



FUMC Newsletter

JANURAY 2016

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



Visit their website for more information:

www.sunriseministries.org

Sunday January 10

Phil and Debi Jones will be with us on Sunday morning at both worship services. They bring their inspirational music and powerful message of hope and forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

Spread the word! Invite a neighbor or two. You will love the music and find your hearts filled with joy!

To help support Phil and Debi's **Sunrise Ministry**, the church will be taking up a special love offering for them.

Introducing our new Wesley Nurse: **Janelle Lester**

Methodist Healthcare Ministries out of San Antonio funds this outreach ministry where currently 80 Wesley Nurses spread throughout the region work through congregations to bless local communities with a holistic approach to medical needs. With **MHM** overseeing the hiring process, we are blessed to once again have a church member serve in this position!

As a Registered Nurse, Janelle will build upon the ministries and programs implemented by Shirley Goss. Janelle is currently undergoing her training and orientation with **MHM** and will begin her ministry in early 2016.

Pictured right is Janelle with her husband, Derrick, and children Dixie, Ellie, and Stayton.



*Altar Flowers for January
are given by:*

January 3

Greg and Joan Griffin
In Honor of Our Heavenly Father

January 10

Mary and Erwin Ckudre
In Memory of Our Parents

Carol Wallace
In Memory Lamoine Wallace

January 17

Fred Robinson Family

January 24

Zilpha Dolezal
Sherry and Ken Callaway
In Memory of William "Willie T" Callaway

January 31

Sandra Atkinson
Matt, Cheryl, Ancel, and Quinn Atkinson
In Memory of Frank Atkinson,
Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Atkinson,
Mr. and Mr. K. V. McGinty,
Larry McGinty, Ann Garger,
Cody Childress, and Wesley Richards

Staff

Rev. Andy Smith, Senior Pastor
Ruth Smith, Youth Pastor
David Smith, Director of Discipleship
Willa Keck, Children's Ministry Director
Felicia Cantu, Office Manager
Rosemary Hindman, Business Manager
Janelle Lester, Wesley Nurse
Craig Aamot, Music Minister
Christina Menking, Organist
Bill Meadows, Pianist
Sandra Jandt, Happy House Director
Rosannah Green, Attendance
Lupe Longoria, Custodian

Welcome 2016!

Christmas Food Boxes

Thanks to your support and generosity, we have completed the preparation and distribution of 200 food boxes for needy families in the Gonzales area. In addition to the food items we were also able to provide each family with a blanket thanks to a special donation. Also HEB made a very generous contribution to our project and we extend a big thank you to them. I want to thank each of you for your donations of money, time and groceries in making this project a success. This project helps those less fortunate to have some extra groceries and also be able to fix a nice holiday meal for their families. I feel this outreach is a testament to our faith and the loving spirit of Christ at work in our community. All of the recipients expressed their gratitude and want you to know that it does make a difference.

Earth Angels

The December meeting of Earth Angels marked the end of 2015 and the realization that 2016 was rapidly approaching. Our annual Christmas meal and gift exchange were the main items on our agenda as well as a report that we have donated 65 quilts this year. For January and the rest of the year, we are looking forward to new ideas, to sharing quilts, and to gaining some new members.

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 First United Methodist Church 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. Fellowship and sharing play a major role in Earth Angels. Feel free to visit our next meeting on January 12, 2016; we'd love to have you.

*Earth Angels wish everyone a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!*

Thank You

Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Thank you so much for the beautiful shawl you knitted for me. It is so comforting to be a part of this church family, surrounded by such caring, thoughtful people, and God's love.

Love in Christ, Forrest Penney

Dear First United Methodist Church,

I want to express my sincere appreciation and my heartfelt thanks to Pastor Andy and all my friends at First United Methodist Church of Gonzales for the many acts of kindness and Christian love I received when my son, Clay, went to his Heavenly home. How blessed I am to be a part of such a loving and caring church family. I pray for God's blessings for each of you.

Eva Boscamp

Dear Prayer Shawl Group,

You ladies truly are the hands of Jesus creating the prayer shawls filled with God's amazing love. When I am wrapped in its cloud soft yarn and cuddly warmth, I feel not only God's comforting love but yours as well. How thoughtful you were to give me one when I needed it the most. Thank you so very much. May God's blessing be yours.

