

# FIRST NEWS



**San Saba**

**First United Methodist Church**

**December 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**

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

Thanksgiving begins it. The "it" to which I refer are the days of preparation for Christmas. We finish the turkey, watch the football games, and brace ourselves for "doing battle at the mall." The day after Thanksgiving, as we are annually reminded, is the biggest shopping day of the year.

As a kid growing up, and while raising my own children, the Thanksgiving holidays were traditionally the time for putting up the outdoor lights. Our house glittered and shined with brilliant lights by no later than dark on Sunday following Thanksgiving.

These are busy days of preparation. In the church calendar, Advent is the time of preparation for Christ's birth. Ironically enough, spiritual preparation takes time, and time is the thing we seem to have the least of during this period of the year. Furthermore, spiritual preparation takes concentration, and concentration is difficult to sustain in view of the many distractions and multiple focuses of the season.

Perhaps it is here that we are invited to pause again, and in thanksgiving, refocus ourselves on the reason for the season. Advent is a time not so much to look to the past, but to look ahead to the future, where God is to be found. Maybe this is the best lesson of this time of preparation. That is, the lesson of looking forward to God with us, not only in our past and thankfulness, but in our present amidst all the struggles, trials, anxieties, and fears of this day, and yet even more in the future to come. It's the old line that stays with me – I know not what the future holds, but I know Who holds the future.

We as Christians move forward to Christmas in this spirit. Begun in Thanksgiving, held in the knowledge of the One who holds the future, we peer ahead, gazing at the star that leads us to a stable, and from the stable, beyond into the new year, in the sure knowledge that God is with us!

May this time of preparation be for you a continual experience of the renewal of God's presence. And may the Christ Child be the centering peace of your Christmas.

In His Spirit,  
Debby





## "Faith Weaver Friends"

Wednesday's

3:45 to 5:00 pm.

Ages 4 to 3th Grade

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

## "Lies Young Women Believe and the Truth That Sets Them Free"



Tuesday Evenings

7th and 8th Girls  
Bible Study  
in the Classrooms Upstairs  
5:30 to 7:p.m.

Led by Cindy Hawkins

## First Ladies:



Around 16 United Methodist Women met in the church parlor November 14 for the annual World Thank Offering. President Nettie Oma led the business meeting where it was decided to take a vote on the future of our UMW unit. The committee has worked hard to plan for the best way our ladies could involve more members and do more good. After considerable discussion and a vote, it was determined that the UMW unit would be dissolved at the end of this year and completely restructured into something new. The committee will look more into how this new organization will work and report back at our December meeting. Suzanne led our program where we helped each other see blessings and rely on God's holy spirit to lead and guide us. We took up our offering for world missions, then joined in a fellowship time of sharing our light supper of tamales and salad prepared by Wanda and Nelda. We will meet on Dec 12 at 4:30 for the Christmas program led by Lesa. Hostesses will be Cherry Kay and Millie. As always, all are invited to attend.



Daylon Smith, son of Joe Pete & Danna Smith, killed this nice 5 point buck on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> and was one happy hunter!

## Schedule for Children's Sermons

- |            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| 1st Sunday | Communi on    |
| 2nd Sunday | Debby Lake    |
| 3rd Sunday | Lesa Schulz   |
| 4th Sunday | Cindy Prater  |
| 5th Sunday | Cindy Hawkins |





*This Christmas ornament is being sold by UMW for \$10.00. It is a great gift for family members or friends.*

*See Debbie Uli in the church office if you are interested in purchasing one.*

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

*Newsletter  
Deadline is  
Wednesday,  
December 28th  
5 p.m.*

*Email news  
to  
c-lmcd@centex.net  
Or hand deliver to  
Carolyn McDowell*

## First Choir

We are practicing hard for our Christmas cantata "Mary, Did You Know?" which we will present on **Sunday Evening Dec 18th at 6:00** in our own sanctuary. Just over 30 voices will join together to sing the beautiful and timeless songs of Christmas including parts of "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing", "Away in a Manger", "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen", "O Come, All Ye Faithful", "How Great Our Joy" as well as new favorites such as "Mary, Did You Know?", "Jesus, Messiah" and the "Hallelujah Chorus". Once again, friends from other churches have been working with us and praying together that this would be a time of witness to the amazing grace of our Lord God and His incredible choice to come to earth in the form of infant innocence for our redemption.

