



San Saba First United Methodist Church September 2013 Newsletter

**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.
Worship 10:00 a.m.**



**Ministers:
Entire Congregation
Worship Leader:
Tracey Thomas
Accompanist:
Nettie Oma Carpenter
Choir Director:
Tracey Thomas
Church Secretary:
Karen Alexander
Custodian:
Mario Mendiola**

From the Pastor's Desk.....

As Maria watched folks take their pictures for our new church directory she saw so many smiles, heard so much laughter, and got to know so many folks a little better in the process. As she reflected on the experience, she said "There is so much life here!". I have thought about that many times since she said that and she is so right. There is a lot of life at San Saba's First United Methodist Church!

When I went to my office to write this newsletter, I heard a rather strange sound above me as I passed under the dome in the sanctuary. I wish I could tell you it was the fluttering of angels wings but it was a squirrel! The poor little rat (with a fuzzy tail), as my friend Henry likes to call them, was going around and around in the dome. The squirrel was a little freaked out for a while (and so was I) but it finally found its way back into the attic and I found my way back to the computer with "The day the squirrel went berserk" by Ray Stevens playing in my head. There is a lot of life at First United Methodist Church!

Although it's still 100 degrees outside, the season is changing and students are back in school. This year I'm looking forward to wearing my purple FUMC shirt to football games. There are still many sizes available Please let me know if you would like one.

We are looking forward to the first pumpkin patch at FUMC! There will be pumpkins of all shapes and sizes. Bumpy ones, green oneand ugly ones too. Families will be invited to take pictures. I look forward to hanging out in the patch in the cool of the evening, visiting with folks, and playing some banjo. The pumpkins will arrive in mid October. We will need lots of help from the whole community getting them unloaded, selling pumpkins, and greeting folks. This is continued on the next page.....



Squirrel

a NO RISK fundraiser. We keep a percentage of the money we make from pumpkins sales, and we don't pay for any that we don't sell. What's really awesome about the pumpkin patch, is that it's also a wonderful opportunity for outreach as we greet folks with a warm welcome.



We are in the process of creating a Godly play classroom. The classroom will be in room #5 (The downstairs Sunday school class across from my office) We have shelves and are currently assembling the lessons. We will need to purchase a few things for the lessons in November, but we are off to a good start. We will start on September 29, at 9 AM. A Godly Play classroom needs two adults, one "door person" and one "storyteller." I volunteered to be the "storyteller" for the first few months. We will need a few volunteers to take the role of "door person." Please let me know if you are interested.

United Methodist Youth Fellowship (Junior and senior high school students) Will not meet in September, but will start up again on October 6th with a Pizza / Game night in the fellowship hall. 6-8 P.M.



Jennifer Davis, daughter of Debbie Pullen, graduated with a Master's degree recently from the University of Phoenix. She is shown here with her proud mom. She is currently teaching for Dallas ISD. Her plan is to begin work on her doctoral degree so she can teach on the university level. Debbie and several other family members attended the graduation.

September is the time for New Beginnings.....

On September 8, a new Sunday school class will meet for the first time in the northwest corner upper classroom. This class will be studying "Devotional Classics" which is edited by Richard J. Foster and James Bryan Smith. Devotional readings will be divided into six traditions or "streams" including: the prayer-filled life, the virtuous live, the spirit-empowered life, the compassionate life, the Word-centered life and the sacramental life. Readings from such well knowns as Martin Luther, C. S. Lewis, Francis of Assisi, and John Wesley are accompanied by scripture and discussion questions. Books have been ordered and should be in the classroom ready for the first day. Come a few minutes before 9:00 if you wish to make a cup of coffee to enjoy while catching up with each other. After many months of pondering this idea and seeking God, I am so very excited to see what He has in store for us all as we grow together in our study!

In anticipation, Saturday, September 7, at 6:30 pm, you are invited to gather at Mike and Tracey Thomas's home for a time of food and fellowship. Bring the kids and let them eat and play as well.

Submitted by Tracey Thomas

Prayer Concerns

Family of Charles Belk
Suzanne Walters—now living in Eastern Star’s Assisted Living in Arlington
Peter Hald
Charles Simons, cousin of Wahnee Stallings
Gene Hinyard, son of Mary Sue Hinyard
Ronnie Schmidt
Lylah (Stephanie and Chase’s daughter) (Henry Warren’s family)
Stan Burnham
Johnnie Golden (Tracey’s friend)
Stephanie Conner (Nettie Oma’s family)
Bettye McLaughlin
Elsie Millican
Mark Owens (safety)
Katie Andreas (in hospital, continuing prayer)(family of Trish Warren
Joe Mack Tilson
James and Pat Reavis
Gordan Hall (prostate cancer)
Kathren Wolfe (Martha Schanhals’ mom)
Margaret Ann Seiders (Celia Bell’s Mom)
Landon Yarbrough
Pete Hemenway (friends of Trish Warren)
Barbara Thornton, friend of Pat Belk
Brother Michael, friend of Pat Belk
Ray & Ruth Riggs

We are trying to update the prayer concern list. If you would like to add a loved one or family friend back on, please let us know. Carolyn



First Choir News

Choir practice is back in session at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays so come and join us! If you love singing songs of our faith with good Christian friends, you may just enjoy being a part! You don't even have to make a reservation....just show up with a smile! Soon we will be passing out Christmas cantatas even though it is only September! This is a really fun time and you would be welcome to sing in the cantata even if you don't sing with us the rest of the year.



