



Worship Info

Sunday Services

Morning:

8:30 am - Sanctuary
Blend of Contemporary and Traditional Worship Styles

9:40 am - Family Life Center

Contemporary Worship Style
CrossRoads AM

11:00 am - Sanctuary

Traditional Worship Style

Evening:

6:00 pm - Family Life Center

Contemporary Worship Style
CrossRoads PM

Holy Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is commonly observed at all services on the first Sunday of the month.

Sermons & Scripture

Visit the First Church UMPortal at fumc-rr.ctx.umportal.org to see the sermon titles and Scripture for upcoming Sundays.

Altar Flower Dedications

You may provide flowers in memory or in honor of a special person or celebration. See the Witness section of the website for more information about how to reserve a date.

More Information

Worship information is subject to change; please check the First Church UMPortal at fumc-rr.ctx.umportal.org for the most up-to-date information.

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VBS Volunteer Kickoff!

Sunday, March 1 - 12:30 pm

Yes, it is time to begin planning for VBS (Vacation Bible School). VBS Volunteers, please mark Sunday, March 1 at 12:30 pm on your calendar.

Crocodile Dock

The Crocodile Dock VBS Adult Volunteer Kickoff meeting will be in Building 5, 232 & 234. This

meeting should last only one hour. Volunteers will meet others in their area that morning, meet the directors and get a great start to this summer's VBS! Childcare will be provided by reservation to jessica@fumc-rr.org by February 24

See page 5 for more VBS info.

Lent: 40 Days of Reflection

Begins with Ash Wednesday, February 25

By Rev. John Clifford

With Christmas well behind us, the church is preparing for Lent! Forty weekdays of reflection begin on Ash Wednesday, February 25. How will we make them holy... different from our normal routines?

A walk with Christ

To receive the sign of the cross on our foreheads or hands is a declaration of our desire to walk more closely with Christ during these days. The forty days echo Jesus' days of temptation and the Israelites' forty years of wilderness wandering. They can be a time to drop some daily distractions and get to know ourselves and Christ better.

The traditional way to do this is through fasting. Food, of course, rules us far more than we may realize! Giving up some portion of our *comfort food* (or *junk food!*) may well be a good expression

of our desire to follow Christ. But fasting might also be dropping some other aspect of our lives: give up TV one day or more a week; keep silent for a day; drop a critical attitude for the duration, and so forth.

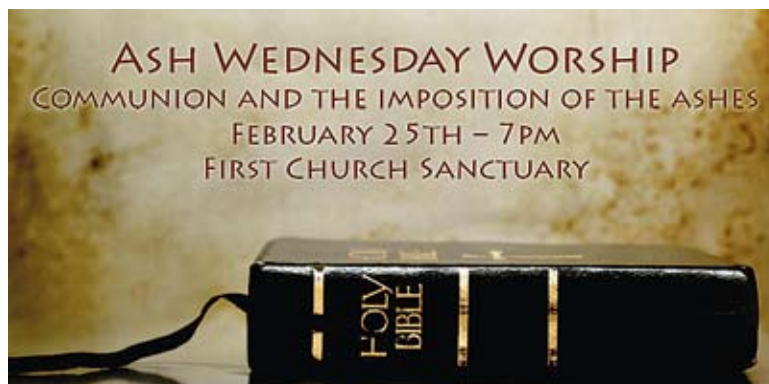
Put on a new habit

More recently we have been encouraged to also *take up* a service project or good habit; to give a positive spin to how we seek to be disciples.

Perhaps John Wesley's **Three Rules** would be good guides for the season (as well as the rest of the year.)

- First, do no harm.
- Second, do all the good you can.
- Third, stay in love with God, through worship and devotion.

May this Lenten season be one of great spiritual growth for each of us.



What Did You Miss?

Inspiration and more at the Leadership Retreat

Over 80 First Church members participated in the Leadership Retreat in January. It was packed with inspiration, motivation, and fellowship. The event began on Friday evening with a presentation called **Jesus on Leadership** by John Maxwell. Here are three key concepts from that video that Jesus taught about leadership:

1. Jesus teaches us how to serve people. *"Christ followers are into towels, not titles."*
2. Jesus teaches us how to value people. *"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."*
3. Jesus teaches us how to develop people. *"Take them where they are, model what they should do, expose them to what they need, and talk about what they are doing."*

Saturday morning included more John Maxwell leadership training as well as updates from the various leadership groups of

First Church which include:

- Church Council
- Trustees
- Staff Parish Relations
- LEADFirst
- Finance
- Nurture,
- Outreach
- Witness
- Communications.

