



THE MESSENGER

October 2017

First United Methodist Church of McAllen

4200 N. McColl Road
McAllen, Texas 78504

956-686-3784
Fax 956-664-0204

www.FUMCMcAllen.com

Weekday Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
8:30 - 4:30
Friday 8:30 - Noon

Worship at First Church

Service Information

8:30 Traditional Worship
9:00 Contemporary Worship
11:00 Traditional Worship
9:45 Sunday School

Nursery provided at all services.

Newsletter & Sunday Sermons

Our FUMC newsletter, The Messenger, and our weekly 9 & 11 a.m. sermons, are available on the website, www.fumcmcallen.com.

You can read current or past issues of the *Messenger* and listen to the sermons. You can also follow us on Facebook.

You may also use the website to update your contact information. You will find this link on the home page. Your help in keeping our records current and up-to-date is very much appreciated.

Any changes in your life? Married? Moved? Or Moving?

Please let us know so we can make changes on our mail out data base.



We are looking for some volunteers to help make this a successful event. If anyone is willing to help work the event, please contact Nicky Runnels at (956) 605-2221. We need some help with registration, drink station set-up, food service, and clean-up team. Thank you for your consideration.

WANTED:

We are also seeking donations for our silent auction at "Jars of Clay Shoot"
Please contact Marge Bentsen at 956-631-1313 or leave items at the church office by Tuesday, October 10th.
Bring your "Best" for our Success!

Pastor's Perspective

The rain fell. Hard. The wind blew. Hard. Trees lost their footing and toppled to the earth. Roofs went flying. Windows were shattered. In the Rio Grande Valley, we were spared the devastation our neighbors to the north sustained from hurricane Harvey. A hallmark trait of people who walk in the footsteps of Jesus is to respond to needs they see around them. The United Methodist church has and is responding. The United Methodist Committee on Relief is there helping and will be there for some time. It seems we United Methodist have something of reputation among relief agencies. We are known for being one of the first ones there and one of the last ones to leave. I like that.

Our local congregation has and is responding. We have given over \$6500 to our conference disaster relief fund. An Early Response Team (ERT) was sent out a couple of weeks ago to the Corpus Christi/Rockport area and spent three days helping. Eleven of our members went and received ERT training and have gone as small groups and individuals to help. Thank you for your generosity.

One thing the ERT training taught is when you go to help, you are the loving presence of Christ for those whose lives have been drastically altered by the hurricane. That is a truth we should strive to remember wherever we go – into the aftermath of a natural disaster or across the street to visit with our neighbor.

The opportunity to help continues. Long range recovery will be going on for the foreseeable future. Our Rio Texas Conference is hiring a disaster relief coordinator to work for up to two years to coordinate the relief and rebuilding effort within the bounds of our annual conference. In the months ahead there will be Volunteer in Mission (VIM) teams headed to help rebuild homes and lives. Our church will send VIM teams when the time is appropriate. You'll have a chance to sign up.

This will be a long-term recovery for those areas hardest hit. Remember Paul's word to the Galatians,

Let's not get tired of doing good, because in time we'll have a harvest if we don't give up. (6:9)

Grace and peace,
Ricky



Senior Pastor,
Ricky Sanderford

Children's Ministry

It has been a blessing-filled, busy beginning of the school year for the FUMC Children's Ministry. Children are Loving God as they gather for Sunday School and Wednesday afternoon activities. They are Sharing Jesus as they care for others and for God's creation, and they are Growing in Faith as they learn about His greatest commandments. We invite all families to take advantage of the opportunities that are offered at FUMC McAllen to help children grow closer to God and each other.

Sunday School for Children

Sunday School happens every Sunday morning at 9:45 am for children two years of age through 5th grade. PreK 4 through 5th grade begin the morning with Kids Music and Praise led by the youth in Room 206, 9:45-10:00 am.

Sunday School Classes for Children are as follows:

- **2 & 3-year olds** in Room 103 with Susan Hellums & Barbara Engelbrecht
- **PreK4 and Kindergarteners** in Room 104 with Susan Turlapati & Irene Ho
- **1st and 2nd graders** in Room 201 with Lee Ann Clemons, Erika Renfrow & Debra Ramirez
- **4th and 5th graders** in Room 208 with Marlynn Olivarez
- **New Bible Kids** in Room 108 with Patty Summers



Word On Wednesday

WOW

Resumes Sept. 6th

3:30-5:30 pm

Bible Lessons, Fun Snacks, Music, Games, and MORE!

