



San Saba First United Methodist Church December 2016 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
Choir Director:
Tracey Thomas
Church Secretary
Riana Bass
Church Treasurer:
Kevin Shahan
Custodian:
Alonzo Jimenez
Newsletter Editors
Mike & Carolyn McDowell**

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

From the Pastor's Desk.....

The Church is Apostolic



*As you have sent me into the world,
so I have sent them into the world.*

John 17:8

*You are citizens with the saints
and also members of the household of God,
built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.*

Ephesians 2:19-20

This month we conclude our consideration of the four characteristics of the church as named in the Nicene Creed: "We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church." This month we will explore what it means to say that the church is apostolic.

The term apostolic could mean two different things. Broadly speaking, an apostle is someone who is sent forth with a message; a delegate or missionary. An old-fashioned term for mission work is "the apostolate." So it could refer to anyone who is involved in spreading the gospel.

More specifically, in the early church certain persons became so widely known for their ability to spread the gospel that they became known as "the apostles." Although we normally limit this group to the Twelve disciples of Jesus together with Paul, there were others sent by Jesus himself who should be included as well. The very first apostles were Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" whom the risen Lord sent to tell the Twelve that he had triumphed over death (Matthew 28:7).

So which is it? Broad or narrow? The church is apostolic in both senses. As Christians, we are all sent into the world to proclaim the good news. We have been sent by our Lord Jesus as missionaries To help them come to know Christ.

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to the people of our time and place, to help them come to know Christ. We ourselves are apostles, finding effective ways to tell of God’s love in today’s world. But we must always measure our message against “the apostolic faith” -- the good news as it was handed to us from those who were closest to Jesus. While we must always speak a word for our own day, we are not free to invent a “new gospel.” The content of the Bible is fixed. Our own feelings and experiences help us to communicate the good news to others, but they are not Scripture. We take our place in the succession of apostles, helping others to know Jesus by telling, as Katherine Hankey put it in her famous hymn, “the old, old story of Jesus and his love.” That is what it means for the church to be apostolic.

As you consider your place in the long line of apostles,
I invite you to pray this prayer with me:

Almighty God, all glory and honor is yours.
You are the source of all mercy and grace.
To you, and you alone, do we pledge our allegiance.
We are eternally grateful for the salvation you bring.
There are many distractions and temptations in this world,
keep us from pursuing the glamour of power,
focus our attention on the faith
handed to us by our ancestors,
that we might share it with others.
May we be your faithful apostles,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who calls and sends us.
Amen.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor John



**Join Us For The
Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 24th
7 p.m.
FUMC Sanctuary**

The Cantata



The Christmas season is finally here! The combined choirs of the First United Methodist Church and the First Baptist Church of Cherokee (plus a few of our friends from other churches who love to sing) would like to invite you to “Come, Let Us Adore”, a celebration of the birth of our Savior. We will present this musical gift in Cherokee on Sunday, December 11th at 6:00 p.m. and in our church the following Sunday, December 18th at 6 p.m. We hope and pray that this music will be a blessing to you and put you in the true spirit and mood for Christmas!!!

Submitted by Tracey Thomas

**Wanted:
REFRESHMENTS TO SERVE
(finger sandwiches, chip & dip,
cheese ball & crackers, cookies,
candy, etc.)**

**Following the
CHRISTMAS CANTATA
DEC. 18TH**

**Please See
Linda Parks
If You Would Be Willing
To Help**

Prayer Concerns

Kaye Clancey (health concerns)
Amanda Jackson (Pecan Valley Nursing Home & Rehab)
Brad Reeves, Josh Thomas & Mark Owns (safety)
Lee (Orlando's friend)(health concerns)
Joey Offfield (Pat Johnson's family member who was in wreck)
Barbara Gilger (health concerns)
Thanks for the Rain!

