



Inside this issue:

- **Weekly Readings**
- **Upcoming Events**
- **Message from The Methodist Men**
- **Financial Peace University**
- **Sages & Saints News**
- **Choir Notes**
- **January Calendar**
- **Children & Youth News**
- **Birthdays & Anniversaries**



Ponderings from J. Paul

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" (Ecc.3:1)

"How did they do it?" That is one of those questions, which delivers endless material for shows on TLC, NGC and other cable channels. It never fails to amaze me when I look at ancient cultures and encounter their ingenuity solving problems and challenges we are still facing today. Plumbing and heating from the time of the Roman Empire, means of communication through the centuries. You name it, someone will cover it.

A number of weeks ago I came across a T-shirt with the enticing message, "I'm not just a follower ..." and then it read in much smaller print, "... I'm a Disciple of Jesus Christ!" That sure makes all the difference. People are followers wherever you go, on Facebook, on Twitter, concerning their favorite sport's team. Being a disciple is another level of commitment.

Reading the Gospels you come across three different groups of people. There are the crowds, those who show up, look on, get fed, and then disappear. Next are the followers, those who spend more time with Jesus, listen intently and actually start to change their thinking and lives, until they take offense at one part or another of the message of Jesus, and they disappear. Finally, there are the disciples, those who follow Christ, who hang in when others leave. They are the people who do not dismiss the message of Jesus, but struggle with the meaning, digging deeper, hanging in "against all odds," and refuse to simply disappear. They are sold out, and committed to the cause of Christ. Disciples are not perfect, but dedicated to seek out the deeper things of GOD.

The United Methodist Church has a mission that connects all United Methodist congregations around the globe. This is not a test, so I will not ask you to fill in a blank, but I will quote to you ¶120 of the Book of Discipline 2008 of the United Methodist Church. It states, "The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs."

Our charge is not simply to multiply followers, we are to develop disciples. How did they do it in the past? The answer can be found in the second chapter of Acts. We read, "Acts 2:46-47 ⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. (New King James Version).

In a nutshell, there are two major parts of developing disciples, public worship and small group fellowship. When the church broke bread from house to house, they did not crowd all 3,000 plus members into the same private home, they divided up in small groups that also prepared people to discharge their gifts to the glory of GOD.

This year we will explore how to nurture disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Pray, study and be open to new or renewed opportunities to be a vital part of the Body of Christ by being part of a small group in our church family.

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In Christ's Unfailing Love,
J. Paul T



Traditional Service 9:00 A.M.
(1st and 3rd Sundays, Celebration of Holy Communion)
Fellowship Time 9:50-10:10 A.M.
Sunday School 10:10-11:00 A.M.
New Life Service 11:10 A.M.
(2nd and 4th Sundays, Celebration of Holy Communion)

*Sermon will be taken from the
 Weekly Readings of the Revised Common Lectionary*

January 1 -	First Sunday after Christmas Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 148 (UMH 861) Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40	New Year's Day -	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 Psalm 8 (UMH 743) Revelation 21:1-6a Matthew 25:31-46
January 6 -	Epiphany of the Lord Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (UMH 795) Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	January 8 -	First Sunday after the Epiphany Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 (UMH 761) Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11
January 15 -	Second Sunday after the Epiphany 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (UMH 854) 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51	January 22 -	Third Sunday after the Epiphany Jonah 3:1-5,10 Psalm 62: 5-12 (UMH 787) 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20
January 29-	Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 (UMH 832) 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28		



January 1 Pancake Breakfast - 10:00am
 Combined Service - 11:00am

January 9 **Singles Ministry - 6:30pm**

January 11 United Methodist Women - 12:00pm

January 16 **Retired Teachers Meeting - 1:00pm**

January 17 CVQG - 1:00pm

January 17-21 **Second Chance Work Week**

January 21 Sages & Saints Banquet - 5:00pm

January 23 **Beth Moore Bible Study - 9:00am**



January 24 CVQG - 9:00am

January 30 **Beth Moore Bible Study - 9:00am**



THANK YOU for YOUR Support!!

As President of the Methodist Men and Coordinator of the Texas Ramp Project (TRP), I wish to express my profound gratitude to the congregation and to all the Methodist Men.

The 2011 year has been an exceptional year in the life of *OUR* church. The number of volunteers, the dollars donated, and the projects we have tackled have made me exceedingly proud to be a part of this congregation.

