



# San Saba First United Methodist Church September 2014 Newsletter

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

**Rev. John Saint, 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.....**

### **New Beginnings**

*New things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.*

Isaiah 42:9

*I saw a new heaven and a new earth..., the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.*

Revelation 21:1-2



God is the Creator; the God of renewal, the God of new beginnings. As God's people, we are always looking ahead to the many opportunities God gives us to make a fresh start, while also recalling all the new adventures in discipleship which God has already begun in us. As temporal creatures we are propelled into the continually advancing present, where each moment is new. We order our lives around cycles of renewal each day, week, month, and year.

As we begin a new school year, now is a good time to reflect on the ways God is working to bring forth new life in us. Coaches are evaluating the potential of their new teams. Teachers are anticipating the journey of discovery on which they will lead their classes. Students are rubbing the sleep of summer from their mind's eye. Parents are welcoming the return of the fall routine.

But there is a sense of uncertainty that comes with all things new. Sometimes we are reluctant to let go of things that are familiar and comfortable. Maybe it is even advisable to stick with old ways, even when they are less than perfect, rather than risk complete failure by trying something new.

Jesus told his followers to take up the cross daily; a hard saying if there ever was one. The cross was a terrible instrument of torture used by the Romans to force occupied territories into submission. What does it mean for us to take up our cross, and why did Jesus tell us to make it part of our cycle of daily renewal? To be clear, Jesus was not speaking literally; he did not intend that we should torture ourselves daily. So was he just encouraging us to be brave and strong in the face of burdens or challenges we cannot escape? Was he telling us that we must simply endure things like chronic disease or being unable to find work?

Jesus' own example would suggest that he meant something else instead. In the garden of Gethsemane Jesus decided to take up the cross willingly in spite of his reluctance. By his own will he could have avoided it, but he chose not to. So the cross is something that we can evade if we choose, but that we take up willingly, even if we do have misgivings. In this way, Jesus set a pattern for our discipleship.

So as a new school year begins, ask yourself these questions: Am I willing, or even eager to see God at work in my life in new ways? Am I constantly striving to discover evidence of the new things God is doing in the world? When I am apprehensive about the future, do I trust in God to lead me through difficult times? Will I give thanks to God in all things?

**Continued on page 2.....**

**Continued from page 1.....**

As we live into new beginnings each day, I invite you to pray this prayer with me:

God our Creator,  
in the beginning you created heaven and earth,  
and you have promised in the fullness of time  
to usher in a new heaven and a new earth.

Grant to all your people  
a steady assurance of your goodness  
and a firm conviction to participate fully in your plan of renewal,  
that we may be witnesses of your love for all creation,  
in all that we do and say.

Empower us to steadfastly proclaim the love you have made known to us  
through Christ our risen Savior. Amen.

Grace and peace,

**Pastor John**

Stewardship Report

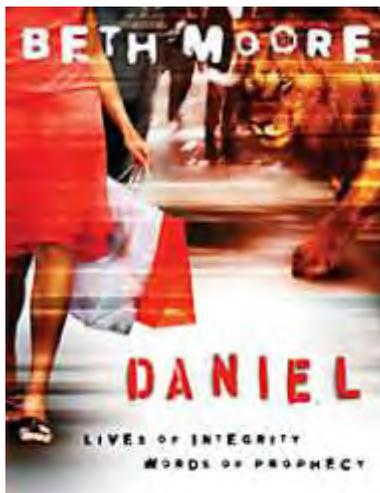
General Fund

Income in August	\$13,651*
Expenses in August	\$12,511
Current Balance on 08-29-14	\$6,662.60



\* Does not include the 5th Sunday

Submitted by Millie Burnham



**Daniel, Words of Integrity, Words of Prophecy -**

A Fall bible Study, entitled Daniel, Live of Integrity, Words of Prophecy, will be lead by Trish Warren on Tuesday's for twelve weeks. It will begin September 9th, 9:30 a.m. at Trish's house at 1108 W. Commerce. All are invited to participate. The only cost is the purchase of the study book for \$16.00. Scholarships are available to cover this expense. The study will deal with how to live with integrity in today's self-absorbed society. The prophet Daniel faced unbelievable pressures to compromise his faith, to live in a hostile culture, and to confront temptations and threats. Today, believers in Jesus Christ face many of the same trials. For more information call Trish at 372-3166.

