



First United Methodist Church of Brazoria
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FEBRUARY, 2017

Pastor's Message

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MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH, AT 12 PM!**

Any articles received after the deadline will not be included in the newsletter.
 Please submit early!

Weekly Announcements

If you have announcements to be included in the bulletin or pastor's announcements, please make sure to submit them by Wednesday at noon of that week to guarantee inclusion for Sunday morning. You can either email to fumcylady@brazoriainet.com, call the office at (979) 798-2220 or drop a copy off during office hours (Monday -Thursday 8AM to 1 PM). Anniversaries and birthdays will be listed in the weekly bulletins in December.

PRAY FOR OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

AT HOME.....Debbie Rasco, Dorothy & Roger Kees

Assisted Living/Nursing Facility

Ann De Steiguer.....The Legacy, Bay City, TX

Dan Hutson.....Mount Joseph Senior Village, Concordia, KS

Claude McClendon.....Sweeny House, Sweeny, TX

Kittie Stanger.....Country Village Care, Angleton, TX

If you would like to send a card or letter to any of our homebound members, please call the office (979-798-2220) or email fmclady@brazoriainet.com

Recently, I was re-reading a powerful sermon written by John Wesley in 1780 when he was 77 years old. That sermon entitled; "Spiritual Worship" was based upon the text of 1 John. 5:20, "And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life" (NRSV).

In this letter (or Epistle), St. John wants his audience to understand that only through the coming of Jesus into our lives we are reborn, "regenerated" (in Wesley's parlance), into a new relationship with God.

Wesley's sermon develops this further adding, "This eternal life then commences when it pleases the Father to reveal his Son in our hearts; when we first know Christ, being enabled 'to call him Lord by the Holy Ghost...'" Thus, according to Wesley, eternal life can begin at any time of God's choosing and is based upon the revelation of the Christ and our acceptance of it and NOT upon our physical mortality.

According to Fr. Wesley, the result of this rebirth is, "...happiness real, solid, substantial. Then it is that heaven is opened in the soul, that the proper, heavenly state commences, while the love of God, as loving us, is shed abroad in the heart, instantly producing love to all mankind; general, pure benevolence, together with its genuine fruits, lowliness, meekness, patience, contentedness in every state; an entire, clear, full acquiescence in the whole will of God; enabling us to 'rejoice evermore, and in everything to give thanks.'"

It is my prayer that each of you will experience this unique happiness that comes from rebirth to eternal life: an eternal life that commences at the time of God's choosing. We can be reborn to God's Kingdom while we yet in live in this life: if we are willing. In fact such a rebirth ultimately defines true living.

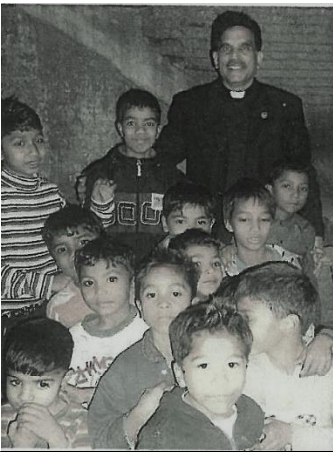
I don't know about you, but –amid all the troubles in our Nation and world- I could use some, "happiness real, solid, substantial," in my life and I expect that you could too. It's a true happiness that only accompanies our entry into God's Kingdom.

The Lord Himself said it, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11: 25-26).

My dear friends I wish for you that true happiness that comes with the true life. May heaven be opened our souls. Let us live in Christ as a family of the faithful; a family of the truth. Let us then celebrate together that day of resurrection and rebirth each and every Sunday.

Believe the truth, accept Jesus Christ into your heart, and live in eternal happiness. Be faithful; be happy.

Grace and Peace
 Don



Rev. Dr. Afzaal Firdous

On Sunday, January 29, 2017, the Reverend Dr. Afzaal Firdous preached a sermon entitled, "What Does the Lord Require of You?" Dr. Firdous is an Elder in Full Connection with the Texas Annual Conference, and is well known in both Texas and Pakistan for both his ministry and his cross-cultural efforts. Through the House of Peace organization in Lahore, Pakistan, he helps deliver food, shelter, and love to Christian orphans of violence in Pakistan who have lost everything. If you wish to contribute, please contact the church office for details.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

On Tuesday, February 28, 2017 there will be a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM. Come and enjoy lots of tasty pancakes and great fellowship!



Ash Wednesday Services

On Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017, there will be two services for receiving of the ashes. Services will be held at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Please join us as we move into the Lenten season and humbly display the ashes commemorating the burnt branches of the palms strewn for Jesus' triumphant entry to Jerusalem.



Hospitality Hour

We now have coffee and donuts in the Hospitality room from 9:30 to 10:30. Come early and have some great fellowship before the 10:30 Worship Service. See you there!

FVMC Goes Paperless!

Please take a moment to help us in our effort to go paperless. Fill out this little survey to let us know how you would prefer to receive your newsletters. You may return the survey to us by putting it in the offering plate on Sunday, mailing it to the church office at: PO Box 9, Brazoria, TX 77422, or by dropping it by the office during office hours (Mon-Thurs 8AM to 1PM).

I would prefer to receive my newsletter:

- From the church internet site (www.brazoriafvmc.org)
- Pick up paper copy in the narthex after church
- Mailed to my house monthly
- Emailed to me

email address: _____



CALLING ALL YOUTH!

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 5, 2017, Pastor Don & Beth Brown will be hosting a Youth Super Bowl Party at 5 PM at the parsonage. Lots of fun, fellowship, and finger food for all!



We've restarted Children's Church! We need adult volunteers to teach in a team of 2 per week. Children's Church will be held during the sermon time in the 10:30 worship service. Pastor Don will be qualifying people for "safe sanctuary". To volunteer, see Pastor Don for details. Let's get the Children's Church ball rolling for our kids!



Chancel Flowers Needed!

We need volunteers to provide flowers for our chancel area on Sunday. If you would like to donate an arrangement of flowers to grace our chancel on Sunday morning, please sign the flower donation list on the usher's desk and specify the dedication you would like. If you want to donate without a specific dedication, your donation will be listed as "Given to the glory of God".

