

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, December 12

6:30 a.m. Women's Prayer Group-Kathi Lee's
 10:00 a.m. Nursing Home Ministry
 10:45 a.m. Retirement Village Ministry
 6:00-8:00 Youth Activities-Baseament
 7:00 p.m. Children's Dept Leaders Christmas Party

Friday, December 14

6:00-10:00 Parents Night Out

Saturday, December 15

9:00 a.m. Youth Place Poinsettias in Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

1:30 p.m. Single Together-Amarillo Little Theater

Sunday, December 16

8:30 a.m. Worship Service-Sanctuary

9:00 a.m. Crusaders Class Brunch

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Worship Services-Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

2:00-4:00 Parsonage Open House
 1203 Hillcrest

4:00 p.m. Banner Ministry Team-Room 223

6:00-8:00 Youth Bible Study-Baseament

6:00 p.m. Searchers Class Christmas Party
 Roberts' home

6:00 p.m. Journey Class Christmas Party

Monday, December 17

6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg-Room 105

3:00-7:00 Coffee Memorial Blood Drive-125

6:30 p.m. Visitation

6:30-8:00 Couples Bible Study-Room 222

Tuesday, December 18

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group-Room 123

Wednesday, December 19

6:30 a.m. Women's Prayer Group-Kathi Lee's

6:00-8:00 Youth Activities-Baseament

SUNDAY, December 16th

9:00 a.m. - Crusader's Christmas Brunch in Sunday School room

Thank You Notes

Thank you so much for the "goodies box" for final exam studying. I realize I have been in school for a long time, but HEY! I only have ONE more semester!! Thank you for your many prayers for my family and friends over the past semester and I look forward to seeing ya'll over the Christmas break!

Thanks again,
 Chad Dietz

Thank you for your contributions that strengthen our community and contribute to the success of Tyler Street Resource Center.

United Way of Amarillo



Concerns For This WEEK

Health Concerns: Anne Hubley, Glenda Abernethy, Brent Newton, Casie Cameron, Katy Ely, Melissa McCoy, Tristin McElroy, Laurie Cizon, Charles Atkinson

In Christian Sympathy:

The people at the YWAM base in Denver Willis & Mary Harrison on the death of Willis' brother
 The Hernandez family following their fatal car accident
 Ruth Lutrick and family on the death of her husband Charles
 The family and friends of Debbie Miller

Other concerns/needs: Kristin King's fiance Carson Gerber who is needing his immune system enhanced because he thinks he is getting the flu and he has a busy week; Neal & Nancy Hinders friend Howard Hudson who was recently placed in hospice

Joys For This WEEK

Doug Rice who is celebrating his birthday this week, Kelly Nusser who had a good check up in Houston last week, Greg Buck who is responding to treatment

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Jarrett Johnston, Oressa Delaney, J. L. Pipes, Justin Richardson, Anne Hubley, Fakar, Brynn McPherson, Kelli Tillman-Marr, Richard and Noreen Bales, Sam White, Danny Knoll, Jim Davis (Nancy Biffle's brother), Libby Ford, Jean Waugh

Additional Intercessory Prayers

President Bush and our country's leaders, Costa Rica Team, Backyard Missions, War-torn Countries - Trey Burrus, Carson Gerber and Jason Holloway in Iraq

Canyon Community Blood Drive

Monday, December 17th

3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Searchers Room #125

Baskets of Hope

Beginning with the week of December 30, I have no one signed up for Baskets of Hope. A lady from Channing brings a basket the 2nd week of each month; but that's all I have signed up. If you can take a week, please contact me.

Pam Dickerson

pdickerson@mail.wtamu.edu

Record of Attendance

December 9, 2007

8:30 a.m.	Worship Service	147
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School	222
10:45 a.m.	Sanctuary Service	229
10:45 a.m.	Fellowship Hall Service	60
	Total in Worship	436

Our Guests on December 9, 2007

Bill, Elizabeth & Conner Pulliam
 Mrs. Joyce Kollaja, Houston
 Mrs. Grace Whidden, Houston
 Casey, Lisa & Hunter Weiss
 Lynn & Bob McPherson
 Mitch & Pam Allen
 Vickie Barby
 April Altom
 Karen Cross
 Casey Hayes
 Almas Sansyzybayev
 Tyler Hopper

New Staff Member

Hi, I'm Rhonni Pletcher and have just begun working as the Administrative Assistant/Intern for the Youth Ministries here at FUMC Canyon. My administrative duties include keeping the youth calendar and the bulletin boards up to date, making posters for upcoming events, tracking activities such as the poinsettia sales, doing mailings, and whatever else comes up. As an intern, I assist with the youth activities, but my main focus is to develop the Worship Arts in our young people, such as drama, music, dance and the visual arts. After Christmas I will begin meeting with the youth who have expressed interest in the dramatic arts.