## MYF Schedule

September 7th Back to School Kickoff Party at the McDowell's, A Cookout and fun activities. Meet at the church at 4:30

September 14th Swimming at the Bell's, 5:30-7:00

September 20th Overnight campout at the Bell's ranch (high schoolers) 2:00pm-8:00am

September 21st Swimming at the Shahan's (middle schoolers) 5:30-7:00

September 28th regular MYF at the church 5:30-7:00

October 5th Swimming at Kirks (high schoolers) 5:30-7:00  
regular MYF at church (middle schoolers) 5:30-7:00

October 10th MYF Fundraiser (pre-game pulled pork sandwich plate sales)

October 12th regular MYF at the church 5:30-7:00

October 19th regular MYF at the church 5:30-7:00

October 26th Trick or Treat meet at church at 5:30

November 2nd regular MYF at the church



**Donations accepted in the church office before and after worship.**

## Mario's Vacation Continues thru September 7 Please Help Out While Mario is on Vacation



**Logan Hunter Reeves**  
**Born: 8-23-14**  
**7 lbs. 7 oz**  
**20 inches long**  
**Parents: Brad & Jennifer Reeves**  
**Big Sister: Braylee**

**Happy Birthday**



**September 19th**

**Karen Alexander**

## Our Church Family



FUMC's youth, teachers and school board members are back in school. The Blessings have been bestowed on the backpacks. The covered dish luncheon had plenty of food. The Regan Kirk family is hosting an exchange student from South America. We extend our sympathy to Ronnie Schulze and family on the loss of his mom. Travis & Kathy Gage made it back to San Saba for one Sunday and are presently in Houston prepar-

ing for Travis' surgery. Pat Murray has been in the hospital and is now at Eventide Nursing Home. Mike & Tracey Thomas had a houseful of company while daughter Lindsey and granddaughter Emily were here. Son Josh Thomas and his family were among the ones who visited along with a host of other family members. It was really good to have Raymond and Paula Barrier worshipping with us one Sunday. Raymond has been having some health problems. Wiley Murray came thru his surgery fine. All of the Murrays really appreciate the prayers. Please note that Wiley is spelled Wiley. Cristy Thornton has a broken collar bone. For the story behind it, you will have to ask her. It is a long story so be prepared. Katie McEwin has a job in Plano and is moving.



Wylie Manning, born August 9th, is Diana Manning's grandbaby and Stan & Millie Burnham's great-grandbaby., His parents are Coleman & Amanda Manning.



The family of **Laura Lawson** is very grateful for all the cards and memorials that were made in her memory. We are very blessed to be part of such a caring church family.

Ronnie, & Lesa Schulze and Mindy Cantu

**The Men's Breakfast will resume Sunday September 14 at 7:45  
All Men are invited to attend the breakfast followed by a bible study.**

## Prayer Concerns

Amanda Jackson health  
Wiley Murray recovery after surgery  
Mark Owens safety  
Danny Shaw cancer  
Harrison Hamer bereavement  
Pat Murray  
Ronnie, Lesa Schulze & family  
Matt & Debra (Jennifer Reeves' brother)

Travis & Kathy Gage cancer treatments for Travis  
His brother's address is 22803 Oak Ridge Trail,  
Leander, Tx 78641  
Elsie Millican health  
Border situation & children  
Peace in Israel  
Our Military Men, Women & Families  
Our Church, Our Town & Our Nation