budget that we are giving to missional causes. This sounds counter-intuitive, but it comes from the belief that the church was created for times such as this and that we worship a God that makes good on His promise to equip those doing the work of Jesus Christ in the world. So, this year, we will spend a little less on ink, paper, curriculum, and catered meals - but we will be doing more than ever for those who need it.

As we look at our budget needs in light of the economic outlook I would call on us all to continue to be faithful in our response to the ways that God has provided for us. We are about to launch our 2009 budget campaign, and while it, too, will be scaled down from last year, your participation will be no less important. If you believe in what we do - if you feel passionately about the redemptive work of God in our world - then I invite you to join us as we do the exciting work of reaching out to the hurting of our community, nurturing disciples, and sending out in mission. May we stand together with a faith-based resolve to shine a light of hope on a world that needs it more than ever.

See You Sunday,

Jason

## Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their income.

Our approach to funding ministry is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. SCUMC encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Finance Committee Chair,  
Kevin Campbell

## Children's Corner

### Up Coming Children's Events

June 21-26 VBS  
July 12-14 Children's Retreat 1-3pm  
July 29 NRH2O 4th-6th S.S. Class 1pm  
August 16 Cooking for Our Parents 1pm

### Items Needed for Children's Ministry

- Dry marker board ERASER
- Red Construction paper
- White Construction paper
- Play Dough
- New Markers

So far, David Staal in *Words Kids Need to Hear*, has told us these six things children need to hear:

"I believe in you."

"You can count on me."

"I treasure you."

"I'm sorry, please forgive me."

"Because"

"No"

Our final thing in this series is "I Love You." When it comes to telling your child that you love them, you need to make no assumptions. You need to speak up. Love plays a very important role in life. In *The Blessing* by Gary Smalley and John Trent, they say, "They [the children] know I love them and that they're special without my having to say it." "Love matters too much to leave it assumed and unsaid." (p. 101) We never know what life is going to bring us. We need to tell our children that we love them when we have the opportunity and never assume they just know.

When you say to your child, "I love you," and then pause expecting to hear that same phrase in response, unintentional coercion takes place. You are the parent. It is not your child's job to make you feel loved. This runs counter to the type of love our child needs—unconditional love.

The best way to define unconditional love for children is to show a child. "Unconditional love shows love to a child no matter what. We love regardless of what the child looks like; regardless of her assets, liabilities, or handicaps; regardless of what we expect her to be; and, most difficult of all, regardless of how she acts." (p. 103) It is when we express love to a child, not expecting anything in return.

Here is a challenge. "Say 'I love you' to your child and then focus on how she reacts. Watch closely—her eyes will show if she believes you. If those eyes shine real bright back at you, all is well. If she can't look you in the eye, or turns away from you, then you have work ahead. Serious work." (p. 105) You can communicate with notes, acts of love, a hug, holding a hand or an occasional love gift.

There is a possibility that you can misuse love's strength. Many parents are tempted to use love as a leverage tool. Some parents send this message: I'll love you if you....

"When parental love runs deep, it comes from an authentic heart. An open heart that will express love frequently and passionately. A strong heart that is able to give without receiving. A faith-filled heart that trusts that the seeds of love planted now—will someday blossom more beautifully than anything ever hoped for or imagined." (p. 108)

"God is love." 1 John 4:16

Next month, I will begin a series on spiritual development of children.

## March

We are beginning a series based on the book by Robert J. Keeley entitled *Helping Our Children Grow in Faith*. The first chapter is titled "Three-Dimensional Faith." Keeley tells of a time when his daughter was twelve. His father had broken his hip and his mental capacity was diminishing afterward. They placed him in a nursing home. His daughter asked Keeley, "What if Grandpa forgets about God?" That is a fairly good theological question. It is a core issue of faith. Keeley was able to answer, "Even if Grandpa forgets about God, God won't forget about Grandpa." (pp 9-10)

Faith comes from God. We can provide fancy curriculum, lots of activities, wonderful teachers, but nothing changes the fact that the Holy Spirit has to work in a child's life in order to move closer to God. This relieves us of the pressure of fearing we might have missed the one chance we had of telling our children about our faith. God is in charge of them.

