

# FIRST NEWS



**San Saba  
First United Methodist Church**

**December 2010**

**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**

## **From the Pastor's Study.....**

As we frantically rush to get through the countless tasks and activities which seem to be an inherent part of the Holiday Season, my musings this month will, perhaps, throw you off balance. The season that we are entering is Advent – a time for waiting.

“Advent” is derived from a Latin word meaning “coming.” And it is the comings of the Christ for which we wait – whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate.



Like you, I am caught between the sense of urgency to enter the chaotic confusion that surrounds us at this time of year, and the admonition to wait. When I need to regain my equilibrium and deal with the pull of seemingly opposing forces, I turn to the writings of Christian author Henri Nouwen. On the subject of Advent (and waiting), Nouwen once again offers wise counsel:

“Waiting is essential to the spiritual life. But waiting as a disciple of Jesus is not an empty waiting. It is a waiting with a promise in our hearts that makes already present what we are waiting for. ... We are always waiting, but it is a waiting in the conviction that we have already seen God’s footsteps.

“Waiting for God is an active, alert – yes, joyful – waiting. As we wait we remember him for whom we are waiting, and as we remember him we create a community ready to welcome him when he comes.

“How do we wait for God? We wait with patience. But patience does not mean passivity. Waiting patiently is not like waiting for the bus to come, the rain to stop, or the sun to rise. It is an active waiting in which we live the present moment to the full, in order to find there the signs of the One we are waiting for. “The word patience comes from the Latin verb *patior*, which means ‘to suffer.’ Waiting patiently is suffering through the present moment, tasting it to the full, and letting the seeds that are sown in the ground on which we stand grow into strong plants. Waiting patiently always means paying attention to what is happening right before our eyes and seeing there the first rays of God’s glorious coming.”

May you leave the frantic confusion behind this year and learn the art of waiting for Christ and his gifts with an eager and joyful heart. And may your waiting be marked with patience and a living more fully in the grace of each moment.

In His Spirit,  
*Debby*

## Prayer Concerns

Bettye McLaughlin  
Dr. Sharon Horowitz (very bad wreck, friend of Dr. Pamela Yu Nancy B.'s daughter-in-law)  
F.L. Kalmus and Family  
Lee, Deborah & Hollee Ragsdale & Family  
Kaye Clancey (Chemo treatments/transplant) & Family  
Deborah Ragsdale's Aunt  
John Bannister (health) & Nancy  
Bernard Goss (Surgery)  
Mike Millican and Family  
Abe Galloway's Family  
Clayton Anderson  
Debbie Pullen's Son and Family  
Kathleen Turner (Bettye's sister)  
James Reavis  
Katie Andreas (Trish Warren's cousin)  
Thelma Millican (nursing home)  
Gordan Hall (prostrate cancer)  
Roy Caviness  
Kathren Wolfe (Martha Schanhals)  
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)  
James and Pat Reavis  
Nick Stripling (Pat Reavis Grandson)  
Mitchell, Johna, Madison and Matthew Moss  
    In Our Military  
    Alex Dove, Eric Booker, Cory Clendennen, In Aphganastan, Matthew Barrier, Ralph Kintzen, Jay Huggins, Matthew Phinnery, Andy Smith, Andrew Reynolds  
All Our Military Men & Women  
    Our City, Our Nation,  
    Our church.

## Thanksgiving Blessings



**What a joy the Thanksgiving dinner was! The church smelled like Thanksgiving, the hustle and bustle of the women in the kitchen was, the youth being first in line, food every where you looked, people visiting, etc. A round of applause to Linda Parks and all her kitchen crew for making it happen. Pictured here are Jacey and Brandon Everett in front of the church as they arrived on November 21st.**

## First Ladies News

Our ladies had quite a treat last month! Sue Sidney and guests came to share with the ladies about the United Methodist Women General Assembly which was held this past year in St. Louis, Mo. All of our ladies were very impressed with their enthusiasm, humor, and compassion as they told of the different missions they stopped to visit along the way and the events of the Assembly.

After the program, we were blessed with homemade soup and dessert provided by hostesses Pat Belk and Cherry Kay Lange. Our next meeting will be December 13th for a Christmas program given by Barbara Gilger. Hostesses scheduled are Nettie Oma Carpenter and Suzanne Walters. Come enjoy the fellowship of Christian sisters!!



# First Choir News



All choir members are putting finishing touches on "O Holy Night", a Christmas cantata to be offered as a Christmas gift and message to the people of this community. A number of friends from other churches have been joining with us as we practice to give our very best to those who can come and most of all to God--our audience!! The presentation will be on December 12th at 6:00 pm. Please consider taking time from your busy Christmas schedule of events to relax and hear what Christmas is all about. Also, will you care enough to invite someone to come with you? This may be just the message a friend needs to hear this season. Refreshments and fellowship will follow downstairs, but the night will not be late or long.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



**Faith Weavers Friends  
And**

**MYF**

**On Christmas Vacation  
Beginning**

**December 1st**



Announcing the birth of little Miss Zoe Lealynn Thomas, born on November 19th and weighing in at 6 lb 10 oz. Proud parents are Josh and Megan Thomas. Avery is the very excited big sister, and very willing to share pictures are grandparents Mike and Tracey Thomas.



A large crowd enjoyed great food and fellowship at the Thanksgiving Lunch held November 21.



Deadline for  
January  
Church Newsletter:  
December 29th  
(last Wednesday in month)

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



### Church Conference

Sunday Dec. 5th  
5 p.m.

Church Sanctuary,

Sandwiches and  
Cookies are needed  
for this event.

