

Church Chat

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From the Pastor's Desk

November is the month when we begin thinking about thankfulness. And I am certainly thankful. I am thankful for this congregation, especially for the way you all have shown your love and appreciation throughout October, which was Clergy Appreciation Month. The cards, emails, FB messages, the gifts of an Aggie shirt and Yeti cup, the PMR gift card, the luncheon and cake certainly leave no doubt in my mind that I am appreciated. Thank you, each and every one of you for each and every expression of appreciation you showed me.

Now, what about you? Not everyone has a month devoted to appreciating you but how often do people show their appreciation for you? And how often do you show your appreciation to them?

I remember reading Albert Schweitzer's autobiography many years ago. He attended the funeral of someone who had been a positive influence in his life. He regretted that he hadn't expressed his appreciation to that person while he was still living. It seemed senseless to do it now.

And one person that I talked to had planned on writing a card to a former pastor for Clergy Appreciation Month. Unfortunately he passed away before the card was ever written or sent. It's good idea to express your appreciation and thankfulness sooner than later.

That expression of appreciation works with God as well as with others. How can you show your appreciation to God? Here are some simple ways:

1. For just one day, keep a notepad close by. Write down everything that you are thankful for. You might be thankful for waking up. And waking up with a bed and roof over your head. And waking up with indoor plumbing and running water. You get the idea.
2. Spend time outside in the park or on the bay. Take a deep breath and relax. Then look around at what God has provided for your enjoyment...the breeze, the sun, the seagulls and pelicans, the sound and smell of the water.
3. Make a list of the people in your life, past and present. Who has made a contribution to your life and happiness? Who has presented with a challenge that helped you grow into the person you are today?

This is a time to begin a new habit of thankfulness and appreciation. I hope that you'll get hooked on it.

I am so thankful and proud to be your pastor,

David

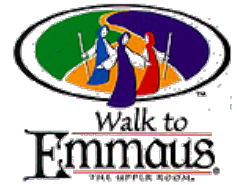
United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women will meet on **Thursday, November 19th at noon** in Weimer Hall to set up for the Chicken Spaghetti fundraiser. Becky Johnson will also be collecting Pledge to Mission cards. See the article in this newsletter for details on the **November 21st Chicken Spaghetti Dinner and Bazaar Fundraiser!**



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 **November 20 at 6:30 PM** at **Salem Lutheran in Port Lavaca** for potluck dinner and worship. Contact the Gulleys if you would like to carpool.

Announcements

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.

The **Coastalaires** will have their Christmas Dinner and Concert at the Bay City County Club on December 3, 4, 5, and 6. Contact Jimmy Neeley or Carl Rieck for tickets.

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, December 13 during Worship.

Youth News

We will meet with the **Youth Fellowship on Sunday, November 15 at 6:00 PM** in Weimer Hall.

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.

Outing to Danish Heritage Museum

Who wants to take a road trip? A group of 20 or more can schedule a visit and tour to the Danish Heritage Museum in Danevang. We can visit the Historical Danish Lutheran Church, see a video about Danevang, tour the Museum and Pioneer House, go on a Museum Scavenger Hunt, and even shop in the gift shop! All this and an authentic Danish lunch for only \$20!! Tours are available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Contact Mary Jo Neeley at 972-5236 or email JimmyMary@NeeleyFamily.com if you are interested in this fun adventure. We have six people interested, we need 12 more to make the 20 minimum. Ask your friends, family, and neighbors!

Wesley Nurse News



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

Fan Drive and Diaper Pantry—Tuesdays 1-4 PM

- Tuesday, November 17, 4 PM—Teen Support Group, Teen Center

I am collecting **smoke detectors** and **9 volt batteries** for the November and December Smoke Detector Drive. We need a lot of these!

If you know someone with Diabetes that has no insurance and needs help with supplies, send them to me. Also, we will be starting a Diabetic Support Group next year.

Thank you,

--Leslie Machicek, Wesley Nurse

United Methodist Women Chicken Spaghetti Dinner and Bazaar on November 21



Once again, Palacios UMW will host a Chicken Spaghetti dinner and bazaar to raise money for mission projects. All proceeds go to support local and global mission initiatives.

When: Saturday, November 21
Time: Dinner is from 11AM to 2PM
 Bazaar from 10AM to 3PM
Where: Weimer Hall



\$8/plate

Includes Chicken Spaghetti,
Green beans, bread, dessert,
and drink

Dine in or Take Out



Bazaar to sell:

- Baked goods
- Arts and crafts
- New and used treasures
- Christmas decorations



How can YOU help?

If you are a cook, donate a cake, pie, cookies, candy

If you are a crafter, donate your handmade projects

If you can donate some new or gently used treasures, that would be great too

If you can lend a helping hand on the day of the event, contact Thelma Holloway

All proceeds go to support local and UMW-sponsored global missions, like:

- Palacios Boys and Girls Club
- Friends of Elder Citizens
- Rainbow Daycare
- Robert Duran Caring and Sharing Food Pantry
- Pat Allen Memorial Christmas Dinner
- FUMC Scholarship fund
- Methodist Children's Home
- National Mission Institutions on behalf of women, children, and youth
- 121 Global Mission projects in 110 countries around the world to educate and equip women to make an impact in their local community

Small Church Initiative

Our church has enrolled in the Small Church Initiative offered to us by the Rio Texas Conference.

