

February
2014



First United Methodist Church Mason, Texas



We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

~ 1 Corinthians 13:12 (The Message)



We are on a journey, and we have no idea where it will take us. You may have heard something about the Healthy Church Initiative recently, and you might be wondering what it is, where it will lead us, and why we are even concerning ourselves with it. I will address all three parts of that statement.

What is it? It is a process which churches elect to take part in. It is not a requirement from the Conference or from anyone else, except the members of any given local church congregation. The Healthy Church Initiative works like this: The Southwest Texas Conference supplies trained leaders to come and meet with us, to get an idea of who we are, and to help us explore ways our ministry might be expanded. Our apportionments pay for the bulk of the expense. We are asked to pay a small amount – just so we will have buy in for the process. During the months leading up to the pre-consultation meeting, which will take place on February 27, we will be completing a self-assessment survey. It covers everything from the demographics of the county to how many parking spaces we have to what our worship practices are. It's a snapshot of FUMC Mason, and it is currently being completed by members of the Church Council. After the pre-consultation meeting, we will have a consultation weekend on May 2-4, 2014, where people from the congregation will be invited to take part in the process of hearing what our consultants have discerned from us. On Friday, the staff, pastor, and several other leaders of the congregation will be interviewed. Saturday will be a time to glean and discern some of what the team has learned. On Sunday, one of the team members will preach, focusing on some of the goals we might be looking at. The team will give us 3-5 prescriptions to help us grow in on our ministry efforts. Over the course of the next month or so after that, we will hold "Town Hall Meetings" to inform members of the prescriptions, to answer questions, and to hear concerns. Following that, we will hold a called Church Conference, attended by our District Superintendent, and the church will vote together to see if we are willing and committed to go forward with the plan mapped out for us by our consultation team. If we decide as a congregation that we do not want to go forward, we will continue ministry for the Kingdom.

Where will it lead us? I really can't say. As one of our church council members put it, "I don't know where I'm going, but I'm ready to go."

Why should we concern ourselves with it? The vision statement of the United Methodist Church is "to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." As Christians we are called to point others in the direction of Jesus Christ. We are also called to grow in Christ and to be in ministry with all people. This process will give us information about who we are, about our mission field, and about ways we can help impact others for the sake of Jesus Christ. Even if we decide we are not ready to make this step, we will glean much information to help us grow as the Body of Christ.

Grace Notes Continued on Next Page

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
\$32,295.00

Offering for 2014
\$30,419.81

(Year to date as of 1-31-14)

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



January Attendance

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Jan 5 | 169 |
| Jan 12 | 179 |
| Jan 19 | 167 |
| Jan 26 | 159 |

Upcoming Events

Feb 2 - UMW Chili Bowl
Feb 12 - UMM Sweetheart
Breakfast
Feb 27 - Healthy Church
Initiative
Pre-Consultation
Mar 5 - First Lenten Lunch
at River of Life
May 2-4 - Healthy Church
Initiative
Consultation
Weekend

The last question is one I haven't addressed: **What can I do?** First and foremost, PRAY about this process. Be willing to help in any way you can. Be willing to open your heart and your mind to the nudgings of the Spirit. Be ready to serve if you are asked to. Be open to the possibilities of what God is doing in Mason County, and beyond.

We can make a huge difference for Christ, and ultimately for the world, when we turn our hearts toward God. We can make a huge difference for the Kingdom when we make up our minds not to make up our minds in advance, but instead, to wait and see what God is doing. We are blessed to have a congregation that is on fire for Christ. May we embark on this journey as those who take our call to ministry seriously. Blessings of grace and peace to you on the Journey.

In Christ,

Colleen

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.



*****SAVE THE DATE*****

Get your famous chili recipes ready...the 2nd Annual UMW Chili Bowl will be held on February 2, 2014. We hope to have a great turn-out as half of the proceeds will once again go to the Mason County Child Welfare Board. Sign up sheets are up in the Social Hall. Please make plans to join us for this fun event to raise money for a wonderful cause!

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, February 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, Jimmie Keelin, Jack Lee, Caleb Taylor, Lee Bradley, Monroe Buntyn, Brenda Wildish & Family, Andrew Holmes, Peter Sharbo, Hannah Joy Hooks, Mary Beam, Jane Hoerster, Eula Mae Martin, Curtis & Dusty Henderson, Chris Roberts, Billy Henderson, Elizabeth Smith, Carolyn & Terry Smith, Roy Lehmborg, Sheila Durlfingler, Jimmy & Cookie Underwood, Jan Strickland, Sidney Kothmann,

*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), Houston Haley (USAF),
T.J. Schovajsa (U.S. Army) Korea, Jared Hudson (USMC)*



Confirmation Parents' Meeting

**February 16th
after the 2nd service**



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
6th-12th grade**

Children & Youth News

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

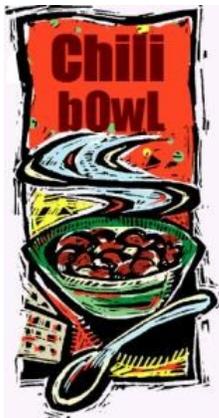
Wonderful Wednesdays: Wonderful Wednesdays is for grades 1-5. The church van will pickup children at school from the ACE Program. If you have an interest in volunteering to help with this group please contact Beth Reardon at 347-0809.

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

Confirmation: Parents' meeting on February 16th after 2nd service.

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.

CALLING ALL GOURMET CHILI EXPERTS!



The 2nd Annual UMW Chili Bowl fundraiser will be held on Sunday, February 2nd, following the 10:50 service. Half of the proceeds of this lunch will go to the Mason County Child Welfare Board, which serves children in the foster care system, as well as all children in our community who are in need. We have put a sign-up board in the Social Hall for those who are willing to help us feed the hungry masses. Please join us for a time of fun, food, and fellowship and to support this important organization!

******NEW DATES******

Healthy Church Initiative

Pre-Consultation

February 27th

Consultation Weekend

May 2nd-4th



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

Dehydration-in the winter?! Yep, it can happen to you. At this time of year, we are dealing with wind, cold, low humidity & exposure to dry air from our heating systems. We lose a pint or more of fluid every day just by simply breathing! Folks don't usually recognize the early signs of mild dehydration. Thirst is a late indicator. By the time you **feel** thirsty, 2 or more cups of body water have probably been lost. And if you are ill, you will lose fluids while running a fever, sneezing, & coughing. If you have a stomach bug, well, I don't have to tell you about losing fluids if that's your problem. Do you find yourself feeling sort of blah in the afternoons? Dehydration slows your metabolism which in turn makes you tired. A mere 2 percent drop in the body's water volume can cause dizziness, muscle cramps, fatigue & problems focusing on your computer. Water should be your main source of fluid intake. Caffeine in your drinks acts as a diuretic (coffee, colas & tea). Sugar & salt are both found in beverages & they can both reduce the hydration effects of your favorite drink. Beer, wine & alcohol can all cause dehydration, if this is all that is consumed. So drink water with these beverages. Questions! Call me at 347-5983. We'll chat more next month about water. Until then, drink water! Ann



A youth meal sign up sheet has been placed in the Social Hall.
If you can help to provide a meal or serve & clean up, please sign up! Thank you!



| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| March 5 | April 2 |
| March 12 | April 9 |
| March 19 | April 16 |
| March 26 | |

See your Sunday bulletins
and March Newsletter for
more details.

UMM Sweetheart Breakfast
February 12th
7 am

All the women of the church are invited to attend.



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

February 2014