

FIRST NEWS



**San Saba
First United Methodist Church**

November 2010

**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.....

Teach us to number our days ...

In his autobiography *All the Strange Hours*, the anthropologist and writer Loren Easley shares a poignant moment from his boyhood. Easley was sixteen at the time and was leaning out of a second story window of his high school when he saw an old junk dealer riding in a cart filled with castoff clothes, furniture, and other miscellaneous items.



As Easley watched the decrepit figures passing below him, he had a sudden sense of what time means in its passing. "It's all going," he later wrote, "with the desperation of the young confronting history. No one can hold us. Each and all, we are riding into the dark. When my eye fell upon that junk dealer passing by, I thought instantly, 'Save him ... immortalize the unseizable moment ... for the junk man is the symbol of all that is going or gone ... save him, hold him, do not forget!'"

From that moment on, Easley regarded time with grateful wonder and each moment as a special gift. How fortunate Dr. Easley was to learn that truth at sixteen. Some never learn it, and others forget or disregard it. Each moment that God has given us is a special irreplaceable gift. This must have been what the author of the 90th Psalm had in mind when writing, "So teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

Wisdom comes in knowing that our days are numbered no matter what our age might be. It comes from knowing our lives have boundaries, a beginning and an ending, and it is the sense of ending that makes the beginning and all that follows more meaningful.

The Thanksgiving season has always been an important time for me because it helps me gain a sense of perspective for my life. I tend to get involved in so many things that I allow important moments to pass me by without fully experiencing them. This season reminds me that life is a gift, and to be a good receiver of that gift, I must take it with a sense of humility and gratitude.

(Continued on Page 2)

Prayer Concerns

Bettye McLaughlin
Dr. Sharon Horowitz (very bad wreck,
friend of Dr. Pamela Yu Nancy B.'s daughter-in-law)
Linda and F.L. Kalmus (especially Linda)
Kaye Clancey (Chemo treatments/transplant)&Fam.
Deborah Ragsdale's Aunt
John Bannister (health) and Nancy Mike Millican and Fam.
Abe Galloway's Fam.
Clayton Anderson
Debbie Pullen's Son and Fam.
Kathleen Turner (Bettye's sister)
Dirk Rhoad (knee surgery/staff infection)
James Reavis
Katie Andreas (Trish Warren's cousin)
Thelma Millican (nursing home)
Gordan Hall (prostrate cancer)
Stephanie Mills
Roy Caviness
Kathren Wolfe (Martha Schanhals)
Klela Waldie and Fam.
Sue, Elizabeth and J.T. Moody and Fam.
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)
James and Pat Reavis
Nick Stripling (Pat Reavis Grandson)
Mitchell, Johna, Madison and Matthew Moss



(From Page 1)

Sometimes a tragic or near tragic experience is needed to humble us and give us a new perspective on the real meaning of the time we have. This can be a near brush with death through accident or illness, whether our own or that of a loved one. These events can give us a sense of humility, and can make us reachable and receptive to the blessings that are coming our way. Only those who are open are reachable, and only those who are reachable can be **touched by life's experiences.**

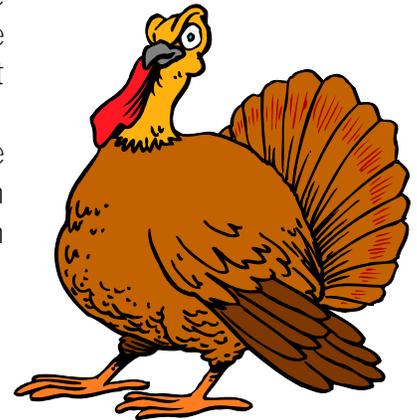
A good thought for us to remember this Thanksgiving season is that in order to make life more rich and vital we do not need more blessings and good fortunes, but a deeper awareness and appreciation of what we have.

I believe the apostle Paul was thinking about the importance of making good use of the time we have in the fifth chapter of his letter to the Ephesians, *"Live then with a due sense of responsibility; not as persons who do not know the meaning and purpose of life, but as those who do. Make the most of your time, for these are perilous days."*

Life moves faster than most of us realize, and those who face the time of their lives with a sense of awareness and attitudes of gratitude and humility are truly blessed. We do not always have the choice in terms of the amount of time we have, but we do have the choice in how we spend that time and what we put into the time of our lives.

