

FIRST NEWS



**San Saba
First United Methodist Church**

November 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.....

Several years ago, a school teacher I knew died. She was very popular with her students and she and I had become good friends. The obituary read, "She leaves no survivors." While I knew what that line meant, I could not help but feel the irony of it. In a larger sense, she had left many survivors – countless students in her classes and others in the community whom she had touched in a positive way by her life.



In thinking about the most important gift that this woman gave, I came up with the word *enthusiasm*. The word has a Greek origin, and Greeks valued this quality. Enthusiastic was used to describe an inspired person. *En* means *in* and *theos* means *God*. The enthusiastic person was one who reflected the presence of an *indwelling* God. The more I ponder this, the more convinced I become that the Greeks not only had a word for it, but also the right word.

Enthusiasm is the ability to react with eagerness. The enthusiastic person has the capacity for generating excitement about ideas, people, events – anything. Enthusiasm involves feeling things. It involves caring. In short, it means being fully alive.

Enthusiasm is more than simple excitement. It also involves affection for the object that arouses it. The enthusiastic person loves the thing he/she feels excited about, be it great or small, important or unimportant. When we feel excited, we give out love, and this, I believe, is the indwelling deity that the Greeks had in mind.

This is the reason why a display of enthusiasm is such a refreshing and contagious thing. Who has not felt an inner warmth from the enthusiastic response of a small child who has just discovered a caterpillar? And who has not felt the impulse to agree with another who says vigorously, "It's a great day!" regardless of climatic conditions?

This inner spirit, this capacity to react with gladness, is built into all of us. Each of us starts out with an adequate supply. The problem is how to retain it as the years move on and the dust of routine sets in.

I think many of us experience a leak in our enthusiasm because of setbacks, sickness, disappointments, and loss. And isn't that natural? But it doesn't have to remain that way. It was Albert Camus who wrote, "In the depth of winter, I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer."

Life, when factored down to its most realistic terms, is the necessity to begin again and again. Enthusiastic people are the ones who refuse to be broken, who sing instead of sigh. They cling to their hope and to their hearts' conviction that God is still with them and that life is still full of wonder and the potential for goodness.

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"Faith Weaver Friends"

Wednesday's

3:45 to 5:00 pm.

Ages 3-6th Grade

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**"Lies
Young Women Believe
and the Truth
That Sets Them Free"**



Tuesday Evenings

**7th and 8th Girls
Bible Study
in the Classrooms Upstairs
5:30 to 7:p.m.**

Led by Cindy Hawkins

Continued from 1st page.....

Enthusiasm is one of God's choicest blessings for those who will embrace it. Those who are inspired by gratitude for the gift of life can bring out that same quality in others. This is one of the most important things we can do for one another.



Alfred Lunt once said, "There is nothing I need so much as nourishment for my self-esteem." When we express our gratitude and appreciation for those around us with enthusiasm and sincerity, we bless them and build them up.

One of my favorite lines from the letters of Paul in the New Testament is the advice Paul gives to Timothy, one of his converts. Paul wrote, "Timothy, I urge you to rekindle ... to stir up the gift of God that is within you."

That's good advice for all of us. We have the capacity to touch many lives. Our rekindled enthusiasm is a good way to assure that we will have survivors at the end.

*In His Spirit,
Debby*



**J.T. MATHIS
AND
TRACEY THOMAS
AT THE
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
INDUCTION
OF
NEW MEMBERS**

CONGRADULATIONS, J.T.1

Schedule for Children's Sermons

- 1st Sunday Communi on
- 2nd Sunday Debby Lake
- 3rd Sunday Lesa Schul z
- 4th Sunday Ci ndy Prater
- 5th Sunday Ci ndy Hawki ns



*Join Us
For*



*Thanksgiving
Dinner
Sun. Nov. 20th
After the
Worship Service*

*See Linda Parks
For the
Sign up Sheet.
After Nov. 1st*

*Lets Pack the
Pews!!*

*Invite someone
to join us
for food, fellowship
and fun.*

Thanksgiving

**FIRST
LADIES
NEWS**

Sixteen members of the United Methodist Women met in the church parlor October 10, 2011. President Nettie Oma Carpenter called the meeting to order and Pastor Debby Lake led the opening prayer.

