



San Saba

First United Methodist Church

December 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.....



Come, Holy Spirit

When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf.
John 15:26

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.
Romans 8:26

Although we may not always be aware of it, the Holy Spirit is present and active among us. That is good news! Jesus promised to send us an Advocate after the resurrection, who has come to us as the Holy Spirit. Especially for those who knew and loved Jesus, his death was a tragic blow. But the ascension of Jesus was not a loss, as if his work among us had ceased. While Jesus walked the earth he healed the sick, fed the hungry, and redeemed sinners by loving them. His ascension meant that he would no longer be here physically to continue his ministry. But through the power of the Holy Spirit, his ministry does continue.

Instead of being a loss, Jesus' ascension became our gain. In the street preacher from Nazareth, the power of God was made known in amazing ways. But Jesus' ministry lasted only a few short years. Although he touched the lives of many people, his impact was limited in both time and territory. But now, through the work of the Holy Spirit, the power of Jesus' healing ministry is let loose across the entire world for all time.

A parishioner once complained to me that she had a reasonable understanding of God the Father, and a pretty good understanding of God the Son, but that to her, God the Holy Spirit was little more than a vague blur. My own comprehension of the Triune God is much the same as my frustrated friend's.

As we prepare ourselves to experience the presence of God with us during this season of Advent, and celebrate the Messiah's birth during Christmas, consider your own understanding of the Holy Spirit:

- How do you recognize the presence of the Spirit?
- What works of the Spirit can you identify in the lives of notable Christians throughout history?
- What works of the Spirit have you experienced in your own life?
- How do you see the Holy Spirit at work in the stories of Scripture?
- How do you understand the work of the Spirit around the world and in our own community?
- What are your hopes and dreams for the work of the Holy Spirit in the year to come?

Continued on page 2.....

Continued from page 1.....

This month as you ponder the work of the Holy Spirit in your life I invite you to pray this prayer with me:

Come, Holy Spirit.

You are the divine breath, giving and sustaining our life.

You are the sacred wind, one divine driving force
by which we are refreshed and invigorated.

As the morning fog which obscures the road ahead
is dissipated by the brightness of the sun,
so clear away our confusion

and remove from us all false notions and evil intentions.

Then empower me, and all who seek your strength,
to do your will.

Blessed are you, together with the Father and the Son,
one God, in every age and beyond all time. Amen.



Grace and peace,

Pastor John

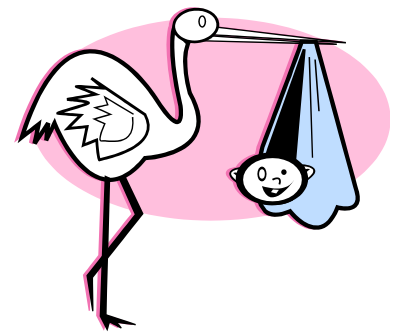
CLARA JUNE MURRAY

Born: November 25

Parents: Lee & Kelly Murray

Grandparents: Sam & Laina Murray

Big Brother: Wiley Murray



Stewardship Report

General Fund

November Receipts \$8,739

November Expenses \$11,482



This does not include receipts or expenses for the month.

Submitted by Kevin Shahan Treasurer

Mark the Date for THE FIRST NOEL!

The FUMC choir and various friends from other churches in our community and in Cherokee will once again present a musical gift to all those who come to hear and enjoy. On December 7, THE FIRST NOEL will be presented at Cherokee First Baptist Church with Kristy Perry directing and many of our own members singing. Then on December 14, you will have the opportunity to hear this cantata in our own church sanctuary.

Both times are 6:00 PM. The music once again is a blend of known carols such as "Angels We Have Heard On High" and "The First Noel", selections from Handel's Messiah, and more contemporary pieces such as "The Birthday of a King" and "In the First Light". As usual, the cantata will last around 40 minutes, with fellowship and refreshments downstairs afterwards. Please consider coming and enjoying the meaningful music of the season. We all pray you will be blessed and renewed.



It's Time for Christmas Caroling!

As our usual tradition, the Wednesday after the Christmas cantata is set aside for Christmas caroling on the hay trailer. This will be Wednesday Dec 17. Everyone is invited to wrap up warm and come to the church ready to leave at 5:00 so that we may sing carols to the nursing home residents and the shut ins before they turn in for the night. If you have never done this, you might think about gathering up the kids and/or just yourself and coming to enjoy this memorable and wonderful time together. We will return to the church afterwards to enjoy a warm dinner in the fellowship hall. Please join us!!

Submitted by Tracey Thomas

Children's Christmas Program

**Sunday December 14th
10:00 a.m.**

**A Traditional Christmas Story
With A Modern Setting**



**Featuring the youngest to the oldest
children of the church plus visitors**

Christmas Eve Candlelight service

Dec 24th



6:30 p.m.

