

May 2015



First United Methodist Church Mason, Texas



Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith.
Be courageous. Be strong.
And do everything with love.
~ 1 Corinthians 16:13-14



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 April 24, 2015
Budget \$ 129,627.77
Offering \$ 135,559.54

Budget for 2015 - \$ 409,395.15
Weekly Budget - \$ 7,873.04



April Attendance

Apr 5	290
Apr 12	151
Apr 19	161

Upcoming Events

Apr 26	UMW Ladies Social
May 3	Senior Recognition Sunday
May 10	Mother's Day
May 25	Memorial Day
May 31	5th Sunday Service at FUMC
June 21	Father's Day
July 27-30	Vacation Bible School at FUMC

The last chapter of Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians is a compilation of his final instructions to the church at Corinth. It is really a long list of things to remember and to do. Paul was a traveling preacher, so he wrote many letters to many churches. Not only that, he followed up with them after he had met with them in person. In his letters he covered many things, depending on what each church needed, but in these 2 short verses from 1 Corinthians, we find information for all churches – not just the church in the first century. Another verse from a different letter takes this a little farther:

Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to the Father through him. ~ Colossians 3:17

There are many things that mark us as Christians, but perhaps the most important one is the way we treat other people – our families, our friends, and people we encounter wherever we go. It is important for us to stand firm in the faith and to be strong, but doing it all in love, and doing it all in the name of Jesus is what sets us apart from others. The ways we speak and act outside of the walls of the church are the things that communicate most loudly with others. So here are a few questions to consider:

- ◆ What if every single one of us decided to start putting verses into action?
- ◆ What if we decided to stand firm in the faith by speaking the name of Jesus in public places, to perfect strangers?
- ◆ What if we decided to be courageous enough to tell someone about what Christ has done for us in our own personal lives?
- ◆ What if we decided to be strong enough to practice forgiveness, despite the fact that everything in society and in our sense of fair play screams out that forgiving someone is a sign of weakness?
- ◆ What if we decided to do EVERYTHING - words and deeds – in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to the Father through him?
- ◆ Could we make a difference in our community, in our families, or in ourselves?
- ◆ Would others see us as “different?”
- ◆ Could such a plan put Christ first and point others in his direction?

That's a very long list, and it requires us to step outside our comfort zones. No one who is over the age of 30 got to be that age without stepping out of a comfort zone a time or two. As long as we are breathing, we are growing, and all growth requires the hand of God for guidance and direction. Most growth requires water, which often comes in the form of tears, and most of us try to avoid the things that make us cry or that challenge our neat and orderly world. But avoiding growth is like welcoming death before our physical bodies wear out.

I can feel the Spirit moving in the Body of Christ that is known as First United Methodist Church in Mason. I know that some of you feel it too – you've told me so! But do people out in the community feel it? Do people in Fredericksburg feel it when we go to the doctor, or to the grocery store over there? Do people in other places feel it because the Spirit is so strong in us that it is contagious?

Here are the instructions: Think of just one way to stand apart as a follower of Christ, put it into action, then repeat. After awhile, it will become a habit!

We are Christians – Followers of Jesus Christ. May we stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong, and do all things - whether in word or in deed – in the name of Jesus Christ.

I'll see you on the outside.....

In Christ,
Colleen



United Methodist Women

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 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!



Senior Recognition Sunday – May 3rd

10:50 A.M.

Covered Dish Luncheon Following

Come and worship at 10:50 on May 3rd as we honor our graduating seniors. Join us as we celebrate their accomplishments and their future steps as they make plans to go forward into the next part of their life and faith journeys. **Our graduating seniors this year are: Madelyn Glentz and Katie Smith.** Each senior will display a picture and small mementoes of his or her life here in Mason. Come and share as we make this a joyful celebration.

We will also honor them at the covered dish luncheon following the 10:50 service. It promises to be a great day of celebration in the life and ministry of FUMC Mason. Take time to visit with these young people, and to let them know you will be supporting them even as they leave the community to make new lives for themselves. Give them the assurance that you will be praying for them all along the way!



Worship Service
May 31st ~ 5 P.M. ~ FUMC
Invite Friends & Family!
Bring lawn chairs!



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., Scott & Deanna Herreth & Children, Charlene Thomas, Margaret Brown, Jesse Cavaness, Tommie Lou Luckenbach, Chelsea Parker, Kimberly Ingram, Art Davis, Connie Stockbridge, Teri Silva, Gary Grote, Allene Garrison, Darlene Fluitt, John Jordan, Wayne Jordan, Cindy Powell, Lee Bradley, Willard Jordan, Juanita Lopez, Ellen Ely, Amanda McMillan, Owen Wright and Randel & Shannon Wright, The Family of Kelly Standard, Mark Langerhans

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

Matt Adam (USAF), 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)



PLEASE CALL TO SIGN UP
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

Children & Youth News

Loose Change Offering: The children will collect your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters on Sunday, May 3rd. This offering is given by our youth for a mission project. Thank you for helping us to be the hands and feet of Christ!

