



San Saba First United Methodist Church December 2013 Newsletter

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

Rev. Dan Harrington, 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.....

During Sunday school last week we sang the songs again-those wonderful Christmas songs. And you know what, the older kids knew them... really well. But Lyla and Jonah weren't as familiar with them. Lyla knows all kinds of songs (she can even sing classics like Johnny Cash's "Daddy sang Bass, Mama sang tenor") but when you're four... well last Christmas was a lifetime ago! Its time to break out the stockings and start rockin around the Christmas tree. Advent is such a joyful time! It's a building of the melody- "oh come oh come Emmanuel" until we can't help but shout: "God is here! Joy to the world!"



The choir is practicing for another Cantata for Dec. 8th (at 1st Baptist in Cherokee) and on the 15th at FUMC. And we will sing Christmas Carols to folks on Dec. 18th. We look forward to celebrating the joy of the season.

We are planning a children's Christmas pageant for Sunday Dec. 22nd during the 10AM service.

UMYF News - United Methodist Youth Fellowship has been meeting on Sunday evenings (the first Sunday of the month). Because our numbers of young people in High School and Jr. High is low we have partnered with FUMC Goldthwaite. There is a picture of the group playing "Ultimate Frisbee" on Page 4. We will look forward to more fellowship opportunities with them and we plan to go to Midwinter retreats / summer camps together.

Pastor Dan

1st Choir



Bethlehem Morning" is the name of the Christmas cantata that our own First Choir and friends from other churches will be presenting on December 15th at 6:00 pm. As in the past few years, the same cantata will be presented in Cherokee at First Baptist Church with Kristy Perry directing. Many folks from San Saba will join them to sing on December 8th at 6:00 pm. Kristy and some of her people will then come to San Saba and sing with us on Dec 15th. The cantata will have familiar and upbeat songs such as "Children, Go Where I Send Thee" and favorites like "O, Little Town of Bethlehem" as well as newer Christmas favorites like "Here I Am to Worship" and "This Must Be The Place" featuring our own Jennifer Reeves and Mike Tho-

mas singing solo parts. The title song "Bethlehem Morning" was written by Grammy award winner Morris Chapman who led a special worship service in our church in 2001. Please make plans to support our church and our choir by setting aside one hour in December to receive this gift of music and song--you will be blessed!



Christmas Caroling on the hay wagon!! December 18th at 5:00 at the church--wrap up in warm clothes and blankets ready to go caroling. This is one of our really fun traditional activities hosted by our choir. Bring the children and prepare to stay afterward for some warm food and fellowship!!

No choir practice after Dec 11 until January.

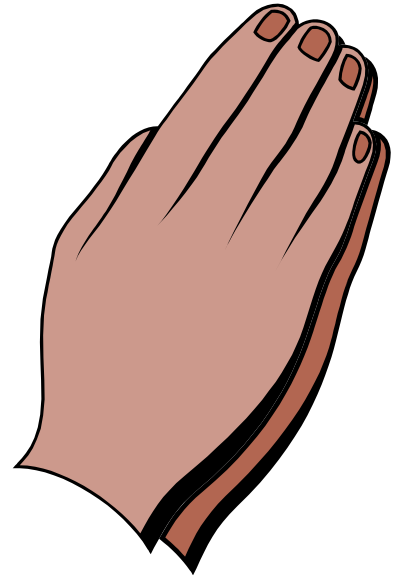
Submitted by Tracey Thomas



Scenes from Amanda Jackson's

Prayer Concerns

Pat Belk
Suzanne Walters—now living in Eastern Star's Assisted Living in Arlington
Peter Hald
Gene Hinyard, son of Mary Sue Hinyard
Ronnie Schmidt
Lylah (Stephanie and Chase's daughter) (Henry Warren's family)
Stan Burnham
Stephanie Conner (Nettie Oma's family)
Bettye McLaughlin
Elsie Millican
Mark Owens (safety)
Katie Andreas (in hospital, continuing prayer)(family of Trish Warren
Joe Mack Tilson
James and Pat Reavis
Gordan Hall (prostate cancer)
Kathren Wolfe (Martha Schanhals' mom)
Margaret Ann Seiders (Celia Bell's Mom)
Landon Yarbrough
Pete Hemenway (friends of Trish Warren)
Ray & Ruth Riggs



