

# FIRST NEWS



**San Saba  
First United Methodist Church**

**April 2011**

**San Saba  
First United Methodist  
Church  
204 W. Brown  
325-372-3120  
www.sansabafirstumc.com**

**Debby Lake, Pastor**

**We bid you welcome  
In the name of  
Our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Pray with us,  
Sing with us, rejoice  
with us**

**Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
First Worship 10:00 a.m.**



**Ministers:**

**Entire Congregation  
Worship Leader:  
Tracey Thomas**

**Pianist/Organist:  
Nettie Oma Carpenter**

**Choir Director:  
Tracey Thomas**

**Church Secretary:  
Debbie Uli**

**Custodian:  
Mario Mendiola**

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.” – Psalm 51:10*

I tried something new this Lent – I revisited some readings I hadn’t looked at in a number of years. My attention was caught by *The Upper Room*’s emphasis, in its earlier Lenten devotionals, on “a new heart” as a vital part of wholeness.

Psalm 51 warrants our attention and reflection in this regard. In this psalm, the writer cautions that this new heart will require much getting used to. To be ready for the new heart, one must take inventory of one’s entire system. Now that sounds like more than a little work to me, not to mention the time factor.

In our fast-paced world of high-speed electronic communications from around the globe, live coverage of a war thousands of miles away viewed in the comfort of our living rooms, and instant gratification of every imaginable kind, we tend to be in the market for something more along the lines of, well quite honestly, a *miracle*. Yes, that’s exactly what’s called for ... the neat, clean, quick, miraculous touch of God ... then we can get on with our busy lives.

While God’s touch is *always* miraculous, we humans tend to confuse miraculous with *immediate*. Immediate it may not be. Just as our physical breaks heal over time, our spiritual, emotional, and relational brokenness, more often than not, will require the distance, reflection, and change that comes about only over the course of time. And, yes, often these are words that we don’t want to hear. So intense can be our pain that “Make it stop ... NOW!” is our sole priority. But lack of pain is not a sure and certain indicator of good health ... it may be the point in the process where the deepest healing *begins* rather than a sign of completion.

We also tend to forget that our God is a God who created us with what often turns out to be a mixed blessing ... free will. In giving us free will, God has allowed us to freely choose, thereby saying to us, “I will not force myself upon you.” In the context of healing and transformation, we need to *ask* God to enter into those broken places, to explore those aching, gaping areas with us, and to fill the fractures with God’s own Self and God’s grace.

We all come to this point in life wounded in some way, carrying the result and the burden of past actions. A new heart, a heart transformed and made new by the power of the Living God, propels us forward into our future actions. When we are wounded by life, Christ calls us to go out and bind up someone else’s wounds. Christ calls us to move through our hurts to become a “wounded healer.” Christ calls us to make a contribution to this life, a contribution that brings joy and acceptance somewhere, beauty and forgiveness *those*

*Continued on the next page.....*



**Prayer Concerns**

David and Barbara Gilger and Fam.  
 Raylee Pannell (testing/continuous fever)  
 Betty Smith (Daniel Smith's Mother)  
 Sherri Smith  
 Danny Duggan's Fam.  
 Kaye Clancey (Chemo treatments/transplant)&Fam  
 Bettye McLaughlin  
 Dr. Sharon Horowitz (recovery)  
 Russel Stanfield and Fam.  
 John Bannister(health) and Nancy Clayton Anderson  
 James and Pat Reavis  
 Katie Andreas (Trish Warren's cousin)  
 Thelma Millican (nursing home)  
 Gordan Hall (prostrate cancer)  
 Roy Caviness  
 Kathren Wolfe (Martha Schanhals)  
 Mrs. McDowell (Mike's Mom)  
 Margaret Ann Seiders (Celia Bell's Mom)  
 Sam Jones (Lewis Jones Brother)  
 Landon Yarbrough  
 Peter Hald  
 Daniel Smith  
 Connie Raesner Perry  
 Jeannette Toole  
 Pete and Sue Hemenway (friends of Trish Warren)  
 Mark Owens (safety)  
 Nick Stripling (Pat Reavis Grandson)  
 Mitchell, Johna, Madison and Matthew Moss

*In Our Military*  
 Alex Dove, Eric Booker,  
*In A phganastan*  
 Matthew Barrier, Ralph Kintzen, Jay Huggins,  
 Matthew Phinney, Andy Smith, Andrew Reynolds  
 Cory Clendennen, John Paul, Jay Dewitt  
 Please Pray for Our Troops,  
 All Our Military Men and Women  
 Our City, Our Nation, Our Church,

Continued from the first page.....  
 somewhere, life and hope somewhere.

