

FIRST NEWS



**San Saba
First United Methodist Church**

March 2010

**San Saba
First United Methodist
Church
204 W. Brown
325-372-3120
[http://www.gbqm-umc.org/
fumcss/](http://www.gbqm-umc.org/fumcss/)**

Robin Percy, 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
Ashley Stewart
Organist:
Nettie Oma Carpenter
Choir Director:
Tracey Thomas
Church Secretary:
Debbie Uli
Custodian:
Mario Mendiola**

GREETINGS IN CHRIST!

“United Methodists everywhere are encouraged to begin planning now to join in *Change the World*, a church-wide event on April 24 – 25 that prompts members to join with others in the community to make a difference locally and globally”, according to the United Methodist Communications Office of Public Information.

“During that weekend, United Methodist Churches are encouraged to create and participate in a service or fundraising event that helps effect positive and long-lasting change, whether it’s revitalizing (expanding) a food pantry program, creating a new ministry to help the homeless, or increasing awareness of global health issues like malaria. Churches can utilize existing ministries or initiate a new outreach event.”

“*Change the World* challenges the people of The United Methodist Church to see the world holistically by giving and serving beyond the four walls of sanctuaries and Sunday School classrooms,” said Larry Hollon, chief executive of United Methodist Communications. “Our hope is that not only will church members participate, they will invite neighbors in the community to work side-by-side with them to make a sustainable difference in diverse ways’.”

“On April 25, World Malaria Day, The United Methodist Church will formally launch a \$75 million campaign called Imagine No Malaria to eradicate deaths caused by malaria. Churches are being asked to host events such as camp-outs to experience sleeping under bed nets like families in Africa who rely on mosquito netting for protection against malaria. These events will help raise awareness and funds that support Imagine No Malaria.”

“The April *Change the World* event was created as part of the Rethink Church campaign in partnership with the United Methodist Publishing House and Imagine No Malaria. The concept for *Change the World* originated with the Rev. Mike Slaughter, lead pastor at Ginghamburg Church in Tipp City, Ohio, named one of the top 50 churches in the U.S. by Church Report. ‘The way we love is by serving people especially the poor and marginalized,’ said Rev. Slaughter. ‘The church in the world needs the reputation of being a community that helps people . . . a community of people that gives hope and that functions as salt and light in its neighborhood’.”

Please pray and think about what our Church might do, as part of the *Change the World* event on April 24 – 25, 2010. I know that many of you will have inspiring and practical ideas, regarding possible ministries we may initiate in San Saba and the surrounding area.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Robin

Prayer Concerns



Vicki Vogel Smith (improved)
James Reavis
Boe Rice (recovery)
Tom Moody
Kaye Clancey (recovery)
F.L. and Linda Kalmus
Mrs. McDowell (Mike's Mom)
Tony Kirk
Doris Bryant (Nursing Home)
Margaret Seiders (Celia Bell's Mom)
John Bannister
John Hickey (Bettye's friend)
Doug and Kaye Clancey and Fam.
Sam Jones (Lewis Jones Brother)
Carl and Jane Carter and Family
(loss of Grandson)
Midge Love
Landon Yarbrough (Justin his brother in handling this situation with Landon)
Peter Hald
Daniel Smith
Connie Raesner Perry
Jeck White (Boe and Margaret Rice's Grandson)
Michael Pullen and Family
Jeannette Toole
Pete and Sue Hemenway (friends of Trish Warren)
Mark Owens (safety)
Elaine and John Lansford
(Nancy and John Bannister's friends)
James and Pat Reavis
Nick Stripling (Pat Reavis Grandson)

Mitchell, Johna, Madison and Matthew Moss
(John and Nancy Bannister's nephew)

Easter is coming up!

We have just begun the season of Lent, but I hope you are in great anticipation of hearing the word of the Lord in a new and exciting way as we "run to the cross" on Easter. Keep in mind the following special services offered to keep you on the pathway to the cross:

March 28—Palm Sunday Our children traditionally lead us in worship as they process in carrying the palm branches to signify Jesus' Triumphant entry into Jerusalem less than 1 week before His death.

March 29-31 Holy week Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we will join with our brothers and sisters at the First Presbyterian church To center our hearts as we near the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord. Noon services will be held with light lunch afterward.

