



First United Methodist Church

Mason, TX



For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility. ~ Ephesians 2:14



It seems like conflict has become a way of life in our modern culture. If you spend any time at all watching the news – cable or network – you will hear a lot of opinions, and a lot of blaming, and even some name calling from time to time. It seems like we have more difficulty finding common ground than we used to. The concept of peace has become an ideology more than a reachable goal.

Paul puts that into perspective for us. He says that Christ himself is our peace. And when he says, “our,” he is talking about the Christian community. Paul’s audience in all of his letters was always the Christian community - he was writing to the churches he had established. He wasn’t writing to make converts. So, when he says that Christ is our peace, he is talking about the peace of Christians. We need look no further for peace in our lives than to our One risen Lord, Jesus Christ. What that means is this: when things are wound up inside us, or when we found ourselves at odds with each other, or when we believe conflict is “someone else’s” fault, the first place to look for help is at the foot of the throne of God. Our first line of defense in any conflict is prayer.

John Wesley said, “Do nothing on which you cannot pray for a blessing. Every action of a Christian that is good is sanctified by the Word and prayer. It becomes not a Christian to do anything so trivial that he cannot pray over it.” Praying for peace is the first step in healing relationships – especially relationships that have been filled with conflict. The idea is not to pray for the other person to change, although that might happen. The real idea is to pray for change in ourselves – to pray that we might be filled with the “peace that passes all understanding.” (Philippians 4:7) Once we have found the peace of God, the conflicts and dissension will begin to soften, and our hearts will be softened as well. “For he himself is our peace...he has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.” Mother Teresa is credited with a poem called *Anyway*. It goes like this:

*People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.
If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.
If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.
What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.
If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.
The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.
Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.
In the final analysis, it is between you and God.
It was never between you and them anyway.*

We can’t escape conflict, but we can enjoy peace. May God bless you with grace and peace.

In Christ,
Colleen



March 10

Worship Times

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

Budget for 2013—\$371,403.08
Weekly Budget —\$7,142.37

Year to date offering as of February 22, 2013

2013 Budget.....\$55,268.28
2013 Offering.....\$46,940.09

February Attendance

February 3.....198
February 10.....179
February 17.....180

Parsonage Renovation Project

Estimated Cost: \$35,000
Parsonage Budget \$10,000.00

March Acolytes:

March 3: Kendra Klaerner & Blixen Hofmann
March 10: Jesse Armstrong & Madelyn Heath
March 17: Ryli Ruffin & Shay Ragsdale
March 24: Kendra & Klay Klaerner
March 31: Raegan Glentz & Raegan Palacio

March Lay Readers

8:30 A.M. David Scarth 3/3 & 3/10
TBA 3/17 & 3/24
Judy Cordes 3/31
10:50 A.M. Shay Ragsdale 3/3
John Olson 3/10
Jess Irwin 3/17
TBA 3/24 & 3/31

March Ushers

8:30 A.M. Willie Lyles
10:50 A.M. Bobby & Kaylee Halamicek and Bruce & Wes Strickland



Feb. 27—St. Joseph’s Catholic at St. Joseph’s
March 6—St. Paul Lutheran at St. Paul
March 13—River of Life at River of Life
March 20 —First United Methodist at FUMC





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 (347-0275). **The United Methodist Men** will hold their monthly breakfast on **Wednesday, March 13th 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.*

New Horizons Circle meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 A.M. in the Gathering Room.
Chairperson:
Linda Reichenau 325-347-5589



United Methodist Women

Hope Circle meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at 4:00 P.M. in the Gathering Room. Contact Tiffany Klaerner at 347-6034 for more information.

UMW NEWS

We hope everyone who participated in the 1st Annual UMW Chili Bowl enjoyed the meal as much as we did! Thanks to you we were able to present a \$1,000 check to the Mason County Child Welfare Board. We sincerely appreciate everyone who helped prepare all the delicious food. This was our first attempt at a lunch in recent years. We may have over-prepared a bit, but now we in now we know how to better plan for this event. We are so grateful for your willingness to lend a helping hand. Your generosity has once again provided support for the precious children of our community!



VITAL SIGNS

By Ann Scarth RN
Wesley Nurse

Have you really thought about exercise lately? There are so many benefits, it's no wonder there is a real push for everyone. The physical benefits of regular exercise include: building stronger muscles which will help protect the joints from injury, as well as help maintain flexibility and balance. Regular exercise improves posture, eases and possibly eliminates some pain issues, makes the body burn calories more efficiently, improves liver functioning, increases speed of muscle contraction and reaction time, and improves blood flow. Keeping the muscles in shape helps prevents falls that can cause problems like broken hips. Regular exercise appears to help jump-start the immune system, thus helping reduce the number of colds, flu, and other viruses. Physical activity, when performed regularly, can help you fall asleep faster and deepen your sleep. Staying active can help prevent or delay some diseases like heart disease, diabetes, breast and colon cancer, and osteoporosis. With regular exercise, you will reduce the amount of stress hormones in the body, resulting in a slower heart rate, relaxed blood vessels and lower blood pressure. A healthier body means a healthier mind. Exercise boost blood circulation which helps detoxify the body by removing toxins. The boosted blood flow to the brain helps the brain receive oxygen and nutrients and helps you think faster. Physical activity stimulates various brain chemicals that may leave you feeling happier and more relaxed. Endorphins are hormones in the brain associated with a happy, positive feeling. During exercise, plasma levels of this substance increases. Exercise also boosts the neurotransmitter serotonin in the brain, which plays a key role in keeping your mood calm. So ask yourself, am I ready to exercise?

