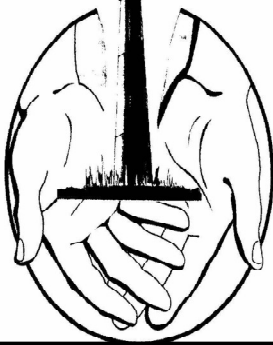


A BEACON OFFERING CHRIST TO ALL



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 12, December 2010 www.fumcrockport.org

Celebrate Advent

Advent is always a busy season of the church year. The first Sunday of Advent was November 28th. The second, third and fourth Sundays of Advent have many activities scheduled. Of course, included in the worship service is the lighting of the Advent candles. December 5th, the second Sunday of Advent will include the lighting of the second candle—peace, third Sunday, December 12th—Joy and 4th Sunday of Advent, December 19th the fourth candle—Love. The Christ Candle will be lit at the Christmas Eve Services. The Family Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 p.m. and the Candle Lighting/Communion Service will be at 10:00 p.m. A ritual for family worship at home will be included in each of the Advent Sunday bulletins. Also free Advent worship materials for children, teens and adults is available in the foyer.

Also available for purchase are Christmas Poinsettia plants for \$10 each to be placed in the sanctuary Dec. 12 & 19th in honor or memory of someone as well as an opportunity to make a monetary donation of \$10 to the Good Samaritans. The poinsettias may be taken home by the donor after the Christmas Eve Services. Deadline to place your order is Dec. 7th.



On Sunday afternoon, December 12, at 2:30 p.m. everyone is invited to meet at the church to go caroling. At 5:00 p.m. the carolers will go to Dairy Queen for treats.

December 19th at 9:30 will be the traditional Christmas brunch at the church. Breakfast casseroles, fruit and holiday breads will be served. If you will provide one of these, please sign up on the sheet at the front desk in the foyer. At the 10:30 a.m. worship service the choir will present a Christmas Cantata.

A fun time for the children will be on Thursday evening, Dec. 9th at 5:30 p.m. It will be pictures and cookies with Santa Claus. The event sponsored by the First Learning Tree is inviting all children of the church to participate.

The Wednesday night Fellowship Meals and Worship will focus on special Advent programs. Sign up for the free meals Dec. 8, 15, 22 and Advent join in the Celebration.





**FROM THE
PASTOR**

Pastor's Report to the Church Conference

First, I report the gratitude I experience when I observe the people of FUMC visit the sick, care for the dying, embrace the grieving, feed the hungry, receive the stranger, give money to every good deed asked by the UMC and the Rockport community join the volunteer community agencies and generally provide for one another.

My gratitude turns to awe, when I see that FUMC members do their work in a setting that ignores the Tradition in favor of the immediate, which settles for religions with quick answers from authorities.

Second, the staff works long hours in the context of constant interruption with minimum irritation and maximum competence. Besides our office, maintenance, and music staff whose talents we can compare to anyone, we added a new staff position this year: Director of Christian Education. This reflects the congregations desire to add support to our Education, Children's and Youth program.

Third, this continues to be a challenging congregation in which to do ministry. It is becoming more and more diverse in its makeup, and I find this to be stimulating...even though it can at times be frustrating. The frustrations, however are more than compensated for in the possibilities for growth and ministry which are created by the diversity.

Fourth, all of our program committees are very active, doing an outstanding job witnessing to the presence of Jesus Christ in this community. We are going to undertake a new organizational structure for the coming year to help enable our ministry to function more closely in line with who we are as the people of God in Rockport. I am encouraged

and even excited at the enthusiasm shown to this new structure.

I want to say I remain encouraged by the response we have had by the congregation regarding requests for service by the Lay Leadership Committee. We have put together a good slate of officers for 2011. There are still some pending positions to be filled, but we will soon have that accomplished.

The Lay Leadership Committee will be much more than a one-a-year group that fills positions for the next year. We will be using "Spiritual Gifts" surveys on all new members, and as many "Old" members as possible to fit positions to what God has called us to become.

One of the things we will consider at the beginning of 2011 is to ask all members of the Church Council to serve on either an administrative or program committee. We feel that a decisions affecting the life of the church can best be rendered if those making them have a working knowledge of what we actually do here. The Church Council will be a much more knowledgeable board.

