



San Saba First United Methodist Church

September 2008 Newsletter



**San Saba
First United Methodist
Church**

**204 W. Brown
325-372-3120**

**[http://www.gbgm-umc.org/
fumcss/](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/fumcss/)**

Robin Percy, Pastor

**We bid you welcome
In the name of
Our Lord Jesus Christ.
Pray with us,
Sing with us, rejoice
with us**

**Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.**



Ministers:

Entire Congregation

Worship Leader:

Tracey Thomas

Accompanist:

Nettie Oma Carpenter

Choir Director:

Tracey Thomas

Church Secretary:

Debbie Uli

Custodian:

Mario Mendiola

Greetings In Christ!

I have received positive response from a few members of our Congregation, regarding the 'book study' starting September 22 at 6 p.m., which will focus on Bishop Robert Schnase's book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. There will be no cost to participants for the book we shall study for six consecutive weeks on Monday evenings.

The following are excerpts in a letter from Bishop Schnase, which is found in the *Five Practices Leader Manual*:

"Since the publication of *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, hundreds of congregations and thousands of study groups and leadership teams have discovered the power of these edgy, provocative words to clarify the mission of the church, stimulate creative new ministries, and unite the congregation with a common language that stretches us to excellence. These help make the mission of the church – to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world – more understandable, and therefore more achievable. These are practices that congregations repeat and deepen and improve upon constantly, and the most fruitful congregations are those who constantly ask themselves, "Is our hospitality – our inviting and welcoming – not only friendly but also *Radical* – of the highest quality, using our best efforts? Is our worship *Passionate* and alive and connecting and excellent, or is it mediocre and routine? Are our small-group ministries and Bible studies merely acceptable; or are they *Intentional*, purposeful, and effective for all people? Is our mission work helpful and convenient; or is it *Risk-taking*, moving us out of our comfort zones to make a difference in the lives of others for the purposes of Christ? Is our giving safe and obligatory; or is it joyful and *Extravagant*, the way all biblical giving was? The adjectives – Radical, Passionate, Intentional, Risk-taking, and Extravagant push every disciple and every congregation to reconsider how we move toward greater excellence and fruitfulness for the glory of God."

"God calls us to greater fruitfulness in our ministries in various and diverse contexts. These practices are relevant for congregations large and small, for rural and urban and suburban churches, for new congregations and those with long histories. The Five Practices are rooted in the formation of the church in the second chapter of Acts and in the reforming of the church in the days of John and Charles Wesley. I pray that this time of focused reflection and learning for your church leaders, staff, volunteers, members, and friends will deeply enrich and empower the ministry of your congregation, and will lead to greater clarity and commitment to the ministry of Christ. Vibrant, growing, fruitful congregations practice Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. I pray we grow in these practices so that we can fulfill the highest purpose entrusted to us: sharing the good news that God has met our highest hopes and deepest needs in Jesus Christ."

Please seriously consider joining our study and open discussion, regarding this unique and inspiring book. There will also be 'video segments' to enhance our learning experience in the context of a small group setting. Call the Church Office, or the Parsonage, within the next three weeks, if you would like to receive a book and wish to participate in this exciting discipleship opportunity.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Robin

Prayer list



Pastor's Stepfather Glenn Norris
Dolly Hudgins and family
Nancy & John Bannister and Family
Matthew Moss
Mitchell and Johna Moss (Nancy Bannister's nephew)
Charlotte and Jerry Allman
Pat Lensch and Family
Donald and Bettye McLaughlin
Wesley Hooker (Kim Kirk's Dad)
E.L. Byrd
Anne Parker
James and Pat Reavis
Thelma Millican
David McPherson
Jeannette Toole
Dr. John Bannister
Jeanette Harris
Sharon Clauson
Brad Bryan
Mark Owens
Dr. Tobey and Natalie Yu
Kolby Reavis
Roy and Polly Waterhouse
Deloris Mendiola (Mario's Mom)

In Our Military
Eric Booker,
Shad Gragg,
Ross Johnson
Todd Daniels
Matthew Barrier



Meet The Easterwoods!!!

Brandi, Shay and family moved here from Plainview, Texas. We both grew up in Brady and both attended Texas Tech graduating from there in 2002. They taught/coached in Plainview for 6 years. We attended First Methodist in Plainview. Addy was in Children's choir. They love football and other sports. Shay is the Co-San Saba ISD high school football team as well as Head Powerlifting and Head Track coach. He teaches World History and Government/Economics at the High School. Brandi teaches 5th and 6th grade Math at the Middle School. Addy is 3 and Emmerson is 6 months old. The girls and Brandi love to support whatever sport Shay is coaching, so we are at a lot of sporting events! Please join us in welcoming the Easterwoods to our church!!