However, the things we do with children to build their faith is very important. Coming to know God is like weaving a tapestry. The child weaves together things learned from many people at many different times. God uses each and every one of us to move someone closer to God. We need to answer children's questions in clear and simple terms. They can have very complex questions about faith. This is a hard thing to do. The stories of the Bible help us tell how God works in lives. Use them. Keeley says, "Our children's faith as well as our own, should be a part of the very fabric of our lives, so much a part of them that it comes put in their language and their thoughts, even when they aren't talking about religion.... It should be a part of their DNA."(p 14)

There are six principles we will be looking at over the next few months:

- Children need to be nurtured in their faith by the whole community of faith, not just their parents.
- Children need to be part of the whole life of the church.
- Children need to know that God is mysterious.
- Bible stories are the key to helping children know a God who is mysterious and who knows them for who they are.
- Faith and moral development are both important but they are not the same thing.
- Children should be a part of the congregational worship and have opportunities to experience developmentally appropriate worship.

The Holy Spirit is working in the lives of our children. We are asked by God to be a part of that work. Let's get started.

# Prayer List, Attendance, Giving, Memorials

## Prayer List

### **JOYS**

- The Glory of Christ
- Heather Cooley, pregnancy
- Tori & Kelly Edenfeild, baby
- Caitlyn Anna-Marie Monaghan
- Kyle Davis

### **CONCERNS**

- Hazel Boyett, LeaAnn Moore's grandmother
- Homeless
- Bob Hyatt, Debbie Coulson's dad
- Norvin and Clara Wright
- James and Martha Belle Tucker
- Ferdinan Baruch, leukemia
- Martha Dykes, Isabel Maynard's sister
- Dan Moody, cancer surgery

### **ON GOING CONCERNS**

- Military
- Country's Leaders
- Darla Pickering, brain tumor
- Wendy Sardella, Cancer
- Margaret Gwin
- Lexie Hatchett
- Clifton Johnston, cancer
- Dee & Dorothy Ridgway, Bill Davis' sister
- Tom Wilson
- The Machado Family
- David Stark
- Sam Monroe
- Margaret Wright

*To include a prayer request for a Sunday bulletin please call the church office before Thursday of that week.*

## *Attendance Report*

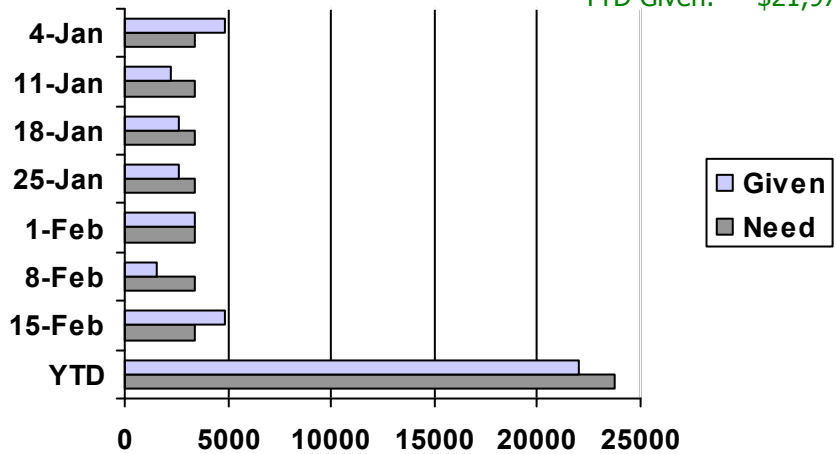
	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Total Worship Attendance</u>
January 4	45	137
January 11	58	151
January 18	28	135
January 25	40	117
February 1	27	146
February 8	30	121
February 15	30	148
February 22	<i>Will be included in the April Issue</i>	

