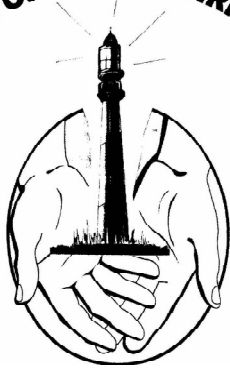


A BEACON OFFERING CHRIST TO ALL



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. 17, Number 1, January, 2011

www.fumcrockport.org

2011 FUMC Leadership Elected at Church Conference

Church Council Chairperson *Richard Bianchi*
 +Vice Chairperson of Church Council (Lay Leader) *Karen Rystad*
 +Secretary of Administrative Board (TBE)
 +Business Administrator *Lesa Larsen*
 +Chair Finance Committee *Larry Moore*
 +Chairperson of Trustees TBE by Trustees
 +Lay Leader *Karen Rystad*
 +Lay Member to Annual Conference (Lay Leader) *Karen Rystad*
 +Lay Member to Annual Conference
 +Alternate Member to Annual Conference *Skip Timmer* (PPRC Chair)
 Pastor Thom Elliott
 +United Methodist Youth Representative(TBE)
 +United Methodist Women President
 +United Methodist Men President *Steve Johnson*
 +Historian *Chester Barre*
 +Chairperson Staff Parish Relations Committee *Skip Timmer*

At-Large Members of Church Council
 2011: Paula Barre, Greg Burkhart, Valerie Smith
 2012: Kathy ?Abbott, Kevin Jamison Lynne Ruf, Ken Goodner, 2013: Richard Butler, Jennifer Day, Jay Tarkington

Finance Committee

Chairperson *Larry Moore*
 Pastor Thom C. Elliott
 SPRC Chair *Skip Timmer*
 Chairperson of Church Board *Richard Bianchi*
 Trustee TBE
 Lay Leader *Karen Rystad*
 Business Manager *Lesa Larsen*
 Stewardship *Bob & Barb Meador*

Others: 2011: Angie Armstrong, 2012: Julie McKain, Harrell Minzenmayer, 2013: Rob Coe

Staff Parish Relations

Chairperson *Skip Timmer*
 2011: Ann Clegg, Beth Constantino, John Gay
 2012: Bob meador, Skip Timmer, Dee Laughlin
 2013: Barbara Klemm, Rusty Day, Barbara Caldwell

Trustees Committee

Chairperson TBE
 2011: Graham Painter, Mike Pfister, Bert Shoopman
 2012: Jeannie Coe, Mike McKain, Adeline Dunlap
 2013 Walter Abbott
 Parsonage Representative: Jeannie Coe

FUMC Foundation

Chairperson *John Gay*
 2011 *Sue Weir*
 2012 *John Gay*
 2013 *Barbara Caldwell*
 2014 *Greg Burkhart*

Ex Officio:

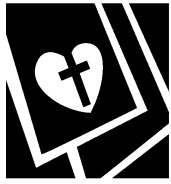
Business Administrator *Lesa Larsen*
 Trustee Chair.....(TBE)
 Finance chair...*Larry Moore*

Lay Leadership Committee

(Nominations)

Chairperson *Thom C. Elliott*
 Co-Chairperson *Karen Rystad* (Lay Leader)
 2011: *Richard Bianchi, Ginger Gay, Susan Jamison*
 2012:*Barbara Klemm, Steve Johnson, Ann Schick*
 2013:*Bootsie Larsen, Lynne Ruf, Judy Goodner*

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FROM THE PASTOR

Five Reasons to Tithe

The principle of tithing is just one part of stewardship as a way of life, and tithing is documented very early in the Old Testament. How early? Try Genesis; specifically, Genesis 28:10-22... “and of all that you give me I will surely give one tenth to you” (Gen. 28:22). This is the story of Jacob and it’s one of the best tithing stories you can find, serving as evidence that stewardship is an ancient model for living; and tithing is our most ancient model for giving.

Tithing helps us worship God more in our lives. It encourages our spiritual growth and **trust in God**. Tithing is an important form of self discipline for both the motivated and the non-motivated. If you’re not motivated in the realm of self discipline, what you begin to do from a sense of duty will eventually become your greatest source of joy. It’s all part of God’s provision for our trust-based relationship with him.

Tithing brings **God’s wisdom to our finances**, exercising a healthy spiritual discipline over them, and helping us combat the destructive materialism and greed that destroys the lives of

many. Although credit may have become a necessary “evil” for today’s living, God never intended for us to spend more than we earn. When we plan to put God first in our lives, we plan to control destructive spending and borrowing.

Tithing provides the means to keep our pastors and missionaries in full-time service to God. The call to full-time ministry as employment is not given to many of us, but we all are called with the opportunity to **participate in ministry through our financial support**. Tithing makes that participation possible. It’s one of the ways we are joined with other Christians around the world as the family of God.

Tithing strengthens the ministry, outreach and health of our congregations, molding us into true Christian communities of faith, love, and grace. This congregational strength is an important building block in our fulfillment of the greatest commandment, “*Love your neighbor as yourself.*” When we stand together, we stand a chance of reaching and changing the world with the gospel.

