

May  
2014



# First United Methodist Church Mason, Texas



*If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; but when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed. ~ Proverbs 29:18 (The Message)*



We have been talking about the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) for months now, and it is finally coming to pass! On the weekend of May 2-4, the Church will gather together to hear and learn, to listen and discern. As I have listened to people over the course of the last few months, it has become clear to me that there are several misconceptions about this process. Here is what the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) is NOT:

- It is NOT a workshop about dieting and exercise
- It is NOT something that will divide the church
- It is NOT something the conference is forcing us to do
- It is NOT a waste of time
- It is NOT just for a few special people in the church

Here is what the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) IS:

- It IS a process that requires open minds
- It IS an opportunity for the church to meet together to determine next steps for ministry
- It IS a way to learn strategies that other churches throughout the United States have utilized to become more effective in ministry
- It IS a free choice for the Church
- It IS an opportunity to exercise holy listening and holy discernment

The primary purpose of the HCI is to help churches assess themselves, to gather together for holy conferencing, and to see where God is leading them in ministry. The primary purpose of the Church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) will give us some guidance as to how we can best accomplish that purpose. We are poised to do something great for the Kingdom!

After we have completed our weekend with the conference consultants, our next step is to see whether we, the FUMC in Mason, are ready to walk forward with their recommendations. We will have 3 town hall meetings and a called church conference on Monday, June 2, to decide if we are ready to walk forward in the way they prescribe, or if we are ready to walk forward using different strategies. Either way, the Church will continue to walk forward! For Christians, there is no turning back. We will require a 2/3 vote of those present at the church conference to make this decision.

**I want to encourage everyone to come on Saturday, May 3, from 10:15-3:00** to hear the consultants. We can't walk forward very well if only a few of us are walking. This is a church wide decision.

Here is an outline of the weekend schedule:

- Thursday, May 1 – Team arrives and assembles data which we have provided in advance
- Friday, May 2 – Beginning at 8:00, and going forward throughout the day, the team interviews pastor, staff, and lay leadership. That night, 12 people who have been pre-selected, will meet together with the team from 7:00–8:30.

*Continued on Page 3*

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



### April Attendance

Apr 6	154
Apr 13	134
Apr 20	243

## Upcoming Events

Apr 26 - Steady Steps  
Fundraiser, Golf  
Tournament & Meal

May 2, 3, 4 - HCI Consultation  
Weekend

May 8 - HCI Town Hall  
Meeting

May 12 - HCI Town Hall  
Meeting

May 18 - Worship & Luncheon  
for Senior  
Recognition & Steady  
Steps Anniversary

May 19 - HCI Town Hall  
Meeting

June 1 - Confirmation Sunday



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

Here's your monthly tip on the benefits of drinking enough water. Drinking adequate water will lower your cholesterol levels & your risk of arteriosclerosis, blockage of the coronary arteries, heart attack, & stroke. Making an effort to drink 8 glasses of water a day combined with walking or other gentle exercise will lower these risks considerably. (That's roughly one 8 oz. cup of water per hour.) You can do it! Talk @ you later-Ann <http://www.age-well.org/drinking-enough-water.html>

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



*Marilyn Kahan, Charlene Schuessler, Yvonne Alba, Odessa Dannheim, Ginger Cave, Eva Tannehill, Toni & Jim Hurlbut, Kathy Fritze, Michael Taylor, Jack Lee, Peter Sharbo, Mary Beam, Jane Hoerster, Carolyn & Terry Smith, Roy Lehmborg, Sidney Kothmann, Chris Roberts, Jody Mahan, Blaine Thomas, Curtis & Dusty Henderson, Lisa Hawkins, Doris Grote, Linnda Graham*

*Joseph Alba (U.S. Army), Neil Shanks (USAF), 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), Jared Hudson (USMC)*

## HCI Consultation Weekend May 3rd-4th

**Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Church Council 9:00 - 10:00 A.M.  
All Church Workshop 10:15 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.  
(Lunch Included)

**Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday School 9:00 A.M.  
**ONE WORSHIP SERVICE 9:45 A.M.**  
Town Hall Meeting 11:00 A.M.

## Town Hall Meetings

**May 8th 6 P.M.**

**May 12th 2 P.M.**

**May 19th 6 P.M.**

## Church Conference

**June 2nd 6 P.M.**



## Senior Recognition Sunday – May 18<sup>th</sup> 10:50 A.M. Covered Dish Luncheon Following

Come and worship at 10:50 on May 18<sup>th</sup> 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: Claudia Canfield, Traci Jordan, and Price Ruffin.** 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, along with other Steady Steps seniors, 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!

