



A Publication of the First United Methodist Church of Rockport

The Rockport Beacon

"Let Your Light So Shine..." Matthew 5:16

Mission Statement

Offering Christ to all through worship, ministry, discipleship and fellowship to the glory of God.

Vol. 16, Number 11, November 2010 www.fumcrockport.org

A Time For Giving

As November begins so does the holiday season which is the time for giving. There are many opportunities for ministry and giving. One of the ministries at FUMC is our participation in and support of Rockport-Fulton Good Samaritans, Inc.

Larry Moore writes: As you are probably aware, Rockport-Fulton Good Samaritans is an all-volunteer staffed local (Aransas County) charity. It is supported by area churches, individuals, Castaways, the Coastal Bend Foundation and many other people and organizations in our community. We are currently planning our annual Christmas Basket food drive. The food will be distributed on December 18. We have some exciting opportunities this year for our congregation to participate in the food drive.

On November 16th the Coastal Bend Community Foundation (CBCF) will have a special website www.coastalbenddayofgiving.org. The donor must go to that website on Nov. 16th and designate which charity to support. The web site will remain up for only 24 hours and donations must be made via a credit card on that day, November 16. All donations up to \$6,100 will be matched by the CBCF. A \$10 donation from you will bring Good Sam \$20—your donation plus the CBCF match. No computer or computer challenged? Come to Good

Sam at 507 South Ann Street on November 16th between 10am and 3pm and one of our workers will do it for you.

Since Good Samaritans is having record breaking demands on its resources this year, please consider donating on this special website on November 16th.

Another opportunity to support Good Samaritans is offered by our youth under the direction of our Christian Education department. Jan Burkhart and the youth write:

We are teaming up with Good Samaritans by sponsoring a can food drive to help fill the Christmas Baskets. The Can Food Drive begins November 7th and ends December 5th.

We are going to divide the church up into two groups according to your last name—A-M will be the "Alphas" and N-Z will be the "Omegas". The group that brings the most items wins bragging rights until next time.

Items to bring: can vegetables 16 oz: green beans, corn, sweet potatoes, pumpkin, pinto beans, etc.; can fruit 16 oz.: cranberry sauce, pineapple, etc.; can meats: tuna, chicken, chili, stews, etc.; instant potatoes, Stovetop Stuffing, gravy (packages), brown sugar, mustard, Jell-O, candy canes, peanut butter.

(continued on page 6)



**FROM THE
PASTOR**

As Election Day draws near, we are saturated by advertisements about the virtues of the candidates seeking elected office. Recently, the news media has been zealous in its attempts to uncover the vices of those seeking election. These news stories deal not only with the vices of the candidates, but also with disclosures about members of their families. We have seen more than one candidate withdrawing from the race because of a lack of the purity considered necessary for someone holding public office. As a result of our demand for high virtue and no vices, and the zeal of the news media, the American electoral process has begun to resemble Rome's canonization process.

The attempt of political press agents to "market" their candidates as persons of great integrity and valor isn't new; in fact, it's time worn. Our term candidate comes from the Latin word *candidatus*, meaning clothed in white. In ancient Rome, it was the custom of those seeking public office to wear loose-fitting white robes. The robes were loose so that the candidates might show people their battle scars ... and white since that was the color of fidelity, humility and purity.

Indeed, those whom we elect to office should be persons of the highest virtue. But we are electing public servants, not saints! If we continue to demand that the personal lives

of those who serve in public office be completely free of any moral failure, of any misconduct in their past lives, who will we have to lead us? Will we not merely have careful candidates with whitewashed images? And if we also demand that the members of the candidates' families be as white as snow, who will even desire to seek public office?

Anytime we prepare to exercise our important duty as citizens, we need to look not so much at private virtues and vices as at public virtues that would make a good leader. We need to examine the candidate public records, their social and global proposals more than their private lives. As Christian citizens we have an obligation to examine carefully whether a candidate's position reflects a genuine concern for the poor, the unemployed, the sick, the homeless and others in our society without a power base ... as well as the candidate's commitment to a peace that is based on more than vested interests.