And we learned about First Church Debt Reduction. *Did you know that we could save thousands and thousands of dollars a month in interest on the church loan if 100 people donated the cost of one coffee per day to the church, over and above their regular giving?*

More inspiration came after lunch as Terry and Sabrina Butler spoke on **How Leadership Led to Mission**. Read more about their experiences on page 8.

Pancake Supper

Youth Fundraiser on Wednesday, February 25

Join us for pancakes! On Ash Wednesday, February 25, from 5 - 7 pm our First Church youth will be serving up a Pancake Supper in the Family Life Center.



\$5 Dinner!
That's right... it's only \$5. Where

else can you get dinner for \$5 and support a good cause? Proceeds will offset expenses for upcoming youth programs. *After a great meal, stay for Ash Wednesday services.*



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www.fumc-rr.org churchoffice@fumc-rr.org

First United Methodist Church
Round Rock

Scribbles

Rev. David Adkins

Jesus on Economics

For the last couple of weeks we've been looking at the economic parables of Jesus, found mostly in the gospel of Luke. How appropriate that we examine two thousand year old parables that Jesus used to explain life so long ago, to understand our time and our economic life and culture!

Two stark insights need to be kept in mind as we continue our consideration of Jesus' parables on the economy. The first is that there are many more references to the business world in Jesus' teaching than most people think and appreciate. The second is that the early church lived in a community founded on generosity, forgiveness of debts, and of *almsgiving*. The early church was called to be very different from the world in which it was founded and we are called by Jesus to be very different from the world in which we live as well.

Jesus never asks us to do what is easy. Nowhere in his teachings do I find him outlining a plan that would cause his disciples to make a *little* change

in their lifestyles to achieve the expectations of his kingdom.

Nowhere does he say if you will *just* do this or that the kingdom will come. Jesus makes broad and sweeping demands on his followers to change their behavior and their life styles. Only then, he believes, will the kingdom of God come upon the earth.

The tough thing I find in the teaching of Jesus is that he never coerces us into faith. Oh, he calls us certainly, but he never enforces a Christian economy of generosity, forgiveness, or *almsgiving*. **He leaves the choice to us.**

His stories are filled with examples of people just like us; people who try to get by, who fall down, who get back up, who make mistakes and sometimes learn from them in order to change our community to look more like the one Jesus envisioned for us. The *business* of the church and the kingdom of God is not an easy one to be a part of.

It is, however, that business that leads to life!

David

Church Council Recognizes Rich Thompson

A dedicated servant of the Lord

First Church is privileged to have many talented people who go above and beyond what is expected of them. Their sacrifice, determination, and dedication are what make this such a Spirit-filled place. Recently, at the First Church Leadership Retreat, Tricia Reid, outgoing Chair of Church Council, recognized Rich Thompson as one of those dedicated servants of the Lord.



Rich Thompson

Over the past several years many First Church members have sat in on his Sunday School classes. Rich has led Disciples Bible Study classes for the past 14 years, and he's also Conference Registrar for the Walk to Emmaus.

In outlining Rich's many contributions, Reid noted, "*Rich is organized and passionate and his dedicated commitment to First Church is unquestioned. Year after year, he continues to devote himself to our mission. It has been one of my great joys in serving as Chair of Church Council to have the opportunity to work with and learn from Rich.*"

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks go to Rich for his service.

Common Abbreviations

Whether you are new to the First United Methodist Church (First Church) family or have been around for years, there are some abbreviations with which you may need help. Here is a list of some of our most common abbreviations.

- CC.....Church Council (Administrative Board)
- COB..... Council Oak Bells
- CUB.....Church Under the Bridge
- FLC.....Family Life Center (Building 3)
- FUMC.....First United Methodist Church
- TBD.....To Be Determined
- UMM.....United Methodist Men
- UMW.....United Methodist Women
- WOF.....Walk of Faith (Elementary Sunday School)

Adult Ministries and Events

How to Pray... After You've Kicked the Dog

The Seven Temperaments of Prayer

Speaker: Rev. Terry Teykl
Prayer Conference
February 28
8:30 am - 2:30 pm
First Church Sanctuary
\$45 for one; \$70 for two
For more info, visit:
www.fumc-rr.org/plm

February 14 is just around the corner!

