

City of Irving  
Office of the Mayor  
**Proclamation**

Whereas: September 2008 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First United Methodist Church in our City, which is dedicated to the service of God and humanity; and

Whereas: in the summer of 1908 Reverend H. M. Read, pastor of Grand Prairie Methodist Church, led an old fashion Brush Arbor Revival; and

Whereas: as a result of this revival retired Reverend T. L. Combo, visiting clergy, and lay people became the fourteen charter members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the community of Irving; and

Whereas: this group of visionaries persuaded the school board to allow them to hold services in the "Lively School Building" where the Irving Heritage Senior Center stands today; and

Whereas: a generous donation of land located on the northwest corner of Third and Ohio Streets from A. J. Clark made it possible to build a small frame church building where they worshiped from 1908 to 1937; and

Whereas: under the leadership of the Reverend Thomas Sterck in 1937 the flourishing church family replaced their small house of worship with a beautiful sandstone structure which served as the church home for sixty-five years; and

Whereas: the church's history reflects that in 1939 the name was changed to First Methodist Church, and in 1968 was changed to what we know today – First United Methodist Church; and

Whereas: while buildings are important, it is the soul of this church family that has helped them endure a fire in 1978, celebrate the completion of a Family Life Center and a Children's Building, and a Consecration of the third sanctuary on December 15, 2002; and

Whereas: the entire community has benefited from the fine Christian influence this church has exerted through the years by all who have given so unselfishly to "lift high the Cross" and provide human services when the need was great; and, all the while, the 1909 church bell tolls above our city and brings peace to all.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, Herbert A. Gears, Mayor** of the City of Irving, Texas, do hereby proclaim September 7 in the year of the Lord 2008 as:

*First United Methodist Church Anniversary Day*

in Irving, Texas and extend this expression of our esteem and best wishes to the members this congregation on this memorable occasion



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Irving, Texas to be affixed this 7th day of September, 2008.

*Herbert A. Gears*

Herbert A. Gears  
Mayor