



San Saba First United Methodist Church August 2014 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
Worship Leader:
Tracey Thomas
Accompanist:
Nettie Oma Carpenter
Choir Director:
Tracey Thomas
Church Secretary
Karen Alexander
Custodian:
Mario Mendiola**

From the Pastor's Desk.....

Spiritual Disciplines

“God's command to "pray without ceasing" is founded on the necessity we have of his grace to preserve the life of God in the soul, which can no more subsist one moment without it, than the body can without air.”
~John Wesley

Life is busy. We live in a world that goes twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. For me, finding time to do all the things I have to do, not to mention the things I want to do, is a constant challenge. When my days get especially busy, some things are easier to put off than others. The spiritual discipline of daily prayer and meditation on the Scriptures is one of those things. If I don't get my article in for the newsletter before the deadline, or I am late sharing information with the worship team, other peoples' work and lives are affected. But who will notice if I skip my morning devotional time?

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, is said to have spent four hours in prayer every day, and up to eight hours if he was particularly busy! I'm afraid Mr. Wesley would be disappointed in me. Still, I agree that without the discipline of daily prayer and scripture reading, my life would soon spin out of control. Reading the Bible and praying each morning helps me feel connected to God and neighbor, and gives me a strong sense of what is important for me to focus on for the day.

When I first began forming the habit of praying each morning I had difficulty in finding devotional materials that I liked. Some were brief, which was nice, but their brevity seemed to trivialize daily prayer, like passing God on the street and saying “hello,” rather than sustaining a conversation with the One who loves us and offers us lifegiving grace. Other materials lacked the flexibility to meet my daily needs; to change with the rhythms of the seasons, and my own particular concerns. My biggest gripe with most devotional materials is that they tend to be individualistic, stressing “my time alone with God,” which I find odd, since the Christian life is markedly one lived in relationship with others. Jesus' own teaching on prayer is entirely corporate in nature: Our Father...give us...forgive us...lead us...deliver us.

Continued on page 2.....

Continued from page 1.....

I eventually found a devotional guidebook that spoke to my soul. It balances communal and individual expressions of love for God and love for neighbor, by touching on acts of piety and acts of charity. Piety just means love for God, as expressed through congregational worship and study, partaking of the Lord's Supper, private prayer and study, fasting (yes, fasting!), and focusing on God's grace. Acts of charity are the ways we express love for our neighbors: seeking social justice and performing acts of compassion for those on the margins of society.

Finding a devotional guide I liked made practicing the spiritual discipline of daily prayer and meditation much easier, and I encourage you to find devotionals which bring joy to your soul. Over the next several months I will be sharing some of the insights I have gained through the practice of daily prayer and meditation on the scriptures. Next month I will write about new beginnings.

Grace and peace,
Pastor John

Stewardship Report

General Fund

Income for July, 2014	\$9,220
Expenses for July, 2014	\$11,316
Current Balance on July 30, 2014	\$4,192

There was an error in the July Stewardship report. Our expenses to date on June 24 were \$10,913, not 19,913. My apologies.

Submitted by Millie Burnham

ATTENTION ALL WHO LOVE TO SING WITH JOY!

Choir practice will begin on Wednesday, August 13 at 6:00 pm. If you have wanted to sing in the choir but were afraid you didn't have "the voice", no worries! You can sing softly, listen to others and train your voice to get better and stronger with time! We have a great time learning music of faith and enjoying fellowship with one another. If we need a nursery, we can arrange that too, just let us know! See you there!

Submitted by Tracey Thomas

**MYF Planning Meeting
Monday,
August 4th
3 PM
Shahan 's Home**



**You Are Invited To
MFY Kick Off
September 7, 2014
Come & Join The Fun
Bring a Friend**

September 19-29, 2014
Mt. Wesley Conference Center

**All Conference
laity and clergy
are invited to participate
in this timely training!**

Over half of US Protestants are active members in small membership churches. Even so, ministry in these congregations comes with its own set of challenges and opportunities. The Kerrville District invites pastors and laity to come together for an overnight retreat at Mt. Wesley to learn from each other and be inspired by one another, as well as learn new ideas for ministry and mission. *Methodist Institute for Religion and Research, May-June 2014*

*Growing
our
Vital Small Church*



Kerrville District Office
222 Sidney Baker South, Suite 528
Kerrville TX 78028

Discovering the Possibilities Seminar for the Small Church

Every congregation has the potential to be faithful and fruitful in ministry. Statistics are clear, however, that this is not the current reality for many of our congregations.

