

March
2014



First United Methodist Church Mason, Texas



“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.”

~ Matthew 4:1-2



The season of Lent has its official beginning on Ash Wednesday, which will be observed on March 5 this year. You are invited to fast that day, and to break the fast together with a light supper at 5:45, followed by our Ash Wednesday service beginning at 6:30. The night before, on March 4, we will be having a pancake supper, an old tradition that goes back to a time when people emptied their pantries of rich foods like butter and sugar – to prepare for the forty days of quiet reflection ahead. Its official name is Shrove Tuesday. Both of these nights are designed to bring the community closer together and to give us a time of celebration, followed by forty days of reflection.

The season of Lent is the time when the Church pauses to observe Jesus' time of temptation in the wilderness for 40 days and nights. Many people “give up something” for Lent – usually a type of food, or abstaining from certain habits. I have a friend who used to alternate his Lenten sacrifice by giving up watermelon one year, and sauerkraut the next. I would have to say that is not in the real spirit of “giving up something” for Lent, but it does bring a smile to your face.

Jesus was led into the Wilderness by the Spirit. That in itself makes a strong case for our taking the Lenten Season seriously. Over the years I have given up such things as chocolate, sweets, caffeine, and meat. But I believe Jesus' experience in the Wilderness went much deeper than that. Scripture says, “For forty days and nights he fasted, and he became very hungry.” Mark's gospel says that Jesus was tempted by satan for forty days, that, he was among the wild animals and angels took care of him. That seems a bit more extreme than giving up mere bits of food, or abstaining from the internet or television for forty days! The purpose of Lent is to help us rely on God more than we rely on anything else. During his time in the Wilderness, Jesus also prayed, and worshiped God. The season of Lent is a gift from the Church to us – to help us focus more on God than we do on ourselves – for forty days. It is a time for us to practice the many spiritual disciplines available to us – prayer, fasting, worship, meditation, silence, obedience, and many others. All of these practices are meant to help us draw closer to God and to be more intentional about our walk with Christ.

During the season of Lent this year, we will be celebrating Communion at both worship services every week. We will also be including the Confession and the Creed during all of our services.

We will be emphasizing daily prayer, and encouraging everyone to practice of at least one of the spiritual disciplines throughout the forty days. Some might consider fasting once a week – from sunup to sundown – and drinking juices throughout the day instead of eating food. Some might consider visiting shut-ins once a week, and praying with them when you visit. Others might consider praying for the world and for your enemies on a daily basis, rather than focusing all of your prayer on the people closest to you. There are many ways to practice wilderness living – the kind of living that draws us closer to God.

It is my prayer that all of us will consider at least one way to disrupt our daily routine in order to make time for God during these forty days. May we be led by the Spirit as we consider ways to deepen our relationship with the Savior during this holy season.

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 2014
\$64,500.00

Offering for 2014
\$54,368.95

(Year to date as of 2-28-14)

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



January Attendance

Feb 2	156
Feb 9	153
Feb 16	174
Feb 23	172

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 2 - St. Paul Bell Choir at
2nd service
Mar 4 - Shrove Tuesday
Mar 5 - Ash Wednesday
Mar 15 - Community Youth
Lock In
Mar 16 - Community Wide
Worship Service
Mar 17 - SS Geranium Sales
Begins
Mar 29 - SS Golf Fundraiser
Mar 30 - Education Fundraiser
Luncheon
Mar 30 - 5th Sunday Service
at Hilda



Lenten Lunch

SCHEDULE

March 5	Hilda at St. Paul's
March 12	River of Life
March 19	St. Martin's Episcopal at FUMC
March 26	Art at Baptist
April 2	St. Joseph's
April 9	St. Paul

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.



High Five...Chest Bump...End Zone Dance. Your generosity has us doing all three! Chili Bowl II was a huge success thanks to the teamwork of our amazing congregation. The United Methodist Women thank you all for answering the call to take of the children in our county. We will be able to give the Mason County Child Welfare Board about \$600. THANK YOU!!!

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, March 12th 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.



