

Church Chat

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From the Pastor's Desk

First off, let me thank you all for your generosity to me and the rest of the staff. On behalf of myself, Perry, Mignon, Linda and Elaina Contreras, Thank You for the generous Christmas gifts you gave us!

Now, here we are in January. We have an entire year ahead of us. What are we going to do with it? How will we use this time to become even more the church that represents Jesus to the Palacios community and the world?

I have an idea...let's experience God's love more deeply and then share it more widely. Is there a workshop or some program that we can follow to do that? Yes, there are quite a few that teach us how some other church or group has done that.

But what I have in mind is not a workshop or program. What I have in mind is to encounter Jesus in our everyday living. The early disciples didn't have any workshops or programs to attend. They met together and told the stories of Jesus that we now have in our gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They told the stories of Jesus and found that people were receptive to seeing Him active in their lives.

So often we see Jesus as a historical figure doing things with and for people two thousand years ago. But we live in 2015, where's Jesus now? He's still here with us, by the Holy Spirit, his personal presence and power.

As we go through the first part of this year we'll be focusing our attention on the stories of Jesus, but looking at them not as historical events. We'll be putting ourselves into the stories and seeing him alive and active in our lives today.

One of the ways that you can begin to do this is to begin reading Mark's Gospel, a portion at a time. I've put a 10-day schedule below this article in the newsletter but you can read it however you choose. I've begun reading aloud with this schedule each day in my personal quiet time.

It's important for us to remember that the church, every church is merely a means to an end and not an end in itself. We are here as a channel of the presence of Jesus in the world today. And we can only channel him to the degree that we know him and that he lives in us.

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

David

10-Day Reading of Mark's Gospel

This is a suggested way to split up the Gospel of Mark. As you read, put yourself in the stories and look around you to see places where Jesus is alive and active in our lives today.

- Day 1 – Mark 1:1-3:35
- Day 2 – Mark 4:1-5:43
- Day 3 – Mark 6:1-56
- Day 4 – Mark 7:1-8:38
- Day 5 – Mark 9:1-10:45
- Day 6 – Mark 10:46-12:34
- Day 7 – Mark 12:35-13:37
- Day 8 – Mark 14:1-72
- Day 9 – Mark 15:1-16:20
- Day 10 – Rest, catch up, reflect

Wesley Nurse News



Important dates and information:

- January 6, Tuesday, blood pressure and blood sugar screen, 12-3 pm, HUB
- January 6, Tuesday, 4:00 PM—Lego Club meets in Weimer Hall

Diaper pantry is up and running! 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.

Samaritans Closet: in November a family from Edna lost 5 children in a fire. I would like to make sure that everyone has a **smoke detector** in their home. Smoke detectors can be found at any hardware store and Walmart. Please bring them to add to our closet and I will make sure they are placed in a home. Thank you for your help in this mission.

Kids, **Lego Club** is here!! First Tuesday of every month at 4pm, come and let your imagination build!! You can bring your own creations or build with us. If anyone has any **extra Legos**, please bring them for the kids.

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

Christmas Fundraiser a Big Success!

The Christmas Fundraiser selling Strudels, Fruitcakes, Christmas Cacti, and Poinsettias raised **\$2,028.20** for our church! Thank you to everyone who supported this effort. A special thanks to **Annette Stonedale** for leading this effort and her committee: **Maxine Kubecka, Marty Reich, Vanessa Kunefke, and Michele Colura.**

Plans are to do it again next year, and suggestions for additional items to be added are welcome. This year, the funds go toward fulfilling our apportionments.

Martha's Table

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.

In January they are in need of **soup and crackers**, 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.

United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women meet on **Thursday, January 15** at noon in Weimer Hall.

Come join us for a brown bag lunch and an interesting program.



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. Deadline for applications is January 29.



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 **January 16 at 6:30 PM** for potluck dinner and worship. Contact the Gulleys if you would like to carpool: 361.972.3185.

Youth News

Youth Sunday School Class will be using Francis Chan's study on **Prayer** for its January classes. Prayer is a frequent theme in Scripture, but students often struggle with questions about the purpose, practice and power of prayer. *Is this invisible God just a magic genie in heaven who gives me what I want? Does God really want to hear from me, and if so, how does He talk back? If God already knows everything, what's the point of praying? Why doesn't God always answer my prayers?*

Over four powerful sessions, we'll explore these tough questions and hear students share how prayer impacted the tough situations they were facing. Francis Chan will unpack what the Bible has to say about prayer, helping teens understand

how they should pray, what they are called to pray for, and why God invites them to communicate with Him. The class meets in the back room of Weimer Hall at 9:30 AM every Sunday. Pastor David and Barney Gulley help lead the class.

Palacios Youth Fellowship will begin meeting again in January, but we need another adult or two to help Pastor David. If you'd like to spend some time with our great youth, please let him know.

Youth News

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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.

Pat Allen Memorial Christmas Dinner

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who cooked, baked, served, and delivered to make the Pat Allen Memorial Christmas Dinner a success. A special thanks to **Carolyn Kubecka** for spearheading the effort. We served **267** people, more than ever before!

