

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
NOVEMBER 01, 2010

In Moses' final instructions to the Israelites given in The Book of Deuteronomy Moses tells the Israelites that they are not to learn the practices of the peoples (nations) that are in the land (Deuteronomy 18:9-14). Among those practices Moses lists that are not to be done by Israel are child sacrifice ("making a son or daughter pass through the fire"), divination, consulting a soothsayer, an augur, or a sorcerer, consulting one who casts spells, consulting ghosts or spirits, or consulting one who seeks oracles from the dead. The Israelites are simply not to copy all the practices of their neighbors when they get to the Promised Land. Rather they are to take some thought about that which is appropriate for them as those who belong to God.

Such advice is something we also can follow. We need to be circumspect about the practices we pick up from the culture around us. They may not always be pleasing to God, and we need to test those practices just as Israel was to do.

One of the things that was strictly forbidden for the Israelites was sacrificing their children to the fertility god, Baal. Such a practice is said to be abhorrent to God, and Israel was not to do it.

Something I think we need to think about in this culture is how much we as a culture sacrifice our children to things that we adults want. Instead of thinking about what is best for our children or thinking about setting a good example for our children, too often it seems to me we don't value that way of living at all. Too often we, the adults, think more about what we want. The kinds of programs that are put on TV could be cited as a prime example. In some of the programming that is aired on TV, do we as a culture really have the best interests of our children at heart?

A number of years ago there was an incident in the community where I grew up in which an adult man, the father of children, and his nephew were drag racing on a narrow two lane county road that had some one lane bridges on it. They were racing late at night, and when they got to one of those bridges the adult man either didn't see what was ahead of him or just didn't have enough room to get into the bridge. He missed the bridge and went head first into the creek below. He was killed instantly.

A few days after that, I overheard a conversation in which my dad was involved. Someone in the conversation was saying that the man who was killed loved his children more than anything, and I'll never forget my dad's response. "No, he didn't. If he had loved his children more than anything, he wouldn't have been doing what he was doing, drag racing on narrow road with a one lane bridge in the middle of the night."

I've never forgotten what Daddy said. There is a lesson for us and our culture in this. If we truly do love our children, we as adults will refrain from doing some things we might want to do because we realize to do them might in some way harm our children. We refrain from doing certain things because if we do them we set a bad example. We refrain from doing certain things because we know that to do so is to teach our children wrongly. We refrain from doing certain things because we do not want to rob our children of their childhood and their innocence. The underlying point is that adults need to be adults in order so that our children may be

children while that's the age they are. A part of our calling before God is to do that which is best for our children. To love our children can mean saying, "No," to some things because we know that to do so is do that which is best for them.

There is much we can learn from Moses in his farewell address to the Israelites. If we learn nothing else, this lesson about not sacrificing our children to what we want is a good one. As adults we must set the example. As adults we must make the sacrifices, and the sacrifices we make are not to be our children's lives, their innocence, or to unnecessarily derive them of a parent.

In the movie Secondhand Lions that we saw on movie night back in September, there is a scene in which the nephew of Uncle Hub and Uncle Garth tells Uncle Hub that he wants him to promise that he will stay around until he, the nephew, is old enough to hear the speech about what it means to be a man. You see, Uncle Hub and Uncle Garth are great uncles, and they are getting some age on them. Uncle Hub has made the statement that he is ready to die, and when his nephew hears that, he's prompted to ask Uncle Hub to stick around. And Uncle Hub realizing how much his great nephew loves him and respects him says, "Yes, I'll stay around until you're old enough to hear the speech." It's not what is good for Uncle Hub that becomes uppermost. It is what is good for the boy.

That's one of the lesson Moses teaches the Israelites and us in his final instructions to the Israelites before entering the Promised Land. It's a lesson our culture could surely use. Just something to think about.

