

FIRST NEWS



San Saba

First United Methodist Church

January 2012

**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**

**Pianist/Organist:
Nettie Oma Carpenter**

**Choir Director:
Tracey Thomas**

**Church Secretary:
Debbie Uli**

**Custodian:
Mario Mendiola**

From the Pastor's Study.....

*Thank you for
your generosity to
each of us at
Christmas!*

*Blessings in the New Year,
Pastor Debby*

Debbie Uli

Mario Mendiola

**Faith Weaver Friends
Wednesday's
Jan. 18th—April 11th
3:45 to 5 p.m,**

**The 7th & 8th Grade Girls
Bible Study
Begins January 10th
5:00 to 6:30 p.m.
Upstairs Sunday School Room**

**Wesley Nurse Presentation
Jan. 10th
10am
FUMC Sanctuary**

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



Jan. 28th.

**Equipping the Saints
First United Methodist
Church**

**Kerrville
9:30 to 3 p.m.**

**Brochures available in
the Church office**

State of the Church

This is not intended to be an all-inclusive report.

The strength of our ministries in 2011 has been in the area of Sunday School, Bible Studies and ministry to children. Nearly 70% of our Sunday worshipers also attend a Sunday School class. Bible studies and Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace" classes have been open to all in the community, with half of the attendance coming from outside this church.

Due to the energetic enthusiasm and recruiting ability of our Children and Youth Committee Chair our VBS program was a huge success again this year as has been the mid-week children's program, Faith Weaver Friends. These ministries require many folks to make it all happen, and it an intergenerational effort that served to keep the various ages connected.

Recently a need was recognized among the pre-high school girls and a new class was formed to help them navigate the challenges of living as a Christian in a very secular world. In order to include those from other churches, the class meets on Tuesday evenings.

The United Methodist Men meet Each Sunday morning, not only for breakfast, but also for a lively bible study.

FUMC is a Partner Church for the Jennifer Rothschild Women's Event to be held in Brownwood in February. More than 800 Christian women will come together for that event and will surely impact countless others.

We continue to be the only church in the community with a choir, and that ministry extends to a community/county choir at Christmas time with our Annual Cantata. Christmas caroling in December unites choir, children from Sunday school and mid-week program, and any and all who want to participate.

Special thanks to those who provide for the church-wide meals of celebration, as well as at bereavement times. That includes just about everyone, and we are extremely blessed to have the organizational leadership in such capable hands.

Volunteers continue to minister to the local nursing home, Meal-on-Wheels, and others.

2012 may bring a new look altogether. Pastor Lake has preached for a solid year on what it means to be the church. While may, if not most, of us are quite comfortable with church as we've always known it, it's hard to ignore the timely words in one of our Sunday School lessons just this morning: "Just as God asked Abraham to leave his family, God asks us to leave our comfort zone and do new things in new places. This may not involve a geographical move as much as a spiritual move or a developing of new understandings. Opening ourselves to the Spirit might mean discarding some of the prejudices or mindsets that hinder our usefulness to God." (cont. pg 5)

Nominations Report to the Church Conference December 4, 2011

Church Council, Chair	Owen Parks
Recording Secretary	Millie Burnham
Membership Secretary	Millie Burnham
Lay Leader	Cindy Hawkins
Lay Member, Annual conference	Owen Parks
Alternate Lay member	Linda Parks
Financial Secretary	Debbie Uli
Treasurer	Millie Burnham
Nominations, Chair	Debbie Lake, Pastor
Pastor Parish Relations, Chair	Kevin Shahan
Board of Trustees, Chair	Elected at 1st meeting
Endowment Fund Chair	Charlie Peeler
Worship, Chair	Cindy Prater
Church Life, Chair	Linda Parks
Member Care & Nurture, Chair	Linda Parks
Children & Youth Ministries, Ch.	Monica Shahan
Technology Committee	Mike Thomas
UMM, President	Mike McDowell
Historian	Nelda Weatherby
Member-at-large 2012	Mike McDowell
Member-at-large 2013	Danna Smith
Member-at-large 2014	Gennie Hamilton, Laina Murray Kelly Murray Melanie Mathis