2011 should prove to be a very exciting year in the life of this congregation. Many plans have already been formulated to help First UMC continue to be a living and vital branch of the Body of Christ in this community. We realize that if we are going to continue to exist as a church and be responsive to what will be demanded in the years ahead, then we are going to have to continue being intentional in seeking new members. We are going to have to look outside the doors of this congregation and reach out into this community. Our mission has to be that of offering to those hurting individuals the experience of Christ's Love which they would never receive any other way. We feel that we as a congregation have something definitely to offer that no one else has. And FUMC is striving to make that knowledge known in Rockport.

TYG

The Rockport Beacon

The Rockport Beacon is published monthly by the First United Methodist Church of Rockport, 801 E. Main Street, Rockport, Texas 78382.

Send address changes to *The Rockport Beacon*, P. O. Box 1045, Rockport, Texas 78381.

First United Methodist Church Staff

Pastor.....Thom C. Elliott
Business Manager.....Lesa Larsen
Administrative Assistant/Editor.....Beverly Robberson
Director Christian Education.....Jan Burkhardt
Director of Music.....Linda Hamilton
Choir Director.....Ruth Reagan
Custodian.....Keith Farley
Accompanist.....Jane Willard
Nursery Teacher.....Lynn Simpson

First Learning Tree Staff

Director.....Kathy Daniels
Office Assistant.....Barbara Gordon



Poinsettia or Mission Project Donation

The Church is decorated for Christmas and the poinsettias will be placed all around. If you would like to order a

Poinsettia or make a project donation, which will be forwarded to Good Samaritans, please do so by December 7. In either case, you may specify your gift to be "In Memory of" or In Honor of" someone. Forms are available at the volunteer desk in the Main Street foyer.

Poinsettias are \$10.00 each. Plans call for them to be displayed in the church beginning December 12th. If you wish, you may take yours home anytime after the 10:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service on Christmas Eve.

Mission Project donations of at least \$10.00 may also be made. The money will be given to the Good Samaritans.

Donations & information forms must be returned to Lesa Larsen by December 7th.

Holiday Schedule

Dec. 7—Deadline for purchasing poinsettias for the church or money to the mission project
Dec. 8 at 5:00 p.m.—Wednesday night Fellowship Meal of Pork Loin w/gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed veggies, garlic bread and peach cobbler. Jeanne Coe will present the Advent program.

Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m.—Pictures & Cookies with Santa Claus sponsored by First Learning Tree. All children of the Church are invited

Dec. 10—Deadline for food drive

Dec. 12—Third Sunday of Advent At 2:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to meet at the church to go caroling. At 5:00 p.m. we will all meet at Dairy Queen for special treats. Poinsettias will be placed in the church.

Dec. 15 at 5:00 p.m. Wednesday night Fellowship Meal with baked potato and all the fixings and cookies & ice cream. Tweens & Teens will have their Gift Wrap Fund Raiser during the dinner to raise funds for their future projects. Karen Rystad is in charge of the Special Advent program.

Dec. 18 at 8:30 a.m.—Teens Distribute Food Baskets at Good Samaritans

Dec. 19— Christmas Brunch will be at 9:30 a.m. There will be no Sunday School so that all may enjoy the brunch. Regular worship services at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. The choir will present the Cantata titled "Angels of Christmas" by Purifoy. It is also deadline for bringing gifts to church for children from CPS and Coastal Care Residents

Dec. 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. is Christmas Open House at the Church. All are welcome to come by and eat some snacks furnished by Church & FLT Staff

Dec. 22 at 5:PM Fellowship Meal & Worship
Dec. 24—5:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service. The Children's Choir and Liturgical Dance Group will be participating in this service. 10:00 p.m. is the traditional Candle light-ing Communion Service.