All of this will take getting used to and will require a new way of being. Getting a new heart takes time. What is more worthy of our time?

I invite you to join in my personal prayer that has evolved from my own journey this Lent ... a journey that has both challenged me and renewed me.

*I invite you, Lord, into my places of pain ... into my loneliness and isolation, into my confusion, into my feelings of rejection and betrayal, into my loss, into my utter helplessness, into my anger, into my hopelessness, into my discouragement, into my emptiness. Journey with me as I openly and honestly face my wounds and keep me from the unhealthy path of denial or escape. Touch those places in me with your presence, your love, and your grace. Strengthen my heart to be resilient rather than rigid, forgiving rather than grudging, compassionate rather than calloused. Free my heart from enslavement to all the things of this world, whether material things, persons, or attitudes, so that all that I am and all that I do is filtered through your loving heart. May this Easter be, for me, a resurrection of my heart. Amen.*



In His Spirit,  
**Debby**

**Finance Committee Notes**

**As of March 31, 2011, the church's income totaled \$33,818, and our expenses were \$33,616. This congregation is to be commended for being so faithful and regular in contributing to the ministries of this church.**

**Balances in our accounts on March 31 were:**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>20,389</b>	<b>Capital Improvement Fund</b>	<b>9,865</b>
<b>Youth Fund</b>	<b>7,277</b>	<b>St. Stephens Fund</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Memorial Fund</b>	<b>4,772</b>	<b>Endowment Fund</b>	<b>10,390</b>

**The Finance Committee will meet again in April. One item of business will be to make plans for the church yard sale. The current date for that is Saturday, June 4. Remember to save any items you might wish to contribute as you do your "spring housekeeping." If you would like to volunteer to work on this project, please let me know. One use of the proceeds will be to fund the new draperies to be installed behind the choir loft—thanks to the efforts of Lesa Schultz.**

**Submitted by: Millie Burnham**





**Easter Sunrise Service**

**Sunday April 24th**

**Barbara & David Gilger's**

**To Be Announced**

**XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**

**Check with Your**

**Sunday School Teacher**

**To see If Your S. S. Class  
is Meeting  
On Easter Sunday**

**XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**



**Bring Flowers**

**For the Cross**

**Easter Sunday**



**FaithWeaver Friends New Schedule!**

The FaithWeaver Friends Schedule will be adjusted for the next three weeks to accommodate the school schedule. The elementary school will be dismissing at 4:05 for the following three weeks, so FaithWeaver Friends will be starting at 4:30pm. We will still be playing on the playground from 4:15pm to 4:30pm while we wait for all the kids and volunteers to arrive. At 4:30pm, we'll launch into praise and worship in our opening celebration and then blast through our discovery centers! Our closing program will still begin at 5:20pm and the children will be dismissed at 5:30pm.

We're looking forward to seeing you all at our final FaithWeaver Friends Dinner on Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:20pm!



**The Pandas Are Coming!**

Plans are currently underway to create a totally awesome experience for the children of our community! Vacation Bible School 2011 will be held June 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. Please join us in prayer and ask God to prepare the hearts of church members, workers, high school volunteers and children who will attend our VBS. The decorating team will start working soon. Please contact Monica if you could donate (or allow us to borrow) any of the following: stuffed toy panda bears, bamboo, green paper or cellophane, silk leaves, green material, paper lanterns, and paper umbrellas. Join us for our next planning meeting on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.



Faith Weavers Friend's  
 Supper  
 Wednesday  
 April 13th  
 5:30 p.m.  
 Church parlor

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



Big Church Basement  
 Sale  
 Saturday, June 4th.

What Will Be Your  
 Contribution?

Will You Work A shift?

Do You Have Items to  
 Donate?

Will You Make a Purchase?

Proceeds to Help the Choir  
 Loft Make Over

## First Ladies

Eleven UMW members met in the church parlor on March 14<sup>th</sup>. As the ladies arrived they signed cards for those who were ill. Nettie Oma Carpenter called the meeting to order and gave the devotional. Wahnee Stallings read the minutes of the January meeting, made corrections and read a card of thanks from Zolly Jones. There was no meeting in February. Three ladies went to the meeting in Comfort for the mission study on John. Treasurer Carol Littlefield was absent so there was no Treasurer's Report. Wahnee Stallings presented the program "A Call to Prayer and Self Denial". Hostesses Nettie Oma Carpenter and Suzanne Walters served refreshments. The next meeting will be held April 11<sup>th</sup> with Pastor Debby presenting the program.

