

Church Chat

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From Matthew Graff

Dear Palacios Church Family,

I cannot begin to thank you enough for the experience that you have allowed me to gain here at First United Methodist Church. This summer has been a time of genuine growth in my faith journey, and a renewed commitment to my call. Before I began my time here at Palacios, I was not entirely certain whether serving in ministry was right for me. However, after these months, I feel more certain than ever that this is the path that God wants me to follow. Throughout this time, I have had the opportunity to shadow Pastor David in many different functions. I have attended Chamber Luncheons, HUB board meetings, and been able to ride with David as he delivered meals for the Robert Duran food pantry.

Through all of these experiences I have expanded my knowledge of what it truly means to be a pastor. More than anything a pastor is an individual who answers the Great Commission delivered in Matthew 28:19 "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." As Christians, our call is not to make students or blind followers, but rather to make disciples. The Latin compound *discipere*, from which the English word disciple takes its root, means "to grasp intellectually, analyze thoroughly." We are called to do the impossible, not to succeed, but in order to realize our undying need for Christ. Our responsibility, therefore, is to constantly strive to be in communion with God and others in all areas of our lives.

During my time in Palacios, I have seen a community of loving Christians who are dedicated to this call. As Palacios First United Methodist Church moves forward into the future, please make sure that you do not forget the strengths of your past. On that same note, however, I invite you to consider wholeheartedly the best way to finding the route which brings true and dynamic change within this church. Though the means of worship have changed, the eternal and mysterious love of God stays the same. The message of Christ's eternal love resonates with all people at all times. We as Christians must come together in a true Christian community in order to find our way forward, and to truly answer the Great Commission of Christ.

As I move forward in my faith journey, I am certain of two things: First, that I will never forget the time that I have spent here at Palacios First United Methodist Church. Second, as Palacios First United Methodist Church moves forward, God will continue to bless the work of those who occupy the PFUMC community. Though the path forward may be unclear at times, God will always be there to lead us. If the weeks that I have spent here are any indication, I am sure that with the power of Christ, the future of FUMC Palacios is a bright one.

God Bless,
Matthew Graff

Youth News

Youth Sunday School—Taking the summer off...have a great summer!

Announcements

Chancel Choir—practices at 8:45 am each Sunday in the Sanctuary during the summer months.

Young Children's Sunday School—We now have a young children's Sunday School class! Linda Contreras is using the Play and Pray material for children who are ages 2-5. They meet in the Nursery at 9:00 AM every Sunday.

Halcy and Perry Dean—As many of you may already know, Halcy and Perry Dean are moving to Seguin. Halcy has already begun her new job there as Director of Special Education for Seguin ISD. Perry is going to be the new Choir Director at Barnes Middle School in Seguin. We will say "Farewell" to Halcy and Perry on Sunday, **August 7** at a **Fellowship Luncheon**.

Honoring Teachers—During our worship service on August 14 we will take some time to ask God's blessings on our **Teachers and Administrators** at the beginning of the school year.

Honoring Students—During our worship service on August 21 we will take some time to as God's blessings on our **Students and Parents** at the beginning of the school year.

Walk to Emmaus



Crossroads celebrates every month with a gathering of the community. If you want to know more about Emmaus, or you have been on an Emmaus walk, you are welcome to attend. Come share in fellowship on **August 19** at **FUMC Port Lavaca** for potluck dinner starting at **6:30** with worship following. If you'd like to carpool, contact the Gulleys.

Wesley Nurse News



Office hours: Tuesdays 9 AM-4 PM, and Thursdays 9 AM-2 PM.

Diaper Pantry—Tuesdays 1-4 PM

- Thursday, August 11, 9 AM-12 PM, Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Screening, HUB
- Thursday, August 25, 9 AM-12 PM, Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Screening, HUB

If you know someone with Diabetes that has no insurance and needs help with supplies, send them to me.

I still have smoke detectors available for anyone that needs one.