May this Thanksgiving season be a special time for us as we get in touch with the many areas in which our cup is overflowing.

In His Spirit,
Debby



First Ladies News

In October, Trish led a very good program on the love of God through the study of the letters of John. This will lead us into a Bible study on Johns three letters to begin in January. Hostesses for the meeting were Bettye McLaughlin and Wahnee Stallings. It was a good time of discussion, fellowship, and of course good food. On November 8th, we will have our World Thank Offering gathering. Please bring your offering boxes to this meeting—and if you haven't a box, come anyway and bring a little change as an offering to the needy as we begin to think about the holidays ahead. We might stop for a moment to count our blessings and then be so joyful to give a dollar or two to help others. We will be having a former SWTX Conference UMW President, Sue Sidney, to come and speak to us, so let's all be sure to be there and give a big San Saba First Ladies welcome!! Hostesses will be Pat Belk and Cherry Kay Lange.
Submitted by: Tracey Thomas



Deadline for
 October
 Church Newsletter:
 November 24th
 (last Wednesday in month)
 !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Thank you to the following teachers for the month of October: Misty Everett, Melanie Mathis, Brandi Easterwood, and Kevin & Monica Shahan.

Our teachers for November will be:

Preschool: LewAnn Turner,
K-2nd grade: Cindy Prater,
3rd-7th grade: Monica Shahan,
8th-12th grade: Kevin Shahan,
Young Adults: Alesha & David Rogers.

Lesa Schulze will also be working with the Sunday school classes to prepare for the Children's Christmas Pageant, which is scheduled for Sunday, December 5th. Lesa is wanting some help for the Christmas Pageant on December 5th so the parents can watch their kids in the play. See her if you are interested in helping.

Thanksgiving

Sunday Nov. 21st,
 FUM Church Wide Thanksgiving Dinner,
 Right after service.



All families of FUMC are invited and welcome to come fellowship and celebrate Thanksgiving with our Church family.



FaithWeaver Friends is going strong! Lively kids, energetic leaders, and lots of fun can be found each Wednesday afternoon here at the First United Methodist Church! The kids are studying stories from the Old Testament while learning truths such as Obey God, The Bible Helps us Make Good Choices, and God Teaches Us. Our awesome volunteers are shaping young lives for eternity! Way to go FaithWeaver Friends Volunteers!!