Eva Boscamp

Dear Earth Angels Quilters,

Thank you very much for the beautiful quilt! I am amazed at all the work that has gone into making this quilt. The stitching is so perfect, and the different pieces you have put together make it really interesting. It is truly a work of art!

Every time I use this quilt, I will know that I am "wrapped in God's love" and that God's Earth Angels blessed me with this memorable gift.

Love to each of you, Carolyn Harrell

Dear Friends

Saying "thank you again" doesn't adequately express our gratitude for your continued support of GCAM's mission in our county.

God bless you, GCAM's Board & Staff

Dear First UMC,

The Wesley Nurse retirement reception was a perfect way for you to express your appreciation to me & I thank you for making me feel so special. The flowers, cake and special words from Pastor Andy will always be in my heart. Thank you for your support & caring & for your friendship.

Love always, Shirley Goss

Book Club News

December always brings festivities for our book club. We meet for a luncheon along with our book discussion. Of course, the food was delicious, and Norma Fink led an interesting discussion of Phyllis Clark Nichols's new book, The Christmas Portrait. Mrs. Nichols is the wife of a former minister of our neighboring First Baptist Church. Some of our members were privileged to hear the author speak at an earlier event in December at the Baptist Church. The coming-of-age novel is a sweet but sad story of how a young girl whose mother has died copes with Christmas. A very timely book, it includes a subplot that deals with spousal abuse and has themes of family love, grief, charity, belief in heaven, and the importance of role models in a child's life. Our members had mixed feelings about the book; some of it was almost too realistic but there was a bit of the supernatural or spiritual side to it also. Some of the characters were too good to be true and some were unbelievable. Even though Christmas has passed, I believe most of you would enjoy the book and will probably never look at a cardinal in the same way.

We look forward to our January selection which is Bathsheba: The Reluctant Beauty by Angela Hunt. Ms. Hunt has written several novels about women of the Bible. Her research and explanations of Hebrew beliefs and life are very enlightening. Twan Brady will lead our discussion. We will meet on our usual meeting date, the fourth Thursday (January 28) at 9:30 in the church library and anyone is welcome. For information, call 672-9307.

Martha Jo Whitt

STATISTICAL REPORT NOVEMBER, 2015

DATE	8:30	10:45	TOTAL	SS	OFFERINGS
1	118	138	256	99	\$ 11,727.06
8	141	128	269	78	\$ 11,525.50
15	123	149	272	84	\$ 9,272.39
22	110	142	252	90	\$ 7,946.36
29	101	140	251	82	\$ 11,445.03
TOTALS:	593	697	1300	433	\$ 51,916.34
AVERAGES:	119	139	260	87	

TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THE MONTH: \$ 44,595.84
NET GAIN OR LOSS FOR THE MONTH: \$ 7,320.50
APPORTIONMENTS PAID TO DATE: 100%

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1	Jimmy Mills	20	Rachelle Pearson	27	Herman Grauke
2	Holly Woodson		Todd Crawford	28	Ann Robinson
4	Kara Tuch		Andrew Storey		Byron Freeman
5	Tommy Barnick	21	Norma Ehrig		Beth Newman
	Cody Witzkoske		Jack Dubose	29	Phil Koehler
	Angelica Castro		Zac Clack		Kenneth Gottwald
6	Bill Reaves	22	Bryan Pope		Al Wayne Ehrig
	Daniel Tomas	23	Sherri Schellenberg		Jax Lipke
8	Grayson Peterek		John Meadows	30	Read Staton
	Ellen Johnson	24	Peggy Munson	31	Glenn Pruess
	Joyce Harris		Dale Graham		Sean Dubose
	Dawn Brooks		Dakota Brown		Bryan Condel
10	Michael Lackey, Sr.		Logan Hurt		Connor Fogle
	Jessyca Malaer		Madelyne Parr		
11	Erik Currie	25	Kenneth Poe		
12	Courtney Williams		Rachel Smith		
	Roy Johnson	26	Zachary Taylor		
	Maria Sullivan		Linnea Cowan		
13	Cree Stowers		Bubba Ehrig		
	Cookie Munson				
14	Scarlett Crawford				
	Glen Sachtleben				
	Fisher Davis				
	Bowen Davis				
15	Jordan Escobedo				
	Michael Lackey, Jr.				
	Trace Herndon				
16	Bill Meadows				
	Cheryl Meadows				
	Rankin Glover				
	Dawson Hull				
17	Janet Yoakum				
	Dannie Schellenberg				
	Emily Hull				
18	Carol Wallace				
	Britt Hindman				
	Robbie Heldarsen				
	Steve Petty				
	Angela DuBose				
	Andrew Sullivan				
	Parker Petras				
19	Shirley Spoon				
	Nicholas Casares				