Thank you,

--Leslie Machicek, Wesley Nurse

Fellowship Luncheon on First Sunday—August 7

Our August Luncheon will be on the **first Sunday**, August 7, instead of the normal 2nd Sunday luncheon. We will be saying farewell to Perry Dean, our Music Director, and Halcy as they begin their newest adventure in Seguin. So the FUMC August Luncheon will be on their last Sunday to worship with us, August 7. Come enjoy food and fellowship, and say goodbye to this wonderful couple. Bring a card, note or special memory of their time with us.

Let Mary Jo Neely know if you are going to bring a meat/main dish.



Thank you Perry and Halcy for all you've meant to our church family!



Missions Corner

'Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way."'
Matthew 15:32

- **Rice is Nice!** For **July, August and September**, we are collecting rice for the Food Pantry. By the end of September, the Pantry would like to put either a 1# or 2# bag of rice in each of their 360 boxes. So, our goal for each month is 120 bags of rice, either 1 or 2 pound. They want regular rice, not Minute Rice or other quick cooking brands. This is quite a challenge as rice is pricier than macaroni and cheese, but let's see if we can do it. Just place your donations in the cardboard box in the Narthex.
- **August's Rail Offering** will be dedicated to the purchase of school supplies for students here in Palacios I.S.D.
- The **next Missions Work Team meeting** will be on Monday, September 12th at 6:00 p.m. All who are interested are invited to attend.

United Methodist Women

Palacios UMW will resume regular meetings on September 15, but in the meantime you can take

advantage of a study being

presented by **First United Methodist Port**

Lavaca United Methodist Women. Marsha Priesmeyer, a member of that unit, will present a study on "The Bible and Human Sexuality" on Saturday, August 20 from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM. Lunch is provided. Contact Thelma Holloway at 972-2453 if you would like to attend this interesting study!



Congratulations Ted Bates!

On July 7, 2016, **Ted Bates**, a Past-Master of Masonic Lodge #990, was presented with his **50-year** Award for his Masonic Work. Ted was presented his award by Billy Pat Peacock, District 32 Deputy Grand Master to the Grand Master of Texas.

Congratulations Ted!



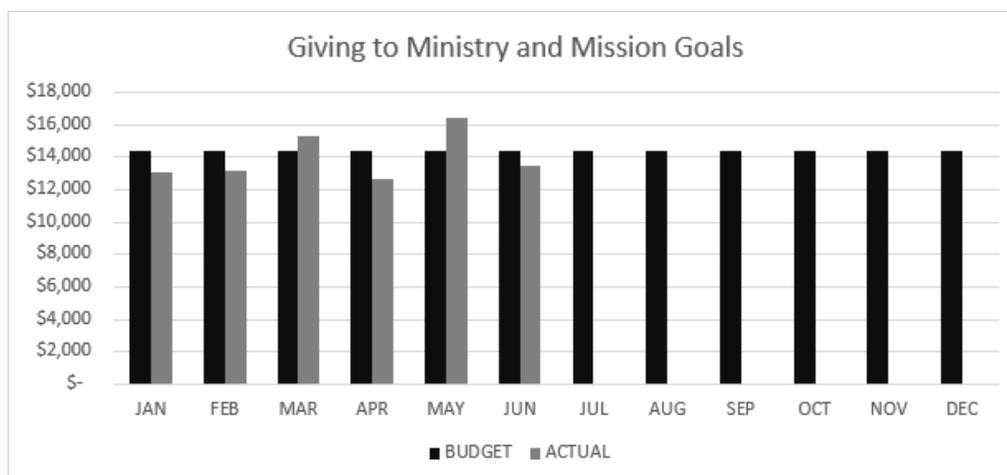
Billy Pat Peacock, left, presents 50-year Award to Ted Bates

What is Happening with Small Church Initiative?

Church leadership has held two Town Hall discussions and distributed Q&A fact sheets. After everyone has their questions answered, the next step is for the Administrative Council to decide on whether or not to hold a Church Conference to vote on the recommendations presented by the Consultants. The next Administrative Council meeting is Tuesday, August 9. Watch for communication about scheduling the Church Conference with our District Superintendent. God is working in our Church to lead us in our next steps! If you have any questions or concerns about SCI or the recommendations presented, please contact Erwin Janszen or Barney Gulley.