We started our local chapter of the Texas Ramp Project in early 2011 with a backlog of ramps needing to be built. As we approach the end of 2011, we have cleared out the backlog, built 21 ramps, and have accumulated a reserve of funds for upcoming 2012 projects. We have never lacked for volunteer builders, all of which have come together from six different churches, two civic organizations, youth groups and the Boy Scout Troop. *I remind all of you, no experience required, male or female, age 14 and over, tools and fun provided.*



In 2011 alone, The Methodist Men took on the following projects:

- Completed the church kitchen renovation (Phase I)
- Stepped up with more leadership volunteers for Blue Hills and increased revenue
- Continued volunteering for the P.E.T. project
- Provided leadership and workers for TRP
- Assisted with volunteers for Habitat for Humanity
- Built a deck for Marie and Bobby Allen after the fire destroyed their home

There are many more areas where Methodist Men have helped out and continue to assist. I am sure I am leaving something, or someone, off this list.

Again, I offer my profound thanks and gratitude for all your physical and financial support over the past year and your continued support in 2012.

Sincerely,

Bill Koenig

President, FUMC United Methodist Men
Coordinator, TRP for Fayette & Lee Counties



Thank You Each and Everyone!

Bob and I would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all that our congregation has done for us since our home burned, but it is hard to find the words to tell you just how much we appreciate you. We were consoled by your phone calls, cards, visits, and your help with clothing and household items was invaluable to us as we were wandering in a fog for several days and didn't know which way to turn. You even helped to improve our quality of life in our temporary dwelling by building a deck. You have done so much it is not possible to list everything.

To paraphrase the German philosopher, Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe, "It is the nature of grace to always fill empty spaces." The grace and love of our congregation has filled the empty spaces in our hearts after our loss and we are so blessed by your manifestation of Christian love.

Marie & Bob Allen



Treats for Our Troops

FUMC is collecting snack items, hard candy, playing cards, beef jerky, and funds for postage for care packages that will be sent to Fayette County servicemen and women serving overseas and in basic training just in time for Valentine's Day.

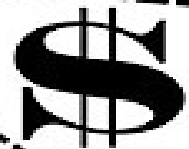


If you know of anyone serving in this capacity, please provide us with a valid mailing address and we will ensure they receive a care package.

Please drop off your items and addresses to the church office by Friday, January 20. Questions? Contact Stacey Norris at Stacey.Norris@lgfumc.org or 979-968-8323.

Financial Peace University - Beginning January 12th

More than 70% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. Financial Peace University is a 13-week curriculum that will help us break out of this cycle and find financial peace! Our church has decided to host this class just in time to help us keep any **New Year's Resolution about finances!**



The first class of Financial Peace University is open to Single Adults in our community although our class limit is 10 people.

For more information and to reserve your spot return this to the church office or emailing Michele at michele.lott@lgfumc.org by January 8th:

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Sign me up I KNOW I want to do this I'd love more information





SAGES & SAINTS NEWS

The Sages and Saints Team would like to thank everyone who helped to advance our ministry in 2011 with their talents, time, and prayers.

We are looking forward to the New Year and will start the year with a banquet. The banquet will take place on **Saturday, January 21**, at 5:00 p.m. An elegant catered meal will be served and our entertainment will be provided by the Hearts Of Grace, an award-winning gospel trio. You can buy your tickets from any Sages & Saints Team member. Tickets are \$12.00 per person. Be sure and get yours soon because there is a limited number available.

Sages & Saints will be having some exciting events this year and we welcome your suggestions and help in improving our outreach.

Choir Notes by Nancy Hajek

New calendars are out for 2012. Wow! As I look at mine, a lot of blank spaces are staring back at me just challenging me – either saying, “Pick me! Pick me!” or perhaps, “Don’t you dare write something in on me!” As I look back at last year’s calendar to write birthdays and anniversaries in my new calendar, I see that there weren’t a lot of blank spaces left.



But no matter how busy our lives are, we all must remember to write Christ in every day. That is my prayer for you – keep Christ in your hearts each and every day of this new year.

Chancel Choir resumes rehearsals on Wednesday, January 4, at 7:00 p.m. If you have been considering joining, but are not sure, just join us for one rehearsal to “try us on for size.”




Glory Tones begin rehearsals on Wednesday, January 11, at 5:30 p.m. Bring your calendars so we can plan our dates for the spring.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Nancy

*Don't forget to register for the Adult Choral Workshop 2012, January 27-28, 2012, Manchaca UMC
<http://www.umcswtx.org/adult-choral-workshop>*