For children 3 years old through 5th graders by Sept. 1, 2017

For more information, contact Lee Ann Clemons, laeclemons@mcfirst.com

WOW - Word On Wednesday

Every Wednesday children, 3 years old through 5th graders, come together for WOW – Word On Wednesday – to learn about God through singing, playing games, bible stories, fun snacks and art! Loving God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength, and loving our neighbors as we love ourselves is the “name of the game” at WOW. Join us every Wednesday from 3:30-5:30 pm.

Children's Choir



All children in K-8th grade are invited!

Wednesdays

5:00 - 5:30 pm

Room 211

Led by Alissa and Bo Shirah

All Kinder through 8th graders are invited to join the Children's Choir led by Bo and Alissa Shirah every Wednesday, 5:00-5:30 pm in Room 211. Come sing and praise God with us! The Children's Choir will sing on Children's Sabbath, Sunday, October 8th during the 11:00 service.

Mark your calendars!

New Bible Presentation

It was a joy for the FUMC family to get to present third graders with new bibles on September 10th! It is our prayer that the children open, read and recognize the bible as THE light for their journey. A big thank you goes to Patty Summers who will lead these children in an 8 week “Learning All About Your Bible” Class on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am in Room 108.”



Parenting Classes

led by Maria Luisa Salcines



5 Weeks Beginning October 12th

Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. in Room 202

Childcare will be available in Room 208

If you are feeling frustrated and a little overwhelmed, then you are a parent. Parenting is an emotional job and whenever the heart is involved it is more difficult to see things clearly. Come learn a few tips that will make your life easier. You will understand why children misbehave, and what you can do when they don't want to cooperate.

Workshops will be taught by Maria Luisa Salcines a freelance writer, and certified parent educator with The International Network for Children and Families in Redirecting Children's Behavior and Redirecting for a Cooperative Classroom. There is no charge for the classes, and childcare will be available. All parents are invited!

The dates and class topics are as follows:

October 12, 2017	How to Turn Terrible Two, Three, Four into a Great Time
October 19, 2017	"Stop Crying..." How to Handle Your Child's Feelings
October 26, 2017	Balancing Love and Discipline Go Hand in Hand
November 2, 2017	Make Self-Care a Priority
November 9, 2017	How to Help Your Family Stay Positive

Baby Banquet 2017

October 8 12 p.m. Social Room

All families with babies born between October 12, 2015 and NOW are invited to the Baby Banquet, a special luncheon following the 11:00 worship service. We want to honor you and the wonderful blessing you and your children are to the FUMC McAllen family. Please contact Lee Ann Clemons at laclemons@mcfirst.com or 956-686-3784, to let us know that you will be coming.



Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 1st

5:00-6:00 p.m.

on the Church Lawn



All pets and families are invited!

Photos will be taken for you to have, and snacks will be available. Dogs must be on leashes, and strongly encouraged on all animals.

*Get your pet blessed
and you feel blessed, too!*



FUMC Day School

Here at FUMC Day School we know how to laugh, learn and have fun.

We have started off the school year laughing with all our new friends.

We are learning our ABC's and 123's.

We are having fun doing our arts and crafts.

We still have space in our

3 & 4-year Full day program

Monday - Friday from 8:00am - 3:00pm and

4-year Half day program

Monday - Friday from 9:30am - 1:30pm

Our 3 & 4-year program offers the

"Handwriting Without Tears" curriculum.

This program is all about letter identification, phonemic awareness,

plus science and math skills.

With the continuation of our 4-year old program in preparation for kindergarten, our teachers will include sight words, upper and lower case letters and an introduction to reading.

These are just a few of the life skills your child will learn while at FUMC Day School.



We are just a hop skip and a jump away so give us a call or come take a tour,

we welcome everyone here

with warm hearts and open arms where:

"All Great Things Start Small!"

Volunteers are needed to deliver flowers



Do you enjoy visiting, laughing, sharing with others? Or, maybe just taking a few minutes to drop off some lovely flowers to brighten someone's day?