Discovering the Possibilities is a process designed to give congregations a realistic sense of what fulfilling their ministry potential might mean.

Much can be learned about the effectiveness of a local congregation through data that is readily available, but traditionally scattered in a variety of locations.

**Plan on bringing a
leadership team from your
church.**

Registration Form
Deadline-August 15, 2014
September 19-20, 2014

Mail this form to:
Kerrville District Office
222 Sidney Baker South, Suite 528
Kerrville TX 78028

Or
Register by phone at 830-896-6400

Name _____
Address _____

Church Name: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Dietary restrictions: _____

Workshop LOCATION

Mount Wesley Conference Center
610 Methodist Encampment Road
Kerrville, TX 78028

COST

___\$30.00 per person - One night stay at Mt Wesley with three (3) meals provided (Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, Saturday lunch).

___\$15.00 per person - Stay off campus. Three meals only (Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, Saturday lunch).

___\$10.00 per person - Stay off campus and NO meals

Must bring Mt. Wesley room items (bedding and personal toiletries).
Bring Bible, pen and paper for sessions.

**Mario's Vacation
August 24-
September 7**

**Please Help Out While
Mario is on
Vacation**

Pat Belk
% The Regency
75-181 Haulalai Rd
Apt. C 408
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

The Scott Mathis
Family
711 E. Mayfield
Karnes City, TX 78118

Hi stori c
Bend Camp Meeting
August 21-24
Methodist
Camp Grounds
On Cherokee Creek
Time TBA
(probabl y 7: 30 p. m.)

Our Church Family

Summer time always means lot of going and coming. Our church family is no exception. JT Moody traveled to Mississippi to visit his uncle. JT had a great time and stayed a six weeks. He is home now and getting ready for school to start. Raley Kirk has done her share of keeping the road hot. She attended basketball camp in New Mexico and was on a local team that spent several week-ends playing tournaments from May to July. Raley and the rest of the San Saba High School cheerleaders attended cheerleading camp at Great Wolf Lodge and was selected an All American Cheerleader. She has the opportunity to participate in the New Years Day parade in London. She also attended the Ranch Brigade Camp at the Warren Ranch, Santa Anna, TX. To close out the summer she is headed to Schlitterbahn with friends and to a family reunion. Jaycie and Jason Everett are staying cool in a new swimming pool at their house. Jason, I believe, expects to go swimming every afternoon. Trish and Henry Warren have entertained **their grandson twins (Lyle's sons) for several days. Bet the boys had a great time.** Barbara & David Gilger hosted two family reunions—the Moore and Fletcher. David did some cooking to keep those groups with plenty of food. Alexis Saint took Ian, Read, and Sarah to Port Aransas to church camp. Alexis stayed and visited with some friends before returning home. Stan Burnham had a big milestone birthday. Ninety years old. I hope they had a big cake to hold all those candles. Derek Sears spent six weeks in Australia and is home safe and sound. Nicole Sears has a job once she has finished the fall semester of law school. Del, her dad, is very glad. Several church family members have been under the weather. Mindy Cantu had gall bladder surgery and is recovering. She is hoping the doctor dismisses her this week when she goes back for a check up. Richard Jackson also had surgery and I am happy to report doing well. David Gilger spent several days in the hospital. It was a nice surprise for the Saint family. **John's mom and dad and brother and sister-in-law** just showed up for a visit the 4th of July week-end. Cindy & Ken Prater spent the 4th at the Brister Reunion. Cindy hosted the cousins camp immediately following the reunion and reported she had lots of good help this year. Travis & Kathy Gage have enjoyed having their grandsons this month. One Friday they were headed to the Bob Bullock Museum and the IMAX there. Sounds like a good way to spend a hot summer day. Thanks goes out to all who assisted with Meals on Wheels. Jennifer & Brad Reeves are the proud aunt and uncle of twin boys born to her brother and sister-in-law. Wylie Murray, son of Lee & Kelly Murray, will be having surgery on August 27. Please keep him in your prayers.

