

A Note from Pastor Brian

Easter has come and gone and I want to thank all those who helped make our Lenten and Easter celebrations special. A big thank you to Leodocia for hosting our Lenten Bible Study, to Doug and the Choir for their music at the Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday Services, to Cindy for her trumpet playing at Easter, and to all of you who attended the Bible Study, Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday Services. I trust that the hope that is in Jesus' Resurrection will not soon fade for your memory.

The days march onward and the church calendar shows that we will soon celebrate Pentecost. Pentecost Sunday occurs exactly 7 weeks after Easter. It marks the actual birthday of the Christian Church with the coming of the Holy Spirit. We want to do something special to mark this important day. We certainly make a big event of the coming of God the Son in our Advent and Christmas celebrations as we should. In addition, I think we should also recognize how important the coming of God the Spirit (Holy Spirit) is as well. So following Mother's Day I will be doing a 3 sermon series on the Holy Spirit, culminating on Pentecost Sunday (June 4th). While we celebrate Christmas with the giving of gifts to others we know, we thought it would be fitting to celebrate the coming of the Spirit and the birth of the church in a similar manner. However, instead of giving to those we know, you will be encouraged to give to those you don't know. In that vein, we will be collecting gifts for the residents at the Methodist Children's Home on June 4th (see Missions article) and will save them for distribution to the residents at Christmas. I think giving to others is a great way to celebrate God's gift to us in the person of the Holy Spirit. I hope each of you will participate in not only the gift giving but in the services that lead to Pentecost Sunday.

On a personal note, many of you know that Cindy and I will be moving to a new pastoral appointment at Centenary United Methodist Church in Franklinton, Louisiana in July. I do want to reiterate that this decision is not a reflection on how we feel about you, the members of David Haas, Evergreen, and White's Chapel. We treasure having had the opportunity to know you and serve in ministry with you for this year. While the appointment system is ultimately in the hands of the Bishop, the Bishop does seek input from the church and pastors involved. It is no secret that we moved back to Louisiana last July to be closer to our family, namely our son, grandchildren, and my other. While we are closer than we were in Georgia, it still is not as close as we would like to be and we had conveyed that to the Louisiana Conference last year. Since my mother's passing, I have inherited some business interests which also make closer proximity to Loranger desirable. I do appreciate the opportunity I had to serve the wonderful people of these churches and have been praying in hope and belief that the new pastor appointed to the charge will possess the gifts needed to effectively lead the congregations forward during this important time. I know that you will show the new pastor the love and support that you have given me and I trust that God will do great things through the new pastor and through each of you.

NEWS FROM THE PPR COMMITTEE
Submitted by Leodocia Pope

The PPR Committee has received a notification from Acadiana District Superintendent, Reverend John Cannon, stating that the Bishop's Cabinet has approved the appointment of Reverend Joe Hoover as Pastor of our church. He will serve us in a halftime position and we will welcome him back to DHMUMC in July.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Building Committee has met and work is being done on the plans for an updated facility. In the next week or so, regular attenders will be mailed a survey inquiring as to what they would like to see in a new facility. We hope you will be able to complete and return the survey in a timely manner. In the meantime, architects are being contacted and interviewed in hopes of selecting one who can help us with this project. Please continue to pray for our building team and this whole process of discerning the direction we should take as a church.

LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

To the members of DHUMC,

Since the night of the church fire Bill and I have prayed together and individually for direction and renewal for our church. As the building committee begins to meet, I would like to share some thoughts with you.

It appears to me that the main focus is on the physical rebuilding of the church. After prayerful consideration, I think the first question we, the congregation, should ask is what do we envision as the future of David Haas Memorial United Methodist Church. Our vision and needs for the future should drive the rebuilding efforts. If we plan to continue on our present course, our physical plant needs will be very simple. If we make a commitment and effort to rebuild spiritually and grow, our needs will look very different. I feel that before discussions for a physical rebuilding begin we need to meet as a congregation and discuss the future and spiritual rebuilding of our church. Now is the time to voice our ideas, hopes and dreams for the future growth and survival of DHMUMC. We should pray about this vision individually, as families, and as a congregation. Once we have a spiritual plan focusing on growth for the future, we will have a better idea of what type of facility we need to support those goals. I pray that each one of you will use this tragedy as an impetus to renew and restore DHMUMC's desire to grow by going out and making disciples.

Yours in Christ,

Joan Tebow

WAYS TO SERVE AND TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The transition in pastoral leadership will mean an opportunity for more of you to find an area to lead and/or to serve in. We need help in the following areas:

- Worship Team Leader
- Newsletter Editor
- Newsletter Production (typing and sending)
- Website Editor (if church feels this is a vital part of ministry)
- Bailey Place Worship Coordinator
- Discussion Group Coordinator
- Bible Study Coordinator

Most all of these positions simply require the time and willingness to lead. Training will be provided where needed and/or desired. If you would like more information about one of these positions, please contact Pastor Brian.

MISSION TEAM UPDATE **Submitted by Glenda Baker**

Our Missions this year will be mostly centered on the UMC Children's Homes. In May, we will start a project of collecting Christmas gifts. We have a list of recommended items. Maybe in the summer we can have a Christmas wrapping party! Then we will again collect school supplies for the upcoming year. These were much appreciated last year by the Children's Home.

Don't forget our Bayou Vista Ministry on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. We would love to have you join us.

Also remember the Bailey Place Worship Service on the 1st Tuesday at 2:30.

Answers to questions people are asking

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/ask-the-umc>

**Some of what
you can find at
UMC.ORG**

What is the Methodist's stance on Immigration Issues

<http://www.umc.org/topics/topic-immigration>

Prayers and Meditations

<http://www.umc.org/topics/topic-prayers-and-meditations>

AN UPDATE ON FORMER MEMBERS

Submitted by Helen Eves

Wanda Himel's deceased husband, Vanoy, was a brother of Tommy Thayer's mother, Nita Himel Thayer. They lived in Bunkie and had two sons. It is my understanding that for some time Vanoy and/or Wanda were members at White's Chapel before moving their membership to DHMUMC where they were active in all phases of work and service at DHM.

Health concerns caused them to move to an out-of-state location to be near one of their two adult sons. Wanda is a resident at St. James Place, Baton Rouge. The people here and DHMUMC are dear to her and were at the center of her life for years. The boys, Mark and Van Terry lived here with their parents when they were very young, but their school years were spent in Lafayette and Port Allen where Vanoy was working. Vanoy and Wanda spent their active retirement years living in Bunkie.

The younger son, Mark Himel (Francis) lives in Napierville, Illinois and works in Chicago. He is now 66 years of age. Wanda reports that for some years Mark has felt a call to full time ministry. He began study through and at Duke University. At times he flew there; some courses he took on-line. He is at the point now where he will be given credentials that will identify him as a UM pastor and begin the process toward ordination. He has been working at the church as "volunteer" until such time that he fulfills an obligation toward some clients in the Chicago corporate office where his secular work has been for the past several years. Wanda has great joy that Mark is going to be a minister.

Mark and Francis' son, Scott, is an ordained UM minister in Illinois. He attended the School of Divinity or seminary, Duke University. This has been an extra ordinary achievement because Scott was born with albinism with vision so limited he has not been able to drive motor vehicles and had a "reader" through his years of formal schooling.