Submitted by Wahnee Stallings

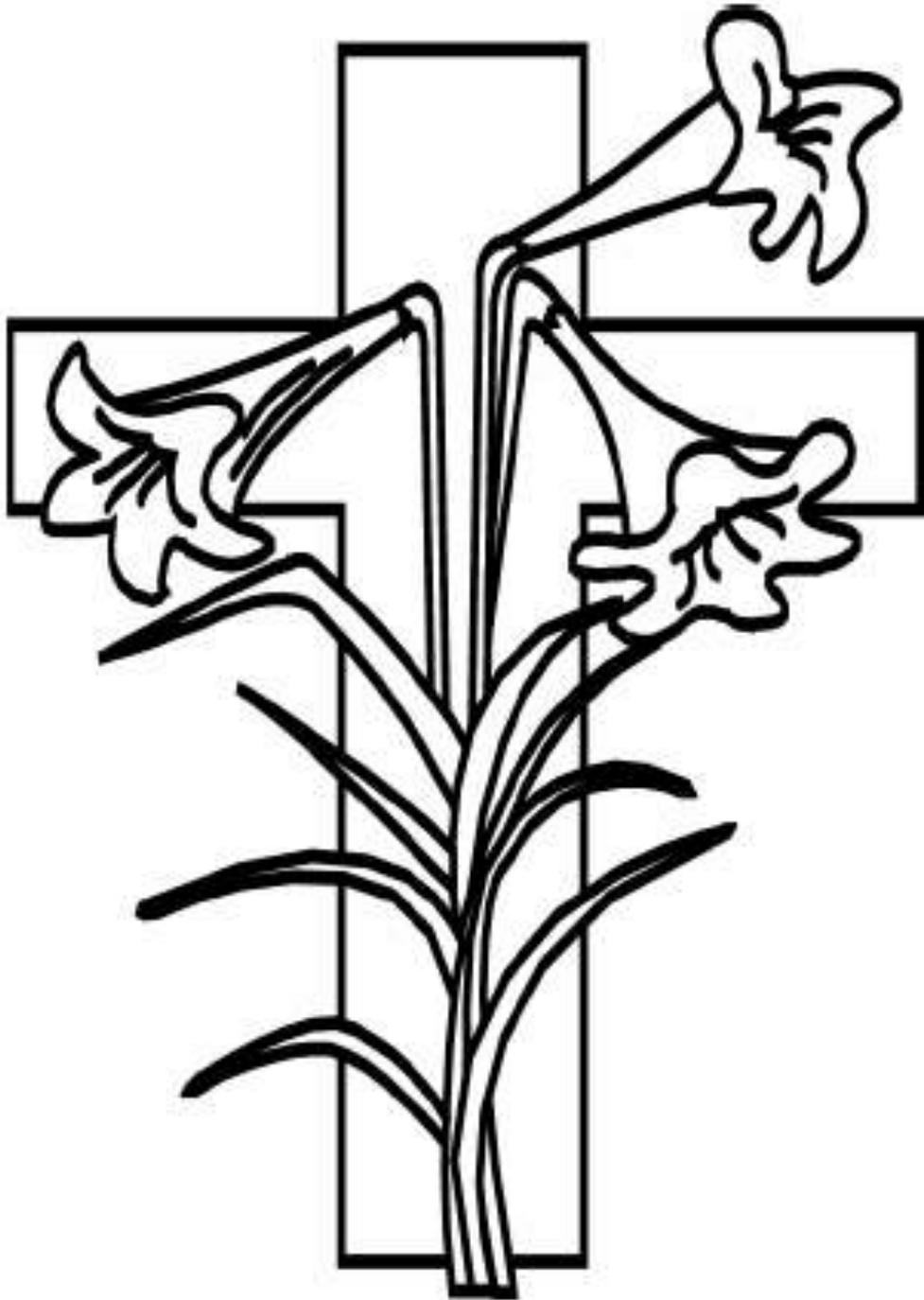


Thanks to all of those who helped create a special alter arrangement and banners for the Lenten season. Also for the stage the Praise Team now

