



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 11, November 2011 www.fumcrockport.org

## God Loving Optimistic Women Enjoy Luncheon



Forty women filled Fellowship Hall #1 on Saturday, October 30th for a luncheon catered by Anthony’s By The Sea. Their purpose was to form a new group named GLOW—God Loving Optimistic Women. The organizer and speaker of the group was Lynne Ruf whose topic was Humor Filled Discipleship. The group will meet again on Saturday, November 12th at 10:00 a.m. for a brunch and to host a speaker from the hill country. She will speak about a mission to Africian widows and will bring a display of materials that the widows sell to support themselves. All women are invited to participate, but if you plan to eat brunch, please call the church office and make a reservation. There will not be a meeting in December but a January meeting of the group will be announced.

## November 20th Is Music Sunday and Church-wide Turkey Dinner

Celebration of Celebrations!!! November 20th will be the celebration of Christ the King Sunday where the loving, merciful, and just King of the universe is praised and glorified. The celebration will include a very special all music service for both the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services. There will trumpet, violin, bells, piano, choral music and dance incorporated in the service.

Following the second worship service, there will be the annual church-wide turkey dinner. The church will furnish turkey & dressing and mashed potatoes and gravy. The congregation is asked to bring and share favorite Thanksgiving side dishes and desserts. There is a sign-up sheet on the volunteer desk for name and dish you are bringing.



**Katy Kilmer, a teacher at our FLT was a victim of the early morning fire on Nov. 3rd at Harbor Oaks apartments. Katy escaped injury by jumping our of her 2nd story kitchen window. Everything was destroyed by the fire. Kathy Daniels, Director and Rev. Hinchcliff have announced donations for Katy are being accepted.**



**FROM THE  
PASTOR**

2011 November Celebration

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ

It is with a true sense of gratitude that I write this month. Over the past few weeks, as I prepared for our annual Charge Conference, I focused on my part . Personally, I call this my "State of the Church" report. To do it, I felt the need to get an overview of the many ministries of our church. To accomplish this I started my "Tell me what you're doing" campaign. What I gleaned from regular conversations with our faith community concerning their ministries was literally stunning.

The number of ways God's people practice hands-on generosity is extraordinary.

People giving of themselves for others without any thought of reward or recognition - done over and over again. Sometimes I listened to conversations about activities within a group like Castaways, Good Samaritans or First Learning Tree. Other times the conversation was about a leader willingly giving quality time for a group, study, or program. Still other times I heard of plans where a person was giving of themselves one on one for another.

Things like platform risers magically ap-

pearing in the choir room and our atrium transformed into a place of beauty reflect gifts given to us all. I thought how blessed I was to be the pastor serving in a church like this.

My thoughts of blessing were increased by a factor of 10 when I remembered that this month my focus for worship is "The Power Of Extravagant Generosity". It is great to be the pastor of a faith community that embraces the power of the spiritual gift of generosity. I know this spiritual gift is life changing. While some may not have put words to it, their actions speak for them. It is true that those who receive a generous gift are blessed, however, the true power of spiritual generosity occurs within the one who does the giving. When we generously give of our time, talent, physical effort, creativity, resources, and skills, God can and does touch us. And when God touches a person, it is worth more than a pound of gold.

This month I find myself celebrating that God's spirit of generosity is thriving here - and I am fortunate enough to be your pastor. Doug

---

**December Newsletter Deadline is November 14th at 4pm**

---

**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.....Douglas A. Hinchcliff  
Director of Christian Education.....Susan Jamison  
Business Manager.....Lesa Larsen  
Administrative Assistant/Editor.....Beverly Robberson  
Director of Music.....Linda Hamilton  
Custodian.....Alfredo Gonzales  
Choir Director.....Ruth Reagan  
Accompanist.....Jane Willard  
Director First Learning Tree.....Kathy Daniels  
Office Assistant.....Barbara Gordon

## 2011 November Sermons

**11/06/11** Scripture: 1 Timothy 6: 17-19  
Title: We Will Serve the Lord

Companion Readings: Joshua 24: 1-3, 14-25, Psalm 78, Matthew 25: 1-13, DOF 881

Focus vs. 17: "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hopes in wealth, which is so uncertain, but put you hope in God, who richly provides for us everything for our enjoyment."

