

# FIRST NEWS



**San Saba  
First United Methodist Church**

**September 2012**

**San Saba  
First United Methodist  
Church  
204 W. Brown  
325-372-3120  
www.sansabafirstumc.com  
Rev. Dan Harrington,  
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**

**Pianist/Organist:  
Nettie Oma Carpenter**

**Choir Director:  
Tracey Thomas**

**Church Secretary:  
Debbie Uli**

**Custodian:  
Mario Mendiola**

**"Be Present at Our Table, Lord"  
A Reflection on Youth Ministry by Dan  
Harrington**

I start the singing with a loud elongated  
*"BEEEE... present at our table Lord!*

Be here and everywhere adored. These fa-  
vors bless and grant that weeee may feast  
in fellowship with thee. AAAHHmeennn!"

The 7<sup>th</sup>-12th grade students join me in this  
bizarre ritual. They may feel a little weird about it the first couple of  
times, or when we do this on a field trip and happen to be at a restau-  
rant with lots of strangers turning their heads. After a few weeks, most  
of them fearlessly join in and sing at the top of their lungs. Sometimes I  
wonder if anyone thinks about the words. Maybe not, after all, there are  
distractions like the strange pseudo-operatic way we sing and the fact  
that we are holding hands in a circle. Holding hands in a circle is just  
plain awkward for youth. That never stops us! Naturally, they break into  
little cliques as soon as possible. As they unfold chairs and inconsider-  
ately shuffle through the pizza line, I wonder to myself, "are you present  
at our table Lord?"

**Be present at our table Lord.** I didn't notice your presence at the time  
Lord, but I know you were there. I imagine that you were smiling that  
day back in 2004 when Rev. Lonnie Phillips handed me the keys of  
FUMC Seguin. They felt so heavy in my hand. I didn't even trust myself  
back then, but you trusted me with all those keys, and all those kids!  
Lord, I sure didn't *feel* your presence at that first (and last) new-years  
eve lock-in. When the parent volunteers fell asleep, I was forced to be  
the sheriff keeping them from sneaking out and smoking on the play-  
ground. Those blessed little monsters were still playing X-box at sun-  
rise. Lord, I remember all those kids!

Lord, sometimes I caught little glimpses of you in the "easy to be  
around" kids, but mostly I remember your presence in the awkward  
times. In the relationships with the band kids, sporty kids, heavy metal  
kids, and uncomfortable little "picked on" kids. You were present at our  
table with lonely hoping-to-be popular kids with virtual friends smiling  
for pictures to post on Facebook. I saw the reflection of your face in the  
well-adjusted kids, the quiet and the chatterbox kids, the confidant and  
the confused kids, the camouflage deer hunter kids, the pale on-line  
gamer kids, the underweight and obese kids, the oily pimply kids, and  
the beginning guitar noodling kids.



Lord, you were present at our table and you helped me to see through every stereotype and label with a love that just saw your precious children.

Lord, our table is filled with beloved sons and daughters and many of them have absent mothers and fathers. Lord, be present at the tables of your precious children who will never darken the doors of a church fellowship hall. Be present for all of them Lord, all of the hopeless, hurting, lost, lonely, broken, beaten, scared, scarred and sacred temples of the living God. Please help us to be present for them as you are present.

Be here and everywhere adored.

We do adore you Lord, please forgive the times when our minds are distracted and our hearts are distant. We hold hands and sing the Wesley Grace at the top of our lungs... and then we eat pizza together. These favors bless and grant that we may feast in fellowship with thee. Amen.