The Care Corps needs people to share the beautiful floral arrangements that our ladies design each Monday morning. Contact Tanya Perales if you have a few spare minutes during the week to brighten someone's day!



FUMC McAllen Youth Ministry **Stepping It Up For Christ**

During this past Labor Day weekend, two of our youth (along with four other Rio Texas Conference Youth Ministry Council Delegates and/or Representatives) traveled to Glen Rose to be a part of the South Central Jurisdiction of the UMC Youth Event 2017; the SCJ is made up of the following states: Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. At this retreat they were given the opportunity to help vote delegates to attend the Global Youth Persons Convocation in South Africa in July 2018. It was exhilarating to see so many youth leaders excited to serve, share, and learn from each other, all gathered for the same purpose, to further the Kingdom of God.

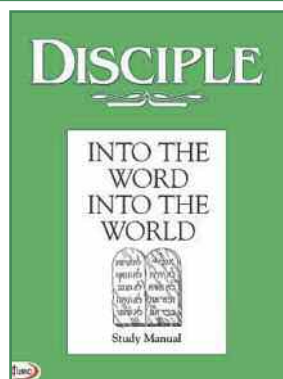
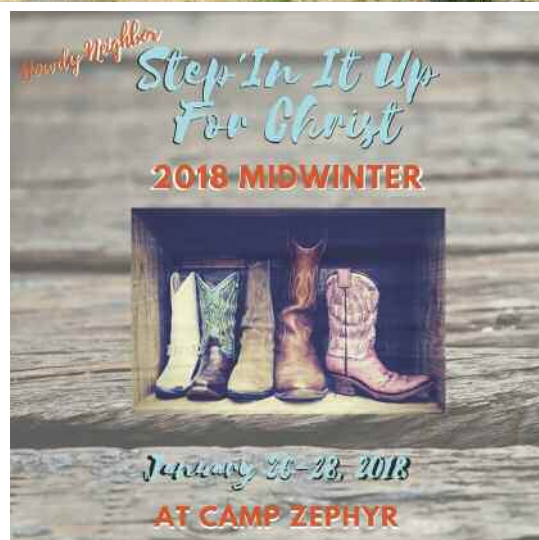
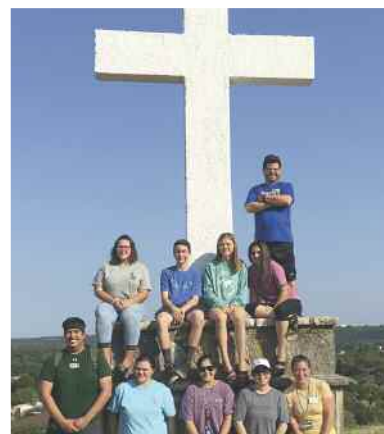
Here is what our youth took away from this event: "I experienced God through the idea sharing that we each did between the conferences. I got to see the way God works in their conference & the opportunity we have to allow him to work in ours! I feel that God is now calling me to act and share these ideas with our church, district and conference to continue to inspire people to step up & be the leaders God has called us to be by creating more opportunities for youth to lead small groups, plan camps and taking control of our future as the church."

- Sydney Ramon [she is an 11th grader at McAllen Memorial High School where she is the FCA President, the FUMC McAllen Youth Ministry Youth Council President, as well as the Vice President of the El Valle District DCYM, and also a Youth Ministry Council Delegate for the Rio Texas Conference]

"I experienced God this weekend through seeing all of the other CCYM's coming together and seeing how happy they were to sacrifice a weekend out of their busy schedules to come and serve God in any way that they could. Seeing this helped me realize how fortunate I am to be a part of a council like this. As an eighth grader, not many opportunities like this are open to me, so I'm going to give everything I have to make our YMC as successful as possible." - Stephen Dillon [he is an 8th grader at Morris Middle School where he is active in the FCA, active at El Valle District DCYM meetings, and also a Youth Ministry Council Representative for the Rio Texas Conference]

While driving back home, I heard our DCYM kids excited to step up in their duties and ready to challenge others to do the same. They are ready to take more responsibilities in the planning and leading of our upcoming Midwinter Retreat and other events and camps.

