



This Week at the Church

Wednesday, December 16, 2009
 6:30-7:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
 5:40-7:30 PM FUMY-The Uprising-Basement
 6:00-7:00 PM Children's Council Meeting-113
 7:00-9:00 PM Children's Volunteer Christmas Party-125/127

Thursday, December 17, 2009
 9:00-12:00 PM WOMS Bible Study-111

Friday, December 18, 2009
 11:30-1:00 PM NO Noon Bible Study-113
 6:30-9:00 PM Single Together-Hillside Christian Church

Saturday, December 19, 2009
 6:00-7:00 PM FH Worship Team SET-UP-128

Sunday, December 20, 2009
 8:30-9:30 AM FH Worship Team Reh-128
 8:30-9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship Service
 9:30-10:30 AM Sunday School
 10:45-12:00 PM Sanctuary Worship Service
 10:45-12:00 PM FH Worship Service
 12:00 PM FH Service Pot Luck Luncheon
 2:00-4:00 PM Angel Tree Pickup Gifts-FH
 5:00-8:00 PM Youth Christmas Party-Basement

Monday, December 21, 2009
 9:00-4:00 PM Church Office Hours
 6:00-7:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting-Library
 6:30-8:00 PM Visitation

Tuesday, December 22, 2009
 9:00-4:00 PM Church Office Hours
 6:30-7:30 AM Men's Prayer Group-123
 6:30-7:30 PM Knitting Ministry-103
 6:30-8:30 PM NO Couples Bible Study-222

Wednesday, December 23, 2009 CHURCH and OFFICE CLOSED
 6:30-7:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
 5:40-7:30 PM NO FUMY-The Uprising-Basement



Holiday Newsletter Schedule

Newsletter December 23rd
NO Newsletter December 30th



Concerns For This Week

Health Concerns: Dalton Bye, Catherine Schoonover, Mike Melcher, Craig Roberts, Homer Rudd, Dr. Winston Stahlecker, Keri Beth Cleavinger, Hector Dominguez, Don Hefner, Jerry Woods, Dorothy Rowland, Kathy Tijerina, Dollie Bell

In Christian Sympathy: The Tom Cruise Family of Claude on the passing of their husband and father Tom Cruise

Other Concerns: blessing to our SPRC Committee who are searching for the right people to fill the staff positions, continued prayers for decisions affecting a baby boy's future, continued prayer and concerns for peace in Juarez Mexico, urgent prayers for Tamarindo and district as well as prayers are needed over their church members, those struggling with grief

Joys for the Week:

Birthdays: ElyseKahler, JacobHopson, Galen Dodson, Galen Wayne Munger, Kenneth Waugh

Anniversaries: Gerry & Darla Nickell, Austin & Patsy Bowes

Births: Austin & Patsy Bowes have a new great grandchild Claire McPherson the proud parents are Travis & Rebecca McPherson, Staci & Lee Jarvis on the birth of their son Canon Wesley

Other Joys: Donna Johnston's good news on her MRI, Diana Antochy graduated from WTAMU

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Rhonni Pletcher, George Bulman, Randy Banks, Mary Williamson, David Thompson, Anne Hubley, Brynn McPherson Danny Knoll, Jim Davis(Nancy Biffle's brother), Regina Biffle, Lea & Ty Thurman, Dylan Brown, Chester Smith, Lauren Pennington, MacKenzie Cunningham, Franczeska Torres, Richard Barr, Libby Ford, Shelly Gross, Resa Joy, Milt Hudson, Dick Elliott, Elmer Oberst, Harold Lenfestey, Will Lubaroff, Jack Jennings, Guy Thompson, Brian Mott, Malari Irlbeck, Charois Graves, Glenda Abernathy, Catlin Whitlow, Ahlene Findley, Sue Thomas, Lou AnnBarnhart, Jimmy Pearson, Tom Rayome and Kirby Culp

Additional Intercessory Prayers

President Obama and our country's leaders, Costa Rica Team, Backyard Missions, War-torn Countries, the economy, people who have lost their jobs, those in the military

Record of Attendance

December 13, 2009

8:30 a.m. Worship Service	174
9:30 a.m. Sunday School	278
10:45 a.m. Sanctuary Service	110
10:45 a.m. FH Worship Service	61
Total in Worship	345

Thank You Notes

To one and all,
 Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers. It is very thoughtful of you to remember us at this time. I know that my mom is once again very happy at my dad's side. She loved him so much and dearly missed him when he passed away in 2005.