We are trying to update the prayer concern list. If you would like to add a loved one or family friend back on, please let us know. Carolyn



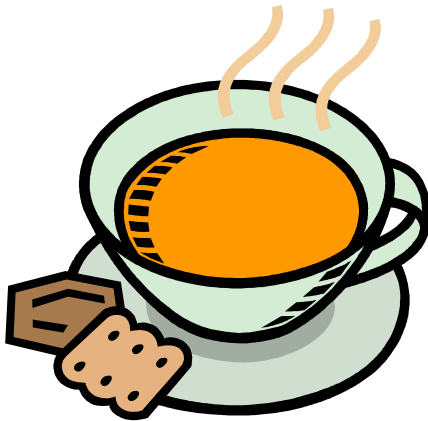
A group from the 1st Church met at Amanda Jackson's to build a ramp from her house to the street. Travis Gage and Roland Hawkins headed up the project. Helping them were: C.K. Stevenson, Al Allison, Ted Red, Klela Waldie, and Pastor Dan. The meal was provided to the workers by Mike & Carolyn McDowell and Cherry Kay Lange. Also thanks to all who donated to the St. Stevens Fund to help with the project expenses.

Methodist Youth Fellowship



The San Saba MYF traveled to Goldthwaite UMC for a time of fun and fellowship recently. After a devotion the group played Ultimate Frisbee, a fast paced touch football game. Concluding the event were some delicious hot pockets. Participating from our church were Casey Mathis and Jantzen Bell. The Goldthwaite MYF will travel to our Church on December 8th. Plans call for the group to eat, have a devotion and look at the Christmas lights.

Assistance is needed in providing food for the monthly MYF meeting. Food donations or money would be much appreciated. Please talk to Pastor Dan or Celia Bell if you would like to help.



Charge Conference
December 1st
4 p. m.
Soup Supper to Follow

Stewardship Report

General Fund Income for November	\$11,175
General Fund Expenses for November	\$12,415
General Fund Income to date for year	\$125,346
General Fund Expenses to date for year	\$131,914
General Fund Balance on January 01, 2013	\$14,138
General Fund Balance on November 30, 2013	\$ 7,569

We are current on all our bills except apportionments.
Our apportionments for the year are \$18,139.
We have paid \$12,815 on our apportionments as of November 30, 2013.

