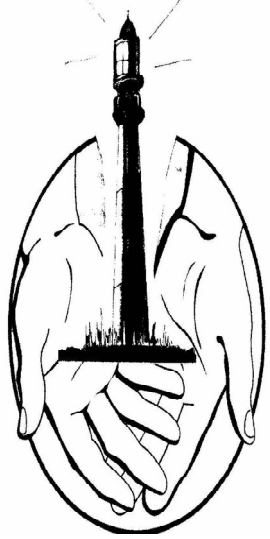


A BEACON OFFERING CHRIST TO ALL



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. 18, Number 2, February, 2012

[www.fumcrockport.org](http://www.fumcrockport.org)

### So You Want to Read The Bible

How do I start reading the Bible? It's a question I hear often. God has touched them and they want to know more about this guy Jesus. Typically I hear "I'll start on page one and read it straight through." Sound familiar? If you can do that you are a better person than I am - I always got lost in those seemingly endless lists of names I couldn't pronounce.

The whole book is well worth the read, but without a picture of Jesus' life and message along with some history, our Bible reading can become more of a "Pick-A-Passage" kind of study. The Word of God is not a spiritual buffet. This book has a powerful story to tell and the whole thing is worth the time spent.

I recommend people start with Jesus in the Gospel of Luke. God will be speaking to you as you read through His Word. Questions and thoughts will arise. Write them down. We can talk later. In the meantime stay with them and chew on them. The first

step of becoming a disciple is between you and God.

After Luke I recommend the book of Acts. How the early church folks went about their Jesus business and what they had to deal with is helpful. Now back to the beginning with Genesis and then Exodus. Here you find creation and the beginning of Jewish history. Then jump over to 1st Samuel and 2nd Samuel. This will bring you face to face with some of the Bible's biggest players. Now the Gospel of John and the letters 1st, 2nd and 3rd John will add a very mystical touch to your understanding of this person Jesus and how God works.

When you have gone this far, you have covered a lot. You have read about Jesus, the Disciples, Abraham, Moses, David, and a truly powerful cast of Biblical notables. From here, if you haven't already done so, I recommend you find a person who can serve as your guide. You have a lot to talk about and a lot more good stuff ahead.

Doug



## FROM THE PASTOR

### 2012 February Sermons

**2/5/2012**     **Scripture** Mark 1: 29-39  
                  **Title** Without Expectations

**Companion Scripture**     Isaiah 40: 21-31  
                                  Psalm 147     1 Corinthians  
9: 16-23     DOF 881

**Focus Verse 31** "He went to her, took her by the hand and raised her up. The fever left her, and she served them."

**Theme:** We don't need to know ahead of time - God is never afraid to act first.

**2/12/2012**     **Scripture** Mark 1: 40-45  
                  **Title** Do Good Be Punished

**Companion Scripture**     2 Kings 5: 1-14  
                                  Psalm 30                     1 Corin-  
thians 9: 24-27

**Focus verse 45** " Instead he went out and started talking freely and spreading the news so that Jesus wasn't able to enter a town openly. He remained outside in desert places but people came to him from everywhere"

**Theme:** Expectations for a Christ patterned life

**2/19/2012**     **Scripture** Mark 9: 2-9  
                  **Title** How do you explain

this?  
**Companion Scripture**     2 Kings 2: 1-12  
                                  Psalm 50                     2 Corin-  
thians 4: 3-6

**Focus verse 9** " When they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Human One had risen from the dead."

**Theme:** Not everyone is going to want to listen to the Gospel. It doesn't mean we change the Gospel.

**2/22/2012**     **Scripture** Matthew 6: 1-6,  
16-21     **Title** Ash Wednesday - Why?

**Companion Scripture**     Joel 2:1-2,2-17  
                                  Psalm 147                     1 Corin-  
thians 9: 16-23

**Focus verse 21**" Where your treasure is there your heart will be also"

**Theme:** Where is your heart and how do you show it?

**2/26/2012**     **Scripture** Mark 1: 9-15  
                  **Title** Come, Follow Me.

**Companion Scripture**     Genesis 9: 8-17  
                                  Psalm 25: 1-11                     1  
Peter 3: 18-22

**Focus verse 12**" At once the spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness"

**Theme:** Did He say follow me? what does that entail?



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## The Rockport Beacon

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### First United Methodist Church Staff

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

## “Souper Bowl” Sunday

On Sunday February 5 the youth group will be in both foyers to collect donations. You may place your donations in your team’s soup pot. Not only does this show your team support, but all donations will be given to *Good Samaritans*. We will report on your predictions and donation amounts the following Sunday. . . Go Team!

## United Methodist Men’s Breakfast February 1

United Methodist Men will meet at 7:00 a.m. on February 1, 2012, in the fellowship hall for a breakfast and business meeting.

All men are invited to attend.



## Youth Group Attend Mid-Winter Camp

Cassandra Huff, Olive Smith, Evan Knapp, Jessica Hoefler, Emily Tucker, Josie Tucker and Erica Burke are pictured at Mount Wesley in Kerrville, Texas where they attended the mid-winter camp January 20-22. Theme for the event was Send Me Out. They were transported to and from the event in a van driven by Christian Education Director Susan Jamison and Business Manager Lesa Larsen.



