

December
2013



First United Methodist Church Mason, Texas



“Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”
~Deuteronomy 8:3b

When we lived in Bernardo, way out in the country, 17 miles from town to be exact, we had a flock of chickens. “Flock” makes a rag-tag bunch of poultry sound pretty fancy. The truth is, they were mostly spent laying hens we would buy for a dollar a piece from a local egg farm. Although they didn’t lay enough to be much use to the egg farmers, they did just fine to cover our family needs, with a few extra eggs thrown in for friends and family. We fed them laying mash, hen scratch, and all the bugs they could eat. Laying mash is a type of food given to hens to help their egg production. It won’t hurt roosters; it just won’t help them lay eggs. Hen scratch is the basic food for chickens – hens, roosters, baby chicks, turkeys, ducks – all kinds of poultry can eat hen scratch. It is the staple food for any bird that needs nourishment. It’s basically a mixture of corn and milo, and can be thrown out on the ground for the birds to find. They have to scratch at the ground with their claws, looking for the small grains that provide life for them. That’s why chickens are always scratching around in the dirt – they never know when a small nugget of nourishment might show up.

So, what would you say is the staple food of Americans? Bread? Corn? Rice? Meat? Beans? French fries? Pie? The fact is, our physical food is meant to fuel our bodies, giving us the energy to work and keep going. But what would you say is the staple food of Christians? Is it the same as that of Americans, or do we have different dietary needs beyond that which fuels our physical bodies? Spiritual food is meant to fuel our souls. Spiritual food is the food that nourishes our relationship with Christ, and keeps us alive even when our bodies are spent.

We are about to celebrate Thanksgiving, the National Food holiday of the United States. We all spend a lot of time planning, shopping for, preparing for, or eating the Thanksgiving meal each year. And it is a wonderful celebration of God’s provision. How often, in all of those preparations, do we stop and thank God for providing for our spiritual needs? How often do we stop to take nourishment from the Word of God, which is the staple food for all Christians? There is no substitute for it. Are you attending Sunday School or a small group which includes Bible Study? Are you attending a weekly Bible Study? Are you attending to your morning devotionals?

Searching the scriptures helps us dig deep and look hard for God’s presence in our lives and in the lives of those around us. Attending Bible study or Sunday school provides the structure most of us need to stay disciplined on our journey with Christ. Keep digging – you never know when you might unearth a small nugget of nourishment in the pages of your Bible. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good – his love endures forever. Partaking of spiritual nourishment, of the staple food of Christians, will do more to strengthen us than any other food we might turn to.

“Jesus said, ‘I am the bread of life. Those who come to me will never go hungry, and those who believe in me will never be thirsty.’ ~John 6:35

In Christ,

Colleen

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.



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

Year to date offering as of

November 22, 2013

2013 Budget.....\$332,199.41
2013 Offering.....\$325,129.78

November Attendance

Nov 3	155
Nov 10	155
Nov 17	178

Upcoming Events

Dec 1 – 1st Sunday of Advent
One Worship Service
9:00 am
Casual Breakfast

Dec 11 – Advent Lunch
12:00 pm

Dec 15 - Children’s Christmas
Program
3:00-4:30 pm

Dec 22 - Christmas Cantata
8:30 am & 10:50 am

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Service
5:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Dec 29 - Lessons & Carols
9 am

Jan 5 - First Sunday of
Epiphany

Missions News

The Missions Committee has been very busy getting ready for our two big projects this time of the year, the Turkey Drive and the Christmas Angel Tree.

Each year we help about 125 families to celebrate Thanksgiving by supplying them with a turkey and all the trimmings. This year the families came to FUMC on the Monday before Thanksgiving for their turkeys. There were several other churches and organizations who helped supply the pans and food items again this year. The youth are always invaluable as they helped us transport the turkeys to the church. It was a wonderful day as we brought so many families into our church for this event.

Then, beginning the first Sunday in December, which is Dec. 1st, the Angel Tree will go up in the social hall. Last year we provided gifts for around 130 children. Art and Hilda Methodist and possibly some other groups will once again be helping on this project. Be sure to take an angel off the tree, sign your name on the angel list by the number that appears on your angel. Then wrap the gift and put the angel tag on it so we can identify the right gift for the right child. Have your gift back at church on Sunday, Dec. 15th. The gifts will be distributed on Dec. 17th. This is your opportunity to put a smile on some little faces in our community!

FUMC also assisted the Kevin Jordan family of nine, seven children and two parents, get to their mission field in Bucharest, Romania. This family came to the Missions group requesting any assistance possible to get their family to Bucharest, where they will be working in orphanages. So, keep them in your prayers. There are 5000 infants put in the orphanages each year in Bucharest, and the need is great. We were glad to be a small part of this foreign mission adventure.



Happy Holidays!
Judy Branch
Missions Co-Chairman

Hope Circle

We meet 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.



United
Methodist
Women

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, December 11th 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.



Holiday Office Hours

Week of Christmas

12/23 8 am - 5 pm
 12/24 8 am - 12 pm
 12/25 CLOSED
 12/26 8 am - 12 pm
 12/27 8 am - 12 pm

Week Of New Years

12/30 8 am - 12 pm
 12/31 8 am - 12 pm
 1/1 CLOSED
 1/2 8 am - 5 pm
 1/3 8 am - 12 pm



Christmas Cantata

Sunday

December 22

8:30 am & 10:50 am



Advent
Luncheon

December 11th at 12:00 P.M.



