



FUMC Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2014

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

My Thankful Heart

Making the stuffing for Thanksgiving dinner helps restore my heart to gratefulness. First I cut bread into cubes to dry out. Has it really been a year since I thanked God for the simple things of life? Dear God, thank you for my daily bread. Next I boil giblets for the tasty broth. When did I last express thanks for my body — even the oft-forgotten parts? Thank you, God, for creating and sustaining me.

Then I dice onions and celery, adding them to the mixture. That reminds me to thank God for abundant harvests. Finally I measure raisins, nuts, sage and salt into the stuffing, as scents fill the air. Lord, help me not grow weary of the interesting “spices” that fill my life.

As the stuffing goes into the oven, warm air wafting into the kitchen, I remember to thank God for providing my home. Here relatives and friends gather, often an odd combination. Yet when we bow our heads in thankfulness, we're an unbeatable mix.



—MaryAnn Sundby

A Veteran's Day Prayer

God of all nations, you are our Strength and Shield. We give you thanks today for the devotion and courage of all those who have offered military service for this country ...

We ask today that you would lift up by your Spirit those who are now at war; encourage and heal those in hospitals or mending their wounds at home; guard those in any need or trouble; hold safely in your hands all military families and bring the returning troops to joyful reunion and tranquil life at home. Give to us, your people, grateful hearts and a united will to honor these men and women and hold them always in our love and our prayers until your world is perfected in peace and all wars cease. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

—Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phillips

Sunday, November 30

First Sunday of Advent

Although this is a 5th Sunday,
we will be having two worship services and we will **NOT** have a luncheon.





*Altar Flowers
for November are given by:*

November 2

Tom and Tammy Lester, Trey, Tori and Tara
In Memory of Donald L. Holub

Dale and Sherri Schellenberg

November 9

Beth Newman
In Memory of My Husband, and My Parents
My husband and father were veterans
who loved their country.

Elenore Ehrig
In Memory of Hugo Ehrig

Kenneth, Doreen, and Travis Fink
In Memory of William John Schulze

November 16

Mike, Sarah, J.T., Wade, and Will Miller
In Memory of John W. Miller

Jack and Dyna Dubose
In Memory of Susie Dolezal

Bill and Juanita Blundell

November 23

Byron and Julie Lester
In Honor of Pal and Bethel Lester
In Memory of Thomas and Jewel Cassell

Al and Katie Garrett

November 30

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Meadows
To the Glory of God

Carol Wallace
In Honor of the Children & Youth of the Church

We have two new brass vases to display the flowers in the Sanctuary. These vases need to stay in the Sanctuary. Recently, in two separate episodes, both vases were taken home by mistake. We have recovered them, and are very grateful. These vases are very expensive. I appreciate everyone who gives the flowers. You are certainly welcome to take them home with you after the second service, but please do not remove the vases as well. The flowers are in transportable containers and can easily be removed from the vases.

Thank you, Sue Penney

*Monthly Communion
& Prayer Meeting*

Wednesday, November 19



Meet in the small chapel at Noon for a 30 minute service. It is a great to renew yourself during the work week. Afterwards we eat lunch in the narthex. All are welcome!

If you would like to help by fixing the meal served at the Prayer Luncheons please contact the Felicia at 672-8521.

**Church Conference
Sunday, November 23
at 4 p.m.
All are welcome!**



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

Thank You

Dear First Methodist Church,

On behalf of East Avenue Primary, thank you for the wonderful lunch! Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
East Avenue Primary Staff

First United Methodist Church

Thank you so much for providing the back to school luncheon on Wednesday, August 20th.

It was so welcome on a hectic day of telephone calls and registration to have such delicious food available to get us through the rest of the day. Your thoughtfulness and interest in the educational community of Gonzales is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Jackie Mikesh,
Gonzales Center Manager

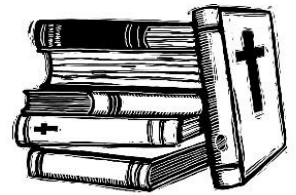
Dear Church Family, Friends, & Loved Ones,

Thanks to each of you for your prayers, food and get well cards. Everyone has shown us so much care and love these last few months. We are so grateful to each of you. It is so true-God is good!