Secretary Wahnee Stallings read the minutes of both the August meeting and the District Meeting held here on September 10th. They were approved as presented. She also read notes from Carol Penland and Billie Rowell thanking us for hosting the District Meeting and a note from Hazel McCoy about the Study of "Joy" to be held in Goldthwaite October 22nd.

Carol Littlefield, treasurer, gave her report and noted that we have a balance of \$730.00.

Pat Belk gave a report on the Nominating Committee. The election is to be held next month.

The president noted that next month will be the Thank Offering. Trish Warren then led the program. Those present were divided into groups to discuss future plans for the UMW; whether to continue as is or to make changes. It will be discussed further at next month's meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was dismissed and everyone enjoyed the refreshments served by Bettye McLaughlin, assisted by Wahnee Stalling.



Myles Kate Dyson

Born: Oct. 14, 2011

5 lbs. 11 oz.

19 inches long

Proud Family

**Lesa Schultz, Mindy Cantu,
Myles Kate & Corrie**



Our Prayer Concerns



Cristy Thornton and Family

Weldon and Pat Faught,

**Layton Sanford car accident
(Henry Warren's cousin)**

Our Church,

Our Town,

Our Nation,

**Our Military Men and Women
and their families.**

**Continue to pray for rain, rain,
rain**

In our Military:

Ralph Kintzen (home),

Matthew Barrier,

Cory Clendennen,

John Paul Dretke,

Jay Huggins (home),

Matthew Phinney (home),

Matthew Dennis,

Andrews Reynolds

& Jay Dewitt

First Choir:

Beginning in November, we are working hard on the Christmas cantata for this year "Mary, Did You Know?". Once again, we will partner with many friends across town as well as the choir from First Baptist in Cherokee to make this a community choir effort. Any and everyone is invited that would like to sing with us in our heartfelt desire to witness to the true meaning of the Christmas holiday. Of course, we also need a community willing to attend and be ministered to, so please put December 18th on your calendar to come hear some beautiful Christmas music and get into the spirit of the season of Christ's birth.



Rehearsal times:

Weds from 6:30-7:00 is for our regular Sunday music

Weds from 7:00-8:00 is for Christmas

Please come for any or all of it! You would be most welcome to join in!

We can still get tickets to the New event for "Fresh Grounded Faith" an area wide women's event featuring Jennifer Rothschild. Fri. Feb. 10, 2012 from 8:30 to 2:30 pm. These ticket are not sold out for this new time, the tickets are \$34. Any questions contact Cindy Hawkins 325-205-2127 or the office 325-372-3120.



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Debbie Uli will be on vacation from 10/31 to 11/04.

Kaye Clancey (Wesley Nurse) will be coming back to work in November sometime.