Christmas Brunch Scheduled for Sunday Morning Dec. 19th

Sunday, Dec. 19th, is the date for our annual Christmas Brunch. There will be no Sunday School Classes this day; instead we will have a meal and fellowship as a church family at 9:30 a.m. The church will provide coffee and tea. You are asked to share a dish which may be a breakfast casserole, bread, pastry, or fruit. If you will provide one of these, please sign up on the sheet at the front desk. Thanks! Dixie Shoopman, Hospitality Chair

Financially Faithful

October 2010

Income - \$20,927.67
Castaways donation \$4,686.97
Total Income \$25,614.64
Expenses - \$26,239.69
Net Income (Loss) - \$(625.05)

Jan -October 2010

Income - \$273,125(79%)
Budgeted- \$346,559
Expenses - \$264,948(67%)
Budgeted- \$346,559
Net Inc(Loss) - 8,178
Building Fund contrib.- \$7,769
Loan Balance - \$89,672

As this year is quickly coming to a close, those of you who have made a yearly commitment to the church may want to check where you stand with this before the end of the year. If you would like an update on your commitment, please contact Lesa at the church office. Statements will come out at the end of January. Thank you for your generous and faithful giving to your church.

Missions Committee Asks Your Help With Christmas Gifts for Children & Coastal Care Residents

The Missions Committee has placed in both foyers the names, ages, and suggested gifts for the children under child protective services. Please take a name and return the gifts to the church no later than December 19th.

The Missions Committee has also accepted names of residents at Rockport Coastal Care who do not have any family. The Center is asking for gifts for these residents for Christmas. A box with the names and suggested gift item is on the podium in the Main Street foyer.

The "Crazy Quilters" have made Christmas stockings so please, when you take a name, take a stocking also and fill it with your gifts.



From the Christian Education Director

Happy Holidays!

Thanksgiving was wonderful and we were so thankful to have family come to Rockport to help us celebrate. Now, we look ahead to Christmas and ALL the great activities in store for you and our youth.

Keep bringing in your can food drive items. We have collected so many items, the kids are very excited. We wonder who will win those "bragging rights". The drive ends December 5 but we will still accept your donations through December 10. The Teens will help distribute the items at Good Samaritans on December 18th. Thank you to those who have given already.

Some of you maybe getting new cell phones for Christmas please bring in your old cell phones and used ink jet cartridges to be recycled. It is a good way to save the Earth and help out our youth.

All kids will go Christmas Caroling with the Church on December 12th for their December activity. I believe they have been practicing with Linda. We will meet at the church at 2:30 and finish at 5pm. We will then go to Dairy Queen for Sundaes and Banana Splits.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 15th. During the Fellowship Meal the Teens and Tweens will be hosting a Gift-wrapping Fundraiser. Our fabulous teens and tweens will wrap your Christmas gifts for you while you eat dinner. All proceeds will go towards camps for the teens and tweens.

Children's Bells will begin in January.

The kids had a super time at "Pizza and a Movie" night. The quote of the night was "it's not even dark and we're having fun"!! Thank you Lynne Ruf for baking the yummy cookies.

What more I can I say about our trip to Tally Island that hasn't been said already? It was AWESOME. We had 16 kids and 10 adults make the trip. I don't know who had more fun the kids or adults. Our kids learned so much, thanks to Jay Tarnkington. They found so many cool things too, all kinds of shells, Roseate Spoonbill feathers, giant fish skulls, crabs and so much more. Be sure to check out the pictures on our bulletin board by the kitchen.

I do want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and thank you all so much for your continued support of our children and youth. You are such an important part of their lives.

**FIRST LEARNING TREE
AND THE CHURCH OF-
FICE WILL BE CLOSED
DECEMBER 24 AND 27
FOR CHRISTMAS HOLI-
DAYS AND ON DECEM-
BER 31 FOR THE NEW
YEAR HOLIDAY.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

02—Clayton Black	17—Graham Painter
03—Holly James	18—Greg Brou
03—Richard Weber	23—Joe Reagan
05—Christine Brou	25—Myrtle Deforest
10—Charlene Morin	25—Carole Miller
12—Ruth Crough	26—Ann Reimer
13—Ann Schick	27—Thom Elliott
14—Linda Collins	27—Bootsie Larsen
14—Georgia Townsend	28—Greg Burkhart
16—Grant Brou	30—Lila Ross



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9—Clif & Willette Cox
16—Bill & Mary Jane Crabill
17—Bronson & Linda Hamilton
19—Jim & Carole Miller
23—Bert & Dixie Shoopman
28—Rob & Jeanne Coe

January Newsletter

the Deadline is... 12:00 noon
December 10th

Vol. 16 No. 12

December, 2010

Thom Elliott, Pastor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 1045
801 EAST MAIN
ROCKPORT, TEXAS 78381-1045
(361) 729-1659
www.fumcrokport.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™