Peter Hald
Vickie Stevenson (Praise for healing!)
Lisa Wise, sister-in-law of Mark Wise; health
Bettye McLaughlin (transition to new home)
Shannon Hampu (health concerns)
Our Military Men, Women & Families
Our Country
Family of Rubi Davila

Decorating for Christmas

There is nothing like having to do a job to make you appreciate the time and effort other people have given to do that same job. Barbara Gilger and Linda Parks for several years have decorated FUMC for Christmas. They always spent lots of hours doing it and it showed. Suddenly this year things were going to be different. Both ladies had other obligations that were going to prevent them from doing it. The first Sunday of Advent was November 27th, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. The church needed to be decorated for Christmas that Sunday. Now most women would tell you that the week of Thanksgiving is very busy. Between cooking for Thanksgiving and cleaning for company that there is no extra time for anything that week. The men would tell you that the cowboys were playing an important game or it was hunting season and they needed to be hunting. Some people were celebrating a early Thanksgiving with their family. There were lots of excuses people could have used as to why they could not help decorate when Lesa Schulze and Carolyn McDowell issued the invitation to come help decorate. But our congregation stepped up to the plate. Their love for FUMC was very evident. As soon as worship was over out came a multitude of boxes from the storage closet. A relay was formed getting the boxes out of the closet. The tree went up pretty quickly with the help of a ladder and several people. The advent season banners were dusted off and hung by others. Some other workers got the wreaths hung and angels put in the windows. Several others adorned the altar with poinsettias and the Advent candle. The youth became the step and fetch it kids. They hauled boxes upstairs and then the empty boxes back downstairs. In about an hour the sanctuary was transformed. A big thank you goes out to all those who helped. Well done, FUMC! Well done!



Our Church Family

It is always a nice surprise when you see FUMC members in places where you least expect them. One day Bettye McLaughlin, Nettie Oma Carpenter and Wahnee Stallings were walking in The LCRA Park. It was nice to see the ladies out and about and hear that they try to walk about 3 times a week. Mary Derrick of Goldthwaite and Larry Lafferty were back at the domino table. They tied for 3rd in the Goldthwaite 42 tournament recently. Congratulations! Some of our FUMC members work away from San Saba and we don't get to see them that often. It is always fun to run into them. Tyler Hawkins works out of town and that is true for him. He was eating lunch at Gage's. Travis Hawkins, the other son of Cindy and Roland Hawkins, was in from Michigan. His job is working on wind turbines. He said his next job was probably in Wyoming. He was going to have a busy week helping the whole family. Lots of people traveled for Thanksgiving. Pat Reavis and her daughter headed to New York for a vacation. I bet they found lots to see there and have some stories to tell. Linda and Owen Parks have a new great granddaughter. Justin and Hannah Barker were blessed with Chloe Elizabeth. She was born November 5th. They had to wait till Thanksgiving to see the new addition. Kathy McEwin and Tracey Thomas were two of several hostess for Meredith Martin Deeds held at our church. Wanda Davenport, Nelda Weatherby, Bud Bell and Zolly Jones were honored and remembered on All Saints Day at our church. Barbara Gilger has some mighty good news to share. Her cancer treatment had good results. They will continue to check her every three months for a while. Helping set up for the delicious and well attended Thanksgiving Dinner at FUMC were: Stacy Wise, Misty Everett, Kelly Murray, Christi Mays, Kathy McEwin, Debbie Millican, Kathy McEwin, Alexis Saint, Lesa Schulze and Carolyn McDowell. A big thank you goes out to them. Kelly Murray enjoys hunting. Her husband Lee enjoys cooking. They combined efforts to help with the Thanksgiving dinner. Kelly got the turkey and Lee fried it along with Grant Mays for our Thanksgiving dinner. Shannon Hampu has a different job at the local newspaper. One of her new responsibilities is doing the Down Memory Lane column. Jaycie Everett should be very proud of her basketball of 3rd and 4th graders. They were the champs for their age group in their fall league. Maddie Shahan's picture was in the paper. Did you see it? She was doing a jump ball in a game. Her team placed second in the tournament that weekend. I am excited to tell you that Butch & Cindy Hamer's house has arrived. They are doing the final touches to it and the Hamer's hope to move in next week-end. I know it can't be too soon as far as they are concerned. We have missed them at church but they will be back once they are in their new home. Cherry Kay Lange is a very proud grandmother. Her granddaughter Kaymon was named District 19 4-A Offense Volleyball player of the year. Way to go, Kaymon.

The Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 18th
10 a.m. Worship Service
You Won't Want to Miss It!

Practices For The Program Are
Being Held December 4th & 11th
At 9 a.m. In The Godly Play
S.S. Classroom
All kids are Invited to Participate!

Church Finances

October Income	\$11,076.73
October Expenses	\$11,227.83
Difference	-\$151.10
Ending Balance	\$10,840.59