Once again, our friends at the Cherokee Baptist church will be sharing with us in presenting this beautiful cantata. We will be joining them to present "Mary, Did You Know?" on **Dec. 11 at 6:00**, and they will come to FUMC to sing with us on the 18th.

Please invite a friend and come hear the sounds of Christmas joy. Light refreshments will be served after the cantata, providing great time for fellowship and blessing.



**Wednesday, Dec. 21**

will be our day to go Christmas caroling on the hayride. We will meet at the church and leave close to 5:00 in order to get to the nursing home before they retire for the evening. Everyone is invited to come experience the GREAT CHRISTMAS CHEER of singing carols together--both young and old--to the shut ins of our church. After a time of caroling, we will return to church for some hot stew or chili together to warm us up!! Don't miss out!!



**Church Conference  
Sunday, December 4th  
Church Parlor  
6 p.m.**

## Prayer Concerns

*If at any time a name needs to be removed from the Prayer Concerns list, please call the office 372-3120*

### **Rain, Rain, Rain**

Cristy Thornton and Fam.  
Layton Sanford (Henry's cousin recovering from car accident)  
Nelda Edgmond (Suzanne's Friend)  
Lee Ragsdale  
F.L. Kalmus  
Weldon and Pat Faught  
Bettye McLaughlin's sister Jane  
Zolly Jones  
David and Barbara Gilger  
Linda Mixon and Fam.  
James and Pat Reavis  
Katie Andreas (continuing prayer)  
Thelma Millican (nursing home)  
Gordan Hall (prostate cancer)  
Roy Caviness  
Kathren Wolfe (Martha Schanhals)  
Mrs. McDowell (Mike's Mom)  
Margaret Ann Seiders (Celia Bell's Mom)  
Landon Yarbrough (procedures)  
Connie Raesner Perry  
Jeff and Jeannette Toole and Fam.  
Pete and Sue Hemenway (friends of Trish Warren)  
Mark Owens (safety)  
Mitchell, Johna, Madison and Matthew Moss



## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

General Fund Income for November 2011 \$10,305  
General Fund Expenses for November 2011 \$10,989

General Fund Year-to-Date Income to 11-30-11 \$127,268  
General Fund Year-to-Date Expenses to 11-30-11 \$125,593

Debbie Uli will be sending out your giving statements for 2011 the third week of December. They will show you only the totals for the year. If you need a month to month break down, please call the church office and she can give it to you.



Submitted by:  
Millie Burnham



## Calling All the Children!!

We are gearing up for the Christmas Season and I am so excited about our Christmas Program the children will be performing this year. We would love to have any of the children that wish to participate. Practices will be held during Sunday School starting December 1st at 9:00am through December 18th; which will be the day of the grand performance during our regular church services.

