

# FIRST NEWS



**San Saba  
First United Methodist Church**

**July 2011**

**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  
Worship Leader:  
Tracey Thomas**

**Pianist/Organist:  
Nettie Oma Carpenter**

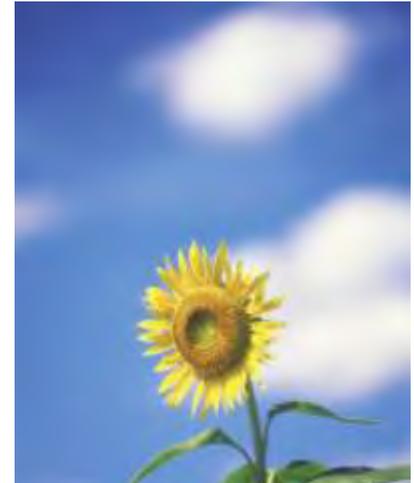
**Choir Director:  
Tracey Thomas**

**Church Secretary:  
Debbie Uli**

**Custodian:  
Mario Mendiola**

## **From the Pastor's Study.....**

*"We know that in everything God works for good with those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28*



Outward conditions are often convenient excuses on which we can hang our inner failures. If things do not go as they should, we blame the circumstances. The important thing is not what circumstances in life we face, but how we respond to them.

No one has illustrated this better than Viktor Frankl in his clear account of three grim years at Auschwitz in his book *Search for Meaning*. In one place he describes all that had been taken away from the prisoners and their stark and difficult circumstances, but then he writes, "Everything can be taken away from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms, to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."

In the above text, Paul is saying that in everything that happens to us, God can work for good for those who are committed to His purpose. Not everything that happens to us is good, but in everything that happens God can work for good. Evil is prevalent in our fallen world, but God is able to turn every circumstance around for our long-range good. God is not working to make us "happy," but to fulfill His purpose.

There are at least two blessings in this for us: this promise can be claimed by those who love God, and we can participate with God in fulfilling His purpose. Holy hope and holy work.

*Pastor Debby*

## Prayer Concerns

### Everyone in the disaster hit areas

Mike Millican and Family  
 Cody and Haley Turner's infant son  
 F.L. Kalmus  
 Ron Moss (traveling mercies/  
 selected for a experimental drug pro-  
 gram)  
 Nancy Bannister and Fam.  
 Kaye Clancey (waiting for trans-  
 plant)&Fam  
 Zolly Jones  
 David and Barbara Gilger and Fam.  
 Eddie Campbell  
 George and Margaret Kidd  
 Rode White  
 Linda Mixon and Fam.  
 Betty Smith (Daniel Smith's  
 Mother)  
 Michael Ogden(Kim Kirk's friend  
 w/ cancer)  
 Sherri Smith  
 James and Pat Reavis  
 Katie Andreas (continuing prayer)  
 Thelma Millican (nursing home)  
 Gordan Hall (prostrate cancer)  
 Roy Caviness  
 Kathren Wolfe (Martha Schanhals)  
 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 Mat-  
 thew Moss  
 Our City, Our Nation, Our Church  
**In Our Military**  
 Alex Dove, Eric Booker,  
 Matthew Barrier, Ralph Kintzen,  
 Cory Clendennen Jay Huggins,  
 Matthew Phinney, Andy Smith,  
 Andrew Reynolds, John Paul  
 Dretke,  
 Jay Dewitt,Matthew Dennis  
 Please Pray for Our Troops,  
 All Our Military Men and Women

## 1st Ladies

Fifteen members of United Methodist Women met for their regular monthly meeting at 4:30 P.M. June 13, 2011 in the church parlor.



President Nettie Oma Carpenter called the meeting to order and asked for prayer concerns. She gave the devotional and Pastor Debby led the prayer. Suzanne Walters presented the prayer shawl she had made for Kay Clancey underwent liver surgery recently. Wahnee Stallings read the minutes of the May meeting and one correction was made before the minutes were approved as presented. The treasurer was not present so there was no report.

Nettie Oma noted that the school of Christian Missions will be held July 14-17 and listed studies for the next year. There will be no meeting in July, and at the August meeting we will decide for whom to burn candles. Committees were named for the September 10<sup>th</sup> District Meeting.

Ann McElroy then presented a very interesting program, dividing the members into groups for discussions and then each group gave their conclusions.

The meeting was adjourned and members present enjoyed fellowship and refreshments served by Lesa Schulze and Wahnee Stallings.