### **A Joy and a Concern:**

**The Concern:** Our sister church, Lutie Watkins UMC in Llano, has recently lost their youth director. They are in the middle of a very difficult time. The Youth Group in Llano is very large. They have lots of students, parent volunteers, and a team formed to hire a youth director. **Merciful God, Hear Our Prayer.**

**The Joy:** Rev. Celia Kitchens (Lometa / Bend UMC) and I have been invited to help with leadership for two months while they hire a full time youth leader. This new adventure has sparked many "holy conversations" about *our* church re-starting a weekly United Methodist Youth Fellowship! Imagine what it would look like to have 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders playing games like ultimate Frisbee (Frisbee football) in our back yard, small group fellowship, prayer and devotional time, and singing "The Wesley Grace" before enjoying a weekly meal together.

**Loving God, We give you thanks.**

### **Here are some ways you can help ...**

- Pray for the church in Llano during this difficult time.
- Come to Lutie Watkins in Llano on Wednesday evenings, now through October from 6:30 - 8 PM.
- Pray for a not-to-distant re-start of a weekly UMYF here in San Saba.
- Please contact Pastor Dan with any questions, comments, and feedback.



From Left to Right:  
**Top row: Madison Shahan, Wyatt Smith, Austin Smith, Jacey Everett,**  
**Bottom row: Ryan Mathis, Risien Shahan**

## Casey's Church Camp 2012

The theme was call of the wild. I went to church camp for four days. I have made so many new friends I can't even count them all. I am so I am so happy I will be able to go back next year. I would like to say thank you the anonymous donor so that I may be able to go to camp. I got inspired when I was at church camp. I would like to help kids that do not own any school supplies of there own. There are kids in New York and Mexico. So I would like to help any kids any where to get school supplies. So I think that is my call from God. I would really like your support on my idea.

Sincerely,  
Casey Mathis



to

Regan, Kim & Raley Kirk and Roland & Cindy Hawkins hosted a cottage party for Pastor Dan and family on August 17th. We had a wonderful time with a fajita dinner and swimming in the pool. Attending were Tyler Hawkins, Joe Pete Smith Family, Sue & J.T. Moody, Elizabeth Moody, Pastor Dan & family.



Pictures by Kim Kirk

### First Choir:

The Christmas cantata has arrived and we will soon be working on Christmas music as well as the week to week choral ministry. Many of our long faithful choir members would rejoice if some "new folks" decided to show up and sing with us on Weds nights! And if anyone wishes to sing in the Christmas cantata, just let someone know and you will be given the resources to prepare. The only requirement is that you SING WITH JOY TO THE LORD. Any questions? Just contact Tracey at 325 628-3030 or (cell phone) 512 924-4690. It is a blessing for those who LOVE music--especially music that honors our Everlasting Father!! Pray about it....

Submitted by Tracey Thomas

# JAMES MERCY TRIUMPHS BETH MOORE



**JOIN US!**

Only 8 Weeks!  
Workbook \$15

## Morning Group

Trish Warren's Home

Starts: Tues. Sept 4

Contact Trish to sign up & info

## Evening Group

FUMC Parlor

Starts: Mon. Sept 24

Contact church office  
to sign up & info

[lifeway.com/bethmoore](http://lifeway.com/bethmoore)

You can do it—He can help!

Lifeway | Women



If anyone is interested in being apart of the Visitation team please contact Pastor Dan at 372-3149 or cell 512-777-9678.

Pastor Dan will be on vacation in Colorado from Wed. Sept. 5th and will be back in the office Wed. Sept. 12th.



