

*Camp Pike*



*Big Backyard Party*



*Costa Rica Mission Trip*



*Back to School Retreat*

*Youth Music Tour*

# Where We Journeyed in 2008

*Austin Street Shelter*



*Vacation Bible School*



*Middle School Mission Trip*



*Africa Mission Trip*



*High School Mission Trip*

# Join Us On the Journey Through 2009!

First United Methodist Church - Coppell, Texas

We are a church family shaping hearts for ministry:  
gathering for worship;  
learning to grow in grace through Jesus Christ;  
changing the world through service.

## February 15<sup>th</sup> - May 17<sup>th</sup> “Follow the Lenten Brick Road”

- February 15<sup>th</sup> - - Children's Sabbath, Jennifer Scott preaching; hundreds of kids in worship.
- February 18<sup>th</sup> - - “Meet and Beat the Bishop”; chat at the Good to Go Cafe; play ping pong with him in Smartt Hall.
- February 22<sup>nd</sup> - - guest vocalist, Fred Wilmer, singing gospel songs and spirituals.
- February 25<sup>th</sup> - - Ash Wednesday Service.
- March 1<sup>st</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> - - Ashleigh and Dennis preach a series, “Follow the Lenten Brick Road”, based on Psalm 25:4-5, creatively inspired by the youth musical, “The Wizard of Oz”.
- March 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> - - youth mission trip to Mexico with youth team from McFarlin UMC in Norman, OK.
- April 5<sup>th</sup> - - Palm Sunday; Ashleigh, the children, and our high school seniors will lead worship.
- April 1<sup>st</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> - - Healing Service; Maundy Thursday Seder Meal and Communion; Good Friday Tenebrae.
- April 12<sup>th</sup> - - Easter: What does it mean to be Easter people during uncertain times in a church that will soon be 130 years old?
- April 26<sup>th</sup> - - Stringfellow Sunday
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> - - Confirmation Service; 71 kids decide about “being Christian on purpose”.
- May 17<sup>th</sup> - - Begin our **130 day countdown to our 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths;  
guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God  
my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Psalm 25:4-5



**Dennis Wilkinson**  
Senior Pastor



**Tom McCarter**  
Chair - Church Council



**Susie Kemp**  
Lay Leader

## May 24<sup>th</sup> - September 20<sup>th</sup> “Celebrate the Journey”

- May 24<sup>th</sup> - - Memorial Day; Senior Adults lead worship.
- May 31<sup>st</sup> - - Pentecost; Senior Sunday; celebrate graduation for 81 seniors.
- July 5<sup>th</sup> - - Patriotic Pops.
- June-August - - Costa Rica Mission Trip; Middle School Mission Trip; VBS; Youth Music Tour; Chancel Choir Trip; Camp Pike; Lydia Patterson Mission Trip; Patriotic Pops; Africa Mission Trip; Big Mac; Youth Week.
- August 23<sup>rd</sup> - - Promotion Sunday; Blessing of the Backpacks; Safe Sanctuary Training for Children and Youth.
- August 30<sup>th</sup> - - Youth Sunday.
- September 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> - - Back to School Retreat.

## September 27<sup>th</sup> - November 22<sup>nd</sup> “Pathways for the Future”

- September 27<sup>th</sup> - - **130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**; Big Backyard Party!; Capital Campaign kick off; catch the vision for our ministries with children, youth, Sunday School, worship, music.
- October 4<sup>th</sup> - - UMW Sunday; World Communion.
- October 25<sup>th</sup> - - Commitment Sunday for the Capital Campaign.
- November 1<sup>st</sup> - - All Saints remembrance; Requiem musical presentation and Communion.
- November 22<sup>nd</sup> - - Thanksgiving worship.

# Tough Times, Strong Church

During the early waves of economic chaos last fall, and now as fears grow that the recession will sink lower and last longer than many had hoped, a statement something like this has been repeated often: "When times are bad, the church needs to be at its best."

Here's how our church is seeking to be at its best:

- As we did in 2001, we have started a **Career Transitions** group for persons who have lost their jobs. This group has grown as it meets weekly for mutual support, encouragement, coaching and networking.
- As economic and employment stress has increased, we are poised to assist individuals and families through **resources and support groups**: restorative communication, divorce recovery, grief recovery, care for aging parents, Stephen Ministers, and pastoral care and counseling.
- We are offering another session of Dave Ramsey's **Financial Peace University** to help folks gain control of their finances - - to tell their money where to go and what to do instead of their out of control finances dictating their lives.
- We've had very generous donations to the **Pastors' Discretionary Fund** through which the four pastors help persons in need.
- The **Finance Committee** is keeping a close watch on the church's operating budget. The staff has been asked to reduce their expenditures through the first half of the year until we get a better picture on how our weekly receipts settle in for the year. (Note of Concern - - we may need to delay the hiring of a new Assistant Youth Director until the cash flow picks up. Can you help us avoid that delay?)
- **Stringfellow School** is growing in service to the community, perhaps because more moms may be looking for work.
- The **Church Conference** decided in December to move ahead with the capital campaign this Spring in order to achieve some measure of progress on our needed ministry concept despite the economic uncertainties.
  - Why? Because some of our needs are immediate. Because many people in our community haven't been dramatically impacted by the recession. Because materials and construction costs are down. Because it can be an opportunity for our church to shine its light in the darkness.
  - Is there prudence being exercised in this? Yes. Contingency plans are being discussed to revise the concept into phases according to prioritized needs. Plan to attend a home meeting in March to learn more.

There is no question that times are both unusual and tough in our society right now. But your church staff and lay leadership are working diligently to insure that our church will be at its best during these times. Will you commit to joining us in this effort?

We need you. We need your support. We need your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness.

Grace and Peace,



The Power Of **G** gathering for worship  
growing in grace  
going to serve

First United Methodist Church  
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