So there you have it. Tithing is an ancient model. Tithing builds trust in God. Tithing brings God’s wisdom to finances. Tithing provides ministry support. Tithing builds congregational strength. Tithing. Try it. You’ll like it!

TYG

The Rockport Beacon

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Administrative Assistant/Editor.Beverly Robberson
Director of Music.....Linda Hamilton
Choir Director.....Ruth Reagan
Custodian.....Keith Farley
Accompanists.....Linda Hamilton & Jane Willard
Nursery Teacher.....Lynn Simpson
Director, First Learning Tree.....Kathy Daniels

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Prayer
Chairperson TBE
Ruth Crough, Doris Doss, Becky McChesney, Frances Mayo

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Linda Valdez

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Musicians Linda Hamilton & Jane Willard
Head Usher Melva Turner
Acolyte Sponsor Jennifer Madison & Sue Weir
Liturgist John Gay
Children's Church Chris Weber
Technology Art Smith
Altar Guild Maylene Moore & Patsy Pheimister

At-Large:.....*Barbara Meador, Wayne Currie, Carolyn Allison, Richard Hayne, Ann Reimer*

CONGREGATIONAL HOSPITALITY
Chairperson

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES DIVISION

Skip Timmer, Jan Burkhart, Angie Armstrong, Cynthia Thompson Sue Weir, Susan Jamison, Marianna Gage, Todd Cutting

First Learning Tree Board
+*Director Kathy Daniels
Finance Representative, SPR Representative; Trustees Representative; Angie Armstrong & Teresa Creekman, Parent Representatives; Sally Specht, FLT Representative; Patty Johnson, At-large

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+Chairperson *Bootsie Larsen & Pat Speck*
Lynne Ruf, Steve Johnson, Beverly Palas, John Gay Pat Hughes

Missions
+Chairperson Becky McChesney
Good Samaritan Liaison *Larry Moore*
Community Table Angie Armstrong
Castaways *Peggy Holt, Annette Hegen, Jackie Riley*

Congregational Care
+Chairperson Susie Black
Membership Communications Judy Currie
Stephen Ministry (Stephen Leaders)
Sympathy Committee Becky McChesney

The Rockport Beacon



Ministry Workshop 2011 Training for Ministries of the Church

There are two dates to choose from: Saturday, January 22, 2011 at Three Rivers RUMC located on the corner of Church & Cave Street in Three Rivers, Texas. The time is 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Or you can choose Saturday, February 5, 2011 Grace UMC located at 11222 Leopard Street in Corpus Christi, TX from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The event is designed especially for leaders, lay speakers, committee members, trustees, Finance Committee, treasurers, Pastor Parish/Staff Parish Committees, volunteers with children, youth, older adults, and those needing ideas and help with ministry.

Single Sessions:

The Role of the Trustees in the Local Church—What exactly are the Trustees supposed to do? Are they the ones that “fix things around the property?” How do the Trustees, the Church Council/Administrative Board, and the Pastor work

together? Learn about responsibilities of being a Trustee, including the Annual Report that must be prepared for Charge Conference. (offered only at Grace UMC)

Border Mission Opportunities through the Methodist Border Friendship Commission—The purpose of this Commission is to coordinate ministries among the Districts of the Methodist Church of Mexico, the Southern District of the Rio Grande Conference and the McAllen District of the Southwest Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church. It is the vision of this Commission to promote a unified presence of the Methodist Church along the border, working for the extension of the kingdom of God on both sides of the border. This will include, but not be limited to, coordinating existing ministries and assisting in the development of new programs and ministries as the need arises, promoting friendship and fellowship, evangelism and mission. The work of this ministry is to facilitate mission, coordinate, promote and publicize, and initiate when appropriate. There are many opportunities to join in God’s mission on either side of the border. Taught by: Susan Hellums, Border Area Mission Coordinator, Methodist Border Friendship Commission (MBFC) or Guillermo “Willie” Berman, General Board of Global Ministries Missionary #3019612.

Sharing Christ’s Love to an Ever Changing World—“When Christians Get it Wrong” an introduction and discussion of Adam Hamilton’s new book—“When young adults talk about the problems they have with Christianity and the church, they often name certain attitudes and behaviors they believe are practiced too often by Christians.” This book along with *(continued on page 7)*

(continued from page 6)

Other resources, will be presented and talked about as a means of discovering ways the local church can share Christ's love to an ever changing world.

Volunteers—Recruiting, Training and Supporting Your Volunteer Ministers—or “Who’s Teaching 1st Grade Sunday School Tomorrow?” Do people avoid eye contact with you as you walk down the church hallways? Do you panic when the phone rings on Saturday night? Getting and keeping volunteers for all the ministries at church is a constant challenge, no matter if you’re in a small congregation or a large one. There is a never-ending need to find just the right folks, to prepare them with the skills they need to be the best leaders possible, and to support them so they’ll continue serving from year to year. This session, focused on biblical principles, will highlight how to recruit, how to provide effective training for people in today’s already busy society, and how to support folks in recognizing and developing their individual gifts and talents.