Love,
Billie and Harold

Book Club News

At our October 23 meeting, Marian Hayes led the discussion of Isaac's Storm by Eric Larson, the riveting story of the 1900 hurricane that devastated



Galveston. Isaac refers to the chief meteorologist in Galveston at the time. Besides detailed scientific explanations of the storm and its causes, Larson also tells touching stories of the families who faced the storm. We have read several of Larson's books and are always impressed with his research and his story-telling. He is a true master at painting vivid word pictures and bringing real-life people to life again in his books. The background of the book explains many aspects of the growth of Houston and Galveston that still have implications today.

The group spent some time deciding on our books for the next six months. Here is our list and we hope the titles will entice some of you to join us. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 9:30 AM...except in November, we will meet on Nov. 20 due to Thanksgiving. Call 672-9307 for information.

Reading list for the next six months:

November—Addicted to Hurry by Kirk Byron Jones

December—The Christmas Clock by Kat Martin

January—Killing Patton by Bill O'Reilly and Mark Dugard

February—Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger

March—The Nazi Officer's Wife by Edith Hahn Beer

April—Poetry month – members and visitors bring a favorite poem to read and discuss

Happy reading!
Martha Jo Whitt

november

STATISTICAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2014

DATE	8:30	10:45	TOTAL	SS	OFFERINGS
7	121	175	296	73	\$ 30,532.90
14	87	164	251	57	\$ 11,062.00
21	144	157	301	62	\$ 7,968.50
28	117	90	207	58	\$ 6,989.50
TOTALS:	469	586	1055	260	\$ 56,552.90
AVERAGES:	<u>117</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>264</u>	<u>65</u>	

TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THE MONTH: \$ 37,137.84

NET GAIN OR LOSS FOR THE MONTH: \$ 19,415.06

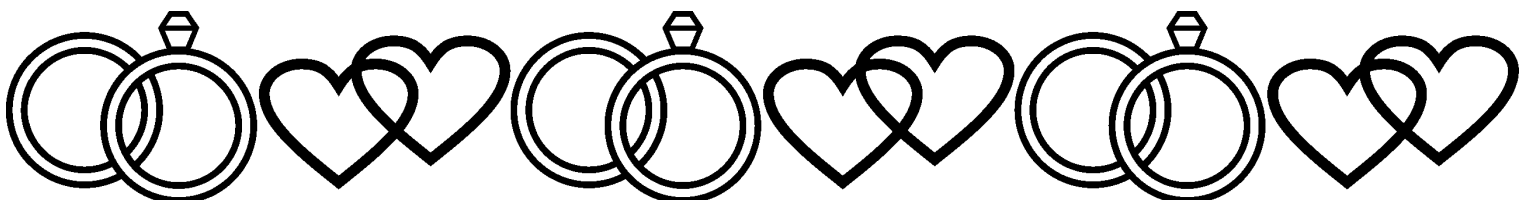
APPORTIONMENTS PAID TO DATE: 95%

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

11/1	Nila Ehrig	11/11	Joan Griffin	11/22	Justin Pope
11/2	Sandra Atkinson	11/12	Stephanie Fritz		Amanda Ramirez
	Stephen Lucas		Michaela Malatek		Anna Seale
	Kim Davis	11/13	Clayton Wilkerson	11/23	Bradley Bakken
11/3	Hope Mills	11/14	Amy Thibodeaux	11/24	Eric Connor
	Daniel Seale		Trenton Wilkerson	11/25	Bonnie Hyman
	Krissy Jo Hodges	11/15	Taylor Malatek		Krystal Dreyer
	Jordan Williams		Ellen Denman		Ann Reeves
11/4	Jenice Benedict		Tori Lester	11/26	Houston Munson
	Jacob Bakken		Mitchell Hardcastle		Glenn Malatek
11/5	Lea Ann Wyant		Slone Gibson	11/27	Bailey Bivins
	Michael Oakes	11/16	Juanita Blundell		Kayte Swiful
11/6	J.T. Miller		Sydney Clack	11/28	Betty Schroeder
	Chelsea Schellenberg	11/17	Arva Nell Needham	11/29	Ross Gottwald
	James Massey	11/18	Amy Lipke		Mallory Clack
11/7	Josephine Mercer		Molly Barnick	11/30	Stephen Seale
	Sandra Gorden	11/19	Bill McMurtry		
	Mike Yoakum		John Boyd		
11/8	Hensley Hurt		Clayton Gacke		
	McKenzie Hodges	11/20	Jimmie Bouldin		
11/9	Norma Fink	11/21	Dick Goss		
	Harold Wilson		Kenneth Mosher		
11/10	Bob Spoon		Darrell McLain		
	Mary Martha Ehrig				


NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/1	Dale & Sherri Schellenberg	11/22	Jason & Stacy Fogle
11/2	Houston & Maggie Keck	11/23	Harold & Charlotte Wilson
11/7	Louis & Laura Wolting	11/24	Pal & Bethel Lester Taylor & Blaine Davis
11/12	Bobby & Bethanie LaTourette	11/25	Joe Britt & Rosemary Hindman
11/19	Harold & Billie Bruns		
11/21	Kevin & Stacey Dawson		



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

NOVEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

<p>November 2, 2014</p> 	<p>8:30 A.M. SERVICE</p> <p>Ashtyn Kardosz Brendon Mercer Sydney Clack</p> <p>Emmitt Currie (Lead) Ronnie Menking Greg Sengelmann Commie Hisey John Lucas</p> <p>Rosannah Green Pastor Andy</p>	<p>10:45 SERVICE</p> <p>Baron DuBose Morgan Farrar Weldon Holub</p> <p>Pal Lester (Lead) Jim Benedict Jenice Benedict Greg Griffin Beverly Malatek</p> <p>Deanie Ploeger Pastor Andy</p>	<p><u>ACOLYTES</u></p> <p><u>USHERS</u></p> <p><u>LITURGIST</u> <u>CHILDREN'S SERMON</u></p>
<p>November 9, 2014</p>	<p>8:30 A.M. SERVICE</p> <p>Megan Tenberg Jordan Williams Cade Davis</p> <p>Emmitt Currie (Lead) Herman Grauke Joe Britt Hindman Steve Taylor Travis Schauer</p> <p>Terry Towns Lisa Gindler</p>	<p>10:45 SERVICE</p> <p>Sloan Gibson Landon Holub Nicholas Casares</p> <p>Pal Lester (Lead) Cheryl Meadows Bobby Morgan Ray Neitsch Charles Pankey</p> <p>J. Lynn Barnick Lisa Gindler</p>	<p><u>ACOLYTES</u></p> <p><u>USHERS</u></p> <p><u>LITURGIST</u> <u>CHILDREN'S SERMON</u></p>
<p>November 16, 2014</p>	<p>8:30 A.M. SERVICE</p> <p>Cole Boothe Morgan Boothe Chase Heldarsen</p> <p>Emmitt Currie (Lead) John Whitt Martha Jo Whitt Billy Boothe Sue Boothe</p> <p>Gary Clack Commie Hisey</p>	<p>10:45 SERVICE</p> <p>Ryan Kocian Faith Lester Trent Wilkerson</p> <p>Pal Lester (Lead) Leslie Ploeger Mary Tomas Justin Pope David Bird</p> <p>Lisa Barnick Commie Hisey</p>	<p><u>ACOLYTES</u></p> <p><u>USHERS</u></p> <p><u>LITURGIST</u> <u>CHILDREN'S SERMON</u></p>
<p>November 23, 2014</p>	<p>8:30 A.M. SERVICE</p> <p>Brody Borrer Hadley Borrer Jaylen Johnson</p> <p>Emmitt Currie (Lead) Jimmy Borrer Erwin Ckudre Gary Clack Kenneth Fink</p> <p>Marie Currie Emmitt Currie</p>	<p>10:45 SERVICE</p> <p>Ava Medellin Grace Morgan Sadie Morgan</p> <p>Pal Lester (Lead) Jeffery Braune Bitsy Henderson Mike Davis Eldon Farek</p> <p>David Bird Emmitt Currie</p>	<p><u>ACOLYTES</u></p> <p><u>USHERS</u></p> <p><u>LITURGIST</u> <u>CHILDREN'S SERMON</u></p>
<p>November 30, 2014</p>	<p>8:30 A.M. SERVICE</p> <p>Braden Clampit Mallory Clack Josie Stowers</p> <p>Emmitt Currie (Lead) Dena Fritz Bill DeBerry Herman Grauke Joe Britt Hindman</p> <p>Haley Clampit Pastor Andy</p>	<p>10:45 SERVICE</p> <p>Paisley Ploeger Macy Sample Sadie Thibodeaux</p> <p>Pal Lester (Lead) Greg Griffin Shirley Goss Dick Goss</p> <p>Eldon Farek Pastor Andy</p>	<p><u>ACOLYTES</u></p> <p><u>USHERS</u></p> <p><u>LITURGIST</u> <u>CHILDREN'S SERMON</u></p>