Wonderful Wednesdays: Meet for the last time of the school year on April 22nd. We will resume Wonderful Wednesdays after the 2015-2016 school year begins. Watch newsletter for exact date.

Youth Group: The junior high (6th-8th gr.) and high school youth meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 upstairs in the youth room through the end of May.

Senior Recognition Sunday: Before we know it, we will have some very special youth graduating from high school! Mark your calendars for May 3rd when we will celebrate and acknowledge the graduating seniors during the 10:50 worship service and at a covered dish lunch following the service.

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.

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 familyministries@fumc.org.

Hill Country District Summer Camp 2015:

Hill Country District United Methodist will be hosting two Junior & Senior High Camps this summer. Session 1 - June 21-25 at Mt. Wesley in Kerrville, Texas - Registration Deadline June 1, 2015 and Session 2 - July 12-16 at Mt. Wesley in Kerrville, Texas - Registration Deadline June 22, 2015. Those interested in attending please contact Ashley L. Osbourn at 325.347.5105 or email familyministries@fumcmason.org.

Missions News

May is the month for FUMC to distribute groceries at the food bank. We will be there on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 11, 12 and 13 from 2:45 till about 5:15. Anyone who would like to join us would be completely welcome! We can always use the helping hands. Hope to see you there.

Judy Branch



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

What is Autism? Autism & autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are very general terms for what is actually a group of complex disorders of brain development. The disorders are characterized in varying degrees. Some difficulties may include social interactions, verbal & nonverbal communication & repetitive behaviors. Autism now affects 1 in 68 children with boys nearly 5 times more likely than girls being affected (1 in 42 boys). There is no medical detection or cure for autism & it is the fastest-growing developmental disorder in the U.S. Each person with autism is unique. ASD can be associated with intellectual disability, difficulties in coordination & attention, as well as, physical issues such as sleep & gastrointestinal disturbances. Some persons excel in visual skills, music, math & art. Autism is rooted in early brain development with the most obvious signs & symptoms emerging between 12 & 18 months of age. Some infants & toddlers begin to develop normally until the second year of life, and then they lose skills & develop autism. This is called a pattern of regression. Research within the past 5 years is beginning to find some answers, although there is no definitive answer to the question of what causes autism. Scientists have identified a number of rare gene changes, or mutations, associated with autism. Most cases, however, involve a complex & variable combination of genetic & environmental risk factors that influence early brain development. A small body of research suggests that autism risk is less among children whose mothers took prenatal vitamins containing folic acid in the months before & after conception. This article can in no way begin to tackle this complex disorder. However, if you wish to find out more about autism, try this website: <https://www.autismspeaks.org/what-autism/faq>

Thank you to the ladies of FUMC....for all you do to serve God's children!
Please allow us to honor you at a women's gathering on:

Sunday, April 26th at 3:00
In the Social Hall
Suzanne Brantley, speaker

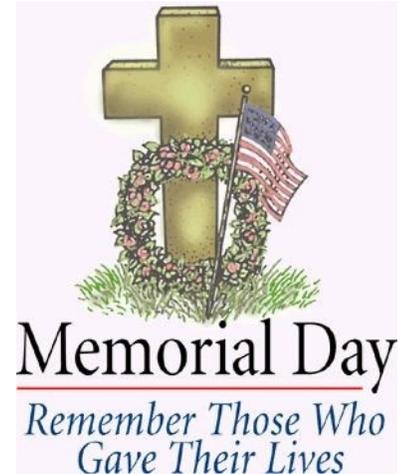
Please join us to hear the speaker and enjoy some time
of fellowship as a thank you for all you do!

Thank You!

*The Steady Steps Council would like to express its sincere
appreciation for the support of our spring fundraiser.*

STAFF EMAIL ADDRESSES HAVE CHANGED

Maureen Shanks	officemgr@fumcmason.org
Christie Lehmborg	secretary@fumcmason.org
Ashley Osbourn	familyministries@fumcmason.org
Tiffany Stidham	steadysteps@fumcmason.org



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

Rev. Colleen Haley.....Pastor
Maureen Shanks.....Office Manager
Christie Lehmborg..... Secretary
Ashley Osbourn.....Family Ministries Coordinator
Marilyn Kahan.....Organist/Pianist
Tiffany Stidham.....Steady Steps Director
Ann Scarth.....Wesley Nurse

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

Address Label Here

May 2015