Are you looking for a unique Valentine's gift to surprise your spouse?

Why not consider a gift that just may turn your good marriage into a GREAT marriage.

A Marriage Encounter United Methodist Weekend is coming to Austin from April 24-26, 2009. If you've been thinking about registering for one of these uplifting and positive experiences, now is the time to do so! The fee is \$50 and includes your room and meals for the Weekend.

For more information

Visit www.encounter.org, or pick up a brochure on the display racks in the foyer of the Sanctuary, in the Family Life Center, and on the bulletin board next to Building 5-126. Call Dan and Sheila Wier, at 512-828-3664, for additional details.

Taking Care...of the Body of Christ

Spring Leadership Conference is March 21

The Central Texas Conference is hosting a Spring Leadership Summit this year on March 21 in Waco at Central UMC.

Focus on health

The day will be devoted to exploring ways we can individually and as churches strengthen ourselves so that we may better serve our communities. The theme focuses on improving health and the quality of life.

For registration information, visit the Conference website, www.ctcumc.org.

Save the Date: Saturday, May 2

Ladies...Come to the Chocolate Boutique!

Ladies Day Out 2009

- Saturday, May 2
- 8:45 am - 4 pm
- Family Life Center

Come to the **Chocolate Boutique and taste and see that the Lord is good!**

Bring friends and make new ones as we spend a day laughing, learning, and loving the Lord! The day will include morning and afternoon breakouts, a fantastic lunch, inspirational speakers, and so much more!

For more information, visit www.fumc-rr.org/women.

Winter Family Camp: Living in the Light!

Save June 18 - 21 for Summer Family Camp

Forty two family members from First Church Round Rock joined another 50 from Saint John's UMC in Austin January 24-26 for a restful and spiritual weekend at the HEB Foundation Camp near Leakey, TX. The camp is located at the headwaters of the Frio River between Lost Maples and Garner State Parks in the heart of the Hill Country...a truly inspiring place.

There were several first-timers, including some who had only recently begun attending First Church. *What a great way for them to be welcomed into the church family!*

The theme of this year's Winter Camp was **Living in the Light**, so the songs and devotionals

throughout the weekend explored how *we* are not the light of the world - *God is*. But we can reflect God's light into the darkness, like the moon reflects the sun into the night sky.

Why not join us for Summer Camp?

Summer Camp will be here soon, so mark your calendars now so you won't miss out on the fun and fellowship. Camp will be from Thursday evening, June 18 until noon Sunday, June 21. You can contact Paul or Tina Pulley at pwptcp-fumc@yahoo.com if you'd like more information. Come play and worship with us amidst the beauty of God's creation!

man alive!
Real Men...Real Faith
Finding it...Living it!

The Winter 2009 Theme is:
What Jesus Said to Men

Men's ministry meets in the Family Life Center, Bldg. 3
beginning February 4, 5:30 - 7 am

"My whole family's giving up something for Lent. Mom's giving up cookies, Dad's giving up cake, and I'm giving up squash."

Youth Ministries

Sunday Options@9:35 am and 6 pm

Gettin' N2 the Word

Middle School

Designed to bring you closer to God and connect you with other students thru experiential activities, video and interactive discussion time. This is NOT your standard Sunday morning class. Expect the UN-expected.

- 6th Grade: Room 220
Anthony George
- 7th Grade: Room 223
Tim Dunnahoo
- 8th Grade: Room 222
Deborah Brown

High School

Wake up with the Word.

It's our regular meeting time but it won't be regular! Come together with other students to study relevant topics from the Bible. Diane Bouchard and Carl Schomburg offer a variety of scripture options for HS students to choose from each week.

And don't forget...

- S.N.L. 6 - 8:30 pm Sundays. Praise & worship, food and a LOT of fun. Bring \$2 for snack supper & *bring your friends!*

Wednesday Night Options

Middle School

- WNL - 6:30 - 8 pm, Youth Cafe

High School

- Bible Study - 7 - 8 pm, Room 223



All youth grades 6 - 12!

Registration is available on line at www.fumc-rr.org/youth,

outside the youth office & in your local mail box. Register by Feb. 8 to guarantee you will have a t-shirt.

Middle School Students...Got Talent?