## Windswept Oaks Community Emmaus Gathering Feb. 2

Let’s nurture the spiritual renewal and discovery of grace that we shared on the *Walk to Emmaus*. Our “community” meets February 2 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Be fed by the fellowship of food, song and Holy Communion. Lift up our grace-filled lives and share God’s love with others. Anyone who would like to know more about Emmaus is welcome. Bring spouses, friends and visitors.



**Monday, February 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.**





## FIRST LEARNING TREE

There are many things that I love about February. It's one of those months that is still a little slow. This allows me to look at what type of improvements that we may be able to incorporate into our program. We all enjoy Valentines Day, but it does not have the anticipation about it that other celebrations seem to generate, especially for children! February is also a transition month from winter to early spring. The children love our units on insects and spring. This time of year brings many changes to our environment. The children can see these physical changes and are able to comprehend these changes. At this stage of a child's life, they can easily relate to concrete concepts but give them an abstract idea and what they come up with will give you a good laugh!

My hat is off to Susan Jamison! She is currently conducting a "Parenting Class" for FLT employees, FLT families and our church families. When she first presented the idea, I thought to myself, "good luck". I've tried in the past to sponsor events like this, but without much luck. I am very happy to say that we have had a wonderful turnout! We are averaging 25 – 30 parents and FLT staff at each of the sessions. I am so pleased that FLT families are taking advantage of this class and it's all because of Susan. CONGRATS!!

Til next month..Kathy

Notes from Children's Chapel... January's scriptures and focus was: John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth and the life". We learned of Jesus' work, calling his disciples and that we're all to be His Disciples.

February is our love month! "God is love", 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:16 is our scripture. Our lessons will reinforce how much God loves them and desires that they would love Him and others.

Miss Debbie



## The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday, in Western Christianity, is the first day of the penitential season of Lent, so called from the ceremony of placing ashes on the forehead as a sign of penitence. Ash Wednesday occurs six and one-half weeks before Easter.

On *Ash Wednesday* it is worth asking, "Why Ashes? In biblical literature there are numerous references to the use of ashes (together with sackcloth) as the expression of one's utter grief or contrition. How are ashes somehow symbolic of repentance? At least three ways suggest themselves.

**First**, ashes stand for our finiteness ... our ultimate powerlessness. Ashes are a form of dust. As the Psalmist reminds us, "*You are dust, and to dust you will return.*" **Second**, ashes stand for our wasted strength. Ashes are the residue of something burned up. It is a confession that we have dissipated ourselves ... burned ourselves out ... that we have spent our strength for "*that which is not bread*" (*Isaiah 55. 2*). And **thirdly**, ashes, therefore, bear witness to our desperate need for cleansing and renewal in the power of God.

Come and join us at our service of worship on Wednesday, February 22 at 5:45 p.m. as we begin our Lenten journey together.

### Lenten Luncheons Schedule

Wednesday, February 29, 12:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church

Wednesday, March 7, 12:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

Wednesday, March 14, 12:00 p.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic

Wednesday, March 21, 12:00 p.m.

St. Peter's Episcopal at First Presbyterian

Wednesday, March 28, 12:00 p.m.

Holy Cross Lutheran

## **Education Happenings!**

Happy February!! We have started the new year off with enthusiasm and activity... Sunday school is a happenin' place to be, Children's church is in a new program, Bible studies are in gear and the Value-Packed Parenting Workshop is half-way done! I look forward to the momentum staying positive and continue to be open to any study ideas you may have.

VBS planning is in motion and if you have a "favorite job" you would like to claim for VBS (June 11-15 in the evening), please let me know ASAP so I don't give your job away!! Let's face it, it's not a job, it's an ADVENTURE!! This year's theme is "Operation Overboard...Dive in Deep with God!" Join us for a Deep Sea Adventure and search for God's Gifts along with the kids.

Don't forget to pick up a Lenten Devotional this month. They will be available at the volunteer desk the week before Lent, which begins February 22 (Ash Wednesday).

\*\*\*\*HELP!!

The Youth Group needs additional

adult sponsors; please contact me if you can help... \*\*\*\*Blessings,

Susan Jamison

Director of Christian Education

Vicky Jamison- Reeves Hall

1000 W Austin

Nevada MO 64772



## **ReNu Your Home New Church Outreach Ministry Recruiting Volunteers**

"Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can." John Wesley

Our church is launching a new outreach ministry called ReNu Your Home. Our goal is to keep people safe, secure and happy in their homes. We will be working for church members as well as in the community for folks who need help with their home but cannot do the work or afford to have someone do it for them. Specific details about the program and qualifications to participate are also in this newsletter. We have some volunteers and are recruiting others. If you have building and maintenance skills, that is great. If you don't but are willing and able to learn, we would love to have you as a volunteer. As much as possible, we will try to match skills and interest to the work that needs done. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Jeannie and Rob Coe at 210-601-6132. We feel God has called us to this ministry and hope it will be a great opportunity for many of you to follow John Wesley's direction to do good.

