



Grace Notes



"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began a good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart...I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God." ~ Philippians 1:3-7a; 9-11

That's a little more scripture than I usually start off with in this newsletter article, but it is appropriate for me to include some of Paul's words to the church at Philippi as I prepare for my time away this summer. I am so grateful to be the pastor of a church that is filled with so much love and generosity and understanding. The church at Philippi must have been a lot like the church in Mason - and Paul loved them very much - just as I love all of you. God has blessed Bill and me by sending us to Mason, and I am certain that we were placed here by his hand, not by any coincidence or "roll of the dice."

While I am gone, there will be a different preacher every week. You can see the list of preachers on the back of this newsletter, and the dates they will be here. For now, here is a small description of each one:

Rev. Lynne Lockett is an ordained elder in the UMC. She has served in places such as: Cotulla, Marble Falls, Kerrville, and Castroville. She currently resides in Kerrville with her husband, Rev. Luster Lockett.

Rev. Tom Gibbons, also a UM elder, is well known to all of you. He is retired and lives here in Mason. He attends the church at Hilda, and has preached here many times. His wife is Nancy.

Rick Ragsdale is another person who is well known to you. He lives in Ganado, where he is a coach. His wife is Donna, and his children are Shay and Walker. Rick is actively involved in church youth ministry, and with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He is called on to preach often.

Rev. Ruben Saenz is the Executive Director of the Mission Vitality Center for the Rio Texas Conference. He spent time with us during the Healthy Church Initiative in 2013. He is well known for his great enthusiasm and deep love for the mission field.

Rob Hofmann is also well known to all of you. He is the District Judge for the 452nd District of the State of Texas. In addition to his duties as District Judge, Rob has also served in many leadership roles here at FUMC. His wife is Shannon, and his children are Blixen and Christian.

Rev. Glenna Kelley retired just a few days ago. She has served in places such as Johnson City, Junction and London, Ganado/Louise, and Kempner.

Rev. Steve Purdy is the District Superintendent for the West District of the Rio Texas Conference. That means he's our District Superintendent! He has also served as The DS of the Austin District, the senior pastor of FUMC Seguin, pastor at Grace UMC in Corpus, and Harlingen.

Rev. Margaret Persky and Jeff Grote are Mason natives with deep roots in this county. Margaret is a retired deacon from the Southwest Texas Annual Conference, where she served FUMC in Seguin, Laurel Heights UMC, and FUMC in Mason as the Steady Steps director. Jeff is a retired school counselor with a great wit and a love for God.

J. W. Harle is the leader of the Mason Young Life group. He and his wife, Bonnie, have spent 3 years here in Mason, ministering to the unchurched teens of our community.

Gini Christian is the Programs Director for the West District. She is a certified lay speaker for our Conference, and has spent countless hours traveling around our conference and connecting with all of the churches in our district.

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Worship Schedule

Sunday July 5

8:30 A.M. w/ Holy Communion
10:50 A.M. Holy Communion
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Rev. Tom Gibbons

Sunday July 12

8:30 A.M. & 10:50 A.M. Worship
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Rick Ragsdale

Sunday July 19

8:30 A.M. w/ Holy Communion
10:50 A.M. Worship
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Rev. Tom Gibbons

Sunday July 26

8:30 A.M. w/ Holy Communion
10:50 A.M. Worship
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Rev. Ruben Saenz

Sunday August 2

8:30 A.M. & 10:50 A.M. Worship
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Rob Hofmann

Sunday August 9

8:30 A.M. w/ Holy Communion
10:50 A.M. w/Holy Communion
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Rev. Glenna Kelley

Sunday August 16

8:30 A.M. w/ Holy Communion
10:50 A.M. Woship
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Rev. Steve Purdy

Sunday August 23

8:30 A.M. & 10:50 A.M. Worship
Backpack Sunday
Jeff Grote & Rev. Margaret Persky

Sunday August 30

8:30 A.M. & 10:50 A.M. Worship
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
J.W. Harle

Upcoming Events

July 3 Office Closed
July 27-30 Vacation Bible School at FUMC
Aug 23 Blessing of Backpacks & Car Keys
Aug 30 5th Sunday @ROL
Sept 13 Combined Service 10:30 A.M. Teacher Appreciation and Covered Dish Lunch



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 or if you want to know more about the UMM, please contact Pat Reardon at 347-0275.

The United Methodist Men will hold their monthly breakfast on *Wednesday, May 10th 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!



Vacation Bible School

July 27th—30th

First United Methodist Church

Staff Email Addresses

Please make changes to your contact list.

Maureen Shanks	officemgr@fumcmason.org
Julia Jordan	secretary@fumcmason.org
Ashley Osbourn	familyministries@fumcmason.org
Rhett Vacek	rhettvacek@gmail.com
Tiffany Stidham	steadysteps@fumcmason.org



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

2016 budgets are due in the church office by September 1.

Please e-mail your budget requests to

officemgr@fumcmason.org



Lay Readers, Ushers & Acolytes are needed this summer. Please consider giving your time to these ministries.

You can sign up in the social hall.

**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**



Prayer Requests

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

Mary Beam, Odessa Dannheim, Carolyn Smith, Terry Smith, Charlene Schuessler, Marilyn Kahan, John Earl, Jr., Art Davis, Lisa Harkins, Margaret Brown, Audry Collins, Tommie Lou Luckenbach, Connie Stockbridge, Gary Grote, Amanda McMillan, Chelsea Parker, Dominic Pachulla, Danny Karen McCleery, Jesse Cavaness, Carrol Hahn, Morgan Johnson, Marjorie Hey, Carolyn Toeppich and the family of Charlene Thomas

Please pray for our members and loved ones who are in the military.