Talent Show - March 25

On Wednesday, March 25 you will have the opportunity to show your stuff! Immediately following the youth worship service we will sing, dance & perform together until 8:30 pm, up

in the Great Room. Sign up now for your 2 minute spot of fame!

Contact Jennifer at jennifer@fumc-rr.org, to reserve your spot for this unique fun fest.

Everyone's Invited!

Children's Ministries

Crocodile Dock! VBS 2009

We're looking for 94 adult volunteers for each week!

June 15-19 or July 13-17

We invite you to join us for a week full of fun as we watch God work in the lives of our children this summer. Each week (with full student enrollment) will require 94 **adult** volunteers. **Recruitment for Youth Volunteers will begin in early March.**

This year Carole Pattison is serving as Crocodile Dock's Elementary Director. Mendy Barnett is Rocky's Preschool Playhouse Director and Kerstin Joos is the Bayou Bash Day Camp Director. **(Special note about day camp: This year this program will be open only to students entering 5th grade.)**

Where will your talents best fit?

Consider where you can best reach a child's life by volunteering at First Church. Here is what you do:

1. Decide at which age level you wish to volunteer.
2. Email the age level director of your choices no later than Monday, February 9.
3. Include your name, phone number, and first, second and third choice area for volunteering. (i.e., crew leader, games station leader, Bible adventure.)*

*If you wish to have your first and second choice in one age level and a third choice in another age level, please indicate that by emailing only the director of the age level of your first choice.

For Rocky's Preschool Playhouse...

Email Mendy Barnett at nbarnett@austin.rr.com. *Age level: 2 years by March 1, 2009 through 4 years or not entering Kindergarten.*

What's Coming Up?

Don't miss these events!

There are so many opportunities available to you in 2009! Take a quick look at some of the options below and mark your calendars NOW so that you don't miss out on anything!!

February

- 18 Youth Praise & Worship
- 25 Pancake Supper
- 27-Mar 1 One Now

March

- 11 Baked Potato & Salad Supper
- 16-21 Ski Trip
- 25 Youth Praise & Worship

April

- 3-4 District Y.E.A.H.
- 15 Taco & Nacho Supper
- 29 Youth Praise & Worship

May

- 13 Italian Supper
- 29 School's Out SCREAM Lock In

June

- 7-13 High School Mission Trip (Colorado Springs, CO)
- 15-19 VBS

July

- 7-10 Summer Mystery Ramble
- 13-17 VBS
- 19-24 Middle School Mission Trip

For Elementary Crocodile Dock...

Email Carole Pattison at cpattison@fumc-rr.org. *Age level: Entering Kindergarten - 4th grade Fall 2009.*

For Bayou Bash Day Camp

Email Kerstin Joos at doggonedayz@austin.rr.com. *Age level: Entering 5th grade Fall 2009.*

If you have friends who did not receive this newsletter, please share this information

Registration is not open yet. Watch for registration info in early March!



Worship and Worship Arts

First Church Choir Heads to DC!

Choral Union will sing at the National Cathedral, March 1

An early morning start...

At 7:54 am on February 27 members of First Church Choral Union will board a plane and head to Washington, DC. They have been invited to sing the Choral Prelude to the evensong service at the National Cathedral on March 1, the first Sunday of Lent. The concert program which the choirs will be singing will consist entirely of a cappella music with the Lenten theme.

Throughout the Lenten season our congregation will be hearing the music that the choirs

are preparing for the service in the National Cathedral.

While in Washington, DC, the Choral Union will participate in the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at

Arlington National Cemetery.

Four of our singers will lay the wreath. When Ed Roberts was asked if he would be one of those four, he replied with tears in his eyes, "I would be honored."

Our choirs are looking forward to representing our church and our community in such auspicious and historical surroundings.



Council Oak Bells to Record for Alfred Publishing

Handbell Team to Record Demo for International Publisher

For the third year in a row, the First Church Council Oak Bell team will be recording a demo CD for Alfred Publishing. The company publishes educational, reference, pop and performance pieces for teachers, students, hobbyists and performers. Among the instruments showcased by Alfred is the handbell instrument.

"We are so pleased to be asked once again," exclaims Carla David, Director of Handbell Ministry at First Church. "We will share the honors with the Austin Handbell Ensemble." The two bell teams will record on Saturday, February 7 in Austin. They will record handbell selections to a CD that directors

from all over the nation will receive in a packet with scores for possible purchase. "This is a real honor," continues Ms. David. "It's a thrill for us to hear the introduction made on the CD and to see our photo and bio printed in the score booklet."

