



San Saba First United Methodist Church December 2015 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
Accompanist:
Nettie Oma Carpenter
Choir Director:
Tracey Thomas
Church Secretary
Kristi Owens
Church Treasurer
Kevin Shahan
Custodian:
Mario Mendiola**

**Newsletter deadline is the last
Wednesday of the month.**

From the Pastor's Desk.....

The Beatitudes

*This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble*



Psalm 34:6

*If you close your ear to the cry of the poor,
you will cry out and not be heard.*

Proverbs 21:13

This month we begin a consideration of the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are a collection of eight blessings recounted in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew, and in the Sermon on the Plain in Luke. The word "beatitude" comes from Latin, meaning "happiness." Each beatitude consists of two phrases: a condition and the result. Each of the beatitudes has its roots in the Old Testament, but Jesus gives a new interpretation.

Beatitude 1: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

We are most familiar with this, Matthew's version, of the first beatitude. Luke simply says, "Blessed are you who are poor." So who was Jesus talking about: those who are poor in material things, or those who, even though they have many possessions, know that their wealth is not an indication of their spiritual health, and therefore seek spiritual riches?

I wonder if it is necessary to exclude one of these options? It seems to me that both those who live in poverty and those affluent people who admit their spiritual poverty share a sense of dependency upon God and one another. They also share a sense of gratitude for the ways God blesses them, the wealthy with abundant resources, and the poor when their cry for help is heard.

God has given both the physically poor and the spiritually poor the obligation to help those in need. Jesus commands us to feed and clothe the poor as much as we can, and to share whatever spiritual resources we have been given with the poor in spirit. God does not bless each of us in equal measure, but we are meant to share what we have been given with those who have less. God is gracious and God expects us to be gracious, too, whether we are rich or poor.

This month as you consider the first beatitude, I invite you to pray this prayer with me:

God of us all,
both rich and poor,
from the endless stores of your grace
you share all that you have
with us who are in need.
You give sustenance to the hungry and shelter to the homeless,

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October Treasurer's Report

Income in October
\$29,796.00

Expenses in October
\$14,535.12

Ending Balance
\$29,163.45

Submitted by Kevin Shahan



Travis Murdock, Kelly Murray's brother received a CARE package from the THINKING OF YOU group. This picture shows him saying THANKS to the group.



Merry Christmas!!!!



Continued from page 1.....

and expect us to follow your example,
so that others might come to know you
and reach still more by serving you with confidence and joy.
We pray that you will bless all those
who suffer from poverty of the spirit,
so that no one may have reason to doubt your goodness,
or fail to see your faithfulness.
We pray especially for ourselves,
that you will prevent us from thinking that we are rich in spirit,
if instead we are poor, blind, and naked wretches,
so that we are not separated from you
by our lack of insight and self-deception.
We pray these things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
who, though he was rich, for our sakes became poor,
so that, through his poverty, we might be made rich.
Amen.



Grace and Peace,
Pastor John



THE THINKING OF YOU GROUP

The Thinking Of You Group met November 18th at 10 a.m. in Celia Bell’s home. Members brought snack items for our college students. There was a discussion of how to notice those in nursing homes and some homebound members of FUMC and those less fortunate for Christmas. The next meeting will be December 16th at Barbara Gilger’s.

Prayer Concerns

Amanda Jackson (Pecan Valley Nursing Home & Rehab)
 Potosi UMC (fire burned their building)
 Brad Reeves & Mark Owns (safety)
 Shannon Hampu (spiritual strength & death of her brother)
 Travis Murdock (Kelly Murray’s brother in service)
 Rain—thanks for another good rain
 Zolly Jones (former member now in Windcrest Nursing Home)
 Our Church, Our Town & Our Nation

Shawna (Lesa Schulze’s cousin who was in a wreck)
 Glen & Noma Fitzgerald (Glen & Noma are home!!)
 Travis & Kathy Gage (thanksgiving for another good check up for Travis)
 Wanda Davenport
 George Kidd
 Our Military Men, Women & Families



“GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST”

**The FUMC’s Children’s
 Christmas Program**



Sunday, December 20th

During the Worship Service

Don’t Miss It!!!!

The FUMC prayer chain is being updated. If you would like to be on the prayer chain, please return the following form to Carol Littlefield or the church office. Prayer requests should be called in to the church office Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. or to Carol Littlefield at carollee@centex.net or 325-372-3883.

Name _____

I would like to receive the prayer chain by:

1. Text to _____ Cell Phone Number.

2. Email to _____ Email address.

3. Phone Call _____ Home Phone Number

“Breath of Heaven”

FUMC choir plus a number of singing friends from other churches in the county are presenting “Breath of Heaven” on Sunday, Dec 6th at 5:00. The music tells of the birth of Jesus from the perspective of Mary and Joseph. There are familiar pieces as well as newer songs declaring the glory of our Savior and newborn King. Some 30 voices are joining together to blend harmonies and give to all in the community the gift of stillness, a time to be surrounded by His joyful sounds that will put our Christmas season in the proper perspective. We have been singing and preparing the music since September, and it is our sincere hope that you will make time to come and receive this gift of joy through music...and be very blessed.