## Meals on Wheels

Sept. 17 thru. 21  
and  
Sept. 24th thru  
28

Call  
Carol Littlefield  
If you are  
Interested  
In helping  
372-3883

## Prayers Concerns

Alesha Rogers (headaches)  
Elsie Millican,  
Jennifer Davis,  
Mindy Cantu,  
Bettye McLaughlin,  
Laurie Beth Bankston (Pat  
**Belk's friend**),  
Mark Owens (safety)  
**Zolly Jones**  
**Katie Andreas** (in hospital,  
continuing prayer)  
**Joe Mack Tilson**  
**David Gilger**  
**Thelma Millican**  
**Bettye McLaughlin's sister**  
**Jane**  
**Ray Forrester** (Grace Hollis'  
Husband)  
**Jeannette and Jeff Toole and**  
**Family**  
**John and Joycelyn McRorery**  
**Lylah** (Stephanie and  
Chase's daughter)  
**Layton Sanford**  
**James and Pat Reavis**  
**Gordan Hall** (prostate can-  
cer)  
**Kathren Wolfe** (Martha  
Schanhals)  
**Margaret Seiders** (Celia  
Bell's Mom)  
**Landon Yarbrough**  
(procedures)  
**Pete and Sue Hemenway**  
(friends of Trish Warren)  
**Mitchell, Johna, Madison**  
**and Matthew Moss**  
*Our City, Our Nation, Our*  
*Church*  
*In Our Military*  
*Alex Dove,*  
*Eric Booker,*  
*Jay Dewitt,*  
*Ralph Kintzen(home),*  
*Cory Clendennen(home),*  
*Jay Huggins (home),*  
*Matthew Phinney (home),*  
*Andrew Reynolds,*  
*John Paul Dretke*

## Our Church Family

**Suzanne Walters had a very special Lunch.** Her niece Nila and her husband were coming to take her to lunch. It has been good to have Elsie Millican at church. Kathy & Mark McEwin had their grandson in church with them one Sunday. Barbara Gilger had quite an experience. She was bitten by a black widow spider. The next thing she knew she was not feeling well and made a trip to Austin. I am happy to report that Barbara is feeling much better now. Dan & Maria Harrington **enjoyed a visit from Dan's mom from South Carolina. I know the kids enjoyed the extra TLC. Maria's sister Carmen** was here for one last visit before school started. Trish Warren was off to Colorado to see her grandkids. Daylon Smith was very proud of the belt buckle he won for being the best all-around cowboy in his age group at the Young Farmers' Youth rodeo. Raley Kirk is an eighth grader this year and is busy being a cheerleader and running cross country. Jantzen Bell, sophomore at San Saba High School, is also running cross country, plays in the Golden Armadillo Band and is manager for the varsity football team. Eli Wise, son of Mark & Stacy Wise, certainly had lots of his family here for his baptism. Ryan Mathis & Risien Shahan are playing on the same football team. They certainly had combined efforts for several good plays. Nicole, Darren and Elise Grant are here with some friends for Labor Day. J.T. Mathis is a SENIOR at San Saba High School this year. He has had his senior pictures taken and is busy with practice and games of the varsity football team. Mike & Tracey Thomas are having some company for Labor Day week-end. **Mike's sister-in-law Sammy** and his nephew Matt are here for the week-end. Sammy is bringing **some friends with her. If you can't make the Dillo football games,** you might want to listen to Bud Bell and Keith Shahan on radio station KNUZ. They are doing the play by play. Shay Easterwood is one of the coaches you see along the side lines of Armadillo games. Jess McDowell was in for a nice visit with his parents, Mike & Carolyn McDowell. The 7th & 8th grade girls continue to meet on Wednesday afternoons under the direction of Cindy Hawkins and Kim Kirk. This week they will be watching the movie, Soul Searcher at 5 p.m. If you know of a youth who might be interested be sure and invite them. The EMS steak supper was held at our church backyard on Friday. Our church family certainly supported them. Pat Pratt, daughter of Stan & Millie Burnham of course, was there. She is the EMS director. Charlie Peeler was helping. Dan Harrington and Lyla were greeting everyone. There were plenty of our church family eating. It was for a good cause.

## Scenes from Back to School Blessings Covered Dish Luncheon



Lynlee Smith



Kristi Grant, Kelly Murray, Lee Murray Sam Murray



Bettye McLaughlin & Suzanne Walters



Randy & Andrea Robinson

**Coming Soon.....To 1st UMC**

**A Children's & Youth Program**

**Stay Tuned For More Details .....**