The Small Church Initiative (SCI) helps churches look at themselves and identify their strengths and weaknesses in regards to the health of the church and the church's effectiveness in ministering to the needs of the congregation and to the community that surrounds us.

The process will begin with some homework to be done to look at where we are as a church and what are the challenges facing our future. Then in January, we will have a Consultation which will include interviews with a few members of our church. After the consultation, we will receive some recommendations from the consulting team. The church will have 30 days to discuss and pray about the recommendations, then hold a church conference to decide whether to adopt the recommendations or not. If the church votes to accept the recommendations, we will be appointed a coach to work with us until the recommendations are implemented.

The SCI process has been implemented by 21 churches in the Conference already, and there have been 3 more churches, including ours, who will be going through the process in early 2016.

More information will be coming this fall as we enter into a time of self-study and prayer for our future. If you would like to become one of the team involved in the process, please let Pastor David, Erwin Janszen, or Barney Gulley know of your interest.

Please keep our church in prayer as we discern what is God's calling for our church in the years to come.



2015 Finance Committee Update

The Finance Committee is pleased to report that our finances continue to improve this year thanks to the generosity of the church. We have two months until the end of the year, and we need to focus on payment of our Apportionments. We are slightly behind our scheduled giving toward this part of our ministry and need to put a focus on meeting this need of God's work. Please consider a sacrificial gift towards our obligation so that we do not have to make a plea in December.

2015		Sept	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	2015 Budget
Income	Offerings & Memorials	\$ 10,172	\$ 111,199	\$ 114,150	\$ 152,200
	Rent	\$ -	\$ 5,320	\$ 5,200	\$ 7,800
	Oil Well	\$ -	\$ 1,397	\$ 2,400	\$ 3,600
	Other	\$ -	\$ 101	\$ 113	\$ 150
	Total	\$ 10,172	\$ 118,017	\$ 122,813	\$ 163,750
Expenses	Apportionments	\$ 2,264	\$ 6,690	\$ 14,332	\$ 19,109
	Pastor Salary	\$ 5,281	\$ 47,488	\$ 48,104	\$ 64,139
	Staff Salary	\$ 2,665	\$ 23,292	\$ 22,267	\$ 29,689
	Operating Expenses	\$ 3,927	\$ 33,387	\$ 30,638	\$ 40,850
	Program Expenses	\$ 233	\$ 1,807	\$ 1,425	\$ 1,900
	Capital Expenses	\$ 481	\$ 6,762	\$ 6,045	\$ 8,060
	Total	\$ 14,851	\$ 119,426	\$ 122,810	\$ 163,747
Balance		\$ (4,679)	\$ (1,409)	\$ 2	\$ 3

Two Opportunities for Holiday Gifts and to Help Our Church

Now you can get ready for the holidays AND help FUMC Palacios raise money...order your Christmas flowers or delicious strudel or fruitcake today!

Let Palacios FUMC help you plan for the holidays!

Apple Strudel

Freshly prepared, frozen and ready for you to finish off in your oven for special occasions or just because it's fall.

This authentic Czech strudel is a thin pastry filled with sweetened crumbs, fresh apples, cinnamon, coconut, raisins and pecans.

OR

Texas Pecan Fruitcake Classic

Packaged in a holiday tin that will keep it fresh to the last slice.

Made by the Collin Street Bakery in Corsicana.....the folks who have been doing it since 1896, from a classic blend of native pecans, pineapple and papaya. red cherries and golden raisins in a rich batter.

Order now for delivery on November 15th

Apple strudel(s) @ 20 each

Texas Pecan Fruit Cake @ 28.00

Please include payment with order. Make checks payable to:

First United Methodist Church of Palacios

Strudels and fruitcakes need to be ordered by November 1 (a few orders can be taken until November 9th) for delivery after church on Sunday, November 15th.

To turn in orders, contact:

- Maxine Kubecka
- Annette Stonedale
- Marty Rieck
- Vanessa Kunefke

Deck Your Halls and Our Altar with Poinsettias and Christmas Cacti

To deck the halls at home and church or to give as gifts, you will want to order beautiful florist quality plants by Sunday, November 15th. Poinsettias come in red, pink and white in either 6" or 8" pots. The festive Christmas Cacti come in 6" or 10" pots. You may also purchase poinsettias to place on the altar in honor or memory of loved ones. Plants bought for personal use may be picked up on Saturday, December 6th between 8 a.m. and noon at the church.

Poinsettias

6" --\$20 each

8" --\$35 each



Christmas Cacti

6" pots--\$20 each

10" pots--\$45 each



To turn in orders, contact:

- Maxine Kubecka
- Annette Stonedale
- Marty Rieck
- Vanessa Kunefke

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@mhm.org.

