

# Church Chat

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## From the Pastor's Desk

Hope, Peace, Joy, Love...do you have these on your Christmas list? Who needs more hope, peace, joy, and love? A better question would be, who **doesn't** need more hope in their life? More peace? More joy? And more love?

Each Sunday in this season of Advent leading up to Christmas offers us a time to look at our lives and to look at the world around us, and see where there can be more hope, more peace, more joy, and more love. The Advent season is building toward Christmas Day when Jesus Christ was born and brought with him hope, peace, joy, and love.

Wouldn't it be nice if our lives were nothing but hope, peace, joy, and love? But that's not how life is, is it? It often seems just the opposite. We experience hopelessness and we see it in the world around us. We experience hostilities and conflict within ourselves and certainly in the world today. We experience depression and despair at times, and we see misery and pain so prevalent. And love, where's the love? We see apathy and bitterness every time we watch the news or read the paper, but also know it is a condition of our hearts.

Imagine this: the stocking of your life hung on the mantel of God's house and God filling your stocking with more hope than you've ever known, more peace than you know what to do with, joy that is bubbling out of your life, and love that is filling your heart to overflowing. What would we do? We would be compelled by our abundance to share with those who had so little of what we'd been blessed with.

You and I need what Christmas offers, and the world needs what God seeks to offer through us. We were created to receive hope, peace, joy, and love from God's heart to ours. But we were also created to be channels of God's hope, peace, joy, and love to a world desperate for what God has blessed us with.

This Christmas, may the stocking of your life be filled to overflowing with all that God has for you and then may you share those gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love from Christ and for Christ with others. May you all have a very Merry Christmas!

I'm so pleased and proud to be your pastor,

**David**

## Pat Allen Memorial Christmas Dinner

The First United Methodist Church will be offering a free "**Pat Allen Memorial Community Christmas Dinner**" from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm on **December 25, Christmas Day**, at the Friends of Elderly Citizens Center. Everyone is invited to join in the good fellowship and eat a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

We will be delivering dinners to those unable to travel to the center.

For more information, call 972-3013 or 920-1517 and leave a message or call the center at 972-2715. We are in need of cornbread, desserts, and money to purchase the turkeys and supplies. Contact Carolyn Kubecka at 361-920-1517 if you have any questions.

Come join in this awesome celebration of Christ's birth by breaking bread with others in our community!

## Wesley Nurse News

Important dates and information:



- December 2, Tuesday, blood pressure and blood sugar screen, 12-3 pm, HUB
- The HUB offer **free yoga classes** during the lunch hour on Fridays and 4pm on Wednesdays

**Diaper pantry** is now open! I will be here on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Anyone in need can pick up diapers and receive a small educational program. There will be a limit of 1 pack a month while supplies last. We need **donations of baby and ADULT** diapers. Please bring by any you can donate.

My office hours for Palacios are **Tuesdays 9am-3pm and Wednesdays 9am-3pm**. There will be days that I may not be here because of meetings out of town, or I may be in town at the HUB. If you need to see me on a different day, please call me (361-987-2071) and make an appointment. Or you can call or text my cell phone anytime: 361-571-1044.

--Leslie Machicek, Wesley Nurse

## United Methodist Women



Thank you to all who came out and supported the UMW Bazaar and Chicken Spaghetti lunch! It was a successful day, and we appreciate the opportunity to raise over **\$2,400** for mission projects in our community and worldwide.

**We would like to send a special THANK YOU to Lucille Remlinger, Linda**

**Bates Curtis, Mary Kay Beard, Sherri Seaman, Zachary Seaman, and Kyle Seaman.** Zachary and Kyle especially pitched in to help in the kitchen, carrying stuff out for customers, and cleaned up afterwards. We couldn't have done this project without your help!

## All Women of the Church Invited to Christmas Brunch!

UMW invites **all ladies** of the church to a **Christmas brunch** on **December 19** at 10:30 AM at the home of Becky Johnson. Come celebrate the Christmas season with fun and fellowship! Call Becky at 361-588-6306 for information.

## Needed: Donations for the Food Pantry

The Robert Duran Sharing and Caring Food Pantry needs your help! If you have any **plastic grocery bags**, please bring them to the church and leave them in the Narthex (by the front doors). Also, if you would like to donate any **non-perishable food** items, the Pantry could really use the help!

## Martha's Table Returning

**Martha's Table** is being resurrected and is under new management. A Board of Directors has been selected that includes pastors and several members of various local churches. They are delivering about two meals worth of groceries twice a week to about 100 families in the Palacios community.