Finance Committee Update

The Finance Committee is pleased to present the June finances. We are able to make payments towards Apportionments due to the committed giving of our members. In July we will have an unusual amount of expenses toward the Rent House, as we make repairs in advance of receiving our new tenants. There are some Parsonage repairs that will be performed in July as well. We will try to make these financial commitments without relying on our financial reserves.



2016		June	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET
INCOME				
	Offerings and Memorials	\$ 11,618	\$ 77,149	\$ 79,150
	Missional Giving	\$ 305	\$ 1,986	---
	Apportionments	\$ 1,350	\$ 1,525	
	Rent	\$ --	\$ 3,250	\$ 3,900
	Oil well	\$ 469	\$ 894	\$ 1,000
	Other	\$ 216	\$ 512	\$ 15
	TOTAL	\$ 13,958	\$ 85,316	\$ 84,065
EXPENSES				
	Apportionments	\$ 2,305	\$ 3,070	\$ 9,800
	Pastor Salary	\$ 5,965	\$ 32,783	\$ 32,788
	Staff Salary	\$ 2,285	\$ 15,875	\$ 15,855
	Operating Expenses	\$ 4,651	\$ 22,131	\$ 21,200
	Program Expenses	\$ 694	\$ 864	\$ 950
	Mission	\$ 200	\$ 2,191	\$ -
	Capital Expenses	\$ (252)	\$ 4,420	\$ 4,100
	TOTAL	\$ 15,848	\$ 81,332	\$ 84,693
BALANCE		\$ (1,890)	\$ 3,984	\$ -

2016 Administrative Council

The 2016 Administrative Council consists of the following persons:

- Chairperson—Erwin Janszen
- Council Secretary—Janie Gulley
- Lay Leader—Barney Gulley
- SPRC Chair—Leland Singer
- Trustee Chair—Long Han
- Finance Chair—Bill Kubecka
- Church Treasurer—Barney Gulley
- President of UMW—Thelma Holloway
- Youth Representative—Zachary Seaman
- Pastor—Rev. David King
- Nurture Chair—Becky Johnson
- Outreach Chair—Marty Rieck
- Witness Chair—Erwin Janszen
- Lay Delegate to Annual Conference—Janie Gulley

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, August 9**, at 7:00 PM in Weimer Hall.

Thank You FUMC Palacios!

Hello Palacios UMC,
 Thank you so much for your children's noisy offering for the Methodist Children's Home! Your love, support and prayers help change young lives! I am looking forward to visiting with ya'll on 7/31 this month and sharing how God's hands are growing Methodist Children's Home!

Blessings, Kristi Michaelis

Hello Palacios UMC,
 Thank you so much for your children's noisy offering for the children at Methodist Children's Home! Your love, support and prayers help change young lives! I am looking forward to visiting with ya'll on 7/31 this month and sharing how God's hands are growing Methodist Children's Home!

Blessings,
 Kristi Michaelis
 254-749-5743

Dear FUMC family,
 Thank you for celebrating my high school graduation with me. The study bible and scholarship are greatly appreciated. I am looking forward to beginning my classes at Texas A & M - Corpus Christi to become a Registered ~~RN~~ nurse. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness.
 Sincerely, Blake Huitt

Dear FUMC family,
 Thank you for celebrating my high school graduation with me. The study bible and scholarship are greatly appreciated. I am looking forward to beginning my classes at Texas A&M Corpus Christi to become a Registered Nurse. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely, Blake Huitt

Coastal Bend District News

Basic and Advanced Lay Servant Training September 22-23, 2016

Friday evening & Sat. at Kingsville FUMC
 Cost: \$25.00 includes book and Meal on Sat.

Registration required



Overnight Spiritual Retreat at the Sea Mustang Island Conference Center

October 21-22, 2016
 Cost: \$115* per person *(2 people to a room)
 Or \$155 single occupancy
 Includes room, wonderful meals, snacks,
 and retreat materials

Registration required

Contact Pastor David or Barney Gulley if you are interested in attending either one of these events.

For more information on these events, email: linda@coastalbendumc.org or visit the website <http://www.coastalbendumc.org>

Bishop Robert Schnase: “Just Say Yes!”

