



San Saba First United Methodist Church July 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
Choir Director:
Tracey Thomas
Church Secretary**

**Church Treasurer
Kevin Shahan
Custodian:
Alonzo Jimenez**

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

From the Pastor's Desk.....

Justice



*Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ...
For [God] has graciously granted you the privilege...
of suffering for him...
Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,
but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.
Let each of you look not to your own interests,
but to the interest of others.*

Philippians 1:27,29;2:3-4

This month we conclude our consideration of the Beatitudes.
*Beatitude 8: Blessed are those who are persecuted for right-
eousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Throughout history, from time to time, a hero has come forth to champion the cause of the weak and the persecuted. Abraham Lincoln, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Mahatma Gandhi, and of course Jesus of Nazareth, are some of the first names that pop into my mind. In the eighth beatitude Jesus promises that the kingdom of heaven belongs to people such as these, who were murdered for their roles in bringing justice to the oppressed.

However, any fool can be obnoxious enough to elicit persecution, and you might argue that some even deserve it! It requires no real moral foundation, no focused effort, and no special talent to attract the ire of others. But to be the target of persecution *in the cause of justice*, is another matter altogether. Our capacity for deceiving ourselves is enormous. We have a seemingly limitless ability to convince ourselves that we are working for the right causes, and going about it in the right way, even when we are engaging in self-serving actions that actually harm the causes of justice and peace. We are perfectly capable of standing in the way of what is right, even when we are intending to walk in right paths. What we tend to lack is the ability to see ourselves as our critics see us.

Especially in the midst of another extremely polarized and vicious political election cycle, we would do well to examine our own motivations, our own pet projects, and our own gripes about how broken the world is and who is to blame. When you are feeling a tug to speak up or act out for a particular cause, consider questions such as these:

Am I being derided because of the cause I support, or because of my imperfect way of supporting that cause?
When I feel moved to criticize others, am I criticizing their

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causes and viewpoints or them personally?

Do I feel a deep sense of sadness and regret when I must

stand against others, or do I feel a secret sense of glee or superiority?

Do I want to see those who criticize me persuaded and transformed, or defeated and punished? How can I be more faithful to what I believe and at the same time be tender and compassionate in my manner?

Am I open to seeing other perspectives and coming to new understandings within myself?

When engaging in debate over controversies do I listen with the intent to understand, or am I just waiting for my chance to talk?

In the kingdom of heaven there is no room for the impurities of wrong motives, even in the quest for right actions. They are refined away by the fire of divine goodness.

As you consider the eighth beatitude, I invite you to pray this prayer with me:

Remember, almighty God, all who are unjustly accused or wrongfully treated

because they stand for what is right.

To all such persons give the comfort of your presence now

and the assurance that they will share

in your triumph over all evil

at the completing of your Kingdom.

Grant us also the strength to stand for what is right,

and to do so with pure intention

and wise action,

so that the causes we support

may be accepted by the world

without distractions we create;

through Christ Jesus our Lord who, without thought for himself,

called forth the ultimate persecution

and won the final victory. Amen.



Grace & Peace,
Pastor John



What a nice surprise when former longtime FUMC member Suzanne Walters showed up at church one Sunday recently. It was good to see you, Suzanne!!!!



Welcome
Alonzo Jimenez is our new maintenance man. Alonzo is pictured here with his three daughters Andrea, Abigail and Alexis. You will probably spot Alonzo working at the church at night as he has another job at San Saba ISD as their maintenance man. Alonzo replaced Mario Mendiola who retired the end of May. Please give him a warm welcome.

Prayer Concerns

Allison Millican (Winston & Kristen's infant daughter)
Amanda Jackson (Pecan Valley Nursing Home & Rehab)
Brad Reeves & Mark Owns (safety)
Stan & Millie Burnham (Stan is at home)
Rain
Our Nation
Cindy Hawkins' Aunt Marge and Ann's family

Bill & Evelyn Herman (Cindy Prater's parents)
Peter Hald (cataract surgery on both eyes)
Thanks for a successful VBS
C.K. Stevenson (surgery)
Bettye McLaughlin (moving to town)
Our Military Men, Women & Families

Zolly Jones' Frosted Apricot Cookies

½ cup butter, softened
1 package (3 oz.) cream cheese
Combine & beat till smooth.

1 ¼ c. flour
¼ c. sugar
1 tsp. baking powder
Combine and stir into the above mixture.

½ c. apricot preserves
½ chopped pecans
Add. Mix well.

Drop by spoonfuls on greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 12-15 minutes. (will not brown on top). Makes 3 ½ dozen.

Frosting:
1 TBSP. butter, softened
1 c. sifted powdered sugar
¼ c. apricot preserves
Ice while cookies are still warm.