Anne Fields

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the health and layette supplies we received at UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana. Your donation along with others from across the country enables UMCOR to respond to disasters and urgent human need throughout the world.

Grace and peace,
 Kathy Kraiza
 Executive Director

Job Openings At The Church

Librarian Position

FUMC of Canyon is taking applications for a part-time Librarian.

Kitchen/Hospitality Coordinator

FUMC of Canyon is taking applications for a part-time Kitchen Coordinator.

Please come by the church office to pick up an application.

Pictorial Directories are HERE!

Danna West has labeled each directory for those persons that are in the directory. You can stop by the church parlor and pick yours up TODAY. If you were not in the directory, please contact Danna West on how to get a directory at 488-2399 or email her at dndwest@gmail.com



The News

Blessings 'A Plenty at 120
 from FUMC, Canyon
 December 16, 2009

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Holiday Office Hours

December 21st-22nd 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Church and Church Office CLOSED
 December 23rd through December 25th

December 28th-30th 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 December 31st 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 Church and Church Office CLOSED
 January 1st

Lay Leader/Worship Leader Opportunity

If you are interested in being a lay leader for the 10:45 Sanctuary service for 2010, please call Bill Rogers at 584-6952 or email him at bkrogers624@clearwire.net

Church Staff

Senior Pastor.....Rev. John McClean
 Associate Pastor.....Rev. Manish Shirley
 Director of Discipleship.....Dede Looney
 Director Youth MinistriesTyler Looney
 Director Children's Ministries.....Lee Ann Love
 Business Administrator.....Ross Hood
 Children's Administrative Assistant.....Christa Neal
 Church Secretary.....Shirley Leach
 Receptionist.....Robin Chandler
 Financial Secretary.....Christi Ybarra
 Music Director.....George Biffle
 Organist.....Margaret Skinner
 Interim Worship Leader.....Rochelle Wentz
 Church Librarian.....
 Custodian.....Bill Fetter
 Kitchen Coordinator.....
 IHH Child Development Director....Brenda Shepherd
 IHH Administrative Assistant.....Venus Lawson



Christmas Eve Services

NOW is the time to make your Christmas Eve plans!
 We will hold three services at the church:
 3:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.
Child Care will be offered at the 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. services,
 and we will offer communion at all three.



Angel Tree Delivery

If you have purchased your gifts for your Angel Tree child, please bring them to the church as soon as possible.
 Pick-up date is next Sunday, December 20.



Fourth Sunday of Advent Happenings Sunday, December 20th

Fellowship Hall Pot Luck Lunch immediately following 10:45 a.m. service
 Angel Tree Recipients pick up the gifts 2:00-4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
 Youth Christmas Party in the Basement-6:00-8:00 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
 Rev. Manish Shirley





“Priceless”

I have known a Christmas Eve story for some years which hits close (perhaps TOO close)

to home for me. It is the story of a young preacher who is a husband and the father of small children. In subsequent years, I have had the privilege of meeting the man about whom the story is told: Bishop Monk Bryan.

Years, earlier, before he was BISHOP Bryan, he was REVEREND Bryan, the pastor of, presumably, a small church, even as have been many of us while our children were little.

It seems that, on one particular Christmas Eve, as the young pastor and his wife gathered together their little ‘brood’ to scurry them off to candlelight services, their young son spoke one of those “Priceless” insightful words which little children can do so well.

