

Pastor's Column...

Someone once called a preacher to say he wanted to become a member. But, he went on to explain that he did not want to worship every week, study the Bible, visit the sick, or serve as a leader or teacher. The minister commended him for this desire to be a member, but told him the church he sought was located in another section of town. The man took down the directions and hung up. When he arrived at that address, the man came face to face with the logical result of this own apathetic attitude. There stood an abandoned church building boarded up and ready for demolition.

As we enter the New Year, we are very blessed. Our church is alive with activities and challenges of parking, multiple groups using the same space and the need to coordinate activities to avoid conflicts with other programs.

During the year we will need to offer additional opportunities and space to meet the needs of a growing congregation. These challenges are wonderful opportunities of ministry. We are blessed to be in a location where God is placing so many opportunities of ministry and providing rich resources. I am excited about sharing this journey with you! - Fred

(Sandy – could you place this thank you on front page somewhere?) thanks!

THE STAFF WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO BROUGHT CHRISTMAS GOODIES TO THE OFFICE!

ALSO, THANK YOU FOR THE OFFERING COLLECTED IN DECEMBER FOR THE STAFF TO SHARE! HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Stewardship Minute

Our Consecration Sunday financial stewardship campaign conducted in late October and continuing through the present with mail-out responses has again been successful. As of December 6th, 280 families have made a commitment for 2008 and there is a 4 % increase in giving over last year. We hope to see that percentage increase before year-end. If you have not yet made a commitment, Estimate of Giving cards are available in the Church Office and at the information booth in the narthex. These gifts enable us to do what God calls us to do – to help others and to serve Christ – and for each of us to grow spiritually. Merry Christmas!

Permanent Endowment Fund

A milestone has been reached for our Church's Permanent Endowment Fund. The first disbursement was approved by the Endowment Fund Committee at its meeting on December 6th. The disbursed funds (\$5,500) will support three Outreach projects -- \$2,000 for the Housing Repair Team, \$2,000 for Piedras Negras and \$1,500 for the Uganda mission. The \$5,500 disbursement was made possible when the Permanent Endowment Fund reached \$100,000 earlier this year (a criteria established when the Fund was approved) and earnings from the principal could be used for qualified projects. The Endowment Committee will make future disbursements on an annual basis, normally at its December meeting. For more information on the Permanent Endowment Fund, pick up a brochure in the narthex or contact Lyn Stewart at the Church office.

Texas A&M Singing Cadets

The Texas A&M Singing Cadets will be in concert on Wednesday, January 9, at 7:00pm in our sanctuary. In lieu of tickets, a love offering will be collected with suggested donation of \$10 per person. Hosting at least two cadets is a wonderful experience and you can have this opportunity by calling Jana Sprayberry at 210-273-2455 or 249-2793. Your responsibilities would be to pick-up the cadets when they arrive on Wednesday, feed them dinner, return them to the sanctuary for concert rehearsal then take them home with you after the concert, feed them breakfast, make them a sack lunch for their drive to San Angelo, and return them to the church on Thursday morning for their departure. These young men are such a pleasure.

GOSPEL CAFÉ DRIVERS NEEDED! – two route openings beginning in January. One involves two Thursdays each month. The other route is a short route, but a volunteer would drive every Thursday. Call Shelly Swingamer, 249-9043, for more information.

Outreach Ministries News Notes

Thank you for your support this year as we reached out through mission work within the community, Mexico, and Uganda. Our mission work continues, with prayers that it will grow and expand.

Uganda: A mission trip to Uganda in June 2008 is being organized. If interested, call Lee Bowers at 210-387-8625. It will be a trip you will never forget and the impact you can have on other's lives is immeasurable.

Mexico: This year we supported the Aleluya Methodista Church & Orphanage in Piedras Negras. Our Church Youth made 50 dozen cookies that became part of an event hosted by University UMC in bringing Christmas to over 450 children in Piedras Negras. The looks on the faces of these very needy kids said it all.

We were able to purchase and install a transformer for Aleluya Church. Today, it supports feeding 40 children each day, plus it provides rooms for 57 school children.

Housing Repair Team - We are very close to finishing the Murray house project. Due to the very generous furniture and appliance donations, we essentially provided the family with a furnished house. Thanks all of you who have supported this project and please continue through your prayers and presence. Support through gifts, should note "Housing Repair Team" on the check. A House Blessing service in on for January. Contact Chris Buckingham (210-698-1310 cbuckingham@swri.org) or Bob Dibble (830-755-8889 rkdibble@gvtc.com).

