

July 2013



First United Methodist Church Mason, Texas



"I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Jesus Christ, is calling us."

~ Philippians 3:13b-14 ~



In the movie, *City Slickers*, the character played by Billy Crystal is a city guy who goes to a dude ranch with several of his friends. The character played by Jack Palance is, of course, a crusty and hardened cowboy who makes Crystal and his friends look a little lame as they try to ride horses and herd cows. One night at the campfire, they ask him the secret of life and he holds up his index finger and says something like, **"One thing. You have to keep the main thing the main thing. And when you find out what the main thing is, you have to keep moving in that direction."** It is no different for Christians. We have to keep the main thing the main thing and never take our eyes off it, but very often we shift our focus to other things that compete for our attention – things like our jobs, our circumstances, our children's problems, our friends' problems, money problems, and many other things. Paul encourages us, through his own experiences, to press on toward the goal. And it is a worthy goal since God is the One calling us toward it. Think of it as running a race and seeing someone in the distance, eyes locked on yours, calling, encouraging, cheering, and urging you forward. That's what God does when we start to stray or when we allow outside influences to steal our time. The main thing is to keep our eyes on God, who waits at the finish line, and who provides encouragement all along the course. Living as a Christian is HARD in the busy world where we find ourselves, but it's even harder living in this world NOT being a Christian. And remember, this world is only temporary. As a good friend told me the other day, **"Everyone wants to go to heaven, but no one wants to die."**

It's tempting to give in to the difficulties that assault us. It's tempting to give up and be satisfied with the fact that Jesus loves us and that's enough. It's tempting to hide our heads in the sand and walk away from people who are messy or just plain hard to deal with. But that's not who God calls us to be. God calls us to keep moving forward and to walk with him; to stay in the race even when it's too hot or our knees hurt or we are in last place. Being in last place is still being in the race! Keep your eyes on the prize; that is, a life lived with Jesus Christ. Know what the main thing is, and run toward it.

In Christ,
Colleen

Worship Times

Sunday

8:30 A.M. with 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 June 28, 2013

2013 Budget.....\$183,638.17
2013 Offering.....\$158,943.47

June Attendance

June 2 161
June 9 164
June 16 151
June 23 176

July Acolytes

TBA

July Lay Readers

8:30 A.M.

July 7, 14 & 21-Dianna Dail
July 28 -TBA

10:50 A.M.

July 7, 14 & 28 -TBA
July 21-Judy Branch

July Ushers

8:30 A.M. -Willie Lyles
10:50 A.M.-TBA



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 (347-0275). The United Methodist Men will hold their monthly breakfast on **Wednesday, July 10th 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

New Horizons Circle meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 A.M. in the Gathering Room. Chairperson: Linda Reichenau 325-347-5589



United Methodist Women

Hope Circle meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at 4:00 P.M. in the Gathering Room. contact Tiffany Klaerner at 347-6034



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

According to the CDC and other reputable sources, hand washing is not only one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs, but it can also save lives. Hand washing is the first line of defense in preventing the spread of many diseases, conditions, and viruses, which are spread by not washing hands with soap and clean running water.