Our Church Family

This time of the year is great for outdoor activities. Brandi Addy and Emerson took advantage of some free time and went fishing. Addy caught four and Em got one perch. Didn't hear what Brandi caught! The great weather is probably why Martha and Bruce Schanhals are traveling to San Saba every week-end. Their grandson Ralphie is getting to come a lot with them. Good well wishes go out to Paula Barrier who had an emergency appendectomy. We would also like to let Betty McLaughlin know that we are thinking of her. Betty had a fire in her kitchen last Sunday. I believe there is lots of damage in her kitchen and all the windows were blown out of her house. She does have electricity and water in the "barn" and is living there now. Visitors this month have included John Rich, employee of Mike Thomas and David Butler, the new manager of the Alco store. It was nice to have David's wife, and their daughter and her family visiting one Sunday. Corrie Schulze Dyson just had to make a special occasion for Jacey Everett. It was Jacey's birthday and of course Corrie had to make the big birthday bash. Happy Birthday Jacey!!! It has also been nice to have Eddie Campbell sitting in our pews again. Bo and Margaret Rice have new additions to their family to brag about. Both had great grand babies born to their grandchildren. David Rogers also had a birthday party to attend. His son David III was celebrating a birthday and he of course went to affair. Alesha was also in Dallas with her FCCCLA group at a leadership retreat but did not get to make the party. Derek and Nicole Sears were home from Texas Tech one week-end to visit with their dad, Del Sears. Speaking of birthday's, I almost forgot to mention Ryan Mathis'. They had a family celebration for him. If you have seen Elizabeth Bryant, you have noticed her broken foot. She does a good job of demonstrating how she broke her foot when she was putting on a pair of pants. Hope you are soon off those crutches, Elizabeth. We also have some returning members that we need to notice. Charlie & Gray Leigh Peeler have become regulars again just like Eddie Campbell. It is so good to have them back in church. Cherry Kay Lange got to see some great fall foliage on a trip to Arkansas with her sister as did Klela Waldie who went to Arkansas also to visit with family and friends. Who's got spirit? Well, J. T. Mathis of course. He was the sophomore Mr. Spirit nominee during Homecoming Week activities and the band student of the week at the Sonora football game. His mom, Melanie Mathis was named Fan of the Week at the Coleman pep rally. Ryan Mathis and Risien Shahan got to sit with their "Big Dillo" football player during the Coleman pep rally. Losing your tooth is a pretty big occasion. We have had two members of our church family who have experienced this big event recently. Ryan Mathis was one of them. Unfortunately Ryan dropped his tooth down the sink. His dad, Scott, went to great efforts and unscrewed the pipes and retrieved the tooth. Wonder how much the tooth fairy paid? Daylon Smith lost his tooth. He placed it under his pillow and the next morning was disappointed as he thought the tooth fairy didn't leave him any money. Well, after a second look he did discover a five dollar bill under his pillow. Maybe the next time the tooth fairy will leave his money in change. Did you hear that Bob & Debbie Millican are going to be grandparents again? Winston and Kristen Millican are expecting their second child. Mike Thomas is showing off pictures of what he shot while on a hunting trip to Wyoming with the Rotary Club. Tracey had a week-end at her mom's in Weatherford while Mike was gone. Debbie Lake enjoyed a visit with her brother. Please note the fishing pictures on page 6. submitted by Gray Leigh Peeler. I don't think there is going to be church wide fish fry. Hats off to Mario Mendiola on doing such a good job of getting the yard ready for the EMS Steak Supper. All your effort was appreciated. Trish Warren is off to St. Louis to see her son. You may take a while for you to get used to seeing Peter Hald in his new red car!!! He looks pretty nice driving it. Gennie Hamilton, daughter of Alesha Rogers enjoyed having her dad watch her perform with the flag corps and then spent the week-end with him. David & Barbara Gilger are enjoying a new addition in their extended family. Diana Manning has passed her LVN boards!!! Congratulations! She celebrated by having some needed surgery done. She spent a week flat on her face. At least it is over. Jantzen Bell did a great job helping Lesa Schultz lead the children's church participants in Zacchaeus, Wee Little Man. The biggest kid of all honor goes to Bo Rice. He pretended he was 5 again and participated in the children's sermon one Sunday.



Finance Committee Plans Stewardship Sunday

Yes, it is that time again—the one time each year that the church asks for money. In a recent sermon we were reminded that “money matters” if a church is doing what it should be doing, if ministries matter to that church. We should give not only to be able to do good for others, but also because it’s necessary for our own spiritual well-being. It’s part of the way we love God with all our heart, soul and mind. The author, Stephen King, has said, “Giving isn’t about the receiver or the gift but the giver...giving is a way of taking the focus off the money we make and putting it back where it belongs—on the lives we lead, the families we raise, the communities which nurture us.”

Because our church has always been a generous church, we are meeting all of our obligations and are without debt. However, we have decreased our reserve by several thousand dollars in 2010 so the Finance Committee has worked very hard on financial planning for 2011. Most of our church’s expenses are fixed, but we will be presenting a very lean but realistic budget to the Church Council in November. Nevertheless, the expenses are more than the income we are projecting for this year.

We have set Sunday, November 14, to be Stewardship Sunday, the Sunday that we declare our plans for giving to the church for the next year. A “Giving Plan Form” will be in your bulletin on the Sunday before the 14th so that you may take it home with you and prayerfully consider your giving decision for 2011. On Stewardship Sunday you will have the opportunity to fold it and place it in the offering plate during the worship service.

You may indicate the amount that you want to pledge on the first line. If you do not wish to make a pledge, please use the second line to give us an estimate of what you hope to be able to give. Should you be unable to attend worship on November 14, you may place your “Giving Plan Form” in the offering plate on the next Sunday or mail it to the church office (P.O. Box 487). A supply of forms will be placed on the table next to the front door.

Millie Burnham

Finance Committee



Left to right: Charlie Peeler, Debbie Lake, and her brother Frank



So, Debbie, how much did the moss weigh?