

FIRST NEWS



**San Saba
First United Methodist Church**

December, 2008

**San Saba
First United Methodist
Church
204 W. Brown
325-372-3120
[http://www.gbgm-umc.org/
fumcss/](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/fumcss/)**

Robin Pearcy, 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
Accompanist:
Nettie Oma Carpenter
Choir Director:
Tracey Thomas
Church Secretary:
Debbie Uli
Custodian:
Mario Mendiola**



Greetings In Christ!

I have received many inquiries about what The United Methodist Church 'believes' in terms of doctrine, and the organizational structure of our Christian Denomination. Therefore, I encourage readers of this article to refer to www.umc.org, which contains various links to information about the theology and polity of our global Church.

Here are a few examples, which you will find, if you refer to The United Methodist Church website. "As United Methodists, we have an obligation to bear a faithful Christian witness to Jesus Christ, the living reality at the center of the Church's life and witness. To fulfill this obligation, we reflect critically on our biblical and theological inheritance, striving to express faithfully the witness we make in our own time."

"Two considerations are central to this endeavor: the sources from which we derive our theological affirmations and the criteria by which we assess the adequacy of our understanding and witness. Wesley believed that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in Scripture, illumined by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason."

"United Methodists profess the historic Christian faith in God, incarnate in Jesus Christ for our salvation and ever at work in human history in the Holy Spirit. Living in a covenant of grace under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we participate in the first fruits of God's coming reign and pray in hope for its full realization on earth as in heaven. The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Local churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs."

"The United Methodist Church has a long history of concern for social justice. Its members have often taken forthright positions on controversial issues involving Christian principles. Early Methodists expressed their opposition to the slave trade, to smuggling, and to the cruel treatment of prisoners."

The United Methodist Book of Discipline "is the book of law of The United Methodist Church. It is the product of over 200 years of the General Conferences of the denominations, which now form The United Methodist Church . . . It reflects our understanding of the Church and of what is expected of its laity and clergy as they seek to be effective witnesses in the world as a part of the whole body of Christ (Page v)." If you would like your own copy of the *Discipline*, please let me know, and I shall be happy to order one for you from the *Cokesbury Bookstore*, or you can call 210-525-9685 in San Antonio, Texas.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Robin

Prayer list



Nick Stripling
Lesa Schulze,
Johnnie Thornton
Elaine Lansford and husband John
Tom Thomas
Kenneth Crim Family
Leticia Reyes' and family
Rain, Rain, Rain
Jeannette Toole,
James and Pat Reavis
Peter Hald
Mitchell, Johna and Matthew Moss
Donald and Bettye McLaughlin
Wesley Hooker
Anne Parker
Thelma Millican
Sharon Clawson
David McPherson
Dr. John Bannister
Jeanette Harris
Evelyn Platt
Brad Bryan
Mark Owens (safety)
Dr. Tobey and Natalie Yu
Kolby Reavis
Roy and Polly Waterhouse

In Our Military Eric Booker,
Todd Daniels and Matthew Barrier



Morning Star

First United Methodist Church presents "Morning Star", A Christmas Cantata written by Joseph Martin, on Sunday December 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Our own dedicated chancel choir members plus a few wonderful sisters and brothers in Christ have worked very hard to prepare this bold musical celebration. It is our hope that many will come out for an hour, taking the opportunity to slow down and be ministered to in song....and to reflect on the miracle of Christmas. Please invite folks outside our congregation as well to rejoice in our time together, and please pray for all of us as we enter the last few days of practice and polish in order to offer our utmost for His Highest! Refreshments and a time of fellowship will be offered downstairs afterward.



The Sound of Music

Our own Jennifer Reeves will be taking the role of "Maria" in the Lyric Performing Arts Company production of "The Sound of Music" in Brownwood on Dec 4th, 5th, 11th, 12th and 13th at 7:30 p.m. Matinee productions will be on Dec 6th, 7th, 12th and 14th at 2:30 p.m. Several groups are making plans to attend one of the productions which will be held at the Howard Payne Theatre. You may purchase advance tickets for \$10 online at www.brownwoodlyrictheatre.com or through the Brownwood Chamber of Commerce.

Wednesday December 10- Faith Weaver Friends Last night of the year 4 to 5:30 Dinner to follow 5:30 to 6:30



Christmas Caroling

The Christmas season would not be complete without some Christmas Caroling to some of our Church members who are no longer able to come to church regularly. Begin making plans to be at the church at 5:30 p.m. December 17th. Bring coats, hats, gloves scarves and blankets. The weather is usually nippy. David Gilger is providing a wagon with hay for transportation. After some caroling, plan on eating a chili supper in the basement of the church.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE

During the Holiday Season it is sometimes quite easy to focus on parties, shopping, family gatherings and other important events. First Church's traditional Candlelight Service is a way to "re-focus" on the REAL "Reason for the Season".

This year make a point to make your Christmas plans around attending the Candlelight Service. Invite family, friends, employees, bosses, anyone you encounter to join us as we celebrate Christ's Birth.

