

FIRST NEWS



San Saba

First United Methodist Church

Marck 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 soon will enter into the Lenten Season. For those of us raised in the church, those words may mean any number of things. Familiar words, perhaps, but maybe not clearly or fully explained, thus having little relevance to our lives. This Lent I would like for us to begin the season with our eyes wide open, understanding the purpose and potential of Lent.

The United Methodist Book of Worship explains Lent in the following way: "Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means 'spring.' The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance for all Christians."

Most of us are familiar with two of the traditional services of Lent - Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. But, for some, our Ash Wednesday Service, with the imposition of ashes, may be a first-time experience. Yet the service and its importance as marking the beginning of Lent have very deep roots in Christianity.

"Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The form and content of the service focus on the dual themes of sin and death in the light of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ.

"The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. This practice is the historic focus of Ash Wednesday observance and gave the day its name. It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday service and burn them to produce ashes for this service." (*UMBOW*)

The gesture of the imposition of ashes is an invitation into the larger creative reality that undergirds our thoughtfully constructed lives. It is an invitation to change and grow, and, in the process, to die to the narrowness and limitations of the familiar selves of our present making.

As a child growing up, I always "gave things up" for Lent as an act of self-denial (with the noblest intentions marking days one and two ...). Today, instead of "taking away," I "add to" during Lent - increasing my time spent with the Lord through prayer, fasting, bible study, devotional reading, and simply quiet time in God's presence. Lent becomes a time for me to rededicate and recommit myself to an active relationship with Christ, thereby deepening and strengthening that relationship.

I invite you to experience the power of Lent.
In His Spirit, Debbie



Prayer Concerns

David and Barbara Gilger and Fam.
Raylee Pannell (testing/continuous fever)
Betty Smith (Daniel Smith's Mother)
Sherri Smith
Danny Duggan's Fam.
Kaye Clancey (Chemo treatments/transplant)&Fam
Bettye McLaughlin
Dr. Sharon Horowitz (recovery)
Russel Stanfield and Fam.
John Bannister(health) and Nancy Clayton Anderson
James and Pat Reavis
Katie Andreas (Trish Warren's cousin)
Thelma Millican (nursing home)
Gordan Hall (prostrate cancer)
Roy Caviness
Kathren Wolfe (Martha Schanhals)
Mrs. McDowell (Mike's Mom)
Margaret Ann Seiders (Celia Bell's Mom)
Sam Jones (Lewis Jones Brother)
Landon Yarbrough
Peter Hald
Daniel Smith
Connie Raesner Perry
Jeannette Toole
Pete and Sue Hemenway (friends of Trish Warren)
Mark Owens (safety)
Nick Stripling (Pat Reavis Grandson)
Mitchell, Johna, Madison and Matthew Moss

In Our Military

Alex Dove, Eric Booker,

In Afghanistan

Matthew Barrier, Ralph

Kintzen, Jay Huggins,

Matthew Phinney, Andy

Smith, Andrew Reynolds

Cory Clendennen, John

Paul, Jay Dewitt

Please Pray for Our Troops,

All Our Military Men and Women

Our City, Our Nation, Our Church,

First Ladies News:

For the February meeting, our Ladies decided to participate in this year's Bible study. Pastor Linda Gwathmey of Windcrest UMC taught "For the Love of God"--a study on the letters of John at Gattis Memorial UMC in Comfort. Only 3 of our Ladies were able to go on Saturday, February 19th but Nettie Oma, Suzanne and Tracey believed it was well worth the trip! A great Bible study and a beautiful lunch with other Methodist Ladies--It was a very good day!

For March, our Ladies will meet on the 14th for the annual Call to Prayer and Self-Denial. Wahnee will be leading the program. As always, any Ladies are invited and welcome!

Lenten Activities

(IF YOU HAVE NOT BROUGHT YOUR PALM BRANCHES FROM PALM SUNDAY LAST YEAR, PLEASE DO SO THIS SUNDAY SO THAT THEY MAY BE BURNED FOR ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE)



Ash Wednesday service--5:45
March 9th (approx 30 min)
Maundy Thursday service--First Presbyterian April 21st
Good Friday service--FUMC April 22nd
Easter sunrise service (time to be announced)
Easter Sunday service 10:00 am Sunday April 24th
Don't be forgetting to bring fresh flowers for the flower cross!

Looking ahead to September
The worship committee is working to plan a revival for Sept 17th weekend! This will include a Sat. evening event and all day Sunday! As plans for formed, please be in prayer that God would be honored and glorified in all of the decisions made. And mark your calendars now!!