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
1 New Year's Day 10:00 - Pancake Breakfast 11:00 - Combined Service 	2 New Year's Day Observed 	3 4:30 - Life Song 5:19 - Sanctuary	4 7:00 - Chancel Ch
8 9:00 - Traditional Service 10:10 - Sunday School 11:10 - New Life Service w/Communion 5:00 - Pastor's Bible Study 5:00 - UMYF	9 10:00 - Sages & Saints - Conference Room 4:30 - Weight Watchers - Fellowship Hall 6:30 - Singles Ministry - Parlor	10 4:30 - LifeSong 5:19 - Sanctuary	11 12:00 - UMW - Fe 5:30 - Glory Ton 7:00 - Chancel C
15 9:00 - Traditional Service w/Communion/Commissioning Stephen Ministry Leaders 10:10 -Sunday School 11:10 -New Life Service 5:00 - Pastor's Bible Study 5:00 - UMYF	16 Martin Luther King's Birthday Observed 1:00 - Retired Teachers Meeting - Fellowship Hall 4:30 - Weight Watchers-Sanctuary 6:30 - Aggie Moms-Fellowship Hall 	17 Second Chance Work Week 1:00 - CVQG - Parlor 4:30 - LifeSong 5:19 - Sanctuary	18 Second Chanc 5:30 - Glory Tones 7:00 - Chancel Ch
22 9:00 - Traditional Service 10:10 - Sunday School 11:10 - New Life Service w/Communion 5:00 - Pastor's Bible Study UMYF	23 9:00 - Beth Moore Bible Study - Fellowship Hall 4:30 - Weight Watchers - Fellowship Hall	24 9:00 - CVQG - Fellowship Hall 4:30 - LifeSong 5:19 - Sanctuary	25 5:30 - Glory Tones 7:00 - Chancel Ch
29 9:00 - Traditional w/Communion 10:10 -Sunday School 11:10 -New Life Service w/Communion 5:00 - Pastor's Bible Study 5:00 - UMYF	30 9:00 - Beth Moore Bible Study - Fellowship Hall 4:30 - Weight Watchers - Fellowship Hall 6:00 - Church Council Meeting	31 Revelation 1-4 4:30 - LifeSong 5:19 - Sanctuary	



2012

	Thu	Fri	Sat
oir - Sanctuary	5	6 Wedding Rehearsal	7 9:00 - PEO - Fellowship Hall 12:00 - Wedding
llowship Hall es - Sanctuary hoir - Sanctuary	12 6:00 - Financial Peace University Room 6	13	14 11:00 - Birthday Party - Fellowship Hall
Second Chance Work Week s - Sanctuary oir - Sanctuary	19 Second Chance Work Week 5:00 - Trustees - C/R 6:00 - Financial Peace University Room 6 6:30 - UMM - Fellowship Hall	20 Second Chance Work Week Sages & Saints decorate Fellowship Hall	21 Second Chance Work Week 9:00 - RETHINK: LEADERSHIP Austin District Annual Training Event 5:00 - Sages & Saints Banquet - Fellowship Hall
s - Sanctuary oir - Sanctuary	26 4:00 - Stephen Ministry Interviews 6:00 - Financial Peace University Room 6	27	28 4:00 - Stephen Ministry Interviews



Children & Youth News

UMYF Sunday Nights:

United Methodist Youth Fellowship is a gathering for any youth who want to hang out with friends, eat, play, and become better disciples of Christ!

- 5:00-7:00 p.m. for 6th-8th graders
- 6:00-8:00 p.m. for 9th-12th graders

Jan 8th - Jr. High begins a new study

Sr. High begins a study of Revelation

Sr. High cook dinner!

Jan 15th - Adkins Family cooks dinner

Jan 22nd - Rhodes Family cooks dinner

Jan. 29th - Hajeks Family Cooks dinner

Join us....we're going to have a great time!!



Rotational Sunday School:

In January we will be enjoying Breakfast on the Beach with Jesus. Our volunteers are:

Cooking – Susan Gage

Science – Jeremy Finch

Story/Drama & Music/Video – Noreen Dopslauf

Art – Amy Evans

Games – Duncan Lott

Midwinter 2012!

February 3rd-5th

Conference Wide
Camp incredible
worship & fun



\$110 for youth \$60 for adults

Over 1400 youth will attend a Midwinter this year for a time of spiritual renewal, awesome worship, inspiring speakers and a chance to meet new friends.

For more details or to register online go to:

<http://www.reachingyouth.org/midwinter.html>

Register for Spring LOGOS! :

(Register before January 9th)
to avoid the late fees!



It's LOGOS time!!!

January 18th is Pirate Night!
(and the last day to register)



January 25 is Star Trek Night

Confirmation

Meeting Dates: 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

Please pray for our Confirmands:

Corey Golan Reese Hardin

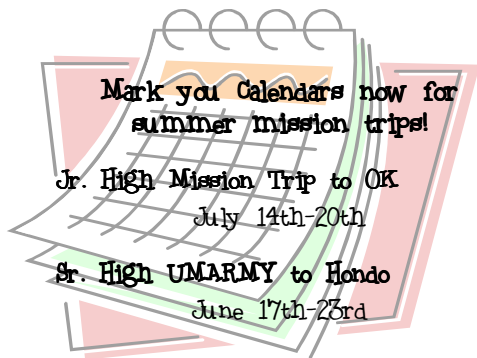
Brittney Horn Josh Ivins

Colton Powell Matt Rayburn

Jonah Saunders Caleb Teas

Alyssa Wich

This month we will be discussing the
Discipleship and Salvation.





