



Message from the Pastor

I wonder, how many of you are following the Bible-reading schedule that I put in the newsletter each month and the bulletin each Sunday? I wonder because I know that many of us have heard the Bible preached and taught throughout our lives. And, frankly, we've heard it all before.

One of my favorite Christian teachers, Dallas Willard, says, "Familiarity doesn't breed contempt, it breeds apathy." Sometimes we think we know what's in the Bible because of what we've been told. Sometimes we think we know what's in the Bible because of what we want it to say. Sometime we think the Bible's too complicated so we don't care to read it.

The Bible is the book of the people who follow Jesus. Jesus, like all the young boys back then, began by memorizing, (yes, memorizing!) the books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. They did this from age 6 to about 10. If they did this well, they went on to memorize (yes, memorize!) the rest of what we call the Old Testament, the History books, the Wisdom literature, and the Prophets. They spent from age 10 to about 14 doing this.

Why? Why would their parents and religious leaders make them do this? By memorizing the Bible, it gave them a way to see the world, a lens through which to see themselves, the world around them, and God.

I'd like to suggest that we begin by reading the Bible daily. Find a translation that is comfortable to read. And you might try to find a "wise guide" to help you understand what you are reading. I use Eugene Peterson's [The Message Study Bible](#). The comments, and excerpts from his books and sermons help me put what I'm reading in the context of the Christian life. Max Lucado's [The Lucado Life Lessons Study Bible](#) is another good one.

I can guarantee that if you begin reading the Bible daily, you will find that you have questions, you will find things you don't understand, and things that confuse you. But remember, the Bible is a library of books written over the span of more than 2,000 years. Even so, they all combine to tell the story of God's love for God's people and how that love is realized and lived out in our lives.

I am so thankful and proud to be your pastor,

David

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Missions Corner

Below are recent ways in which our church has been actively sharing its material possessions:

- **July's Communion Rail Offering** will go to FUMC Palacios' **Helping Hands** program. Helping Hands is a fund to assist people with short-term financial needs such as medication, transportation, lodging, food, and utilities. For those seeking assistance, an ID and an application is required, and they will be able to receive assistance once per year. The Helping Hands Fund is administered by the pastor and updates will be given to the Administrative Council.
- **June's Communion Rail offering** of \$215.50 went to support Kingdom Kamp, a Rio Texas Conference camp for physically mobile special needs adults. Thank you for your support of this great program!
- **The Blessing Porch** is going to have a very simple start. The Mission House Porch has a wooden trunk with items in it that people might need. A sign will be on the porch that says **"Take what you need and be blessed, Give what you can and be a blessing"**. The concept is simple: "People donate non-perishable essential items and place them inside the box so people in need can take what they need and leave what they can." The trunk might contain diapers, cans of food, bottles of water, personal hygiene items, toilet paper or whatever someone has that they think others could use. This will **not** be advertised in the paper. A few pastors, the HUB, the library and police station will be notified about it. It will be interesting to see how it works or doesn't work out.

- **The Missions and Outreach Work Team** is creating a "Community Resource Catalog" that will provide information about what and where social services can be obtained in Palacios. Other churches and social agencies in Palacios and Matagorda County are currently being interviewed by this team.
- **Donations for the HUB** are the focus of our next few months. Our **Wesley Nurse, Leslie Machicek**, requests the following items be donated from now until the end of the year. We'll continue with specific items for the rest of the months in future newsletters. Bring your items to the HUB or to the church office. Leslie also said that they will take any of the items at any time, not just on the specific months:
 - July—20-inch box fans (can get them at Walmart for \$19)
 - August—Bath Soap
 - September—Shampoo
 - October—Smoke detectors
 - November—Small heaters
 - December—Blankets

If you are interesting in being of part of PUMC's Mission Team, please, come to our next meeting. It will be at the home of Pastor David on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. A light meal will be served. If you are planning on attending, please, let Marty know at m.jo.riek@gmail.com or call her at 512-632-6568.

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth."

1 John 3:17-18

Joys and Concerns

Our sympathies go to the family and friends of **Marion Frances Simons**, who passed away.
Our sympathies go to the family and friends of **Betty Wyatt**, who passed away in June.

And our sympathies go to the family and friends of **Lonnie Beard**, Thelma Holloway's brother, who passed away in June.

Walk to Emmaus



Crossroads Emmaus Community is hosting a **Women's walk** on **July 20-23, 2017**. If you are or know someone who would like to attend, please contact Pastor David or Barney or Janie Gulley.

