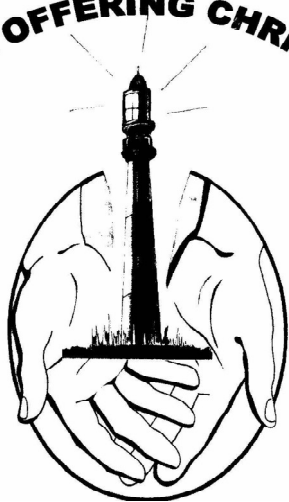


A BEACON OFFERING CHRIST TO ALL



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 5, May, 2011

www.fumcrockport.org

Transition Time Now

It is difficult for us to say goodbye to Pastor Thom. Ten years is the length of his tenure here at FUMC and one-fourth of his 40 years in ministry. There are packing boxes in the office which is a daily reminder that he really will be leaving to pastor the church at Burnet.

His last Sunday with us will be June 12th at which time we will have a pot luck meal following the 2nd service. It is being planned as an informal time in which to say goodbye.

The Reverend Doug Hinchcliff, his spouse, Elaine, and grand daughter, Ashley, will be coming to Rockport the week following the 12th and his first Sunday in the FUMC pulpit will be June 19th.

Karen Lee Rystad, Lay Leader and acting Hospitality Committee Chair is announcing that Beach Sunday, June 26th, will be the welcoming event for Rev. Hinchcliff and family. “This will be an informal time to greet and meet the new parsonage family. For some it will be re-acquaintance time since they were here as members of FUMC before entering the ministry and accepting formal appointments in the conference. For others, it will be a great informal

time in a great place to become acquainted. “ More information about Beach Sunday will be published in the June edition of The Beacon.

For now we are in the “Goodbye” mode.

District Conference which precedes Annual Conference is set for Sunday afternoon, May 22nd at St. John’s UMC in Corpus Christi. Pastor Thom, Karen Lee Rystad and Skip Timmer, our lay delegates, will be attending. Annual Conference at the American Bank Center in Corpus will be June 8-11 at which time the Bishop will make the formal appointments announcement.





FROM THE PASTOR

without touching each other's souls. And having touched souls, it makes it painful to leave all of that behind.

And yet, the joy and thanksgiving I feel will more than compensate for any sadness which is present. I do leave with a real sense of joy. It is only in God's divine economy that the source of greatest pain can become the basis of greatest joy. But I have come to experience that that is truly the case. Because we have been through so much together, I know that I will carry a part of you with me. So in a very real sense, I will never really be away from those of you I love. For that, I am eternally grateful.

Pain ... joy ... thanksgiving. These are all present as I contemplate moving. I thank God for allowing me to feel, and I thank you for allowing me to share my feelings. I wish you joy and peace and the Grace of God that I have come to experience in my ten years here. Even though we both leave something behind now, may we always trust that the Eternal Brackets that surround us will keep us in fellowship with each other and all the Saints ... now and forever.

Thom

Dear Church Family,

Well, the time is just about here. I knew when it all began ten years ago that the time would come that I would have to write this letter. Each year, I came to dread the possibility more and more. But the reality is that we will be leaving in a few weeks ... and I have to deal with that.

As I contemplate moving, I have quite a few varied and mixed feelings competing for expression. Most immediately, I feel a great deal of pain. I have spent a quarter of my ministry with you here in the **First United Methodist Church** of Rockport. This is quite an investment by any standards. It hurts to leave you. I have become close to many people. We have shared our lives closely together. I have laughed and cried with you: shared in the joy of births and baptisms ... the anguish of death, divorce and illness ... the problems which seemed at the time to be both intolerable and unsolvable. I have grown to love you as we have touched lives over meals, casual conversations, the long trips to the hospital, the terrifying hours in surgery waiting rooms. You cannot deal with life and death issues

The Rockport Beacon

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May Birthdays



- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 05—Nan Langford | 19—Rob Coe |
| 06—Debbie Chapman | 21—Bonnie Williams |
| 06—Vickie Jamison | 22—Mary John Hoffman |
| 07—Steve Miller | 24—Judy Herndon |
| 09—Dixie Shoopman | 27—Pat Koenig |
| 09—Jane Shanlever | 30—Jay Tarkington |
| 12—Rose Marie Leland | 31—Lee DuBose |
| 16—Phyllis Colvin | 31—Susie Black |
| 17—Jeanette Morris | |

“Honor the Lord by Giving Him the First Part of All Your Income”

Financially Faithful

March 2011

Income -	\$25,050
Castaways donation	\$5,969.52
Total Income	\$31,019
Expenses -	\$24,419
Net Income (Loss) -	\$6,600

Jan - March

Income -	\$94,032(26%)
Budgeted-	\$355,989
Expenses -	\$78,050(22%)
Budgeted-	\$355,989
Net Inc(Loss) -	15,982
Building Fund contrib.-	\$2,535
Loan Balance -	\$74,309



May Anniversaries

- 04—Ed & Marsha Charles
- 15—John & Angie Armstrong
- 16—Richard & Violet Luton
- 18—Bootsie & Lesa Larsen
- 18—Jerry & Tana Neel
- 19—Lewis & Lorraine Hott
- 25—David & Mary Ware
- 31—Earl & Ramona Campbell

The result of our commitment campaign was \$167,323. Our budget remains at \$355,989. The commitment is \$3,000 less than last year. We did end last year on a positive note, and with God’s help and yours, it will happen again. Right now, our church finances are in the black, and it is because of your generosity that we can say that. We continue to be blessed at FUMC Rockport, and find that truly “where your treasure is, there your heart is also”... *Luke 12:34* Remember that if you ever want a monthly statement, you can stop by the office to get one. If you have any questions, you can call me or ask any Finance committee member. Blessings, Lesa



THE DEADLINE for the June Newsletter is May 13th.