## *Our Giving*

	<u>Budget/General</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Special</u>
January 4	\$4,817.69	\$ 175.00	
January 11	\$2,243.05	\$ 355.66	\$146.00
January 18	\$2,573.84	\$ 571.66	\$115.00
January 25	\$2,580.37	\$ 126.00	\$103.00
February 1	\$3,364.21	\$ 328.00	
February 8	\$1,567.62	\$ 185.00	\$ 89.26
February 15	\$4,824.98	\$1,106.00	\$165.00
February 22	<i>Will be included in the April Issue</i>		

## Budget Financial Report

Weekly Need: \$3,395.00  
 YTD Need: \$23,765.00  
 YTD Given: \$21,971.71



## *Memorial Report*

### In Memory of

Evelyn Steele Knight  
 Mary J. Garrett  
 Nancy Sharp

### Given By

Anna Laura Cutshall  
 Al V. Garrett  
 Mary Scott

## Upcoming events

We are honoring the following people through the dedication of stained glass windows in the sanctuary during the month of February:

Lela Cherry  
Gladys Gilley  
Waymon Wright  
The Shields Family  
Larry Cotten  
The Tucker Family



These windows will be dedicated in the honor of these people who so selflessly offered their time among us in service of Christ and His Church. We are honored to have them as part of our history and pray that you will celebrate with us as we remember their years of faithfulness to Silver Creek United Methodist Church. A special service of dedication will be held in February after the windows have been installed.



### Baby Shower

There will be a baby shower honoring Jennifer Dubeansky on Sunday March 8th after the church wide luncheon. Please join us in celebrating the coming addition to their family and ours.

*Jennifer & Bryan are registered at Babies R Us and Target.*

There will be a Missions Meeting this Sunday February 22nd in the Fellowship Hall at 12:15pm for **ANY ONE** interested in helping with the Missions of Silver Creek UMC.

### Hope for Africa Children's Choir

The ***Hope for Africa Children's Choir*** will be visiting again on March 18th - 22nd. They will be singing at both services on Sunday March 22nd and there will be a pot luck luncheon following the 11am service. Meat & drinks will be provided—we ask that you bring sides and deserts -- *remember we will have lots of guests so please bring accordingly.*

If you would like to help with food, time or miscellaneous donations for the children's visit, please contact Becca Harrison at 951-231-7278. Look for more information to come!

**\*\*Additional Note:**

There are 50 children that still need to be matched with pen pals, if you are interested in being a pen pal, please contact Becca Harrison.

The United Methodist Men will be having their monthly breakfast and workday on Saturday February 28th.

We are asking for as many extra hands (male or female, large or small) to come help, as we will be doing lots of general clean up with an **extra emphasis on the gym**. Remember we will be having visitors in March and we want to look our best!!!!!!

## Upcoming events continued

### Mexico Mission Trip

March 15– 19

Please contact Doug or Maggie Stednitz on how you can help or more information. 817-504-1091.

The Azle Good Neighbor Project is coming up in April, please contact Byron Constantine if you would like to participate. There will be more information to come.



*Don't forget to set your clocks ahead by one hour at mid-night Saturday March 7th.*

*There will be an Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday February 25th at 7pm.*

*Nursery will be available.*

*All other activities will resume on Wednesday March 4th.*

*Easter Sun-Rise Service will be on Wright Hill at approximately 7:15am followed by breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. This is a unique time of worship and fellowship—we hope you will join us.*

*Directions to Wright Hill can be found on the web site or in the office.*

### **Laiety Banquet**

The annual Weatherford District laiety Banquet will be March 27th at 6:30 pm at the Sheriff's Posse Building in Weatherford. Our guest speaker will be Bishop Mike Lowery. Tickets will be available soon. See Steve Williams for more information.