November 2014

November 2014						December 2014							
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
30													

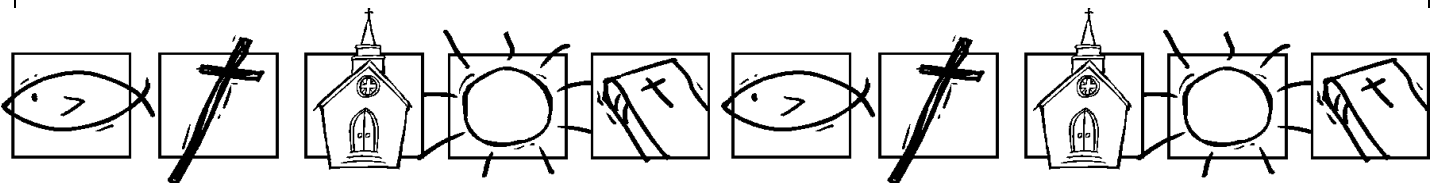
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Oct 26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1
Oct 26 - Nov 1							
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Nov 2 - 8	All Saints Sunday COMMUNION SUNDAY 8:30am Worship-5 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-5 2:30pm Communion @ Romberg House	8:30am Happy House 10:30am Staff Mtg.-L 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-PR 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm 7:30pm 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 1:00pm Alzheimer Sup 2:00pm WN Exercise-F 3:30pm Pioneer Club 5:30pm Jr. High Youth 5:30pm Prsie Band Pr 6:30pm Choir Practice- 6:30pm Sr. High Youth	9:30am Communion at Care Centers 11:00am Flex & Tone 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 4:00pm Reunion Group-PR	6:30pm Cub Scout Mtg-PSS	
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Nov 9 - 15	8:30am Worship-5 9:00am 9:30am Blood Drive 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-5 1:30pm Rocky Creek Maze Trip	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 7:30pm Bible Study-CO	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- 6:00pm Quilt Group-FC	8:30am Happy House 10:00am Bible Study-CO 2:00pm WN Exercise-F 3:30pm Pioneer Club 5:30pm Jr. High Youth 5:30pm Prsie Band Pr 5:30pm Worship Comm. 6:30pm Choir Practice- 6:30pm Sr. High Youth	11:00am Flex & Tone 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 4:00pm Reunion Group-PR	6:30pm Cub Scout Mtg-PSS	
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Nov 16 - 22	8:30am Worship-5 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-5	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 7:30pm 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	8:30am Happy House 10:00am Bible Study-CO 12:00pm Communion Pr 2:00pm WN Exercise-F 3:30pm Pioneer Club 5:30pm Jr. High Youth 5:30pm Prsie Band Pr 6:30pm Choir Practice- 6:30pm Sr. High Youth	9:30am 10:00am Book Club-L 11:00am Flex & Tone 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 4:00pm Reunion Group-PR 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting-FC	1:00pm Private Event	9:00am Health Fair
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Nov 23 - 29	8:30am Worship-5 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship-5 4:00pm Church Conference 6:00pm Community Thanksgiving Service-Eastside Baptist Church	9:00am Decorate for Christmas 10:30am Staff Mtg.-L 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 5:30pm Prayer Shawl-PR 6:00pm Dominoes-N 7:00pm 7:30pm Bible Study-CO	9:00am Decorate for Christmas 10:00am Shut-In-Visitation 11:00am Flex & Tone-FC 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC 6:00pm Girl Scout Mtg-PSS	10:00am Bible Study-CO 2:00pm WN Exercise-FC	Office Closed Thanksgiving Day	Office Closed 6:30pm Cub Scout Mtg-PSS	
	30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6
Nov 30 - Dec 6	1st Sunday of Advent 8:00am 8:30am Worship-5 9:45am Sunday School 10:30am Sock Tree Dedication 10:45am Worship-5						