And speaking of Midwinter Retreat 2018, save the date for January 26-28, 2018. Registrations open the first week of October and I know that our youth can't wait to sign up! Last year 35 of our youth attended Midwinter and it took 5 chaperones and 7 vehicles to be able to attend camp. Please pray and consider helping out this year; it takes one adult per 8 youth to comply with our Safe Gatherings policy. Please contact Veronica Dillon if you would like to be a part of this retreat and help out.



Disciple II: Into the Word Into the World **Beginning October 5th** **Thursday mornings at 10:00 am in the Koinonia Room** Led by Susan Turlapati

All are invited to join this second study in the four-phase Disciple program. This 32 week study focusing on Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts, proclaims the transforming power of Scripture while teaching Bible study skills that take participants deeper into the Scripture. The study also emphasizes the rhythm of coming to God and going for God, of being in the Word and in the world individually and corporately. This study understands the growing Christian as under discipline in community and in ministry to the world. Disciple: Into the Word Into the World approaches all experiences of life as opportunities for faithful witness and service. Workbooks are available for purchase in the church office (\$40.00).



October Communion Offering

Our October Communion Offering will go to the 7th Annual "Serve Our Schools (S.O.S.) event." First UMC are partnering with El Divino Redentor and St Mark UMC's of McAllen to sponsor S.O.S. The Communion Offering will help pay for the event and supplies.

We hope you will plan to join us, Saturday, September 30 at Seguin! First UMC will host volunteers at Seguin, and the other two churches will host at Alvarez Elementary, but on a different date.

S.O.S is another opportunity for us to "go out" and serve in our community and invite others to join us! To be the church OUTSIDE our walls! This will be a day to help the McAllen ISD schools get off to a good start in the new school year. We need volunteers who are willing to take part in this half-day service event, helping with multiple projects. We need all types of volunteers. We will be laying grass in the playground again this year, but we also need help in organizing and registering people: passing out t-shirts, snacks, etc on the morning of the event. Every little bit of time and energy makes a huge difference!

There are Registration Forms at the entrances of the Church and on our website. Let us know if you can join us! You can turn your form at the church office, e-mail the online Registration form to Susan Hellums or call the church. Encourage others to sign-up and join us!

Please prayerfully consider both your gift to the Communion Offering and your gift of service on the "Serve Our School" Day! This is an important community event impacting our church, schools and community!



FUMC Rummage Sale

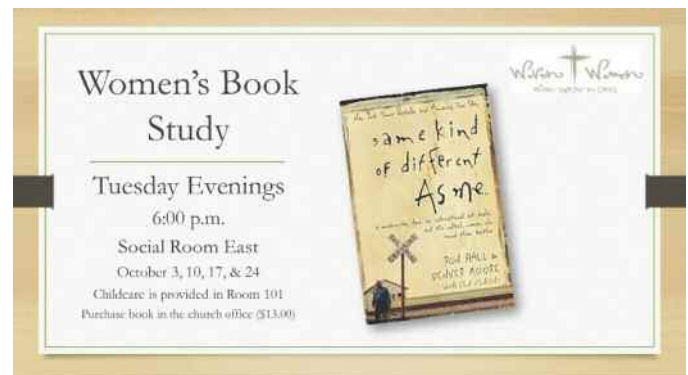
Saturday, November 4

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m

We are collecting items for our rummage sale. If you have anything you would like to donate you can drop it off at the church starting Tuesday, October 31 through Thursday, November 2.



OCTOBER WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY



All women are invited to gather the first 4 Tuesdays of October, from 6 to 7 PM, to read and discuss the book, Same Kind of Different as Me. Then we plan to go together and watch the movie when it debuts in late October! The books are in the church office (\$13.00)

Ladies, mark your calendars for February 13, 2018 when we plan to host the Shrove Pancake Supper again! Our goal is that this will become the one and only fundraiser we will need to do each year to support all the activities and service projects of Woven Women. You can also help by donating directly to Woven Women! How about asking your friends and family to make a donation in your honor instead of a birthday gift?



Thank you to Ashlee Goodson (top row, third from the left) who led these ladies in a wonderful time of fitness AND fun at the Line Dancing classes last month. Hopefully, we will get a regular dance exercise class going soon. Let us know if you are interested in being a part of that!