Thelma Millican Celebrated her August Birthday With a Big Birthday Party Happy Birthday, Thelma!!!!



A big crowd celebrated the blessing on students and teachers with a hamburger picnic lunch August 24th.

First Ladies



The First Ladies at Night met on Aug 18 for a program on our nation's children. We explored startling statistics on how many children in the US live with traumatic circumstances every day. Being fully aware of the challenges facing all of our children, the ladies decided to commit to 2 things: 1) take up a collection to purchase school supplies to deliver to San Saba Elementary for anyone in need, and 2) choose from brightly colored notecards (each carrying the name of one of our own First Children) a name to pray for this entire school year. The ladies each took 3 names, agreeing to hold these children in prayer for this school year. The ladies were then encouraged to stand up with these children in church the following Sunday for our Blessing service. Parents who wish to know who is praying for their child this year need to check with our own First Ladies at Night!!

Submitted by Tracey Thomas



First Church Events

Sept 7--Men will be serving breakfast tacos in the basement at 8:30 am

Sept 21--Youth led service

Sept 28--10:00 worship in the back yard of the church.

Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation Led by Pastor Robin

Monday Sept 22

For 6 weeks

6 P.M.

Church Parlor



FaithWeaver Friends Begins September 10th !

**You're Invited to FaithWeaver Friends—
Where Fun and Friends Come Together!**

FaithWeaver Friends is a family-friendly weekly program for kids ages 4 through sixth grade. Beginning September 10th, we'll meet every Wednesday from 3:45-5:30pm to sing upbeat songs, play cooperative games, create special projects and explore Bible stories in wild and wacky ways. It's great fun, and if you're a child, you're invited!

For information or to enroll, call the church office at 372-3120.

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**The Projection System
Is Installed!!!!!!!
Please be Patient as the
Technology Committee
Learns How to use This System
to Enhance our Worship Service.**



Meals on Wheels

A special thanks to all the volunteers who delivered for meals on Wheels!

Wanda Davenport

Nelda Weatherby

Vickie Stevenson

Cherry Kay Lange

Carol Littlefield

Pat Belk

Kim Kirk

Raley Kirk

Loise cook

Bettye McLaughlin

Wahnee Stallings

Sue Moody

Lynn Bklanksenship

Barbara Gilger

Johna Reavis

Anita Felts

Elsie Millican

Nettie Oma carpenter

Zolly Jones

Our next time to deliver will be October 20-24 and October 27-31.

Submitted by

Zolly Jones

UMW Report

The U.M.W. Morning Group met August 11th with Elsie Millican presenting the program from the Program Book entitled "For the Love of Children". The Evening Group was also presented this program by Tracey Thomas when they met on August 18th. Tracey emphasized the point that we have many needy children in our local schools and she was donating the school supplies from her worship center to help some of these children. Several from the group made donations for Tracey to present to students in need as a gift from our United Methodist Women.

Both groups collected "Works in Progress" sheets to be sent to the District President, Schatzie Norris. These will be analyzed at the district meeting in New Fountain on the 13th of September. It was not decided if anyone would be able to attend the New fountain meeting, but a large percent of the membership is planning on going to the district meeting on September 20th for the study "I Believe in Jesus". All women of the church are invited to attend the "Harvest Day Dinner" September 8th when U.M.W. district president will be bringing the program.

Submitted by Nettie Oma Carpenter



**The High School
Bible Study
Resumes
Sunday September 14th
7 P.M.
At the Shahan's House
All Youth Are Welcome!**



Happy Birthday to Debbie Pullen (Sept. 6th),
and a
Happy Anniversary to Brad and Jennifer Reeves (7th),

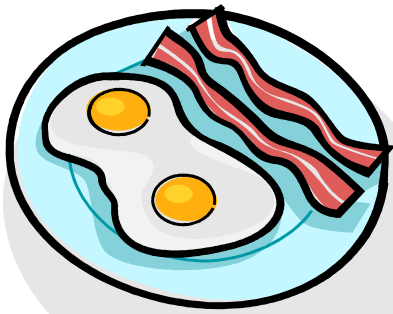
if you are new to the congregation or have not seen your name on the calendar contact me (Debbie) at the office, 372-3120.