See Linda Parks or  
her sign up sheet.

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### Cub Scouts Visit Historic San Saba County Jail



On Monday November 15th, the 2nd grade cub scouts of Pack 55 visited our local San Saba County Jail. Sheriff Allen Brown hosted the boys and their parents/guardians and shared historic facts about the jail, including that our jail was built in 1884 and is currently the oldest operating jail facility in the entire nation. He shared details regarding the renovations performed and the change in the outlay of the facility since his taking over as Sheriff. Additionally we toured the facility's first floor jail cell, the holding cell for intoxicated prisoners and those under the influence of drugs, the control center/ dispatcher office, and the Sheriff's patrol car. Sheriff Brown concluded the tour with an electrifying demonstration of how and when officers use tasers to subdue individuals in situations where they become a necessity. I want to thank Sheriff Brown for his movement of inmates to the 2nd floor and other procedures necessary in preparation for hosting the following Cub Scouts: Landon Short, Johnny Meador, TJ Grant, Risien Shahan, Christian Van Bibber, Polo Davila, and Justin Beck. I appreciate his taking time to educate the cub scouts about the San Saba County Jail and other related operations.

Submitted by Kevin Shahan

### Christmas Caroling

It's almost time to load up on the hay trailer and go Christmas caroling! The date has been set for **December 15th**. Bring your kids, your parents, your cousins and neighbors. Load up the coats, mittens, blankets and hats. We need to be at the church at 4:45 so that we can get away as close to 5:00 pm as possible in order to be at the nursing home to sing. After that, we will travel around town going to homes and bring our Christmas cheer and blessings to some of our family who don't get out much anymore. We will end up back at church for chili and fellowship. This has been a favorite December tradition in our church and you don't have to be a member of the choir or even a good singer to be a part! O Come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!



## Our Church Family

Our church family as usual has had lots of coming and goings. Bob and Debbie Millican traveled to Tyler, Texas to spend the week-end with Nicole, Darren and Elise Grant. While there the plans included visiting Elise's school. The San Angelo Roping was the travel destination for Owen & Linda Parks and David and Barbara Gilger. Bet they had a good time. Cindy Prater spent the week-end exploring a cave. Daylon Smith wanted to spend his time hunting with his dad. He was very excited to report that he got a deer! The picture was even in the San Saba News & Star. Risien Shahan also got to deer hunting with his dad. Risien Shahan won 1st place in his age group at the Math Fest as did Jantzen Bell. Way to go, guys. We are proud of you. We would like to extend our sympathy to Debra, Lee and Hollie Ragsdale on the lose of Debra's mother. Debra's dad is spending some time with the family. Diana Manning is fully recovered from her eye surgery and is back at work at the Llano Hospital. It was good to have Alica Parker Harker and her two children in church with us. It was the week of her Dad's birthday so of course she made the trip for a week-end visit. Melanie Mathis' brother is the band director at Karnes City. The San Saba Armadillos were playing Karnes City in round one of the football playoffs. Bet there were lots of family members at the game. By the way, San Saba won. David Rogers' daughter is the drum major for her high school band this year. The band won 3rd in a recent competition. Did you hear that Sam & Miranda Uli had a baby girl recently? Debbie Uli, our church secretary, will be glad to show you a picture of her new granddaughter. Look for Jill Millican at Millican Pecan. She is now working there. George Kidd is looking forward to company over the Thanksgiving holidays. His son Trey and wife Roi Ann and family are coming to San Saba for the holiday. Ann & Don McElroy brought Don's son Eric and his two sons to church. Margaret & Bo Rice are hosting Margaret's family for Thanksgiving in Stephenville. Seems that the grandchildren requested that the event be held in Stephenville. Bo missed the Thanksgiving dinner at the church due to a case of flu. Hope you are feeling better, Bo. Belated Birthday Wishes go out to C.K. Stevenson. C.K. hope you had a good one. Klela Waldie was going to spend Thanksgiving at the Father's House. Debby Lake (that is with a "y" and not "ie") is headed out to see her family on Friday. Have you noticed that Elizabeth Bryant is without her crutches? If all goes well, she will be released from her doctor by the time you are reading this newsletter. Betty McLaughlin is having cataract surgery on one eye the week of Thanksgiving. Hope everything goes well, Bettye. Barbara and David Gilger's granddaughter Johna Reavis is a senior this year. They are being kept busy making all the basketball games. The Lady Dilloos were 2nd in the San Saba Tournament the weekend of November 19-20. Jess McDowell was in for the Thanksgiving Holidays and visited with all of his family. Mindy Cantu was going to be doing some cooking and going to her in-laws house for the big meal. Corrie & Shane Dyson were coming in on Saturday. Diana Manning was not going to have to work on Thanksgiving Day so she was going to be with the Burnham family. The Mathis family **plans weren't definite yet but they were probably going to head to San Antonio if the basketball schedule permitted.** Grant & Kristi Mays were going to be on the road. First to Midland, then to Fredonia. Have you met Tara Tharp and Avery? They have been going to Faith Weavers Friends for a while and now **they have started attending on Sunday's. Tara will display her jewelry at Commercial National Bank November 30th.**



**Christmas Cantata**

**December 12th**

**6 p.m.**

**We will be having guests from other Churches and will serve refreshments (Sandwiches, chips and cookies etc.) after the Cantata.**



**See Linda Parks if you can help.**



**Friday  
December 24  
Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
5:00 p.m.  
Everyone Welcome**



**The Children's Christmas Program**

**Sunday December 5th**

**During the 10 a.m.**

**Worship Service**