ANNIVERSARIES IN



1	Allen & Kara Watts
6	Michael & Stephanie Fritz
7	Steve & Kathleen Ehrig Lance & Leah Behlen
8	Jimmy & Hope Mills
9	Andrew & Charlotte Georgiou
12	Johnnie & Debbie Fogle Mike & Karen Vaughan

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

JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

<p>January 3, 2016</p>  <p>Communion Service</p>	<p>8:30 A.M. SERVICE</p> <p>Mallory Clack Braden Clampit Natalie Tenberg Emmitt Currie (Lead) Gary Clack Bill DeBerry Greg Sengelmann John Lucas Haley Clampit Allison Davis</p>	<p>10:45 SERVICE</p> <p>Landon Holub Paisley Ploeger Weldon Holub Pal Lester (Lead) Jeffery Braune Ray Neitsch Jr Eldon Farek Greg Griffin Deanie Ploeger Allison Davis</p>	<p><u>ACOLYTES</u></p> <p>(cross)</p> <p><u>USHERS</u></p> <p><u>LITURGIST</u> <u>CHILDREN'S SERMON</u></p>
	<p>January 10, 2016</p> <p>8:30 A.M. SERVICE</p> <p>Addyson Kardosz Brendon Mercer Ancel Atkinson Emmitt Currie (Lead) Billy Boothe Sue Boothe Herman Grauke Joe Britt Hindman Rosemary Hindman Lisa Gindler</p>	<p>10:45 SERVICE</p> <p>Macy Sample Grace Morgan Sadie Morgan Pal Lester (Lead) Mike Davis Bitsy Henderson Bobby Morgan Kelly Allen Gene Kridler Lisa Gindler</p>	<p><u>ACOLYTES</u></p> <p>(cross)</p> <p><u>USHERS</u></p> <p><u>LITURGIST</u> <u>CHILDREN'S SERMON</u></p>
	<p>January 17, 2016</p> <p>8:30 A.M. SERVICE</p> <p>Cree Stowers Megan Tenberg Quinn Atkinson Emmitt Currie (Lead) Ronnie Menking Erwin Ckudre Steve Taylor Jimmy Borrer Rosannah Green Commie Hisey</p>	<p>10:45 SERVICE</p> <p>Faith Lester Joelee Lester Kiley Allen Pal Lester (Lead) Jim Benedict Jenice Benedict Justin Pope Mary Tomas Shirley Goss Commie Hisey</p>	<p><u>ACOLYTES</u></p> <p>(cross)</p> <p><u>USHERS</u></p> <p><u>LITURGIST</u> <u>CHILDREN'S SERMON</u></p>
	<p>January 24, 2016</p> <p>8:30 A.M. SERVICE</p> <p>Hadley Borrer Brody Borrer Sydney Clack Emmitt Currie (Lead) John Whitt Martha Jo Whitt Bill DeBerry Kenneth Fink Amanda Reed Kristi Mercer</p>	<p>10:45 SERVICE</p> <p>Ava Medellin Slone Gibson Seth Gibson Pal Lester (Lead) Richard Goss Cheryl Meadows Shirley Goss David Bird Eldon Farek Kristi Mercer</p>	<p><u>ACOLYTES</u></p> <p>(cross)</p> <p><u>USHERS</u></p> <p><u>LITURGIST</u> <u>CHILDREN'S SERMON</u></p>
<p>January 31, 2016</p>  <p>Our Church Family</p> <p>5th Sunday Family Reunion</p>		<p>10:45 SERVICE</p> <p>Parker Storey Weston Ruddock Peyton Ruddock Pal Lester (Lead) Jeffery Braune Leslie Ploeger Kelly Allen Mike Davis Pam Lester Pastor Andy</p>	<p><u>ACOLYTES</u></p> <p>(cross)</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.