Ann McElroy received special recognition as a UMW benefactor from the United Methodist Women president Nettie Oma Carpenter. Assisting her was Pastor Debbie Lake. Congratulations, Ann!!!



Casey Mathis at FWF



Monica Shahan and some of the FWF kids

Finance Committee Notes

January was a good month for the church's treasury. Income to the General fund for January was \$11,977 while our expenses were \$10,843.

Balances in our account on January 31 were:

| | | | |
|---------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|
| General Fund | 21,322 | Capital Improvement fund | 9,865* |
| Youth Fund | 7,4000 | St. Stephens fund | 388 |
| Memorial fund | 4,012 | endowment fund | 10,340 |

The balance shown for the Capital Improvement fund in January was incorrect.

The finance committee met in February. One item of business was discussing ways to raise funds for updating the front of the sanctuary. The Choir, Worship Committee and the Trustees have been discussing changes that need to be made in the sanctuary such as replacing the crumbling draperies behind the choir loft. Preliminary plans are to have a spring flea market in the back yard if weather permits (inside if it does not) and perhaps a fish fry or hamburger dale on a Saturday in April or May.

So this is to get the word out now to save those things you find as you do your spring housecleaning that you no longer need for our Flea Market. There will be more on this in the next Newsletter.



Anita Owen Felts

Anita Owen Felts died February 22, 2011. Anita was a long time member of 1st United Methodist church. She was a member of UMW, Sunday School Class, and the co-founder of the Thinking of You group. Anita will be remembered for her grace, her charm, her perseverance and as a beautiful lady with an equally beautiful heart.

Anita was blessed to watch her grandchildren Troy Gilger and Kelly Gilger Reavis grow up and her great-grandchildren Kolby Reavis, Johna Reavis and Morgan Gilger grow up. She also enjoyed a wonderful relationship with her daughter Barbara and son-in-law David Gilger. Anita spend her last years living with Barbara and David and was a pleasure to the whole family. Barbara and David ministered to her every need in her last years and made her life's journey complete and happy.





Students at San Saba Elementary are proud to announce the recent publication of The San Saba Elementary Cookbook. The book was created by students, parents, and friends of San Saba Elementary and contains over 260 recipes of their most cherished recipes. You'll find tasty recipes from our church family including: Daylon Smith, Madison & Risien Shahan, Casey & Ryan Mathis, Jaycie Everett and many of our FaithWeaver kids! The collection makes a wonderful gift for all occasions. Proceeds from our cookbook sales will help fund future projects benefiting San Saba Elementary. Many copies have already been spoken for, thus, the remaining supply is limited. The cookbook may be purchased for \$15 from the elementary school office or contact Monica Shahan at 372.4668.



What makes FaithWeaver Friends work so well here at the First United Methodist Church?

At FaithWeaver Friends, we have the best volunteers around!! It takes many dedicated volunteers to pull off a successful midweek program! Our church family is so awesome to show up week after week to share the love of Jesus with the youngest members of our community! In addition to the weekly volunteers, many of our church family spend countless hours planning, shopping, setting up, cooking, serving, and cleaning up our FaithWeaver Dinners! Even the MYF kids participate in the program by helping prepare and serve the dinners!

At FaithWeaver Friends kids learn one important Bible Point each week. Instead of trying to pour more information into kids than they can possibly remember or apply, Friends focuses on one key Bible Point per week. Kids talk about it, discover it, explore it, apply it, and carry it home in memorable, applicable ways.

At FaithWeaver Friends kids learn the way they learn best. Not all kids learn the same way, so we offer multiple Discovery Centers to meet the needs of all sorts of learners. Misty gets the kids moving outside, Melanie offers an exciting lesson in her surprise station, Cherry Kay, Debbie, and Brandi allow the kids to create munchy masterpieces, while Trish and Monica explore the Bible story through puppetry and craft projects.

At FaithWeaver Friends everyone has a special place. Because kids travel in Circles of Friends, kids learn to work together. Think of Circles of Friends as families in which kids naturally learn with and from one another. Social skills improve, self-esteem rises, cooperation increases, and relationships are built. Our circle leaders are truly amazing women! Nettie Oma, Carol, Mande, Hollee, Mindy, Tracey, LewAnn, and Pat are the hands, feet and heart of the program!

