



San Saba First United Methodist Church April 2016 Newsletter

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

Rev. John Saint, 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.
Worship 10:00 a.m.**



**Ministers:
Entire Congregation
Accompanist:
Nettie Oma Carpenter
Choir Director:
Tracey Thomas
Church Secretary
Kristi Owens
Church Treasurer
Kevin Shahan
Custodian:
Mario Mendiola**

**Newsletter deadline is the last
Wednesday of the month.**

From the Pastor's Desk.....



Mercy

*Love your enemies, do good, and lend,
expecting nothing in return...
Be merciful,
just as your Father is merciful.*

Luke 6:35-36

This month we continue our consideration of the Beatitudes.

*Beatitude 5: Blessed are the merciful:
for they will receive mercy.*

An amazing mutual exchange of benefits happens when we engage the gospel. Because God is merciful to us, we are to be merciful to others (even to our enemies!) without expecting anything in return. And yet through our experience, we know that we do receive a benefit whenever we act mercifully to others. The fifth Beatitude promises us that this is true, and our own experience backs it up: God blesses us every time we seek to be a blessing to others.

So why would Jesus, on one hand, tell us not to expect anything in return when we are good to others, and on the other hand, promise us that we will receive a blessing when we are merciful? I think it is because of our tendency to see God as the Great-Heavenly-Gumball-Machine: put in your penny and get a reward in return. We tend to view the world in a sort of tit-for-tat arrangement, like a business contract, where God forgives us only as much as we forgive others. But is this really how God operates?

Or is the truth more like an exercise in realizing our potential? Think about opening up a plastic garbage bag. When you pull it out of the box it is all folded up and can't hold anything. But if you open it a little, you can put something in it, and that opens it up a little further. The more you put into it, the more it opens and the more it can hold. Living as God intends is not a matter of tit-for-tat, but rather a matter of making increasingly available a capacity already there in potential.

Continued on page 2.....

New Altar Paraments

Thanks to the generosity of all who have contributed recently to the Memorial Fund, the church has a new set of altar paraments. These are the bookmark, the table runner, and the altar scarf used in worship. The previous paraments, which have seen many years of service, were beginning to show their age and have been retired.

The new paraments, which arrived in time for Easter Sunday, are a colorful indicator of the church seasons. Each of the major seasons of the church is represented by its own color. White is the color of purity and holiness and is used during the Easter Season to express our joy. Green is the color of new growth and is used during Ordinary time when we focus on growth as disciples. Purple is the color of royalty and is used during Advent and Lent as we prepare ourselves for God's coming. Red is the color of fire and blood, and is used during the season of Pentecost to signify the presence of the Holy Spirit.



These new paraments will provide many years of service to the edification of believers and the glory of God! !

Continued from page one.....

This month as you consider the fifth beatitude, I invite you to pray this prayer with me:

God of all mercy:

Again and again you forgive us;

time after time you extend to us your helping hand.

Protect us from the false belief that either

your mercy is automatic,

or that we must earn it.

Spare us from the thought that we deserve your mercy

or that our enemies deserve to be treated without mercy.

Confront us with the mystery of your grace,

which is beyond all human comprehension.

Empower us to be merciful in your name,

so that those who watch us

may see beyond us

to find you there.

Through Christ, your mercy made flesh. Amen.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John

Sunrise Service

Over 80 people attended the Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday at the David Gilger home. Although it ended up windy and cold, it was a great time of fellowship. The breakfast served afterward was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the Gilger's for always hosting this for our church family and the community.



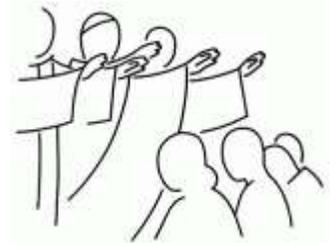
Prayer Concerns

Amanda Jackson (Pecan Valley Nursing Home & Rehab)
Brad Reeves & Mark Owns (safety)
Stan & Millie Burnham (Stan is at home)
Rain—thanks for another good rain
Zolly Jones (former member now in Windcrest Nursing Home)
Our Church, Our Town & Our Nation

Jason Ketchum
Family of Mr. Milam (Alexis Saint's dad)
Mayra Miller (loss of mother)
Our Military Men, Women & Families

Did You Know?

