



The *Messenger*

A Monthly Publication of Mission Bend United Methodist Church

January 2012

Church Staff

David Meeker - Williams
Senior Pastor

Roy Weeks
Associate Pastor

Mauro Moreno
Associate Pastor

Valeta Rhodes
Intern Pastor

Connie Fowler
Director of Christian Ed.

Kyle Howton
Youth Director

Dan Kramlich
Music Director

Mary Blondell
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Nancy Gerdes
*Congregational Care &
Hospitality Ministries
Coordinator*

Eston Hupp
Business Manager

Dawn Wratny
Secretary

Kathy Aaron
Pianist

Adrienne White
Youth Choir Director

Jennifer Craft
*Head of Mission Bend
Christian Academy*

Sunday Service Times

8:30 am, 9:40 am
& 11:00 am

Traditional & Praise

11:30 pm - Worship

Service in Spanish

Servicios de Adoracion
en Espanol

Sunday School

9:40 am

We are called to:

Bring, Build and Send

(281) 497-4491

Fax: (281) 497-3395

www.mbumc.org

email:

office@mbumc.org

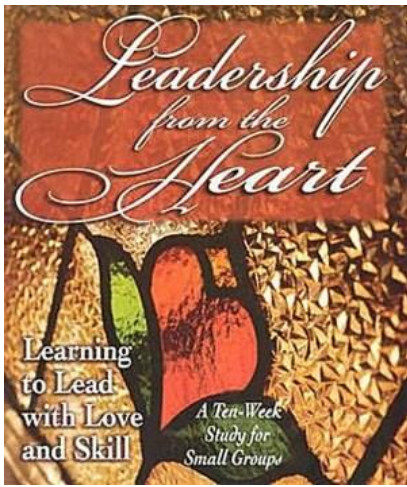
MISSION BEND UMC
PRESENTS

**THE GOOD
THE BAD
AND
THE TASTY**

**CHILI
COOKOFF
JAN. 21. 2012**

4TV

BENEFITING YOUTH MISSIONS



Leadership from the Heart: Learning to Lead with Love and Skill

The 2012 MBUMC Visioning Team has committed to encouraging and supporting our Church Council, Ministry Teams (Staff Parish, Finance, Trustees and Lay Leadership) & Sunday School & Bible Study Teachers in the art of Christian Leadership. Beginning Thursday evening January 26th the persons listed above and other church members are invited to attend our 10 week study for Christian growth, servant leadership and team building.

7- 8:30 p.m.
Thursday Evenings: January 26 – March 29, 2011
\$10 each for Study Manual
All Invited!



“PRAYERFUL” VESSELS



LISTEN! **The Holy Spirit Is Moving Just Like A Magnet This Season.** This Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus, loves to move through the Lord’s vessels. Now is a good time to come to the **Thursday, January 5, 2012, Service of Prayer and Healing in the CHAPEL.** Come and lift your concerns to the Lord in joyful voices of trust and faith. Come, let us bow our heads together, as through prayers, your concerns are channeled through “prayerful vessels” of opportunity serving on that day.

Note Well: This Service will occur on **Thursday**, as described above, at **7:00 p.m.**, to embrace everyone’s holiday schedule. It will be short, and, with Jesus being in the midst, **powerful**, as you ask **HIM** to bring **healing** to people in every area of our lives, ANYWHERE you or someone you care about is hurting.... Prayers are offered individually, confidentially, and comfortably informal for you and yours. **Feel free to leave after you have been prayed for.**

Come and let the Mission Bend Prayer Ministry Team bring all who are in need into God’s healing presence on the stretchers of our prayers.

“Jesus...healed the people.” Matthew 4:23
Let us ask Him for healing and comfort for you
or for one you care about.



West Oaks Geriatric Center “The Reading Fun Bunch” Schedule

If you are interested in seeing what we do, stop by any Saturday at 10:00 am at 3625 Green Crest Dr. You don’t have to do a thing, just watch and see if this is for you.