Church Newsletter Deadline

**(Last Wednesday of the Month)
September 24th**



The Methodist Men Group

**Meets
8 a.m.**

**Every Sunday Morning
For Breakfast and Bible
Study**

All Men Are Invited

**To Join The
Group**

Our Church Family

C.K. & Vickie Stevenson enjoyed a destination wedding in Mexico with their granddaughter and family. Thelma Millican had a special birthday party at the home of Zolly Jones. Everyone there had a great time. Winston & Kristen Millican headed to Georgia on business and pleasure. Kristen was looking forward to visiting with her sisters and Winston was going to check out some pecan trees. Nicole Grant and Elise have been to San Saba twice recently. Once a surprise trip; the other trip was the annual Labor Day BBQ. Mike & Tracey Thomas have been on the road to San Antonio again for a double celebration. Josh was graduating from the San Antonio Police Academy and daughter Avery was having her second birthday. Cherry Kay Lange and her family had a fun week-end at the lake. Mike & Charlotte Millican enjoyed entertaining Mike's daughter and family from California. Did you hear the talk about the last Church Council Meeting? Several people commented that it was a great meeting! Wow. You don't often hear that about a meeting. Jennifer Reeves's parents, the Mathis', visited our church recently. Jennifer has enjoyed her summer off and now is excited about working in the President's Office at Howard Payne University and teaching voice students in the afternoon. We enjoyed having Ashley Stewarts' family worship with us one Sunday. We have several students back at college: Travis Hawkins at Texas A&M Kingsville, Tyler Hawkins at Texas Tech, Lindsey Pugh at the University of Dallas, Jess McDowell at UTA, Amy Fry at Sul Ross, Katie McEwin at Hillsboro Junior College. I hope I didn't leave anyone out. Did you taste the sauerkraut cake at the covered dish luncheon following the service where our students and teachers were blessed? It was made by Ted Red. It seems Ted is an only child and his mom owned a bakery. Several of our church family attended the services at the 150th anniversary of the camp meeting near Bend. Melanie Mathis is in the San Saba Middle life skills department this year. Mindy Cantu is assisting Jan Crosby's elementary P.E. Classes. Elizabeth Bryant placed 1st at the Richland Springs rodeo. Our sympathy goes out to Fran Hulgán in the loss of her father. Our prayers are also needed for Charlotte Millican's daughter Chris Maddox who has been in St. Davids' Hospital in Austin. Emit Lloyd Byrd also spent a night in the hospital but was home the next day. Celia Bell says her school year is off to a good start his year. Kathy McEwin has been on the road this summer visiting with Chris and Crystal Amthor, Chey'ne & husband and Katie. She reports that Crystal Amthor's pregnancy is progressing but she still needs our prayers. Bob and Debbie Millican headed west for Colorado for a vacation following their annual BBQ supper on Labor Day Weekend. Donald McLaughlin has moved!!! He has changed to a different room at Eventide Nursing Home. Loise & John Cook are counting the days till their 2 week cruise with her family. Sounds like a great vacation to me! Carol Littlefield took a trip south with a friend and had a great time. Nettie Oma Carpenter participated in an Eastern Star Week-end. Derek Sears made it back from San Marcus and Texas State University in time to attend the San Saba High School Pep Rally. Shelly Ledbetter is in Alpine to attend Sul Ross and enjoying it according to her mom, Cathy Ledbetter. .

Amen To.....

Celia Bell and Lesa Schultz for working in the nursery.



Scott Mathis for teaching the Young Adult Class.

John Cook for teaching the men's bible class.

Kleta Walding for teaching the intergenerational class.

Linda parks for organizing the School Blessing Worship Service and Hamburger Picnic Lunch.

Nelda Weatherby for folding the church newsletters last month.

Ashley Stewart & Nettie Oma Carpenter for playing the piano during the worship services.

Casey Mathis, Raley Kirk, Risien Shahan for lighting the candles.

Cindy Hawkins, Pastor Robin, Celia Bell for doing the children's sermons.

Brad Reeves, Trish Warren Tracey Thomas J. T. Mathis for serving as liturgist.

Stan Burnham for filling in for Pastor Robin at the nursing home.

The Del Sears Family for donating the pew bibles in honor of Chris Sears.

Would This Make God Happy?

From Celia Bell's children sermon...



Thinking of You

**Will meet
Tuesday September 16th**

**10 a.m.
Nancy Bannister's
Ranch Home**

All women are invited!!



**Mark your
Calendar!!!**

November. 9, 2008
"Annual Church
Conference"
following the
Church Service
with a Potluck Lunch.

Conference to follow
in the Fellowship Hall
All are Welcome.