Rob and  
Jeannie Coe  
Coordinators  
for ReNu Your  
Home





A Very Happy Birthday to:



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

01—Gwen Hall  
01—Dona Popp  
02—Betty Manwaring  
03—Ann Clegg  
04—Richard Bianchi  
04—Ellie Saenz  
06—Charles Shanlever  
06—Melva Turner  
07—Clyde Townsend  
08—Marianna Gage  
08—Patsy Phemister  
08—Bert Siefker  
10—Norman Spears III  
12—Calvin Peterson  
13—James Carrick  
17—Barbara Meador  
18—John Johnson  
18—James Metzger  
19—Judy Curie  
19—Katy Jamison  
19—Kenneth Helbling  
23—Olive Smith  
23—Art Smith  
23—Jana Tarkington  
24—Theresa Holloway  
25—Alan Barre  
25—Scotty Kautz  
28—Ray Saenz

## ANNIVERSARIES FOR FEBRUARY

10—Harvey & Janet Timmer  
11—Dan & Kathy Daniels  
14—Arno & Betsy Peshorn  
18—Weems & Marjorie Farrer

*Thank You!*

On behalf of all the staff at Child Protective Services, we'd like to say "Thank you" for your generosity and willingness to help those in our Community who need it the most. Because of you, our staff was able to make Christmas even more special for over 400 children in San Patricio and Aransas Counties. Thank you again for your generosity.

Child Protective Services Staff

Through your generous support of Good Samaritans well over 600 families were provided fixings for a traditional Christmas meal on Dec. 21. FUMC Youth were on hand providing much needed help on distribution day. Our church has long been one of the strongest supporters of Good Samaritans which provides assistance with food and other necessities throughout the year. Thank you. Larry Moore



**26 February- Fourth Annual Chili Cook Off...**

**Plan now for your best chili or salsa entry!!**

Prizes and bragging rights for the following categories:

**Chili Categories:**

Overall Best (Bootsie Larsen is Defending his second 2011 title!)  
No Bean Chili  
Hottest Chili  
Methodist Meek and Mild Chili  
Non-Traditional Chili.

There will also be a Youth Category for our younger Chili cooks

**Salsa Categories:**

Tomato Based Salsa  
Non-Traditional Salsa

**All entries must be at the church by 10:30 on Sunday so that we will have time for judging.**

**If you are not a chili-head, please bring a dessert to share.**

**The church will provide drinks, chips, rice, and cornbread. Western wear-boots, jeans and hats are optional but highly encouraged!**

**Let your chili lights shine!!**

**For more information, contact Jeannie and Rob Coe, 210-601-6132.**

**NEWS FROM G.L.O.W**

God Loving Optimistic Women had a great "Kick Off" this last year with our Luncheon in October and our Brunch in November. Those who attended the Brunch were undoubtedly moved by our speaker, Diana Wiley, from True Vineyard Ministry, and also enjoyed the wonderful bazaar of items she brought to sell. Diana is a local Texas woman who felt God was calling her to help the widows of Rawanda. Diana stated "the lives lost in the massacres are equivalent of three 911's for a hundred days. This left many widows and children without means of income.

Believing in the importance of teaching people how to accomplish their own livelihood, Diana assisted a small group of Rawandan widows in obtaining sheep that would provide good quality wool for spinning. They learned to spin and naturally dye the wool and put them in kits to sell.

Starting in the middle of this month you will see posters about our fund raising efforts to raise enough money for a herd of sheep to provide the widows with more income. We are planning a celebration on April 15th with an after church brunch and many more fun activities. If you cannot appreciate the irony of celebrating on April 15th, let me remind you—money donated to charity is tax deductible. Yours in Christ, Lynne Ruf



**Sunday:**  
8:00 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.  
**Wednesday:**  
5:45 p.m.

## **Blood Drive Set for February 19**

What would happen if a loved one needed blood and there wasn't any blood available? Hopefully that will never happen if we step up to the plate and give during the Blood Drive. Coastal Bend Blood Center needs 120 units a day in order to supply the area hospitals and emergency rooms. Please give. You'll be glad you did. There is a sign up sheet at the information desk for Sunday, February 19, 9am to 1:30pm.

The class will also cover team member responsibilities, how to equip a team, how to prevent further damage (the four basic jobs), and more. Training will include tarping, tool and equipment set-up, team member safety, and more.

The cost is \$30.00 which includes: meal, Southwest Texas Conference Early Response Team (ERT) T-shirt, background check, identification badge and training resources manual.

## ***Disaster Early Response Team Training***

The class will cover the purpose of an Early Response Team: to show that the church cares about what has happened to the people; to provide people an outlet for sharing their disaster related needs; to assist the most vulnerable populations with their immediate needs and to provide assistance that will help to prevent further damage to homes and property.

The date is Saturday, February 11, 2012. Orientation is at 8:00 a.m. Training is 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The place is FUMC.

There is a signup sheet on the information desk along with an information sheet. Ed Hegen is in charge of the event .

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Doug Hinchcliff, Pastor

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church™**