



Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. ~ Ephesians 4:11-13



For my newsletter offering this month, I have elected to share information about the election of our new bishop, who will begin service on September 1, 2016. The information below was shared on the Rio Texas Conference web page, and was provided by Rev. Laura Merrill, a member of the South Central Jurisdiction Committee. Many thanks to her for a detailed and easy to understand description of the process. As United Methodists, it is important for us to be aware of how our leadership is selected. Please pray for our whole delegation as they prepare themselves for this task.

Every four years, United Methodists in the South Central Jurisdiction (SCJ) elect and assign bishops to the conferences comprising the states of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana. The process occurs amidst a great deal of prayer and holy discernment, based on a foundation of consultation with the various annual conferences and the bishops themselves. This process has already begun, as the South Central Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy has gathered feedback from conference committees on the episcopacy and bishops, regarding their recommendations for the coming quadrennium, a period of four years. What are the issues facing the conference in the next four years? What projects need to be continued? What kind of leader do you hope to receive (in the case of conferences)? What gifts and learning do you bring as a leader (in the case of bishops)? This process resembles that used for cabinets' consultation with pastors and SPRCs each year.

Next is the election of new bishops. There will be three elections in our jurisdiction this year, due to the retirement of Bishops Huie and Hayes, and the vacancy left by Mr. Jim Dorff, who was also scheduled to retire this year. In addition, two sitting bishops have served in their current places for 12 years and will need to change conferences. For the past several weeks, candidates have been traveling to interviews across the jurisdiction, to share their gifts and vision for the work of bishop. The South Central Jurisdictional Conference will be held in Wichita, Kansas, July 13-16. Elections will take place throughout the session, until three new bishops have been elected. Once all three elections have been completed, the committee will be sent to deliberate their next move, undergirded by the prayers of the whole conference, asking God to lead the group and stating clearly that no decision is pre-determined. The committee's assignment work allows room for the working of the Holy Spirit, through prayer, honest communication and relationship-building. Their work will be based on trust: trust in God, trust in each other, and trust in the process.

The newly elected bishops will meet with the committee to share their gifts and graces, in anticipation of assignment to one of the conferences. Then the committee will move into discernment, beginning their time together with a devotional, silent prayer, guided prayer, and communion. Charts with each bishop's service history and stated gifts will be posted on the walls of the meeting room, and the representatives of each area will have time to develop a statement of their needs, hopes and dreams with regard to episcopal leadership. With all information displayed, and after silent prayer, area groups will work to develop a slate of assignments, matching 10 bishops to 10 areas. Each area will submit one solution, and all 10 solutions will be transcribed to large paper, numbered, and posted on the wall, without revealing which area submitted which solution. All solutions then become the property of the whole group. Time is given for study, and amendments are allowed. After silent prayer and reflection, each person votes by written ballot for three possible solutions from the 10 posted. The three solutions with the most votes are retained. All others are discarded. There is time for comments and discussion. After silent prayer and reflection, each person votes for two of the three remaining solutions, and the two with the most votes are retained. More discussion follows, along with further silent prayer. On the final vote, a simple majority makes the assignments. Once the vote is completed, each person is encouraged to voice concerns or cares as necessary. Prayers for healing, nurture, courage, grace and confidentiality are appropriate. Before anyone leaves the room, all papers are gathered for shredding and disposal.



United
Methodist
Women

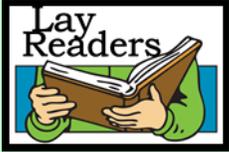
Hope Circle - We meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 4:00 P.M. in the Gathering Room. We would love to have you join us. For more information contact Tiffany Klaerner at 347-6034.



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 Chuck Bearden at 325-347-6162.

The United Methodist Men hold their monthly breakfast on *2nd Wednesday of each month 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!

Retirement gathering for Tim Fahrenthold will be held at Uvalde United Methodist Church on Saturday, May 28 at 3:00 P.M.



Lay Readers are needed. Please consider giving your time to this ministry. You can sign up in the Social Hall or call Lynn Hedges (325-347-0152)



Loose Change Offering: The children will collect your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters on the 1st Sunday of every month. This offering is given by our youth for a mission project. Thank you for helping us to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Youth Group: Starts at 6:30 P.M. each Wednesday upstairs in the Youth Room (6th grade-High School).

Youth Group Meals: Please sign up to bring food for 25 youth. The sign up sheet is located on the Life Center.

UM ARMY: Bandera, Texas July 10-16. Tools sign-up sheet coming soon.

Confirmation: May 1 at 10:50 A.M. Service

Senior Recognition: Sunday, May 1 at 10:50 Service with a potluck luncheon following the service.

VBS: Will be at St. Paul Lutheran July 18-21

IMPORTANT DATES

Confirmation

Sunday, May 1 at 10:50 Service

Senior Recognition

Sunday, May 15 at 10:50 Service with Potluck Luncheon

UM ARMY

**Tool sign up sheet coming soon
July 11-15**

**VBS at St. Paul Lutheran Church
July 18 -21**



Prayer requests may be made by writing them on the prayer request card and placing it in the offering plate or by calling the Church Office.