Children's Corner

Regardless of their age, God can use children to share His Love with others. The children from First United Methodist and Pioneer Club do this on a regular basis! Whether it is in writing Thank you notes to our community First Responders, get well cards, releasing balloons with heartfelt notes for dear Mrs. Sandy, participating in Worship services or Hosanna Choir, our children show God's love to others. Now, the children will spread God's love across the world. Our children are starting a pen pal program with the children in the orphanage and school that Haiti Missionaries, Matthew and Sarah Rideout, work with! Matthew and Sarah are so excited to have us participate and the kids here can't wait to get started. A few guidelines for the children to follow- boys write boys, girls write girls, no guns or violence, and sign your first name. The particular children we will write speak English so therefore no translation is needed. The Rideouts told me that Haiti children love pictures! So kids can send art work too! Send the children in Haiti a special message that God loves them! Bring all notes and art work to me at the office, and I will mail out in a group. I plan to send the first mailing in about 3 weeks. Let's make sure that every child in the orphanage and school receive something!

- **Sunday, Nov 2 – All Saints Day, Communion Sunday** – Honor and remember your loved ones that have gone before us.
- **Sunday, Nov 2** – Help Pastor Andy serve **Communion at Romberg House @ 2:30pm**
- **Sunday, Nov 9 – Rocky Creek Maze Corn Maze Trip at the Chaloupka Farm.** Fun Trip for the whole family! Meet at church @ 1:30 at church office. Return to Gonzales between 5-6pm. Entry Fee paid by Children's Ministry. Bring money for additional games-corn cannon, frog hopper, duck races, and snacks. Or you can bring your own snacks in. Van transportation is provided, but please RSVP. Bring a canned good for LAMB (Food for Lavaca County) as a service project. Sign up in Narthex, breezeway, or office or email wkeck@gvec.net. Visit Chaloupka farm at www.rockycreekmaze.com
- **Wednesday, Nov 26** – No Pioneer Club, Happy Thanksgiving!
- **Monday and Tuesday, Nov 24 & 25** – Prepare the church for Christmas. Help Decorate the Sanctuary and Narthex! Call the church office, 672-8521, if you can help!
- **Sunday, Nov 30** – 1st Sunday in Advent. Hang Chrismons during both services.
- **Sunday, Nov 30 – United Methodist Women's Annual Sock Tree Dedication.** Help decorate with new socks and undergarments, sweat pants for children in our local schools. Meet in the Narthex at 10:25am. Also, the Church is collecting school supplies for the elementary schools for the spring semester.
- **Wednesday, Dec 3, Christmas Pageant practice @ 5** in Sanctuary for 8th grade and younger.
- **Thursday, Dec. 4** – Help decorate a Christmas tree at the Heights Nursing Home. Watch for details.
- **Sunday, Dec 7** – Christmas Pageant Practice in the Sanctuary @ 9:45am for all involved in pageant. Senior High (9th – 12th) - Sign up with Judy Neitsch for a part in the pageant. 857-5839.
- **Sunday, Dec 7** – Christmas Pageant at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary. More details in upcoming weeks.
- **Wednesday, Dec 10 – Children and Families Christmas Craft Fair** in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15pm, this is the last day of fall semester for Pioneer Club.
- **Sunday, Dec 21 – Christmas Cantata** at both services.
- **Wednesday, Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Services** at 4:30pm, 7:00pm, and 11:30pm

