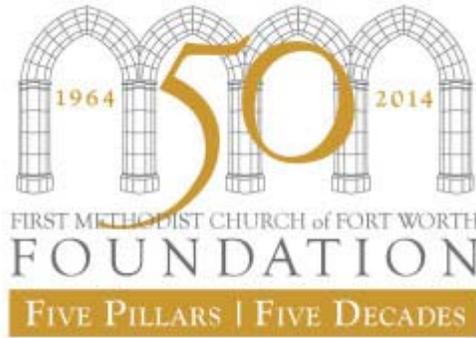


Pillars of the Community



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“... whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant.”

— Matthew 20:26



Throughout its history, First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth has had the benefit of great leadership — in the pulpit, as volunteers, in the office and in our outreach efforts.

For the Foundation, our founders, officers and board of directors over the years have been and are people of influence, power and vision. In fact, many were and are among the finest community leaders in Fort Worth. We recognize them for these attributes, and we all learn from them. We are grateful for their contributions.

Such great leaders are often called pillars. You’ve heard the phrase “Pillars of the Community.” That’s because they support us, provide strength, create action and affect change and growth. We are very fortunate at our Church to have so many remarkable individuals involved in our mission and service. They are the pillars of our Church and of the community.

This Sunday, September 28, 2014 — Foundation Sunday — you will read a special message in your bulletin from our Foundation president, Lou Ann Blaylock. You will hear from another outstanding leader who will be on hand to participate in both the 9:30 and the 11:00 services: the Honorable Kay Granger. Her dedication to our Church, our community, our city and our country has been invaluable. Let me tell you a little about her. A Republican who represents the 12th congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives, she was the first Republican woman to represent Texas in the House. Kay was born in Greenville but grew up here in Fort Worth, went to Eastern Hills and graduated from Texas Wesleyan University. In the late 80s, she ran for and was elected to the City Council, then became Mayor in 1991. Within a decade, she achieved success in an election to fill a seat in the 12th Congressional District, a seat once held by another pillar of our Church and remarkable leader, former Democratic Speaker of the House Jim Wright. And these are just three among so many! Our Church rolls are filled with leaders.

So why not learn about some more of them? Next week, at our 50th Anniversary Celebration on Tuesday night, you’ll see photographs of and hear stories about the leaders who have made such a difference at First United Methodist Church. In a very special presentation, Dr. Lamar Smith, Cynthia McElrath, Lou Martin, Randy Thompson, Tom Hardgrove, John Callaway, and Buzz Barlow will take the stage to share a bit of their history and ours, all set to music by Danny Wright.

This will follow a delicious dinner, so you'll want to be sure you make your reservations soon; call Lisa Tucker at 817/339-5089 to charge them by phone anytime this week, as long as space remains. Or, buy tickets (\$50) on Sunday in the Church Garden as our Board of Directors, all pillars of our Church, greet you at a gathering between services to offer refreshments and fellowship.

We hope you will join us to celebrate fifty years of leadership and chart the course for 50 more.

— Sid Johnston, Executive Director of FMC Foundation