

First United Methodist Church
2600 East Main Street
Gatesville, TX 76528
(254) 865-2520

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage Paid
Gatesville, TX
Permit No. 74
Change Service Requested



First United Methodist

SPOTLIGHT

Gatesville January 2017

The mission of our church is to raise up disciples of Christ through love, service, and example.

My Word

Where are our Davids and Esthers?

The Lord said to Samuel, '...Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.'

1 Samuel 16:1

The story of the anointing of David has always been one of my favorites. God picked the youngest of Jesse's eight boys to be the future king of Israel. It came as a surprise to everyone. This wasn't the only time that God chose a young person to lead. Esther, a Jewish girl, taken into captivity in Persia, is believed to have been fourteen when she entered the Persian palace and probably eighteen when she became the queen of Persia. David is credited with being the greatest king of Israel and Esther is credited for saving the Jews in Persia.

I am praying that God has chosen some younger person(s) to lead our church as well. The United Methodist Church and Gatesville UMC in particular needs young people to assume leadership roles in the Church. If we, as the church, expect young people to join the church, we need people like them in leadership positions. If we don't attract more young people, we will come to an early end. The question is: **'Where are our Davids and Esthers?'**

Not everyone is called to be a leader in the church but many are. Some of you may feel called but haven't been asked to take a leadership role. If you think you might be called to a leadership role, then here is your opportunity to explore that possibility. Join me at **The Church of the Resurrection Leadership Conference** next September 27-29 in Kansas City KS. This three day event is packed full of ideas that can be implemented in churches of all sizes. I believe in it so much that I have attended four times and I look forward to a fifth conference in 2017. But, the more people that can go the more ideas we can come back with to implement.

I have a special offer for our Davids and Esthers. **Three scholarships are available for members between 21 and 35.** The scholarship will include, registration, transportation and hotel accommodations. If you can arrange to take off three days, I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity.

If you know of a David or Esther in the Church, give them a copy of this article and tell them to read it. If anyone has any questions about the conference, contact me on my cell at 817-980-6492.

I'll see you in church on Sunday

Rev. Gene Gurley
revgene@yahoo.com

Attendance	
December 4	
Sunday School	62
8:30am Worship	34
10:30am Worship	81
December 11	
Sunday School	68
8:30am Worship	54
10:30am Worship	103
December 18	
Sunday School	59
8:30am Worship	35
10:30am Worship	82
December 25	
Sunday School	—
8:30am Worship	—
10:30am Worship	280
(Includes Ch. Eve)	

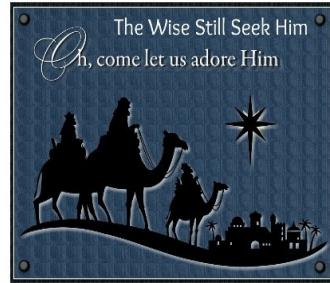
EPIPHANY

For all the traditionalists out there, January 6th is the twelfth and last day of Christmas. In an age when time moved at a more leisurely pace, families and friends gathered throughout the twelve days to exchange gifts, eat and celebrate. This day is also called Epiphany, traditionally the day the wise men arrived in Bethlehem to present their gifts to the Christ toddler. Jesus was probably 2 years old by the time they arrived. The significance of their visit is that they were the first to show or reveal Christ to the world.

Webster's dictionary defines Epiphany as an appearance or manifestation especially of a divine being. For Christians around the world, it is a revealing of Christ, which was an important moment in our lives and should be commemorated. But now it is our turn to reveal Christ to the world.



(See Luke 6:31) 01-16-2015



Liturgists

- January 1**
8:30 R. Jones
10:30 G. Sadler
- January 8**
8:30 V. Riddle
10:30 M. A. Leib
- January 15**
8:30 L. Klontz
10:30 H. Theaker
- January 22**
8:30 W. Wall
10:30 R. Sweazea
- January 29**
8:30 A. Daze
10:30 H. Theaker

- Birthdays**
- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 2 | Inez Arnold |
| 2 | Joyce Edwards |
| 5 | Payne Sullins |
| 6 | Kristen Sullins |
| 7 | Joe Patterson |
| 10 | Wesley Wiegrefe |
| 11 | Mary Minshew |
| 13 | Carole Corgill |
| 13 | Phil Zeigler |
| 17 | Schuyler Martin |
| 17 | Trevor Smith |
| 17 | Skylar Wood |
| 20 | Patsy Smart |
| 21 | Sharon Sullins |
| 22 | Bob Self |
| 24 | Hayden Curry |
| 24 | Patrick Smith |
| 25 | Emily Young |
| 26 | Rex Huse |
| 26 | Michael Kaibas |
| 28 | Zula Ayers |
| 31 | Bobby Curry |
- Prayer Concerns**
- Carmon Alexander
Angie Alhf
Debbie Ament
Susan Archie
Karen Arnold
Charlotte Azen
Faith Barcroft
Mikaka Bryson
Bobby Cole
James Daniel
John Daniel
Nancy Daniel
Reba Gartman
Phyllis Head
Kim Herring
Kip Huertz
Charla Huse
Deborah Jones
Jane & Dennis Krumlauf
Horace Knight
Savana Lewis
Jacquie Machura
Tammy McHargue
Lilly Paxton
Michael Prosser
Karen Reaves
Larry Roberts
Tookie Schamber
Casey Shirley
Reed Smith
Tim Sonnenberg
Stan Sugg
Linda Ussery
Mr. & Mrs. Wagner
Tina Whites
Ilene Whitte
Our President
Our Pastor