Another name for germs is bacteria. An average time for one bacterium to divide into 2 bacteria is 20 minutes. In one hour, if my math is correct, one bacterium can end up dividing into 8 bacteria (after 2 hours, you have 64 bacteria), which doesn't sound like much until you try to figure the result of continued cell division over the next 12 hours. Add to that all the different types of bacteria you have contacted that are also dividing. Germs are transmitted by touching dirty hands, changing dirty diapers, contact with contaminated water and food, through droplets released when you cough or sneeze, touching contaminated surfaces, and through contact with a sick person's body fluids. When you think of how germs are transmitted, consider the recent research released by Michigan State University the next time you reach out to shake someone's hand. The news release stated that 33 percent of people did not use soap after flushing the toilet, 10 percent of the folks didn't wash their hands at all, and only 5 percent of people who used the restroom scrubbed long enough to kill germs that can cause infections. The study also stated that men were less likely to clean their hands than women-15 percent of men and 7 percent of women didn't wash their hands at all. When folks did wash their hands, only 50 percent of men used soap and 78 percent of women used soap. It only takes 15-20 seconds of vigorous washing with soap and water to effectively kill germs, but people average only about 6 seconds of washing. Think of the implications for those of us who are eating food prepared by someone who hasn't adequately washed his/her hands. You would think this is a no-brainer, but the results are in and we continue to get sick because of poor hand washing. Wash up, folks, before eating and cooking, after using the bathroom, after cleaning around the house, after touching animals, even family pets, before and after visiting or taking care of any sick friends or relatives, after blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing, and after being outside (playing, gardening, walking the dog, etc.). Wash your hands in warm water. Make sure the water isn't too hot for little hands. Use soap and lather up for about 20 seconds (antibacterial soap isn't necessary — any soap will do). Make sure you get in between the fingers and under the nails where uninvited germs like to hang out. Don't forget the back of your hands and your wrists! Rinse with your fingertips pointed downward to allow soiled water and soap to run off your hands, instead of down your arms. Dry well with a clean towel. Don't underestimate the power of hand washing! The few seconds you spend at the sink could save you money by reducing the number of trips to the doctor's office, not to mention, keeping you from getting sick. [Resources include- <http://www.wisegeek.org/how-long-does-it-take-for-cells-to-divide.htm> ; <http://www.ivillage.com/only-5-percent-restroom-patrons-wash-hands-properly-study-finds/4-a-538852>; http://kidshealth.org/parent/general/sick/hand_washing.html#1]



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



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

Eva Tannehill, Marilyn Kahan, John Earl family, Harriet Lange, Ruth Dannheim, Ernestine Galviz, Roger and Tommie Lou Luckenbach, Cynthia Hernandez, Carolyn Smith, Jack Lee, Mary Beam, Troy Klaerner, Terry Smith, Brad Duecker, Alex Grosse, Morgan Johnson, Odessa Dannheim, Jessica Blalock, Charlene Schuessler, Dusty Henderson (Candy Eckert's mother), Mary Palacio

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) Fort Bragg, NC, Houston Haley (USAF), T.J. Schovajsa (U.S. Army) Korea

Children & Youth News

Submitted by Deandra Palacio (347-5105)

Loose Change Offering— The children will collect your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters on Sunday, July 7th. Thank you for helping us to be the hands and feet of Christ!

Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N)- Twenty-eight junior and senior high students and adult volunteers helped out with our local mission project, N2N, on Wednesday, June 5th. We worked hard, sweated a lot, and were very tired by the end of the day, but had a smile on our faces because we knew we had made a difference in the lives of quite a few families in Mason. We worked at five different sites throughout the day and we thank God for the opportunity to serve others.

Vacation Bible School: With all that is going on this summer, please make sure to mark your calendars for July 29 - Aug. 1! We are looking forward to partnering with St. Paul Lutheran and Art UMC to make this an exciting week for the kids. VBS will start at 8:30 each morning and conclude at 11:50 A.M. We need a lot of people helping that week in many different ways, so please prayerfully consider helping out in some way that week. We have registration forms in the church office. Families who preregister will get a free music and game CD and each child will get a VBS t-shirt. Children who will be 4 years old as of Sept. 1, 2013 up to this coming year's 6th graders are welcome to attend VBS. Junior and senior high students are encouraged to volunteer! Contact Deandra with questions or to sign up to help!

Summer Camp at Mt. Wesley:

The camp season has begun! Here is the information on the remaining camp dates and deadlines. All age levels are for the 2013-14 school year. The deadline is when paperwork and payments need to be in to Deandra so she can send those to the Conference office. Please contact Deandra with any questions!!

4 th -6 th gr. MAD Camp	July 24-27	Deadline: July 3
5 th / 6 th grade Camp	Aug. 4-8	Deadline: July 12

Summer Youth Group:

We are having youth group on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 P.M. during the summer. We will not serve supper, but we have some great things planned, so make sure that the junior and senior high students (grades 6-12) in your lives know they are welcome to come! There will be a few day trips that we will be taking as well, so contact Deandra if you have questions! We will have a schedule posted on the Children & Youth bulletin board outside Deandra's office if you want to check on specific dates and/or activities. One of the activities the youth are helping with this summer is delivering Meals on Wheels on Tuesdays. Please continue to keep the youth of our church and our community in your prayers as they mature in their Christian walk.