And When you Walk Along the Road: Conferring the Christian Spiritual Life Upon Youth Choosing a god is fundamental to the process of identity formation, and we soon discover that not just any god will do. Youth ministry, therefore, is primary—not secondary—ministry, for youth are called to bear the gospel in their own right...Adolescents have their mission field as well as we do, and they look to the church for guidance in how to be the person God calls them to be. This presentation suggests practical ways both of nurturing our own relationships with God, and of passing on the Christian spiritual life to

youth.

Ready to Dance and Nobody Asks” Are you a Lay Speaker that doesn’t get asked to speak very often? This workshop looks at areas where Lay Speakers can be used inside and outside of your church walls—how to get the word out that you are available to speak and the questions you should ask when you are asked to speak.

Sharing Faith with Children at Home Parents want a great relationship with their children. They want openness, honesty, caring and sharing in their family. They want to raise a child to be a strong, thoughtful, empathetic, positive, healthy adult out in the world some day. But they can’t buy that. They have to invest in it. And the investment is the most expensive currency they own—their TIME—aimed at the most precious young persons in their lives. Rev. Nancy McDougall will share specific ways that churches can empower and equip parents in today’s secular world to pass on their Christian faith to their children. With ideas on active listening, scripture, faith talk, prayer, and blessings.

Connecting Neighbors—How can Your Church Help With Disasters? All disasters are local: the local church is a major thread in the overall fabric of a community’s defenses. This session will be of value for developing a local church disaster response minister. Mickey Viar will do training program from UMCOR.





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 01—Betty Pitman | 17—Lin Turner |
| 02—Michael Popp | 17—Linda Hamilton |
| 03—Martha Peterson | 18—Rebecca Brou |
| | 19—Ken Goodner |
| 05—Frances Mayo | 21—Wayne Rains |
| 05—Phyllis Henshue | |
| 07—Carol Spangler | 23—Timothy Williams |
| 07—Ken Laughlin | 24—Barbara Caldwell |
| 10—Violet Luton | 24—Lucia Fisher |
| 13—Doris Doss | 28—J. C. Morton |
| 14—Carolyn Allison | 28—Sue Reeves |
| 15—Wayne Currie | |
| 15—Garrett Rose | 28—Annie Burkhardt |
| 17—Joyce Dittmar | 31—Susan Stoneburner |
| 17—Evan Knapp | 31—Jim Barrett |

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1—Randi & Sue Stoneburner
- 1—Oscar & Sue Weir
- 7—Monte & Jo Ann Bowen
- 8—Tim & Debbie Chapman
- 19—Jim & Carita Gould
- 22—Kenneth & Barbara Helbling
- 29—Chester & Kathy Barre

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Starting and growing a Senior/Older Adult Ministry Practical ways to begin or to grow the ministry of Senior/Older Adults in your church.

Learning Powerpoint for your Church Basic ideas on how to build a powerpoint and helpful hints on what works best when projected at church.

Double Sessions

Finance and the Local Church This ses-

sion will provide an in depth look at local church finances and will help church treasurers, Finance Committee chairpersons, and members understand the duties and responsibilities of this important committee. **Offered only at Three Rivers**

PPRC/SPRC Role & Responsibilities

The Discipline of The United Methodist Church states that the PPRC/SPRC shall “Confer and counsel with the pastor and staff in making an effective ministry, keeping the pastor and the staff advised concerning conditions within the congregation as they affect relationships between the pastor and the people. In this session, PPR/SPR chairpersons and committee members will learn the role and responsibilities of the Pastor/Staff Parrish Relations Committee.

Thank You

Dear Pastor Thom and all you wonderful people that worked or contributed on Jerald’s handicap ramp. We want you all to know how much we appreciate and thank you. It is heart lifting to know there are people like you that care and are willing to help others. Jerald & I thank God for all of you. We cannot express our feelings or how much this meant to us. Without the ramp, Jerald could not get outside. Thank you again from our hearts. Jerald and Eunice Luttrell

I want to thank those who came caroling on Dec. 12th. I enjoyed them so much and it helped me not to be alone that day. I love my church and they have been close in my heart for many years. Thank you Rev. Thom for the visits and Holy Communion. Love, Alta Albers

Community Table Schedule for 2011 Announced

Angie Armstrong, FUMC's Coordinator for Community Table and member of the Missions Committee, announced the 2011 serving schedule for Community Table which is served on Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. Our dates to prepare, set-up, greet, serve, and clean up are:

February 22

April 26

June 28

July 19

August 23

October 25

November 22 (inter-denominational)

December 20 (interdenominational)

December 27

Food handlers permits are required only for cooking the food and placing the food on the plates. Servers who deliver the plates to the people at the tables do not require the permits. Classes for food handlers permits are given during each week and are free for volunteers. Bert Siefker is in charge of getting volunteers to help, so when Bert calls, please say yes I will help.

Birth Announced

August David Gisler was born December 21st at 1:09 p.m. He weighed 7lbs. 11oz. And was 20 inches long. Mom and Dad are Evan & Melissa Gisler and maternal grandparents are Lin & Melva Turner.

Congratulations!

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January, 2011

Thom Elliott, Pastor

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™