I welcome this ministry opportunity that Scott Lee and the church have provided. I've already heard from many of the youth and their parents and we have shared ideas and excitement about new ways to use our artistic gifts in mission and ministry. John McClean has asked me to serve on the new Worship Committee, and I welcome your ideas and suggestions on how we can continue to make our worship times meaningful and life-changing.

My vision for this church is that we become a leader in our community in developing and utilizing the arts in all of our worship as well as in outreach to our world "for the love of God." I dream of us working together intergenerationally to accomplish this, and my desire is to eventually be in ministry full-time as the Worship Arts Director here at FUMC.



The News from FUMC, Canyon

Building God's Kingdom One Word At A Time

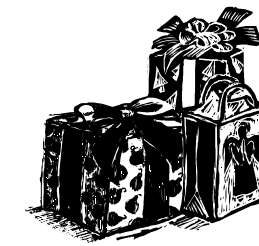
December 12, 2007

First United Methodist Church
 1818 4th Avenue
 Canyon, Texas 79015
 Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Canyon, Texas
 Permit No. 130

THE NEWS-The official newsletter of the First United Methodist Church, Canyon

First United Methodist Church Canyon, Texas 655-2851
 e-mail: fumc@firstchurchcanyon.com web-site: firstchurchcanyon.com



Remember to return your Angel Tree gifts to the church by December 12. Delivery Date is Sunday, December 16.



3rd Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 16

"The Intimate God of Christmas"
 Poinsettia Sunday



Open House At The Parsonage
 1203 Hillcrest

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

John and Karen McClean invite you to their annual Christmas open house this Sunday.



Hanging of the Greens Script Available

Many people have asked if they could have a script of the Hanging of the Greens service on Sunday, December 2 so that they could remember what each symbol represented. If you would like a copy of this script, you will find them on the tables in the hallway by the Sanctuary.



Hanging of the Greens

Church Staff

Senior Pastor.....Rev. John McClean
 Associate Pastor.....Rev. Donna Johnston
 Worship Leader.....Michael Littau
 Diaconal Minister.....Francie Pittman
 Director Youth Ministries.....Scott Lee
 Director Children's Ministries.....Lee Ann Love
 Church Secretary.....Cindy Burrus
 Children's Administrative Assistant...Megan Walker
 Assistant Secretary.....Shirley Leach
 Financial Secretary.....Lisa Dietz
 Financial Assistant.....Christi Ybarra
 Music Director.....George Biffle
 Organist.....Margaret Skinner
 Church Librarian.....Michell Killingsworth
 Custodian.....Bill Fetter
 IHH Child Development Director..Brenda Shepherd



Parent's Night Out
 "Kid's Christmas Fun"

December 14

6:00-10:00

Movie, Pizza, Crafts, and Games

Sign-up your child TODAY!

\$5.00 each.

Christmas Eve Services

Monday, Dec 24

3:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m.

11:00 p.m.

All services have Holy Communion and lighting of the Christmas candles. Nursery will be provided at 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church
 Building God's Kingdom One Life At A Time

Service Times

8:30 a.m. in Sanctuary

10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary

10:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Preaching Schedule

Traditional Services in Sanctuary
 Rev. John McClean

Contemporary Service in Fellowship Hall
 Scott Lee





The Fields are White Unto Harvest...

We had a fine Church Conference this past Sunday night! I was pleased to see how many were able to brave the threatening weather to be here. We had genuine reasons to celebrate the many ministries of First UMC, and I continue to be proud and pleased to be your senior pastor.

Within the business of the Church Conference was one agenda item which I consider to have been a sacred privilege and responsibility for each of us: the vote we took to recommend Lee Ann Love to the district Committee on Ministry for approval as a Certified Candidate for Ministry on the Deacon Track. By their unanimous vote, our SPRC brought her to us for this vote.

I am pleased to report to you that the church conference vote in her behalf was also a unanimous vote by all present to recommend her candidacy. I am pleased, but not surprised!

It is a sign of the excellence of her ministry in our midst that you have approved her for this status. And it is a sign of the excellence of your ministry as a congregation that yet another quality person from our midst has offered herself to the long and arduous process toward ordination in the United Methodist Church.

What is ahead for Lee Ann? The next step is her interview with the district Committee on Ministry. It is my experience that this committee typically meets two times each year, so it may be some weeks, or several months, before they meet. As the process moves forward, Lee Ann will pursue seminary-level work in many different subjects. At length, there will be interviews and papers for her to write, as she is considered for ordination.

But mostly, what should be ahead for all of us should be much continued prayer for her and for all those our church has...and will...send into full time ordained, licensed, and missionary service.

The fields are indeed white unto harvest, and as of today there is another worker driving a combine...

John

Important Tax Deduction Information

In order for you to claim a deduction for contributions you make to the church this year, we must receive your contribution by the end of the year. Contributions that you make in the New Year cannot be deducted on this year's tax return even if the check is dated this year. This is so whether you actually wrote the check this year or you wrote it in the New Year but backdated it to this year. There is one exception—a check that is written, mailed, and postmarked this year can be deducted this year even if it is not received by the church until the new year. Our church will be following these rules in issuing receipts.

