

October  
2014



# First United Methodist Church Mason, Texas



*Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. For Christ himself is our peace. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.” ~ Ephesians 2:13-14*



I don't know about all of you, but I watch, read, and listen to the news – A LOT. I've always been that way, dating all the way back to high school when I would seek out the Op Ed page in the Houston Chronicle, reading about what was going in the city where I lived. I have always had an interest in history and how it relates to current events. I am even more interested now in history and current events, and how they relate to God's action in our lives today. So, if you've been keeping up with current events on the news, you know the world is very chaotic and dangerous right now. That might be a reason to be fearful about the future – but maybe not.

Throughout history there have been chaotic and even dangerous times. We don't have to look too far back to know that. Evil is real, after all. But even when we do look back over the centuries at the amount of killing and violence and evil that humans have inflicted on each other, we can also see that God has always been present in the midst of the darkest times and places. Anne Frank, the young Jewish girl whose diary was found after WWII, chronicled the hardship and secrecy that went with being Jews in Nazi Germany – food rations, public humiliation, hiding from the government for fear of being sent to concentration camps, losing their homes, and many other things. But despite all of that, on July 15, 1944, Anne Frank wrote in her diary, "It's a wonder I haven't abandoned all my ideals; they seem so absurd and impractical. Yet I cling to them because I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart. It's utterly impossible for me to build my life on a foundation of chaos, suffering and death. I see the world being slowly transformed into a wilderness, I hear the approaching thunder that, one day, will destroy us too; I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too shall end, that peace and tranquility will return once more." On April 5<sup>th</sup> of that same year, she has an entry which describes how she knelt to say her prayers "very fervently." Anne Frank was ultimately killed in a concentration camp, but that does not tell us she was defeated in the end, nor does it tell us that God was not present even in all that horror. Instead, her words of peace and assurance have served to pull people of many and varied backgrounds together. This has been done through the power of God.

In times like these, we are given a sharp reminder that God is now and has always been, present in the lives of human beings. We are also reminded that peace is not possible through any human means. Throughout all of history, human plans for peace have been temporary. We seek peace, not through contracts and treaties, but through Christ. "Peace I give you; my peace I leave with you. I do not give as the world gives, so do not be troubled or afraid." Our hope and our faith are found in Christ alone. When we try to put our hope and faith in human institutions, sooner or later, we will be disappointed.

**(Continued on Page 2)**

## Worship Times

### Sunday

8:30 A.M. w/ Holy Communion  
10:50 A.M. Holy Communion on  
1st Sunday of the month  
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.



Year to date as of Sept. 26, 2014  
Budget \$ 286,349.00  
Offering \$ 268,829.62

Budget for 2014 – \$387,540.00  
Weekly Budget – \$7,452.70



### September Attendance

Sept 7	159
Sept 14	174
Sept 21	151

## Upcoming Events

Sept 27	Fall Festival of Churches
Sept 27	Trash to Treasure Sale
Sept 28	German Hymn Fest at FUMC
Sept 28	5th Sunday @ Baptist Church
Oct 5	World Communion Sunday
Oct 19	Children's Sabbath & Steady Steps Fundraiser
Oct 26	Laity Sunday
Nov 2	All Saints Sunday
Nov 13	Church Conference 6 p.m.

God's love never ends; his presence is never withdrawn; God never abandons us.

As you hear about the horrors that are unfolding in the world, turn your hearts toward Jesus. Know that peace is truly available through him. Don't give up. Don't be troubled. God is present. God is faithful.

In Christ,  
Colleen



### VITAL SIGNS by Ann Scarth, R.N., Wesley Nurse

Hello, again, everyone. I have a little more information for you on our series of articles on water & your health. Did you know that the health of your eyes is affected by your water intake? The cornea of the eye is 80% of water & drinking adequate water is really necessary. Jobs that require the use of your eyes for hours on end can cause problems with dry eyes. So if you work on things that require a lot of reading or working on the computer, taking regular breaks & regularly focusing your eyes on something in the distance can help relax your eyes. Blinking can also facilitate moisture from the tear glands to hydrate & lubricate your eyes. Another little tip-drinking adequate amounts of water can raise your metabolism, because it helps in digestion. Fiber & water work hand in hand to aid the proper function of the bowel. It's difficult to think about this now, but flu & cold season will be upon us before you know it. Drinking water can help fight against the flu. Water with just a little lemon juice added can be used for ailments like respiratory disease & to improve the immune system. Keep up the good work on drinking water. Chat with you later-Ann Scarth, RN, Wesley Nurse, 347-5983



### IS GOD CALLING YOU INTO SERVICE?

**First United Methodist Church of Mason is looking for a full-time Steady Steps Director, Family Ministries Director and a Choir Director.**

Please e-mail your resume to [funcbiz@verizon.net](mailto:funcbiz@verizon.net) or call Colleen or Maureen at 325-347-5105 for more information.

**PLEASE CALL  
Chuck Bearden (347-6162) or  
Bruce Strickland (409-283-1213)  
to volunteer as an Usher  
or Lynn Hedges (347-0152)  
to serve as Lay Reader**



### Church Conference November 13th

#### Hope Circle

We meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 4:00 P.M. in the Gathering Room. We would love to have you join us. For more information contact Tiffany Klaerner at 347-6034.



During these tough economic times the need is great, and we continue to assist families with their utility bills. If you feel moved to help with this important ministry, please contact Pat Reardon at 347-0275.