Theme: Words are not enough, it is the heart that sets the course of love.

**11/13/11** Scripture: Matthew 22: 1-14  
Title: The Art of Love

Companion Readings: Deuteronomy 6: 4-6, Psalm 90, 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8

Focus vs. 39 "And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."

Theme: Who do you love

**11/20/11** Title: A Gift Of Love In Music

Companion Readings: Joel 2: 28, Psalm 100, Colossians 3:1, Matthew 6: 33

Focus vs. Matthew 6: 33 "Desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Theme: Today we experience the Extravagant Generosity of God's love

**11/27/11** Scripture: Mark 13: 26-31  
Title: Declaration Of Your

### Heart

Companion Readings: John 3: 16, 2 Corinthians 8: 24, Psalm 80: 1-7

Focus vs. 26 "At that time people will see the son of Man coming in Clouds with great power and glory."

Theme: What is it that you desire to place before the Lord as we prepare for His return?

## Christian Education Today!

Fall is in the air! This time of year always brings a feeling that I need to be preparing for something...Expectation and excitement is building. Halloween, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas...and then the New Year! This is a ripe opportunity to see what God wants you to do or learn that will bring you closer to him.

Please take advantage of our Sunday School classes as well as the various Bible Studies that are happening. If you would like to look through some of the material that I have in my office that might hit on a particular subject you need, just come by and see me. My office hours are Mon.-Thurs. 8:30-4:00, but give me a call first to make sure I am not in a meeting or just down the hall!! I would like to help you with any material you may be looking for. \*\*\*\*REMEMBER\*\*\*Sunday School begins at 9:15 now!

**YOUTH!** We will continue to meet in November at the regular time, 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Sundays except for November 20th. Our plans are for the youth to go on a mission trip overnight to deliver gifts and pillowcases made by our Crazy Quilters to the Methodist Children's Home and two other wonderful missions in the Waco area. The youth will have a hand in putting together some gifts for the residents of these homes and get to experience some fellowship time with them as well.

The women's Bible Study is continuing on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday noon and see elsewhere in the newsletter about GLOW. All women of the church are welcome. Growing in Faith,  
Susan Jamison



## Come To The Manger Set For December 3rd and 4th

Come and experience this exciting and meaningful event to see how the joy of the blessed Jesus' birth has been represented over the years! A variety of different Nativity Scenes (crèches) will be on display in a special setting in the Fellowship Hall as follows:

Saturday, December 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It will be open to the public—enter from the Live Oak entrance!

Sunday, December 4th from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. for our church family and guests.

If you would like to have a nativity scene (crèche) on display, please bring it by the church office between Nov. 27th and Dec. 1st. Also provide a note with any significant memory or history of that particular display and complete a form with your contact information so that we may return the crèche to you! (If you have done this before, check with me and see if I may already have the information on file. Thanks to Maylene Moore and Patsy Phemister for organizing and setting up this event. Susan Jamison, Director of Christian Education.

## Rockport-Fulton Good Samaritans

The Good Samaritan Center at 507 S. Ann helps members of the Aransas County low income community with short-term needs for food, clothing, shelter, utilities, medicines and transportation. In addition, with the help of our school counselors, our Kid Care program helps the homeless and needy students in the community with clothes, shoes, underwear, school supplies, lice kits and medical bills. Our church was instrumental in the development of Good Sam and continues to be one of the sponsoring churches.

Food is our centerpiece – we can help more people by providing a nutritionally balanced supply of food staples than any other way. It is our policy to give those in need enough food to feed each member of the family three meals a day for three days. During the first nine months of 2011, Good Sam has provided food to more than 6,000 individuals representing more than 1,400 families of our community.

Many times we are asked what food items are most needed at Good Samaritans. We are always in need of peanut butter, jelly, tuna and chili. There are designated collection boxes at both entrances of the church. Your cheerful generosity goes a long way in providing help to so many less fortunate families in our community.