Crossroads celebrates every month with a gathering of the community. If you want to know more about Emmaus, or you have been on a walk you are welcome to attend. The next gathering will be at **FUMC Victoria** on **July 7th** at 6:30 PM. Contact the Gulleys if you want to carpool.

United Methodist Women



United Methodist Women of Palacios collected materials for a bedding kit for UMCOR. The kit will be donated to UMCOR through the Conference UMW in July.

UMW will not have any meetings in July or August.

Daily Scripture Readings for July



July 3 – Exodus 1:1-3:22
 July 4 – Exodus 4:1-6:12
 July 5 – Exodus 6:13-8:19
 July 6 – Exodus 8:20-10:20
 July 7 – Exodus 10:21-12:51

July 10 – Exodus 13:1-14:31
 July 11 – Exodus 15:1-16:36
 July 12 – Exodus 17:1-18:27
 July 13 – Exodus 19:1-21:36
 July 14 – Exodus 22:1-23:33

July 17 – Exodus 24:1-25:40
 July 18 – Exodus 26:1-28:14
 July 19 – Exodus 28:15-29:46
 July 20 – Exodus 30:1-31:18
 July 21 – Exodus 32:1-33:23

July 24 – Exodus 34:1-35:39
 July 25 – Exodus 35:30-38:20
 July 26 – Exodus 39:21-40:38
 July 27 – Rest or catch up
 July 28 – Rest or catch up

If you enjoy these daily scripture readings, you might want to get the NIV Quest Study Bible to enhance your reading. This Bible has questions that are often asked and non-technical answers.



The **Adult Sunday School** is mining the book of Revelation for valuable lessons in life and faith. Join this great class in the Parlor of Weimer Hall on Sunday at 9:00 AM. Josh and Lisa Harper will be out on vacation the first three Sundays in July, so on those Sundays either Barney Gulley or Pastor David will help lead the class discussion.

We have a **young children's Sunday School** class. Linda Contreras is using the Play & Pray material for the children who are 2-5. They meet in the Nursery at 9:00 AM every Sunday.

The **Youth** Sunday School class is taking a break for the summer and helping with the Children's Sunday School.

On the first Sunday in August we will bid farewell to **Robert Cappa** and **Matthew Graff** during our worship service. Make plans to be in church that Sunday and let them know how much we appreciate all they have done and all they mean to us.

Conducting the Business of the Church

Administrative Council Meeting, June 13, 2017

Pastor David welcomed those in attendance and opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with prayer. In attendance: Linda Curtis, Leland Singer, Becky Johnson, Barney Gulley, Bill Law, Thelma Holloway, Dee Dee Stork, Marty Rieck, Sherri Seaman and Pastor David.

Included in the Council packet: meeting agenda, Treasurer's Report, May 2017 meeting minutes.

Pastor's Report: Pastor David shared that Annette Stonedale was in need of our prayers. He stated the annual conference was a good experience. Great speaker with inspirational messages. Thelma reported that Lonnie Beard is now on Hospice.

There were no specific current issues or concerns.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as submitted via email (Johnson, motion: Holloway, second; all in favor)

Updates from Ministry Teams

Nurturing Ministries: no report

Missions and Outreach Ministries: Marty reported still collecting tomato products. Barney said a donation had been made specifically to the food pantry and it was decided to mail the food pantry a check. Also the youth from Bethany was very thankful for the ceramic crosses that were made for them and all the hospitality they received from everyone.

Witness Ministries: no report

United Methodist Women: Thelma Holloway reported they will not be meeting during the summer months.

Youth Representative: No report

LayLeader/Lay Speaker: Erwin Janszen took up the bulletins from Matt's service to compile the information.

Small Church Initiative Implementation Update

1. Discipleship Pathway Team – Barney reported a survey will go out June 25 to assess where we are as a church/spiritual journey.

2. Ministry Audit Taskforce - Erwin Janszen has formed the committee.
3. Spiritual Formation Team –

Reports from Resource Ministries: Treasurer's /Finance Committee Report & Action Items

Barney Gulley provided a written Treasurer's/Financial report

1. Apportionment Payment - Barney discussed making at \$500.00 payment with the option to send another \$500 if giving is good on the next two Sundays. Gulley motion: Johnson, second: all in favor.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee Report & Action Items

1. There will be a farewell luncheon for Robert Cappa, the last Sunday of July.

Committee on Lay Nominations: The Gulley's will be moving back to the Dallas area in the future and we need a nomination for a new Treasurer. Janie wants to retire and they would like to be closer to family.