January 2016

January 2016

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						

February 2016

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					

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 27 - Jan 2	Dec 27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 16 Office Closed New Years Day	2
Jan 3 - 9	3 COMMUNION SUNDAY 8:30am Worship-S 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-S 2:30pm Communion @ Romberg House 5:00pm Youth Bible Study-YR	4 2:00pm Staff Mtg-L 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-BP 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-CO	5 10:00am Shut-In-Visitation 6:30pm The Gathering-C	6 8:30am Happy House 9:00am HH Creative Movement-FC 10:00am Bible Study-CO 3:30pm Pioneer Club 4:00pm Jr. High Youth 5:30pm Praise Band Pr 6:30pm Choir Practice- 6:30pm Sr. High Youth	7 6:00am Men's Fraternity-N 9:30am Communion @ Care Centers 4:00pm Cub Scouts-PSS 4:00pm Reunion Group-CO	8 5:00pm Pine Wood Derby Set Up-FC	9 9:00am Pine Wood Derby-FC
Jan 10 - 16	10 8:30am Worship-S 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-S 12:00pm Confirmation Meeting-EB 4:00pm 4-H-FC 5:00pm Youth Bible Study-YR	11 8:30am Happy House 12:00pm Cancer Support Group-N 2:00pm Staff Mtg-L 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-BP 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-CO	12 10:00am Private Event-N 10:00am Shut-In-Visitation 5:30pm Wesleyan Circle-N 6:00pm Quilt Group-FC 6:30pm The Gathering-C	13 8:30am Happy House 9:00am HH Creative Movement-FC 10:00am Bible Study-CO 3:30pm Pioneer Club 4:00pm Jr. High Youth 5:30pm Praise Band Pr 6:30pm Choir Practice- 6:30pm Sr. High Youth	14 6:00am Men's Fraternity-N 4:00pm Cub Scouts-PSS 4:00pm Reunion Group-CO	15	16
Jan 17 - 23	17 8:30am Worship-S 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-S 5:00pm Youth Bible Study-YR	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Office Closed 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-BP 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-CO	19 10:00am Shut-In-Visitation 6:30pm The Gathering-C	20 8:30am Happy House 9:00am HH Creative Movement-FC 10:00am Bible Study-CO 3:30pm Pioneer Club 4:00pm Jr. High Youth 5:30pm Praise Band Pr 6:30pm Choir Practice- 6:30pm Sr. High Youth	21 6:00am Men's Fraternity-N 4:00pm Cub Scouts-PSS 4:00pm Reunion Group-CO	22	23 6:30pm Jr High Dance-FC
Jan 24 - 30	24 8:30am Worship-S 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-S 5:00pm Youth Bible Study-YR	25 8:30am Happy House 2:00pm Staff Mtg-L 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-BP 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm Bible Study-CO	26 10:00am Shut-In-Visitation 6:30pm The Gathering-C	27 8:30am Happy House 9:00am HH Creative Movement-FC 10:00am Bible Study-CO 3:30pm Pioneer Club 4:00pm Jr. High Youth 5:30pm Praise Band Pr 6:30pm Choir Practice- 6:30pm Sr. High Youth	28 6:00am Men's Fraternity-N 9:30am Book Club-L 4:00pm Cub Scouts-PSS 4:00pm Reunion Group-CO	29	30
Jan 31 - Feb 6	31 8:30am Worship-S 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-S 5:00pm Youth Bible Study-YR	Feb 1	2	3	4	5	6

Discipleship News

One of the most wonderful parts of my job as the Director of Discipleship is the nursing home ministry I am able to take part in. In addition to our monthly services we do at the local nursing homes, I have been able to implement a music ministry at two of our nursing homes: The Heights of Gonzales and Texan Nursing Home and Rehab. Shortly after starting my position here at FUMC I started visiting these nursing homes one to two times a week to play and sing hymns with the residents. At the Heights, I am able to interact every week with residents in the Magnolia unit where most of the residents who live there have dementia of some kind and are not able to participate in many of the regular activities. At the Texan, I set up in their activity area and am able to interact with any residents who wish to participate.

I have to be honest when I say that visiting these residents is much more of a blessing to me than it is to them! It is incredible to get to know these residents by their name and see the joy they exude when they sing these classic hymns. There are several residents at the Texan and the Heights who know the hymns well enough that they have every verse of every hymn memorized. What a great challenge for us to internalize these amazing hymns so well that we would never need a hymnal again! We would be able to ponder the deep theology found in hymns like "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Because He Lives." One of my favorite parts of my time at each nursing home is when we all sing a rousing rendition of "You Are My Sunshine." It is incredible to see how such a simple song can put a smile on so many faces.

