

# Church Chat

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## From the Pastor's Desk

One of the pastors/preachers that helped nurture me in the faith was Lloyd Ogilvie of Hollywood Presbyterian Church. I never attended one of his worship services in person. I never met him but he helped shape my faith and my identity as a pastor in profound ways. One of the many things he said that has shaped me is a benediction he used:

MAY THE LIVING LORD GO WITH YOU,  
MAY HE GO BEHIND YOU TO ENCOURAGE YOU,  
BESIDE YOU TO BEFRIEND YOU IN OBEDIENT MINISTRY,  
ABOVE YOU TO WATCH OVER YOU,  
WITHIN YOU TO GIVE YOU HIS POWER,  
AND BEFORE YOU TO SHOW YOU HIS WAY.

As we begin this new year and as we begin the **Small Church Initiative**, it's important for us to keep this core part of our Christian faith at the forefront of our church. The living Lord Jesus does go with us; we are not alone. We are not left to be His Church on our own. That's why one of the first steps in the Small Church Initiative is prayer. Janie Gulley has volunteered to lead our prayer group.

My prayer for us at Palacios UMC is that we will live out our faith together assured that the living Jesus is with us, is behind us, is beside us, is above us, is within us, and does go before us to show us his way.

I am so thankful and proud to be your pastor,

**David**

**THANK YOU!** On behalf of Lori and myself, Perry, Mignon, Linda, and Elena, we thank you for your generosity to us this Christmas season. May we bless you as much as you bless us!

## United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women start the year off right by meeting on **January 21** at noon in Weimer. Bring a sack lunch and join us for fellowship and an interesting program!



## Youth News

**Youth Sunday School**—The class is for all youth in grades 6-12 and meets in the classroom at the back of Weimer Hall at 9:00 AM.

**Youth Fellowship**—will meet on Sunday, **January 17** at 6:00 PM in Weimer Hall.

## Announcements

The **Seaside Ringers** meet at 5:30 PM each Wednesday to practice. They play the bells during worship on the third Sunday of each month.

**Adult Sunday School**—is reading and discussing the Gospel of John. They meet in the Parlor at 9:00 AM each Sunday morning, led by Josh Harper.

**Hand Bells**—practice at 5:30 PM each Wednesday in the Sanctuary.

**Chancel Choir**—practices at 6:30 PM each Wednesday in the Sanctuary. They are preparing for the Christmas Cantata that will be on Sunday, January 17 during Worship.

**HELP WANTED**—we are looking for people who would like to teach the Children's Sunday School Class. If we have three or four then they could rotate Sundays through the month.

Also, if you would like to help start a Sunday School Class for the **smaller children** (2-5 years old), please contact Pastor David. We have lesson material for the class, and you don't have to do much preparation to teach the class.

## Walk to Emmaus/Chrysalis

The next Crossroads Walk is a **Men's Walk to Emmaus on April 14-17, 2016**. The next **women's walk is July 21-24, 2016**. If you, or someone you know desires a deeper experience of the Christian life and community, please contact Barney or Janie Gulley or Pastor David.



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 15** at **6:30 PM** at a **place to be determined** for potluck dinner and worship. Contact the Gulleys if you would like to carpool.

## Wesley Nurse News



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

**Diaper Pantry**—Tuesdays 1-4 PM

- Tuesday, January 5, 4 PM—Teen Support Group, Teen Center
- Tuesday, January 19, 4 PM—Teen Support Group, Teen Center
- Tuesday, January 26, 4 PM—Diabetic Support Group, Marine Center

If you know someone with Diabetes that has no insurance and needs help with supplies, send them to me. I am starting a Diabetic Support Group on the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Martine Center. Open for diabetics and family members.

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

Thank you,

--Leslie Machicek, Wesley Nurse

## Ministry Workshops Available

The Coastal Bend District is offering its **Ministry Workshops** in Beeville and Kingsville. The Beeville event is Saturday, January 23 and the Kingsville event is Saturday, February 6.

All members of the Administrative Council and various committees in the church are encouraged to attend one of these events.