Military

- Shane Clark
Tom Cushing
John Decker
Dylan Hartmann
Robert Miller
Larrett McCoy
Matt Mohler
Joe Patterson
Anthony Pemberton
Fredrick Ralls
Stephan Sowders
Jeron Tarpley
Eric Ward

Memorials

- JAMIE ERWIN**
Ruth G. Jones
Cherie & Dennis Weiss
Bill Ament
Melinda Ivy
Curtis & Beverly Logan
David & Mike Martin
DeDe & Dina Powell
Gatesville Fire Dept.
Forest & Doris Beach
Clay & Carolyn McClennan
Kelly & Greg Miller
Paul & Mary Martha Russell

TALOU EDWARDS

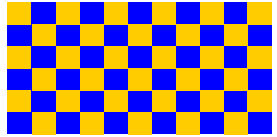
- Betty Brown
Melinda Ivy
DeDe & Dina Powell
Anne Ramminger
Kenneth & Velva Riddle
Carol Smith
Bill & Nancy Ashcraft
Upper Room SS Class

- M/M ROGER MILLER,
BOB MILLER &
TOM MILLER**
Ann Baugh

Thank You

Thank you to all for the cards, calls and prayers after my surgery. A special thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl. I am so thankful for the love of my church family.

Zula Ayers



Get Well

- REBA GARTMAN**
Anne Ramminger
Kenneth & Velva Riddle

- ZULA AYERS**
Kenneth & Velva Riddle

- LEA CASTILLO**
Ruth G. Jones





**K-3 SUNDAY SCHOOL
& 4-6 SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Mrs. Jennifer & Mrs. Jennifer
Mrs. Amanda & Mrs. Jackie

Bible stories each week:

- Jan 1 – Wise Men Visited Jesus (Matt 2:1-21)
- Jan 8 – Moses Was Born and Called (Ex 1:8-2:10; 23-25; 3:1-4:20)
- Jan 15 – The Plagues, the Passover, and the Crossing of the Red Sea (Ex 5-14)
- Jan 22 – The Wilderness Text (Ex 15:22-17:7)
- Jan 29 – The Golden Calf (Ex 32:1-35; 34:1-9)



(4y-3rd grade) CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Bible Stories each week:

- Jan 1 – Epiphany: Saying "Thank You" (Matt 2:11)
- Jan 8 – Teachers Are Important (Prov 3:1)
- Jan 15 – Bible Communities (Luke 2:4)
- Jan 22 – Our Church (1 Kings 6:2)
- Jan 29 – Helping Others (Leviticus 19:18)



(K-6) WEDNESDAY WORD



Mrs. Linda, Mrs. Mary, Mrs. Jennifer, We need YOU!

Bible Story: Moses and the Burning Bush (Exodus 3:1-15)

- Jan 4 – ART & GAMES!
- Jan 11 – COOKING & DRAMA!
- Jan 18 – SCIENCE & VIDEO!
- Jan 25 – MINI MISSION!

**Wednesday Word
December Menu**



Dinner is served at 5:30
\$3 Adults
\$2 Kids 12 & under
(\$8 family cap)

Wednesday Word meals-

- 1/4- **Nathaniel Wood:**
taco bar, salad, dessert
- 1/11- **Wilma & Doug:**
soup, salad, dessert
- 1/18- **Gaye, DeDe & Anne:**
taco soup, layered bean dip, salsa and dessert.
- 1/25- **We need a guest chef!**

**Upcoming
Events**



- Jan. 16** Trip to Copperas Cove to eat (Dutch Treat) at Little Tex Restaurant and listen to Johnny Memphis (an Elvis impersonator). The show starts at 6:30 p.m. We will leave a 5:15 p.m.
- Jan. 19** Game Night @ Dairy Queen—6:30 p.m.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women will meet **Tuesday, January 10 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Banquet Room. Carol Dildine will present Chapter 4 of the study on Latin America. Hostesses are Stella Wiegrefe and Velva Riddle. All ladies are invited.



UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men will meet on **Tuesday, January 17th at 6:00 p.m.** in the Banquet Room.