Our Church Family

Pastor Debby Lake attended her 45th class reunion in Houston. Bet she had a good time with her fellow classmates in Houston, Texas. While she was out, Sam Murray filled in for her. Thanks, Sam. We appreciate you doing that. Hairball, a.k.a. Rebecca Arrington, made it to San Saba one week-end this month to see all of your relatives. She did a fair amount of sleeping, eating, etc. Ann & Don McElroy also have a new granddaughter. They took a trip to Phoenix, Arizona to check out the new addition to the family. The 6 inch general rain all over San Saba county brought smiles to everyone's face Columbus Day week-end. Bo & Margaret Rice are like lots of other members of the church family. They are attending the football games of their grandson Jec. The San Saba High School band has had a busy month. They have entered several band contests to prepare them for their UIL performance. Genni Hamilton and Jantzen Bell are two of their members who have had a busy month. Bob & Debbie Millican took a little trip to points as far east as North Carolina before they turned around and headed back to San Saba. They talked about the apples and the beautiful fall foliage. **Bud Bell also attended his class reunion. I didn't get the word on how many years it has been since he graduated.** Johnna Reavis, granddaughter of Barbara & David Gilger, made it home to attend one of the San Saba football game. David & Alesha Rogers and Genni Hamilton made a quick trip to the metroplex for a birthday party for Little David and Olivia. Did you notice our **every own Madison Shahan's picture was in the San Saba News & star? J.T. Moody,** Wyatt Smith and Austin Smith are participating in a 4-H woodworking project. They are making bird houses under the direction of Fred Willis. The projects will be entered in the Youth Fair in January. Get well wishes are sent to Stan Burnham. The story I heard involved a cat, a cage and falling backwards. Pat Pratt, daughter of Stan & Millie Burnham, has been named interim director of the local EMS. Her picture was in the San Saba News & Star. Congratulations goes out to Klela and Ted Red on their marriage. Pat Reavis has been doing a re-do of her bathroom. It took 10 days but Pat says it was worth it. Owen Parks has gotten his wheat sown. He finished up on the Monday after the San Saba River Pecan Jam. Owen loves western swing music and wanted to attend the Asleep at the Wheel concert along with his grandson J.D. Barker, Michelle and some of Michelle's family. **It was certainly nice of Brad Everett to fill in for Mindy Cantu in the nursery.** It seems that Mindy had just become an aunt and really wanted to go see her new niece. Tracey Thomas made a trip to Arkansas to attend **the wedding of a former member of our church. If you haven't noticed Kevin Shahan around town, it maybe you just don't recognize him in his new pick-up.** Margaret Haug was one of many people who celebrated an October birthday. You will have to ask her what she did to celebrate. George Kidd was off to New Mexico one more time to get a little hunting in with his brother. The trip was successful as everyone in the group except one came home with an animal. **Henry Warren's cousin was involved in a bad wreck. He still needs lots of prayers.** Trish Warren has been off again to check on those grandkids. I think this time **it was the Missouri grandkids' time for a visit. Mike & Beth Grimes are in the process of building a house here in the county.** We look forward to having them worship with us more. The Mathis clan made a trip to get hogs for the kids to show in the livestock show. Get well wishes go out to C.K. Stevenson. Debby Lake is expecting company. Her brother and sister-in-law will be here for a visit. Wonder if there will be any fishing going on!!!!

Finance Committee Plans Stewardship Sunday

Yes, it is that time again—the one time each year that the church asks us to estimate our giving for the next year. Money does matter if a church is doing what it should be doing, if ministries matter to that church. We should give not only to support our church and to be able to do good for others, but also because it's necessary for our own spiritual well-being.

The good news is that we are meeting all of our obligations and are without debt. The Finance Committee has worked on financial planning for 2012 at its last two meetings. We will be presenting a very lean but realistic balanced budget to Church Council in November.

We have set Sunday, November 13, 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 Sunday, November 6 so that you may take it home with you and prayerfully consider your giving decision for 2012. 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 13, 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, Chairman
Finance Committee**

God's Precious Saints

A man mourning the sudden death of his young wife wondered, “Where was God when Jenny died?” Unable to sleep one night, he turned to Scripture and read Psalm 116:3 (NIV): “The anguish of the grave came upon me: I was overcome by trouble and sorrow.”

The man's anguish echoed the psalmist's. Reading on, he discovered verse 15: “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.”

“What does it mean by precious?” the man wondered. The footnote proved helpful:

“Not in the sense of highly valued, but of that which is carefully watched over.” The widower pictured God watching over his wife in her last moments. “That's where God was,” the man thought with relief, “with Jenny the whole time.”

May we, too, be assured that God truly cares for his saints — not only at death but also in life, through grief and into healing.