He looked at his preacher father on the way to Christmas Eve services and asked, “Daddy, are you going to let us just enjoy Christmas this year, or are you going to try to explain it to everybody again?”

It is my hope that you can find the way to simply *enjoy* Christmas this year. Whether you are at home with us in Canyon, or far away with loved ones, I hope your Christmas contains worship...candlelight services at a church where you may find yourself on Christmas Eve, daily reading from your Advent Devotional Book, or something as simple as resolving to focus on the songs of the season which we hear all around us. If you will listen with ‘new ears’ you will hear wondrous expressions of personal devotion and piety.

My hope is that, wherever you are, Christmas finds YOU this year....which would be ‘priceless’.

John

Sunday, December 27

8:30 a.m. Worship Service in Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Combined Worship Service in Sanctuary

No Fellowship Hall Service

How Can We Help?

Kathy Tijerina, a lifelong member of the Canyon Community and a 4-year survivor of breast cancer has just been diagnosed with colon cancer. Due to her pre-existing medical history of cancer, she does not have medical insurance to help with the treatment needed to save her life. Kathy has 2 children Madison age 10 and Phillip age 15. Husband, Mike Tijerina, is a local business owner of an Allstate Insurance Agency.

A fund has been established at Happy State Bank in Canyon to help with the medical expenses of chemotherapy, radiation and surgery that Kathy will require to fight this devastating disease. Donations and prayers would be greatly appreciated by the family as they struggle through this difficult time.

In addition, a meal schedule will be organized to help the family during the treatments and surgery. If interested, please call the contact listed below.

The Tijerina family would like to say "Thank You" to everyone who is supporting them through this and they vow to everyone to hold their heads up and fight this with a great attitude and the Lord's guidance.

For additional information call Leanna Tijerina at 236-8023.

UMW News

The United Methodist Women want to thank each of you who have helped us raise money for missions, whether you bought roses, lilies, knives, pecans, bazaar items or Thanksgiving meals.

We appreciate all you do to help us be one of the best UMW's in the Conference.

Below are the places where our missions money goes this year.

Thank you again for your support and have a very Merry Christmas!

United Methodist Women 2009 Mission Disbursements

Local Missions		National Missions	
Ceta Canyon Camp	\$1,000	Four Corners	\$ 500
Opportunity School (Amarillo)	\$ 400	Kings Manor	\$ 500
Wesley Foundation	\$ 400	Lydia Patterson	\$ 500
In His Hands Scholarship	\$ 500	McCurdy School	\$ 500
Angel Tree Ministries	\$ 500	Volunteers in Mission	\$ 600
School Supplies Project	\$ 500	Wesley Community Center	\$1,000
Sharing Fund	\$ 500	Red Bird Clinic-Kentucky	\$ 500
Backyard Missions	\$ 500	Total National Missions	\$4,100
Total Local Missions	\$4,300		

International Missions	
Regina Biffle-Costa Rica UMC	\$400
Jerusalem Infant Welfare Center	\$400
School Hot Lunch Program, Haiti	\$400
Kindu Orphanage Program, E. Congo	\$400
Maternal & Child Health, Kenya	\$500
Waren Babyfold & Lane School of India	\$400
New Hope International (Staci & Lee Jarvis)	\$400
UMCOR Sager Brown	\$400
Shalom Ministry Sudan (Orphans & Aids)	\$400
Seed Project, Laos	\$400
Total International Missions	\$4,100

Total Disbursements \$12,500

Dear Church Family,

I am very excited to get started serving you as your Director of Discipleship. It has been somewhat of a challenge familiarizing myself with ALL the ministries and services you provide. All I can say is WOW, and thank you for letting me be a part of it.

