



Circuit Writer

MAY 2011

Our Journey Together

May first, I will begin the *Surprised by Hope* sermon series (May 1 – June 5). For six weeks we will explore the implications of the Resurrection for our lives, here and now on earth. Biblical scholar and Anglican Bishop N. T. “Tom” Wright’s insights will challenge our understandings of the significance of that first Easter morning. A couple of Wednesday small groups will concurrently use the DVD series based on his 2008 book to discuss and apply a more biblical Resurrection faith. Discover why he sees the Resurrection as the answer to our regular petition “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as in heaven.”

In the middle of May we will have two wonderful opportunities to affirm our faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The weekend of May 14 and 15 should really be special.

On Saturday, May 14 our church will participate in the United Methodist Day of Caring. On that day we, and churches across our conference (the state of Louisiana), will be undertaking ministries with the poor in our local communities. We will be delivering backpacks and duffle bags of personal items for the almost 100 homeless persons temporarily housed in three shelters in Lake Charles. Lists of needed items were distributed in a recent worship service and are available (see page 2). We are seeking lightly used or new backpacks and/or duffle bags to place these items in. These are needed right away as we will be filling these backpacks and duffle bags on Sunday, May 8. Every member is encouraged to participate (contribute items, bags, money; help fill the backpacks and duffle bags; purchase needed items; deliver filled backpacks and bags to the shelters; and/or pray for the recipients).

We will be celebrating Confirmation Sunday on May 15. Some fine young people will be asked to affirm for themselves the vows made at their baptism, to declare their faith in God as revealed in Jesus, and to answer affirmatively the question of church membership. With them I would ask you to consider your commitment to Christ and his church and your continuing support of the University United Methodist Church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Individuals are to be confirmed at both services and a reception for all of them will be held in Safe Harbor at the beginning of Sunday school (9:45). Please pray for James Bulhof, Randi Paige Morgan, and Kailyn Sonnier as they prepare to take this important step.

Mark these on your calendar and make plans to be a part of these exciting events, small groups, and worship experiences.

In Christ,

Charlie



Vacation Bible School

PANDA MANIA! (Where God is Wild about You!)

July 11—15, 2011

9:00am to 12:00pm

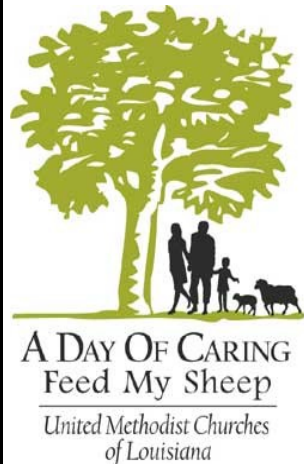
Nat'l Day of Prayer Service



The Lake Area Ministers Group (LAMG) is sponsoring a community prayer service at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church on Thursday, May 5. The National Day of Prayer is when citizens from across the nation gather to pray for our nation. Prayers will be voiced for leaders in government, education, business, media, the military, family, and church. The service starts at **Noon**. After the brief service a light lunch will be served. Rev. Langford is currently serving as president of LAMG.

Delegates Prepare for Annual Conference

Delegates from our church will join others from our district for a Pre-Conference Training session at First UMC, Welsh, on Sunday afternoon, May 1. This year's lay delegate to the 41st session of the Louisiana Annual Conference is Robbi Dowden. Her alternate is Louella Kirkum. Charlie and Beverly Langford will also be attending this year's gathering at Centenary College in Shreveport, June 5-8, where delegates will be elected for next year's General Conference and the South-Central Jurisdictional Conference.



"Backpacks for the Poor" Needs List

Goal: 100 pieces (Deadline: Sunday, May 8)

Food items:

Canned Vienna Sausage
Bottles of Water
Granola Bars
Individual Apple Sauce containers
Individual packs of fruit
Plastic spoons
Gallon Zip-Loc Bags

Personal items:

Toothbrushes/toothpaste
Mouthwash
Bath soap
Hand sanitizer
Shampoo/conditioner
Cologne (women's only)
Deodorant

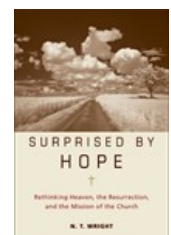
Body lotion
Small combs
Chapstick
New wash cloths
White socks
Disposal wipes

Back packs

Monetary Donations Accepted

After Easter Study: Surprised by Hope

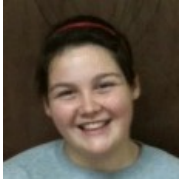
On April 24 Rev. Charlie began a six-week study and sermon series based on N. T. Wright's book, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*. The study is built around six video presentations by Bishop N.T. Wright, an Anglican Bishop and Biblical scholar, and requires a "Participant's Guide" that is no cost to the participant. Rev. Charlie will lead two groups: one meeting at 1:30 p.m. and the other at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays (April 27-June 1). From the Second Sunday of Easter (May 1) through the Seventh Sunday of Easter (June 5) his sermons will focus on the emphasis of each study session.