It seems like the Lord continually shows me that places like the Heights and the Texan are where Jesus would be if he was walking on the earth. These are wonderful people who are sadly many times neglected by our society. To some, the prospect of visiting a nursing home is often met with hesitation and dread. Why is this? In reality, the residents of these nursing homes have so much to offer-whether it be stories to tell, wisdom to impart, or smiles to give. I am reminded often of this truth from Scripture: "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: *to care for orphans and widows in their distress*, and to keep oneself unstained by the world" (James 1:27).

I am so thankful to have been able to meet some of these incredible people:



United Methodist Women News

Do the years fly by for you like they do for me? Where did 2015 go? Blessings to each of you as we begin 2016! The purpose of United Methodist Women calls us to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participating in the global ministries of the church. Our emphasis is to help women, children, and youth of our community and throughout the world.

As members of Gonzales UMW, we are asked to answer the call to step out in faith to meet our local pledge of \$900.00 and to share what we have with those less fortunate. We meet our pledge in 2015. Can we do so again for 2016? We will start 2016 with the Wesleyan Circle meeting at 5:30 p.m. on January 12th for their pledge service.

Invitation to Join

If you think you might be interested in joining United Methodist Women, please come to the meeting on Jan 12th at 5:30 in the Narthex. We will have a light meal and our program. We would love to have you visit our group.

UMW Study

UMW will host a study on February 1st. We invite both genders in the church to attend. Letters will be sent to surrounding Methodist communities. The study entitled, "**Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God**" is written by Cynthia A. Bond Hopson and Sarah Heaner Lancaster. The early Methodist tradition used the language of happiness often. Not only did John Wesley preach and teach about happiness but his brother Charles wrote hymns about happiness that the early Methodists sang. The happiness they sought was happiness in God. This study examines the understanding of happiness and how to live the life that God calls us to.

UMW continued on p. 8

UMW continued from p. 7

This intriguing study will be led by either Pastor Andy Smith or David Smith. Please let Cheryl Meadows (672-7711) know if you are planning to attend this study and if you would like to have your own copy of the text so that the texts can be ordered in time. Come for coffee, juice and pigs in the blanket at 9:30 a.m. The study will begin at 10 a.m. We will break for lunch at noon provided by the UMW members. The study will end at 3pm. The study will last for 4 hours in order to meet study guideline requirements.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated socks, underwear, and warm-up pants for the children in our community. They have not been counted but your donations filled three large plastic boxes. We are blessed to have received several monetary donations toward items for Legacy Ranch. So after the first of the year, all the items will be sorted and we will go shopping for specific items needed for the children at the facility.

Children's Corner

Happy New Year! With a new year are new beginnings! What should we do different this year? How can we help the children grow in their relationship with Christ? How will we show Christ to others? Take time to think how we can change and do things differently to make ourselves more like Children of God, more like who we are called to be!

The children stay busy during December and none of this could happen without volunteers and the children themselves! I want to start by saying thank you!

Thank you to all of our children and youth participating in our beautiful Christmas pageant. Such a wonderful sight to see so many participating in the program. You touch more lives than you know! Thank you for taking time to be in this sweet Christmas program!

Thank you to all of the volunteers helping with this Christmas Craft Fair Extravaganza! The children love this event and I love to see families having fun with their children!

Thank you to the Hosanna Choir for showing God's love to the Nursing homes and Romberg house when we went Christmas Caroling! All of the residents as well as the staff are so glad you came to visit them! Parents-You have some great children-they love singing! The Congregation loves to hear them sing! Thank you!

And thank you to all the many volunteers with the Pioneer Club program. With almost 90 children, Wednesdays become crazy and chaotic at times, but always remember you are teaching each one how much God loves them. You are being the hands and feet of Christ!

Pioneer Club begins Wednesday, January 13th. If your child attended the fall semester and will not attend the Spring Semester, please contact me to update records. Registration Fees that have not been paid are due by January 31. Children can still register for the Spring Semester.

Confirmation begins January 10 with a meeting for parents and their 6th grade youth interested in attending Confirmation classes. We will meet in the Education Building at noon (after 2nd service). Please start thinking of 2 names that you would like to serve as a mentor to your Confirmand. Please call Ruth or me with any questions.