If it is important for you to have your gift deposited by the church in 2007, please have your check to the church office **no later than 10 a.m. on Monday, December 31.**

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2007 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. You may lose a deduction for some contributions if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church.

Did you know?

Applications for Kitchen Coordinator position are now available. If you are interested in this position, please stop by the church office to get an application.

First United Methodist Church United Methodist Women Canyon, TX 2007 Mission Disbursements	
LOCAL MISSIONS	
Canyon Camp	800.00
Northwest Texas Conference Pensions	200.00
Opportunity School (Amarillo)	500.00
Wesley Foundation - WTAMU	500.00
In His Hands	200.00
Angel Tree Ministries	500.00
School Supplies Project	50.00
Total:	2,750.00
INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS	
Regina Biffle - Costa Rica UMC	350.00
Jerusalem Infant Welfare Center (11544A)	400.00
Micro-regional Sustainable Development, Oaxaca	300.00
School Hot Lunch Program, Haiti	400.00
Kindu Orphanage Program, E. Congo	350.00
Maternal & Child Health, Maua Kenya-AIDS Orphanage	500.00
Waren Babyfold and Lane School of Mothercraft	300.00
New Hope International (Stacey & Lee Jarvis)	300.00
Nothing But Nets (Mosquito Nets)	100.00
Total:	3,000.00
NATIONAL MISSIONS	
Four Corners	350.00
Kings Manor - Hereford	500.00
Lydia Patterson	500.00
McCurdy School	350.00
Volunteers in Missions (Our Church)	500.00
Wesley Community Center - Amarillo	750.00
Domestic Disaster - fires	500.00
Bishop's Appeal for Katrina Churches	800.00
Total:	4,250.00
Total Disbursements 2007:	10,000.00

Youth News

*The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad,
and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.
Isaiah 35:1*

It sometimes seems that we just can not get out of the desert. Just about the time life gets back to "normal", another major catastrophe happens. We recover from the pain of illness or death, to experience another problem. We find the joy of the season of Christmas, only to have that joy questioned by another negative life experience. One of the main concepts of Christmas is HOPE. I really like that the scripture from Isaiah doesn't say that we will immediately move out of the desert because we see Christ. Instead, it reminds us that while we are in the despair of the desert, there is a sign of that HOPE. We will experience joy again, we know it, even though in the desert it is hard to see. Our lives will once again blossom into the fullness of God's abounding Love.

May you be strengthened this week by the HOPE of Christ. During our times together in the coming weeks, we will look at the Christmas story, and find the HOPE that God gives us through Jesus. See you there!

Scott

"Live BIG"

December's B.I.G. Theme:

"A Baby is Coming."

Bible Verse:

*So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "A virgin will have a baby boy, and he will be called Immanuel, which means "God is with us."
Matthew 1:22-23*

December 16

Journey to Bethlehem Luke 2:1-7

BRING A FRIEND TO MEET JESUS!

Acolyte Schedule

December 16

8:30

McKayla Robinson and Sierra Ybarra

10:45

Garrett Simpson and Chris Cornelius



A "LOVE" NOTE

As we approach the delivery date for the Angel Tree gifts I am really humbled at the sight of all the presents in the Brides Room. This ministry is such a vital part of who we are as a church. We are a loving and giving Body of Christ that is willing to share Christ love in abundance. I want to share an Angel Tree story.

This year, one of the first angels taken was by a young lady, who at one time was on the angel tree herself. She is now working and attending a church. She knows the love of God and wanted to share that with others. She also expressed to me the joy she remembers that she felt as she received her gifts.

I truly feel that God touches many lives with this ministry. Those that give presents, those that receive presents, people that deliver the gifts, one's that shop or wrap gifts, friends that give financial donations, and also those that hear about or see the love that is shared. God is blessing all that are a part of this ministry.

Everyone is invited to come to the Parlor and pick up gifts for a family. Then call that family to see if they are home and make the delivery. Please plan to help with the delivery this Sunday, December 16.

UPCOMING WOMEN'S RETREAT

Gals, please save these dates for the Women's Retreat: Friday and Saturday, February 1st and 2nd, 2008. This year's retreat will be at Ceta Glen and is called "Be Still: An Invitation to Simplicity". Your retreat team (Nancy Biffle, Debby Lundy, & Rhonni Pletcher) is preparing a wonderful weekend away from life's busyness so God can renew and restore us. We'd love to see you there.

UPCOMING DATES

Dec. 12 Return all Angels for the Angel Tree Ministry
BE SURE TO GET YOUR ANGEL
Dec. 12 Children's Leaders Christmas Party
Dec. 16 ANGEL TREE GIFT DELIVERY

REMEMBER TO INVITE A FRIEND!

Reminder!!

Don't Throw Away That Empty Ink Cartridge!