



FUMC Newsletter

DECEMBER 2014

426 St. Paul, Gonzales, TX 78629 Phone: 830-672-8521 Fax: 830-672-4612 www.fumcgonzales.org

PASTOR'S CORNER

What would you like for Christmas this year? Have you started on your list? I know my first item is off the list since Kevin Harvick won the 2014 Nascar championship driving the number 4 Chevrolet. But you can't have everything, right?

It's always fun to imagine and to come up with a totally unrealistic Christmas wish list. How about an authentic arcade console! Who wouldn't want a full size Pac-Man arcade game sitting in the living room? Or how about a new paper towel dispenser? But why have a regular one when you can have a paper towel holder with USB ports that can charge your electronic devices! Or lets go really big: an 80 inch 4K TV! Have you seen the resolution on those new TV's; it makes high definition TV look like a UHF channel from the analog days.

I wouldn't mind some of these gadgets under the Christmas tree. But what I really want for Christmas is much less tangible and obtainable. Plus I can't seem to find a store that sells them. What do I truly want for Christmas? I want husbands and wives and children and grandparents to come together in love. I want a cure for cancer. I want peace and healing for the citizens of Ferguson, MO. I want the barbaric cruelty plaguing the Middle East to stop. I also wouldn't mind the repeal of the 17th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

I'm not sure what I'll get for Christmas, but I know God has a reputation for giving the best Christmas presents. Nothing beats the holiness of a child born of a young virgin who would grow up to become the Savior of the world. The only thing that could top that is the promise that this Savior will come again, and when that happens, God will rule the world. God will establish justice and righteousness. God will wipe away every tear and there shall be no more death, suffering, crying, or pain. That's a pretty good list, don't you think?

But what do we do while we wait for Christ to come again? I like what the prophet Isaiah said, "*Let us walk in the light of the Lord.*" (2:5) The knowledge that Christ shall come again should inform and govern the way we live our lives. We live in a world of selfishness and greed, but perhaps we can live as a people who know of the Kingdom that is to come; the Kingdom that is based on love and holiness. This Kingdom is coming. How do I know? God gave us the first present in the little town of Bethlehem. Jesus came once and that is proof that He will come again.

I'm sure we'll all be grateful for our presents on Christmas morning, but let us live in the light and as a people who truly believe, "*thy kingdom come, thy Will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.*"

Merry Christmas,
Andy

ADVENT OPEN HOUSE

All are welcome to the Advent Open House at the parsonage, 215 South Fair, on December 14, from 1:00-4:00. Bring the kids or grandkids, enjoy some goodies, and share some fellowship with your church family.



*Altar Flowers
for December are given by:*

December 7

Nancy Logan
In Memory of Jim Logan,
Fannie Mae Logan, and Obert Logan

Michael, Kristi, Brendon, and Blakely Mercer

December 14

Pal and Bethel Lester
Tom and Pam Lester
In Memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Stayton R. Lester, Sr.

December 21

Christmas Poinsettias

December 28

Rosannah Green
In Memory of My Parents,
Clyde and Edith Green
and my Two Brothers,
Jimmy and Dikes Green

Mrs. Norma B. Fink
In Memory of William Fink

Dwaine and Linda Siptak
In Honor of Our Children and Grandchildren

Staff

Rev. Andy Smith, Senior Pastor
Felicia Cantu, Office Manager
Rosemary Hindman, Business Manager
Willa Keck, Children's Ministry Director
Shirley Goss, Wesley Nurse
Craig Aamot, Music Minister
Christina Menking, Organist
Bill Meadows, Pianist
Sandra Jandt, Happy House Director
Rosannah Green, Attendance

Special Service Time
Sunday, December 28th
One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
No Sunday School

Ladies Christmas Luncheon
Monday, December 1st
Noon in the Narthex
All Women of the Church
are Invited
Bring a friend or two
Bring your favorite salad and the recipe
Enjoy Christmas Music & Fellowship



Exciting News! We are planning to return to Haiti and work with Matt and Sarah Rideout. The trip is tentatively set for June 26 through July 2. The deadline to sign up is January 15, 2015. Please talk with Pastor Andy or Tammy Morgan for more information. More information and details about the cost of this trip will be coming soon.



