



Circuit Writer

February 2012

Our Journey Together

King cakes and all things purple, gold, and green abound! That must mean Ash Wednesday and Lent aren't far away.

Lent is not as late as last year. It begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22. That day we will have a service at Noon in our sanctuary. People can come on their lunch hour, worship and received the imposition of ashes, and return to work and other activities as they claim and witness to the One who died for us all!

Why would anyone do that for others? In what sense was Jesus' death necessary? Was this God's plan all along? How desperate is my/our situation to require such a drastic solution? How will I respond to what Jesus has done, to what he willingly chose to do for me? These and other questions are worthy of our consideration during the days leading up to the crucifixion-resurrection event. Will you and I set aside time during Lent (40 days leading to Easter Sunday not including the Sundays) to reflect?

Our worship experiences this year will offer a unique perspective for Lent. Because we are continuing with *The Story*, during Lent the sermons will start with the concluding Old Testament segment and then move through the life and ministry of Jesus from his birth through the crucifixion. It should make a splendid preparation for the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 8.

Beginning the last day of this month, February 29, we will offer an expanded version of last year's "Lenten Light." This year the Celebrating Ministry Team is sponsoring six Wednesday lunches with guest preachers providing insight and inspiration for our preparation for Easter. Jayne Muzzy, the Celebrating Ministry Team Chair, is lining up persons and groups to provide the meals, and I am contacting local ministers to bring the messages.

There will be special music presentations, and Holy Week services as well, to aid you in opening your heart and mind to a deeper experience of God's grace and understanding of God's abundant love. I hope you will make the most of these opportunities and allocate more of your time and energy (possibly doing without some time-robbing activity) to pondering God's goodness and caring for the world he loves.

In Christ,

Charlie

2012 Budget & Funding Approved

January 24, the Church Council approved the 2012 operating budget of \$491,076. Because of the generosity of our people, and the diligence of our planning groups, the funding for this year's budget includes only \$27,437 in trust funding beyond the money allocated from the Austin Trust (\$18,171 for insurance), and the interest from the sale of the parsonage (\$1,600 housing allowance). That is a reduction of \$35,757 (or 56.6%) from last year's expenditure of \$63,194. This far exceeds the \$20,000 reduction mandated by the council last September.

Mardi Gras Parking

Tuesday, February 21



SeIMart Parking-Lot Rates

\$50 Front Row

\$25 Second Row

\$10 Third Row

University Church Parking Lot — \$5

Contact University Day School at 478-4347

Mark Your Calendar

March 16—17 Conference Laity Retreat with Gil Rendle at Wesley Center (Friday evening—Saturday afternoon)

March 24 Church-wide Planning Retreat in Safe Harbor

UMW General Meeting Speaker & Lunch

Thursday, February 2
10:30 a.m. Safe Harbor

The theme of UMW 2012 is Domestic Violence/Abuse. All UMW members, as well as interested women, will have the opportunity to hear a Potter's House representative speak about the mission offered locally to abused women and children.

Potter's House is an active organization in our community that is directly addressing our community's needs.

Prior to the speaker, a short business meeting will be held. Following the speaker,

Signet Classics

Judge Ward Fontenot

CHARLES DICKENS
A Tale of Two Cities **Judges**

United Methodist Men

Thursday, February 9 6:00 p.m.

Social Lights

February 20 @ 11:30

Cajun Cafe

329 Pryce @ Bilbo



- * Get Out of Debt!
- * Stay Out of Debt!
- * Build Wealth

Thirteen Sessions Starting February 1

First Class is FREE!!!

During This Life-Changing Course, You Will Learn:

- * To put together a monthly spending plan that really works!
- * The step-by-step process for getting out of debt for good!
- * How to set financial goals and really communicate about money.
- * And Much More

Registration Options: Register on-line at daveramsey.com
 Pay \$93 at University Methodist
 Pay \$93 at the first class

6:30 p.m. Wednesdays in Safe Harbor

6th Annual Mission Dinner & Auction
Saturday March 3, 2012 6:00 PM
University United Methodist Church
\$15 per person

Evening includes festive Indonesian cuisine.
 Dozens of auction items from Africa, Bahamas, Mexico and more.

All proceeds benefit the McNeese Wesley Foundation
 Student Volunteers in Mission

Note: We will be happy to receive any special items you may have to donate to our auction.

TICKETS ON SALE at:
 Wesley Foundation & University United Methodist Church

Day School Registration

March 12
 Registration open for church members and students currently enrolled in day school.

March 19
 Registration open to public.

The Story

It is not too late to invite others to join us as we continue our journey through *The Story*. We will celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 8, and finish *The Story* on May 6.

Our Christian Sympathy to the families of:

Joey Tarasiewicz and Carl Sirmon

Also to:

Delores Reynolds and Katie Stewart
 in the deaths of their loved ones.

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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Charlie Langford\
Program Director	Marj Robinson
Chancel Choir Director	Dr. Darryl Jones
Safe Harbor Music Leader	Jahn Saucier
Organist	Steven Branch
Business Manager	Randy Morgan
Day School Director	Katie Stewart
Staff Assistant	Glynetta Phenice
Church Sexton	Shane Truxillo
	Robert Price

Address Correction Requested

Youth Events

June 16 — June 23:

Youth Mission trip to Nashville, TN.

Let Marj Robinson know ASAP if you are interested in the mission trip. We will be meeting to plan fundraisers and trip details.

March Newsletter Deadline

February 16!

Please have your articles for the March newsletter in early.

CHILDREN EVENTS

Ashley Hughes and Laura Hiatt, 2012 Vacation Bible School co-directors, are busy planning this summer's bible school. Watch the newsletter and bulletin for dates and theme. This will be an event you don't want to miss!!

Beginning Sunday, February 5, children kindergarten age through 5th grade will meet at 4:00 p.m. for activities including Puppet Team (led by Pandy Nunez) and Chimers (led by Tamra Weemes). We will also enjoy recreation and a snack.

Any child interested in helping in Sunday morning worship by lighting candles, handing out bulletins or greeting worshippers, please contact Marj Robinson.

**Upcoming: Easter Egg Hunt, Sat. March 31
 Summer Family Mission Trip**