

## Lissie United Methodist Church Celebrated Centennial

By Merle R. Hudgins

The Lissie United Methodist Church celebrated its centennial anniversary, Sunday March 19. Over 300 persons came to celebrate, renew old acquaintances and help tell the story of who, what, when and how this small church had its humble beginnings.

The community of Lissie has also evolved along with the church. It began as the community of New Philadelphia in 1878 when a group of English settlers were sent to the area. The names of some of these earliest residents are evident in those families who stayed and made Wharton County their home.

In 1894 the Fidelity Immigration Co. bought up much of the area and sold it to discontented farmers from the Midwest. The new wave of settlers renamed the community, Lissie.

A revival was held in 1906 by a visit-

ing preacher for families in the Lissie area. It resulted in 54 conversions and on March 5, 1906, nineteen individuals chartered the Evangelical Association Church. The following month, Sunday School was organized, and in October 1906 Rev. George Causey was assigned by the Evangelical Conference to Lissie. This began the 100 years of history and counting.

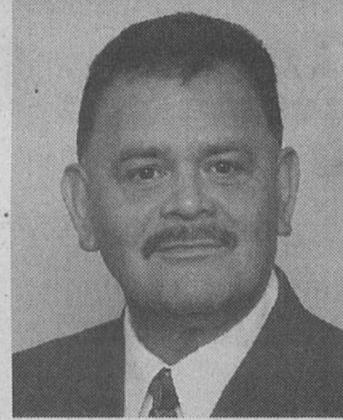
In 1946 the Evangelical Church and the United Brethren Church united, forming the Evangelical United Brethren denomination.

In 1968 the EUB united with the Methodist Church to become the United Methodist Church. Over the past 100 years there have been three separate church sanctuaries, four denominations and thirty-one preachers, but with those changes there has been only one congregation serving One Almighty God.

### Loreca My Friend, My Sister

Some people break their promises, but you tried to be strong for your family even in sickness, and I salute you for that effort. Some places we went, I was your Sister especially in the clinics and hospitals, I was proud to have had a sister like you. Some people called us the Golden Girls, but whatever you were to me was appreciated. I am truly alone now, because you were my friend. I will never forget you. I had no idea you would be gone this soon. But only God knows best. Someday I hope to see you again for I believe you have gone to Heaven. Take your well deserved rest Loreca, I will miss you.

Betty Stevenson



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Befitting the Centennial occasion, Bishop Janice Riggie Huie, Texas Annual Conference, was present to give the Sunday morning message. She was introduced by Dr. Karen Dorris, District Superintendent, Houston Southwest District. Numerous former pastors were also present and they participated in the worship service.

Rev. Robert O. Tupper who served the church from 1948-51 and 1958-62, delighted the audience with his many quips and memories of his years as the pastor in Lissie. Special music was provided by the Peugnet-Rains Family Quartet, led by Mark Rains, music director of the Sugarland United Methodist Church.

The noon meal was catered, giving the host congregation more time to visit with those returning "home". Some attendees came from as distant as Oklahoma and Arkansas. Following the meal, everyone returned to the sanctuary for an afternoon Centennial Celebration.

Many of the more familiar hymns were sung, and the children of the church sang "We are the Church". An early written narrative of the church's history was read by Meredith Nethery, to remind those present to whom they owe thanks for the past and to give a charge for the future to all.

Representatives of past and present generations told of experiences they treasured during their association with the church and how this church influenced their lives.

At the close of both the morning and afternoon session, the children were told that they could ring the 1907 church bell as they passed through the entrance hall.

Their participation produced a joyful sound as the bell pealed "Come! Come! Come!" to assure the world that all is right in Lissie.

A special display of church memorabilia and artifacts included numer-

ous photographs, hymnals and special bulletins.

Artifacts included the first clock ever to grace the first church's interior given in 1907; the church's first pulpit built by Rev. L. Neuman in 1910; the retired communion set; a fillet' altar cloth for communion Sundays crocheted by Mrs. Esther Raasch; and the plaque given to the Lissie church honoring it as the 'Outstanding Small Church of the Year - 2005' by the UMC Houston Southwest District.

Several items were available for purchase to commemorate this special date. They included a brass ornament with the present church sanctuary in 3-D relief and inscription Lissie United Methodist Church - 1906-2006 100th Anniversary; the 75th anniversary plate featuring the three different church sanctuaries; and an updated booklet of the History of the Lissie United Methodist Church.

Those unable to attend can still purchase any of these items by contacting the church.

The Lissie United Methodist Church faces the future with fervor and hope. Membership and attendance has increased. Children, the future of every church, are everywhere!

The church offers Sunday School classes for children from nursery through junior high and for adults. Sunday morning services feature a children's object lesson all ages can enjoy.

Movie nights and other wholesome teen activities are regular reminders that our youth are a top priority. Current pastor is Jeffery L. Craft and his enthusiasm is contagious.

And like the old bell, we at Lissie ask you to "Come", come and join us in worship, in service and in prayer as we face the future - with GOD. Sunday Worship Schedule: 10:00 Sunday School, 11:00 Worship, Pastor: Rev. Jeff Craft, Phone Number: 234-2112.

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