WOMEN'S ENRICHMENT MINISTRY begins new classes in January

Wednesday Mornings - 9 a.m. to noon, Jan. 16 (childcare requires reservation)

1. *Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good* by Karen Chaffin
2. *Preparing to Hear From God & Discerning the Voice of God* by Priscilla Shirer
3. a. *Stepping Up* by Beth Moore
b. *Psalms 1-20* by Debbie Williams
4. *Disciple III class continues study started this fall*

Monday nights

1. *Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good*, Jan. 14, 6:30 - 8:30 at the Carpenter's Cottage on Theissen
contact person: Darrah McCammon, 249-9468
2. *Stepping Up* by Beth Moore, - time and starting date TBA in upcoming brochure
Home of Judy Benson, 210-781-4324 or jbenson006@satx.rr.com

Sunday mornings, Family Life Center, room 107, 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Ongoing Sunday School class for women only who desire in-depth study. New studies begin in Jan. Brochures available at church and online first week of January. Contact Billie Watts, 830-981-9441, dwwatts@msn.com.

A NEW STUDY FOR MEN: *Search for Sexual Integrity*—led by Pastor Conrad on Wednesday nights starting January 17. A wide range of sexually-oriented problems will be addressed in a six-to-eight week study. Call Conrad at 830/446-1148 or 830/249-2565 x. 44 for more information.

Life's hurts, habits, and hang ups still happen even for devoted Christians. That's why ***Celebrate Recovery*** is starting its fourth year here at FUMC. Come join us for new studies starting in January 2008.

Step Studies

Sundays 9-10:30 am Women starting Jan 13th; Tuesdays 6-7:30pm Women starting Jan 15th;
Wednesdays 10:30am-Noon Women. Men's study TBA. Contact Kay Hays at 755-4245

Food/Eating Issues

Lose It For Life by Stephen Arterburn - Wednesdays 6-8pm starting January 9 Contact Chris Fortinberry at 210-365-0689 or Lori Balensiefen at Lbalensief@aol.com for more information.

Children's Ministry

Family Music Spring 2008

Celebrate making music with your child!

January 18-April 11, Friday mornings
Classes for ages 3 months thru 4 yrs
Limited Enrollment/ Registration ends 1/9/08
Contact Kim Pickard 249-2565/ kpickard@fumc-boerne.org

Children's Choirs resume in January!

Cherubs/ Pre-K and Kinder January 13, 2008 Sundays 10:30-11am
Sonshine Singers/ 1st and 2nd graders January 13, 2008 Sundays 8:45-9:30am
SoulSingers/ 3rd thru 6th graders January 16, 2008 Wednesdays 6:00-6:45pm

Spring Enrollment For Children's Ministry

January 16- April 16 Spring Term
Midweek manna Bible Studies for children 1st- 4th & Small Group Bible Study for 5th & 6th begin again.
Both Studies begin at 4:30-5:30
Enroll by January 6th. Registration available in Narthex and Saxon Hall Bulletin Board

Spring enrollment for Worship Skills Registration available in Narthex or Saxon Hall Bulletin Board
This begins on January 16 @4:00pm. This is offered for children 3rd- 6th grade who wish to participate in worship by speaking or playing bells.

The Children's Choirs begin the week of the 16th.

Teddy Bear Picnic

Begins Again on February 24th when the Texas Spring brings warmer weather we hope.
Details in February newsletter and Saxon Hall Bulletin Board.

Children's Ministry will begin a FIFTH SUNDAY Food drive in 2008.

We will have a box for non perishable goods and canned goods in Saxon Hall.
Every fifth Sunday we will collect items for the food bank. March is our first Collection date. Let's collect 2,008 items in 2008.

Parent's Informational Meetings – January 27 following Sunday School (10:45) and after the 11 o'clock service. We will be going over our activities for the coming year.

Youth Ministry

Sunday Night Encounter begins again, January 6 @ 6 pm and Wednesday night Refuel, January 9 @ 7 pm.
Parent meeting Sunday, January 13 @ 12 noon

UM Army Palooza training/celebration day here at FUMC. It is Sunday, January 20 - 1:00 - 5:30 pm and is for any church involved in UM Army. Cost \$5

Spring Break 9th grade through College are invited to a Mission to New Orleans, LA. Saturday, March 15 - Thursday, March 20. This is a UM Army type experience in Katrina recovery efforts. We will have a free day to explore New Orleans before we leave. Cost \$125

Jr. High Mid Winter is February 8 – 10
Sr. High Mid Winter is February 15 - 17

CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYERS:

Mike Becker, Dora Blatchford, Susie Butler, Ilda Reynertson, John Storm, Helen Otto, Genie Lander, Dorothy Busby, Bob Fly, Harvey Shinn, Florence George, Lois Carswell, Sid Cravey's brother, Susie Butler's aunt, Juston

Holton, Duane Tucker, John Threatt, Truitt Tucker, Lorrie Corley's mother, Makayla Smith, Doris Wall. **Released from hospital:** Doris Ebner, Brad Grove, Sarah Butterfras, Geof Godwin, Lu Janes, Susie Butler, Stephanie Davis, Wanda Bentzel's daughter – Leslie, Loretta Deuel, Darleen Ammann, Bud Hanke.