Prayer Concerns

Shannon Hampu health	Travis & Kathy Gage cancer treatments for Travis
Amanda Jackson health	His brother's address is 22803 Oak Ridge Trail,
Ronnie Schmidt health	Leander, Tx 78641
Peter Hald cancer treatments	Lylah Mills (Henry & Trish Warren's family)
Richard Jackson surgery	Sue Moody
Mindy Cantu surgery	Elsie Millican health
David Gilger recovery	Linda Brewer surgery recovery (John Saint's sister)
Mark Owens safety	Karen Alexander's mom health
Danny Shaw cancer	Our Military Men, Women & Families
Harrison Hamer bereavement	Our Church, Our Town & Our Nation



From Fellowship Of Christian Women



Left: John & Alexis Saint sang a song at FCW hosted by SS UMC.
 Right: Jenny Tucker, pastor at the Bend /Lometa UMC was the speaker at FCW.

Autumn In The Hills

Sept 16-18, 2014

www.umcswtx.org/autumn-hills

Life · Love · Light

Senior Christian Retreat

Welcomes

Rev. Dr. Ruben Saenz

Director of Connectional Ministries in the new Rio Texas Conference, and Executive Director, New Church Development and Transformation



Mount Wesley Conference Center

[Jesus said] I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.

—John 10:10b
The Message

Dr. Saenz says, "Ministry is about offering others, through word and deed, new and abundant life in God through faith in Jesus Christ."

Sponsored by Joint Council on Older Adult Ministries, San Antonio Episcopal Area, The United Methodist Church, and funded in part by the Program Priority Fund



Josh Thomas was presented a life saving medal by the San Antonio Chef of Police recently. His quick actions saved a gunshot victim until he could be transported. Mike & Tracey Thomas, Josh's parents attended the ceremony.



Presentations made by Rev. Dr. Ralph Mann, Rev. John McMullen, & Rev. Valerie Sansing
 Deadline to register for the retreat is August 29, 2014.
 For more information go to www.umcswtx.org/autumn-hills

Thoughts About Church Camp

Sarah Saint Said:

My favorite part about church camp was getting to have free time with my friends. The experience at worship was enjoyable because of the mood in the room. It was a cool feeling. I learned that I don't have everything about my faith figured out yet but I still can carry a discussion on Methodism and Christianity.

Read Saint's Said:

My favorite part of camp was the bon fire. Nobody waited for the fire to recede to embers to roast marshmallows. It was funny to watch people use innovative way to get close enough to roast marshmallows. The experience at evening worship was very moving. It helped me strengthen my walk with God. I learned that I need to create a stronger connection with God and the Christian community

Ian Saint Said:

My overall favorite part of church camp was probably the fact that it was at the beach. The surf, the sand, the pool and lounging around were all really fun. The worship was great. The songs and the messages presented were deep and meaningful. The small group aspect only added to the atmosphere of learning and loving. The week at beach camp only deepened my relationship with God; and those who worship and praise him.



**Back To School Blessings
Bring Your Backpack
10:00 A.M.
Sunday August 24
Covered Dish Luncheon
To Follow**

Roasted Garlic & Parmesan Cauliflower

1 large head of cauliflower, cut into florets
2 TBSP extra virgin olive oil
7 medium garlic cloves, sliced (or to taste)
1/4 cup Parmesan cheese
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. freshly ground pepper

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees and line large baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. In large mixing bowl, add all ingredients and stir gently with spatula to coat evenly.
3. Transfer in a single layer onto prepared baking sheet and roast for 20 minutes or until soft to touch with a fork.
4. Serve immediately while hot and crisp.

Submitted by
Carolyn McDowell