January 7	Tom Gee & Mary Neubauer
January 14	???
January 21	The Wratny Family
January 28	Sandy Owens



OUR FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP

THINGS WE ARE IN NEED OF FOR OUR FOOD PANTRY

rice, dry beans,
canned meat (tuna & chicken), canned soup,
complete meal boxes (Betty Crocker - Complete Meals),
jelly, peanut butter, pull top cans (Chef Boyardee).
Spaghetti, Spaghetti Sauce



I remember the first time I saw one of those “magic slates,” the kind with a sheet of plastic against a black plastic board. With a stylus you could write or draw whatever you wanted, and then by lifting the plastic cover, erase the whole thing. Way cool. Very low technology, but way cool! Most kids would just scribble a bunch, maybe cover most of the slate, just so they could instantly erase it all and start over. Sometimes we would draw or write something serious, but the magic was in the erasing, not the writing or drawing. A serious drawing or an awful mess, it all got erased the same, and you were left with a clean, blank slate.

Starting a new year feels a lot like that to me. This past year has seen a lot of beautiful things, a lot of significant, creative, well-done things. Of course, it has also seen a lot of messy things, a lot of things that will be better left un-remembered. So here comes this “magic slate” of the New Year, wiping the slate clean and giving us all a do-over. We all get a fresh start with a clean slate. We get the chance to restart the clock with a new set of priorities – even it looks a lot like last year’s set of priorities!

Some folks, the “half-empty” people, find it discouraging that we keep making the same commitments, setting and failing at the same set of priorities. I guess I’m in the “half-full” camp. I think it is remarkable that we re-up every year; that we have enough regard for the possibilities of the future that we decide again and again to “have another go.”

Here is one of the internet lists of “Top Ten Resolutions.” 1. Lose weight. 2. Stop smoking. 3. Set a budget and stick to it. 4. Get out of debt. 5. Get organized. 6. Spend more time with family and friends. 7. Quit drinking. 8. Learn something new. 9. Travel. 10. Volunteer.

Any of those sound familiar? Yeah, me too!

Well, we Christians really do have a couple of advantages in all this. We understand that by the grace of God our slates have already been wiped clean. The only stuff that lingers is the stuff we choose to hold on to. And – we can have hope where perhaps others cannot, because we know that the future, all of it, is held in the arms of One who loves us and will never let us go.

Happy New Year and a Blessed Clean Slate to you!



Project MVP Donations

We have opened a separate bank account for this campaign and it will make bookkeeping a lot easier if you write a separate check for your donation.

A simple and convenient way to give

Consider signing up for electronic giving. **Mission Bend United Methodist Church** relies on the financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Please contact the church office for details.

Thank you!

BREAKFAST CLUB FORMING

Want to join a new group to have some fun, fellowship, breakfast and do some “good deeds” around the church?

Pastor David has formed a new small group (open to ALL) to help keep our church home attractive by doing those small jobs necessary around our beautiful facility.

We will be meeting on the first Monday each month at 7:00 am. We will have some personal devotionals, tell some jokes, have breakfast and be gone long before noon. David will be serving breakfast.

If you find this something you would like to do, please give your name to Eston and find out more information.

NEXT MEETING JANUARY 9, 2012

Hope to see you there...

ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UP



You can have fresh flowers dedicated in honor of, in celebration of, or in memory of a loved one. They will be placed on the altar on Sunday and you may take one arrangement of flowers home after the 11:00 service, Stop by the office and reserve your date, the cost is \$50 per arrangement. **Flowers need to be paid for when you sign up for them.**

THANKS MISSION BEND, YOUR GENEROSITY IS

PRISON MINISTRY BIKE DRIVE



**A
PEACE
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MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY



WEST OAKS GERIATRIC'S CHRISTMAS PARTY



PRISON MINISTRY ANGEL TREE PARTY



A **BIG THANK YOU** to the Women's Celebration Ministry for purchasing the new 40" TV (and mounting accessories) for church use. The TV is available for all church groups/activities in the choir room.