UM ARMY Mission trip- As of newsletter print time, the students and adults from FUMC are in Canyon Lake working hard to be the hands and feet of Christ! Join us on Sunday, June 30th at 10:30 A.M. for worship followed by a lunch where we will share our experiences with you. Meat will be provided for the luncheon. We are asking that everyone else bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Summer Lunchbox- Beginning Monday, July 1st and concluding on Friday, August 23rd, our church will be hosting a summer lunch program for school-aged children called the Summer Lunchbox. Each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:30-12:30 members of our community will be providing a free, nutritious lunch for any child who would like to come. Deandra and Samantha will be providing games and activities before the meal is served. Lunch will be served in our Social Hall on Mondays and Wednesdays. Lunch will be provided at Comanche Creek Park, across from Northside Café on Fridays. We are still in need of people to sign up to help provide meals or make donations. If you would like to help out in some way with this program, please contact Deandra Palacio or Judy Branch.

MISSIONS - Back to School Drive — Wednesday, August 14th, 2013 from 2-5 P.M. — FUMC Social Hall

It's time to start thinking about any "gently used" clothing items you might be storing in the back of your closets! The Back to School Drive has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 14th, 2013, from 2-5 P.M. in the Social Hall and Sanctuary. We will be buying new shoes, new undergarments and socks for children who need assistance. The families will then be invited to choose items from your donated clothing articles. In this way, we "recycle the blessings!" Each year this project has been a big success, primarily because of YOU! This drive just can't happen successfully without your help. If you could bake some cookies for us, just let us know. We plan to make this a festive day for the families with cookies and lemonade. If you need any more information, contact Judy Branch, 258-4491 or Barbara Pluenneke, 347-5581.

This is just one more opportunity for us to be God's ambassadors in our community. So, clean out your closets and help us get ready to bless others by sharing the blessings God has given to us. Judy Branch, Missions Committee



FINANCE REPORT-Our adopted budget for 2013 is \$371,403.08, which is 12% above the 2012 budget. In order to meet that number by the end of the year, we need to receive \$7,142.37 per week. The reality is, this number varies from week to week, and summer numbers are typically lower than the rest of the year. Last week, our Sunday offering totaled \$6,767.19. At the present, we have a deficit of \$24,694.70. We are asking everyone to prayerfully consider raising your monthly or weekly contribution so that we can try to catch up in the next few months.



SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

We will be feeding the children in Mason who usually participate in the school breakfast and lunch program. Since the school cafeteria closes for eight weeks, we will be providing lunch on Mondays and Wednesdays in our Social Hall. Friday's lunch will be served at Comanche Creek Park, across the street from Northside Café on Broad Street. If you would like to help with this project, we can always use paper goods, milk, fresh fruit, cookies and healthy snacks to send home with the children on weekends or you can sign up to be responsible for a meal. We are expecting about 20 children to start with, and the meals are very simple...sandwiches, hot dogs, tacos, etc. You are invited to come interact with the children. We will have lunch and Christian activities from 11:30-12:30 from July 1st through August 23rd. Children & Youth Director Deandra Palacio and her youth intern, Samantha Jordan, will be providing "a little Jesus with a little lunch." Come join us!

Church Committees

Please submit your 2014 Committee budgets to the church office by August 30th. Please e-mail them to fumcbiz@verizon.net

I would like to thank my church family for all the prayers lifted up for me before, during and after my surgery and since coming home. Thank you, also, for the cards, phone calls, food and expressions of concern. Your love and thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.
Roy Lehmborg and family



Dear FUMC members,
It is an honor to receive a scholarship from my church. It is a comfort to know that you will support me in all my future academic endeavors.
Sincerely,
Abby Nash



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

- Rev. Colleen Haley.....Pastor
- Marilyn Kahan.....Organist/Pianist
- Maureen Shanks.....Office Manager
- Deandra Palacio.....Family, Youth and Children Director
- Samantha Jordan.....Summer Youth Intern
- 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)