Coming in 2015...
**You will be able to give offerings
on the church website via PayPal.**



It's time to order your Poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. The flowers will be placed in the Sanctuary on December 14th. There are a limited number of plants, so place your order early. The cost will be \$17.50 per plant. Fill out the order form found in the church bulletin and return to the church office by Monday, December 8th. Make checks payable to FUMC-Poinsettias.



Thank You

Dear FUMC Family,

Thank you so much for your kindness. The luncheon was so thoughtful. We are grateful for all of your time and support during the passing of Sandy. She truly loved her church family.

Sincerely,
The Allen Family

The Sock Tree

Don't forget to bring your donations of **NEW** socks, underwear, and warm-up pants for **children ages 4-7** at East Avenue and Gonzales Elementary. We will be accepting your contribution **thru Dec. 14th.**



Book Club News

Our November meeting was held on Thursday, November 20, and our discussion was about the book Addicted to Hurry: Spiritual Strategies for Slowing Down by Kirk Byron Jones. The author is a pastor and teacher of social ethics and pastoral ministry at Andover Newton Theological Seminary in Massachusetts. His book addresses the need for hurry that seems to be prevalent in our lives and our society. His alternative method for living is called savoring pace. The book was different from our usual selections but certainly was timely as we enter the holiday season to remind us to slow down and savor Thanksgiving and Christmas with our families and friends. Connie Kearns led our lively discussion.

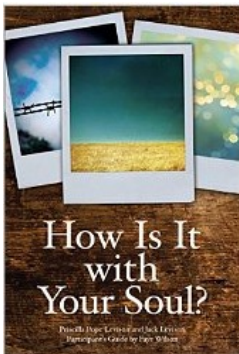
Our selection for December is A Christmas Clock by Kat Martin, a short, "feel-good" book to remind us of the important things about Christmas, families, and love. Madeline Bird will lead our discussion on December 18. We will again be meeting earlier than our usual fourth-Thursday meeting day. If you are interested in joining us, please call 672-9307 for details.

Spiritual Growth Study - "How Is It With Your Soul?"

Led by Rev. Andy Smith

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2015

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Framed within four verbs, "pray," "learn," "mentor," and "transform," the study gives an overview of the setting for this question – "How Is It With Your Soul?" – in Methodist classes and band meetings, and moves in a trajectory from the individual to the church to the world. The study is bookended by key Wesleyan questions such as: "Have you carefully abstained from doing evil?" "Have you zealously maintained good works?" and "Have you constantly attended on all the ordinances of God?" The writers lead the readers to reflect on their own responses by focusing on the four aforesaid verbs, pray, learn, mentor, and transform and learning insights from the lives of leaders from the Bible as well as those from Christian mission history.

STATISTICAL REPORT OCTOBER 2014

DATE	8:30	10:45	TOTAL	SS	OFFERINGS
5	89	102	191	59	\$ 8,544.00
12	144	152	296	73	\$ 10,055.35
19	108	145	253	78	\$ 11,096.00
26	101	110	211	69	\$ 6,135.05
TOTALS:	442	509	951	279	\$ 35,830.40
AVERAGES:	<u>111</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>238</u>	<u>70</u>	

TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THE MONTH: \$ 34,232.27
 NET GAIN OR LOSS FOR THE MONTH: \$ 1,598.13
 APPORTIONMENTS PAID TO DATE: 96%

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



12/1	Coylene Oliver Fred Robinson Laura Zella	12/13	Lisa Escobedo Marian Hayes Billy Hornung	12/25	Bill Keck
12/3	Michael Ehrig Steve Ehrig	12/14	Mary Willman Kayla Barta	12/26	Jimmy Borrer
12/4	Grace Morgan Jeff Braune	12/15	Barry Boothe, Jr. Dayton McCray	12/27	Melissa Currie Pal Lester Sandra Morris Bill Mayer Logan Sample
12/6	Lee Meyers Crystal Campos Shelley Thomas	12/17	John Wilson Scarlet Humphries Sadie Thibodeaux	12/28	Amanda Lackey Tanner Hardcastle Brie Schauer Zane Whitehead Colt Robinson
12/7	Annie Mae Bond Bunkie Selman Donna Gray Kailyn Malaer	12/18	Scott Friedrich Lauren Parr Tara Lester	12/29	Arline Pettus Ronnie Menking Stacy Fogle
12/8	Johnnie Fogle Micah Medellin Joelee Lester William Hornung	12/19	Lupe Longoria Hannah Keck Kerry Morgan Trent Malaer Tildon Gray	12/30	Cullen Eppright Maggie Matejcek Lainey Witzkoske
12/9	Kelli White Melissa Schauer Patricia Tenberg Brian Schauer	12/21	Joe Britt Hindman Noelle Stowers Mary Tomas	12/31	Debbie Crozier Garland Tenberg, Jr. Lisa Gindler Rosannah Green Scott Hindman Monroe McGuffin Ryleigh Campos
12/10	Rosemary Hindman Tim Henry Scott Koehler	12/22	Nancy Collins Chance Boyd Anthony Mikesh Bill Hallmark		
12/11	Greg Sengelmann	12/23	Patrick White Jill Schauer		
12/12	Larry Ehrig Trey Kridler Colton Riedel	12/24	Christopher Beaver Linda Arledge Peyton Brzozowski		