April 1—Maundy Thursday Not "Monday Thursday" but "Maundy" coming from the Latin word meaning mandate which signified that Jesus told His disciples what was the greatest "commandment" or "mandate"—to love the Lord most of all and our neighbor as ourselves. Please join us at 6:00 in the sanctuary for a Holy Communion service to celebrate the Last Supper shared by Jesus and His closest followers.

April 2—Good Friday Or "God's Friday" as it was called. Come to San Saba's First Baptist Church to experience the life and death of Jesus our Lord in drama and in song. The San Saba community choir, led by Danny Ingram, will be joined by instruments in ministering to God and His people the message of the Son of God and the agony He went through to pay the price of our salvation. Many of our own choir members will be taking part.

April 4—EASTER SUNDAY As the morning dawns, we will be gathered at the front lawn of David and Barbara Gilger's house to shout "Hallelujah!" and celebrate the glorious resurrection!! If you have never come out for this event, you need to plan ahead to be there for the first time. Come in your warm sweats and blankets, bring a lawn chair (if you have one handy—extras will be there) and share in the joy this family of God enjoys in front of the huge cross and the Pascal fire. We will have a time of singing, and a message. Then we will break bread together and eat breakfast that David and Barbara set out—it is always yummy!! After that, we will come back to church for Sunday school (some classes may forego—please check this) and celebrate at 10:00 once again the joy of the Risen Lord!! Bring any flowers you have as we will place them on the Flower Cross during the service and visually know the many colors of God's grace! Whatever sacrifices you may be making during the Lenten season this year, may you be given peace by the Holy Spirit to carry on and stay faithful to the Lord our strength and Redeemer. God bless and keep you strong!

With His love and mine~
Tracey
Chair, Worship Committee

News from the Troop 55 Scout Hut - Tiger Cubs

Submitted by: *Kevin Shahan*

The local Cub Scouts of Troop 55 had an exciting day on Saturday February 6, 2010 as they met in the First United Methodist Church basement to race their pinewood derby cars! Much anticipation and enthusiasm was evident in the boys and their families as they could hardly wait to submit their personally handcrafted, painted, and polished works of art for the big race of the day.

If you get a chance, ask Risien about his sporty drag racing car, it may not have come in 1st place, but it sure looked awesome in its attempt! Style points were all he could come away with against such heated and experienced competition this year.

We want to thank the First United Methodist Church for the use of their facilities for derby race day! The day was very exciting and enjoyable by the Cub Scouts and the many family members who were in attendance. Boys were also presented with their Tiger Cub uniforms this week thanks in part to the generous donations of those in the First United Methodist Church. New badges, emblems, and other recognition will soon be added to the uniforms! You can look for them on the scouts who attend meetings at the scout hut on Tuesday each week.

Also worthy of news is the "Go See It" day of the month for the local Tiger Cub Scouts, who are all in the 1st grade. Fun and exciting tours over the past couple of months have included the San Saba ISD Football Field and Athletic Facilities led by Head Coach Jeff Panell, an historic and educational tour of the San Saba County Museum led by CK Stevenson, and an awesome and energetic tour of the San Saba Volunteer Fire Department facilities led by Fire Chief Chris Stewart.

Through the help of Coach Panell's leading our tour, the Tiger Cubs were able to learn that there is more to football Friday nights than simply eating a burger and cheering loudly for the Armadillos. Preparation, film study, weightlifting, daily practice, and safe football gear are all important parts of the end product that is ultimately displayed between the lines on a Friday night. I still smile when thinking about the tour of Coach Panell's office, as eight first graders thought they were head coach for a couple of minutes! The tour gave the kids a better sense of how important athletic facilities, and the manner in which they are used, can be in the making of a successful football program.

The Tiger Cubs have also visited the local San Saba County Historical Museum in Mill Pond Park. Our tour was presented by our very own CK Stevenson, who is an excellent source for historic information – including the war veterans section of the museum, and the historic attributes, families, and landmarks in San Saba County. Mr. Stevenson showed us the historic dental chair, the local brands used for cattle, the old chuck wagon, and an historic fire truck, in addition to many odds and ends that have been collected by residents of San Saba County and beyond over the past century. The Tiger Cubs were able to gain an appreciation for the history that has led us to this current day and age of computerized games and innovative automobiles. Through the museum tour, they have also seen that their extended families worked and lived in different conditions than those in which they live today. After a museum tour such as this, these differences can then be more appreciated and remembered.