**Continued from Page 1**

- Saturday, May 3 – Church Council will meet with the team from 9:00-10:00. At 10:15, everyone from the church is invited to and encouraged to meet from 10:15-3:00 for a church wide gathering filled with information, discussion, and visioning.
- Sunday, May 4 – We will have ONE worship service at 9:45. One of the team members will preach, and I will serve as the liturgist. Following the worship service, we will hear the report from the HCI team, along with their prescriptions for our next steps. We should be finished by or before noon.
- Town Hall Meetings will be held at the church on May 6 at 6:00; May 12 at 2:00; and May 19 at 6:00. The purpose of these meetings is to allow people to ask questions and receive information.
- On June 2, we will have our church conference at 6:00. At that time, all who are present will be given the opportunity to decide if we as a church want to go forward with the recommendations by the team, or if we would rather not move in the direction they have prescribed for us.

Please be in prayer about this process and participate in real and active ways. We are doing this for the Kingdom. We have no way of knowing what the outcome will be, and that's the way God intends for us to walk when we lean on him. May God help us to be open to the possibilities, and may we rely on the Holy Spirit.

In Christ,

*Colleen*

**Children & Youth News**

**Loose Change Offering:** The children will collect your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters on Sunday, May 4. Thank you for helping us to be the hands and feet of Christ!

**Youth Group:** We still need your help with Wednesday night meals through May. There is a signup sheet in the Social Hall. For more information contact Helen Dockal 347-2571. Also, we need a few volunteers to lead the youth. If you would like to volunteer, please call Deandra Palacio 347-5948.

**Wonderful Wednesdays —** The elementary students will meet for their last Wonderful Wednesday of this school year on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Junior high and high school students will continue to meet through the month 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 18<sup>th</sup> when we will celebrate and acknowledge the graduating seniors during the 10:50 worship service and at a covered dish lunch following the service.

**Summer Camp:** Camp dates are quickly approaching! Here is the information on camp dates and deadlines. Registration forms are in the church office.

3rd/4th grade camp	July 6-9 deadline: June 11
4th-6th gr. M.A.D. camp	July 23-26 deadline: June 30
5th/6th grade camp	August 3-7 deadline: July 9

New Bible Study: The Grief Recovery Handbook, 9 sessions, beginning Thursday, May 1, 7:30 AM. This is not a support group. We will apply Scriptural principles to help others, as well as recover from our own unresolved grief issues. Ann Scarth will facilitate. Call her at 347-5983 to order a book (under \$12). All are welcome!!!



**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**

**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, May 14 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.

# STEADY STEPS 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*"It takes a village to raise a child."*

In the fall of 1999 Steady Steps Children's Weekday Ministry opened its doors to join the community of Mason in raising the youngest amongst us. Steady Steps is a ministry of First United Methodist Church and a mission to the community to provide a comprehensive, quality Christian program that fosters cognitive, emotional, physical, and spiritual growth and to prepare these students for success in school and in life. Steady Steps is available and accessible to all children and their families in the community. For fifteen years Steady Steps has "made a difference" in the lives of its children, families and staff.

Some of the Class of 2014 were the first three year olds in 1999 to enter the doors of Steady Steps where they were greeted by Rev. Margaret Persky, "Ms. Persky"- director, teacher, and custodian. These then three year olds (Lydia Bierschwale, Claudia Canfield, Kelly Kothmann, Drigo Martinez, Ethan McKinney, Raena Moneyhon, and Emmie Schmidt) will join Ms. Persky and Pastor Colleen in leading a 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebratory worship service honoring Steady Steps .



## Steady Steps 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebratory Worship Service

Sunday, May 18, 2014

10:50 a.m.

Covered Dish Luncheon @ Noon



*All former and present Steady Steppers, their families, directors and staff are invited to join the church family in this celebration!*

### News from the Missions Committee

This month is our month to distribute food at the Food Bank. We will be boxing and handing out groceries on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 12, 13 and 14 as the families come in with their lists. If you would like to help in this endeavor, give Judy Branch or Barbara Pluenneke a call. We usually assemble around 2:45PM in time to get set up for the families to arrive at 3PM. If you haven't been over the Food Bank lately, you are in for a treat. There's a new community garden being planted and many other activities taking place there. Come join us!

Judy Branch, Co-Chairman for Missions



**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  
Jennifer Row.....Steady Steps Director  
Isabel Rivera.....Custodian



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

Email: [fumcbiz@verizon.net](mailto:fumcbiz@verizon.net) (Office Manager)

Website: [www.fumcmason.org](http://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

**May 2014**