A brochure for the events has been sent to all current and incoming church leaders, and is available from Pastor David.

## New Year's Day Devotional

*"He went out, not knowing where he was going"*

*--Hebrews 11:8*

Have you ever "gone out" in this way? If so, there is no logical answer possible when anyone asks you what you are doing. One of the most difficult questions to answer in Christian work is "What do you expect to do?" You don't know what you are going to do. The only thing you know is that God knows what He is doing. Continually examine your attitude toward God to see if you are willing to "go out" in every area of your life, trusting in God entirely. It is this attitude that keeps you in constant wonder, because you don't know what God is going to do next. Each morning as you wake, there is a new opportunity to "go out," building your confidence in God. Luke 12:22 says, "...do not worry about your life...nor about the body..." In other words, don't worry about the things that concerned you before you did "go out."

Have you been asking God what He is going to do? He will never tell you. God does not tell you what He is going to do—He reveals to you who He is. Do you believe in a miracle-working God, and will you "go out" in complete surrender to Him until you are not surprised one iota by anything He does?

Believe God is always the God you know Him to be when you are nearest to Him. Then think how unnecessary and disrespectful worry is! Let the attitude of your life be a continual willingness to "go out" in dependence upon God, and your life will have a sacred and inexpressible charm about it that is very satisfying to Jesus. You must learn to "go out" through your convictions, creeds, or experiences until you come to the point in your faith where there is nothing between yourself and God.

*--Oswald Chambers, "My Utmost for His Highest"*

## 2015 Finance Committee Update

The Finance Committee is happy to report that the Church's finance are in good shape. While November was a slow month for receipts, we look forward to the Congregation's generosity during the month of December to bring us to a successful year end.

A special Christmas appeal will be made to supplement our normal giving in order for us to meet our Apportionments and retain our 5 Star Status as a church.

Thanks to your generosity, we have not had to use the Johnson Fund this year to meet our monthly bills. This is very encouraging, as over the years we have depleted the Johnson Fund to where we now have \$10,205 left in reserves to meet emergency needs. A focus for the church in 2016 will be to start rebuilding the reserves of the church.

## Interested in a Bible Study?

### Walk and Talk: Walking Together in Scripture

Walk & Talk is a year-long walking Bible study and devotional that is specifically designed to be used while you walk with a friend, with a member of your congregation, or by yourself. The primary objective of Walk & Talk is to help communities incorporate healthy habits into their lives through physical movement and spiritual enrichment. Just as Jesus taught his disciples on the road, we believe that God speaks to us as we Walk & Talk.

While there are many options for using the resource, it is designed so that a group or pair of

individuals could discuss a Walk & Talk devotional once a week for a full year. Each month has a different theme and provides four devotionals on that theme. Each devotional provides a scripture passage, a short reflection, a series of discussion questions and a closing prayer.

Our Wesley Nurse, Leslie Machicek, has offered to help us get started. If you are interested in this Bible Study activity, contact Leslie at 361-571-1044, or [LMachicek@mhmm.org](mailto:LMachicek@mhmm.org).



## Small Church Initiative

*See, I am doing a new thing!*  
--Isaiah 43:19



We will kick off the **Small Church Initiative** on **February 1**. We will journey together the next few months; taking stock of where the church has been, where we are now, and what our future might be. In order to do this we need the involvement of the **whole church**.

We will have four areas of focus that we need members of the church to join in the discussion and work of self-examination. The teams are:

**Prayer Team** – Led by Janie Gulley, the prayer team will meet regularly and pray for the Small Church Initiative process, for our community and neighbors, the unchurched and that the Holy Spirit will lead us to examine ourselves as a church and discern God's calling for us.

**Church History Team** – We need a leader and 3-4 people to write a brief history of our congregation. The three to four page history will include events that have contributed to periods of growth and decline in the life of the church.

**Demographics and Statistics Team** – Led by Barney Gulley, this team will prepare statistical reports on church membership and finances.

**Community Study Team** – We need a leader and 3-4 people to write a brief overview of our local community, including interviews to help understand the needs of the community.