A trained staff of volunteers operates the Good Sam Center each day and many more volunteers are needed in 3 areas—Pantry, Receptionist and Client Interviewers. If you are interested in volunteering or just learning more about Good Sam, contact Larry Moore at 790-8771 or Pat Speck at 790-9517.



## November Anniversaries

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

---

## Leadership Summit Launches Extravagant Generosity—The Heart of Giving

Church members and friends filled the fellowship hall on Thursday evening, November 3rd to receive materials on Extravagant Generosity. Bob Meador, Chair of Stewardship, and Rev. Doug Hinchcliff made presentations.

A letter from Rev. Hinchcliff, introducing the materials states:

The Challenge is to be a Game-Changer. God is at work in our lives and church in ways we cannot see or understand..... Maybe you cannot go on a mission trip or be as directly involved, as you would like; but there is a way you can greatly affect every single ministry we have. Through your generosity, you are a stakeholder in God's work, allowing others to go when you cannot.

Our Scope of Ministry plans for next year are entirely dependent on God's grace and provision through you. How do you see God at work in our lives and church? How will God lead you to be a significant part of real hands-on ministry through your generosity?

Please join me in preparing your heart in prayer, focusing on this game changing question: (Continued on back page)

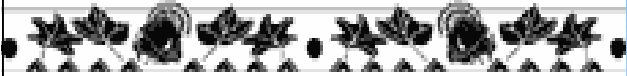
## First Learning Tree



The 2011 Pumpkin Patch is history! Between it and the Fall Festival, I don't know which one was more rewarding. I don't have totals for the Pumpkin Patch, but to date we are \$1000.00 over sales from last year and we still have 8 more days to sell pumpkins. If you noticed, the Patch was over flowing this year! We unloaded over 1200 pumpkins! This is about 650 more than last year and by the sales, it certainly paid off. On the Fall Festival, the totals are still not complete, but a rough estimate is \$2200 on the Festival and \$2500 on the raffle. WAY TO GO!!! The only reason that we are able to do so well with both of these events, is because of the support of not only our families, but also our church family. Many of you have worked in the Pumpkin Patch, helped to unload pumpkins and then worked the Fall Festival. My deepest appreciation goes out to all of you that have support this program over the past years.

November brings a mixture of activities. Our Annual Thanksgiving Feast will be on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00. This is our gift back to our families to thank them for all that they do for us through the year. We will be serving close to 200 people and it is so special to see all of these great people taking time out from their schedules to sit, eat and visit not only with their children but also with other families. This event is probably the one that fills my spirit with joy and gratitude that I am so blessed to be the Director of First Learning Tree.

.Kathy Daniels



## November Birthdays

- 01—Patty Miller
- 02—Kim Chapman
- 04—Lorraine M. Hott
- 05—Terry Collins
- 05—Kathy Daniels
- 06—Max Kluge, Jr.
- 06—Marilee Sexton
- 07—Dustin Barre
- 07—Ray Snair
- 08—James Shepherd
- 08—Janice Spears
- 09—Phillip Robberson
- 11—Betsy Pfister
- 14—Christine Grohman
- 15—Ed Caldwell
- 16—Lynne Ruf
- 18—Marjorie Farrer
- 18—Beverly Palas
- 18—David Ware
- 23—Bert Shoopman
- 25—Lovelyn Hughes
- 26—Bud Crough
- 26—Jim Fowler
- 26—Sandy Garrison



***True Vineyard Ministries located in San Marcos will come to speak to God Loving Optimistic Women on Saturday, November 12th at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The ministry is about helping widows in Rowanda who raise Merino sheep for wool which they turn into yarn. Diana Wiley will be the speaker and will bring items for sale made by artisans from Africa. Breakfast will be served. If you will come, please call Lynne Ruf at 361-816-5912 so that there will be food for you. There is also a sign-up sheet on the volunteer desk.***

## ***Thanksgiving Interdenominational Community Table Set for November 22nd***

FUMC Community Table Chair, Brenda Fielder, is asking for five volunteers to help with Community Table on Tuesday, November 22nd at First Presbyterian Church. Helper's include: 1 kitchen helper with food handler certificate, 2 table servers, and 2 clean-up volunteers. Contact Brenda at 361-688-1673.