## Church Family News

2008 Contribution Statements can be found in the nave on the table by the outside glass doors. If you feel there has been an error in recording, please kindly contact the office and we will try our best to resolve any discrepancies.

### **Food Pantry News**

The food pantry is in need of volunteers. Please contact Jennifer Dubeansky at [jensaddress@msn.com](mailto:jensaddress@msn.com) or at 817-238-9995. This mission is vital to our community, please help us keep it available to those in need.

### *Ladies Circle News*

There will be no Ladies Circle meeting in March, due to Spring Break. However, we are still doing a March Mission. Our March Mission is supplying breakfast food for the Hope for Africa Children's Choir. Please bring your food items to the church by Wednesday March 18th. Our next meeting will be on April 19th at 6pm.

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## February Birthdays

- 3 Tom McClendon
- 3 Linda Wright
- 3 Sam Monroe
- 4 Sean Romer
- 6 Chelsey Bransford
- 10 Brenda Eberle
- 11 Jeanette Barber
- 12 Hugh McClendon
- 14 Maeghan Hall
- 15 Doug Stednitz
- 18 Sharon Rogers
- 23 Steve Williams
- 23 Jeanie Sharp
- 28 Cristy McGibboney
- 28 Ed Schairbaum
- 29 Erin Hawkins

## March Birthdays

- 2 Harold Ray Wright
- 3 Richard Mayfield
- 3 Chris Campbell
- 6 Brittany Bransford
- 6 Cindy Gallegos
- 7 Ciara Stednitz
- 13 Nicki Schairbaum
- 16 Ashley Mallen
- 17 Frank Langley
- 19 Margaret Wright
- 20 Bob Sims
- 21 Tucker Tamjidi
- 23 Jerry Cole
- 24 John Chaille
- 31 Autumn Danobeytia

## February Anniversaries

- 12 Jason & Mica Hicks
- 14 Charles & Margaret Gwin
- 15 Tom & Glenda McClendon

## March Anniversaries

- 2 Harold Ray & Dot Wright
- 15 Bobby & Rebekah Ford
- 17 Michael & Emily Hawkins
- 18 Daren & Stephanie Merck
- 21 Doug & Maggie Stednitz

## Thank You Notes

Thank you to Janice Monaghan and Cindy & Rayna Gallegos for taking care of the office when I had to be out this past month. **You are greatly appreciated.**

Mica

## Children's Mission Projects

The children of Silver Creek UMC will be collecting loose change towards the purchase of new school books for the school at which the Hope for Africa Children's Choir attends when they are not touring. Also, there will be a new paper back book drive coming up. Becca & Eric Harrison will carry these books in their suitcases and deliver them to the children when they return to Africa this summer.

Please encourage our children in their mission project by helping them help others.

More information to come in the next few weeks

## HISTORICAL CHURCH CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Silver Creek UMC has started a conservation fund for the historical church. This proud old building was built in 1900 and used until 1967. It has been recognized by the Texas Historical Commission. If you would like to be apart of maintaining this part of our history please contact Dena Hall at 817-444-7439. Donations to this fund can be made through the church by writing HISTORIC CHURCH on your check or envelope.

Linda Wise visits the *Santa Fe Health & Rehab Center* every Monday and has recently began taking items that are in need. Items such as: magazines and travel size personal items (shampoo, conditioner, and most especially lotions). She has also discovered that the elderly find comfort in stuffed animals – not to small, as they like to hug them at night as they sleep. If you would like to help Linda with her mission, please bring your items to church on any Sunday and she will take them to the rehab center with her the next day.

If you have any questions you may call her daughter Kathleen Blecher at 817-914-2539.