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, Bill Arms, Ginger Cave, Eva Tannehill, Pam Anderson, Toni & Jim Hurlbut, Kathy Fritze, Michael Taylor, Jack Lee, Caleb Taylor, Lee Bradley, Monroe Buntyn, Brenda Wildish & Family, Andrew Holmes, Peter Sharbo, Hannah Joy Hooks, Mary Beam, Jane Hoerster, Curtis & Dusty Henderson, Billy Henderson, Carolyn & Terry Smith, Roy Lehmborg, Sidney Kothmann, Chris Roberts, Sheila Durflinger, Elizabeth Smith, Family of Jimmy Underwood

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)



Shrove Tuesday
March 4 at 6 P.M.
Pancake Supper



March 5th
Light Meal 5:45 pm
Service with Communion 6:30 pm



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

3rd Annual Community-Wide Youth Lock In

March 15th - Gymnasium at the River of Life Church

6th—12th graders and ADULT HELP IS NEEDED

Community Wide Worship Service

March 16th-9:00 A.M. at Heritage Park

Children & Youth News

Loose Change Offering: The children will collect your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters on Sunday, March 2. Thank you for helping us to be the hands and feet of Christ!

Wonderful Wednesdays: Wonderful Wednesdays is for grades 1-5. The church van will pickup children at school from the ACE Program. If you have an interest in volunteering to help with this group please contact Beth Reardon at 347-0809. There will be No Wonderful Wednesdays on March 5 and March 12.

Youth Group: We need your help with Wednesday night meals. There is a signup sheet for March-May 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.

Community-Wide Youth Lock In: Saturday, March 15th will be the 3rd Annual Community-Wide Youth Lock In for 6th–12th graders. The event will take place in the gymnasium at River of Life Church. Look for more details in the upcoming weeks in the church bulletins.

News from the Nurture Ministry Team

Our team needs the congregation's help in two of our undertakings. We will have sign-up sheets at the Life Center for the following:

Follow-up visits to new members

We ask that either a couple or two individuals sign up to serve for one month. We ask that you go for a follow up visit no longer than one week after a person joins the church. You will take them a loaf of bread which will have a scripture inside. (Acts 6:35) We will have arrangements at Topaz Confectionary and Willow Creek so you can pick up bread before your visit.

Healing Meals

To provide a simple meal for individuals or families of those who have been hospitalized and are coming home, if desired. We are asking that you sign up to be available for a quarter. Hopefully, we will have enough to cover that time without asking anyone more than once. Bobbye Frazier will co-coordinate meal assignments

If you have any questions call Sidney at 347.6624.

Steady Steps

Weekday Children's Ministry

An Early Step Toward a Godly Walk!



Please mark your calendar for the annual Steady Steps Fundraiser Saturday, April 26, 6:00 p.m., at the Ft. Mason Community Building. There will be a catered meal, live cake auction, and a silent auction. Preceding the nightly events, the annual golf tournament will be held that afternoon at 1:00. In addition to the activities on April 26th, the geranium sales will begin on March 17th. If you are interested in buying geraniums, you may place your order as follows: contact Brooke Rosberg at 325-347-7600; newspaper order form; order forms in the back of the sanctuary, social hall, or church office; or forms at various businesses throughout town. For golf tournament information, please contact John Olson at 325-265-4458 or e-mail him at jfo1020@hotmail.com.



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

Remember last month I told you about adding more water to your daily intake of fluids? I mentioned that dehydration slows your metabolism which in turn can make you feel tired. It can also cause dizziness, muscle cramps & problems focusing your attention. Even mild dehydration can cause pain in the joints & muscles, pain in the lower back, headaches, & constipation. Here's a benefit you probably didn't know about drinking enough water: "The more water you drink the more fluids leave the blood vessel, causing your vessels to relax & your blood pressure to reduce. If you consume too much salt or do not drink enough, water accumulates in your blood vessels, contributing to blood pressure. If the pressure is too high, the blood vessel will burst & can lead to stroke & kidney disease." Ok, all you with high blood pressure-drink up! Talk @ you later-Ann

<http://www.age-well.org/drinking-enough-water.html>

**5th Sunday
Service
at Hilda
7 PM**



**Healthy Church Initiative
Consultation Weekend
May 2nd-4th**

Hydrangea Order Form

If you would like to place flowers in church in honor or in memory of loved ones on Easter Sunday, April 20th, we have 30 hydrangeas available for \$20 each. Please fill out this form and return to the church office or drop in the offering plate along with your check or cash for each hydrangea ordered.

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____



**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

Address Label Here

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

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