They are in need of canned meats, like tuna, chili, chicken, etc. as well as cash donations. There is a basket in the entryway of the church for the food and you can make out a check to Palacios UMC with "Martha's Table" noted on it.

## Cookbooks for Sale— Support Children's Ministry

The Children's class still has **cookbooks** for sale for \$15.00. These are recipes submitted by our kids and by other members of the church and community. Great recipes to create wonderful dishes!

Come by the Children's class and buy a cookbook; they make great Christmas gifts!



## Walk to Emmaus/Chrysalis

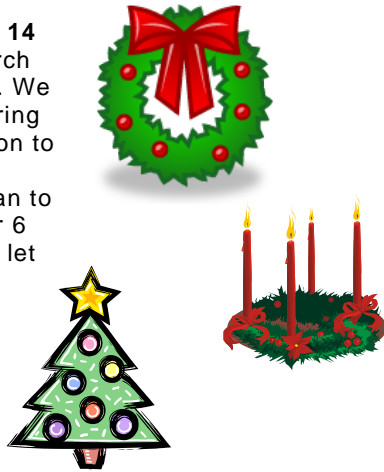
The next Crossroads Emmaus walk is a **Men's Walk** scheduled for February 19-22, 2015 at the Spiritual Renewal Center. **Barney Gulley** is the Lay Director and **Pastor David** is the Spiritual Director. If you are a man or know a man who would like to deepen their Christian experience and understanding, the Walk is a great way to do it. If you have questions, please contact Pastor David or Barney Gulley.



Come share in fellowship on **December 19** at **6:30 PM** for potluck dinner and worship at **Lolita Methodist Church**.

## Fellowship Luncheon in December

**Sunday, December 14** will be our next church fellowship luncheon. We will join together during the Christmas Season to share food, fun, and fellowship. If you plan to bring one of the 5 or 6 main dishes, please let Mary Jo know.



## Youth News

The **Youth Sunday School Class** continues through the fall. We are choosing lessons from the RightNow Media library to use in our class. All youth in middle or high school are invited and welcome to come. The class is led by Barney Gulley and Pastor David.

Youth News  
Youth News  
Youth News  
Youth News

## Announcements

### Program Hope: Senior Behavioral Health

An outpatient program that provides individualized treatment for older adults who suffer from emotional, behavioral, or mental health disorders. The program provides intensive outpatient treatment Monday through Friday at the Memorial Medical Center in Port Lavaca. Transportation as well as lunch are provided. For more information, call 361-552-0798.

## Mission by the Bay Returns

The high school youth and adult volunteers from **Bethany UMC** in Austin and **St. John's UMC** in Richmond will be in Palacios for their **Mission by the Bay** in early December.

They will arrive the evening of Friday, Dec. 5, work on projects on **Saturday, Dec. 6**, and join us for worship on Sunday, Dec. 7. If you have a project or know of someone who needs some work done at their home, please contact **Marty Rieck** at 512-633-5355 or call the church office.

Also we need folks to help **serve them lunch** following worship.

## Christmas Devotional

*"Behold the virgin shall be with child and bear a Son and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated 'God with Us'*

*--Matthew 12:3*

### His Birth and Our New Birth

His Birth in History "...that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35). Jesus Christ was born *into* this world, not *from* it. He did not emerge *out of history*, He came *in to history* from the outside. Jesus Christ is not the best human being the human race can boast of—He is a Being for whom the human race can take no credit at all. He is not man becoming God, but God incarnate—God coming into human flesh from outside it. His life is the higher and the holiest entering through the most humble of doors. Our Lord's birth was an advent—the appearance of God in human form.

His Birth in Me..."My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you..." (Galatians 4:19). Just as our Lord came into human history from outside it, He must also come into me from outside. Have I allowed my personal human life to become a "Bethlehem" for the Son of God? I cannot enter the realm of the Kingdom of God unless I am born again from above by a birth totally unlike physical birth. "You must be born again" (John 3:7). This is not a command, but a fact based on the authority of God. The evidence of the new birth is that I **yield myself so completely to God** that "Christ is formed" in me. And once "**Christ is formed**" in me, His nature immediately begins to work through me.

God Evident in the Flesh...This is what is made so profoundly possible for you and for me through the redemption of man by Jesus Christ.

## Upcoming Training for Ministry Areas

Are you involved in a ministry area in our church, for example, SPRC, Trustees, Finance, Treasurer, or other ministries of our church? Please see the information below for a training opportunity!



