

November
2014



First United Methodist Church Mason, Texas



I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it to completion until the day of Jesus Christ. ~Philippians 1:3-6

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 Oct. 31, 2014
Budget \$ 322,950.00
Offering \$ 300,056.92

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



October Attendance

Oct 5	180
Oct 12	152
Oct 19	201
Oct 26	131

Upcoming Events

- Nov 2 All Saints Sunday & Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Nov 9 HOPE Ministry Sale
- Nov 11 Veterans' Day
- Nov 13 Church Conference 6 p.m.
- Nov 24 Turkey Distribution 2-5 p.m.
- Nov 27 Thanksgiving Day
- Nov 30 1st Sunday of Advent
- Dec 7 MCMA Christmas Cantata at FUMC 6 p.m.
- Dec 14 Children's Christmas Program (Both Services)
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 28 Combined Service 10:00

When the news of my appointment to Mason was made public, so many of my friends and colleagues said, "How did you manage that!? You are getting a plum of a church!" And I said, trying to remain humble, "I know." The reputation of this church is well known throughout our conference, and beyond. The depth of your love for Christ and for each other is evident at so many levels: in the ways you take of each other; in the ways you respond to those who are in need; in the ways you encourage the children in their faith and in their service for God; in the ways you come by my office just to share a little tidbit about how someone is doing, asking me to pray for them or go by and see them; in the ways you respond with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, & witness to embolden and strengthen the Church. I could go on.

I didn't even know October was Pastor Appreciation Month until I arrived in Mason! And since coming here, I have been lavished with gifts and cards and encouraging words and hugs and many other expressions of the way you love your pastors. I am overwhelmed and I am blessed beyond measure. Thank you, thank you, thank you. The English language is inadequate for me to express how much I appreciate all of you. God has raised up a loving and nurturing church in Mason!

We are approaching one of the busiest times in the church's year – what the world calls, "the holiday season," but what we in the Church call, "Advent and Christmas." It is so easy for all of us to be pulled in to the ways of the world when it comes to Advent and Christmas. It's also very easy for us to point fingers at businesses and even schools who want to celebrate in ways that are not in keeping with the reason for Christmas – the Coming of Christ, the struggle for his parents as they waited, and his humble birth in a stable. During a discussion by some pastors several years ago, many were lamenting the fact that stores and businesses don't even advertise Christmas anymore. Some were even threatening to boycott businesses that didn't embrace the Christmas season. Finally, one of them said, "Why should they? It's our story. We shouldn't expect retail businesses to tell our story." I have to confess – I agree with him. It is our responsibility to tell the Christmas Story to the world, and it's our responsibility to celebrate Advent and Christmas by fully reflecting on the meaning of Christ's Coming. A movement called The Advent Conspiracy (adventconspiracy.org) has 4 focuses:

Worship Fully
Spend Less
Give More
Love All

The first Sunday in Advent falls on November 30 this year, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Advent will end on December 24, Christmas Eve. Let us celebrate through faithful worship, spending less, giving more, and loving all people. Stay tuned for more about The Advent Conspiracy next month.

Thank you again for the love you have shown to Bill and to me. We love you all!

In Christ,

Colleen



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

Have you ever watched little children playing and wished that you had that kind of energy? Did you know that drinking enough water can help you with your energy level? A nerve impulse is actually an electrical energy signal or wave of electrical activity that passes from one end of a nerve cell to another. Water generates electrical & magnetic energy in every body cell, providing a natural power boost. So often people with low energy will drink caffeine to boost their energy, but this is short lived. Drinking coffee or soft drinks can give a quick picker-upper, but ultimately they decrease energy levels even further by provoking dehydration. Drinking enough water will boost your energy levels & reduce fatigue. Drinking at least 8 glasses of water a day will improve your energy. Try this for yourself for one week & see if you don't have more energy.