Children & Youth

C o n f i r m a n d s

Randi Morgan



I am Randi Paige Morgan, and I am 12 years old. I am a student at S.J. Welsh Middle

School. I am the daughter of Tammi and Randy Morgan. I am the granddaughter of J.D. Morgan. I enjoy playing volleyball, softball, and playing with my guinea pigs, Minnie and Nugget. The rest of my family is my sister, Tristan, and my brother, Dustin. **I enjoy coming to church because I enjoy the fellowship.**



James Bulhof



My name is James Bulhof. I'm 11 years old. My parents are Angela and Hanno Bulhof. I go to Bishop

Noland Episcopal Day School. I have two brothers whose names are Justin and Roger. I like to carve sticks, play video games and play the piano. I have a cat named Tiger and a dog named Dutch. I go on International Volunteers in Mission trips. **What I like about church is the music in the contemporary service.**



Kailyn Sonnier



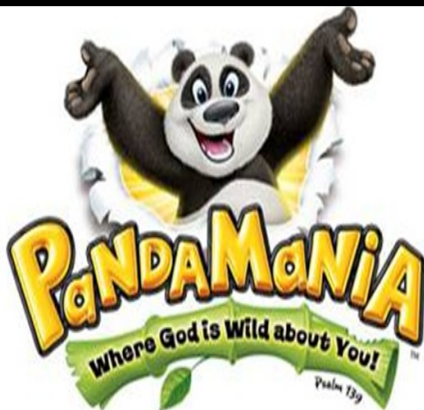
My name is Kailyn Sonnier, my parents are Dan and Brandi Sonnier. I go to First Baptist Christian Academy in Moss

Bluff, and I am in the 6th grade. My hobbies are playing the piano, taking hip-hop, ballet, and pointe. My grandparents are Carolyn Angelo and Myrtle Golemon and my siblings are Abbie and Ethan. My pets are Kia, Maggie, Lexi and Callie. **My favorite thing about church is becoming a member.**



Confirmation Sunday—May 15, 2011

A reception for the confirmands will be during the Sunday School hour in Safe Harbor. Please come by and meet the confirmands and welcome them as members of the church.



Vacation Bible School Helpers Needed

Sign Up For a Leadership Role

Panda Mania (Where God is **Wild** about You!)

You will have an incredible week!

Spend a whole week going to Party Time Sing & Play, Crazy Crafts, snacks in the Treetop and so much more!

For more information, please contact Mary Stager in the church office or e-mail at marys@universitymethodist.com.

Our Christian Sympathy to Families of:

George Alexander Joseph Jobe
Mildred Collings Lillie B. Ellender
Trudy Beard Bertrand

Social Lights

Nina-P's Café
1600 W. McNeese Street
11:30 a.m.

University United Methodist Church
3501 Patrick Street
Lake Charles, LA 70605

(337) 477-2003
(337) 478-8106 fax

www.universitymethodist.com

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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Charlie Langford
Program Director	Marj Robinson
Youth, Children, & Family Ministry Dir.	Mary Stager
Chancel Choir Director	Dr. Darryl Jones
Safe Harbor Music Leader	Jahn Saucier
Organist	Steven Branch
Business Manager	Randy Morgan
Staff Assistant	Glynetta Phenice
Church Sexton	J.C. Picard
Weekend Sexton	Robert Price
	Shayne Truxillo

Address Correction Requested

UMW on the go

Spiritual Retreat



University United Methodist Women attended a spiritual retreat at the Wesley Center in February. Back row L to R are Evelyn Hoffman, Nell Hayes, Aline Kestel and Melinda Graham. Front row L to R are Wanda De Ville, Salley Ellender, and Jo Ann Gregg.



UMW Picnic

Sunday, May 15

UMW Women & Invited Guests
Covered Dish Picnic on the Bayou

Home of Jo Ann Greg
 3916 Buccaneer Lane

Fried Chicken & Drinks Furnished
 Bring the kids and a side dish or dessert.

Time: Following 11:00 Sunday Service