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

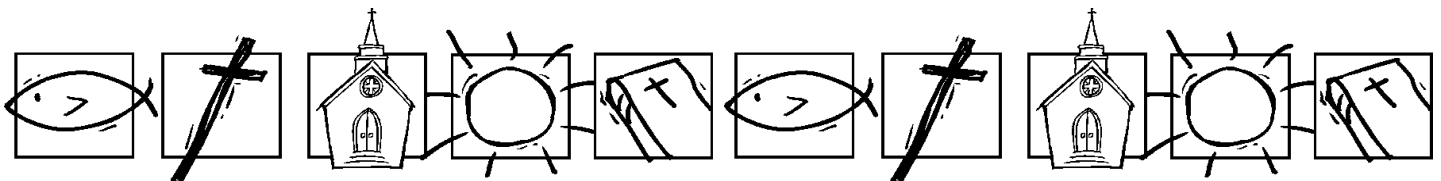
12/3	Judy & John Gentry	12/25	Michelle & Leroy Lavender
12/6	Christi & Kenneth Leonhardt	12/27	Kathy & Rickey Gibson
12/9	Sammie & Jeff Massie	12/28	Jenice & Jim Benedict
12/14	Tonya & David Eppright	12/29	Jackie & Gene Kridler Kelly & Ricky Lester Lynda & Stewart Frazier Mary & Daniel Tomas
12/16	Tammy & Kerry Morgan		
12/17	Cheryl & Bill Meadows		
12/18	Maydell & Charles Pankey	12/30	Melissa & Rusty Clampit
12/22	Patricia & Donnie Tenberg		

Please contact Felicia at the church office, 672-8521, if your information is missing or incorrect.

DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

<p>December 7, 2014</p>  <p>Communion Service</p>	<p>8:30 A.M. SERVICE</p> <p>Ashtyn Kardosz Brendon Mercer Daniel Sullivan Emmitt Currie (Lead) Commie Hisey John Lucas Ronnie Menking Greg Sengelmann Allison Davis Pastor Andy</p>	<p>10:45 A.M. SERVICE</p> <p>Peyton Ruddock Weston Ruddock Trent Wilkerson Pal Lester (Lead) Beverly Malatek Cheryl Meadows Bobby Morgan Ray Neitsch Lisa Gindler Pastor Andy</p>	<p><u>ACOLYTES</u></p> <p><u>USHERS</u></p> <p><u>LITURGIST</u> <u>CHILDREN'S SERMON</u></p>
<p>December 14, 2014</p>	<p>8:30 A.M. SERVICE</p> <p>Megan Tenberg Jordan Williams Natalie Tenberg Emmitt Currie (Lead) Travis Schauer Steve Taylor John Whitt Martha Jo Whitt Johnnie Fogle Lisa Gindler</p>	<p>10:45 A.M. SERVICE</p> <p>Parker Storey Kylee Watson Weldon Holub Pal Lester (Lead) Charles Pankey Leslie Ploeger Justin Pope Mary Tomas Dick Goss Lisa Gindler</p>	<p><u>ACOLYTES</u></p> <p><u>USHERS</u></p> <p><u>LITURGIST</u> <u>CHILDREN'S SERMON</u></p>
<p>December 21, 2014</p>	<p>8:30 A.M. SERVICE</p> <p>Cole Boothe Morgan Boothe Ancel Atkinson Emmitt Currie (Lead) Billy Boothe Sue Boothe Erwin Ckudre Bill DeBerry Rosemary Hindman Commie Hisey</p>	<p>10:45 A.M. SERVICE</p> <p>Kiley Allen Baron DuBose Sadie Morgan Pal Lester (Lead) Kelly Allen David Bird Jeffery Braune Eldon Farek Shirley Goss Commie Hisey</p>	<p><u>ACOLYTES</u></p> <p><u>USHERS</u></p> <p><u>LITURGIST</u> <u>CHILDREN'S SERMON</u></p>
<p>December 28, 2014</p>  <p>Special Service Time</p>	<p>10:00 A.M. SERVICE</p> <p>Brody Borrer Hadley Borrer Sadie Thibodeaux Emmitt Currie Pal Lester Gary Clack Mike Davis Bitsy Henderson Gene Kridler Emmitt Currie</p>		<p><u>ACOLYTES</u></p> <p><u>USHERS</u></p> <p><u>LITURGIST</u> <u>CHILDREN'S SERMON</u></p>