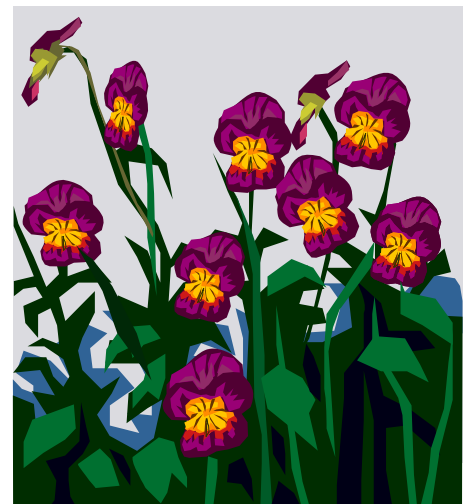
Join us Wednesday December 24th at 6:00 pm.



The "Thinking of You" group is providing these wonderful Christmas Ornaments. Start a new family tradition by purchasing one. They also make great gifts. The ornaments are available at the Church Office. Contact Cherry Kaye Lange for more information.

Thanks, Sue

Sue Moody has changed out the flowers for the Season. She is doing a great job keeping the color flowing.



First Ladies News

Our First Ladies of the UMW met in November to offer their "Thanksgiving Offering" and share in thoughtful programs given by Cherry Kay Lange and Loise Cook. Some ladies put their change in a box all year long in order to give more to help assist the needy all over the world as a way of showing thanks for all the blessings we have. On December 8th, our circles will come together to celebrate our Christmas meeting with the program given by Barbara Gilger. The meal will be a covered dish dinner and all who attend will be well fed....both physically and spiritually! All ladies are invited to attend.



The group that did the "Hanging of the Greens", had a wonderful time with a lot of Fun and Fellowship! Beautiful Job.

FIRST HAPPENINGS

Weds. 12/03 - Faith Weaver Friends 4 to 5:30 /Choir 7pm and 8pm Praise Team

Mon. 12/8 - UMW Unit Meeting 6:30 pm covered dish Dinner/ Potluck

Tues 12/9 - PPR Committee Meeting 5pm

Weds. 12/10 - Mobile Food Pantry 10 to 12 noon

Weds 12/10- Faith Weaver Friends Last night of the year 4 to 5:30 Dinner to follow 5:30 to 6:30

Thurs 12/11- Fellowship of Christian Women FUMC San Saba 11:30 Christmas Music and Christmas Holiday treats

Sun. 12/14 - Christmas Cantata 7 pm, refreshments to follow.

Tues. 12/16-"Thinking of You" 10 am Wanda Davenport's home 109 W. Commerce

Weds 12/17 - Christmas Caroling 5:30 /Chili supper to follow

Weds. 12/24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6pm

The Candy Canes of Christmas

Candy cane sweet treats made primarily from boiled sugar seem to have first appeared in Europe in the late 1600's to early 1700's. They were made in many different colors (most often white) and shapes (most often straight sticks), evolving to the familiar cane or upside down J shape with the red and white stripes in the early 1900's.



The cane shape turned out to be a great way to hang the sugar treats on the Christmas tree that was also strongly associated with the Christmas season and the bright colors of red and white were a nice contrast with the green of the Christmas trees. This was during a time when many food items were hung on the Christmas trees from strings of popcorn to cookies and pastries.

The exact story of how and why the candy canes evolved into the red and white striped cane shapes we are so familiar with today is lost to history, but a reasonable explanation is that the cane shape was created to look like the staff of a shepherd (which fits in not only with the story of shepherds attending Jesus' birth, but also of the symbolism of Jesus as a shepherd of his flock). These treats were then given to small children to encourage them to behave at long church services during the Christmas season.