Houston Hospice Presents Grief Seminar



HOUSTON HOSPICE
Life Matters

Houston Hospice of El Campo presents "An Empty Place at the Table"

You have two different dates and places to choose from:

Date: Thursday, November 4, 2015
Time: 10am to 12pm OR 6:30pm to 8:30pm
Place: First United Methodist Church, 1106 Fourth St., Rosenberg, TX 77471
 Facilitated by Rev. Don A Storey, Jr.

Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2015
Time: 2pm to 4 pm
Place: First Presbyterian Church, 2216 Ave H, Bay City, TX 77414
 Facilitated by Pat Mattes, LMSW

This is a 2 hour grief seminar to assist the bereaved with creating a meaningful plan to address the holiday season after the death of a loved one. This group is educational-there is some time for processing, but it's focus is to provide the family members the tools needed to create a new way to acknowledge the holidays during November, December, and New Year's.

Registration is required. Please call:

- **979-479-5727** to register for **November 4** seminar
- **979-578-0314** to register for the **November 10** seminar

FREE - No Charge

Serving communities of: Austin, Brazoria, Colorado, Ft. Bend, Jackson, Matagorda and Wharton Counties

Church Calendar for November



- 1 **Daylight Savings Time ENDS—Turn your clocks BACK**
All Saints Sunday, Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost—
Communion Sunday
Scriptures: Ruth 1:1-8; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:11-24;
Mark 12:28-34
Sunday School, 9:00 AM; Worship, 10:00 AM
- 4 Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM
Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM
- 5 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM
- 5-6 Pastor David in Austin
- 8 Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Scriptures: Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9:24-28; **Mark 12:38-44**
Men's Breakfast at First Presbyterian Church, 7:30 AM
Sunday School 9:00 AM, Worship, 10:00 AM
- 10 Finance Committee Meeting, 6:00 PM, Weimer Hall
Administrative Council Meeting, 7:00 PM, Weimer Hall
- 11 **Veterans Day**
Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM
Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM
- 12 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM
- 15 Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Scriptures: 1 Samuel 1:4-20, 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrews 10:11-14; **Mark 13:1-8**
Sunday School, 9:00 AM; Worship, 10:00 AM
Youth Fellowship in Weimer Hall, 6:00 PM
- 18 Hand Bells in Sanctuary, 5:30 PM
Choir in Sanctuary, 6:30 PM
- 19 Ladies Bible Study, Weimer Hall, 10:00 AM
UMW meet at noon to set up for fundraiser
Texas AgriLife Watershed meeting in Weimer Hall---1 PM
- 20 Crossroads Emmaus Gathering, Salem Lutheran, Port Lavaca, 6:30 PM
- 21 UMW Chicken Spaghetti Lunch and Bazaar
- 22 Christ the King Sunday; Last Sunday after Pentecost
Scriptures: 2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12; **Revelation 1:4b-8**; John 18:33-37
Sunday School, 9:00 AM; Worship, 10:00 AM
Decorate the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas following worship service
Community Thanksgiving Service sponsored by Ministerial Alliance, Baptist Encampment, 6:30 PM
- 25 NO Hand Bells and NO Chancel Choir rehearsal
- 26 THANKSGIVING DAY
Scriptures: Joel 2:21-27; Psalm 126; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Matthew 6:25-33
Church office closed Thursday and Friday
- 26- Pastor David out of town
- 27
- 29 First Sunday of Advent
Scriptures: **Jeremiah 33:14-16**; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36
Sunday School, 9:00 AM, Worship, 10:00 AM
5th Sunday Noisy Offering for Methodist Children's Home in Waco

Dates on the horizon to remember:

- December 7—Alpha Club Christmas Party in Weimer Hall
- December 13—Men's Breakfast in Weimer Hall, 7:30 AM
- December 13—Choir Cantata during Worship
- December 13—Fellowship luncheon after Worship
- December 13—Fellowship luncheon after Worship
- December 18—Crossroads Emmaus Gathering at Louise UMC—6:30 PM
- December 24—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00 PM
- December 24—CHRISTMAS DAY
- December 31—NEW YEAR'S EVE

Celebrations in November

Birthdays:

4—Amy Kubecka; 8—Judy Davidson; 12—John Neese; 15—Landra VandenBergh;
16—Robert Curtis; 19—Sandy Miller, 21—Andy Erdelt; 25—Frances Crunk;
26—Erwin Janszen; 27—Rhonda Huitt



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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.fumcpalacios.org

Joys and Concerns

Our sympathies go to the family and many friends of **Rev. Charlie Parker** who passed away peacefully in his recliner on October 17 in San Antonio.

At the family's request, memorials may be made to Oak Meadow UMC in San Antonio, your own church, the charity of your choice, or the animal shelter of your choice.

Assisting with Worship in November

Liturgist—OPEN

Greeters—Neva Taylor and Donna Dillard

Ushers—Shelly Johs and Larry Dillard

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.

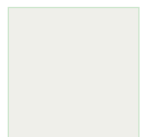
Newsletter Articles for December

If you have an article or announcement for the December newsletter, please get the information to Janie Gulley **by November 23** (due to the Thanksgiving holiday, we need them early that week) at 972-3185 or janiegulley@hotmail.com.

PALACIOS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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ADDRESS