In the old black and white cowboy movies, the good guys and the bad guys were always easy to pick out. Tom Mix and the other heroes always wore white hats. But life isn't as simple as in those old movies. Perhaps the day will soon come when we can see past the superficial image of the candidates, and elect to office people who will be instruments of true social justice and peace in the world ... even if they happen to be wearing black hats!

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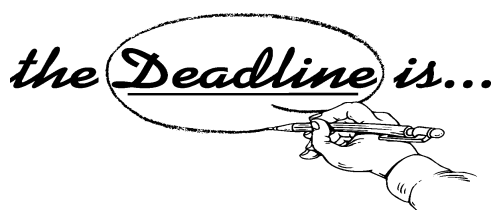


First United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men's Breakfast will be on Wednesday, November 3, at 7:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All men are welcome.



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 15—4:00 p. m.

Emmaus Gathering Is Changed to November 11th

The Emmaus Gathering date this month has been changed from November 4th to November 11th. The time is 6:00 p.m. and the place of meeting will be at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 619 Lang Rd in Portland.

Trick or Treat For UNICEF Boxes Due In Office Nov. 8

If you chose to take an orange Trick or Treat for UNICEF collection box, please return your collection to the Church office by Monday, November 8th. The office closes at 4:00 p.m. Thank you.

The Missions Committee

Fill A Stocking For Our Troops

The Bahia Bay group has grown and become Coastal Bend Troop Support. Carla Reed has gotten charity status so now all of your contributions will be tax deductible. A box has been placed in the foyer for your items. Items requested are: Christmas candies/cookies (store bought & packaged) chocolate is ok but it has to be its original package or a zip lock bag, not loose in the stocking. Individual drink mixes, coffee, flavored creamers, hot cocoa, gum, energy bars, nuts, sunflower seeds, beef jerky, manicure kits for male or female, CDs (everyday & Christmas) hand held battery operated games, computer games, sports watch (all black, bands & face) male & female, :Yoyos, nerf balls, hacky sac and small toys for stockings, socks (boot style for men and women black or Army green, Batteries, AA & AAA, stationary, note cards, pens (retractable please) NO STAMPS, sunglasses—wraparound or safety style in black only, disposable cameras, small flashlights, booklights or over the forehead style. Keep items small/travel size. No aerosol containers, glass or pork items can be shipped. Deadline is November 17th. Postage for each box is \$12.50 if you would like to help, but not required.

Be sure to bring your items to the church and drop them into the boxes that have your team name of them.

This is a fun way to get EVERYONE involved and help those in need. So start bringing your items and let's see which group wins those bragging rights.

Trick or Treat for UNICEF Boxes

The familiar orange boxes are due back to the church by November 8th. Please make checks payable to UNICEF. This money funds the mission to reach a day when zero children die from preventable causes by doing whatever it takes to give them a healthy childhood.

The Harvest Sunday Offering will be taken on Sunday, Nov. 7th.

This year Harvest Sunday is a special memorial of the ministry of Rev. Clint Rabb. Clint was a member of our annual conference serving in Extension Ministry under the General Board of Global Ministries. Clint was in Haiti developing health-related volunteer ministries when the earthquake struck on Jan. 12th. Trapped in the rubble of a hotel for many hours with other UM colleagues, Clint was rescued and evacuated to a hospital in Florida. It was there that he died of injuries caused by the earthquake. Clint was a former chairperson of the Conference Board of Global Ministries. 25% of the Harvest Sunday offering will go to Haiti recovery efforts supported by UMCOR. UMCOR has elaborated a five-year plan that addresses both short-and long-term needs associated with education, shelter, food security, safe water, and the rebuilding of livelihoods including microcredit, agriculture assistance, and others. Because of our relationship with the Methodist Church in Haiti recovery efforts were effective immediately after the quake. Another 25% of

Harvest Sunday will go for health clinics and nutrition programs in Darfur, Sudan. 25% will go for food pantries in United Methodist congregations in the McAllen District of our conference and 25% will go to the Lampasas Mission which is a community-sponsored food pantry with United Methodist support.

November 28th is the United Methodist Student Day special offering.

