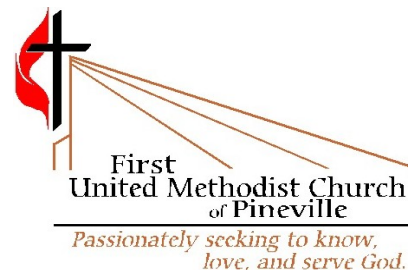


**First United Methodist Church**  
2550 Monroe Highway  
Pineville, LA 71360

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# *Reflections*

February 2012



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## **Our Church Staff**

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Senior Pastor	Ricky Willis	Associate Pastor	Mark Martin
Business Administrator	Jay Quinton	Student Ministries	Maryann Stewart
Administrative Assistant	Amy Masters	Children's Ministries	Michelle Gaharan

Director of Music George Gross  
Organist Connie Gates Path Worship Leader Steve McCloud

**Office Phone: (318) 640-1050**

**Monday – Thursday 8 am - 5 pm & Friday 8 am-Noon**

**[www.pinevillefumc.org](http://www.pinevillefumc.org)**

## *From the Senior Pastor...*

Throughout the ebb and flow of life within the church, there are high moments and there are low moments; there are mountaintops and there are valleys ... disappointments and extreme joy. Such is the reality of life where human beings are involved. Yet thankfully, woven into it all is the one constant - God's grace and presence.

I don't know why, but it seems to be our nature to accentuate the negative in life and overlook the positive. This is why the Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:8, "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

So, let us think positively about what our church has meant in the lives of persons in this community over the years of our existence. People have come here to worship and praise God; to find escape from the tensions and pressures of the everyday world; to seek forgiveness and reconciliation with God and neighbor; to find wholeness following the shattering of hopes and dreams; to experience wellness when a sick feeling engulfs us after we have cheapened life; to celebrate when things have gone well, when our hearts know love and when our souls are content.

Untold numbers have wept silently in this place worship; others have made important, life-changing decisions here. Couples have been joined in holy marriage at this altar. Parents have brought infant children here for holy baptism. They have watched with satisfaction when their children have been nurtured in our Sunday school and have come to a point of making a decision to be a disciple of Jesus Christ for a lifetime. Families have held memorial services here for their loved ones who have died. For some, this church has been the hem of the Master's garment, bringing comfort and hope. In sum, people's lives have been changed because of the ministry and guidance of this congregation who seeks to be faithful to Christ. And I am so grateful to be a part of such a congregation and the movement of God among us!

The beginning of a New Year always causes me to reflect, and as I reflect upon our journey together, there is so much to celebrate and give thanks for. People are growing in their discipleship through the many opportunities we have. New classes have been formed. There was a net gain of 43 new members last year, with 21 new professions of faith! In difficult financial times, the generosity and faithfulness of this congregation enabled us to meet all our financial obligations and provide all ongoing ministries! Through giving and the sale of dirt, we were able to reduce our total indebtedness by \$188,493.12! We began four new classes. Youth and children ministries continue to grow. We have four youth who are exploring a call to ministry. Community outreach and mission continue to grow, with several new ventures this past year! There is so much that God is doing among us that we can give thanks for and to celebrate!

When you think about this church and our life together, what are you communicating to the community of which we are a part? Is it that we have something that people "out there" need to latch onto ... or that they need to avoid at all cost? Are we being magnets to Christ or repellants? Much of that depends on whether we are focused on the positive aspects of our call and life together as a church or the negative elements that will surely exist among broken human beings. May our prayer these days and into the future be: "Whatever is good in the life of this church, may we build upon that and multiply it - always and only to the glory of God."

*Rickey*

## *Community News*

### HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The Hospitality Committee is preparing to do a major spring cleaning in both kitchens. If you need to claim any items, please do so. This will be a major cleaning and we do not wish for anyone to lose any dishes.

Thank you!



### UMM MEN'S BREAKFAST

The United Methodist Men will meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 5, 2012.

The speaker will be our very own, Chris VanDusen. Chris has asked to share his personal story and testimony. It is always a pleasure and an honor when one of our members feels comfortable enough with our group to share his personal story.

New head cook, Jeff Meilleur, did a great job last month, his first as head cook. Thank you Jeff and all the other men that have stepped up to run the kitchen for our group.

So, men of the church, come join the UMM for our monthly meeting and enjoy a good breakfast and then share in the personal account of one of our own.