## Holy Week Schedule

Mon. April 18	1st Presbyterian Church 12:00 noon
Tues. April 19	1st Presbyterian Church 12:00 noon (Pastor Lake Preaching)
Wed. April 20	1st Presbyterian Church 12:00 noon
Thurs. April 21	Maundy Thurs. Service 1st Presbyterian Church Time
Good Fri. April 22	Good Friday Service Time: TBA at FUMC San Saba

# Kid's Coloring Page



## Our Church Family

Our church family has some great kids in it. They are busy like all kids. What have they been up to? Casey Mathis wrapped up her basketball season recently. Her team went 10-4 this year and got first place in the San Saba Tournament and the Goldthwaite Tournament. Her brother J.T. is busy with baseball. He is the varsity 2nd baseman. The Dillos are in 2nd place in district right now. Ryan is the bat boy for his brother's team. He feels pretty special as he was included in the team picture. Another one of our kids is Raley Kirk. She is a member of the Jr. Lady Dillos basketball team. Did you see the team pictures in the newspaper? They just finished their season and placed 2nd in the Brownwood & Goldthwaite Tournaments and 1st in the San Saba Tournament. Raley also made Jr. High Cheerleader for next year. She also was on the honor roll. Jackson Thornton celebrated his 3rd birthday recently. Risien Shahan won the limbo contest at the Chamber of Commerce Banquet. Derek & Nicole Sears were in from Tech for spring break. Derek made a quick out of state trip during the week. Did you see Genni Hamilton's picture has also been in the paper? She is a member of the San Saba High School's One Act Play cast. Their public performance was this week and they are headed to competition. She also received 1st place band honors recently. It sure was good to see J.T. Moody back in church this last Sunday. He is horseback riding again after an accident where he got a concussion. Risien, Madison and Gracen Shahan are enjoying a new swimming pool in their backyard. The water is not too cold for them but it has been for their mom and dad. Margaret Haug, formerly of Austin, has been attending 1st church for several weeks now. You will find her sitting close to Elsie Millican. She is excited about her two new great granddaughters born recently and has another one coming in May. Do you remember when John Paul Dretke attended our church. Well, he remembers us and sent a big hello to us through Lesa Schultze. It was good to see Eddie Campbell out and about following his knee surgery. Peter Hald has been actively involved in the local Relay for Life. He participated in the 5K run fund raiser. Be sure and see him if you would like to contribute some money to the cause. Tracey Thomas, her mother, her aunt, her sister and her middle niece traveled to sunny California for a visit with Lindsey and Derek Pugh. Bet they also work in some sight seeing. Jason Everett was sick for 11 days. I bet there was a big celebration in his house when he got to feeling better. Debby Lake (Debby, you notice that this time I have it spelled right) was the speaker for the recent Fellowship of Christian Women in Richland Springs. Word has it that she did a great job speaking. She has been busy making trips to watch her granddaughter play softball. It sure is good to have George Kidd back at church. He retired and almost immediately he needed back surgery. On top of it all, his wife Margaret fell and broke her hip. These hot spring days call for snow cones. Mindy Cantu is ready to serve you a cool treat. She is in a new location just across the street from her old location. Bob Millican, Kevin and Monica Shahan and crew all headed to Austin to watch the Lady Dillos play their final four basketball game. Nicole Grant and Elise met them there and then came to San Saba for their spring break. Owen & Linda Parks, Debby Lake, Tracey Thomas, Ken & Cindy Prater and others have all made trips to check on Barbara and David Gilger. David has began doing physical therapy each day. David & Alesha Rogers traveled to his national convention in Nevada. Genni enjoyed the company of her aunt for several days. Abby Millican is the newest addition to the Millican Family. She is the daughter of Winston & Kristen Millican, granddaughter of Bob & Debbie Millican and great granddaughter of Elise Millican and Margaret Haug. Cherry Kay Lange will be off to China with her traveling buddies for several days. Bet she will find lots of fascinating sights and will come back with lots to tell. Margaret Rice's son Rode had a bad motorcycle accident. He has gone home and is improving. Lesa & Ronnie Schultze enjoyed having their niece for a week-end. Jantzen Bell is on the San Saba middle school track team. Guess we know what Jantzen does after school every day. The Chamber of Commerce honored Lesa Schultze as Woman of the Year, Kevin Shahan, as Man of the Year and the Business of the Year was Everett's Furniture Store. I think that should be considered a clean sweep. Melanie Mathis' mom visited one Sunday so she could attend several of her grandchildren's functions. It is always good to have you visit with us.