### *Ministry Workshop 2015*

*Tools and Training for the  
Ministries of the Church*

Sponsored by the Ministry Team of the  
Coastal Bend District, United Methodist Church

#### *Three Dates and Places to Choose from:*

*Saturday January 31, 2015*

**Three Rivers FUMC**

*Corner of Church & Cave Street,  
Three Rivers*

*8:45a.m to 12:30 p.m*

*Saturday February 7, 2015*

**Grace United Methodist**

*14521 Northwest Blvd., Corpus Christi*

*8:45a.m to 12:30 p.m*

*Saturday February 21, 2015*

**Port Lavaca FUMC**

*814 N. San Antonio, Port Lavaca*

*8:45a.m to 12:30 p.m*



### *Mark Your Calendar and Plan to Attend!!!*

*These workshops are for **EVERYONE!***

*Gain Tools for doing Ministry in and outside the Church  
Plus Training in the Specific areas of Pastor Parish/Staff  
Parish, Trustees, Finance, Treasurers, and Leadership*

## Church Calendar for December



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| <p>1 Alpha Club in Weimer Hall</p> <p>3 Pastor David in Pt. Lavaca for Pastors' Meeting with District Superintendent<br/>Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM<br/>Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM</p> <p>4 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM</p> <p>5 Mission by the Bay volunteers arrive in Palacios</p> <p>6 Mission by the Bay volunteers working in Palacios<br/>Palacios Tour of Homes<br/>Palacios Seaside Holiday</p> <p>7 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent—"Fill Us with Peace"—Communion<br/>Scriptures: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15; Mark 1:1-8<br/>Lunch in Weimer Hall for Mission by the Bay volunteers – after Worship</p> <p>9 Finance Committee in Weimer Hall, 6:00 PM<br/>Administrative Council in Weimer Hall, 7:00 PM</p> <p>10 Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM<br/>Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM</p> <p>11 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM</p> <p>13 Christmas on Main, downtown Palacios</p> | <p>14 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent—"Fill Us with Joy"<br/>Scriptures: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:6-14; John 1:6-8, 19-28<br/>Men's Breakfast in Weimer Hall, 7:30 AM<br/>Choir Christmas Cantata in Worship<br/>Fellowship Luncheon following Worship</p> <p>17 Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM<br/>Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM</p> <p>18 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM<br/>United Methodist Women Christmas Brunch, home of Becky Johnson, 10:30 AM</p> <p>19 Crossroads Emmaus Gathering at Lolita Methodist Church, Lolita, 6:30 PM</p> <p>21 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent—"Fill Us with Love"<br/>Scriptures: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38</p> <p>24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—"Fill Us with Christ", 7:00 PM</p> <p>25 CHRISTMAS DAY—Scriptures: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14</p> <p>28 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day<br/>Scriptures: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40</p> <p>29-Jan 1 Church Office Closed</p> |
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### Dates on the horizon to remember:

- December 14—Choir Christmas Cantata
- December 14—Fellowship luncheon following Worship
- December 24—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00 PM
- January 27—First of three available ministry training sessions

## Celebrations in December

### Birthdays:

3—Parker Dean, 8—Bob Colura, 10—Carol Singer, 12—Barbara Curtis, 16—Sherri Seaman, Dean Kubecka, Nick Griffin, Gene Kubecka, 17—Isabel Greenawalt, 19—Marvin Curtis, 22 Nellie Rockenbaugh, 25—Betty Koontz, 30—Lennie Kunefke, Lauren Kubecka Massey

### Anniversaries:

2—Barney and Janie Gully, 30—Gary and Neva Taylor



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We're on the Web!  
*Visit us at:*  
**www.fumcpalacios.org**

### Joys and Concerns

We extend our prayers of support and love for those who are experiencing the holidays without a loved one for the first time. And for those in our community

battling terminal illness, loneliness, and depression. May God enfold you in His arms so that you feel some comfort and peace.

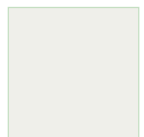
### Assisting with Worship in December

Liturgist—Will YOU volunteer?  
Greeters—Leland Singer  
Ushers—Shelly Johs

### Newsletter Articles for January

If you have an article or announcement for the January newsletter, please get the information to Janie Gulley **by December 24**: 972-3185 or [janiegulley@hotmail.com](mailto:janiegulley@hotmail.com).

PALACIOS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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ADDRESS