Our most recent tour of the San Saba Volunteer Fire Department fire house was exciting, loud, and very educational. Tiger Cubs toured the fire trucks, put on fire jackets, and tried to carry the weight of oxygen tanks and other supplies typically used by firemen while on the job. Fire Chief Chris Stewart explained to the boys the importance of listening for the fire engine sirens and seeking the help of firemen in the case of a fire. In addition, the boys were informed about how to practice safety in addition to being aware of potential fire hazards in their very own homes. The Tiger Cubs were excited to physically tour and inspect the fire engines and tanker truck first hand, in addition to a very impressive display of power in the "jaws of life" tools which are used to free trapped victims in auto wreckage. A tour such as this has so many benefits for 1st graders as they see that there are many people who work to serve others in their community in a volunteer effort to make San Saba a safer place. They could likely fulfill the role of a volunteer firefighter in San Saba County in the future.

We want to express our thanks to Coach Panell, Historian CK Stevenson, and Fire Chief Chris Stewart for their kindness in hosting the Tiger Cub Scouts at various times over the past couple of months. A greater education and appreciation of the community and others has been realized in the Tiger Cubs and their families as a result of their efforts.



First Ladies:

First UMC Ladies will meet on March 8th at 4:30 for our program to be given by Millie Burnham. Our district Shephardess, Billie Rowell, is planning to be with us, so let's be sure to have good attendance! Hostesses will be Cherry Kay and Vickie. Don't miss out!

Church Directories

The church directories are out. There is either a CD copy or a paper copy available for each family. The copies are located in the church office or in the narthex. If you are unable to locate a copy, check with Mike McDowell to order a copy.

Faith Weavers Friends

FWF will not meet on March 17th due to spring break.



Souper Bowl Sunday, one hundred and seventy seven dollars was collected for Ministerial Alliance. The money will be used to help needy people in San Saba County.



Monday March 15th to Fri. 19th
Meals on Wheels

Monday March 22nd to Fri 26th -
Meals on Wheels

Mon. March 22nd to Fri 26th -
Meals on Wheels



Left:
Addy
Easterwood



Right:
Jaden and
Grace
Stewart



Maddy Shahan and Nettie Oma Carpenter



Barbara Gilger



Cherry Kay Lange Debbie Millican

Our Church Family

Bob & Debbie Millican have been traveling quite a bit during the last month. They enjoyed a visit to Tyler to visit granddaughter Elise accompanied by granddaughter Madison. Then they managed to actually enjoy a trip to San Angelo for dental exams by having lunch at Red Lobster. Debbie even managed to squeeze in a little shopping as well. We would like to extend our sympathy to George Kidd on the loss of his brother, Curtis Kidd of Lampasas. Harper & Ashley Stewart and girls were out of town one week-end. Thanks to Nettie Oma Carpenter for filling in on the piano for Ashley. The Mathis family also had a free week-end in Austin before baseball season started. Madison Shahan is taking gymnastics and has learned to cartwheels. Maddy, we would like to see a demonstration. Elizabeth Bryant placed 2nd on her saxophone in the UIL band competition recently. Mike Millican came to San Saba one Saturday tractor shopping. Charlotte and Jill decided they would stay in Brownwood and find something else to do. Mike & Tracey Thomas are planning a trip to California to see Lindsey and Derek Pugh during spring break. The weather in California might be pretty appealing in March. Kaymon Lange, Cherry Kay Lange's granddaughter, was the high point junior individual in the District 7 4-H consumer decision making contest in San Angelo. Did you see Boe & Margaret Rice at the Faith Weavers Friends Dinner? Bo and Margaret Rice are busy doing lots of doctors appointments and physical therapy but Boe is doing well. We hope that that continues. It was good to see Nancy Bannister at the Valentine Day dinner. If you didn't make that, you missed a good time. Linda Parks and crew had beautiful decorations for the tables. The food was delicious and we heard some wonderful music by the Valentine Singers. Please check out the pictures below. Elsie Millican is having a big birthday bash at Pepperbelly's Restaurant on Tuesday March 2nd at 5:30 p.m. Anyone wanting to help Elsie celebrate is invited to join the party on Tuesday night. Have you met the Mays family? Grant & Kristi Mays and daughter Libby have been visiting us. Be sure and introduce yourself to them. Kristi used to be Kristi Overbeck, daughter of Brenda Overbeck and attended our church as a child. Mike & Carolyn McDowell traveled to San Antonio to meet Carolyn's cousins from Kansas City for lunch. As their son Jess was also in San Antonio working the Texas Music Educator's convention, they all had lunch on the River Walk together. I am happy to report that Tracey Thomas' mother is out of the hospital. Kaye Clancey also came thru her surgery and her doctors are optimistic. It was good to have Barrett and Barbara Renfro back with us. We have missed them. We have been having trouble with the elevator. Suzanne Walters and Elsie Millican each have a story to tell about being stuck in an elevator. The problem is being looked into. Please be patient as they try to figure out something. Vickie & C.K. Stevenson are getting a new kitchen counter top. It was being installed one day this past week. Vickie will really enjoy it. Megan Thomas, daughter-in-law of Mike & Tracey Thomas has entered a cake decorating contest in Austin. Have you voted? I am not talking about the March 2 primary election. Our very own Elsie Millican is nominated for the Heritage Award at the 2nd Annual San Saba Awards Banquet. Kelly Murray is headed south for a week-end visit with her mom. Lee will be spending Saturday morning working at the bank. Cindy & Ken Prater headed to Austin for a visit to see the Kenny Prater's and for a chance to check out their new home.