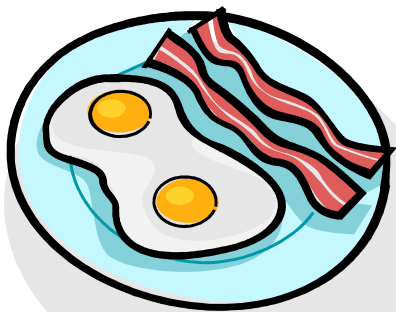




Church Newsletter

Deadline

**(Last Wednesday of the Month)
December 31st**



The Methodist Men Group

**Meets
8 a.m.**

Every Sunday Morning

**For Breakfast and Bible
Study**

All Men Are Invited

**To Join The
Group**

Our Church Family

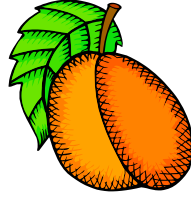
We have a celebrity among our midst. Cindy Prater, world known photographer, has some of her photography on display and for sale at Gage BBQ. Be sure and check out the pictures the next time you are in the restaurant. Maggie Fry has a new job! Congratulations Maggie. She is working at Eventide Nursing Home. She is doing a great job. Speaking of the Fry Sisters, Amy is home from Alpine and Sul Ross University. Sul Ross gets a whole week off for Thanksgiving so Amy was enjoying a long vacation from school with her family. Kelly & Lee Murray have visited with Lee's parents, Sam & Laina Murray several times recently. Thanks to Lesa Schulze for the beautiful fall arrangements in the front of the sanctuary. Lesa is feeling better. She spent the week-end recently with Corrie in Abilene. The most exciting news for the Schulze Family is that Corrie is engaged!!! Grace Stewart was also excited. She was having a birthday and had lots of family members coming to her house to help her celebrate. David and Anne Parker and Nelda Weatherby have some good news also. Alicia & Joe are going to be parents and they are going to be grandparents/great-grandparents for the third time. Johnnie Thornton, Cristy Thornton's dad, got a good report from his doctor. Ted Red had carpal tunnel surgery and Ann Allison is recovering from hand surgery. Pat Belk continues to recover from her surgery as does Peter Hald. Makayla Clancy attended church and Sunday School with Ann Fry one Sunday. She has certainly grown. There is a lot of sickness going around and Stan Burnham was one of those who was under the weather. Kevin Shahan, I believe, was the last family member in his house to come down with that stuff. Elsie Millican had a little surgery also. Her pacemaker needed a new battery. Elsie said she felt much better after the surgery. Zolly Jones made a trip to San Angelo to visit with her sister, Polly. Polly is in a choir and Zolly went to hear her sing and do several other activities. J.T. Moody was out doing errands with his grandpa on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Debbie Pullen said she, Robert and Amanda were going to have a quiet Thanksgiving. Debbie was looking forward to a long week-end off from work. San Saba Elementary student who were on the honor roll included: Raley Kirk, Brooke Nagle, Casey Mathis & Audrey Nagle. Nicole Sears, our jamming junior, was mentioned by Coach Tony Taylor in the Lady Dillo Basketball report. He is predicting that by district she will be 100%. Nicole had knee surgery earlier this year. Cindy & Roland Hawkins were expecting both Tyler Hawkins from Lubbock and Travis Hawkins from Kingsville for the Thanksgiving Holidays. Bettye McLaughlin was expecting her sister and husband from Pecos in for Thanksgiving. The Thomas' were leaving on Wednesday for San Antonio to see Josh, Megan and Avery. I am happy to report that Megan is feeling better after her surgery. Pastor Robin reported that his mom was doing better after a visit in the hospital. Hollee Ragsdale helped her grandmother, Naomi, prepare for the Community Wide Thanksgiving Dinner. Coach Mathis really wanted to be able to watch his son, J.T. play 8th grade basketball so he is the 8th grade boys basketball coach. David & Barbara Gilger are attending a few basketball games so they can watch their grandchildren play. Jess McDowell was in from UTA for a visit with his parents, Carolyn & Mike McDowell.

From the Kitchen of.....

Frosted Apricot Cookies

½ cup margarine or butter, softened
1 pkg. (3 oz.) cream cheese, softened
1 ¼ cups flour
¼ cup sugar
1 tsp. baking powder
½ cup apricot preserves
½ cup chopped pecans

Combine butter and cream cheese. Beat until smooth. Combine flour, sugar and baking powder and stir into creamed mixture. Add apricot preserves and pecans. Mix well. Drop by tablespoonfuls on a greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes. Cool slightly. Frost with Apricot Frosting while warm. Cookies will not be brown on top when done. Makes 3 ½ dozen.



Apricot Frosting

1 cup sifted powdered sugar
1 T. butter or margarine, softened
¼ cup apricot preserves

Combine all ingredients and beat until smooth. This makes enough frosting for 2 batches of cookies.

Zolly Jones (Millie Burnham made these cookies for the Friends of Library Meeting. They were delicious. The recipe is in the 1994 Pierian Study Club Cookbook



Thinking of You

**December 16th
10 a.m.
Wanda Davenport's
Home**

The Shepherds Had An Angel

By Christina G. Rossetti

The shepherds had an angel,
The wise men had a star;
But what have I, a little child,
To guide me home from far,
Where glad stars sing together,
And singing angels are?

Lord Jesus is my Guardian
so I can nothing lack;
The lambs lie in His bosom
Along life's dangerous track:
The wilful lambs that go astray
He, bleeding, brings them back.

Those shepherds thro' the lonely night
Sat watching by their sheep,
Until they saw the heav'nly host
Who neither tire nor sleep,
All singing glory, glory,
In festival they keep.

Christ watches me, His little lamb,
Cares for me day and night,
That I may be His own in heav'n,
So angels clad in white
Shall sing their Glory, glory,
For my sake in the height.

Lord, bring me nearer day by day,
Till I my voice unite,
And sing my Glory, glory,
With angels clad in white,
All Glory, glory, giv'n to Thee,
Thro' all the heav'nly height.

Happy Birthday to Happy Anniversary to.....

Cindy Prater December 1st

Alfreda Whitley 4th

Doris Bryant 5th

Katie McEwin 6th

Sue Moody, Ronnie Schulze & Richard Jackson 7th

Jantzen Bell 9th

Sam & Laina Murray 10th

Nelda Weatherby & Anne Parker 15th

Amy Fry 16th

David Gilger 18th

Vickie Stevenson 21st

Lewis & Zolly Jones 25th

Robert Jackson 26th

Elodie Steger 27

Harper & Ashley Stewart Donald & Bettye McLaughlin 27th

Tom Moody 29th

Misti Everett