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

**Year to date as of
June 21, 2015**

Budget \$ 200,103.56

Offering \$ 189,962.78

Budget for 2015 - \$ 409,395.15

Weekly Budget - \$ 7,873.04

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On the weeks when clergy will be preaching, Communion will be served at one or both services. The choir will take off for the summer, as is their custom, but they will be offering special music from time to time.

The Church is in good hands – the hands of Jesus – where we have always been. In a county that boasts the longest continuing Methodist presence in the state, I am confident things will run smoothly. Once again, I am grateful for this opportunity to spend time with family, and to spend quiet time with God. I will pray for you each and every day. I love you all.

In Christ,

Colleen

Children & Youth News

Loose Change Offering: The children will collect your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters on Sunday, June 7. This offering is given by our youth for a mission project. Thank you for helping us to be the hands and feet of Christ!

Vacation Bible School

The dates for Vacation Bible School have been set for **July 27-30, 8:30 a.m. -noon.** We will be hosting this year at our church. Children who will be 4 -years old as of September 1, 2015 up to those who are entering 6th grade this coming school year are encouraged and welcome to attend. We can also use some youth helpers.

Seekers of the Kingdom – Kid's Camp

Sierra Vista UMC will be providing a children's camp for those entering 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades this fall. **The camp will be August 9-13, 2015 at Butman Methodist Camp, Merkel, Texas.** Cost will be \$250 per camper. Registration Deadline is July 6th, 2015. Those interested in attending please contact Ashley L. Osbourn at 325.347.5105 or email her at familyministries@fumcmason.org.

UM ARMY – The mission trip will be June 28-July 4, 2015 in Weimar, Texas.



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

Slip, Slop, Slap, & Wrap. What is this silly sounding saying all about? It's all about being SunWise (www.epa.gov/sunwise), a program of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Slip on a shirt, Slop on sunscreen, Slap on a hat, & Wrap on sunglasses whenever you go outdoors. According to this site, skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States & there are more new cases of skin cancer diagnosed in the U.S. than new cases of breast, colon, lung, & prostate cancer combined! Melanoma, which is the most serious form of skin cancer, is now one of the most common cancers among adolescents & young adults ages 15-29. It is further stated that UV exposure & sunburns, especially during childhood, are risk factors for this cancer. Incredible! Skin damage from UV-related skin disorders include actinic keratoses & premature skin aging. Actinic keratoses are raised, reddish, rough-textured growths that should prompt you to seek immediate medical attention. They are premalignant & are a risk factor for developing squamous cell carcinoma. Chronic exposure to the sun causes premature skin aging & can over time cause your skin to become thick, wrinkled, & leathery. Research has shown that UV radiation increases the likelihood of certain cataracts & other forms of eye damage. So what can you do to be SunWise? Here are 8 precautions for you to take: 1) Do no burn; 2) Avoid sun tanning & tanning beds; 3) Generously apply sunscreen (don't forget the tops of your ears); 4) Wear protective clothing; 5) Seek shade (remember that the sun's UV rays are strongest between 10 a.m. & 4 p.m.); 6) Use extra caution near water, snow & sand; 7) Check the UV index; 8) Get vitamin D safely (get vitamin D through the diet by eating salmon & taking supplements. Don't seek the sun). If you have questions, give me a call at 347-5983. Also note, the Wesley Nurse in Brady has retired & I am spending time in Brady to help her former clients. If you need me, please call ahead, as I may be in Brady. Thanks! Chat with you later-Ann

Missions News

Back to School Drive—"Adopt a Student" Tuesday, Aug. 11th!

The Back to School Drive display is up in the Social Hall. It will work just like the angel tree. You will pick a student, then sign your name on the sheet by the number you see on the school supply list for that student. You will purchase the supplies and have them returned to the church by Sunday, Aug. 9th.

If you want to purchase everything online, just go to schooltoolbox.com, and punch in the grade level of the student. Be sure to put FUMC in so you will get the discount. You will use the student's number, which appears on the supply list in the space for identification. You will also put the grade level at Mason ISD. Or you can purchase the supplies at one of the larger Walmarts or locally.

Be sure to put the student's number on the items, so we can get them to the right child. The families will come Tuesday, August 11th to pick up their supplies.

And bring in your gently used clothing no later than Aug. 9th so we can offer the families this assistance again. Thanks for reaching out to our young people in Mason.

**Please see the back of the calendar for a letter from
our District Superintendent, Rev. Steve Purdy**



SUMMER 2015 PREACHING SCHEDULE

June 28	Rev. Lynne Lockett	August 9	Rev. Glenna Kelley
July 5	Rev. Tom Gibbons	August 16	Rev. Steve Purdy
July 12	Rick Ragsdale	August 23	Jeff Grote & Rev. Margaret Persky
July 19	Rev. Tom Gibbons	August 30	J.W. Harle
July 26	Rev. Ruben Saenz	Sept. 6	Gini Christian
August 2	Rob Hofmann	Sept 13	Rev. Colleen Haley



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

Rev. Colleen Haley.....Pastor
Maureen Shanks.....Office Manager
Julia Jordan.....Secretary
Ashley Osbourn.....Family Ministries Coordinator
Marilyn Kahan.....Organist/Pianist
Tiffany Stidham.....Steady Steps Director
Ann Scarth.....Wesley Nurse
Rhett Vacek.....A/V Tech
Rebecca Moneyhon.....Nursery
Katie Smith.....Nursery
Kendra Klaerner.....Nursery

Address Label Here

Office Phone: 325-347-5105 Fax Number: 325-347-5289
Email: officemgr@fumcmason.org (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
Steady Steps Email steadysteps@fumcmason.org

July 2015