Our prayer for Woven Women is that you will find a place to grow closer to God and closer to your sisters in Christ through service, study, and fellowship. So, please, choose an event to come to! Choose a service project that touches your heart!

Invite a friend! If you have any questions at all, regarding any of the service opportunities, upcoming events, or how you want to get "plugged in", please do not hesitate to ask! You can email Peggy at trompeggy@aol.com or call/text her at 956-802-8815 or Lee Ann at laclemons@mcfirst.com or call the Church office.



Trunk or Treat...an opportunity to reach out and get to our neighbors and provide a fun, safe place for families this Halloween!

The time is NOW to get ready for Trunk or Treat, the annual fall celebration at FUMC for the entire community. People are purchasing candy and preparing their trunks for the trunk-or-treaters. Games are being organized and hay gathered for the hayrides. Fun is in the air for all ages and we want YOU to join us! Come test out your climbing skills on the climbing wall, take a fun hayride, listen to our awesome praise bands and enjoy yummy hot dogs and turkey legs. Check out your throwing ability for missions at the dunking booth. There will be games for children of all ages, a blow-up slide and obstacle course, Halloween photos will be taken and much, much more!

Everyone can be involved in making this a great outreach event for the community. Offer your help by providing a trunk for handing out candy to the children, donating candy or prizes, setting up, sponsoring or leading a game for the children, cleaning up, wrapping food to sell, and MORE! Offer your help by contacting Lee Ann Clemons or stop by the Fellowship Center foyer on October 15th and sign-up to serve during Trunk or Treat.

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors, and join us for the Annual Trunk-or-Treat Fall Celebration on the south/southeast church grounds on Halloween evening, Tuesday, October 31!

Pearls of Wellness Wisdom

By Perla Rivera, RN, Wesley Nurse

"I pray that the God who gives hope will fill you with much joy and peace while you trust in Him. Then your hope will overflow by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13 (NCV)

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month. Breast cancer is the second most common kind of cancer in women. About 1 in 8 women born today in the United States will get breast cancer at some point. The good news is that many women can survive breast cancer if it's found and treated early. A mammogram – the screening test for breast cancer – can help find breast cancer early when it's easier to treat. Self-examination of the breasts is also strongly recommended. The truth is that breast cancer does not only affect women but men as well. The American Cancer Society estimates for breast cancer in men in the United States for 2016 are:

- About 2,600 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed
- About 440 men will die from breast cancer

Breast cancer is about 100 times less common among men than among women. For men, the lifetime risk of getting breast cancer is about 1 in 1,000. Talk to your healthcare provider if you have a family history and experience any signs and symptoms of breast cancer. Let's continue to raise awareness about the importance of early detection of breast cancer. Make a difference! Spread the word about mammograms and encourage communities, organizations, families, and individuals to get involved. For more information, go to healthfinder.gov and www.cancer.org.

I also encourage you to continue to pray for healing, strength, and peace for those who are currently fighting breast cancer, survivors, and their families. We place our faith and hope in our Lord Jesus Christ for His good, perfect and pleasing will in their healing and wholeness.



Perla Rivera, RN, is a Wesley Nurse with Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.. Methodist Healthcare Ministries' Wesley Nurse program is a faith-based, holistic health and wellness program committed to serving the least served through education, health promotion and collaboration with individual and community in achieving improved wellness through self-empowerment. Learn more at www.mhm.org

CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sympathy to...

The family of **Bob McClure** following his death on August 15, 2017.

A memorial service was held on August 21, 2017 at FUMC.

His daughter, Ginna Grimes' address is:

1205 Nevarez, Kyle, TX 78640.

Patty Summers and her mother **Rosie Bryan**, following the death of Patty's step-father, **James "Pete" A. Bryan**, on September 9th.