The Valentine Singers



PASTORAL PONDERINGS

As you probably know, I'm not much of a sports fan, but I am always impressed with the Olympics. Among the things that impress me are the obvious dedication and passion each of the Olympians has for their event. As I watched last night, I heard one of the skiers was put on skis by the time she was 11 months old. When I heard that, I wondered if she was actually skiing before she was walking. Those who make the Olympic teams have little time for anything else in their lives. They practice their sport rigorously and faithfully for years under the supervision of coaches who build them up mentally and physically and challenge them to push the envelope on what is considered the outer limits of their sport. Records are for breaking, and already this year a number of records have been exceeded. Another thing that impresses me is how easy these super athletes make their performances look. The grace, the control, the command of every movement exhibited by those who attain the gold is phenomenal. It's as though every move comes naturally. There is no doubt Olympians have natural talent to begin with, but they have also invested years of disciplined training to develop their talents and earn them a place in the Olympics. Passionate, dedicated, disciplined: words that describe Olympians. But these descriptors are not limited to athletes. I wonder what would happen at Kavanaugh, if we members understood ourselves as an Olympic team. What might happen if we each were passionate about being the most faithful Christian we could possibly be. What difference would it make if we dedicated years of our lives to developing the natural inclinations we have toward fulfilling God's claim on us to "let the mind of Christ be in us." We would dedicate time to studying scripture with coaches who would share their knowledge and interpretation with us and then challenge us to put into practice "loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and spirit, and our neighbors as ourselves." And when we missed the mark, we would be disciplined enough to correct those behaviors we have stumbled on and repeat them over and over until they became second-nature to us, so we wouldn't have to stop and think about what to do—we would just instinctively do it.



The season of Lent begins this week—40 days of preparation, training if you will, for participation in the Resurrection event. We are challenged to focus on our faith; to grow in our understanding and practice of our faith; to get our hearts and minds "in shape" for participation in the reign of God. Lent is a time to evaluate our "spiritual fitness" and develop and put into practice a regimen for strengthening our performance as Christians. And because in the church we are a team, we must work not only to develop ourselves personally, but we must work together to make the most of the gifts and talents of each member. And we must encourage each other to do not just our best, but to stretch beyond our current best to develop strengths we didn't even know we had. Sound like a lot of hard work? Definitely! Would the result be worth the effort? Without a doubt! We have each been accepted as part of the team. Now it's up to us to develop our talents mentally, spiritually and physically. I hope to "work-out" with you during the next several weeks as we dedicate ourselves to the discipline of Lent—growing in God's grace and conditioning ourselves for full participation in God's work in the world. May we enter into Lent with the same passion, dedication and discipline as those who "go for the gold."

God's grace and peace be with each of you,
Ann

Written by:
Ann Barton, Pastor
Kavanaugh Methodist Church
Greenville Texas
Published in the Kavanaugh Methodist Church's
Circuit Rider Newsletter