



San Saba First United Methodist Church July 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
Kristi Owens
Church Treasurer
Kevin Shahan
Custodian:
Mario Mendiola**

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

From the Pastor's Desk.....



Cheerful Giving

*The wicked borrow, and do not pay back,
but the righteous are generous
and keep giving*

Psalm 37:21

God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

In our continuing examination of the fruit of the Spirit set forth in Galatians 5:22: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, this month let's consider generosity.

When making a new acquaintance, one of the first things people usually ask is, "What do you do for a living?" You can tell a lot about a person by their vocation, including an idea of how much money they earn. Even though household income is one of the ways people in our society judge one another, God doesn't seem to care one bit. Instead, God cares about how much we give away; a matter never mentioned by those who want to impress us with their incomes. Judging by human wisdom, the gospel sounds like sheer foolishness when it comes to money. And what about the term "cheerful giver?" Surely it is an oxymoron? Isn't it those who cling to what they have that are "happy?"

When stewardship Sunday rolls around in the fall, it is not uncommon to hear the advice, "give until it hurts." A better way to say this would be to say, "give until it stops hurting." But even this falls short of the biblical standard of generosity. I think Jesus would say, "give until it is fun, and then keep giving!" According to scripture, all we have comes from God, who has shared blessings and bounty with us, that we would care for those less fortunate than ourselves. In Christ Jesus, God was willing to give up all divine power and authority in order to show us what true generosity means. And God did not come as a rich and powerful king, but as a poor transient born to an unwed teenage mother; the poorest of the poor. God's generosity is unfathomable!

In light of God's generosity, what we have to give may seem meager, but it is not the size of the gift that matters as much as the spirit in which it is given. It feels good to be generous! Contrary to what some popular preachers will tell you, true happiness comes not from financial security, but from extravagant giving. How happy are those who have discovered the joy of giving away not only time and talent, but money as well. Ironically, being generous may be the most self-serving lifestyle one can imagine. The cheerful giver receives a joy from being generous that stingy people can never know. This is just one of the ways God has of surprising us.

This month as you consider generosity as a fruit of the spirit, ask yourself these questions:

- Do I give cheerfully or reluctantly?

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May Treasurer's Report

Income in May

\$12,779.00

Expenses in May

\$12,392.00

Ending Balance

\$10,721.86



Submitted by Kevin Shahan

Dear FUMC Family,

Thank you so much for your generous donation in the amount of \$500.00 to Mission San Saba 2015. We appreciate your support and your gift will be put to great use supporting our mission to rebuilding a home for a deserving family.

This year we are excited to be celebrating our 12th anniversary and we are celebrating you too! Because of your thoughtful support, we are able to celebrate many community wide successes of rebuilding homes.

We are so grateful for your support. Thank you for believing in the power of missions!

With gratitude,

Donna Blossman
Mission Organizer

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- When giving something away do I ever pray, "O Lord, help me to give away even more"?
 - How often do I recall John Wesley's rule: "Earn all you can. Save all you can. Give away all you can"?
- How can I increase both my giving and my eagerness to give?

This month I invite you to pray this prayer with me:

Great God of heaven:

In coming to earth to dwell among us,
and to die for us,

you have demonstrated your perfect generosity.

Give us eyes to see in both the manger and the cross
the joy of giving ourselves fully in your service.

Take away from us the irrational fear
that if we give away what we have
we will have less – or even nothing.

Remind us that those who would save their lives
lose them,

while those who lose their lives for the sake of the gospel
truly find life in the fullest.

We pray through him who taught us this
in both word and deed,

Jesus Christ, the perfect offering. Amen.



Grace and Peace,
Pastor John



Following the performance of the VBS musical, "I Am A Promise", a hamburger supper was served to those attending. Other VBS activities included a pool party, meals, crafts and the musical practice sessions.



The GODLY PLAY Sunday School Class meets each Sunday at 9 a.m. at FUMC. All children are invited to participate. Pictured here is the class with teacher Celia Bell.

Prayer Concerns

The Family of Elsie Millican
 Amanda Jackson health
 Angela Scott health
 Brad Reeves (safety)
 Mark Owens (safety)
 The Boy Scouts attending camp

The Family of Wade Ellis
 Travis & Kathy Gage (at home)
 David & Barbara Gilger (David is recovering from heart surgery)
 Our Military Men, Women & Families
 Our Church, Our Town & Our Nation

MYF Is On Summer Break



Next Scheduled Meeting

August 2

Dear Church Family,

We would like to say a big "Thank You" to everyone who made our 2015 VBS a huge success.

Because you said "Yes", we were able to minister and reach out not only to our own church family, but also to many families in the community.

We hope that the memories and experiences of VBS will continue to bless each of you.

Most sincerely,

Celia Bell and Carolyn McDowell



The FUMC CHOIR
 Continues
 to be on
 Summer Break

Submitted by:
 Tracey Thomas

Our Church Family

It is summer and lots of our church family are traveling. The Kevin Shahan family went to Washington D.C. for their vacation. John Saint and Roland & Cindy Hawkins attended the Rio Texas Annual Conference. Former members of FUMCSS Casey & Ryan Mathis came to attend San Saba High School graduation and visit with friends. CK Stevenson was one of a group of veterans from Texas who were honored for their service. They were flown to Washington D.C. and taken to see monuments honoring veterans. CK said it was a wonderful experience. Vickie stayed with her daughter in the metroplex and enjoyed some shopping. Braylee Reeves went to cheerleading camp with the Brownwood High School cheerleaders. If you ask her to share a cheer with you, Braylee will be glad to do it for you. Logan thrilled his mom on her birthday because he sat up all by himself for the first time. What a great birthday present!!! Attending the Tri County United **Methodist Men's Fish Fry at Bend were: John & Alexis Saint, Mike & Tracey Thomas, Cherry Kay Lange, Sam & Laina Murray, Lee & Kelly Murray and children, Ken & Cindy Prater, CK, Vickie Stevenson and her daughter and friend.** Congratulations to Shea Scott, daughter of Mark & Kristy Owens for receiving the following scholarships: San Saba County EMS, Band Boosters, Annette Hooten Memorial and an ACU University scholarship. Jantzen Bell also received several scholarships. He received the Pierian Study Club, the Band Boosters, the San Saba High School Alumni Association, the Annette Hooten Memorial, and the ATPE scholarship. The SS High School girls golf team placed 3rd at state. Raley Kirk is a member of the team and was selected to the 2nd team All State. Regan, Kim and Raley enjoyed a 1 week cruise thru the inside passage of Alaska. Raley attended the Farm bureau leadership camp and has been playing summer league basketball.