A CHALLENGE FOR THE CREATIVE TYPES



The front of our church building is looking a little tired. The cross on the column on the west side of our building is oxidizing and staining the column. The column on the front is dirty from years of exposure to the elements. Our challenge is to clean them up and restore them to their original splendor. Your Board of Trustees welcomes your recommendations to accomplish this task. Please contact Doug Peevey or the church office with your suggestions.

**GENEROUS LIVING
STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

Our Stewardship campaign is over and the numbers have been totaled. Here is a brief recap of your support of the church. Thanks to your participation, 78 families or individuals completed and turned in their cards. Of these, 31 increased their pledge over last year and 9 are first time pledgers.

Over \$230,000 has been committed and, based on last year's giving, we expect another \$89,000 to be donated during the year.

This information will be used to set the 2017 budget that will enable us to serve the community and the world.

MISSION FAIR—JAN. 22nd

If you have been looking for ways to serve God in Gatesville or beyond, you will want to be present on January 22. Jeremy Webb, from the Methodist Children's Home in Waco will be our guest preacher at both services. Following worship you can visit with representatives of the various mission projects that are active in our congregation as well as get information about upcoming opportunities. Use this opportunity to ask questions, gather information and make a commitment to serve.



CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING



Over \$2494.00 was collected in our Christmas Eve offering to benefit Heifer International and the Care Center. If you were not present or unable to contribute on Christmas Eve, we will accept donations through January. Thank you for your generosity.



**Wednesday
Evenings
5:30 p.m.**



WEDNESDAY WORD

We meet Wednesday's beginning with the meal at 5:30. UMYF starts at 6 and ends at 7:30. Our Bible study is "Revival" by Adam Hamilton. HS and Jr Hi are going to split into small groups for lessons and discussion. Join us. Bring a friend.

JANUARY 2017

UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

2nd Annual Coats for Folks. Bring your new or gently new coats. We will be donating to the Care Center.

January 29 5th Sunday. Youth are greeters and ushers.

Amen Corner

As a trucker stopped for a red light, the Texas preacher jumped out of his car, ran up to the truck, and knocked on the door. The trucker lowered the window, and the preacher said "Hi, my name is John and you are losing some of your load." Ignoring him, the trucker proceeded down the street.

The truck stopped at the next light, and the preacher came up again. The window came down and, the preacher said, "Hi, I'm John and you are still losing some of your load!" Shaking his head, the trucker ignored him and continued down the street.

At the third light, the same thing happened. The preacher got out of his car, ran up, knocked on the door, the window came down and he said "My name is John, and you are losing your load all over the road!"

When the light turned green the trucker raced to the next light and stopped. He ran back to the preacher and knocked on his window. As he lowered it, he said, "Hi, my name is Kevin, it is winter in Minnesota and I'm driving the SALT TRUCK!"

Now, there's a use for salt that Jesus didn't consider in his Sermon on the Mount. Salt has always been necessary for survival. It was so important that it was one of the earliest offerings pagans made to their gods. The Israelites were even instructed to include salt "...with all of your offerings" (Lev 2:13). In addition to salt's purity and its ability to preserve, it is most commonly used to add flavor to otherwise bland food. That is what Jesus was referring to in his lesson as he said:

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.
Matthew 5:13

Jesus wanted the faithful to remain so in order to improve the 'flavor' of life on Earth. We can do that by living enthusiastically about our faith seven days a week. We can also take a lesson from the salt truck driver. As the 'salt of the earth,' we can spread it around and melt cold hearts.

Amen.

Rev. Gene

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 Worship 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship 4:00 Oaks Worship	2 6:30 AA	3	4 5:30 Wednesday Word 5:30 (UMY 6:00 Prayer and Bible Study 6:00 Choir 6:30 AA	5	6 6:30 AA	7
8 8:30 Worship 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship	9 6:30 Trustees 6:30 AA	10 5:30 United Methodist Women 7:00 Staff- Parish Relations	11 5:30 Wednesday Word 5:30 UMY 6:00 Prayer and Bible Study 6:00 Choir 6:30 AA	12	13 6:30 AA	14
15 8:30 Worship 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship	16 5:15 CAFÉ Event In Copperas Cove 6:30 Finance Committee 6:30 AA	17 6:00 United Methodist Men	18 5:30 Wednesday Word 5:30 UMY 6:00 Prayer and Bible Study 6:00 Choir 6:30 AA	19 6:30 C A F E Game Night @ DQ	20 6:30 AA	21 Memorial Service for Talou Edwards and Virginia Moore
22 Mission Fair Day 8:30 Worship 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship	23 6:30 Church Council 6:30 AA	24	25 5:30 Wednesday Word 5:30 UMY 6:00 Prayer and Bible Study 6:00 Choir 6:30 AA	26	27 6:30 AA	28
29 8:30 Worship 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship	30 6:30 AA	31				