



The Methodist Messenger

July 2013

Mark Your Calendar

7.6

UMM Breakfast - MAC

7.7

Covered Luncheon & pounding in honor of Jeff & Debbie Stull

7.13

Christmas in July - MAC

7.15

Finance Meeting
Council on Ministries

7.16

Trustees Meeting
Admin Board Meeting

7.17,24,31

Discovery Kidz Camp

Jottings

Wow! *Tempus fugit!* Time really does fly and the older I get, the faster it goes. Wasn't it just last week that I arrived in Buna to serve as your interim pastor? It has been a wonderful four months for me. Your warm hospitality has been greatly appreciated. My ministry here has had a special personal side to it as well because of my family ties to Buna. In my mind's eye, I can still see my gret-grandmother's old house in back of the church. If it had ever been painted, the paint was long gone before I arrived on the scene. The yard was dirt – not one blade of grass dared to grow there. One the back porch, or gallery as she called it, was a pump, the only source of water for the house. It made me appreciate indoor plumbing at an early age! Mama's brothers lived just out of town. Edward Jones and Joe Walker and their families were important folks to me as I grew up. Edward taught me how to hunt and fish – things I still enjoy today.

Morse Cemetery at Gum Slough serves as the final resting place for my maternal grandparents and great-grandparents, as well as mama's youngest sister, Pauline, who died at age 12. It has always been a place of special pilgramming for me as I place flowers on graves there.

Now I have a new spiritual attachment to Buna through serving as your pastor these past months. Thanks for the memories!

Continued on page 3...

A Special Thank You!

Countless hours have been spent scraping, cleaning, painting, sawing, hammering, and many other tasks to get our parsonage looking the way it does now. Thank you to those donated to help with the costs associated with the remodel.

A special thank you to those who volunteered their time to help complete the remodel in time for Pastor Jeff and his wife, Debbie, to arrive!

Tommy and Beverly Saunders

Doyle Hawkins

Duane Baker

Dwight Bourgeois

Van and Mary Beth Hunt

Harold and Kay Simmons

Clifton Whitmire

Danny and Carolynn Reneau

David Reeves

Tanner Hunt

Taylor Dozier

Jarrold Jordan

Roy Whitehead

A word from our new pastor, Jeff Stull

Dear Friends:

Moving is such an emotional time for Debbie and I. We have to say goodbye to so many folks and places we are familiar with, knowing that in so many cases we will never cross paths again.

It is a time of remembering and hoping...remembering all the faces and times spent together, hoping that the future will be bright and full of promise for those left behind; to continue under the leadership and guidance of someone unfamiliar yet passionate about God's promises for all.

A friend of mine in ministry told her congregation this: "Decide now that you will love your new pastor." She is also leaving and moving on to a new appointment but her message is clear. If we begin well, we will journey well, despite all the bumps and forks in the road along the way. We all can do this one thing - making up our minds now to be positive and hopeful and welcoming. After all, who knows what the future holds, so why not claim this truth and decide now to help shape it in the right way, full of the promises God has given us?

I have always been the hopeful type. I have always believed in the people and situations I have encountered along the way in my life. Since the truth is that God loves all people and desires to be in fellowship with them, then should I not also be willing to accept anyone based on this truth? I believe so. I know there are some who make this difficult, but, as I taught the children last Sunday during church "Amor Conquista Todo"...Love Conquers All!

If we make our minds up, together, to love one another, then that positive step will be a guiding light into all the dark places and moments we could find ourselves in along the way. Despite what might present itself, that love will help us to maintain our direction and give us the courage we need to lead others, or rather welcome others, into the journey with us. It's always far better to have traveling partners to rely on and help us. And we will need help from time to time. As iron sharpens iron...as the saying goes.

Continued on Page 3...



Jottings Continued ...

As you welcomed me, I know you will welcome Jeff and Debbie. Jeff will assume pastoral duties here on July 1. Please keep them in your prayers. Moving is not easy, but your wonderful work on the parsonage will certainly make it more enjoyable. Take care, and God Bless!

Yours in Christ,

W.C.



Thank you, W.C., for all you have done over the last four months. You have touched the hearts of many in a very short time with your thoughtful cards, visits to hospitals, and creative sermons!

Pastor Jeff Continued ...

How we invite others in is important also. We can make it very clear one way or the other if we are inviting or not. Folks can tell almost immediately, and the first few moments together speak loudly and clearly our intentions toward others. Let's send the right message from the start.

If we begin well, we will journey well.

Finally, I would like to say that every journey of my life has taught me more about myself than those around me. And one thing I have learned from it all is that I need God in my moment by moment life. I have found that daily walk with God to be the greatest determining factor in all things. And I hope you find that also to be true in your life. For it is God's love that has conquered us and it is God's love that will be the victory for us all no matter where that journey leads us.

Blessings in Christ's Name,
Pastor Jeff

Please join us for a Pounding Party for the Stull's immediately following the worship service July 7 in the MAC. Let's give them a warm welcome to Buna!



School Supply Drive

We will be holding our school supply drive during the month of July. Collection will be in the foyer, and school supply lists will be provided in order for the most needed supplies to be provided. You may also scan the code below on your smart phone for the lists for the 2013-14 Buna ISD school year.





First United Methodist Church of Buna
936 TX State HWY 62
Buna, TX 77612

Phone :: 409.994.3232
Fax / MAC Building :: 409.994.3223
Email :: bunafumc@yahoo.com
Website :: bunafumc.com

Office Hours: M-F 8 am – 2 pm

Interim Pastor: Rev. W.C. Hall, Jr.
Pastor (as of July 7): Rev. Jeff Stull
Administrative Asst.: Melissa Parker

CHURCH SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

Sunday School - 9:45 am

Worship - 11:00 am

WEDNESDAY

Choir Practice - 6:30 pm



First United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 1148
Buna, TX 77612
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
US Permit Paid
Permit #7
Buna, TX 77612