Talk @ you later-Ann Scarth, RN, Wesley Nurse, 347-5983

USHERS & LAY READERS NEEDED

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**



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

*Marilyn Kahan, Charlene Schuessler,
Odessa Dannheim, Mary Beam,*

*The Family of Curtis Henderson, Doris Grote,
John Earl, Jr., Cory Lewis, Barry & Kim Zambro,
Scott & Deanna Herreth & Children, McKenna Tickner,
Charlene Thomas, Helen Maxwell, Janice Bellows,
The Family of Alfred Palacio*

*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)*

Dear Congregation,

I met with Mason County Commissioners Court and received approval for a Nativity to be displayed on the Courthouse lawn each Christmas Season. The Nativity will be located on the southeast corner. It will be set up after Thanksgiving and taken down after the New Year.

The Nativity will consist of a shelter (8' at back, 8' deep, 10' wide at front and 6' tall) that will be cedar with a liner and have spot lights and 7 to 9 figures (60 inches tall).

A local merchant has agreed to order the set. The complete set with freight will cost over \$ 4,000. Donations will be needed to fund this project. If you would like to contribute, an account has been setup at First State Bank Mason. Please make checks payable to Nativity Scene.

This project will be used for years and years to come. Your help will be appreciated by all.

God Bless,
Bob Vacek

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.



United
Methodist
Women



**Don't forget to set
your clocks back on
Sunday, November 2**



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, November 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.

Children & Youth News

Loose Change Offering:

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

Youth Group: 6:30 P.M. Wednesdays

Wonderful Wednesdays: 3:30 - 5:00 P.M.

Children's Christmas Program: December 14th at both services

College Addresses: Please send us mailing and email addresses for our college-youth, even if their address has not changed since last year. You can email the information to fumcmason@verizon.net or call the church office at (325) 347-5105. Care packages will be sent out in November to all students whose addresses have been submitted. We don't want your college student to miss out.

Mission News

FUMC will be opening its doors to families on Monday, Nov. 24th for the annual Turkey Drive. We are expecting about 130 families again this year.

Then, on the last Sunday in November, which is Nov. 30th, the Angel Tree will go up with the names of lots of little angels from here in our community. The gifts will be due back to the church, wrapped and with the angel tag on the gift, by Sunday, Dec. 14th. The families will come in to pick up their gifts on Tuesday, Dec. 16th.

It doesn't take long to get from now to Christmas!

The Missions Committee thanks the congregation for their help and generosity for assisting so many families in Mason.

Thank you-Judy Branch

HOPE MINISTRY SALE

It's that time again..... Are you ready to do some early Christmas shopping while helping to end poverty for families all over the world? UMW will be having a HOPE Ministry sale on **November 9th** after each service in the social hall. Part of the proceeds will go back to the artisans and their families, while the rest will be used locally.

We HOPE to see you there!!!



Church Conference
Thursday, November 13 at 6 P.M. in Social Hall



Steady Steps

Weekday Children's Ministry

An Early Step Toward a Godly Walk!



Playground News: If you have not seen the new playground and fence, please go look. Eight months of planning, hard work, dedicated volunteers, generous donations, memorials, grants and fundraisers have paid off. We are 95% completed.

On October 17 at 3 pm, the children were able to return and PLAY! It was a true Blessing! Soon, we will add safe flooring tile to the baby area due to a pending grant. When all is finished, we will dedicate & bless our new playground. Praise God!

Other News: Tiffany Stidham was officially hired as the new director. The center ran smoothly during the interim time of waiting. She brings continuity and experience. Come over and visit! The children are growing & learning, and the staff is caring and loving. Chapel time is Tuesday mornings at 9:15. All are welcome to come worship with us. You will leave feeling BLESSED.

Children's Sabbath Sunday, October 19th, Rev. Margaret Persky and the youth of our church and Steady Steps led a meaningful service. Afterwards a delicious spaghetti meal was shared. The meal was provided by the Steady Steps Council and parents of the children who attend Steady Steps. The fellowship and generosity of all were greatly APPRECIATED!

Blessings to All,

Dianna Dail

Steady Steps Volunteer

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 14th, 21st, 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.



**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
Tiffany Stidham.....Steady Steps Director
Ann Scarth.....Wesley Nurse

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

November 2014