The Youth and Children led service and Sunday School Teachers and Pioneer Club volunteers' appreciation and recognition will in February. Children and youth will lead both services (8:30am and 10:45am) on this Sunday. During the service, children and youth deliver the message, usher, perform music, greet and hand out bulletins. The kids always do a great job! And on this Sunday, we say thank you to our faithful volunteers that work so hard for the kids and youth throughout the year. Watch for details and for signup sheets in the Narthex!

Parents and children – I invite you to attend one of our many Sunday School classes with the beginning of the New Year. Please call me if I can give you more information about the Sunday School classes.

Happy New Year, Peace and Blessings, Willa

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MEMORIALS 4th Quarter 2015

YVONNE “VONNIE” DUBOSE

Bunkie Selman & Mary Jones
Stephen & Kenna Lucas-Children's Ministry
Kenny & Laverne Brzozowski-Worship
Leroy & Bobbie Polasek-Music
Jimmy & Susie Selzer-Children's Ministry
Dick & Shirley Goss-Youth
Tom & Pam Lester-Stockton Building
Nancy Burns
Jeff & Sammie Massie-Worship
John & Edith Lucas-Children's Ministry
Kenneth, Doreen & Travis Fink-Youth
Bruce & Lisa Gindler-Stockton Building
Pal & Bethel Lester-Bereavement
Emmitt & Marie Currie
John Tinsley
Jeff & Dinah Braune-Scholarship
Rusty & Melissa Clampit
Larry & Joan Smith-Children's Ministry
Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan
Carl A. & Betty Sample-Children's Ministry
Greg & Kristen Q. Porter-Children's Ministry
James & Penelope Drennan-Children's Ministry
Steve, Penci & Chelsea Petty-Children's Ministry
Chris & Amy Thibodeaux-Children's Ministry
Jack & Dyna DuBose-Minter Scholarship
Kenneth & Sue Gottwald
Eldon Farek-Youth
Chris & Lela Fosler-Children's Ministry
Bert & Frances Ehrig
Marian Gindler
The Bobby Morgan Family
J. Lynn, Lisa, Jake & Samantha Barnick-Youth
Catherine Finch
Terry & Royce Towns, Jr.-Bereavement
Jimmy & Kathleen Borrer-Stockton Building

BRUCE F. BLACKWELL III

Jeff & Dinah Braune-Missions

ALVIN ONCKEN

John & Edith Lucas
Charles & Maydell Pankey-Scholarship
Fran L. Mitchell

MARGARET EBERLE

Kenny & Laverne Brzozowski-Worship
Johnnie & Debbie Fogle-History Committee

HAROLD BRUNS

Darrell & Kathie McLain
Kyle & Debbie Crozier-Stockton Building

AL GARRETT

Darrell & Kathie McLain
Amy & Chris Thibodeaux
Rev. Elaine Smith, Rio TX Conf., Retired

VERA REEVES

Fred, Ann & Debbie Robinson-Stockton Building
Kenny & Laverne Brzozowski-Worship

JIMMIE BOULDIN

The Bouldin Family

HARRELL FREDERICK

J. Lynn, Lisa, Jake & Samantha Barnick-Youth
Mrs. Clifton Poe, Jr.
Jeff & Dinah Braune-Stockton Building

RUFUS “MICKEY” KING

Shirley Spoon-Music

GLADYS LINDEMANN

Stephen & Kenna Lucas-Prayer Shawl
Matt & Lea Ann Wyant-Prayer Shawl
Kenny & Laverne Brzozowski-Prayer Shawl
Bobby & Josie Tomas-Scholarship
Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan
David & Mona Bivins
Billie J. Bruns-HH
John & Edith Lucas-Prayer Shawl
Kenneth & Sue Gottwald
Jeff & Sammie Massie-Worship
The Bobby Morgan Family-Youth
Pal & Bethel Lester
Bunkie Selman & Mary Jones
Carol Wallace-Children's Ministry
Marian Gindler
Rosannah Green-Music
Erwin & Mary Ckudre-Prayer Shawl
Billie Bruns-HH
Shirley Spoon-Music
The Kerry Morgan Family
Fred, Ann & Debbie Robinson-Stockton Building
Johnnie & Debbie Fogle-Stockton Building
Joyce Harris-Bereavement
Mrs. Clifton Poe, Jr.
J. Lynn, Lisa, Jake & Samantha Barnick-Youth
Jeff & Dinah Braune-Stockton Building
Jimmy & Kathleen Borrer-Stockton Building

ERNEST GUITERREZ

Mrs. Clifton Poe, Jr.