Steady Steps Fundraiser!!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 23rd, for the annual Steady Steps Fundraiser being held at the Ft. Mason Community Building. The doors will open at 6:00 P.M. Chase Smith will be master of ceremonies at this year's event. Our donation meal will be catered by Willow Creek Café. The always popular cake auction will be held, and some of Mason's finest bakers will have their delicious cakes ready for the highest bidder. This year's silent auction will have some excellent items to bid on with a longer opportunity to get that special item. GERANIUMS.....An order form is below and you may make your selections now through March 15th. Favorite colors will be offered, such as berry parfait, candy kiss, dark red, salmon, or cranberry. They will arrive in 6" pots and the cost is \$8.00/plant or \$7.00 for four or more plants. Order forms may be picked up at the banks, schools, in the church and Steady Steps office at 347-0043. You may also contact Beth Reardon at 325-347-0809 or Deandra Palacio at 325-347-5948. Your plants may be picked up at Ft. Mason Community Building Friday, March 22nd, between 3:00-5:30 P.M. and Saturday, March 23rd, between 9:00 A.M. and 12:00 noon.

**PRE-ORDER FLOWERS NOW!!!
STEADY STEPS FUNDRAISER
Geraniums**

Place orders by March 15 @ STEADY STEPS

Name: _____ Ph. #: _____

Address: _____

Geraniums: 6" Pot- \$8.00/pot or \$7 for 4 or more pots

- Dark Red
- Salmon
- Cranberry
- Berry Parfait (fuchsia)
- Candy Kiss (pink/white)

Total Pots: _____ Total Cost: _____

_____ PAID IN ADVANCE _____ PAY UPON RECEIPT



Time to Spring Ahead

March 10

Children & Youth News

Submitted by Deandra Palacio (347-5105)

Midwinter Update for youth:

Please be in prayer for the junior high and high school students who will be attending the Midwinter Camp at Mt. Wesley Feb. 22-24. We have 19 Mason youth who will be spending the weekend together in fellowship with one another along with other youth from our conference. Deandra will be attending camp with the students as well. Praise God for the students' excitement about camp and thank you again for supporting these young people.

Community-Wide Youth Lock-in:

Wow is all I can say! We had an amazing time at our 2nd Annual Mason Co. Youth Lock-In. We had over 160 students join us as well as many adults who prayed, donated food or money, came and helped "patrol the area", and joined us in worship. We had a great inspirational message from Keith Davis & Clarence Lee who are retired college and professional football players. They are both amazing Christian men who talked to the kids about how it doesn't matter if your life hasn't been what you wanted it to be up until now, because you always have the "second half" to make a difference! The Mark Swayze Band led us in an amazing worship. We also got to know many of the pastors from Mason a little better (including our very own Pastor Colleen) in a friendly game of "Pastor Trivia"! Thank you once again for all of the support given to this activity. I truly feel that it blesses the youth of our community when they see so many people from many different churches pull together to organize an event like this, especially for them!

Confirmation Sunday March 3rd- We will be celebrating Confirmation Sunday on March 3. Join us at the 10:50 A.M. worship service as we share this blessed day. Please continue to pray for our confirmands: Shay Ragsdale, Raegan Glentz, and Alexis Hernandez.

UM Army mission trip registration- This summer, a work team from our church made up of high school students and adults will take part in an UM Army mission trip to Canyon Lake UMC, June 23-29. Students entering 9th grade through those just completing 12th grade are invited to attend. Projects will include general repairs and clean up, building wheelchair ramps, porches, steps, handrails, painting, mowing, and being Christ's hands and feet in the world. Daily worship and noon devotionals serve to focus everyone on Christ and promote spiritual development. Deandra needs to get a head count a.s.a.p. of the students who would like to attend. Please contact her soon to get your name on the list. The cost for each participant is \$220, but fundraising has already begun, so participants will be responsible for the \$75 deposit and the remainder of the cost will be raised through other fundraisers. Please contact Deandra if you have questions or would like to sign your student up to go.

You may visit www.umarmy.org/conference/swtx/ for more information.

Thank you to Bob and Cathy Terrell and The Mason Gallery for framing and hanging the chalk drawing from last year's Youth Lock-in! If you have a chance, go up to the youth room and take a look at it. It is beautiful!

First United Methodist Church MISSIONS NEWS

Submitted by Judy Branch & Barbara Pluennke, Co-chairs

The Missions Committee met on February 3rd, 2013 after second service for our organizational meeting for the new year. We scheduled the dates for our three major events, which are as follows:

Back to School Drive—Wednesday, August 14, 2013 from 2-5 P.M. We will once again be collecting gently used items to share with the families, as well as the usual school shoes, socks and undergarments.