January Birthdays

Sara Baker - 1	Janetta Morris - 6	Christopher Davis - 18	Curtis Simmons - 26
Joshua Ivins - 1	Cassidy Polasek - 6	Gay Mazac - 18	Maurene Lange - 27
Dakota Lynch Moore- 1	Maryellen McMahon - 7	Connie Sneed - 18	Jimmy Allen - 29
Ginger Ross - 1	Thomas Borgstedte - 8	Brook Naiser - 19	Jordan Hatfield - 31
Charles Schmidt - 1	Carol Rose - 8	Brad Cutright - 20	Joseph Hatfield - 31
Norma Smith - 1	Don Stricklin - 8	Paul Faist - 20	
Vicki Watson - 1	David Vanek - 8	Lori Pieratt - 20	
Donna Jo Webb - 1	Amber Aboulfaida - 10	Mabel Smith - 20	
Trey Williams - 1	Grant Gage - 10	Jennifer Schmedes - 21	
Jasmine Zapata - 1	Shelby Dixon - 11	Lorie Marks - 22	
Dillon Zuhn - 1	Norma Euton - 12	Alan Cooper - 23	
Ann Kunkel - 2	Annette Cooper - 13	Leonard Haynie - 23	
Catherine Marks - 2	Dennis McCafferty - 13	Ben Oliphint - 21	
Christopher Marks - 2	Elaine Teas - 13	Doris Pelt - 23	
Jack Anderson - 3	Charles Ebel - 16	Justin Busby - 26	
Emile Schwarz - 4	Marion Mayes - 16	Dave Childers Sr. - 26	
Mary Bremer - 6	Trina Rayburn - 16	Jim Kline - 26	
Vicki Guzman - 6	Jay Watson - 16		

January Anniversaries

Beau & Jann Schwarz - 1	Kenneth & Mary Lloyd - 12	Twila & Ray Thurman - 28
Jerry & Bea Dhooge - 5	Tom & Beverly Buscher - 16	John & Frances Pittman - 30
Larry & Theah Fleck - 10	Chuck & Gay Mazac - 18	
Rickey & Lina Fleck - 10	Harold & Doris Pieratt - 22	
	Dave & Linda Childers - 23	

“Every good and perfect gift is from above.”

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Grieving: The family & friends of Paula Gregory

Assisted Living: Hortense James, Velma Tietjen, Kathy Matthews, Bettye Zatopek (Jefferson Place); Jake Fritsch (Jefferson Place)

Nursing Home: Henrietta Schwartz, Margaret Harrison, Bette Pierce, Carol Rose (Monument Hill)

Home Bound: Michelle Pace, Virginia Moore, Grace Dyer, Su Nell Billeck, Kathleen Cope, Roger Stone, Shawn Childers

Those serving in the Military: Darryl Metcalf (Army), Lance Nickel (Army), Cory Shoemaker (Army), Mason Bednar (Army), Col. Frank Zuniga (Army), Adam Watson (Army), Lori (Thurman) Metcalf (Army Nurse Corp), Lance Clark (Air Force), Andrew Parry (Air Force), James Meek (Air Force Reserves), Jay Pavlica (Navy)

Missionaries: Steve Johnson & family in Budapest (YWAM); Louise Flippin (C.U.P.S.); Keith & Elva Michals (Pharr Border Ministry); Ed McLeod (Haiti Missionary); Heather Reed (Vietnam)

Our Leadership: Bishop James E. Dorff; District Superintendent Bobbi Kaye Jones; All members of the Southwest Texas Conference

Special Concerns: Carol Katz; Linda Rassinier; Elva Michals; Charles Sledge; Dayton Helms; Fred & Dee Munk; Phillip Patrick; Carl & Michelle Pittman; All the fire fighters and victims of the fires; Sherri Ray’s mother, Slade Mozisek, Eddie Naquin Sr., Ernie Naquin, Mason Romans, Edwin Jaster, Jimmy Johnson



James 1-17



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

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office@lgfumc.org

Stay Connected

What you can find there:

- Calendar of Current Events
- Announcements
- Worship Schedule
- Newsletters - Past & Current
- Prayer Requests
- Mission project Information
- Contact Information
- Directions to the Church



www.lgfumc.org