The Summer's address is:

2209 La Condesa, Edinburg, TX 78539.

First United Methodist Church was pleased to welcomethe following into church membership:



Jean-Scott and Azalea Bendiks
and their daughter, **Avia**
2412 Park Circle
McAllen, TX 78501



Debra Lee Stark
408 E. Water Lily
McAllen, TX 78504
August 20, 2017



Calendar of Events

First United Methodist Church
4200 N. McColl Rd. • McAllen, TX • 956-686-3784

OCTOBER 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Ground Fellowship Late Traditional Service Blessing of the Animals	2 Tai Chi Exercise Class	3 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Tuesday Noon Women's Group Women's Book Study Mid-week Spiritual Recharge	4 Breakfast & Devotionals Tai Chi Exercise Class WOW (Word On Wednesday) Children's Choir Truth Seekers Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	5 Breakfast & Devotionals Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Disciple II Bible Study Young Adult Group	6	7
8 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Ground Fellowship Late Traditional Service Baby Banquet Light Seekers	9 Tai Chi Exercise Class	10 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Tuesday Noon Bible Study for Women Parkinson Support Group Alzheimer's Support Group Women's Book Study Mid-week Spiritual Recharge	11 Breakfast & Devotionals Tai Chi Exercise Class WOW (Word On Wednesday) Children's Choir Fields of Faith 2018 Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	12 Breakfast & Devotionals Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Disciple II Bible Study Parenting Class Special Needs Support Group Young Adult Group	13	14 Jars of Clay Skeet Shoot
15 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Light Seekers	16 Tai Chi Exercise Class Manna Food Pantry at First UMC McAllen	17 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Circle of Friends Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Tuesday Noon Women's Group Women's Book Study Mid-week Spiritual Recharge	18 Breakfast & Devotionals Tai Chi Exercise Class WOW (Word On Wednesday) Children's Choir Truth Seekers Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	19 Breakfast & Devotionals Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Disciple II Bible Study Parenting Class Young Adult Group	20	21
22 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service Light Seekers	23 Tai Chi Exercise Class	24 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Circle of Friends Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Tuesday Noon Women's Group Women's Book Study Mid-week Spiritual Recharge	25 Breakfast & Devotionals Tai Chi Exercise Class Prayer Shawl Ministry WOW (Word On Wednesday) Children's Choir Truth Seekers Witness Band Rehearsal Motet Choir Rehearsal	26 Breakfast & Devotionals Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Disciple II Bible Study Parenting Class Young Adult Group	27	28
29 Early Traditional Service New Spirit Worship Holy Grounds Fellowship Late Traditional Service	30 Tai Chi Exercise Class	31 Morning Walkers Exercise Tai Chi Exercise Class Circle of Friends Women's First Groups @ First Church, Noon Tuesday Noon Women's Group Trunk or Treat Mid-week Spiritual Recharge	For calendar updates, visit fumcmcallen.com			



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October 2017

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4200 N. McColl Rd.
McAllen, TX 78504

New Sanctuary Update

Here is the church, here is the steeple, open it up, and there's all of the people! Thanks to you, the people, our new sanctuary will have a cross and steeple. The original design did not include them.

However, after the Building and Design Committee met with members of the congregation, it was clear that the new sanctuary should include some type of steeple with a cross to distinguish it as our place of worship. The architect then designed it and added it to the plans. On Tuesday morning, August 29th, our new cross was raised and set into place. There was a nice crowd in attendance to say a blessing and watch the cross go up. This will be a symbol for years to come of our Christian heritage. In addition, it will represent our teamwork and perseverance to succeed in our goal of building a new church. However, we are reminded by Pastor Ricky that we are not only erecting bricks, steel and mortar, but we are cultivating people. The goal of building a church does not end with the last nail - that will be only one step in the never ending process of sharing Christ in our community.



EARLY RESPONSE TEAM to Hurricane Harvey Affected Area

On September 13-15, 2017, an Early Response Team (ERT) went to serve in the Coastal Bend District of the Rio Texas Conference. Those who went from First UMC McAllen were: Dan Dearth, Colleen Frizzell, Whitney Hellums, Roland Pecina, Greg Swartz, Laura Williams, and Susan Hellums. They were joined by Rev. Cindy Layton from El Mesias UMC. his team was blessed as they served for three days and shared the unconditional love of God for our neighbors in Rockport, Woodsboro and Refugio faced with a huge challenge of recovering from this huge disaster! What an experience!

Please continue to pray for those affected by Hurricane Harvey! With a God's help our brothers and sisters will continue to recover from this disaster! It was a blessing to serve with just a few affected by the storm! God be with them and bless them!



We will be planning another Early Response Team in a month or so, with trained ERT folks, and then later a Long Term Recovery Team. If you are interested in going, please contact Susan Hellums at shellums@mcfirst.com.