## **Harvest Sunday Offering to be Taken Nov. 13th**

Harvest Sunday raises funds for hunger projects fully accountable to the United Methodist Church. Each year half of all net proceeds are designated for hunger ministries within the boundaries of our conference, The Southwest Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church. The following distribution was approved by the Annual Conference.

25% for food pantries in United Methodist congregations in the McAllen District—Congregations with food pantries include (but not limited to) Edinburg; Laredo; Mercedes; Pharr; Raymondville; San Benito; Rio Grande City; Zapata; McAllen, St. Mark's and Port Isabel. The southern-most counties of Texas are among the poorest area of the nation. The incidence of hunger is more prevalent there than in other regions of the Conference or State. A portion of Harvest Sunday has traditionally gone for the continuing needs of our neighbors in the McAllen District.

25% for hunger ministries in the Corpus Christi District—A portion of Harvest Sunday offering rotates among the Districts, excluding McAllen. The District Superintendent makes the recommendation for District beneficiary(s). Benefiting in 2011 will be two outstanding hunger ministries: 12.5% will go to Timon's Ministries in Corpus Christi. This organization hosts a variety of services: food pantry and lunches; free dental care; vocational classes; free vision testing and eyewear; healthcare for those not insured, and backpacks and school supplies for children. Just in July 2011 they served 1335 lunches and provided 212 families with groceries.

The remaining 12.5% will go to Loaves and Fishes Free Cafeteria operated by Corpus Christi Metro Ministries. The cafeteria provides free meals every day of the week. Last year, nearly 156,000 meals were provided!

25% for flood survivors in Pakistan—In partnership with Church World Service, a United Methodist-related ecumenical ministry, these funds will benefit humanitarian ministries in one of the world's most difficult regions. Heavy monsoon rains have caused widespread damage. In Sindh Province, some 700,000 homes have been damaged and more than 1.7 million acres of crops affected. CWS is assisting some of the 131,410 people residing in 1,484 temporary camps. CWS is providing 1-month rations in family food packages, valued at \$75 each, which include wheat flour, rice, cooking oil, tea leaves, salt, and baby food.

25% for food relief in Mexico—Methodist Border Friendship Commission coordinates ministries in South Texas and Northern Mexico along the border. Violence in Mexico has impacted the number of work teams coming to serve. MBFC is operational even in this period of concern. Partners in MBFC, the Methodist Church of Mexico assists local congregations in their outreach. Funds provided will go for breakfast/lunch/feeding programs of local Methodist churches in northern Mexico.

Special offering envelopes will be inserted into the November 13th Sunday bulletins.

**(Continued from page 7)**

“If everyone in my church gave of their time, talent, creativity and resources like I give would my church be alive with exciting, life changing ministries, or only mediocre, insignificant, and dying?”

There is no limit to what God can accomplish in our lives and in our church, if you and I let go of our self-imposed limitations, and Trust God. Grace and Peace.

The materials handed out Thursday evening are available to all. Just ask!

---

**The Church Office and FLT will be closed Thursday and Friday Nov. 23 and 24.**

***Happy Thanksgiving to All.***

## **WELCOME BACK WINTER TEXANS!**

We are glad to see you! Please let the church office know your email address so you will receive your newsletter while you are here.

Please let us know if you would like to be an usher or a lector. Contact Melva Turner at 729-3634 and let her know which service you would like to participate in and your Rockport phone number.

It's good to have you as a part of our Church family.

---

### **November 6**



Vol. 17 No. 11

November, 2011

Doug Hinchcliff, Pastor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 1045  
801 EAST MAIN  
ROCKPORT, TEXAS 78381-1045  
(361) 729-1659  
[www.fumcrockport.org](http://www.fumcrockport.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.  
**The people of The United Methodist Church™**