Thank you God for children,
Love, Willa



Christmas Food Boxes

Plans are underway for the Christmas Food Box project sponsored by the Missions Committee. Last year we provided 165 boxes of food for needy families and this year we are planning on 200 boxes. GCAM assists us by signing up the families and giving them a voucher to receive their box. We purchase food from the Victoria Food Bank, HEB and Wal-Mart to complete the boxes and provide the families with food for a holiday celebration meal. All recipients are very appreciative. We always have people waiting to see if there are any "left-overs", which demonstrates the importance of this local project.



How can you help? **PRAY** – Pray that this project will be successful and a blessing to those in need. **DONATE** – Make monetary donations to the church marked "Christmas Food Boxes". **COLLECT** - Start collecting non-perishable food items to contribute to the boxes.

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 9:30 am, Box preparation, Fellowship Hall
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, 11:00am – 1:00 pm, Box Distribution

If you have any questions or comments, please give me a call. Thank you for your help with our project.

Rosemary Hindman. Project Chairperson

Wesley Nurse News

Cold vs. Flu



Seasonal flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by flu viruses. Flu can be spread when a person with flu sneezes, coughs, or talks and droplets containing their germs land in your mouth or nose. You can also get the flu by touching a surface or object that has the flu virus on it and then touching your mouth, eyes, or nose. **Signs and symptoms of the flu are listed below.** People who have the flu often feel some of all of these signs/symptoms: Fever or feeling feverish/chills, Cough, Sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue, and some may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more prevalent in children. Complications from the flu include: bacterial pneumonia, ear and sinus infections, dehydration, and worsening of chronic health conditions. Individuals with the flu feel much better within one to two weeks. They are contagious one day before symptoms develop and five to seven days after symptoms appear according to the Centers for Disease Control. **Flu vaccine protects against the flu so the single best way to prevent the flu is to get vaccinated each season.** Flu vaccines will not protect against flu-like illness caused by non-influenza viruses.

"Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight!" Isaiah 1:16

The best protection against colds or the flu is careful hand washing. Plain soap and water combined with rubbing your hands together are very effective to remove germs. Antibacterial soaps are common but work no better than regular soap and may even increase resistance to antibacterial chemicals. Flu is serious business so protect against it. If you are ill please stay at home. Do not share your germs. Treat your symptoms by hydrating yourself, getting plenty of rest, gargling to moisten a sore throat, drinking hot liquids to relieve nasal congestion, taking a steamy shower to clear nasal passages, applying hot or cold packs to congested sinuses, and avoiding air travel. (Source: Mayo Clinic www.cdc.gov)

United Methodist Women

Historic Event

On October 10-12, 2014 at Embassy Suites Northwest in San Antonio, the United Methodist Women of the Southwest Texas Conference and the Rio Grande Conference united to hold the final session of their respective annual meetings and to merge as the Rio Texas United Methodist Women. The theme of this historic event was "New Beginnings Nuevos Comienzos."