If you are unable to serve on the date scheduled, please contact the church office, 672-8521.



December 2014

December 2014

January 2015

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 30 - Dec 6	Nov 30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6
		8:30am Happy House 10:30am Staff Mtg-L 12:00pm 12:30pm Ladies' Seled Luncheon-N 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-PR 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-CO	10:00am Shut-In-Visitation 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 6:00pm Girl Scout Mtg-PSS	8:30am Happy House 10:00am Bible Study-CO 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 3:30pm Pioneer Club 5:00pm Christmas Pageant Practice-S 5:30pm Jr. High Youth 5:30pm Presie Band Practice-S 6:30pm Choir Practice- 6:30pm Sr. High Youth	9:30am Communion at Care Centers 11:00am Flex & Tone 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 3:30pm Children Decorate Tree@the Heights 4:00pm Reunion Group-PR	6:30pm Cub Scout Mtg-PSS	
Dec	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	2nd Sunday of Advent COMMUNION SUNDAY 8:30am Worship-S 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-S 12:00pm Children's Choir Practice-CR 2:30pm Communion @ Romberg House 6:00pm Children's Pageant-S	8:30am Happy House 10:30am Staff Mtg-L 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-PR 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-CO	8:00am Happy House Staff Party-N 10:00am Shut-In-Visitation 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 5:30pm Wesleyan Circle-N 6:00pm Girl Scout Mtg-PSS 6:00pm Quilt Group-FC	8:30am Happy House 10:00am Bible Study-CO 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 3:30pm Pioneer Club 5:00pm Christmas Craft Fair 5:30pm Jr. High Youth 5:30pm Presie Band Practice-S 6:30pm Choir Practice- 6:30pm Sr. High Youth	11:00am Flex & Tone 11:30am 12:00pm 12:00pm Book Club Christmas Luncheon-N 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 4:00pm Reunion Group-PR	6:30pm Cub Scout Mtg-PSS	
Dec	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	3rd Sunday of Advent 8:30am Worship-S 9:30am Food Box Assembly-FC 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-S 12:00pm Children's Choir Practice-CR 1:00pm Open House at the Parsonage	8:30am Happy House 9:00am Happy House Christmas Chapel & Birthday Party-EB 10:30am Staff Mtg-L 11:00am 11:30am Food Box Dist. -FC 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-PR 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-CO	9:45am Lenore Boothe Circle-N 10:00am Shut-In-Visitation 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 6:00pm Girl Scout Mtg-PSS 6:00pm The Longest Night Worship Service-S	8:30am Happy House 10:00am Bible Study-CO 12:00pm Communion Prayer Service-N & C 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 5:00pm Children's Choir Practice-S 5:30pm Jr. High Youth 5:30pm Presie Band Pr 6:30pm Choir Practice- 6:30pm Sr. High Youth	11:00am Flex & Tone 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 4:00pm Children's Caroling 4:00pm Reunion Group-PR 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting-FC	8:00am Private Event	
Dec	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Cantata 8:30am Worship-S 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-S	10:30am Staff Mtg-L 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-PR 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-CO	10:00am Shut-In-Visitation 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 6:00pm Girl Scout Mtg-PSS	Office Closed 4:30pm Christmas Eve Service-S 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service-S 11:30pm Christmas Eve Service-S	Merry Christmas! Office Closed	Office Closed 6:30pm Cub Scout Mtg-PSS	
Dec	28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 15	2	3
	10:00am Worship-S	10:30am Staff Mtg-L 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-PR 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-CO	10:00am Shut-In-Visitation 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 6:00pm Girl Scout Mtg-PSS	Office Closed			

Children's Corner

Merry Christmas to everyone! As your December calendar fills with activities and events and as your children become more excited the closer we get to Christmas Day, I ask you to always remind them of why we celebrate Christmas. Be humbled by the birth of our Savior! Thank God for sending his son to us! And Thank God for all blessings and gifts that come from him!