I do have a couple of items to bring to your attention. To all the Sunday School classes I would like to remind you to be thinking about new officers for the new year. We will be having our first Adult Council Meeting on January 24th at 5:00 pm. Also, I would like to encourage everyone to complete a Spiritual Giftings test before our Time & Talent Sign-up, which will be in January. Please also give a copy of your results to us so we can help you find the area where your gifts will flourish. You can pick up a test on the information table in the hall or just come by the office. Thank you very much.

Because of Him,
Dede Looney

2009 Contribution Tax Deductions

Please plan to have your contributions to the church office no later than 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 31, 2009 if you wish for it to apply to your 2009 Contribution Statement. Contributions received by mail after January 1, 2010 and postmarked 2009 will also be applied to your 2009 Contribution Statement. An annual contribution statement will be provided for use in preparing your 2009 tax return. Please note that the church office will close at noon on Wednesday, December 31, 2009 and reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, January 4, 2010.

Wishing you a Blessed Holiday Season,
Christi Ybarra, Financial Secretary



The Uprising Schedule for Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School-PROIMOS 9:30-10:30AM

There is a snack breakfast then the Jr. High and Sr. High split up for Sunday School Classes.

Sunday Nights 6:00-8:00PM

We share a snack supper together, play a game together then discuss a movie clip

Wednesday Nights 5:40-7:30PM

Gathering time and announcements-followed with Praise Time-then split to Jr. High activities and devotions and Sr. High devotion and lessons

First Look

1 year old - 4 year old

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Key Question: How do we know God loves us?

Bottom Line: God gave us Jesus.

Memory Verse "God has given a Son to us."
Isaiah 9:6

Dec. 20 "The angels tell about Jesus"
The Angels and Shepherds > Luke 2:1-7

252 Basics

Kindergarten - 6th Grade

3 Basic Truths "...and Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man."

December: "252 Basics" **Compassion:** Caring enough to do something about someone else's need.

Memory Verse: "God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life." John 3:16

Dec. 20 "The Shepherds" (Shepherds visit Jesus)
Luke 2:1-7

Bottom Line: God gave us great news. Who will you tell?

Acolyte Schedule

December 20

8:30 Danielle Rice and Justin Johnson

10:45 Amy Clark and Hannah Stokes

Dear Church Family,

I need your help!!! Don't run from that statement please... What is needed is relatively small. I need you to start praying for God to make a dynamic shift in our youth ministry here at FUMC. Last night a prime example of the respect issues, some of our youth have, took place. I do not want to get into detail of what happened, but you need to know that over the past three months I have noticed a huge respect issue within the youth ministry here. I believe that these young people are so capable of being more respectful. (Granted not every youth has issues.) I believe that there needs to be consistency in the expectations and consequences for our youth... No more of this "well they are just young and do not know better". It is time that we encourage our youth to be upstanding, respectful, kind and selfless. They need a good push, which will take prayer and healthy leadership that requires prayer. Please know that I am not trying to attack anyone with these words... I just see an urgent need to do some house cleaning before guest begin to come!! So, start praying for some change!!!

Your Servant,
Tyler L.

UPCOMING DATES

Dec. 16 6:00 Children's Council
7:00 Children's Volunteers Christmas Party

Dec. 24 3:00 Christmas Eve Service
6:00 Christmas Eve Service
11:00 Christmas Eve Service

REMEMBER TO INVITE A FRIEND!

Reminder!!

Don't Throw Away That Empty Ink Cartridge!



"Our Christmas Guests"

I heard a story just the other day about a man who had a dream. In his dream God told the man He was coming to visit him. The man spent all of Christmas Eve preparing for Him to come, by cleaning his house and decorating. That evening the man was visited by three unlikely guests; a homeless man, a tired woman and a lost child. In the end, the man was very upset with God because He never came to visit. God told him that He was there three times and that the man had treated Him just as he should have. God was very proud of this man and what he had done for the strangers.

This is something we should keep in mind, not only at Christmas but all year long. God is everywhere and He wants us treat our family, friends and yes, even strangers the way we would treat Him.

*Merry Christmas,
Christa Neal*