PAUL CUVERIER

Mrs. Clifton Poe, Jr.

RUDY HOBIZAL

Mrs. Clifton Poe, Jr.

BROCK SMITH

John & Edith Lucas
Kenny & Laverne Brzozowski-Worship
Don & Jo Ann Leifeste
Erwin & Mary Ckudre-Youth
Kenneth & Sue Gottwald
Katie Garrett
FUMC Staff-Ruth, David, Felicia, Rosemary, Willa
Christina & Shirley-Stockton Building
Terry & Royce Towns, Jr.-Youth
The Bobby Morgan Family
Bruce & Lisa Gindler-Stockton Building
Jeff & Dinah Braune-Stockton Building
Butch & Dottie Knudson
Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan
Tom & Pam Lester-Stockton Building

DOUG BOYSEN

Stephen & Kenna Lucas-Worship
Matt & Lea Ann Wyant-Worship
Kenneth & Sue Gottwald
Mrs. Clifton Poe, Jr.

COLLEEN FOSTER

Bunkie Selman & Mary Jones

FRANCES MYERS

Johnnie & Debbie Fogle-Stockton Building

Memorials Continued:

JANE JOHNSON

Kenny & Laverne Brzozowski-Landscape
Stephen & Kenna Lucas-Landscape
Matt & Lea Ann Wyant-Landscape
Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan
Nancy Burns
Carol Wallace-Children's Ministry
Billie J. Bruns-HH
Norma Fink-HH
Bill & Juanita Blundell-Bereavement
Tom & Pam Lester-Stockton Building
Bobby & Josie Tomas
Johnnie & Debbie Fogle-Stockton Building
Jack & Dyna DuBose-Minter Scholarship
Pal & Bethel Lester-Bereavement
Jeff & Sammie Massie-Worship
Kenneth, Doreen & Travis Fink-Youth
Bunkie Selman & Mary Jones
David & Sascha Kardosz-Youth
Arva Nell Needham
Mrs. Clifton Poe, Jr.
Jimmy & Kathleen Borrer
David & Mona Bivins
Bert & Frances Ehrig
Marian Gindler-Stockton Building
Phil & Donna Koehler
Leonard, Kathy & Blaine Frederick
Kyle & Debbie Crozier-Stockton Building
Bunkie Selman & Mary Jones
Bill & Gracie Ploetz
Terry & Royce Towns, Jr.-Bereavement
John & Iris Anna Mohrmann
Belle Witt-Bereavement
Reg & Amy Othold-Youth

CHARLES STUDLER

Bunkie Selman & Mary Jones

JOE INCE

Kenneth & Sue Gottwald
Class of 1946-Music
Belle Witt-Music
Terry & Royce Towns, Jr.-Music
Jack & Dyna DuBose-Minter Scholarship
Mrs. Clifton Poe, Jr.
The Bobby Morgan Family-Music
Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan

BOBBIE JEAN JOHNSON

Jack & Dyna DuBose
Kenny & Laverne Brzozowski-Capital Improvements
Jeff & Sammie Massie-Worship
Tom & Pam Lester-Stockton Building
Bunkie Selman & Mary Jones
John A. Sample
Bubba, Gina, Landon & Carly Bozka
John Tinsley
Nancy Burns
John & Edith Lucas
Kenneth & Sue Gottwald
Carolyn Harrell-Bereavement
David & Sascha Kardosz-Youth
Bitsy Johnson
Lori DuPree
Truman & Betty DuPree
Leroy & Bobbie Polasek
Jimmy & Kathleen Borrer-Stockton Building
Greg & Joan Griffin-Good Samaritan
David & Mona Bivins
Bert & Frances Ehrig
Marian Gindler-Stockton Building
Kyle & Debbie Crozier-Stockton Building
Bunkie Selman & Mary Jones
Bill & Gracie Ploetz
Bo & Connie Brzozowski
Terry & Royce Towns, Jr.-Bereavement
Bradley & Shannon Baker
John & Iris Anna Mohrmann
Belle Witt-Bereavement
Mrs. Clifton Poe, Jr.
Reg & Amy Othold-Youth

GEORGIE SUE PARKER

Jeff & Dinah Braune-Stockton Building
Mrs. Clifton Poe, Jr.
Belle Witt-Bereavement
Kenneth & Sue Gottwald Family