Church Camp Experiences

[Madison Shahan](#) attended church camp at Mount Wesley July 7th-10th. “It was really fun,” Madison said. She has fun memories of making new friends, science experiments, water balloon fights, swimming, crafts, really good songs and motions, and a massive pillow fight! Her favorite part was walking up to the cross on the last morning to have breakfast, a devotional, and communion. Thanks you, FUMC Family, for sponsoring Madison’s first experience at church camp!!!!



Meet Karen Alexander, New Church Secretary

Husband: Steven, a PA –C at Scott & White Clinic-San Saba

Family: 4 kids and 8 grandchildren

Favorite Food: Mediterranean Food

Hobbies: animals (sheep, horse, Toni Llama), gardening and hanging baskets, traveling (especially places that have mountains, being outdoors)

Newest Family Member: Kay (border collie puppy)

Birthday: September 19th

Grew up: On a ranch in Llano County

Newest Members



Jennifer & Brad Reeves along with their daughter, Braylee, became part of the 1st Church family recently. We are so happy to have them become part of our family. Brad is the game warden for San Saba County. Jennifer is a private voice and piano teacher with Howard Payne University's pre-college program. She stays home with Braylee. You will also see Jennifer singing with the Southern Rustics group.

August Stewardship Report

The following figures do not include the end of the month payroll. Withholding taxes for August have not yet been submitted. This will increase the expenses line by nearly \$3,000. These are the totals on August 28, 2013 before doing payroll checks and submitted payroll taxes.

General Fund Income to date for August only	\$9,344
General Fund Income to date for the year	\$91,649
General Fund Expenses to date for August only	\$8,429
General Fund Expenses to date for the year	\$92,400
General Fund Balance on August 28, 2013	\$13,598

The church office will be preparing the deposit on Tuesday mornings. It takes about two hours to do this if there are no interruptions, and there are too many interruptions on Mondays. Karen will appreciate it very much if you will avoid calling before eleven on Tuesdays.

Submitted by Millie Burnham

Meals on Wheels
September 16-20
September 23-27

Bible Study
Tuesday October 1st-November 26th
9:30 a.m.
Trish Warren's Home
All Are Welcome

Our Church Family

Like most families our church family has been very busy preparing for school to start. Jason Everett, I am happy to report, received his yellow stripe belt in Taekwondo and is gearing up for school. Raley Kirk started high school on Monday. On Friday nights, we will find her cheering at the San Saba High School football games. We will also find Jantzen Bell on the San Saba football field and in the San Saba Armadillo Marching Band on Friday nights. He will also be kept busy taking two college classes—American History and College Algebra. J.T. Moody will be in the fourth grade and has Mrs. Michelle Barker for his teacher. Libby Mays

will be leaving each morning at 7:10 for school. She is a kindergartener at San Saba ISD. Jada, Ann & Don McElroy's favorite yellow lab passed away on August 19th. She was eleven years old. Jada was a great companion and a suburb retriever of sticks and anything else anyone would throw for her. Trish Warren will be hitting the road again the middle of September. She will head north for cooler weather. First she will visit Denver Colorado and see her son and grandchildren and then head east to St. Louis Missouri to see the other son. Guess Henry will go the Richland Springs football games while she is gone. Our sympathy goes out to the Family of Charlie Belk. Charlie lost his battle with cancer recently. He was an avid domino player and loved his friends at the Senior Center. He enjoyed eating lunch there. Pat's son has worshipped with us two Sunday's with his mom, Pat. Mike Millican and his wife, Jerilyn, enjoyed

having all their children here to meet each other. They have been busy settling into Mike's house in Brown-wood. Mike & Tracey Thomas, of course, had to go to granddaughter Avery's birthday party. She was also in a church play that week-end so they got their money's worth. Ted Red's surgery went well and he is recovering. Owen & Linda Parks had to make a trip to East Texas to see their great grandbaby. I bet Linda spent a lot of time in the rocking chair holding the baby. Lynne & Bill Berry left for North Carolina the middle of August. They will be back in October. I bet there are three kids who will really miss them. Danna & Joe Pete Smith are counting the days till they can move into their new house. It is so nice to see Raymond and Paula Barrier getting their picture made for the church directory and back on "their" pew in church. Nicole Grant & Elise, daughter and granddaughter of Bob & Debbie Millican, were in to visit while cousins were in from the northeast. Daylon Smith is very proud that his uncle, Dwayne Shaw, was named the new chief of police for San Saba. Bettye McLaughlin has that exercise class going in high gear. They would love to have anyone interested to join them on Monday, Wednesday or Friday's. Travis & Kathy Gage

were tired of being hot and headed

north to Colorado with Travis' brother and sister-in-law. Bet they had a really good time and maybe played some farkle. Mindy Cantu is back working at the San Saba ISD's cafeteria. It's very early mornings for her. Lee Murray is just like lots of men these days. He is eagerly awaiting opening day of dove season. Ronnie Schulze is also counting the days till opening day. Millie & Stan Burnham are looking forward to seeing their grandsons. Both of them are coming for a visit. Please note the pictures from the youth group meeting held at Jantzen Bell's. There is nothing more fun than a swim in a pool on a hot day.



Happy Birthday

To Karen Alexander,



Our New Church Secretary

**Next
Pumpkin Patch
Meeting**

Tuesday September 10th



**5:30 p.m.
Dan's Office**

Ray & Ruth Riggs

Ray Riggs is driving his wife, Ruth, to Temple each day for 6 weeks for chemo and radiation treatments. If you would like to help them, contact Lesa Schulze (372-3204) or the church secretary, Karen Alexander. Donations will be used to purchase gas and dining gift cards.

The Pumpkin Patch

October 17-31st

Please see sign up for volunteer time slots

Fall Festival

Backyard of the church

Saturday October 26th

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



**Fun, Fellowship, Food
Activities for the Whole Family
Out Reach to the Community**