Congratulations, Council Oak Bells!

Council Oak Bell members are: Nancy Alvarez, Carol Armstrong, Lori Balkum, Elbert David, Janice Felps, Jamie Fickey, Sandy Figuerado, Tricia Gossett, Karen Hense, Kenton Reynolds, Debby Richardson, Jennifer Rybaski, Shari Sloane and John Walrath and Carla David, Director.



Submissions & Deadline Information

The Messenger is mailed to all households on the church mailing list approximately once per month. Copies are also available in the office and worship spaces. Contact the church office if you want to have your name added to the mailing list.

The deadline for the March 6 issue is February 23. E-mail articles to newsletter@fumc-rr.org or provide a hard copy to Betty Robertson in the church office. Submissions may be edited for content or space, but should be provided in a ready-to-publish format. See www.fumc-rr.org/newsletter for details about format and digital graphic/photo requirements. Contact Betty Robertson with questions or for assistance preparing your item for the newsletter.

Mission and Outreach

Terry & Sabrina Butler Share Mission Highlights

How leadership led to mission

Drs. Sabrina and Terry Butler are back in Round Rock after completing two mission trips to Africa in 2008.

Terry and Sabrina, both dentists, have been members of First Church since 1986. They have chosen to take their gifts to those less fortunate by serving in mission as dentists.

At the recent Leadership Retreat they presented pictures and descriptions of their missions to Niger, West Africa and Kenya, East Africa. They served for three months in Niger at Galmi Hospital, a non-denominational Christian hospital and in Kenya, with their daughter, Blake a registered nurse, for three months at Maua Methodist Hospital. They consider these to be the first of many missions to travel and serve others in the way they feel best equipped.



They are self-funded and require no financial support from First Church, but the church commissioned them and supports them in prayer.



They ask for your continued prayers. You can follow them on their journeys by visiting their blog site. They currently are available to make presentations to small groups. If your class, club or group would like to schedule a presentation, please contact them by telephone or email.

- Phone: 517-6535 or 217-2189.
- Email: sabrinabutler@mac.com
- Blog: web.mac.com/sabrinabutler/Butler_Blog/WELCOME_PAGE.html.

PrayFAST

Need for prayers for service men and women continues

It seems that the war in Iraq and the Middle East has moved off the front pages. But the need for prayers for our service men and women is still there.

PrayFAST asks you to pray by name daily for 3 soldiers from Fort Hood. That is all that is required.

Want to get involved?

Fill out the PrayFAST form, found in the foyer and in the main office and you will receive your soldier's names in 3 weeks. You are not asked to e-mail the soldier, just pray for him or her until they return home.

First Church Crafters Donate \$1500!

Funds applied to mortgage debt reduction.

First Church Crafters donated \$1500 to the mortgage reduction program from the proceeds of their fall sale.

in the containers outside of the Winstead House.

Come and craft with us!

The current project is sewing bags for Williamson County foster children. Crafters meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 9 am. For more information, contact Martha Corey at 310-8242.

Cleaning closets?

Crafters can use your excess craft and sewing supplies such as baskets, yarn, crochet thread, wool sweaters, beads, buttons, fabric and more. Donated items can be placed

Upcoming Mission Team Opportunities

Giving gifts of time, love, service and hope to those in need

AIM - Adults In Mission

Join the ADULT mission team and help those in the Hurricane Ike hardest hit areas. Our second meeting will be held on Tuesday February 3 at 7 pm in Bldg. 5-126.

Upcoming Mission Trips

- February 20-22: Second mission trip
 - May 1-3: Third mission trip
- Call Judy Harmon 248-2229 to receive registration forms.

Mission Team Leader Training

Sunday, March 1

Are you interested in learning more about missions and being a team leader? Join the Central Texas Conference United Methodist Volunteers in Mission for a special training event.

The event will be Sunday, March 1 from 2 - 5 pm at the Salado United Methodist Church in Salado. A group is going from our church.

Registration forms are available in Building 5 on the bulletin board. Please return your form to the envelope on the bulletin board.

Your registration fee will be paid by the Outreach Committee. For more information please call Judy Harmon, Adult Mission Coordinator, 248-2229.

Kairos Bartlett #10 Coming Up March 19-22

Prison ministry provides life changing experiences

Bartlett # 10 will be held at the Bartlett State Jail, March 19-22. Rev. John Aymond will be serving as the Spiritual Director.