Best of all, at FaithWeaver Friends kids grow in relationship with Jesus. Yes, they get to spend time with leaders and their friends, but they also learn how to grow. Kids are really getting this stuff! We're planting seeds at FaithWeaver Friends! Seeds that will take root and grow. Kids are hearing the Word of God, learning the Word of God, and singing the Word of God!

Our Church Family

We have had several church family members under the weather. The flu season is here. Melanie Mathis is having ear problems. Margaret Kidd fell and broke her hip at the Brownwood Hospital while George was getting a test run. Addy Easterwood has been sick as well as Risien Shahan and Jason Everett. Mindy Cantu fell when there was snow and ice everywhere and ended up with a concussion. Cherry Kay Lange had surgery but is on the rebound now. Alesha Rogers had a cold. Eddie Campbell has had knee surgery. Paula Barrier has also had surgery. Linda & Owen Parks shared their bug. Amanda Jackson is back in church after some foot surgery. We have missed everyone. I bet there are some other people who have **been sick that I don't know about.** Genni Hamilton, daughter of David & Alesha Rogers has a new puppy. It sure was good to see Ann Fry and her daughter Maggie Fry in church one Sunday. We have missed you, Ann. Mike & Tracey Thomas spent one week-end in Houston as Josh was running in a marathon. Our sympathy goes **out to Ken & Cindy Prater on the loss of Ken's dad, E.W. Prater.** Wahnee Stallings lost her aunt and Barbara and David Gilger lost long time 1st Church member, **Anita Felts.** **Work has begun on Bettye McLaughlin's house. You remember Bettye's house had fire damage last fall. Ted Red is busy working in his garden. The McElroys' had two of their grandchildren with them at church one Sunday.** Have you met Margaret Haug? She has moved here from Austin and is living **out on Pecan Grove Road in a house especially built for her on Leif & Liz Haug's property.** Mark & Kathy McEwin are excited about a new addition to their family **coming in September.** Shi'Ann and her husband are excited about the birth of their first child. Sam & Laina Murray are expecting a grandchild in March from Kristi & Luke Addington. Flovell Thomas enjoyed a visit with her daughter. David Butler has his fingers crossed. They may have the house in Colorado sold. It was good to have Cristy Thornton and Jackson back in church with us. Cristy has really been on the road a good bit for her job. Johnna Reavis, granddaughter of David & Barbara Gilger, is a member of the San Saba High School girls basketball team. They have advanced to regional. On the Honor Roll at San Saba Elementary were: Jaycie Everett, J. T. Moody, Ryan Mathis, Risien Shahan, Casey Mathis, and Audrey Nagle. George Kidd had a really nice retirement party in the church parlor. Margaret is home from the hospital. Vickie Stevenson was in Fort Worth helping a daughter who had surgery. Corrie Dyson was in to spend the week

-end with her parents, Ronnie & Lesa Schultz.

The MYF group made and delivered valentines to some very special members of our church family.

The Men's group meets every Sunday morning at 8 a.m. for a fabulous breakfast, great bible study and fellowship. All men are invited!!!

Covered Dish Luncheon

Sunday March 20th

Immediately After Worship Service

Join the Fellowship!!!!!!

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

Chair: Charlie Peeler

Pastor: (No vote) Debby Lake

Church Council Chair (Vote) Owen Parks Trustee Chair (Vote) *TBE*

Lay Leader: (No vote) Mike Thomas Finance Chair (Vote) Millie Burnham

Raymond Barrier 2011 John Cook 2012 Charlie Peeler 2013

Shay Easterwood 2011 Joe Pete Smith 2012 Ann McElroy 2013

CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE

Chair: Linda Parks

Pastor: Debby Lake

Klela Waldie, B.McLaughlin, Debbie Pullen, Margaret Rice, Owen Parks, Bo Rice

Purpose: To plan and coordinate the fellowship activities for the church family.

MEMBER CARE AND NURTURE COMMITTEE

Chair: Linda Parks

Pastor: Debby Lake

N. O. Carpenter, Nancy Bannister, Lewann Turner, Elsie Millican, Barbara Gilger, Owen Parks, Klela Waldie

Purpose: To plan and coordinate the activities that provide nurture and care to the church family including bereavement meals.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

Chair: Monica Shahan

Pastor: Debby Lake

Brandi Easterwood, Kim Kirk, Misty Everett, Kevin Shahan, Melanie Mathis, Carolyn McDowell, Celia Bell

Purpose: To initiate, plan and implement activities for the development and religious education of the children and youth of the church and community.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Chair: Mike Thomas

Pastor: Debby Lake

Mike McDowell, Melanie Mathis