From the Christian Education Director

It is time to sign up your children for Vacation Bible School: "SHAKE IT UP CAFÉ". The dates are Monday through Friday, June 6-10 from 5:15 to 8:10 p.m. A light dinner will be served. VBS classes are for ages 5 years –5th grade.



We still need a few more volunteers for VBS. We need "servers". These are the people who go with the children from station to station. It is lots of fun and you will be with other adults, too. Sign up at the VBS table in the Main Street foyer at the church.

Do you want to help with VBS but you don't have the time? Karen Lee Rystad is in need of donations for the dinners. You can donate money or food items. See Karen Lee for details or check the display.



Summer camp dates have been set!!! Youth entering 6-8th grade will be going to JAM Camp, June 26-30 at Mount Wesley in Kerrville. Youth entering 9-12th grade will be going to Quest Camp, July 3-7 at Mount Wesley in Kerrville. Keep your eye on the church bulletin on ways you can help to send our kids to camp. Camp is very important and fun time for our youth.

I am still working out the details for our May youth adventure. More Information to come later.

The flowers were planted at the Annex and are growing big. Check out the pictures by the kitchen.

Don't forget about the "Bring Your Own Bible, Bible Study" Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

Last but not least thank you for bringing in your old cell phones and ink jet cartridges. Our last check was for \$140!!! So keep doing what you are doing. We always need more!!!

New Program begins May 8th

Children's Church is starting a new program for the next six weeks titled "Three Simple Rules for Following Jesus". This will take us to June 19th. After Beach Sunday on June 26th, we will begin a six week "mini" vacation program. Grandchildren and visitors are welcome at all times. We will have our graduation program in August and start our fall program the Sunday after school starts. We have several three year olds who will be joining us this fall so our program will be growing. Thanks for all the encouragement. The children and I really appreciate it.
Chris



First Learning Tree

It seems the first two months and the last two months of the school year are always the craziest. It's a time of beginnings and endings. One program is just starting up and another is shutting down. We say hello to new children and goodbye to old friends. Both times are marked with tears by parents, teachers, and children; and on some occasions, even myself. Over the years, I have formed very strong attachments to these children and when you say goodbye, it is like letting go of one of your own.

I have so many wonderful volunteers that do such an exceptional job with the children enrolled at First Learning Tree. Debbie Chapman is not only our 'Chapel Lady' but she also has taken over organizing our "Mother's Day Tea". She is not just a volunteer, but she's my good friend. I am very thankful for her. Ray Saenz is my dedicated tutor. Ray has filled these shoes for many years and what a blessing he is. I know that I can always count on Ray to do just about anything for FLT. I have many others that help throughout the year. Whenever we have a special event, I know that I can count on: Jean Stobaugh, Scotty Kautz, Lovelyn Hughes, Bootsie Larsen, JC Morton, Bert Siefker, Jeannie Coe, Bill and Mary Jane Crabill, and newest on the block Burt and Dixie Shoopman. And last is my FLT Board Members: Graham Painter, Harrell Minzenmayer, Skip Timmer, Jan Burkhardt,



Patty Johnson, Angie Armstrong, and Teresa Creekmore. There are many different reasons why FLT is successful, but the individuals listed above are like the chocolate syrup on a dish of ice cream—the best of the best!!!

Until next month,
Kathy

Thank you, FUMC

Dear Church Family:
Thanks for the prayers, prayer cards and your concern for Derrick's surgery & recovery. God bless all of you. Sue & Derrick Reeves

To My FUMC Family

Thank you all for your help after my surgery and particularly to Ruth Reagan, Barbara Klemm, Jeannie Coe, Walter and Kathy Abbott, Skip and Janet Timmer. Your Transportation assistance was greatly appreciated.

This church is truly blessed! God's love to you all.
Your sister in Christ,
Susan Stoneburner

Where Does Pain Go?

(Written the day after the death of Osama bin Laden) by Safiyah Fosua

It was easier
To assuage Pain and Sorrow
By focusing all our thoughts
On finding the one(s) who robbed us of the
fellowship of family and friends.

It was,
In a strange way,
Easier to cuddle with Anger,
And to delay Grief altogether
While we curdled our stomachs with Hate.

But where does Pain go
When the one most hated is gone, along
with many of his fellows?

Today,
Osama is gone;
And we are left with Tears,
The messenger of Grief,
reminding us
That we never tasted deeply enough of
her bitter brew to walk away from her table.

God,
Give us enough faith
To dismiss Hate and Anger
While we summon the strength to drink
enough of Grief's cup
To push it away.

Amen.

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May, 2011

Thom Elliott, Pastor

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