For those of you unfamiliar with KAIROS, its purpose is to build strong Christian communities within prison walls. This is done through an inter-denominational team of both lay people and clergy who meet with 42 women or men

for an intensive love-filled three-day weekend. For most of these participants it will prove to be a life changing experience.

Each of the weekends needs prayers, thousands of cookies, letters of encouragement, posters of love, and much financial support.

Learn more about how you can be involved by visiting our website at fumc-rr.org/kairos.

February is Mission Month at Twin Oaks Cafe

Bonus: Flower sales on Sunday, February 14

The Adult Mission Committee will be selling flowers on Sunday, February 14 in the Twin Oaks Cafe. Give a flower to someone special!

Then stop by for something to

eat and drink. We will have breakfast tacos, donuts, and muffins.

All February proceeds will go to support Mission Activities.




February

First Church Calendar

February

- 5 Outreach Leadership Team, 6 pm, Bldg. 5-124
- 6 Father/Daughter Valentine's Dance
- 8 Scout Sunday
- 8 Celebrate Day
- 8 J-Team, 2 pm
- 10 Nurture Leadership Team, 7 pm, Bldg. 5-124
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day!
- 17 Communications Leadership Team, 7 pm, Bldg. 5-119
- 25 Pancake Supper, FLC
- 25 Ash Wednesday
- 26 Witness Leadership Team, 7 pm, Bldg. 5-136
- 28 Prayer Conference, 8:30 am - 2:30 pm, Sanctuary

March

- 1 Choir sings at National Cathedral
- 5 Outreach Leadership Team, 6 pm, Bldg. 5-124
- 8 J-Team
- 10 Nurture Leadership Team, 7 pm, Bldg. 5-124
- 11 Baked Potato & Salad Supper, 5 pm FLC
- 17 St. Patrick's Day 
- 17 Communications Leadership Team, 7 pm, Bldg. 5-119
- 20 Memory Gatherers Crop Night, 7 pm, Bldg. 5-127
- 21 Bridge Club, 7:30 pm, Bldg. 5-127
- 26 Witness Leadership Team, 7 pm, Bldg. 5-136

Events listed above are open to anyone in the congregation.

Regularly occurring weekly and monthly small groups such as UMM, Crafters, and UMW Circles, etc. can be found on the website.

All event information is subject to change. Check the website (www.fumc-rr.org) for the most up-to-date information.

A key to abbreviations may be found on page 4.

Before the fast, comes the feast!

Mardi Gras (*fat Tuesday*) and Carnival (*farewell, meat*) tell us what to expect. In the English world, there's Shrove Tuesday – and pancakes!

All of these had a practical side. Besides the feast, this was

a way to use up those restricted foods which might spoil during Lent. So meat, oil, flour and leavening were prepared, and a great social meal took place the day before the fasting of Lent began.

And now you know *the rest of the story!*

Joys and Concerns

Please Pray for Our Missionaries

First Church supports the following missionaries and invites you to pray for them and their ministry: Richard Bosart (South Africa), Chris McLain (Swaziland), Blake Butler, Terry and Sabrina Butler.

We Invite You to Share Your Joys and Concerns

Prayer is essential to the ministry of any church. At First Church we solicit your needs and concerns that we might be able to lift them in prayer and call God's Spirit to be active in those lives and needs.

We have several avenues for receiving prayer requests. During worship, you may find a prayer request form in the registration books. Fill in the information, fold it, and place it in the book or the offering plates, and they will come to the pastoral staff on Monday. You may also call the church office at 255-3336, or e-mail Dr. John Clifford, john@fumc-rr.org, with your concerns.

The Sunday Worship Bulletin provides a list of prayer concerns, including those for our First Church extended family.

We also are always on the lookout for prayer partners, those who are willing to spend time in prayer for those needs of which we are aware. The First Church Round Rock e-mail prayer chain is one way we link our prayer partners to the joys and concerns of our congregation. To submit a prayer request or be a part of the e-mail prayer chain, please send your e-mail address to Lucy Aymond at lwaymond@suddenlink.net.



First Church is a Stephen Ministry congregation. Learn more at www.fumc-rr.org/stephen.

Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for, encourage you, pray with and for you, and help you through a difficult time. To find out more, contact

Robin Alkek at 310-2787 or call the church office at 255-3336.