The Thinking of You Group met June 29, 2016 and honored Nettie Oma Carpenter for her service to FUMC as church pianist for 20 years. She was presented with a plaque and a potted plant.



**No Godly Play
Sunday School Class
In July**

**A big thank you to all who
donated craft items, food,
worked, and prayed for
FUMC's Vacation Bible School.
It was a huge success because of
your support. Thanks again.**

Christi Mays, VBS Coordinator

Our Church Family

Kristi Owens, our church secretary has taken a job at the Baylor Scott & White Hospital in Llano. We will miss her and wish her well at her new job. Polly Patterson, daughter of Bess Patterson and former member of our church visited with us one Sunday. It is always good to see old faces. Derek Sears is also a face that we do not get to see very often. He was in town one day and ran into several FUMC members. He is counting the days till he is finished with med school. Lesa Schulze and Mindy Cantu had a booming snow cone business at the Splash Day at Mill Pond Park. You might even get to visit with Jantzen Bell a little if you happen by Mrs. Mindy's on Wallace Street. Jantzen is keeping real busy working for Mindy, his dad Bud Bell and also at the La Citta Pizza Place. Tracey & Mike Thomas have had a really busy June. First it was a trip to California to visit daughter Lindsey Pugh and family. Then they attended Tracey's class reunion in Arlington. Then granddaughter Avery came and went to VBS. The Thomas' took her home and attended a swim meet of Avery's. Next is two weddings. They may need a vacation to recover from their vacation. Trish Warren's twin grandsons will be attending San Saba 8th grade here. She, of course, is very excited that they will be attending school here. Both are really looking forward to being on the 8th grade football team. Risien Shahan and his parents hosted a get acquainted party for them. Diana Manning enjoyed a visit from both her sons and their families in June. I heard there was some fishing going on and of course plenty of good food. Harrison Hamer's is looking forward to having more family here in San Saba. His son and daughter-in-law will be teaching in San Saba and the Cherokee School Districts. Nettie Oma Carpenter stayed several weeks with Elodie Steger while she was waiting for her new apartment in Lubbock to be ready to move to. Travis Hawkins has completed his training for his new wind turbine job. His first location to work was Laredo. Bet it was hot there but he won't stay long in any location. It was certainly good to see Martha & Bruce Schandals at church. That new grandbaby Brett Allen is keeping them pretty close to Elgin. In fact they have put their house here in San Saba up for sale. Martha is going to be doing lots of spoiling. John & Alexis Saint and Roland & Cindy Hawkins attended annual conference in Corpus Christi. Thanks goes to Kevin Shahan for filling the pulpit the Sunday John was out. Peter Hald's second cataract surgery will be July 17th. Kim Kirk has been to a school nurse conference. Kim filled in as the school nurse the last six weeks of the school year and will be school nurse for the 2016-17 school year. Raley Kirk attended cheerleader camp with the rest of the San Saba High School cheerleaders. Holly & Mike Wise as well as Mark & Stacy, Taylor and Eli Wise will be attending a family reunion in Kentucky the end of June. Part of the vacation will include stopping and spending a day in Nashville. Maybe it will be cooler there than here. Justin Lange, Cherry Kay's grandson, made the gold Under Armour team and will play baseball in Houston in July. It is a pretty special occasion for Raymond and Paula Barrier. After all it is not every day that you can celebrate a 60 year wedding anniversary. The event was hosted by their daughter Lisa & son-in-law Byron Theodosios and included several family members. Congratulations! Abby Snyder really enjoyed having her father Hershel visit her. They worked on several carpenter projects at the house. Scott Snyder has been attending several trainings and in-service for San Saba ISD for the past three weeks. Amanda Jackson is looking forward to the July 4th holiday. Her daughter Sara is coming in for a visit. Jennifer Reeves celebrated her new birthday decade with family and friends at the Wedding Oak Winery. Braylee danced in her first big dance recital showcase in early June. She was in a ballet dance that she loved but she said her favorite dance was the Mother daughter dance she got to do with her mom. Pat & Mike Johnson enjoyed a visit from their son who lives in Austin. To celebrate Mother's and Father's Day he cooked them a delicious meal. Jaycee Everett attended cheer camp with the San Saba Middle School cheerleaders. Monica Shahan traveled to San Angelo to attend a two day middle school science teacher workshop. Nicole Grant made it in from Tyler Texas to help her dad celebrate Father's Day. Jess McDowell also came in to help his dad celebrate Father's Day and to see his Kansas City cousins. There was a lot of eating and card and domino playing going on for a day or two. Stan Burnham has some exciting news. He made it to the doughnut shop for a visit with the Thursday group and hopes to make it to church soon. It will be really nice to see Stan in church!!!!