The Turkey Drive—Monday, November 25th from 2-5 P.M. We hope to include the other churches as we did last year.

The Angel Tree—Tuesday, December 17th from 2-5 P.M.

We voted to add an Easter project this year. We will be supplying the Food Bank families with fresh eggs, and hopefully fresh fruit, with some Easter items for the children. These Easter gifts will be distributed at the Food Bank on the second Monday in March, which is the Food Bank day prior to Easter. FUMC is responsible for boxing groceries and then distributing food at the Food Bank for the months of May and October. If you would like to help, give us a call. Food goes out on every second Monday of the month. If you have something that you would like to see us work on as a committee, please let Judy Branch or Barbara Pluennke hear from you. We consider our committee a "work in progress", and we welcome your input. This is your committee too!

FOOD BANK — HELP WANTED

Mason's Ministerial Alliance is seeking a few good men and women to better organize and manage the Food Bank located in the old school house on Brazos Street. For additional information, please contact Eva Tannehill at 347-1518. Our first meeting is set for Thursday, February 28th at 3:30 P.M.



about the newsletter!



March 24 — Palm Sunday Services 8:30 & 10:50 A.M.
March 28 — Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 P.M.
March 29 — Good Friday Service 6:30 P.M.
March 31 — Easter Sunday Services 8:30 & 10:50 A.M.

In an effort to curtail expenses, the newsletter will be emailed to everyone who has an email address. Please be sure that we have your latest email address! We will be mailing out as few as possible every month, but they will be available on the table at the rear of the Sanctuary. If you need the newsletter mailed to you, please contact the church office. (347-5105).



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

Marilyn Kahan, Toni Hurlbut, Eva Dell Grote, Yvonne Alba, Roger and Tommie Lou Luckenbach, John Earl family, Ruth Dannheim, Cynthia Hernandez, Willeda Rea, Nancy Hierholzer, Aaron Reardon, Carolyn Smith, Jan Strickland, Jack Lee, Ernestine Galviz, Alex Grosse, Pete Sharbo, Michelle Hinckley, Chris Roberts (nephew of Donal & Corrine Wright), Bob Vacek, Morgan Johnson, granddaughter of Tommy & Joyce Durst

Joseph Alba (U.S. Army) Savannah, GA, Neil Shanks (USAF) RAF Mildenhall, England, Jeff Ingleby (U.S. Army) Afghanistan, Melissa Garrison (U.S. Navy), Ferd T. Slocum, III (U.S. Navy), James Vacek (U.S. Navy), Terry Simonton (USAF), Matt Irwin (U.S. Army) Fort Bragg, NC, Houston Haley (USAF), T.J. Schovajsa (U.S. Army) Korea

OUR GOAL IS \$35,000.00 FOR THE PARSONAGE RENOVATION

\$10,000.00 of the parsonage renovation will come from the regular parsonage budget for 2013. We have raised an addition \$3,350.00 so far.

Items included in the Parsonage Renovation in the Kitchen and Laundry Room: cabinets, tile floor, lighting fixtures, sinks and fixtures, counter tops, oven, microwave, cooktop, replace outside sliding door with double French doors, mantle added to fireplace and paint as needed.

Items included in the two bathroom renovations: cabinets, tile flooring, counter tops, sinks and fixtures, lighting fixtures, possible door added between master bathroom and master bedroom, paint as needed.



Steady Steps

Weekday Children's Ministry

An Early Step Toward a Godly Walk!



The Steady Steps program is in full swing again as we look forward to an exciting spring this year. Our enrollment continues to increase and things are getting busier by the day at our center. Right now we have ten babies enrolled, eight toddlers and ten three year olds. We also have several after school students joining us every day at three. Tiffany and I feel like our center has been truly blessed and we know the Lord is with us and certainly has His hand on our precious little ones. We would like to ask everyone to continue to pray for our children and our center as well as the teachers and directors. It is our mission to provide each child not only with amazing quality care but also teach them Biblical principles on a daily basis. I would also like to extend an open invitation to all church members to drop by and see the awesome things that are happening here at Steady Steps. As always we thank you all for the use of your facility and your continued support of our program.

In Him,

Jennifer Row

March 2013 Newsletter — First United Methodist Church

Easter Lily Order Form

Please fill out this form and include \$12.00, check or cash, for each plant ordered. Please return to the church office, or drop in the offering plate. Proceeds go toward the Youth UM Army project. Please help our youth!

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____



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

- Rev. Colleen Haley.....Pastor
- Dorothy Asbill.....Choir Director
- Marilyn Kahan.....Organist/Pianist
- Maureen Shanks.....Office Manager
- Margaret Brown.....Church Secretary
- Deandra Palacio.....Youth and Children Director
- Art Davis.....Audio/Visual Technician
- Jennifer Row.....Steady Steps Director
- Isabel Rivera.....Custodian

Address Label Here

Office Phone: 325-347-5105 Fax Number: 325-347-5289
 Email: fumcmason@verizon.net (for church office) or
fumcbiz@verizon.net (for Financial Secretary)
 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