The parsonage remodel is complete. Garrett Bownds and crew did an excellent job. We can all be proud of our parsonage.

Ushers & Lay Readers Needed

PLEASE CALL

Chuck Bearden (325 347-6162) or
 Bruce Strickland (409 283-1213)
 to volunteer as an Usher
 or Lynn Hedges (347-0152)
 to serve as Lay Reader



Prayer
Requests

*Eva Tannehill, Marilyn Kahan, Harriet Lange,
 Charlene Schuessler, Alex Grosse, Kathy Fritze,
 Roger and Tommie Lou Luckenbach, Yvonne Alba,
 Odessa Dannheim, Mary Beam, Bill Arms,
 Wayne & LuJane Keller, Linnda Graham,
 John Taylor, Drew & Laura Tallent, Ginger Cave,
 John Wowman, The Family of Fred Martin,
 Pam Anderson, Oakley Mitchell, Bruce Strickland,
 Dave Rosberg, Toni & Jim Hurlbut,*

*Joseph Alba (U.S. Army) Savannah, GA,
 Neil Shanks (USAF) RAF Mildenhall, England,
 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), Houston Haley (USAF),
 T.J. Schovajsa (U.S. Army) Korea, Jared Hudson (USMC)*

Children & Youth News

Loose Change Offering: The children will collect your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters on Sunday, December 1st. Thank you for helping us to be the hands and feet of Christ!

Christmas schedule for Wonderful Wednesdays and youth group:

We will have WW and youth group on Dec. 4th, 11th, and 18th. We will break for the Christmas and New Year's holidays on Dec. 25th and Jan. 1st. Watch for details in the Sunday bulletins in December for more details about the start of the new year.

Liquid Laundry Detergent Needed

Steady Steps is in need of liquid laundry detergent. Donations can be dropped off in the church office or in the Steady Steps office. Thank you for your help!



Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 15th from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in the social hall. The children and youth will be presenting their Christmas program. Refreshments served afterwards. Please join us! If you have any questions, please call or email Dianna Dail at 347- 6706 or mikedail@verizon.net.

Kris Eckert is working on Christmas lights for the church. The church should be lit up by early December.



Thanks for your prayers and concern for the success of my recent hip re-do surgery and for the related rehab. The many phone calls, visits, cards, and wonderful food some of you brought, meant so much to me and have been a big boost to my recovery. The people of Mason County are certainly caring individuals.

Again, thanks for your prayers and concern.

Sincerely,

Harold Hoerster

Thank You

First Sunday in Advent



ONE WORSHIP SERVICE

December 1 at 9 AM

Church wide casual breakfast following service

Sunday School at 10:30 AM



Christmas Eve Services

5:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M.

Candlelight & Communion



SUNDAY DECEMBER 29TH

Combined Service 9 am

Sunday School 10:15 am

2013 Contributions - If you would like to make any end of the year donations, please date your checks no later than December 31, 2013. You can drop your donations by the church office or mail them to P.O. Box 178 in Mason. If you expect to take a deduction for contributions to FUMC, Mason on your 2013 income tax return, please note that FUMC will provide a report of your contributions where required or as requested. IRS regulations require that you as donor have written acknowledgement from FUMC only where any individual contribution is \$250 or greater. For those cases, we will provide to you a report of your contributions without action on your part. In cases where no individual contribution equals or exceeds \$250, we will provide a report of your contributions only if requested. The reports will be available by January 31, 2014.



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

I often listen to The Message on my XM radio & something they keep saying has really stuck in my head. The announcer says something like, "What if we wake up tomorrow with only what we thanked the Lord for today." Well, with the winter season coming upon us, you can bet I am thankful for indoor plumbing. The idea of getting up in the middle of a freezing night to visit an outhouse is not a pleasant thought. Think about all the things we count as necessities that our grandparents counted as luxuries. With the holiday season in full swing, for what "necessities" are you most thankful that maybe you had not thought of as being luxuries? Blessings-Ann

Poinsettia Order

Poinsettias add a wonderful and meaningful element to worship each year during Christmas and we hope to continue this tradition. If you would like to have a poinsettia placed in the chancel area for the December 15th, 22nd, and Christmas Eve services, please cut and fill out this form and send or drop it off at the church office along with your payment. Poinsettias can be given in honor of someone or in memory of someone that you wish to remember this Christmas.

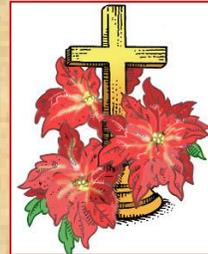
In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Given by: _____

Please fill out this form and enclose with **\$12.00** for each poinsettia ordered. They may be picked up after the Christmas Eve worship services.

All the proceeds will go to
Children & Youth Programs



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

Rev. Colleen Haley.....Pastor
Maureen Shanks.....Office Manager
Christie Lehmborg..... Secretary
Tim Emery.....Choir Director
Marilyn Kahan.....Organist/Pianist
Art Davis.....Audio/Visual Technician
Jennifer Row.....Steady Steps Director
Isabel Rivera.....Custodian

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

Address Label Here

December 2013