Your gifts go to support United Methodist scholarships and UM Student Loan Fund administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Our Annual Conference participates in the Rebate Program which awards a merit scholarship to a UM student who resides in our conference and attends a UM related college or university.

Annual Methodist Children's Home Christmas Offering

Founded in 1890, Methodist Children's Home is a non-profit child care provider affiliated with the seven United Methodist Annual Conferences of Texas and New Mexico. MCH serves more than 1,400 children and youth from diverse backgrounds, without regard to ethnicity, religion or financial status. The Waco Campus serves up to 180 youth, ages 12 to 18. The average stay is 18 months. The Boys Ranch located 10 miles northeast of Waco, serves up to 50 youth, ages 12-18. The Home serves about 30 youth ages 12-18 through a residential program in Waxahachie. Residents attend school in Waxahachie. MCH provides foster care for about 160 children from birth through age 18 in Texas. A Community Service outreach office is located in Corpus Christi. MCH must raise more than \$3million annually to meet the daily needs of the children. MCH does NOT receive church apportionments.

From the Education Director

What a GREAT time to be a kid at FUMC!! There are so many things going on with our youth these days.

First of all on November 7th we will be going on an Ecological trip. It will be a boat trip to the Estes Education and Research Center on Tally Island. The youth will be learning about ALL God's creatures great and small. There will be bird watching, fishing (bring your own pole or one will be provided for you), hiking, singing and of course roasting marshmallows. We will meet at 1pm at the church and return at 4pm. Dress according to the weather and please wear closed toe shoes. Come to Sunday School for more details.

Children's Bells is coming back. A BIG thank you to Ruth Reagan for stepping into Marianna Gage's shoes and taking over the children's bell choir.

The children will be sponsoring a "Can Food Drive" for Good Samaritans. See Page 1 and look in your mailbox for more information.

The special Wednesday Night Fellowship meal that the children served was a HUGE success!!! Thank you to all who donated to that project. The children had so much fun and are looking forward to doing it again. We were able to go to Brinca's Bounce House with 18 kids and had too much fun with the money the kids earned from the Fellowship Meal. Check out the bulletin board near the kitchen to see the pictures.

The annex is being painted inside by the UMM. Thank you!!!
Jan



Wesley Community Center Is Having a Tamale Fundraiser

Wesley Community Center in Corpus Christi is a 501 © (3) non-profit serving homeless, abused, neglected and low income children with a quality child development program that addresses each child's developmental milestones and prepares every child for a formal public school education while their parents seek work, attend school or work. They also serve the community with a free emergency Food Pantry that is available weekdays. Last year Wesley Community Center served over 250 children in their child care program and over 5,000 individuals with emergency food. Wesley needs your help for their Tamale Fundraiser. They are taking pre-paid orders that will be available on Saturday, November 13 & Sunday, November 14. Deadline for orders is November 4 by 6:00 p.m. Contact Eddie Jackson-Mathis at Wesley Community Center at (361)880-8300 or (361)774-4182 or Email wcc1942@aol.com. Pick up times are 2-4p.m. both Saturday, Nov. 13th and Sunday, Nov. 14th at Wesley Community Center, 4015 Mac Arthur (off Horne Rd at the corner of Mac Arthur and Shaw. Indicate whether you want spicy or mild tamales. The cost is \$8.00 per dozen. **ORDER DEADLINE IS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH BY 6:00 P.M.**



November Anniversaries

- 10—Lloyd & Charlene Morin
- 10—William & Naomi Nowotny
- 12—John & Ginger Gay
- 14—Lin & Melva Turner
- 21—Sam & Sharon Mungo

First Learning Tree



What a glorious time of year it is. We just spin from one holiday to another.... Halloween, Thanksgiving and then Christmas. For a young child it's almost too much excitement for them to withstand. You can see the anticipation in their eyes and their little bodies!

What a month October was! Between the Pumpkin Patch, FLT Fundraiser, Fall Festival, Federal Audit and Texas Rising Star Accreditation, I became a grandmother! Reese Elizabeth Elbrecht was born on Oct. 14th. And of course, she is the most beautiful baby ever born. I spent some very precious time with both Nicole and Reese during the first weeks and during my absence; my staff did a fantastic job of filling in for me. I am so thankful for these ladies and the job that they do.