Our Church Family

Our sympathy goes out to Martha & Bruce Schanhals on the loss of her mom. Nancy Bannister was looking forward to a visit from son John a couple of weeks ago. The plans called for John to cook dinner for Charlie & Gray Leigh Peeler and his mom. I can almost smell the dinner. The Thanksgiving Dinner at FUMC was a huge success. About 90 people enjoyed a delicious meal of turkey, dressing, delicious sides, bread and dessert. Risien Shahan went hunting with his grandfather, Bob Millican and got a very nice buck. Daylon Smith has also gone hunting but I did not hear if he got a deer or not. Travis & Kathy Gage are back in San Saba following several month stay at M.D. Anderson in Houston. Plans call for them to be back at M.D. Anderson the first of January. Austin Smith was recognized for being the 5th grade student of the month and Monica Shahan received the middle school teacher of the month. Congratulations to both!!!! Stan & Millie Burnham and daughter Pat Pratt were spotted at a local restaurant getting an early start on Thanksgiving. David & Barbara Gilger are also back in San Saba following **David's heart surgery. Special thanks goes out to the MFW for decorating the church for Christmas**



Catch the Lighted Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 13th

Begins at 7th & Wallace Street at 6 p.m.

Watch for the FUMC Float in the Parade

Special thanks goes to Travis Smith, Austin and Wyatt for building the float, Home Depot for a \$150.00 donation, Joe Pete Smith for the use of his trailer, Kim Kirk for the use of a generator, Lesa Schulze & Celia Bell for their directing and all others who helped make this project possible.

Prayer Concerns

Amanda Jackson health
Elsie Millican health
Angela Scott health
border situation & children
peace in Israel

Travis & Kathy Gage (at home till the first of January)
Nelda Weatherby eye treatments
David & Barbara Gilger (David is recovering from heart surgery)
Our Military Men, Women & Families
Our Church, Our Town & Our Nation,

2015
FUMC Church Council

Church Council Chair:	Owen Parks	Lay Leader:	Cindy Hawkins
Lay Member:	Roland Hawkins	Alternate:	Cindy Hawkins
Recording Secretary:	Kathy Gage	Membership:	Millie Burnham
Pastor Parish Relations:	Mike Thomas	Finance:	Lee Murray
Board of Trustees:	TBD	Endowment:	Owen Parks
Nominations:	Pastor John Saint	Worship:	Jennifer Reeves
Member Care & Nurture:	Linda Parks	Church Life:	Linda Parks
Children & Youth:	Alexis Saint	UMM:	Mike McDowell
Technology:	Mike Thomas	Historian:	Nelda Weatherby
Boy Scout Liaison:	Joe Pete Smith		
Member-at-Large 2015	Ian Saint		
Member-at-Large 2016	Nettie Oma Carpenter		
Member-at-Large 2017	Richard Jackson		

Administrative Committees

Finance Committee

Chair:	Lee Murray	Pastor:	John Saint
Church Council Chair:	Owen Parks	Lay Leader:	Cindy Hawkins
Trustee Representatives:	TBD	Lay Delegate:	Roland Hawkins
Financial Secretary:	Karen Alexander	Treasurer:	Kevin Shahan

Members

Lee Murray	2015	Kathy Gage	2016	Ken Prater	2017
Grant Mays	2015	Brad Everett	2016	Wahnee Stallings	2017

Board of Trustees

President:	TBD	Pastor:	John Saint
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Members:

Don McElroy	2015	Bruce Schanhals	2016	Roland Hawkins	2017
Al Allison	2015	Joe Pete Smith	2016	Travis Gage	2017
Kim Kirk	2015	Mark Wise	2016	Travis Smith	2017

Pastor Parish Relations Committee

Chair:	Mike Thomas	Pastor:	John Saint
Lay Leader:	Cindy Hawkins	Lay Delegate:	Roland Hawkins

Members

Ron Schulze	2015	Mike Thomas	2016	Cindy Prater	2017
Mike McDowell	2015	Brad Reeves	2016	Sam Murray	2017

Nominations Committee

Chair: John Saint

Lay Leader: Cindy Hawkins

Members:

Brad Everett 2015

Mike McDowell 2016

Larry Lafferty 2017

Debbie Millican 2015

Lesla Schulze 2016

Carolyn McDowell 2017

Endowment Fund Committee

Chair: Owen Parks

Pastor: (No Vote) John Saint

Church Council Chair: (Vote) Owen Parks

Lay Leader (No Vote) Cindy Hawkins

Trustee Chair: (Vote) TBD

Finance Chair: (Vote) Cindy Hawkins

Members:

Raymond Barrier 2015

Randy Robinson 2016

Bob Millican 2017

Dell Sears 2015

Program Committees

Worship Committee:

Chair: Jennifer Reeves

Pastor: John Saint

Music: Tracey Thomas

Lay Leader: Cindy Hawkins

Communion Stewards: C.K. & Vickie Stevenson

Members:

Trish Warren Mike Thomas

Christi Mays

Nettie Oma Carpenter Read Saint

Christy Thornton

Church Life Committee

Chair: Linda Parks

Pastor: John Saint

Members:

Barbara Gilger Mike McDowell

Kathy Gage Amy Shaw

Klela Waldie Carolyn McDowell

Cherry Kay Lange Danny Shaw

Lea Schulze Owen Parks

Andrea Robinson

Member Care & Nurture Committee

Chair: Linda Parks

Pastor: John Saint

Members:

Nancy Bannistr Carol Littlefield

Wahnee Stallings

Pat Reavis

Mike McDowell Nettie Oma Carpenter

Debbie Pullen

Shannon Hampu

Children & Youth Ministries

Coordinators: Alexis Saint

Pastor: John Saint

Members:

Monica Shaahan Kathy Gage

Kim Kirk Christy Thornton

Misty Everett Cindy Prater

Celia Bell Lesla Schulze

Barbara Gilger Stacy Wise

Technology

Mike Thomas Mike McDowell

Ronnie Schulze

Jantzen Bell