Jack Banks  
President  
United Methodist Men

# *In Our Thoughts & Prayers*

## *Nursing Home Friends*

Regency House— Joe Crouch

Hilltop Nursing Center— Vera Williams, Jessie Martin

The Oaks— Nell Adams, Yvonne Aucoin

Kingsley Place— Mildred Miller, Betty LaBorde

Lexington House— Bob Wilson

Oak Haven— Louise Henderson

Naomi Heights— Joyce Shafer

Marigold House— Helen Malette

Out of State— Charles & Fayma Goodgame, FL; John Maurin and Willa Vee, TX

## *Homebound Friends*

- Betty Laborde
- Esme Lipscomb
- Elaine Beck
- Myrtis McConnell
- Marcy Bowen
- Bill & Judy McDonald
- Bill Butcher
- Ralph McMaster
- Geneva Clark
- Welby & Bernie Misner
- Lois Credeur
- Kathleen Smith
- Oran & Marilyn Daniel
- Jackson Tolbert
- Cecil & Margaret Hammond
- Shirley Hinton

## *Sincere Sympathy To:*

Rosa Fields on the loss of her sister

Wayne & Dottie Lindsey on the loss of their son, Mark Alford

## *Remembering Our Military*

- Erik Murphy
- Alan Babcock
- Alex Smith
- Nicholas Bordelon
- Richard Wirfs
- Stephen Lee
- Chad Reeves
- David Miller, Jr.
- Tannelle Graham Summerall

## *Musically Speaking...*



Musically Speaking.....

I can promise this will be brief. I have a few things to share with you but they are not going to take a lot of time or space to share with you.

As always we are still looking for new members to join the choir. Two new members joined us just a few weeks ago. We still have room for more to join with us. Stop thinking about it and just come visit with us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30.

I'll try and give you a reason to join with us right now. We have started rehearsing our Easter Musical, "O What A Savior." We would love for anyone to join us for the next two months as we prepare for this musical.

Joyful voices still continue to provide special music for the 8:30 service. Anyone and Everyone is welcome to sing with us. We usually sing songs almost everyone knows and it is great to belong and sing with a "choir" without the time commitment of regular rehearsals. I will continue to invite all of you to join either the choir at 11 a.m. or Joyful Voices at 8:30.

We are still making available copies of the DVD from "Home for the Holidays." If you would like a copy of the DVD, please contact the office. Your donation will assist missions and the music ministry.

We continue to be blessed by your numerous comments of all the music during all the services. Remember, the members of each of these groups are volunteers and sing and play out of love for Christ, His church and service to you. Again and again, where are you serving and we could you start serving?

I want say a special thank you to those who give generously of your financial resources during the year to the music ministry. You make it possible for us to purchase music and equipment to further this ministry. Your gifts are needed and greatly appreciated.

This is a great congregation and your love and support mean so much. Thank you.

Love, George

# 24/7 Youth News

facebook  
OFFICIAL <3



THE NEW REVOLUTION SERIES IN  
FEBRUARY ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS.  
SUNDAYS 4-6PM

## RENT-A-STUDENT Scholarship Program

Some of our students are trying to raise specific funds for their summer youth trips. Would you like to scholarship a student?

Our strong young guys and gals are willing to help with any spring cleaning, yard work, or odd jobs around your home!

Please contact Maryann and she will connect you with an eager student!



**WEEKLY** **STUDENT** **EVENTS**  
**REVOLUTION** **SMALLGROUPS** **HARLOWS DEVO**  
Sundays 4-6:00pm Wednesdays 6-8:00pm Senior High: Tuesdays 6:30am



### Missions Committee: Sharing Tree

Thanks to our Christmas Sharing Tree Drivers and Navigators for delivering our gifts! They are: Front Row(L-R): Denise Martin, Carly Bratcher, Tate Bratcher, Abby Sebastian, Michael Martin, Henry Martin, Linda & Bob Nash, and Back Row (L-R): Beth Bratcher, Travis Vallee, Will Glass, Rev. Mark Martin, Reggie French, Fred Hagan, and Jane French.

Lorrie McKay, Chair/ Missions Committee

### MISSIONS COMMITTEE NEWS: FOOD BANK NEEDS HELP REPLACING WORN-OUT BACKPACKS

The Food Bank has contacted our church about helping out with funds to replace the worn-out backpacks for the 36 children we sponsor locally. They can be bought at a bulk rate for \$5.00 each. The Communion Offering at all three services on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012, will be dedicated to this need. Sunday School classes, other groups and individuals within our church are also asked to give in fulfilling this need.

Last Fall, our wonderful, caring congregation donated enough funds to provide weekend backpacks of kid-friendly food for 36 hungry children for the whole school year (at \$135 each) through the Food Bank of Central Louisiana. The Food Bank identified 1,128 children at 21 schools who needed this assistance.

If you are interested in volunteering to organize, pack, or distribute food to local citizens, call the Food Bank at (318)445-2773.

Thanks!  
Ann Parvin & Abby Sebastian, Backpack Committee  
Lorrie McKay, Chair/Missions Committee

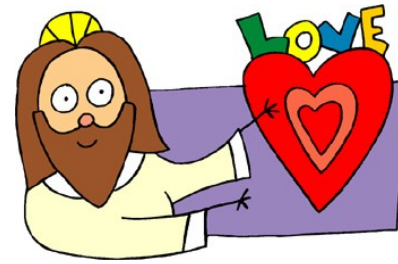
## Welcome New Members!



**Kevin, Paige, Jake, Katie, & Beau Hood**



**Terri Dixon, George & Dee Jones**



## February Kid's News

### **Art event for Special Needs Kids**

On Saturday February 25th,  
we will have a morning at  
MeohMy Art Center at 10 am.  
Each child will be able to be creative and  
make his or her own art masterpiece.  
If you have a Special Needs child, please  
make plans to attend this great event!!  
For questions, please contact  
Michelle in the church office.