Members in Service: Cody Davis, Kyle York, Mateo Benavidez, Conan Martin, Kelly Schultz, Boyd Brack, Brandon Varnado, Lance Mile, Brandon Day, Joseph Lyons, Randy Northrup, Todd Archer, Cliff Betts, Morgan Brown, Michael Morgan, James Hammill, Rev. Kyle Roehrig, Matthew Doyal, and all who serve in the military.

Love & Prayers are Extended to: Ann Harkins, Jeanne Bridges, Sylvia Miller & their family on the death of their mother & grandmother, Mary Stone, on November 11; Bill Long & Betty Calmes on the death of their brother – Halsey Long, in Garber, TX; Andra Haney on death of her uncle, Ron Belhasen; Melba Spangler, family & friends on the death of Billy Spangler on November 19; Ava Evans on the death of her sister, Joyce Koonce; Larry Abel & family on the death of Christi Abel on December 1; Brooke & Edd Martin & family on the death of Brooke's mother – Muriel Cummins; Luba & Jack Huggins, II on the death of Luba's brother - Al Krukowsky; Sue Turquette on the death of her mother – Maxine Mullins on December 11th.

JOYS

Congratulations to: Barbee Winn & Lin Weems who were married on November 10; Lisa & David McDaniel on the birth of new grandson – Isaac Joshua born November 1 to son, Josh & his wife; Annette & David Gruben on the birth of a new grandson on November 5; SONDY & David Hunt on their 50th Anniversary! Norma & Charles Smith on their 50th Anniversary! Liz WYALL and Tom Short who were married November 24; Jason Cook has returned from Iraq!

Thank You to Church Family....

- ☺ Thank you for the lovely framed cross presented to me at the rededication of the J. Wesley Jones Chapel. I will treasure it. Sincerely, Dorothy Jones
- ☺ On behalf of Meadowlands, I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to all of the generous people of FUMC who helped make this Christmas very special. God Bless you all. Cindy Becker
- ☺ Thank you for being a very loving, caring church family. You stood beside us through our stressful time. You provided us with comfort & strength. We hold you close to our hearts now and always.
Melba Spangler & family

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In Honor

+Luba Huggins by Frances Gray

In Memory

+Rev. J. Wesley Jones by Dorothy Jones-Jones Scholarship

+Harmon Ellis by: Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Jones

Roger & Mary Hall-Maxine Lorenz Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Gray-Music Ministry

Mr. & Mrs. Johnnie Broyles

Dr. & Mrs. Marvin Newby

Heritage Place Staff

Mr. & Mrs. Rex Landis

Mr. & Mrs. Art Heidrich

Rosemary Barnette-Maxine Lorenz Fund

Mr. & Mrs. William Baxter

Natalie Heidrich

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Straayer-Jones Scholarship

+Mary Stone by: Roger & Mary Hall-Maxine Lorenz Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Lee-Jones Scholarship

Genesis Sunday School-Maxine Lorenz Fund

Disciple III Class-Music Ministry

Mr. & Mrs. George Poitevent

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Straayer-Jones Scholarship

+Halsey Long by: Mr. & Mrs. Bob Lee-Jones Scholarship
Genesis Sunday School-Maxine Lorenz Fund

+Margaret Ellen Lundell by: Rebecca Lones & Family
Mr. & Mrs. George Poitevent
Betty Ewing-Music Ministries

Billy Spangler for the Maxine Lorenz Fund by:

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Pope,
Joe Flathe
Rosemary Barnette
Genesis Sunday School Class
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Lee
Dr. & Mrs. Edward Wheeler
Luba Huggins
Dr. & Mrs. Kenne Woods
Dr. & Mrs. Ray Sprayberry
Mr. & Mrs. George Martin
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Martin
Mr. & Mrs. David McDaniel
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Cashion
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Gray
Patsy Schendel
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Wackerman
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Aaronson
Ava Evans
Dr. & Mrs. Kyle Miller
Sandie Elkins
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Wheeler
Audreen Matson
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Pottorff
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Straayer
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Vaughan
Vera Merchant
Mr. & Mrs. Max Reed
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Norton
by Mr. & Mrs. George Plummer
Hester Schwope-Housing Repair Team
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Lange-Soldier's Christmas
Mr. & Mrs. George Poitevent-Jones Scholarship
Mr. & Mrs. Dane Gabriel-Jones Scholarship

Church Staff Position Open

The staff position of Hospitality/Set Up Coordinator is open at this time. This full time position oversees activities that involve use of the church kitchens and room set ups for all the various activities here at the church. Flexible hours but Sunday mornings are required. A job description and application are available at the church office.

Alternative Christmas Market

Thanks to all who have supported the UMW Alternative Christmas Market this year. A record \$6,668 has been collected for local and global Methodist supported Missions. The Sunday School children donated over \$700 to the Christmas Market on December 2nd.