



San Saba First United Methodist Church January 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
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.....

Comfort



After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.

1 Peter 5:10

*The spirit of the Lord God is upon me...
to comfort all who mourn,
to provide for those who mourn in Zion –
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.*

Isaiah 61:1-3

This month we continue our consideration of the Beatitudes.

Beatitude 2: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

As with last month's beatitude, this one has two possible meanings, and we do not need to exclude either meaning. We have all experienced grief. Each of us has felt the sadness of losing a loved one; the hollow feeling we get when someone close to us has died. We grieve the part of them that made us who we are. We miss them and we long to see them again. For those who are literally mourning, the promise of the resurrection is the greatest source of strength – for "comfort" means "to make strong." In the promise of the resurrection we find the strength to bear the weight of loss, grief, and mourning, knowing that we will be united again in the fullness of time.

It might also be said that we mourn over our human condition. We regret our sins and we grieve over our errors. We mourn our sins of commission and omission; those things we regret doing, and those things we regret not doing. We mourn our sins personally and corporately; our own personal sins, as well as the sins of our community, our nation, and our world. Like Jesus, weeping at the sight of Jerusalem, it is difficult to look upon the pain of life in this world. We long to gather the hurting under our wing for safe keeping. In this sense we are mourning figuratively. In this sense, too, we are strengthened by the

continued on page 2.....



Our Newest Members

Welcome to our newest members, Abby & Scott Snyder!!!!The Snyder's love to meet new people and love San Saba. They plan on staying put for a long time! We enjoy doing a "sport" we can do together-"geocaching" which takes us to places we wouldn't have seen otherwise. Scott loves sports, taking care of his lawn, and Abby. Abby loves a good book, dogs, and Scott. They have one grown daughter, Chelsea, who lives in Austin and is busy planning her wedding to Danny.

The Thompson Family would like to THANK everyone for all their help with the wedding.



Continued from page 1.....

blessed assurance of God's forgiveness. How can God comfort those who ignore their sins, or worse, pretend they are without sin? For them, God can do little. But those who mourn their sins and turn to God find comfort and strength.

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

Lord God,

you are a strong tower
and a sure defense in times of trouble.

Apart from you we have no reliable help.

Apart from you we have no reliable help.

But in our grief you come to us,
reminding us of Calvary
and to the empty tomb which lies beyond the cross.

You are our gain,
when we experience loss,
you give us direction
when we stray like lost sheep,
and you are our forgiveness when we err and sin.

Give to each of us the assurance of your loving-kindness,
your forgiveness,
and eternal life in you.

To you be praise and glory,
through Christ, who strengthens us to do all things.

Amen.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor John

Prayer Concerns

Amanda Jackson (Pecan Valley Nursing Home & Rehab)
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 at home!!)
Travis & Kathy Gage (continuing improvement in Travis' rehab)
Wanda Davenport
George Kidd
Our Military Men, Women & Families

Note of Thanks

Dearest Choir:

Thank you so much for the generous gift card for the Mercantile shop in town!! You worked so hard on this year's Christmas cantata, and it was on HONOR and my PLEASURE to lead all of the voices by the grace of God! It was a beautiful evening and I pray that each person who came felt the blessing that you shared so sweetly and passionately. I love you all very much and will see you again soon! Our first rehearsal back will be January 6th His Love and mine, Tracey.

Our Church Family

December is always a busy month. Our church had its share of activities with the Murray baptism with lots of family members in Thanksgiving week-end to attend it. Then the choir and their friends led by Tracey Thomas put on a magnificent cantata. Nice weather prevailed for the Christmas Caroling. Fellowship of Christian Woman met at our church. The Thinking of You group met at Barbara Gilger's home and made Christmas Cheer Bags for 16 people. Pastor John Saint led those attending in Christmas caroling. Our church also hosted an Armadillo Coffee House to help high school students with their end of the semester projects and finals. Then came the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Finally the Wedding of Kelly Thompson and Kandice Erwin on New Years Eve completed the month's activities. It has been good to see our two college students home. Jantzen Bell and Shea Scott have both been spotted in town. Paula & Raymond Barrier have made it to church recently. It must mean that they are feeling better. Jaden Owens, Risien Shahan & Sarah Saint have been busy with San Saba 7th grade basketball practice and games. It sure was good to see David Gilger as a member of the group singing the cantata. Kim Kirk's dad had a heart cauterization and is doing better. Vickie Stevenson's son Dutch is back in Italy. Scott & Abby Snyder are preparing to write lots of checks for their daughter's Chelsea's wedding. Travis Hawkins was working and will have a late Christmas with his parents, Travis and Cindy Hawkins. He is really enjoying his new job with Halliburton. Peter Hald has had surgery on his lip and is doing well. It sure was good to see Del Sears come in to the Candlelight Christmas Even service with Nicole and Derek. Ian Saint had a heart procedure and seemed to recover quickly. He and his family left the following Monday for a week of camping at Big Bend State Park. Ann & Don McElroy have added another grandson to their large family. Ronnie Schulze and Bubba Cantu are in Mexico for a little hunting. Hope they get something. Trish Warren traveled to Colorado to see her family. Although there was some snow and ice she made it back safely,. Mike & Jerilyn Millican were in San Saba for several days for the wedding activities of their nephew, Kelly Thompson. Kristi & Luke Addington & family were here for Christmas activities at the Sam Murray house. The Kevin Shahan family spend several days in New Mexico skiing before Christmas. They enjoyed a visit with Stan & Millie Burnham's son who lives there. Pat Reavis brought her fiancé Comanche Blue to Sunday School with her one Sunday. We enjoyed meeting him and hopes he comes back to visit us. Mike & Tracey Thomas traveled to San Antonio to be with their son Josh and his family for Christmas.



December at FUMC



Top Left: Amanda Jackson with Raley Kirk & Friends who delivered /Christmas cheer bags to several church members
Top right: Pastor John baptizing Clara June Murray
Middle: Shot from the Children's Christmas Program
Bottom Left: Pastor John leading the Christmas Carols at Fellowship of Christian Woman
Bottom right: Mike & Pat Johnson with Clara Murray during the Christmas Caroling