### **Valentine's Day Bake Sale**

Sunday February 12th  
8:30am-noon  
In the Narthex  
All proceeds go to  
Children's Ministries with a  
10% donation to the  
Food Bank.



### **Junior God Squad**

Sunday February  
26th  
4-6 pm  
Fellowship Hall  
All 3rd and 4th  
Graders are  
invited!!  
Food, games,  
crafts, God time,  
and FUN!!!



Sunday, February 12th  
5-6:30 pm  
For all kids in 5th and 6th  
grade  
Fellowship Hall  
Join us for food, fun and  
God time. Bring a friend!!



Important meeting  
for all 6th graders  
and their parents  
about Confirmation.  
Sunday,  
February 12th  
4 pm  
Pairs and Spares  
Room

The Louisiana United Methodist Conference is sponsoring eight 5K and Fun Walk/Runs on Saturday, April 21, 2012 benefitting *Imagine No Malaria*, our denomination's global initiative dedicated to eradicating malaria worldwide. All of our local churches are encouraged to participate in this very special event.

The event is entitled *Louisiana Skeeter Run: Change the World*. The race logo incorporates a whimsical mosquito, helping participants to connect the idea of these insects found frequently in our state with the dangerous role they play in the spread of malaria in third world countries.

Eight locations throughout the state have been confirmed as race sites. Race directors are working with volunteer committees, and the committees will engage other volunteers from as many local churches as possible in planning and putting on these events. If you are interested in serving on one of these planning committees please contact the race director in your area:

Alexandria, Denise Crick, (318) 446-0482, [denisecrick@yahoo.com](mailto:denisecrick@yahoo.com)  
Baton Rouge, Judd Hammond, [rjhammo1@gmail.com](mailto:rjhammo1@gmail.com)  
Hammond, Debi Petrolia, (985) 345-2196, [dpetrolia@fumc-hammond.org](mailto:dpetrolia@fumc-hammond.org)

Keithville (Shreveport area), Chuck Christensen, (318) 865-2070, [chuck@gracehappens.org](mailto:chuck@gracehappens.org)  
Lafayette, Kim Biggerstaff, [biggcamp@lusficer.net](mailto:biggcamp@lusficer.net)  
New Orleans, Martha Orphe, [marthaorphe@bellsouth.net](mailto:marthaorphe@bellsouth.net) and Jon Lord, [jlord@tulane.edu](mailto:jlord@tulane.edu)  
Ruston, Amy Stegall, (318) 251-0750, [amys@trinityruston.org](mailto:amys@trinityruston.org)  
Sulphur, Carrie Kinnaird, [ckinnaird@ppg.com](mailto:ckinnaird@ppg.com)

For the *Louisiana Skeeter Run*, there is a task for every size church, such as providing volunteers for the day of the run/walk and/or signing up participants in one of the run/walks.

As with our "Day of Caring" event in May of 2011, there is a task for every size church. Depending on available volunteers and resources, churches can:

- Provide a representative on one of the race planning committees
- Provide volunteers for the day of the run/walk
- Provide participants in one of the run/walks
- Gather prayer partners to offer up prayers on April 21 for the success of the event and the safety of the participants

The race sites have been chosen to make volunteering as convenient as possible for every local church. This type of event has a strong appeal for children, youth and young adults!

As with the "Day of Caring," the conference will secure billboards, TV commercials, press coverage, and possible reporting at the 2012 General Conference to promote the initiative state-wide and globally. **Please use the attached flyer and web ad for publicity on church websites, e-letters, and for posting in key areas to promote interest in the coming event. A microsite for event registration will go live in early February, and will be announced through the district offices.**

For more information, contact Betty Backstrom, Conference Communications Director, at 6 [bettybackstrom@la-umc.org](mailto:bettybackstrom@la-umc.org)

## **DMA (Don't Mention Age) LUNCHEON**

There will be a DMA Luncheon on Tuesday, February 7th at 12:00 p.m in the Fellowship Hall. The guest speaker will be Alvarez Peychaun, Director of Pineville Youth Center. The church will furnish the chicken and we ask that you please bring a covered dish, salad, or dessert if you can. Come join us for food, fellowship, and fun!!!

## **UMM SALSA AND JELLY SALE - SUPER BOWL SUNDAY!**

The UMM will be selling OWL Salsa and Jellies from the Louisiana Methodist Children's Home in Ruston on Sunday, February 5th from 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

## **FROM THE 5th/6th GRADE GIRLS**

A huge THANK YOU to all who participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls' Sunday school Mission during the holidays of putting together shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child!! Our goal was 75 boxes and we delivered a total of **73 boxes!!!** The total number of boxes that were processed out of the local processing center was **11,880**, all of which were tracked for delivery to the continent of Africa! Thank you, thank you, thank you for helping us almost reach our goal and being part of such an incredible and fun ministry!!! And a big thanks to Jan Golden for letting us have this as our mission project!