Board of Trustees Report and Action Items

Housekeeping issues were discussed – carpet needs to be cleaned in the Sunday School room. Pianos - possibly will be given to a family in Port Lavaca, if not an ad will be placed in the Beacon for "Free Pianos".

Rent House – tenants will continue to rent for the next school year. The amount for rent will stay the same - \$750.00 a month.

New Child, Youth, and & Vulnerable Adult Safety Policy was passed at the Annual conference.

Copies of the policy were handed out.

New Business: None

Old Business & Planning Calendar Updates:

Calendar was included in the packet. Next Administrative Council Meeting will be July 11, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in Weimer Hall.

Closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

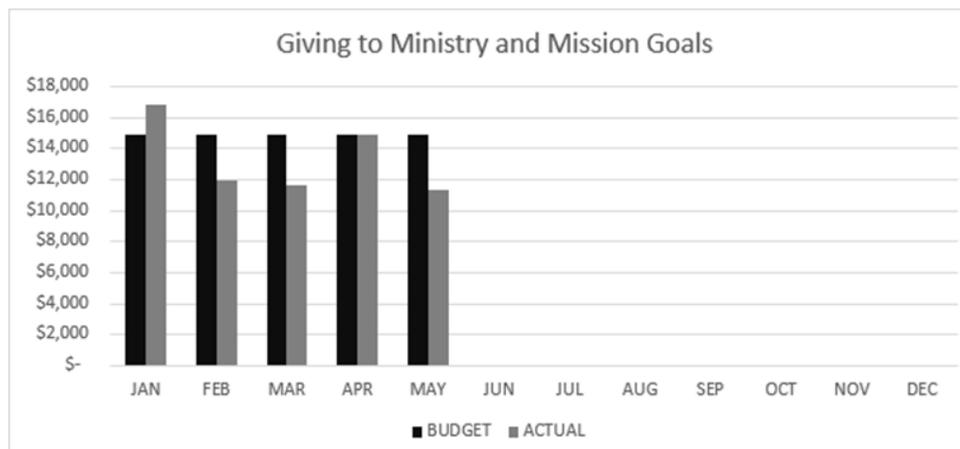
Linda Curtis

Financial Update

The Administrative Council is pleased to present the church's finances as of May 31, 2017. May was a difficult month with giving down significantly. This resulted in a reduction of some of our cash on hand.

While the summer months usually show a slow-down in giving, the church's expenses do not go down. It is important that all members of the congregation continue to support the church throughout the year.

The new keyboard was purchased from donated funds, and had no impact upon our financial status.



| 2017 | May | YEAR TO DATE | YEAR TO DATE BUDGET |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| INCOME | | | |
| OFFERINGS & MEMORIALS | \$ 10,251 | \$ 61,403 | \$ 67,375 |
| MISSIONAL GIVING | \$ 173 | \$ 863 | \$ 1,375 |
| APPORTIONMENTS | | \$ - | \$ - |
| RENT | \$ 750 | \$ 3,750 | \$ 3,750 |
| OILWELL | | \$ 493 | \$ 500 |
| OTHER | \$ 150 | \$ 185 | \$ 263 |
| TOTAL | \$ 11,324 | \$ 66,694 | \$ 73,263 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| APPORTIONMENTS | \$ 1,709 | \$ 6,859 | \$ 7,921 |
| FIVE STAR CHURCH GIVING | \$ 173 | \$ 777 | \$ 125 |
| PASTOR SALARY AND BENEFITS | \$ 5,503 | \$ 26,343 | \$ 29,416 |
| STAFF SALARY | \$ 1,916 | \$ 10,869 | \$ 10,775 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES | \$ 3,772 | \$ 18,339 | \$ 18,585 |
| PROGRAM EXPENSES | \$ 113 | \$ 486 | \$ 500 |
| MISSIONS | \$ 89 | \$ 395 | \$ 1,250 |
| CAPITAL EXPENSES | \$ 373 | \$ 4,719 | \$ 4,605 |
| TOTAL | \$ 13,648 | \$ 68,787 | \$ 73,178 |

Praying the Psalms

Psalms has been called the prayer book of the Bible in both Jewish and Christian traditions. It is a collection of sung prayers that has been used in worship from the time of ancient Israel up to the present. Because the psalms range so widely in emotional expression, from the heights of adoration and praise to the depths of vengeful curses against the enemy, they have special relevance to our prayer life. They teach us to hide nothing from God, but to bring all that is real into the only relationship that can bless the best and heal the worst in us.