Our Fall Festival was another success. We raised over \$3,500. Many of our church members donated items for the Silent Auction and I thank them for their generosity! This church is such a blessing in my life and in the life of First Learning

Tree.

We went through our Texas Rising Star Accreditation with flying colors. Our auditor gave us the best compliment! I was told that we are one of the best Early Childhood Education Centers in the Coastal-Bend!! Now that is an achievement!

Every year we sponsor a "Thanksgiving Feast" for the children and families that are enrolled at FLT. Our families are so appreciative of this event. Many come to us and thank us for allowing them to spend this time with their children. It is so rewarding to have the Fellowship Hall filled to capacity with these families. Do you remember what it was like to have your family visit you at school and have lunch with you? Well, then you understand what it means to these children. Our teachers do a fantastic job in preparing so many tempting dishes. By the end of lunch, we are all stuffed!!

What a blessing it is to be surrounded by our students, their families and our staff during this special time of the year. I know that this Thanksgiving will be very special for my family. May your holiday season be just as special!!

Kathy

Children's Church

Children's Church will celebrate Veteran's Day Nov. 7th with flags and working with the Christmas Stockings for our troops. On Nov. 14th, they will conclude their Journey With Jesus series and sing a song for the congregation. On Nov. 21st they will meet in the Rec Room.



We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known...

Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
thy name ever praised!



Thanksgiving



November Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 01—Patty Miller | 14—Christine Grohman |
| 04—Vernon Townsend | 14—John Sadler |
| 05—Terry Collins | 15—Ed Caldwell |
| 05—Kathy Daniels | 15—Susan Lloyd |
| 06—Jean Holland | 16—Lynne Ruf |
| 06—Max Kluge, Jr. | 18—Marjorie Farrer |
| 07—Ray Snair | 18—Beverly Palas |
| 08—James Shepherd | 18—David Ware |
| 08—Janice Spears | 23—Bert Shoopman |
| 09—Phil Robberson | 25—Lovelyn Hughes |
| 11—Betsy Pfister | 26—Bud Crough |

Community Thanksgiving Service Set

The annual Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 21 at First Baptist Church. Community ministers will be participating in the service. Everyone is invited to come worship with our neighbors in the community



Financially Faithful

September 2010

Income -	\$19,870.42
Castaways donation	\$4,266.49
Total Income	\$24,136.91
Expenses -	\$28,976.74
Net Income (Loss)	-\$ (4,839.83)

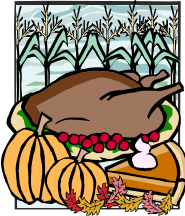
Jan -September 2010

Income -	\$247,510.85(71%)
Budgeted-	\$346,559
Expenses -	\$238,708(69%)
Budgeted-	\$346,559
Net Inc(Loss) -	8,802
Building Fund contrib.-	\$10,030
Loan Balance -	\$89,672

Annual Charge Conference Set for November 10th

Rev. Eradio Valverde, Corpus Christi District Superintendent, will be at Rockport FUMC on Wednesday evening, November 10th to conduct the annual charge conference. Rev. Valverde will be here at 5:00 p.m. to join in the fellowship meal and program. Following that he will conduct the Charge Conference.

The agenda for the conference set by Rev. Valverde includes a celebration of God's activity in the life of our congregation and reports on membership, finances, nominations, lay speaker applications, and church goals. Everyone is welcome to attend, but only church Administrative Council members can vote.



**Church-wide
Turkey Dinner
to Be Held
November 21**

The Hospitality Committee is planning the annual Thanksgiving Feast which will take place after the second service on Nov. 21. The church will provide turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy. Sides, salads and desserts will be pot-luck. The sign-up sheet will be on the volunteer desk on Sunday, November 7th.

**Church office and FLT will
be closed
Nov. 25 & 26**



November 7

**Veterans
Sunday**



November 7

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Thom Elliott, Pastor

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
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