This work will be done during February and March. Sometime in April, the consulting team will visit us and we will get recommendations for the church to consider for the future.

A signup sheet will be circulating during the month of January. Please prayerfully consider serving on one of these teams.

## 2016 Administrative Council

Effective January 1, 2016, the following persons begin their terms on the Administrative Council of the church:

- Chairperson—Erwin Janszen
- Council Secretary—Janie Gulley
- Lay Leader—Barney Gulley
- SPRC Chair—Leland Singer
- Trustee Chair—Dennis Schuetz
- 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 first meeting of the year will be Tuesday, January 12, at 7:00 PM in Weimer Hall.

## Church Calendar for January



### 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY

Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus—Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 2:15-21

### 3 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

### 6 Epiphany of the Lord—Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:107, 10-14;

Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM

Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM

### 7 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM

### 10 First Sunday after the Epiphany - Baptism of the Lord

Scriptures: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Men's Breakfast at Trinity Baptist Church, 7:30 AM

Sunday School 9:00 AM, Worship, 10:00 AM

Blessing of the 2016 Church Leaders during Worship

### 11 Trustees Meeting, Weimer Hall, 6:00 PM

### 12 Finance Meeting, Weimer Hall, 6:00 PM

Administrative Council, Weimer Hall, 7:00 PM

### 13 Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM

Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM

### 14 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM

Palacios Chamber of Commerce Board Retreat, Weimer Hall, 4-8 PM

### 15 Crossroads Emmaus Gathering, Louise UMC, 6:30 PM

### 17 Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Scriptures: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Sunday School, 9:00 AM; Worship, 10:00 AM

Combined Choir Cantata during Worship

Youth Fellowship in Weimer Hall, 6:00 PM

### 19 Pastor David at District Pastor's meeting in Corpus Christi

### 20 Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM

Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM

### 21 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM

United Methodist Women, Weimer Hall, 12 Noon

### 23 Coastal Bend District Ministry Workshop in Beeville

### 24 Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Scriptures: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

Sunday School, 9:00 AM; Worship, 10:00 AM

### 27 Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM

Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM

### 28 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM

### 30 Deutschberg Seafood Dinner Fundraiser

### 31 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, Kyle Seaman preaching

Scriptures: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

Sunday School, 9:00 AM; Worship, 10:00 AM

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Noisy Offering during Worship

### Dates on the horizon to remember:

#### February

- February 6—Coastal Bend District Ministry Workshop in Kingsville
- February 10—Ash Wednesday
- February 14—Men's Breakfast, First Baptist, 7:30 AM
- February 14—Fellowship Luncheon after Worship
- February 22-23—Pastor David at Bishop's Convocation at Mt. Wesley in Kerrville

#### March

- March 6-13—Pastor David at 5-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation in San Antonio
- March 20—Palm Sunday
- March 24—Maundy Thursday
- March 25—Good Friday
- March 27—Easter Sunday, Sunrise service at Texas Baptist Encampment

## Celebrations in January

### Birthdays:

2—Larry Dillard, Viv Witte; 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; 25—Jessica Laws, Melissa Law; 28—Gary Taylor



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**www.fumcpalacios.org**

### Joys and Concerns

Our prayers are with our church as we begin the process of discovery with the Small Church Initiative. We ask everyone to pray for discernment and that the Holy Spirit works through all of us to bring our church to the place God wants us to be.

### Assisting with Worship in January

Liturgist—Fran Fuller

Greeters—OPEN

Ushers—Robert Bari and Zack Seaman

**CAN YOU HELP?** We need volunteers to be Greeters in January!

### 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](mailto:janiegulley@hotmail.com) to update our distribution lists.

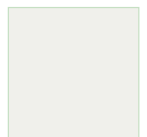
### Newsletter Articles for February

If you have an article or announcement for the January newsletter, please get the information to Janie Gulley **by January 28** at 972-3185 or [janiegulley@hotmail.com](mailto:janiegulley@hotmail.com).

PALACIOS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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ADDRESS