Until next time, **Bro. Jim**

### **CHURCH COMMITTEES**

In our church we have a mixture of administrative and program committees, and we need people to serve on these various teams. The administrative committees are Finance, Staff Parish Relations, Trustees and Lay Leadership (Nominations). The program committees include Age Level, Education, Nurture and Membership Care, Outreach/Mission, Witness/Hospitality and Worship. Persons may also serve as At-large members of the Administrative Board. If you have a passion for any one of these committees-administrative, program, or Administrative Board - please let Bro. Jim know this. We need people with passion on these various teams. For a description of the work of these various committees, please see the Handbook given out at the first of this year. Thank you for your service.

**Bro. Jim**

### **STEWARDSHIP MONTH**

November is usually stewardship month for us here at First UMC. We begin to think about what we can give to our church in the coming year while we the church begin developing our spending plan for ministry for the coming year. As we think about stewardship month I would like to have one person in each of our worship services speak on the following topics:

**November 7 - What my church means to me.**

**November 14 - Why I give to my church.**

**November 21 - How I would like other people to see my church.**

**November 28 - What I think the church means to the world.**

If you would be willing to speak for about 5-7 minutes on one of these topics, please talk with Bro. Jim about it.

*Bro. Jim*

### **COUNTDOWN TO NOVEMBER HARVEST! SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>**

The annual November Harvest is a little more than a week away. Many of you have already been asked to make chili or chicken & dumplings. If you have not been

contacted and wish to help in this way, please call me or the church office. We can provide a 4 quart recipe and jars to put it in. Howard and Anita Marstpn and crew will be cooking beef stew.

A big part of our Harvest celebration is the bake sale! What delicious baked goods can you bring? If you need inspiration, look in our latest cookbook. Cakes, pies, cookies, candy and breads are most welcome.

If it isn't possible for you to cook or bake, you can support us by coming and buying some of the wonderful food. Homemade chicken salad and pimento cheese will be conveniently packaged for carry-out and don't forget breakfast. There will be something for everyone. See you there!

**Layde Ezell**

- Please label all baked goods and bring to the CLC on Friday afternoon until
- 5:30 p.m. or early Saturday morning.

### **COLLEGE MINISTRIES**

The fall semester is winding down and it is almost time for Finals. Please help our college students know that we are thinking about them by donating some "goodies" for them to snack on during finals. Goodies can be gum, hard candy, crackers, little Debbie snacks, micro. Popcorn, nuts, tea or coffee, cookies, beef jerky. We have 22 college students and 2 military. Please bring the items to Alecia's office by Monday, **November 8TH**.

### **CHRISTMAS PLAY - "WHAT IS HIS NAME?"** **(December 5, 2010)**

*"They all worshipped Him; slaves, peasants, Kings, shepherds, angels, and soldiers, and even Mary and Joseph."*

**What roll would you like to play?** People are needed to narrate, sing, act, play instruments, set up props and organize costumes.

**Come and celebrate our Savior.** The play will be presented in the sanctuary at 6:00 p.m. on the first Sunday in December (**Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>**), with food and fellowship to follow in the Christian Life Center.

**Attention all interested children: Practice began on Wednesday night, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:45 p.m. in the CLC. We will continue to meet every \*Wednesday night.**

\*(There will be no practice on Wed. November 24<sup>th</sup>, but we will practice on Wednesday, Dec. 1).

**Attention all adults and youth:** Just let Beth Lerner or Judy Benson know what you'd like to do. God Bless You!

### **HISPANIC MINISTRY CALENDAR**

Volunteers - 5:15 until 7:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center

**11/18/10:** Anita & Jason Story

**12/02/10:** Mary Ann & Abby Clayton

**12/09/10:** Alanna Harris & Beverly Philpot

### **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Gayle Wright - Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>

Alecia Fischer - Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>

Jim Carey - Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>

Kaye Allen - Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>

Bruce Edwards - Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>

Beverly Duke - Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>

Sid James - Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>

Catherine Cheatwood - Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>

Virgil Crowder - Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>

Martha Jo Gibbs - Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>

Janice Shaffer - Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>

Beth Lerner - Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>

Nancy Nelson - Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>

### **WITH ONE ANOTHER**

David Robertson

Freddie Mae Jackson

Bill Evans

Scottie McMackin



**Thur. Nov. 11:** Jean Robertson, Anita Johnston, Martha Jo & Jerry Gibbs

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