Administrative Committees

Nominations Committee

Chair, Pastor Debbie Lake			
Lay Leader Cindy Hawkins			
Monica Shahah	2012 Stan Burnham	2013	Misty Everett 2014
Barbara Gilger	2012 Owen Parks	2013	Tracey Thomas 2014

Pastor Parish Relations

Chair: Kevin Shahan					
Pastor: Debbie Lake					
Lay Leader: Cindy Hawkins					
Lay Member of Annual Conference: Owen Parks					
Shay Easterwood	2012	Celia Bell	2013	Sam Murray	2014
Brad Everett	2012	Carol Littlefield	2013	Kevin Shahan	2014
				Cherry Kay Lange	2014

Board of Trustees

Chair: Elected at 1st Trustee Meeting

Pastor: Debbie Lake

Scott Mathis	2012	Klela Waldie	2013	Roland Hawkins	2014
Lesla Schulze	2012	Ted Red	2013	Henry Warren	2014
Don McElroy	2012	Alesha Rogers	2013	Travis Gage	2014

Parsonage Committee: Linda Parks, Klela Waldie

Elevator Committee: Cindy Prater, Kleka Waldie

Finance Committee

Chair: Lee Murray

Pastor: Debby Lake

Church Council Chair: Owen Parks

Lay Leader: Cindy Hawkins

Lay Member: Owen Parks

Treasurer: Millie Burnham

Members at large:

Lee Murray	2012	David Rogers	2013	Ken Prater	2014
Kathy Gage	2012	Kathy McEwin	2013	Wahnee Stallings	2014
				Betty McLaughlin	2014

Endowment Fund Committee

Chair: Charlie Peeler

Pastor: Debbie Lake (no vote)

Church Council Chair: Owen Parks (vote)

Trustee chair: Elected at 1st Trustee Meeting (vote)

Lay Leader: Cindy Hawkins (no vote)

Finance Chair: Lee Murray (vote)

Raymond Barrier	2012	Charlie Peeler	2013	Bob Millican	2014
Joe Pete Smith	2012	Ann McElroy	2013	C. K. Stevenson	2014

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

John and Joycelyn McRorery
Jeannie Falcones (cancer, friends of the Belks)

Lylah (Stephanie and Chase's daughter very sick)

Cristy Thornton and Family
Sam Tisdale

Linda Mixon and Family
Layton Sanford (recovery)

Lee Ragsdale

F.L. Kalmus

Weldon and Pat Faught

Bettye McLaughlin's sister Jane
Zolly Jones

David and Barbara Gilger

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

In Our Military

Alex Dove, Eric Booker,

Matthew Barrier,

Ralph Kintzen (home),

Cory Clendennen(home),

Jay Huggins (home),

Matthew Phinney (home),

Andrew Reynolds,

John Paul Dretke,

Jay Dewitt

(cont. from pg 2)

Our usefulness to god will be our focus for 2012.

Pastor Lake is teaching us that the church is a people not a place. The people are to be in ministry wherever they are, with whomever they encounter in need of the saving love of Christ. We are to be outward focused, with no expectation of a return on our investment other than the knowledge that we have been faithful to the call and claim of the gospel.

What we have traditionally considered to be the church-the place-will be our re-charge zone for worship education, and celebration from which we will go out and continue our individual ministries.

Our collective ministries may look different than those of the past because we will be working from our strengths and our passions. If it is not something that we can do exceedingly well, or that another church is already meeting that need in the community, perhaps we need not totally invest our resources, both financial and human, on that particular ministry. At that point, it may be better to partner with another church or pursue another ministry altogether.

The important thing is both encountering and being the living Christ in the world with only one purpose in mind—to be useful to God.

We look forward to reporting back to you next year.