Old-fashioned Christmas Caroling!!

Come out to the church on Dec 9th at 5:00 to take part in one of our most delightful traditions!! As we gather on the hay bales of the trailer, we will sing riding through town any Christmas songs we can remember! We will begin by going to Pecan Valley Care Center to sing for the folks there, then on to any others who would enjoy a little festive caroling! We will end up back at the church for a warm meal to share together. Invite friends, children, and anyone who would love to come out for the fun. Bring blankets, gloves, hats and come join us. The more the merrier!!!

No Choir practice in December after the Christmas cantata.

Submitted by Tracey Thomas



THE FUMC CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS ARE ON SALE AT THE CHURCH OFFICE. COST OF THESE SPECIAL ORNAMENTS ARE \$10.00.

Our Church Family

FUMC kids stay busy with lots of activities. Risien Shahan and Sarah Saint were band roadies when the San Saba High School Golden Armadillo Band traveled to San Antonio for the State UIL Band Contest. I bet they were great help. Jaden Owens is playing on the San Saba 7th grade basketball team. Nolan Mays was one of the winners at the San Saba Elementary pumpkin contest. Congratulations, Nolan. San Saba Middle School Honor Roll students included: for the "A" Honor Roll, Madison Shahan, Daylon Smith, Sarah Saint and Risien Shahan. For the "A & B" Honor Roll, Jaycie Everett and Jaden Owens. Nolan Mays and Jason Everett played football on a local team by the name of the Untouchables. One of the coaches was our Brad Everett. They were untouchable as they were 4-0 and were 1st in their league. Congratulations, guys!!!! Kay Thompson is in high gear for that very special wedding of Kelly Thompson to Kandice Erwin on New Years Eve at our church. She may be so busy that she doesn't have time to help her brother Bob gather pecans this year. Did you recognize Amanda Jackson picture in the paper? She was all dressed up for the Pecan Valley Nursing Home & Rehab's Halloween party. She even had on a mask. Our apologies go out to Abby Snyder. We missed her birthday and did not get it on the November calendar. It was November 14th. We did get it corrected, Abby. Shannon Hampu has a bright new smile and is showing off her new dentures. Vickie & CK Stevenson have enjoyed having Vickie's cousin Monika here for several days. She and Monika enjoyed walks in our parks here in San Saba. It sure was good to have Nelda Weatherby in church with us. She has enjoyed having her granddaughter Alica Parker Harker and her family visiting this week. Lesa Schulze's cousin Shawna is making good progress after the horrible wreck she was in. Please continue to pray for her. Cindy & Roland Hawkins are rejoicing that Cindy's mom and dad, Glenn & Noma Fitzgerald, are back in San Saba following Glenn's surgery and rehab. Pat & Mike Johnson celebrated 50 years of marriage recently. The All Saints service remembered two of our church family (Elsie Millican and Debbie Pullen) who have passed away this year. Mike & Tracey Thomas are expecting a houseful of company for Thanksgiving weekend. I am happy to report that George Kidd is out of the hospital and was back in church this past Sunday. Cherry Kay Lange is having her daughter Lynda and son-in-law Chuck from Llano and her daughter Kay Ann from San Antonio. Travis & Kathy Gage are enjoying a week's visit from two of their grandsons the week of Thanksgiving. The boys did not have school this week and came to see their grandparents. Scott & Abby Snyder are headed to Lubbock to see Abby's parents along with their daughter Chelsea and her boyfriend Danny. Jess McDowell is coming in to see his parents, Mike & Carolyn McDowell and to see the rest of his family. Larry Lafferty has been enjoying those Richland Springs Coyote football games. They are in the playoff games again. David & Barbara Gilger made a trip to East Texas to see their grandson Morgan. Thanks goes out to Linda Parks and her crew for putting together a great Thanksgiving feast for our church family. If you went away hungry it was your own fault. Mark & Kristi Owens and family were going to Mark's side of the family for Thanksgiving. They didn't have too far to go as his parents live between Bend and Nix. Have you noticed that Clara Murray has started walking? Grant & Kristi Mays have several places to go this week-end. First Thanksgiving with her mom, then with Grant's parents and finally Kristi's dad. Boy Scout Troop 55, which our church sponsors, participated in the Veterans Day Program November 11 at the San Saba Chamber of Commerce Plaza. It is always nice to see church family in and around San Saba. Bettye McLaughlin was doing what lots of people were doing. Picking up last minute supplies at the grocery store. Kathy McEwin was getting several things she had forgotten. Katie, Katie's boyfriend, Shi'nn and her family were all coming at various times to eat some turkey. Chris and his family did not get to come as he had to work.



The Thanksgiving Dinner had lots of food, people and fellowship. Thanks to all who helped make it a fun event.



Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

December 24

7 p.m.

Sanctuary

Piano Pounder

After serving the church for more than 20 years as our temporary replacement pianist, Nettie Oma Carpenter has asked that a permanent pianist be found. The Pastor Parish Relations Committee along with the Worship Committee is asking that any member that has the skills and calling to play for our church please contact Pastor Saint or Mike Thomas, chair of PPRC. We appreciate Nettie Oma's willingness to continue to play for us as we search for the right person to fill the bench.

