



San Saba

First United Methodist Church

January 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
Worship Leader:
 Tracey Thomas
Accompanist:
 Nettie Oma Carpenter
Choir Director:
 Tracey Thomas
Church Secretary
 Karen Alexander
Custodian:
 Mario Mendiola

Newsletter deadline is the last
 Wednesday of the month.

From the Pastor's Desk.....



Going On to Perfection

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2

Be perfect... as your heavenly Father is perfect.
 Matthew 5:48

The last three months, the focus of my article has been on the loving God to whom we belong. This month let's consider how our love for God moves us toward transformed lives — a process called “sanctification” or “going on to perfection.”

It is truly a terrifying thing to be told by Jesus that we are to be perfect, just as God is perfect. I used to find it to be such a terrifying thing that I needed to block it from my memory. But I have since come to a new understanding of perfection. The perfection of which Jesus speaks is not to be confused with the idea of being without fault or error; it is not a question of being like God in identical quantity. Instead, think of this perfection as being like God in terms of capacity. A coffee mug can be as perfectly full as a five-gallon bucket, even though they hold vastly different quantities of liquid. Jesus does not expect us to have the infinite capacity for goodness and grace that He shares with God the Father. But we can and are expected to live up to the human capacity God has put within each of us (in varying measures), just as the Almighty lives up to the full capacity of deity.

It can also be helpful to remember that we are not on our own; we have God's gracious assistance helping us move toward perfection. John Wesley said that sanctification is not a good work we do for God, but a good work God does within us. God moves us to perfection when we open ourselves up to the One who created us, who knows us completely, and who understands our capacity. Before this Holy One we present ourselves not as burnt offerings on an altar, but as living sacrifices in the world (Romans 12:1).

Continued on page 2.....

This month I invite you to consider a question John Wesley thought was of critical importance: “How is it with your soul?” As we begin 2015, think of where you are allowing God to perfect you, and where you are resisting God’s grace. As we journey through this new year together let’s pray this prayer together:

Receive me, O Lord, as a living sacrifice,
fully alive and ready to be used as you think best.
I am painfully aware of the ways I conform to this world
and resist your loving grace.
Transform me by your mighty power.
Renew my mind,
enable me to discern your will for my life,
place within my mind both the knowledge and ability
to do what is good, acceptable, and perfect.
These things I pray, together with the whole church;
through that One who was the supremely perfect sacrifice,
our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Grace and peace,
Pastor John

First Choir News

What a great time we all had with friends from other churches in the community joining us in singing "The First Noel"! The choir had put in many hours practicing and we hope you received a blessing in hearing it. Thank you to all who took time out of a busy Christmas season to come and attend this special event.



Christmas caroling was lightly attended this year due to the weather. Yet, the blessings in that night were very special—even to those outside our own congregation! Thanks to Linda and Owen for planning food and refreshments for all of our events and to all others who helped them!

Choir practice will resume on Wednesday, January 7. However, we will **GO BACK TO 6:00** to practice so that it won't be so late when we finish. If you have ever thought about singing with us, it would be a GREAT time to join us! There is always a bit of a “let down” after Christmas when we are back down to our small group—but we always have a wonderful fellowship hour along with singing music that is uplifting to the spirit. We will plan to sing in church whenever we can have something prepared—no pressure! Come join us!



Special Thanks to All Who Worked So Hard to Make the Children's Christmas Activities Happen



Clara June Murray,
Newborn daughter of Lee & Kelly Murray and granddaughter of Sam & Laina Murray, will be honored at a baby shower in January. More details will be announced soon.

Coming Soon...

A Bible Study

Tuesday's @ 9:30

Trish Warren's Home

More Details Available
Soon

See Trish Warren
if Interested
In Participating
Or For More Info



Nelda Weatherby celebrated a very special 90th birthday in December.



Thanks to Shirley Ostrander 01-15-2004
HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?



Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death

Prayer Concerns

Amanda Jackson health
Elsie Millican health
Angela Scott health
border situation & children
peace in Israel
Mike Moran (Karen Alexander's brother-in-law)
Brad Reeves (deployed to the border)

Mark Owens (deployed to the border)
Travis & Kathy Gage (back in Houston after Jan. 7th)
Nelda Weatherby (eye treatments)
David & Barbara Gilger (David is recovering from heart surgery)
Our Military Men, Women & Families
Our Church, Our Town & Our Nation

MYF Resumes

Sunday, January 11th

5:30 p.m.



Come Join the Fun!!!!



**United Methodist Men
Resumes
Sunday January 11th**

**Breakfast @ 7:45 a.m.
Bible Study @ 8:00 a.m.**

December at FUMC