The following excerpts are taken from a Question and Answer session conducted by Shane Raynor of the “ministry matters” website: (www.ministrymatters.com) in September of 2015. Bishop Schnase has recently been appointed to the Rio Texas Conference and will begin his tenure with us on September 1. Bishop Schnase’s book, “*Just Say Yes!*”, is about how churches can encourage more ministry and reach new people by creating an environment of saying YES instead of perpetuating a culture of NO.

Shane Raynor: Bishop Schnase, how does someone know if a culture of No pervades their congregation?

Bishop Robert Schnase ...the most obvious sign is that nothing new gets done and the church merely does things the way they’ve always done them before. Creative ideas are shut down and new people are closed out. People leave the church to channel their charitable impulses into endeavors that are responsive and effective, where their contributions and ideas shape outcomes.

In contrast, a consistent quality of clergy and lay leaders in healthy churches is an openness to innovation and change. They invite people to express their ideas and encourage them in their callings. They shift a focus on meetings to focus on ministry. In short, growing churches say Yes to ministry initiatives that declining churches say No to.

SR: How do clergy-centered attitudes in churches stifle creativity?

RS: Some congregations believe that only the pastor can do certain ministries, such as pastoral care, teaching confirmation, leading a service project. These clergy-centered attitude limit ministry.

Pastors in healthier churches may enjoy considerable authority, but they purposely exercise it in a manner that encourages ministry rather than controls it. They preach and teach and model missional assumptions — that everyone has gifts for ministry, that all are called by God to serve, and that congregations are meant to cultivate people to growth in ministry.

SR: Why do so many churches seem to naturally follow the path of least resistance when doing ministry? What happens when they do?

RS: No is easier. Yes is messy. No means not having to learn. Yes means trying new things. No relieves anxiety and causes us to repeat ministries as we’ve done them before. Yes means change. No means stability, status quo, predictability, the same old thing. Yes brings uncertainty, resistance, movement, work and dealing with energetic and passionate people with different ideas. The decline of many churches can be recorded as a succession of No votes through the decades. The growth of many churches can be measured in a series of bold Yeses.

If our first instinct when we hear an idea is “What’s in it for me?” then we naturally focus on what it will cost, what we will lose and how it will interrupt what we feel comfortable with. We fail to consider the spiritual needs that will be met, the suffering relieved or the lives changed if we try something new.

SR: How can churches overcome this?

RS: ...healthy churches of all sizes need to be set free to initiate campus ministries and develop missional relationships down the street, across the state and around the world. This does not mean anything goes; excellence, fruitfulness and accountability must be expected. At both the conference and congregational level, some truths apply: Stop holding useless meetings, streamline processes, use fewer committees, focus on the mission field, maintain a direct line of sight between every activity and the mission of the church, practice planned abandonment, expect people to have ideas, protect creative innovation.

SR: How can church leaders help create an environment where a congregation is more comfortable taking risks?

RS: The freshest energy may come from newcomers or people at the margins of the congregations who have not been drawn into the negativity and complacency. Imaginative pastors and lay leaders must feed the new while starving the old. New people are the greatest collaborators and co-conspirators for change. If we can’t get the congregation unstuck, we can at least give permission and freedom to those at the edges to start ministries and experiment with new groups...

SR: How does a church find the right balance between Yes and No?

RS: Churches should say No to ministry ideas that do not align with the mission or spirit of the congregation, to ministries that cannot be done with excellence or which bear no fruit...consider basic questions: First, does the idea align with the mission? Does it fit the values, identity and purpose of the church? Second, who will take responsibility for this ministry? Who will champion the cause? Who has the passion, gifts, and time to make the program happen? Who has already expressed interest, signed on or volunteered to help? Third, how will the ministry be funded? Does the prospective ministry cost anything and who bears those costs? People can’t simply dump ideas on the church expecting someone else to do them or to fund them.

SR: What steps can a leader take to honestly assess whether or not he or she is a permission-giving leader?