Submitted by Wahnee Stallings

### STEWARDSHIP REPORT

**GENERAL FUND INCOME to 6-30-11——\$70,790.00**  
**GENERAL FUND EXPENSES to 6-30-11——\$68,007.00**  
**Our Spring Storms Offering was \$445.00**

### BALANCES ON JUNE 30, 2011:

<b>GENERAL FUND</b> _____	<b>\$23,394.00</b>
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</b> _____	<b>\$11,093.00</b>
<b>ST. STEPHENS FUND</b> _____	<b>-\$ 414.00</b>
<b>YOUTH FUND</b> _____	<b>\$ 6,485.00</b>
<b>MEMORIAL FUND</b> _____	<b>\$ 5,137.00</b>
<b>ENDOWMENT FUND</b> _____	<b>\$10,567.00</b>

## **2011 FUMC Southwest Texas Annual Conference**

Another year has passed in the life of the FUMC San Saba and amongst our fellow churches in the Southwest Texas Annual Conference. This year's 153<sup>rd</sup> annual conference theme was "Creating a Culture of Growth". It was uplifting and encouraging for all of those attending, including myself as your lay delegate from FUMC San Saba. The Conference, led by presiding Bishop Mr. Jim Dorff, brought enthusiasm and a renewed emphasis on a movement of growth within our conference. Bishop Dorff further emphasized this movement of growth to the clergy and delegates by stating "The Time is Now!"

We are facing a crossroads in our membership and in the changing landscape of our state. The Hispanic population in the state of Texas continues to rise and the Caucasian population continues to diminish as a percent of the total population. That should change how our local churches seek to reach deeper into our communities as the feet and hands of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We must welcome these cultural changes if we are to survive as local churches. In addition to cultural change, the Church is seeing its membership base continue to age. The average age of members in the Church is currently 58 years old and this has continuously risen over the past decade. Over that same decade, the total membership of the church has decreased in 9 of the 10 years. According to Bishop Dorff, this past year our church membership decreased 8%, while our population in the state increased by 1.1 million people. This begs the question, what are we doing as servants of Christ to bring new people to our local church? Is there perhaps a ministry you would like to see begun to assist with an effort to meet the needs of people in the community of San Saba? Have you shared it with your pastor? We all know not everything is being done to share the love of Christ with others in our community. The question then becomes, "If not you, then who?"

Bishop Mike Lowry led a wonderful worship service and noted to all in attendance that the mission originally set out for our founding brothers and sisters who have walked before us of changing the lives of this nation and bringing people to Christ has been reached on a statewide level. We have done excellent work in reaching people with our medical and healthcare facilities and numerous programs. We reach the unchurched annually with the new church development programs and we lead many programs that assist those in poverty throughout Texas and across state lines. Overseas, we are still striving to stamp out malaria which most of you are familiar with and know the drive as "nothing but nets", a campaign which was launched several years back. In addition, we are taking the message of Christ to overseas territories which in some cases we didn't even know existed. Bishop Lowry further emphasized that our work is not done! Some of our initiatives have just begun and we must stay true to the course as the ethnic and cultural diversity of our landscape continues to change. We each have what many in our local communities still thirst for – the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ in their own lives.

The elected clergy and laity delegates to general conference and jurisdictional conference as can be seen at [www.umcswtx.org](http://www.umcswtx.org) are as follows:

### **Elected Clergy Delegates to General Conference**

*Laura Merrill – McAllen District Superintendent*  
*Eradio Valverde – Corpus Christi District Superintendent*  
*Carl Rohlf's – San Antonio District Superintendent*  
*Virgilio Vazquez-Garza – Assistant to the Episcopal Officee*

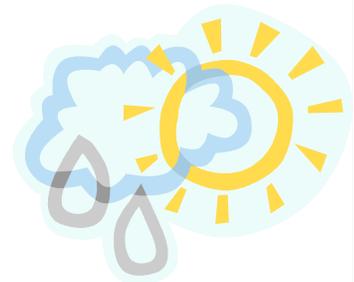
### **Elected Laity Delegates to General Conference**

*Jay Brim – Westlake UMC*  
*Teresa Keese – FUMC Brady*  
*Ralph Thomson – Grape Creek UMC*  
*Byrd Bonner – Travis Park UMC*

### **Elected Clergy Delegates to Jurisdictional Conference**

*Terrence Hayes – Victoria District Superintendent*  
*Russell Thomas Miller – FUMC Boerne*

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*Austin Frederick – Vice President for Pastoral Services United Methodist Healthcare System*