The Gonzales group of UMW was represented by Linnea Cowan, Emily Neuse, and Cheryl Meadows. Cheryl was in attendance for the activities which began on Friday afternoon with workshops. At six o'clock, those in attendance were treated to a seated dinner followed by celebration of communion presided by Bishop James Dorff.

On Saturday morning, Cheryl was joined by Linnea and Emily who all attended a joint Service of Praise and Worship. The two groups then broke into separate sessions. The 40th Annual Meeting of SWTX Conference UMW convened with one-hundred and one ladies in attendance to hold the memorial candle burning ceremony, to hear the final reports from out-going officers, and to recognize the Mission Today units, Charter Club participants, the Reading Program participants, Five Star units, Five Star Women, and One Minute Women.

The Gonzales unit was recognized for having a one study and for being a Five Star Unit. Cheryl Meadows was mentioned in the program book for being a Minute Woman (having burned the memorial candle for one minute at the Conference level) and for being a Five Star Woman.

One of the most exciting events during this final annual meeting was the announcement of a \$51,046.87 legacy from Dorothy R. Persohn-a long-time United Methodist Woman who desired to leave a gift for the SWTX Conference.

After lunch, the two came together to hold the first business meeting for the new Rio Texas Conference UMW. Election of officers was held along with approval of the standing rules and budget.

At the end of a long day of attending to business, everyone celebrated with a "Noche de Fiesta" banquet. Attendees were encouraged to dress for Fiesta! We enjoyed a wonderful meal and entertainment from a Mariachi band of youth from the Methodist funded community center in San Antonio.

Sunday morning began with worship, consecration of the Constitution of Rio Texas UMW and the installation of officers by Mrs. Barbara Dorff.

Cheryl Meadows has simply reported the facts, however Emily Neuse said it so much better. And I quote her now, "Rio Texas Conference UMW is no longer a 'work in progress,' but will serve as prototype for the United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women around the world when unification processes become necessary. History has been made!!! There was a lot of talk about 'change' throughout the weekend. And, from some attending, change seems difficult; voices opposing gets louder, even as the inevitable takes center stage. It has been said, change is harder that it needs to be because it is more mysterious that it needs to be. But change is hard, especially when our thoughts are drowning in a sea of emotions."

Change has occurred; let us all move forward to work as one as the new Rio Texas UMW.

Save the Date

December 1st, 2014, Christmas Luncheon in the Narthex at noon.

All women of the church are invited to come and bring your favorite salad.

We would love to have a large crowd.

Bring your recipe if you would share it.

We would really like to put together an informal booklet of salad recipes.



Don't Forget the Sock Tree

The dedication of the "Sock Tree" will be held in the Narthex on November 30th at 10:30am between services. Donations of socks, underwear, and warm-up pants for children at East Avenue and Gonzales Elementary will be accepted beginning on that day and continuing thru Dec. 14th.



Blood Drive

Sunday, November 9th from 8:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

First UMC Parking Lot

All presenting donors will receive

- T-shirt
- The satisfying feeling of saving lives
- A mini physical



**South Texas
Blood & Tissue Center**

For more information, contact Shirley Goss at 672-1031.

EARTH ANGELS

Earth Angels are working on several projects: quilts for those who are in need of them; Angel bunting outfits for the hospital; house blocks and scrappy projects for our members; and working with the FUMC women's group in collecting items for sewing kits to be sent to other countries. So far this year we have given out 65 quilts and the hospital will receive at least 12 angel outfits. The sewing kits will be another ongoing project.

Earth Angels is growing. In the last few months, we have added five new members and one email member. Come for a visit and stay a while.

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. Members share ideas, show quilts they have made, and engage in quilting projects. Fellowship and sharing play a major role in Earth Angels. Feel free to visit our next meeting on November 11, 2014; we'd love to have you.



Christmas Decorations

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on **November 24 & 25 beginning @ 9 a.m.**

This is a major undertaking and we need your help in getting the trees out and set up and the sanctuary decked out for the Christmas Holidays.

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

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