RS: What are the characteristics and behaviors of permission-giving leaders? They trust people, and they trust that God calls people to ministry and gives the gifts for ministry. They are initiators and experimenters and responsible risk-takers. Permission-giving leaders know how to listen. They spend time with people who do not belong to the church or who are new. They work with a minimum of defensiveness and territoriality. They get out of the way. They are clear about the mission and hold high expectations. They open options rather than close them. They say Yes even to people with whom they disagree. They protect the outliers and innovators, the young and inexperienced.



Church Calendar for August

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| <p>1 Pastor David back in the office</p> <p>6 Palacios Chamber of Commerce Fish Fest Tournament</p> <p>6-7 St. Anthony's Catholic Church Shrimpporee</p> <p>7 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost—Communion Sunday
Scriptures: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23;
Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8016; Luke 12:32-40
Choir in Sanctuary, 8:45 AM
Sunday School, 9:00 AM, Worship, 10:00 AM
Fellowship Luncheon after worship honoring Perry and Halcy Dean Family</p> <p>9 Texas AgriLife, Weimer Hall, Noon to 3:30 PM
Finance Committee, Weimer Hall, 6:00 PM
Administrative Council, Weimer Hall, 7:00 PM</p> <p>11 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM
Texas AgriLife Extension, Weimer Hall, 1:00-3:30 PM</p> <p>14 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Scriptures: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19;
Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56
Men's Breakfast in Weimer Hall, 7:30 AM
Choir in Sanctuary, 8:45 AM
Sunday School, 9:00 AM; Worship, 10:00 AM
Blessing of the Teachers and Administration during
Worship</p> | <p>18 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM</p> <p>19 Crossroads Emmaus Gathering, FUMC Port Lavaca, 6:30 PM</p> <p>20 Port Lavaca United Methodist Women study, 9:30-2:30 PM,
Port Lavaca UMC</p> <p>21 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Scriptures: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Hebrews 12:18-29;
Luke 13:10-17
Sunday School 9:00 AM, Worship, 10:00 AM
Blessing of the Students and Parents during Worship</p> <p>25 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM</p> <p>27-28 Cannonball Run Youth Sailing Regatta, South Bay</p> <p>28 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Scriptures: Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16;
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14
Choir in Sanctuary, 8:45 AM
Sunday School, 9:00 AM, Worship, 10:00 AM</p> |
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Dates on the Horizon to Remember

- September 5—Labor Day holiday, Office Closed
- September 12—Men's Breakfast, Trinity Baptist Church, 7:30 AM
- September 13—Finance Committee and Administrative Council meetings
- September 15—United Methodist Women resume, Noon, Weimer Hall

Celebrations in August

Birthdays:

2—Hank Huitt; 4—Laura Hebel; 7—Derek Massey; 9—Leland Singer, Steve Prihoda; 16—David Frankson, Jr.; 18—Canion Frankson; 19—Long Han; 20—Cheryl Frankson Lutz, Mia Isabella Harvey; 29—Bruce Hart; 31—Adam Werner

Anniversaries: 6—Dale and Jeri Stork Corporon, Dennis and Lydia Schuetz; 17 Paul and Lisa Stork Klaus, Donatin and Iris Stork Nelson; 25—Lowell and Carolyn Johnson (66 years)



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Joys and Concerns

NEW ARRIVAL! Finally! **Dennis and Lydia Schuetz** are finally grandparents! Leland (Lee) and wife Nancy produced **Jase Lee Schuetz** on July 14 in Victoria. Jase weighed in at 7lbs. 3oz. Congratulations!

Assisting with Worship in August

Liturgist—Open

Greeters—_____ and _____

Ushers—Shelly Johs and _____

Can you help out in August by being a **Greeter, Usher, or Liturgist**, even if for one Sunday? Thanks!

Newsletter Distribution

Do you know someone who needs to be on the mailing list or email distribution list to receive the newsletter? If you receive the newsletter by mail, would you consider switching to email distribution? This would let us save a few trees and a little money in postage. Please contact Janie Gulley at 361-972-3185 or janiegulley@hotmail.com to update our distribution lists.

Newsletter Articles for September

If you have an article or announcement for the September newsletter, please get the information to Janie Gulley **by August 24** at 972-3185 or janiegulley@hotmail.com.

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ADDRESS