*Thomas Deviney – Bethany UMC Austin*

Elected Laity Delegates to Jurisdictional Conference

*Sarah Cloninger Howell – St John's UMC Austin*

*Terry Schoenert – Oak Meadow UMC*

*William Ault – Coker UMC*

*Mark Nerio – University UMC San Antonio*

Major floor actions, issues, and concerns within the conference business sessions included a raise in the minimum salary levels of ministers up 2.8% from the prior year. In addition, the District Superintendents salary levels were increased by 5.1%. The most controversial issue arose in a business session on the final day and included the consideration of a resolution to be filed as a petition to General Conference as recommended by The Board of Church and Society of the Southwest Texas Annual Conference as follows: *"The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, color, national origin, status, economic condition, sexual orientation, or gender identity and expression shall be eligible to attend worship services, participate in church programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking the vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members of the local church in the connection. In the United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status, economic condition, sexual orientation, or gender identity and expression."* There was also a rationale presented by the Board of Church and Society, which is very important to read in conjunction with the above petition, in considering gay and lesbian members of society and their participation in the local church. As this issue is considered by the General Conference, I am sure you will hear more concerning United Methodist Church's reaction and resolution to the petition. I would suggest if this is an area of concern for you as a member of this church, that you discuss the matter with your lay delegate (Kevin Shahan) and your pastor prior to the annual conference in June 2012, where there will be the potential of a vote on the matter.

I appreciate your allowing me to be a part of the annual conference and look forward to attending again in the future. The work of the Lord is ever present in today's United Methodist Church and will continue as we use our gifts to bring more people to Christ with open hearts, open minds, and open doors. God Bless.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Kevin Shahan,*

*Lay Delegate 2011 Annual Conference*



## Our Church Family

The hot days of summer are here upon us. The church family is not letting a little weather get in the way of their summer activities. Margaret Kidd was seen at G&R picking up a couple of grocery items. Do you know how you drive up and someone comes out of the store and waits on you? That's the kind of service Margaret was getting. Allison Rogers, daughter of David Rogers graduated from high school this May. She was 3rd in her class. As you can imagine, her dad and all of her family are proud of her. Dave Rogers has been very handy in sound room during the worship services and during VBS. Bettye McLaughlin's family (grandson, wife, & great-grandson) have been on a Mission trip to Haiti. Hope they are now safely back in the USA. It sure was good to see Chris & Krystal Amthor and their twin boys one Sunday visiting Chris' mom and dad, Mark & Kathy McEwin. Flovell Thomas' daughter retired from teaching after 41 years. Vickie & C.K. Stevenson had a great trip to Arizona to see their son and do a little sight seeing. The highlight of the trip seemed to be a train trip to northern Arizona. Monica & Kevin Shahan as well as Debby Lake attended the Annual Conference in Corpus Christi. Be sure and check out Kevin's report on page 2-3 in this newsletter. Debby had a little surprise when she got home. The air conditioner in the church parsonage had gone out. It took a day or two to get it fixed as the part had to be ordered. 1st Church had a great garage sale the first week-end in June. Lots of people helped but Millie Burnham and Lesa Schultz worked lots of hours getting ready for the sale. About \$700 dollars was made. A lot of the donations came from Lewis & Zolly Jones. Barbara & David Gilger were just one of lots of people who made the Garden Club's Tour of Gardens. Everyone who went had a great time. Nancy Bannister has been spending some time cleaning out some closets. Wahnee Stallings has been doing some painting in her kitchen. I wonder if they hire out. Deborah Ragsdale's dad has been having some health problems. Our hope is that he is doing better now. Trish & Henry Warren really enjoyed having her son Lyle here for a week or two. Ted Red also had some company. His grandchildren were here. Roland & Cindy Hawkins have made a trip to check on Tyler's cows. It is hot and dry everywhere. Ann McElroy had the chance to go to China with her daughter. Thanks goes to David & Alesha Rogeers and Kevin Shahan for filling in for the Thomas' as they take a little vacation out to California to see daughter Lindsey & son-in-law Derek Pugh. They were looking forward to a drive and plenty of time to check out scenery this time as school is out. Brad & Misti Everett were doing a vacation with college friends in Florida. Hope Brad's back was behaving itself. He has been having a few problems with it. Did you see J.T. Moody's picture in the San Saba News & Star? He and his family always ride in the rodeo parade. The Mathis clan enjoyed a trip to Lake Travis for some summer fun. Some of Scott's family were also there so it made for extra fun. Daylon Smith has been participating in some of the local Horse Play Days. He was 1st in poles at one. Good job, Daylon. We have missed Amanda Jackson. She missed the Bend Fish Fry which is unusual. Hope you are feeling better Amanda. The Everett, Mathis, and Shahan families spent a week-end in Llano. Ryan, Jacey, and Risien were all on the All-Star baseball team. They had at least 3 games one week-end. Kristi Addington and Rebecca were here spending the week-end with Sam & Laina Murray & Lee & Kelly Murray. I am not sure who got to hold the baby, Rebecca, the most. It was good to have Nancy Bannister in church. Wahnee Stalling went by and picked her up. Our sympathy goes out to the Millican family in the loss of Jill Millican, Mike's daughter. Carolyn McDowell also lost her Aunt Mary. Jess served as the chauffer for Mike and Carolyn as they traveled to Prague, Oklahoma for the graveside service. Three other family members were also buried there. Mindy Cantu, Celia Bell and Jantzen Bell are looking forward to a vacation in New Orleans. Del Sears enjoyed a visit from his son Scott and his family. Owen & Linda Parks could be on Rescue Renovation TV show. They are helping John Darren and Michelle Barker fix up a house across the street from the Park's. John Darren and Michelle has been hired by San Saba ISD and will be moving here before school starts. Klela Waldie is in the metroplex helping her son and his family after her daughter-in-law's surgery. Lesa & Ronnie Schultz have learned that Corrie & Shane Dyson's baby is going to be a girl. Guess pink and lace trimmed clothes are what they are going to be bought.