The United Methodist Men will hold their monthly breakfast on *Wednesday, October 8th at 7:00 A.M.* in the Social Hall. Coffee will be ready at 6:45 A.M., so come early and join us for good food and good fellowship! If you want to know more about the UMM, contact Pat Reardon at 347-0275.

## Children & Youth News

### Loose Change Offering:

The children will collect your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters on Sunday, October 5. Thank you for your helping us to be the hands and feet of Christ!

**Youth Group:** Wednesday night Youth Group is back in full swing.

**Wonderful Wednesdays:** Starting on October 1 from 4-5 p.m. The church van will pickup from school at 3:30 p.m. and parents will need to pick up their children from the church around 5 p.m.

**College Addresses:** Please send us mailing and email addresses for our college-youth, even if their address has not changed since last year. You can email the information to [fumcmason@verizon.net](mailto:fumcmason@verizon.net) or call the church office at (325) 347-5105. Care packages will be sent out in November to all students whose addresses have been submitted. We don't want your college student to miss out.



October 5th

## Children's Sabbath Sunday, October 19th

We will be having a special offering. Please bring a children's backpack, small stuffed toy, or both. These will be donated to the Mason County Welfare Board to give to children who have been removed from their homes and just need a bag for their belongings or need a stuffed friend for comfort.

Steady Steps Spaghetti Luncheon Fundraiser  
following the 10:50 Service.  
The cost of the meal will be donation only.



October 26th

Preaching:  
David Young

## Mission News

October is our month to be responsible for handing out the groceries at the Food Bank. We will be meeting at the Food Bank at 2:45 on Monday, Oct. 13, Tuesday, Oct. 14, and Wednesday, Oct. 15. We can always use extra helpers, so if you've never been to the Food Bank, this might be a good opportunity to see what is transpiring over there. There has been lots of activity over the summer as volunteers have worked to repaint and do some needed carpentry work. Come take a look when you get a chance. The Food Bank continues to be one of the ways we can serve God by serving others...right here in Mason.



At

Mt. Wesley

Women's Emmaus Walk

October 23-26

Applications can be picked up  
in the church office.

*Please pray for our members and loved ones who are homebound and/or residing in nursing homes.*



*Marilyn Kahan, Charlene Schuessler,  
Odessa Dannheim, Mary Beam, Carolyn & Terry Smith,  
Roy Lehmborg, Chris Roberts, Blaine Thomas,  
Curtis & Dusty Henderson, Pete Sharbo, Dr. Darrell Vines,  
Jesse Walker, JD Hughes, Welda Armour, Amelia Ory,  
The Family of Jerry Haines, Amy Hedges,  
Marshall Frazier, The Family of Jean Stengel*

*Joseph Alba (U.S. Army), Melissa Garrison-Jensen (U.S. Navy),  
Houston Haley (USAF), Jared Hudson (USMC),  
Matt Irwin (U.S. Army), T.J. Schovajsa (U.S. Army),  
Neil Shanks (USAF), Terry Simonton (USAF),  
Ferd T. Slocum III (U.S. Navy), James Vacek (U.S. Navy)*

# Steady Steps

Weekday Children's Ministry

An Early Step Toward a Godly Walk!



Jennifer Row, our former Steady Steps director, has accepted a job with Mason ISD. Tiffany Stidham is now acting as the interim director and has been with Steady Steps 4 years. Stephanie Hernandez is acting as the assistant director. We are blessed with a wonderful staff and approximately 60 children throughout the week. Our main theme for the fall is Dr. Suess. Look for Dr. Suess in all of the classrooms!

After several months of planning, voting and approvals, work on the new playground and fence has begun! Ince Enterprises, Inc. was the contractor.

Through ongoing fundraisers, grants, donations and memorials interior fencing and new playground equipment are being installed. In addition, a large shade to protect the children will be visible soon. Keep watching for exciting additions.

### Upcoming fundraisers...

**September 27...** Church wide "Trash to Treasure Sale" will be held in the Social Hall & courtyard at FUMC. Steady Steps volunteers will be selling candied pecans on the courthouse square.

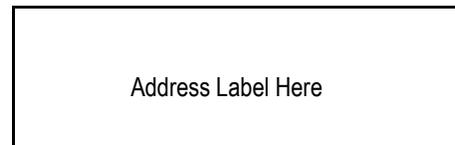
**October 19...** Join us for worship at 10:50 as Rev. Margaret Persky brings the Word. Worship will be followed by the Steady Steps Annual Fall Fundraiser and Spaghetti Lunch. All donations will go to support the Steady Steps Daycare Program.

**Come visit any time during the week and see what all the children are involved in. Your presence in their lives is an example of Christ's love. They are full of love and curiosity and like to give and receive hugs!**



**First United Methodist Church**  
**P. O. Box 178**  
**Mason, TX 76856**

Rev. Colleen Haley.....Pastor  
Maureen Shanks.....Office Manager  
Christie Lehmborg..... Secretary  
Marilyn Kahan.....Organist/Pianist  
Art Davis.....Audio/Visual Technician  
Tiffany Stidham.....Interim Steady Steps Director  
Ann Scarth.....Wesley Nurse



Office Phone: 325-347-5105 Fax Number: 325-347-5289

Email: fumcbiz@verizon.net (Office Manager)

Website: www.fumcmason.org

Office Hours: 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Monday thru Thursday

8:30 A.M. - 12:00 Noon Friday

8:30 A.M. Worship Service with Holy Communion

9:45 A.M. Sunday School

10:50 A.M. Worship Service

(Holy Communion served on the first Sunday of the month)

Steady Steps Phone 325-347-0043

**October 2014**