Submitted by Misty Everett



## Our Church Family

What a nice surprise to walk in the library and see Stan Burnham working! After I collected a hug, he told me he hope to make it to church on Sunday. I am going to hold you to that, Stan! Our sympathy goes to Christy Thornton and family on the death of her mother, Jeanine Thornton. This is the time of year that the church family is having family get togethers. Thus people are on the road or hosting their families. C.K. and Vickie Stevenson had their whole family here for Thanksgiving. Bet they had a big time. Mike & Tracey Thomas headed to San Antonio to attend their granddaughter Avery's dance recital and the first birthday for Zoe. By the way, the 3rd addition will be Levi Stone. Nicole & Daren Grant, daughter and son-in-law of Bob & Debbie Millican, made it to Risien Shan's Super Bowl football game. I bet Elise enjoyed the game, too. Ryan Mathis is also on the same team as Risien. Debbie Millican took her parent's Johnny & Louise Oswald to attend a baby shower. Bruce & Martha Schandals enjoyed having their son in for a little hunting the opening week-end of deer season. Lee Murray is hoping to get a little deer hunting in. He would like to get 3 deer for a little meat in the freezer. Owen & Linda parks went to see their grandchildren, Justin & Hanna Barker, and do a little shopping. Travis & Cathy Gage had Thanksgiving dinner with Travis' brother Milton and sister-in-law Trudy Gage. The news is that Amanda Jackson is doing better. Several of our church family followed the San Saba Armadillo football team for their two post season football games. It was a good season for Coach Shay Easterwood & Coach Scott Mathis. Wasn't the Thanksgiving dinner a special time for our church family!! Thanks to everyone who helped make it such fun! Mindy Cantu has also done a little deer hunting. I did not catch whether she got a deer. It was good to have Klela & Ted Red home from a trip to help her daughter-in-law who was recovering from surgery. Their current project is building a pump house. Donny Smith is building the new car wash that is going in on Highway 16 north. Nettie Oma Carpenter recently attended her class reunion here in San Saba. I am sure she enjoyed seeing some of her old classmates. Kay Thompson and Mike Millican made a trip to California to see some of their family. Troy Gilger, Bart Freeman, Lee Miller and Morgan Gilger participated in the Ranch Rodeo in Richland Springs and ended up as the first place team. Troy also won the Top Hand Belt Buckle. Wow! Congratulations. Trish and Henry Warren had a full house over the Thanksgiving Holiday. They came early and the last one left Sunday. Scott Mathis used his grandmother's recipe to make the dressing he brought for the Thanksgiving dinner. Several people commented on how good it was. But so was Joe Pete's. We have lots of really good cooks in our church. If you left hungry, it was your own fault Cindy Prater made a delicious cake. A woman needs to clean out her purse ever so often. When I do, I sometimes find important pieces of paper. Like my note to myself about Pat Belk's company in October. At the first ever San Saba River Pecan Jam, Pat & Charlie Belk had one daughter, 2 granddaughters, and a grandson. Pat had the 2nd place in the 1 mile walk/run for the over 70 age group and 3rd place in the candy challenge with her pecan pralines. Sorry, Pat. Travis Hawkins brought his friend Christy home with him for part of the Thanksgiving holiday. Nicole & Derek Sears were also home for Thanksgiving. Jess McDowell made it in for a visit too. The Randy Robinson had family (a daughter, granddaughter and grandson) in for the Thanksgiving holiday.

## ***HOLIDAY FOOD SAFETY***

The aromas of the turkey and ham cooking, pies baking, etc. coming from the kitchen during the holidays remind us of home. Food is always a big part of a family get together, especially during the holidays. But, your holiday can turn for the worse if you do not use food safety regularly when preparing your food.

The following information comes from the Centers of Disease Control at <http://www.cdc.gov>.

Remember to: **CLEAN, SEPARATE, COOK, AND CHILL.**

**Clean:** Wash your hands with soap and warm water for twenty seconds before and after preparing food. Wash all utensils, dishes, and countertops with hot soap and water. Rinse fresh produce with water.

**Separate:** Avoid cross-contamination by keeping raw meat and poultry, and their juices, separate from fruits, vegetables, and cooked foods. Never use a utensil on cooked foods that was previously used on uncooked foods, unless it's washed first with soap and water.

**Cook:** Always use a food thermometer when cooking meat and poultry to make sure it's cooked to a safe internal temperature. Turkey, stuffing, casseroles, and leftovers should be cooked to 165 degrees Fahrenheit; beef, veal, and lamb roasts should be cooked to 145; and ham, pork, and egg dishes should be cooked to 160. When serving people at higher risk for food borne illness use a pasteurized egg product in foods containing eggs that will not be cooked to at 160 degrees Fahrenheit. Examples include eggnog and custard.

**Chill:** Refrigerate food quickly after serving. Keep the refrigerator at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below to prevent bacteria from growing. Leftovers should be refrigerated within two hours of being cooked. Never thaw a turkey, ham, or other frozen meat at room temperature. Thawing should be done in the refrigerator. When food is in the "danger zone" - between 40 and 150 degrees Fahrenheit—food borne bacteria multiply. Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold.

For more information, please visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), [www.befoodsafe.org](http://www.befoodsafe.org), and [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).



Be food safe this holiday season. Happy eating and wishing you a safe and Merry Christmas!

**Kaye Clancey**



Thanksgiving Dinner  
November 20, 2011

Don't Forget the Reason  
for the Season!!



Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
December 24, 2011  
5 p.m.