Decorate the tree in the Sanctuary with Chrismons during the Children's Time in both services, Sunday, Nov 30, 1st Sunday in Advent.

Dedication of the United Methodist Women Sock Tree, Sunday, Nov 30 @ 10:20am in the Narthex.

- Donate new socks, undergarments and warm up pants for children in our area. UMW give to East Avenue and Gonzales Elementary. Help decorate the tree!!

Hosanna Choir

- **First Choir practice**-Sunday, Dec 7, after 2nd service in Choir room.
- **Second Choir Practice**-Sunday, Dec 14 after 2nd service in Choir room.
- **Third Choir Practice**-Wednesday, Dec 17 at 5:00pm in Sanctuary.
- **Hosanna Choir will sing** at both services with Chancel Choir on **Sun, Dec 21.**
- **Christmas Caroling** at nursing homes and Romberg House **Thur, Dec 18.** **Van pick up** from East Ave and Gonzales Elem (I'm working on riding arrangements for North Ave pick up). Leave church by 4pm. Pick up at church at 5:30pm.
- **Christmas Eve Service** – Hosanna Choir will sing at the 4:30pm Christmas Eve Service.

Christmas Pageant

- **Pageant Practice - Wed, Dec 3-Shepherd's Choir (3rd-8th grade) at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary. Angel's choir (2nd gr and younger) gather in the Sanctuary at 5:15pm.** (Angel's choir sings at the end of the pageant)
- **Pageant Practice** --All cast practice on **Sunday, Dec 7 at 9:45am** in the Sanctuary. (Angel choir (2nd grade and younger) do not need to come to Sanctuary until 10:15am for Sunday practice). **All children and youth are invited and welcome to participate. Senior High- Be present for practice!** Contact Judy Neitsch, Pageant Director for part in the pageant. N92557@gvtc.com or 857-5839
- **Senior High (Nativity Characters) arrive by 5:30pm, Sunday, Dec 7.** Meet in the choir room to dress in costume.
- **Shepherd's choir (3rd gr. – 8th gr.) participants arrive by 5:30pm.** Meet in the Fellowship Hall to dress in costume. **Shepherd's Choir costumes provided!** The Jr. High Shepherds have special costumes and are part of the Shepherd's choir.
- **Angel's choir (2nd gr and younger)** wear holiday or Sunday dress and meet in the Narthex by 5:45pm. You wear a tinsel halo that is provided.
- **Pageant begins at 6:00pm on Sunday, Dec 7.** Parents don't forget to bring cameras for pictures with Santa!! And don't forget to bring food too!! Help is needed for set up beginning at 4:00pm, getting shepherd's dressed in costumes, attaching halo's to the little ones, and always, clean up after pageant.

Nursery – relish tray	Kindergarten – cheese and crackers
1 st & 2 nd – chips and dips	3 rd & 4 th – sandwiches
5 th & 6 th – sandwiches	7 th & 8 th – fruit trays
9 th -12 th – cookies, desserts	Adults – bring any refreshment they would like

Pioneer Club

- Wed, Dec 3 and Wed, Dec. 10.

Christmas Craft Fair, Wed, Dec 10, 5:15pm – 6:45pm in the Fellowship Hall.

- Parents and families join your children in making Chrismons, Christmas crafts and decorating cookies! Make memories with your children! All are invited to participate! **Last Pioneer Club meeting for fall.** Senior and junior high invited to assist children!

Service Projects

- **Help decorate a Christmas Tree at the Heights Nursing Home on Thur, Dec 4. Meet at church after school.** No school pick up. Snacks provided, then will load the van and head to The Heights for decorating! Parents pick up from church at 5:15pm. RSVP to Willa 857-6630.
- **Christmas Food Box Donation Contest-** Can your **Sunday School class help? Collect non-perishable food items** to fill your box—or 2 or 3 or 4—from now until December 14. Bring your collection to the fellowship hall on December 14 at the end of Sunday School. The class with the most donated items will be **rewarded with doughnuts on Sunday December 21.**
- **5th and 6th gr Sunday School class help prepare Christmas Food Boxes Sun, Dec 14.**

Christmas Eve Services:

- 4:30pm, 7:00pm (candlelight) and 11:30pm (candlelight)

Worship Service, Sunday, Dec 28

- One service at 10:00am. Sunday School classes **will not meet.**

God Bless and Prayers for safe holiday travel, Willa



Christmas can be an emotional time of year, especially for those who grieve in the loss of loved ones. Our **“Longest Night”** worship service will be on Tuesday, **December 16 at 6pm.** It’s a time to acknowledge our sadness and allow God to minister to our grief. This service is open to our entire community.