(If other groups or individuals are interested in helping to replace some of our older, outdated mechanical equipment, they are encouraged to call or see Eston Hupp, Building & Facilities Manager)



Ladies Mark Your 2012 Calendars With These Dates

**Tuesday January 10, 2012
6:30 PM - BOOK CLUB NIGHT**

The book that we will be reviewing and discussing is *"The Measure Of A Lady"* by Deanne Gist. We reviewed another of this popular Christian author's books last fall; however instead of a current (time frame) mystery/suspense novel she will take us back in time to the California Gold Rush Days.

**Friday January 20, 2012
6:30 PM - LADIES MOVIE NIGHT**

Plan to join us as we watch the popular recent movie ***The Help***

Bring a snack to share with others before watching the movie. Drinks & paper products will be provided.

As always ALL women of the church and community are invited and encouraged to join us.
Sorry, childcare is not available.

JANUARY 2012 MBUMC PRAYER FOCUS

Please join the Mission Bend UMC Prayer Ministry team in this prayer



*But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God;
I trust in God's unfailing love forever and ever.*

*For what you have done I will always praise you in the presence of your faithful people.
And I will hope in your name, for your name is good. Psalm 52:8-9 NIV*

Precious Lord,

We begin another year thankful for new beginnings, fresh opportunities and hope.

We thank you, Lord, for new life in Christ (2 Corinthians 17), and for mercies new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23).

Lord, we thank you for the wonderful pastors you have planted here, especially David Meeker-Williams, Roy Weeks, Mauro Moreno and Valeta Rhodes. Thank you for our enthusiastic staff, especially Connie Fowler, Kyle Howton, Jennifer Craft, Mary Blondell, Dan Kramlich, Nancy Gerdes, Eston Hupp, Dawn Wratny, Brenda Kelly, Kathy Aaron and Adrienne White. Thank you for the unswerving faithfulness of our trustees, especially Mike Meeks, Jim Peters, Andy Shipp, Liz Peel, Bernice Frimpong, Sam Oyefeso, Greg Lacy and Jane Duke.

In your Holy Word you speak a number of times about the olive tree. Let us be like the olive tree, which is modest in stature, sometimes gnarled and twisted as it grows, and related to beautiful things like lilacs, jasmine and forsythia. Make us to be evergreen, hardy and long-lived. Like the olive tree, may we serve your people in many ways: Help us to feed your people, anoint their wounds and offer light wherever you lead us. Like the olive branch in the mouth of the dove, make us a sign of new beginnings in your kingdom (Genesis 8:8-11). Like the psalmist David, let us be like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God, trusting in your unfailing love. Open our mouths to praise your name; open our hearts to hope in you. Help us to live humbly in your presence and to be mighty in your service. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.


Take a look around you, tell me what you see; People here to worship the Lord just like you and me.

Some have come in gladness, some have come with fear; But all have come because they know that love grows here!

Yes, love grows here and all of us can share the wonder and joy that it can bring. For God is near, teaching us to care, and showing our hearts how to sing. Love Grows Here, music and lyrics by Don Besig, 1979, Verse one and refrain

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Happy New Year 10:00 am Service No Sunday School	2 OFFICE CLOSED Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm	3	4	5 Prayer & Healing Service 7:00 pm Leadership Training 6:30 - 8:30 pm	6	7
8	9 Side by Side 6:00 pm	10 Ladies Book Club 6:30 pm	11	12 Leadership Training 6:30 - 8:30 pm	13	14
15 MYF 4:00 pm	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17	18	19 Leadership Training 6:30 - 8:30 pm	20 Ladies Movie Night 6:30 pm	21 Chili Cook Off 4:00 pm
22 Lay Committee Meeting 12:00 pm	23	24	25	26 Leadership Training 6:30 - 8:30 pm	27	28
29 MYF 4:00 pm	30	31				