The money left on the altar rail Communion Sunday goes into the St. Stephens Fund. It is used to help people in need. Your contributions are welcome.



2016 Confirmation Class

What a special day it was! After attending several weeks of confirmation classes the following teens (Jaycie Everett, Madison Shahan, Sarah Saint, Risien Shahan, & Jaden Owens) became full fledged members of San Saba FUMC. Owen Parks, Administration Council Chairman, Cindy Hawkins, Lay Leader, and John Saint presided over the ceremony. Each was present a bible to mark the special occasion. Lots of their family members and friends worshiped with us so they could witness the ceremony.

Our Church Family

Spring is a busy time of year for our church family. There is lots going on. Laina Murray certainly was on the road during her spring break from Llano High School. She celebrated her mom's birthday, had some time with the grandkids in Houston, went to the Abilene Zoo with some more grandkids and even had time to do a little goat shopping. Jaden Owens and Shea Scott both celebrated birthdays in March. Shea came home from Angelo State University to spend the weekend with her family. Kristy took Jaden to Great Wolf Lodge for her birthday. Then for spring break they went and spent several days at the ranch. Raley Kirk was elected a San Saba High School cheerleader for the 2016-17 year. Jaycie Everett is also going to be a San Saba Middle School cheerleader for next year. Congratulations, girls. Amanda Jackson has enjoyed playing bingo at the nursing home. She won a prize of some cheetos. She really enjoyed her the snack and she didn't mind at all that it ruined her appetite for lunch. The McEwin family is really busy preparing for Katie's wedding to Cory Lee in Fredericksburg on May 14th. The Gilgers are also very busy helping Kelly and John Reavis get ready for Johna's wedding to Dustin Morgan on April 16th at the Gilger pecan bottom. I am happy to report that Stan Burnham is at home. His Physical Therapist had him practicing how to get in and out of the car so he could go home. Brady Home Health will be assisting him at home. Nelda Weatherby has gotten another treatment for her eye but is doing ok. Kristi Addington and her family came to visit with her family, Sam & Laina Murray and Lee & Kelly Murray. Congratulations goes out to Betty McLaughlin. She has sold her place in the country and will be moving to town soon! Have you met Mike & Holly Wise yet? They are the parents of Mark Wise and have moved to San Saba county. They have visited with us several Sunday's. Cherry Kay Lange has been busy making all the activities (football, volleyball, basketball, track and baseball) of her grandchildren Kaymon and Justin, students of Llano ISD. Kaymon was named to the All district team in basketball and was the only one on her team to receive the honor. Justin is a member of a Central Texas select baseball team. Linda Park's yard was overflowing with kids, and parents. She and Owen hosted the San Saba 4th grade Easter Party of about 60 fourth graders.. It certainly looked like the kids were having a great time. Madison Shahan and Jaycie Everett are playing on a traveling basketball team this spring. Their team won the Coleman tournament this past weekend. Jason Everett is excited that baseball season is here for him. Shannon Hampu enjoyed having her granddaughters visit her over the Easter week-end. Nicole, Darren & Elise Grant were here for Easter week-end and made the rounds of seeing all of the Millican family. Paula & Raymond Barrier worshiped with us Easter Sunday. Paula looked stunning in a turquoise suit that her children had given her. Kevin Shahan made the Down Memory Lane in the San Saba News & Star newspaper. Seems like he made a boat and competed in the first annual SS Mill Pond Cardboard Regatta 10 years ago. Mike & Tracey Thomas are off to San Antonio to babysit their grandchildren while their mom gets recognized in her nursing program. We express our sympathy to Alexis & John Saint on the loss of her father. Services are pending at this time.



A big thanks to Lee Murray for getting FUMC a ladder and then replacing the light bulbs in the sanctuary lights.