Present by Owen Parks
at Church Conference
December 3, 2011

FaithWeaver Friends

FaithWeaver Friends had its final meeting for the fall semester on Wednesday, December 7th. It was a FANATASTIC fall semester!! Thirty-six four year olds

through sixth graders have joined together on Wednesday afternoons to worship, pray, snack, play games, and learn to live out their faith 24/7! Our theme this year is "Living Inside Out" and through our theme song, Bible stories, activities, crafts, and games we are constantly reminded to live out our faith twenty four hours a day! It's quite a challenge! FaithWeaver Friends will begin the spring semester on Wednesday, January 18th, 2012, and continue each Wednesday through April 11th.



Our Church Family

Jacey Everett, Risien Shahan and J.T. Mathis all participated recently in the elementary UIL contests. Alesha & David Rogers and Celia & Bud Bell had their lovely homes on display for the Garden Club's tour of homes. Carol Littlefield and Ann McElroy, garden club members, also assisted with the tour of homes. Austin Smith, Wyatt Smith and Cristy Thornton also were celebrities recently. They entered the Pecan Food Show. Austin had the Grand Champion Youth entry while Cristy had the Reserve Champion Non-Club entry. Wyatt had a blue ribbon on his entry. Everyone has enjoyed seeing Stan Burnham back in church. David & Pat Butler are very proud of their new grandchildren. Their daughter and son-in-law had a 7 lb. daughter and their son and daughter-in-law adopted a baby. Thanks goes to all who assisted with the Faith Weaver Friends float. It placed 2nd in the city's parade. Ray & Mary Lou Ridgway are happy to report that their son has his paperwork straightened out and is in fine. Pat & Charlie Belk are like a lot of people having Christmas December 31st. They are expecting about 20 family members from Austin and San Antonio. Kathy & Mark McEwin's family is coming in that week-end too. If you happened to be listening to Radio KNUZ one Tuesday morning you heard Stan Weik and Tony Guidroz bragging on our very own Owen Parks who happens to be chairman of the Economic Development Board. The Schulze family is headed to Kerrville for Christmas. The YO is cooking a delicious dinner for them. Lots of family members visited our worship service on the 18th so they could see the children's performance. Louise Oswald, grandmother of Risien, Maddy and Gracen Shahan; Reagan Kirk, Kim's mom Mrs. Hooker and her sister and brother-in-law were present to see Raley Kirk. Addy & Emyrson Easterwood had fans too. Shay's parents were beaming at their grandchildren. Kelly Thompson and Mandy were here to watch the performance as school was out for them. Elvia Hyatt was there for her grandkids, Jacey and Brandon Everett. Cristy Thornton, Travis, Austin and Wyatt headed to Texas A&M and clapped for Travis' daughter as she graduated from college. Betty McLaughlin enjoyed Christmas Eve with her daughter and son-in-law. Nettie Oma Carpenter had her daughter and son-in-law here for Christmas Day. Klela Waldie and Ted Red hosted Klela's son Quentin and daughter-in-law Jenn and grandchildren for the week-end. Thanks goes to Jess McDowell for leading the music on Christmas Eve. Cathy & Travis Gage celebrated an early Christmas with her family. The Mathis family made it back to San Saba in time to make it to the Christmas Eve service. Margaret Haug fell and suffered a hairline fracture in her pelvis. Barbara Gilger will have surgery on her foot in early January. Lesa Schulze is also having minor surgery in January.

First Choir

A big THANK YOU to all who attended "Mary, Did You Know?". The choir works so hard on this presentation to make it a worthwhile gift to the community, but most of all a blessing to the kingdom of God!! Still, if no one showed up to receive the gift, it would make us sad. You all took time out of a very busy schedule, and we pray you received a BLESSING!!

Choir will resume regular practices at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays after the first of the year! Please feel free to come join us! There is always room for more who sing with joy in their heart!!



L to R: Lesa getting her UMW award; group picture of cantata members; FWF Float