No matter what we are feeling -- distress, trust, anger or delight, we find the words of the psalms accompany us into God's presence. ... In the psalms we find words to express every conceivable human condition and feeling. These prayers give us words to glorify, confess, hope, ask, and even curse. In so doing, they give us permission to share our whole being with God.

How Can YOU Help???

This summer we are looking for volunteers to teach **one Sunday** in the Children's Sunday School. The age range is Kinder to 5th grade with some older kids assisting. The theme this summer is "**Splish-Splash Bible Bash**" and we will be surfing through great water stories of the Bible. If you would like to volunteer or just have questions, please contact DeeDee Stork at ddstork@gmail.com or 361-972-3552.

Chrismon Kits

We still have some Chrismon kits to be completed, so see DeeDee Stork to pick one up and be part of growing our Chrismon tree!

Church Pantry Needs

We keep a few things on hand to offer people who come by the church looking for assistance:

- If you are traveling and staying in hotels, would you bring your unused complimentary toiletries back with you?
- Our pantry in the kitchen needs to be refilled with simple and easy to open foods like snack crackers, small boxes of juice, small boxes of cereal, soups, and canned meats

Want to Make Ceramics?

Come join the fun and create some beautiful ceramics at the same time. The **FIRST TUESDAY** of the month, meet at 6:00 PM in the Children's class.

Calendar for July



- 2 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost/Communion Sunday/ Celebrate Re-appointment of Pastor David
Communion Rail offering for Helping Hands Fund
Scripture: Matthew 9:9-13—“God is Love”
Sunday School -- 9:00 AM -- Worship in Sanctuary – 10:00 AM
- 3 -- Ceramics class, Children’s class, 6:00 PM
- 4 - INDEPENDENCE DAY – Church office closed
- 6 – Ladies Bible Study in Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM
Palacios Chamber of Commerce in Weimer Hall, 11:30 AM
- 7 - Crossroads Emmaus Gathering at FUMC Victoria, 6:30 PM
- 9 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost
Men’s Breakfast at First Presbyterian Church, 7:30 AM
Scripture: John 15:4-5 – “God Transforms”
Sunday School -- 9:00 AM -- Worship in Sanctuary – 10:00 AM
Communion after worship
- 9 – 30 Pastor David on vacation
- 11 – Administrative Council in Weimer Hall, 6:00 PM
- 13 – Ladies Bible Study in Weimer Hall – 10:00 AM
- 16 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost, Matthew Graff, preaching
Sunday School -- 9:00 AM -- Worship in Sanctuary – 10:00 AM
No Communion after worship
- 20 – Ladies Bible Study in Weimer Hall – 10:00 AM
- 20-23 Women’s Walk to Emmaus at Spiritual Renewal Center
- 23 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost, Matthew Graff, preaching
Sunday School – 9:00 AM, Worship in Sanctuary – 10:00 AM
No Communion after Worship
- 27 – Ladies Bible Study in Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM
- 30 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost, Matthew Graff, preaching
Sunday School – 9:00 AM, Worship in Sanctuary – 10:00 AM
Noisy Offering for Methodist Home in Waco
No Communion after Worship
- 31 – Pastor David back in office

Other Dates on the Horizon

August

- 3 – Palacios Chamber of Commerce Luncheon Meeting
- 6 – Farewell to Matthew Graff and Robert Cappa during worship
- 8 – Administrative Council in Weimer Hall, 6:00 PM
- 13 – Men’s Breakfast in Weimer Hall, 7:30 AM
- 13 – Blessing of School Faculty and Staff in Worship
- 15 – Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in Weimer Hall, 5:00 PM
- 20 – Installation service for new District Superintendent, Rev. Robert Lopez, FUMC Corpus Christi, 4:00 PM

Celebrations in July

- 3 – Halcy Dean
- 6 – Kyle Seaman
- 7 – Becky Johnson
- 8 – Gary Hebel
- 10 – Ch’a Lynn Neimeyer
- 10 – Harrison Dean
- 12 – Melinda Law
- 16 – Chris VandenBergh
- 17 – Simon King
- 18 – Bill Kubecka
- 20 – Carolyn Johnson
- 26 – Adam Johs

First United Methodist Church Palacios

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Find us on the Web:
www.fumcpalacios.org



Assisting with Worship in July

Liturgist—Janie Gulley

Greeters—Zach Seaman and Robert Bari

Ushers—Shelly Johs and Bill Miller

Newsletter Articles for August

If you have an article or announcement for the August newsletter, please get the information to Janie Gulley by **July 27** at 972-3185 or janiegulley@hotmail.com.



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ADDRESS