Submitted by Millie Burnham

Our Church Family

Our church family has lots of plans for the coming Thanksgiving holidays. Ted & Klela are headed to Goldthwaite for turkey with some friends. Ann & Don McElroy are having four of their kids and their families. Turkey was on the menu. Grant & Christi Mays will be at Myron & Patsy Mays' house in Brady on Thursday and Christi's mom, Brenda and her sister are coming on Saturday. The Mathis's will be on the road. First to the lake to have Thanksgiving with Scott's family. Then they are all going to the Tech vs Texas game that evening in Austin. Then they head to San Antonio to visit Melanie's family. Barbara & David Gilger are going to their daughter and son-in-law's, Kelly & John Reavis's for a meal with the whole family on Thursday. On Saturday Barbara and David will go to Austin for a meeting with the Fletcher cousins. I am happy to report that David is feeling better. Misty & Brad Everett's will celebrate Thanksgiving with Brad's family and with Misty's family during the week-end. Brad will be leaving on a hunting trip. Hope you get something, Brad. Pastor Dan and Maria will be hosting Maria's dad. Jess McDowell will be heading to San Saba and will eat lunch Thursday with his family at his grandmother's house and then with his aunt and her family on Saturday in Graham. Cindy & Ken Prater will be traveling this Thanksgiving. They could head west to San Angelo or north to Oklahoma. Sometimes it is hard to make up your mind. Mike & Tracey Thomas are headed to San Antonio for Thanksgiving with their son's family. Then Tracey's side of the family will be here over the week-end. Cherry Kay Lange will be hosting 18 of her family on Thursday for lots of turkey and the trimmings. Everyone goes home with a care package. Sounds like a good idea to me. Roland & Cindy Hawkins recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. That is quite an accomplishment! Nancy Bannister enjoyed a visit from her granddaughter and her husband. I bet Nancy had a wonderful meal for them. I am sorry to report that Margaret Haug will be attending church with her son now. The church is more handicapped accessible. Eli Wise has had quite a time with his bite from his grandmother's dog on his nose. I am happy to report that he is healing. The Brownwood High School drama department was putting on a performance of The Little Mermaid. Debbie Millican enjoyed the play with three of her grandchildren. Pastor Dan and Maria took their kids as well as Grant & Christi Mays' and Taylor & Stacy Wise. Debbie Pullen enjoyed a visit with her daughter and her family. The daughter performed at the Civic Center on Saturday night. C.K. Stevenson celebrated another birthday in November. Do you think he could blow out all his birthday candles? Raley Kirk was mighty proud of her San Saba J.V. basketball team. They placed first at the San Saba basketball tournament and are currently undefeated. Way to go, Raley! The Kirk family will host 45 for Thanksgiving dinner. Jantzen Bell was so proud of the San Saba Golden Armadillo Band. They placed 5th at the state. It was the first time the Golden Armadillo Band had participated in a state contest. George Kidd is recovering nicely from his carpal tunnel surgery. Joe Pete was blessed to be able to attend the Forever Cowboys faith based roping camp last weekend. Danna, Daylon and Lynlee joined him Saturday and stayed the night at Circle T in Hamilton. It was an awesome experience! Daylon killed a nice 12 point buck. He was a happy boy! Danna and Joe Pete worked hard putting up their 12 foot tall Christmas tree last weekend. They will have a small Thanksgiving with a few out of town family members joining them this year.



Candle Light Christmas Eve Service
December 24th
5 p.m
Church Sanctuary
Make Plans to Attend
You Will Be Blessed



December Dates to Remember

Saturday December 7

Bethlehem Morning Cantata

Cherokee 1st Baptist Church @ 6:00 p.m.

Sunday December 15

Bethlehem Morning Cantata

FUMC San Saba @ 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday December 18

Christmas Caroling

Meet at the Church @ 5:00 p.m.
Chili Supper to follow

Sunday December 22

Children's Christmas Program

FUMC Sanctuary @ 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service FUMC Sanctuary @ 5:00 p.m.

Recognizing Jesus

One of my favorite Christmas stories is about the old shoe cobbler who dreamed one Christmas Eve that Jesus would come to visit him the next day. The dream was so real that he was convinced it would come true.

So the next morning he got up & went out & cut green boughs & decorated his little cobbler shop & got all ready for Jesus to come & visit. He was so sure that Jesus was going to come that he just sat down & waited for Him.

The hours passed & Jesus didn't come. But an old man came. He came inside for a moment to get warm out of the winter cold. As the cobbler talked with him he noticed the holes in the old man's shoes, so he reached up on the shelf & got him a new pair of shoes. He made sure they fit & that his socks were dry & sent him on his way.

Still he waited. But Jesus didn't come. An old woman came. A woman who hadn't had a decent meal in two days. They sat & visited for a while, & then he prepared some food for her to eat. He gave her a nourishing meal & sent her on her way.

Then he sat down again to wait for Jesus. But Jesus still didn't come.

Then he heard a little boy crying out in front of his shop. He went out & talked with the boy, & discovered that the boy had been separated from his parents & didn't know how to get home. So he put on his coat, took the boy by the hand & led him home.

When he came back to his little **shoe** shop it was almost dark & the streets were emptied of people. And then in a moment of despair he lifted his voice to heaven & said, "Oh Lord Jesus, why didn't you come?"

And then in a moment of silence he seemed to hear a voice saying, "Oh shoe cobbler, lift up your heart. I kept my word. Three times I knocked at your friendly door. Three times my shadow fell across your floor. I was the man with the bruised feet. I was the woman you gave to eat. I was the boy on the homeless street."

Jesus had come. The cobbler just didn't realize it.

by Melvin Newland