WALTER "TUBBY" WILKERSON

Jerry & Gayle Akers-Youth
Mrs. Clifton Poe, Jr.
Pal & Bethel Lester-Bereavement
Kenneth, Doreen & Travis Fink-Youth

MARIE LOTT

The Bobby Morgan Family-Stockton Building
Kenny & Laverne Brzozowski
Jay & Donna Gray-HH

BILL MCMURTRY

Bryan & Ellen Denman

Lenora Jurek

Bryan & Ellen Denman

PAUL ALLEN

Bryan & Ellen Denman

~~~~~

**IN HONOR OF PASTOR ANDY SMITH**

Don & Jo Ann Leifeste-GCAM

~~~~~

From Pastor Andy...

How important is Youth Ministry? As one who believes in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, I would say Youth Ministry is crucially important. Of course, I'm biased when it comes to this particular area of ministry. Growing up, my family did not often grace the doors of church. My father was a non-practicing Reformed Mormon and my mother was Lutheran. Their answer to this religious diversity was to avoid any commitment to a particular faith community. I do have some memories of attending church with friends, but I was never a member of any local congregation.

When I was sixteen I attended a Youth gathering at Arapaho United Methodist Church in Richardson, Texas. My eyes were opened to the blessing of a faith family. You see, I had a special Grandmother who nurtured and encouraged my spiritual life. She taught me prayers, provided my first Bible, and showed me unconditional love. I knew God, but my experience of God was limited to a personal, private experience. That all changed through the Youth Ministries at Arapaho. My eyes and heart were opened to corporate worship, Bible study, mission trips, and the great gift of mutual fellowship. That time at Arapaho changed my life and contributed to answering a call to pastoral ministry. So without the Youth Ministries of a certain local church, I would not be where I am today.

Can you see why I'm biased towards Youth Ministries? Research also proves its importance. Studies show that if a young person does not accept Christ by age eighteen, then the chances of ever believing drop significantly. Of course God can change any heart at any age but I embrace the importance of saturating young people with the knowledge and grace of Jesus Christ. I want their childhood to include fond memories of church. I want graduates to have a solid spiritual foundation when they head off to college.

I'm grateful ***for the strong commitments*** our church family has toward children and youth ministries. From VBS, to Pioneer Club, to Youth Group and mission trips to Haiti, we support our younger member's growth in the faith. We now have the opportunity to enter a new chapter of these ministries with the renovation of the Stockton Building. This 4,400 square foot space will be a powerful tool for ministry. The overall structure has been evaluated by engineers and architects and deemed fit for renovation. **Imagine what our church can do with this kind of space!** Imagine the draw this building would have on Youth and their families! The Stockton building is a tool we can use to develop discipleship and fellowship ministries for our Youth. It's a worthy investment. And who knows, it might affect a young person's life to enter the ministry.

Would you prayerfully support this building project with your prayers and gifts? The church is ready to receive special donations even though the building committee still has much work to do. The committee is preparing detailed construction plans and a final budget for the congregation to vote on later this year. But for now, we begin the call for the church to bless this opportunity with special donations.

Thank you!

Stockton Youth Building



The original building was constructed between 1914 and 1917 and used as an 'open air' theater.

The building is on the far left...next to what is currently the Crystal Theater.

A Preliminary Look...



As you can see, we have wonderful ideas on how to use this space. The building committee is working on a final renovation plan. This plan, along with the budget, will be presented to the entire church for approval later this year.

We ask for your support of this renovation. Please mark any special giving as "Stockton Building."



PROPOSED FLOORPLAN

All things YOUTH



Entering into 2016 we as a Youth Group and Church have so much to celebrate. Posted on this month's newsletter are a few snapshots of what our youth have been up to. In December our youth helped out at the Christmas Craft Fair, Christmas Pageant, and celebrated Christmas early with our tacky sweater party. God teaches me daily what a blessing His children are and I am thankful that I get to walk alongside so many students who hunger to know Him more.

IMPORTANT DATES & ACTIVITIES:

Youth Group starts back up on January 6th, 2016

Jr. High Youth: 4:00-5:00PM *Snacks are provided for Jr. High*

Sr. High Youth: 6:30-8:00PM *Dinner provided for Sr. High*

January 23rd is our Jr. High dance 6:30-9:30PM in the Fellowship Hall. Doors open at 6:15PM. Entrance fee is a canned good.

Be on the lookout for our flyer.



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

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