# February 2008

## *Silver Creek United Methodist Church*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 COMMUNION Finance Mtg. at Noon	2 Synergy Practice 7pm	3	4 5:30pm Dinner 6pm FPU begins 6:30pm Adult Bible Study Kid & Youth Activities 7:30pm Choir	5	6	7
8	9 Synergy Practice 7pm	10	11 5:30pm Dinner 6pm FPU 6:30pm Adult Bible Study Kid & Youth Activities 7:30pm Choir	12	13	14  VALENTINES DAY
15 Ladies Circle 6pm	16 Synergy Practice 7pm	17 Trustee Mtg.	18 5:30pm Dinner 6pm FPU 6:30pm Adult Bible Study Kid & Youth Activities 7:30pm Choir	19	20  <u>Pictures for New Directory</u>	21
22 Mission Mtg. 12:15pm <i>ALL</i> <i>WELCOME</i>	23 Synergy Practice 7pm	24	25  Ash Wednesday Service 7pm	26	27	28 UMM B'fast & Work-day 8am **Church wide gym & general clean up.

# March 2008

## *Silver Creek United Methodist Church*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 COMMUNION	2 Synergy Practice 7pm	3	4 5:30pm Dinner 6pm FPU 6:30pm Adult Bible Study, Kid & Youth Activities 7:30pm Choir	5	6	7
8 <i>CONSECRATION SUNDAY</i> & Luncheon  Baby Shower for Dubeansky's  Day Light Savings begins	9 Synergy Practice 7pm	10	11 5:30pm Dinner 6pm FPU 6:30pm Adult Bible Study, Kid & Youth Activities 7:30pm Choir	12	13	14
15 No Ladies Circle	16 Synergy Practice 7pm	17	18 5:30pm Dinner 6pm FPU 6:30pm Adult Bible Study, Kid & Youth Activities 7:30pm Choir	19	20	21
<i>Mexico Mission Trip</i>						
	<i>Spring Break for Azle &amp; Springtown</i>		<i>Hope for Africa Children's Choir</i>			
22 Hope for Africa Children's Choir to sing at both services  Potluck following 11am worship	23 Synergy Practice 7pm	24	25 5:30pm Dinner 6pm FPU 6:30pm Adult Bible Study, Kid & Youth Activities 7:30pm Choir  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	26	27 Laity Banquet 6:30pm Weatherford	28 UMM B'fast & Work-day 8am  Parent's Night Out 5:30-8:30pm
29	30	31				

## **Our Staff:**

**Pastor** Rev. Jason Hamilton

[jason@silvercreekumc.org](mailto:jason@silvercreekumc.org)

**Children's Minister** Rev. Karen Samford

[karen.samford@yahoo.com](mailto:karen.samford@yahoo.com)

**Director of Youth Ministries/Contemporary Worship Leader** Trey Smith [dcsmitty242@hotmail.com](mailto:dcsmitty242@hotmail.com)

**Choir Director** Stephen Vick

[stphnvick@yahoo.com](mailto:stphnvick@yahoo.com)

**Nursery** Keturah Sims

[keturah@silvercreekumc.org](mailto:keturah@silvercreekumc.org)

**Administrative Assistant** Mica Hicks

[mica@silvercreekumc.org](mailto:mica@silvercreekumc.org)

**Pianist** Jerry Miller

## **Our Council:**

<b>Council Chair</b>	Ed Schairbaum
<b>Lay Leader</b>	Steve Williams
<b>Lay Member to AC</b>	Rubye Langley
<b>Chair SPR</b>	Kristie Coleman
<b>Chair Finance</b>	Kevin Campbell
<b>Treasurer</b>	Peggie Muir
<b>Chair Trustees</b>	Mark Selman
<b>President UMM</b>	Charles Thompson
<b>Chair Nurture Council</b>	Sam Samford
<b>Chair Outreach Council</b>	Becca Harrison
<b>Chair Witness Council</b>	Chris Campbell
<b>At-Large</b>	Ray Blecher
<b>At-Large</b>	Kathleen Blecher
<b>At-Large</b>	Byron Constantine
<b>At-Large</b>	Leanne Mathis