

# THE MESSENGER

## August, 2009

### *“From Up In the Saddle”*

#### Reborn, Born Again, or Confused?

Reborn, born again, finding the Spirit, becoming one with God. No matter what you call it, it can be one of the most volatile subjects that you can discuss with someone. There seems to be no end to the views and interpretations of this topic. As United Methodist, we believe that Baptism is a sign of regeneration or new birth. Further we believe that we are never accounted righteous before God through our works or merit, but that penitence sinners are justified or accounted righteous before God only by our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. We further believe that regeneration is the renewal of man in righteousness through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, whereby we are made partaker of the divine nature and experience newness of life. By this new birth the believer becomes reconciled to God and is enabled to serve him with the will and affections. We believe sanctification is the work of God's grace through the Word, and the Spirit, by which those who have been born again are cleansed from sin in their thought, words, and acts, and are enabled to live in accordance with God's will, and to strive for holiness without which no one will see the Lord. We believe that Sanctification is a state of perfect love, righteousness, and true holiness which every regenerate believer may obtain by being delivered from the power of sin, by loving God with all the heart, soul, mind and strength, and by loving one's neighbor as one's

self. Through faith in Jesus Christ this gracious gift can be received both gradually and instantaneously. Be aware that all of the above does not deliver us from the infirmities, ignorance, and mistakes common to man or from the possibility of further sin. In John 3:1-8, Jesus tells Nicodemus “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” When Nicodemus questions this, Jesus further replies “Unless one is born of water and Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” Further on, Jesus ends the lesson by saying “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, (Numbers 21:9) so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life” (John 3:14.)

Woe Mark! This sounds way to much like legalese for a simple country Preacher! You are right! But it is good to remind ourselves from whence we came. The above is all based upon the teachings of Jesus and the thoughts of John Wesley, is part of our Book of Discipline (2008 pgs 62-71) and can be summed up in one simple thought. No rite, profession, ceremony, or privilege can bring entry into God's Kingdom. Only by a change in ones life and one heart and soul, which is only possible through knowing God through the teachings of his son Jesus Christ, can this be accomplished.

The good news is that every day that the Lord gives us, allows us to regenerate and renew ourselves to the tasks outlined above. Interested in knowing more, come join or rejoin us every Sunday morning at 11:00 to be renewed!

God Bless,  
Mark

# FUMC Mertzon 2009 Evangelism Outreach Calendar

## † August

24<sup>th</sup> Serve at Wesley Daily Bread Soup Kitchen  
 25<sup>th</sup> Food Pantry  
 30<sup>th</sup> Honor Emergency Services Volunteers  
 30<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Noisy Offering

## † September

29<sup>th</sup> Food Pantry

## † October

3<sup>rd</sup> Prayer Booth at Salsa Festival  
 4<sup>th</sup> Crop Hunger Walk  
 4<sup>th</sup> World Communion Sunday  
     (conference offering)  
 27<sup>th</sup> Food Pantry  
 31<sup>st</sup> Serve at Wesley Daily Bread Soup Kitchen

## † November

Shoebox Ministry for our Troops  
 17<sup>th</sup> Food Pantry  
 29<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Noisy Offering

## † December

College Boxes  
 Welfare Board Tree  
 15<sup>th</sup> Food Pantry

## Prayer Concerns

*Eddie Barrington, Robert Crocker, Jacklyn Bonner, Jesse Clark, McKenzie Davidson, Wanda Doss, House of Faith, Jose Garza, Harvey Hale Sr., Donna Hale, Kelley Holland, Doug and Linda Keys, Paul Phillips, Jackie Tankersley, Paula Trullender, Stella Wolfenbarger, our Church, Hilda UMC (prayer partner church)*

*Our members and loved ones who are homebound.*

*Our members and loved ones residing in the nursing home.*

*All military personnel:*

*Ricky Evans- Iraq;*

*Mike Schaefer-Afghanistan;*

*Kevin Davis-(USMC) Iraq;*

*Ray Hight-USMC;*

*Rocky Rockelle;*

*Barry Powers-USMC;*

*Donald Kimbrell-National Guard*

*Dalton Reagan, (USMC)-Iraq;*

*Jeff Brown-Iraq;*

*Scott Jones-Iraq;*

*Justin Neely -(USMC) Iraq;*

*Christopher Labertaux;*

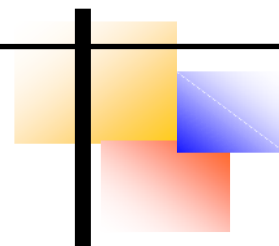
*Linda Kimbrell;*

**Supporting Our  
Military Families**




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*Thanks to each of you who serve First United Methodist Church  
with your special talents.*





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First United Methodist Church  
P. O. Box 583  
Mertzon, TX 76941

Mark Smith	Pastor
Dee Ann Brandenberger	Secretary
Shirley Payton	Food Pantry
John Swepston	Soup Kitchen
Web site:	<a href="http://www.gbgm-umc.org">www.gbgm-umc.org</a>

Office Phone	325-835-2043
Office Fax	325-834-2403

9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages*
11:00	Worship Service*

Worship with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month.

\*=child care provided