## Operation Kid-to-Kid

During our PandaMania VBS this summer, our kids participated in an Operation Kid-to-Kid international mission project. Across the nation, this project allowed hundreds of thousands of kids to create and send brightly-colored backpacks to at-risk children in Spanish-speaking countries. During PandaMania, kids and adults colored special backpacks that have “Jesus Loves Me” printed in six languages right on them. Way to Go PandaMania VBS Kids!!

## PandaMania VBS

PandaMania VBS was a huge success thanks to many wonderful volunteers! Our station leaders and helpers included: Kim Kirk, Cherry Kay Lange, Debbie Shahan, Melanie Mathis, Carol Littlefield, Brandi Easterwood, Celia Bell, Lesa Schulze, Kassidy Ellis, Linda Parks, Scott Mathis, Misty Everett, and Monica Shahan. Crew Leaders included: Raley Kirk, Kolton Ellis, Gennie Hamilton, Jacey Martinez, Russell Lowe, Gunnar Hibler, Hailey Osbourn, Kayla Kutin, JT Mathis, Elizabeth Bryant, Allison Christian, Mindy Cantu, Joy Trujillo, Alexa Maxcey, McKenna Maxcey, Alesha Rogers, TJ Hibler, Kayce Ellis, Kayla Ellis, Kennedy Guerra, Lauren Dawson, Marisela Zapata, Tiffany Barnes, Allison Rogers, Sam Rogers and Jantzen Bell. Technical Support included Mike McDowell, Mike Thomas, Dave Rogers, and Melanie Mathis. Others included: Ann McElroy, Trish Warren, Debbie Millican and Lee Murray. The following provided snacks during VBS: Sue Moody, Millie Burnham, Kelly Murray, Kay Thompson, Wahnee Stallings, Wanda Davenport, Kathy McEwin, Carolyn McDowell, Trish Warren, Klela Waldie, and Nettie Oma Carpenter. Thank you to Melanie Mathis for transporting kids to and from PandaMania! Lesa Schulze, Melanie Mathis, Mike Thomas, Kim Kirk, Misty Everett, and Monica Shahan put in countless hours during the week prior to VBS to create a fun, exciting, welcoming atmosphere!!



Throughout the week, 80 preschool and elementary kids joined with almost 40 jr. high, high school, college and adult volunteers to explore God’s wild love for his children. The mornings began with Party Time Sing and Play. Children and youth filled the sanctuary and started the day singing praises to God! From there, children traveled with their multi-age crews and enjoyed snacks at Treetop Treats, played outside at Bamboo Blast Games, created fun creations at Crazy Crafts and Missions, watched Chadder at Chadder’s Movie Mania, and studied God’s word in Wild Bible Adventures. Finally, we all ended up back in the sanctuary for Rowdy Wrap-Up to sing, praise, and cement the day’s Bible learning!

Submitted by Monica Shahan