EARTH ANGELS

Earth Angels continue to work on several projects. Several Angel bunting outfits have been donated to the hospital as well as flannel blankets for the preemies. The house blocks and scrappy projects also continues for our members who choose to participate. Later, these project blocks will be used to create beautiful quilts to be donated as needed.



Plans have been made for our annual Christmas gathering on Dec. 9.

Women who are interested in quilting make up our group called Earth Angels. Meetings are usually held at 6:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month, in the FUMC Fellowship Center. A typical meeting involves an inspirational reading followed by the mentioning of persons who may be in need of prayers or in need of being “wrapped in God’s love” by the presentation of a quilt. Members share ideas, show quilts they have made, and engage in quilting projects. Fellowship and sharing play a major role in Earth Angels.

Wesley Nurse News

Seasons of Wholeness Message- “Holiday Gifts and Traditions”

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the Heavenly lights...” James 1:17



A harried woman and her children were ending their day of holiday shopping. To express her frustration and stress, she stated that whoever created Christmas should be strung up and shot. A bystander brought to her attention that someone had already crucified him. Before you get caught up with your tasks, lists, and expectations, put them into perspective. Ask yourself what you should be celebrating: the hectic, stress-laden, financially burdened holiday season, or the gift of peace and hope.

Not all gifts are material. Sharing your time with others is a gift that can be given all year round. Look for community agencies or projects that need manpower. Homeless/ abuse shelters, food pantries, meal sites, tutoring projects, hospice programs, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, and many other programs need manpower to provide their services. Research shows that volunteering is also good for your physical and mental health so choose a project, commit your time, and make it a family event. It will improve the lives of others while it reaps unexpected spiritual and family benefits.

“Be sure to give to the Lord the best portions of the gifts given to you.” Numbers 18:19.

Advent is a time for hope, peace, joy, and love, not mounds of gifts, chaotic rounds of parties, or copious amounts of food. Consider what has real meaning for you. Is it the Christmas story you heard as a child or its impact on you as an adult? Think about the music of the holiday and how a stirring rendition of “Joy to the World” or a quiet performance of “Silent Night” displays love and peace in a harried world. Do not let commercialism or stress overshadow the gifts of love and sharing that you offer your loved ones. Remember the spirits of Christmas, share your presence with others, reduce your stress, and create meaningful traditions that demonstrate God’s love.

Your Wesley Nurse, Shirley Goss

First United Methodist Church
426 St. Paul Street
Gonzales, Texas 78629

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Christmas Eve Services
Wednesday, December 24th*

*4:30 p.m. Family Communion
7:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion
11:30 p.m. Candlelight Communion*





Events to Look Forward to in December

- 11/30 First Sunday of Advent**
Hanging of the Greens
Dedication of the Sock Tree ~ 10:25 a.m.
- 12/1 UMW Ladies Salad Luncheon ~ Noon in the Narthex
- 12/7 Second Sunday of Advent**
Children's Pageant ~ 6:00 p.m.
- 12/14 Third Sunday of Advent**
Missions Committee Requests Volunteers to Help with Assembling Boxes
Open House at the Parsonage ~ 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.
- 12/15 Missions Team & Volunteers will be available for Food Box pickup-11 a.m.
- 12/16 **"The Longest Night"** worship service ~ Sanctuary 6:00 p.m.
- 12/17 Christmas Craft Fair & Family Activities ~ 5:15 p.m.-6:45 p.m.
- 12/17 Happy House Christmas class parties, then dismiss until January 7.
- 12/21 Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Christmas Cantata at both services
- 12/24 Christmas Eve**
Services at 4:30, 7:00 and 11:30 p.m.
- 12/24 - 12/26 **Church Office Closed**
- 12/29 One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. No Sunday School.**
- 12/31 - 1/1 **Church Office Closed**