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, Art Davis, Tommie Lou Luckenbach, Mary Krista Toepfich, Gerald Ross, Martha Smith, Norma Stahl, Jesse Cavaness, Tina Carter, Bill & Cherilyn Haley, Jody Wallace, the family of Charles Pluenneke

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

Matt Adam (USAF), Houston Haley (USAF), Neil Shanks (USAF), Joseph Alba (U.S. Army), Matt Irwin (U.S. Army), T.J. Schovajsa (U.S. Army), Jared Hudson (USMC), Melissa Garrison-Jensen (U.S. Navy), Ferd T. Slocum III (U.S. Navy), James Vacek (U.S. Navy)



Year to date as of April 25, 2016
Budget \$ _____ \$126,252.71
Offering \$ _____ \$130,779.90
Budget for 2016 - \$ 409,192.52
Weekly Budget - \$7,869.09

When committee members leave their meeting room and prepare to return to the conference floor, the representatives from each episcopal area will walk directly to greet their corresponding bishop, whether new or returning. The assignments recommended by the committee must then be approved by a vote of the jurisdictional conference. The following morning, on Saturday, most episcopal areas hold a breakfast for their bishop, whether new or returning. After the breakfast, all gather for a service of consecration for the new bishops.

The current Rio Texas representatives on the SCJ committee were actually elected by the former Rio Grande and Southwest Texas Conferences: Rev. Edgar Avitia, Ms. Cindy Johnson, Mr. Jay Brim, and Rev. Laura Merrill. On behalf of the whole committee, we covet your prayers for our sitting bishops, the candidates, and the process we will undertake together in Wichita in July.

In Christ,
Colleen



Koala Care changing stations are now located in the Large Education Wing restroom. and both restrooms off the Social Hall.

SAVE THE DATE!

LifeTouch
CHURCH
DIRECTORIES
AND PORTRAITS

**Dates: September 15th, 16th, 17th,
20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd & 24th**

**Photography Hours:
Weekdays 2:00 PM-9:00 P.M.
Saturday 10:00 AM-5:00 P.M.**

More information to come.....

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

Do any of you remember the March of Dimes? It was founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (NFIP), another name for polio. The Foundation achieved popularity mainly because of FDR's own disability resulting from a personal battle with polio. The March of Dimes was the title used for the annual fundraising event which requested each child to donate a dime. During the Christmas season, booths were set up for children to drop a dime into the slot of a donation receptacle and gradually, the name became synonymous with that of the organization. The program was set on a course to fund research and a cure for polio. And it accomplished its mission with the creation of a vaccine credited to

Dr. Jonas Salk and the Salk vaccine was licensed for use on April 12, 1955. Although FDR had passed away, he was memorialized on the U.S. dime in 1946 thanks to a polio patients' club of the Norfolk Hospital Association Chapter of the NFIP. Since that time, the March of Dimes has moved to other pressing causes, including the research for preventing and reducing the number of premature births and the incidence of birth defects. May is National Birth Defects Awareness Month. Birth defects, which are health conditions present at birth, change the shape or functions of one or more body parts. They can cause overall health problems, how the body develops or how the body functions. Believe it or not, there are thousands of different birth defects. It's estimated that about 120,000 babies just in the U.S. alone are born each year with a birth defect. The most common you might be aware of are heart defects, cleft lip and cleft palate, Down syndrome and spina bifida. Some birth defects are caused by genetic conditions, but some causes have not been determined. If this is something you want to support, you can visit the March of Dimes website at <http://www.marchofdimes.org/> Talk to you later-Ann



with an envelope for donations to cover the cost of the supplies. Participation is voluntary, but all donations are welcome.

The families will come on Tuesday, August 16th from 2-5 to the Social Hall to pick up their supplies.

We will be offering our gently recycled clothing as well, so that families can choose items when they come to the church.

May is the month for FUMC to disperse groceries at the Food Bank. Volunteer helpers are very welcome!

Dates are: May 9 - 11.

SUMMER CAMP

Camp Butman in Merkel, Texas - 6th – 8th Graders

June 6 – 10 Camp Butman in Merkel, Texas
\$50.00 per camper
Deadline to register is May 23.

Mt. Wesley Children's Camp - 3rd -5th Graders

July 21 – 24 Mt. Wesley The cost is \$50.00 if paid
by June 6 and **after June 6** the cost is \$75.00.
Deadline to register to go to this camp is June 23.

Contact Samantha for more information 325-347-5105



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

Rev. Colleen Haley.....Pastor
Maureen Shanks.....Office Manager
Samantha Jordan.....Family Ministries
Kendall Newman.....Music Director
Marilyn Kahan.....Organist/Pianist
Tiffany Stidham.....Steady Steps Director
Ann Scarth.....Wesley Nurse
Rhett Vacek.....A/V Tech
Rebecca Moneyhon.....Nursery
Raegan Palacio.....Nursery
Kendra Klaerner.....Nursery

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

Email: officemgr@fumcmason.org (Office Manager)

Website: www.fumcmason.org

Steady Steps Phone: 325-347-0043

Steady Steps Email: steadysteps@fumcmason.org

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)

May 2016