Hand Bells and Choir

The **Hand Bells and Choir** will resume their regular schedule of practice on Wednesday, January 14. Be sure to let them know how much you appreciate all they bring to our worship services and how much you enjoyed the Christmas Cantata.

Bethany Youth and Adult Volunteers

Thanks to the Senior High Youth and Adult volunteers from Bethany UMC in Austin for coming to Palacios for their Mission by the Bay over the first weekend of December. They accomplished in the short time they were here. They'll be back this summer!

Lego Club Starting Up

Kids, **Lego Club** is here!! Starting January 6, and on the first Tuesday of every month at 4 PM, come to Weimer Hall and let your imagination build!! You can bring your own creations or build with us.

A New Year's Devotional

This **Upper Room devotional** from December 26 is a good reminder as we begin the 2015 to let go of those things that are keeping us from God's presence, and allow ourselves to surrender completely to His will.

While putting the Christmas ornaments away, I discovered that one of them — a handcrafted treasure commemorating our oldest child's first Christmas — was beginning to disintegrate. Made of highly varnished bread dough, it had lasted almost 30 years. "I guess I should have known this one would be temporary," I said and then realized that all the ornaments are temporary.

Ephemeral, inanimate belongings make up such a large part of daily life. Increasing numbers of us, it seems, have a hard time letting go of them. When we are faced with the agonizing need to dispose of a few cherished preschool drawings or sports trophies, it helps to remember that absolutely none of our material possessions will last forever.

Often it is not the items themselves but what they represent that I prize. As I learn to relinquish my grip on material things in favor of the intangible values they represent, I find the blessings of God's presence each day. Though bittersweet, letting go of things offers the grace of deepened wisdom as we learn to move forward in life, relying only on God's eternal presence.

"We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

- 2 Corinthians 4:18

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 January



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| <p>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY!!!
Scriptures: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13, Psalm 8, Revelation 21:1-6a, Matthew 25:31-46
Church office closed</p> <p>4 Epiphany Sunday – Communion Sunday
Scriptures: Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12
Sunday School, 9:00 AM; Worship, 10:00 AM</p> <p>8 Coastal Bend District Pastors Meeting in Weimer Hall, 9 AM to Noon
Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM</p> <p>11 First Sunday after the Epiphany and Baptism of the Lord
Scriptures: Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11
Men's Breakfast at Trinity Baptist Church, 7:30 AM
Sunday School, 9:00 AM; Worship, 10:00 AM</p> <p>12 Trustees Meeting in Weimer Hall, 7:00 PM</p> <p>13 Finance Committee in Weimer Hall, 6:00 PM
Administrative Council in Weimer Hall, 7:00 PM</p> | <p>14 Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM
Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM</p> <p>15 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM
United Methodist Women in Weimer Hall, 12:00 Noon</p> <p>16 Crossroads Emmaus Gathering, 6:30 PM</p> <p>18 Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Scriptures: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, Psalm 139:1-6, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51
Sunday School, 9:00 AM; Worship, 10:00 AM</p> <p>19-25 Pastor David at 5-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation in San Antonio</p> <p>21 Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM
Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM</p> <p>22 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM</p> <p>25 Third Sunday after the Epiphany—Josh Harper, Preaching
Scriptures: Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm 62:5-12, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20</p> <p>28 Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM
Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM</p> <p>29 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM</p> <p>31 Deutschberg Community Seafood Dinner, 11 AM-6PM
Ministry Workshop, 8:45 AM-12:30 PM, Three Rivers FUMC</p> |
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Dates on the horizon to remember:

- January 27—First of three available ministry training sessions, Three River FUMC
- February 7—Second chance to attend ministry training sessions, Grace United Methodist, Corpus Christ
- February 8—February Fellowship Luncheon
- February 18—Ash Wednesday Worship Service at 5:30 PM
- February 19-22—Men's Walk to Emmaus #1779 at Spiritual Renewal Center
- February 21—Third opportunity to attend ministry training sessions, Port Lavaca United Methodist

Celebrations in January

Birthdays:

2—Viv Witte, Larry Dillard, 4—Russell Law, 7—Alice Wright, 13—Myra Brhlik, Thelma Holloway, 15—Jeff Hebel, 16—Milam Simons, 17—Vanessa Kunefke, 18—Dane Kubecka, 23—Nolan Oldham, 23—Jessica Laws, Melisa Law



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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.fumcpalacios.org

Joys and Concerns

We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of **Chuck Wright**. Chuck is **Ted Bates'** son in law.

Congratulations and "Way to Go!" to **Mary Bari**, who was named Palacios Community Medical Center's Employee of the Year!

Also we extend our sympathies to the family and friends of **Billy Peacock**. Billy is **Billy Pat Peacock's** father.

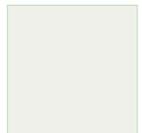
Assisting with Worship in January

Liturgist—Long Han
Greeters—Josh and Jed Harper
Ushers—Shelly Johs and Larry Dillard

Newsletter Articles for February

If you have an article or announcement for the February newsletter, please get the information to Janie Gulley **by January 29**: 972-3185 or janiegulley@hotmail.com.

PALACIOS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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ADDRESS