**METHODIST MEN'S
BIBLE STUDY &
BREAKFAST**
*(2nd Saturday of each
month)*
*in the church
office kitchen*
7:30 am - Coffee
8:00 am - Continental Breakfast
8:30 - 9:30 am - Discussion



**Have You been
getting email blast
from the church?**

**If not please email or call
the church office and give us your
email address and we will add you
to the email list.**

office@mbumc.org. or 281-497-4491



**What are
Stephen Ministers?
They are the after people.**

Stephen Ministers are there after:

- ... you've washed and returned the last casserole dish.
- ... the doctors have said, "There's nothing more we can do."
- ... the phone call you'd always hoped you'd never get.
- ... the divorce papers have been served and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ... the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
- ... you find the pink slip inserted with what is now your final paycheck.
- ... your family and friends have heard your story one too many times.

Stephen Ministers are the "After People." We are ready to come alongside you - or those you love - to provide comfort and support for as long "after" as we are needed.

For more information about this ministry contact the church office 281-497-4491

The Messenger

Mission Bend United Methodist Church
3710 Highway 6 South Houston, TX 77082-4314 (281) 497-4491
www.mbumc.org

New Trustees Appointed

New trustees appointed for a three year term are Greg Lacy, Sam Oyefesco and Jan Duke. Congratulations on your new appointment and service to the church.

Retiring trustees are Ralph Wissel, A.D. Williams and Chairman Jim Barton. The church is grateful for their service over the past three years.

Trustees meet on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. Meetings are open and members are invited to attend.



**Mission Bend
Blue Polo Shirts
For Sale: \$10 each**

ONLY SMALL SIZES AVAILABLE

PLANNING FOR THE NEW YEAR?

The beginning of a new year is a good time to start
(or review) your life planning goals.

Have a will? Need to up date one?

Retirement planning? Budgeting, Debt?

All these services are available here at the church office from the Harvest Ministry. And the Financial Planning Association. For a confidential discussion, contact Eston Hupp, Life Member of Financial Planning Association

Need prayer on a specific topic?

Check out the varied collection of prayers on the large turnstile rack in the hallway.

And don't forget your prayer concerns are only a click away cita4u@hotmail.com After writing your concern and hitting the "Send" button, your concern will be instantly prayed over and lifted up by many.

INVITATION TO BE A PRAYER PARTNER

You are invited to join the Prayer Ministry team as we intentionally promote prayer, so that Mission Bend UMC may truly become a house of prayer. Helping people pray with greater confidence and pray more effectively draws people closer to our Maker, so they can better discern God's will. According to Mark 11:34, Jesus said this about prayer: *"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."*

Prayer Partners are a vital part of the Mission Bend UMC Prayer Ministry team. We pray for others because God wants us to love one another and help one another. We know that prayer works; we have witnessed many blessings and healings as a result of prayer. It is thrilling to ask Jesus to heal and see it happen, according to Acts 24:30: *"Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."*

You are warmly invited to be a Prayer Partner, which involves taking a two-hour workshop at a time to be mutually determined, then being commissioned with your personalized name badge, and observing experienced Prayer Partners for a time. After this you would be eligible to pray during monthly Services of Prayer and Healing and to stand at the Sunday morning altar prayer times (at whichever service you attend) to confidentially pray with and for others when they ask you to do so. All adults and youth from the sixth grade and higher are eligible for this service to our Lord God. There is no pressure to accept this invitation; only those who feel called should accept. The Prayer Partner training will be given once in this quarter.

If you wish to be a Prayer Partner, please complete the needed information below and put it into the offering plate, or hand it to an usher or anyone you see with a "Prayer Partner" name badge on, or call Pat Howell or Yucca James. If you have any questions, please call Yucca or Pat.

I wish to be a Prayer Partner.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone Number () _____

E-mail Address (if any) _____