

## FIRST METHODIST HALLSVILLE

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# First News

*Monthly Edition*

December 28, 2015

Vol. 35, No. 12

### **This Month In Worship**

#### **January 3**

Epiphany Sunday  
Matthew 2:1-12

#### **January 10**

1st Sunday after the Epiphany  
The Book of Luke  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

#### **January 17**

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11

#### **January 24**

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany  
Luke 4:14-21

#### **January 31**

4th Sunday after the Epiphany  
Luke 4:21-30

*Join Us This  
Sunday!*

**Traditional Worship -8:40 AM**  
**Grow Groups -9:50 AM**  
**Contemporary Worship**  
**11:00 AM**

### **From the Pastor's Desk**

As we begin this new year I would like to talk to you about service, more than anything else, it is what qualifies us for leadership in the Kingdom of God. If we desire to lead in the Kingdom, it must begin with service. Titles and offices and all such things do not make a leader in the Kingdom.

If a person desires to be heard and respected in the Church, they must begin by serving their fellow believers and also those outside the Christian faith. We are not to follow in the way of the world. The world throws respect and honor and admiration toward those who have the wealth, the power, and the fame to demand that others serve them, and it can be a temptation for us as well. We are tempted to look up to those that the world looks up to. But we should not.

I think one of the most difficult tests for us as believers is how we treat those who serve us. The ability to accept service with humility is almost as difficult as the ability to offer service freely.

Another question: Whom do we serve? Who are we willing to serve and who are we not willing to serve?

It's easy to serve our friends because we expect that in some way or another, they will someday serve us back. But what about strangers? Will we serve those that we don't know and who will likely never have the chance to serve us in return? Do we serve the poor? Do we serve those who may never have the financial means to repay our service?

And what about our enemies? Will we serve our enemies? Consider this: Jesus washed the feet of Judas, who had already betrayed him, and Jesus knew he had already been betrayed, but he still served

him just the same as the rest. What about us? Would we be willing to serve the one who has betrayed us? If we desire to follow the example of Jesus, we should be.

Let's bring this back into the context of the vows of membership. If we are to support the ministries of the church by our service, what does that mean?

It certainly means we should be servants within the Body of Christ, one to the other. Jesus said that by our loving service to each other, the world will know we are his disciples. Does the world know we belong to Jesus by the eagerness that we have to serve each other?

But, let's remember that serving our friends is the easy part, and hopefully we can count our fellow believers as our friends. There are other issues at work if we can't. We must also serve those who are outside of the Body. Jesus was a servant to all, and we are the Body of Christ. We are to embody the loving service of Christ to the world.

Service is the example of Jesus. Service is the way of leadership in the Body of Christ. Both the willingness to serve and to receive service are necessary to have a servant's heart. Unless we serve the world, how will Christ continue to serve it? After all, you are his hands and his feet.

You are the Body of Christ. There are many opportunities for service available right here at FUMC Hallsville and many more available out there in the community. If you need some ideas or if you need some help deciding what your gifts could be used for please call me. I would love to talk with you about ways you can be of service to the kingdom of God as we work to make a difference in the lives of the people of Hallsville, and ultimately the world.

### Church Faithfulness

	Nov. 29	Dec. 6	Dec. 13	Dec. 20
Worship Attendance 8:40 am	147	133	121	146
Worship Attendance 11:00 am	113	101	106	206
Sunday School Attendance	138	177	154	159
General Budget Received	\$9,063.00	\$11,940.20	\$9,257.61	\$8,007.00

**Congratulations** to Nelwyn LaGrone & Tommy Glezen who were married Dec. 12.

**Congratulations** to Josh & Carey Stapp on the birth of their son, Weston Marfin and to Jeff & Lynn Jackson on the birth of their daughter, Bethany Ann—both on Dec. 18.

#### Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory: Del Nixon  
Given By: Mary Sampson

In Memory: Mary Martin  
Given By: Bubba & Sheila Carlisle, Gerald & Linda Shields, Archie & Sally Barron, Rodney & Sue Price, James & Anna Butler, First United Methodist Church, Barry & Rita Bowen, Shirley Lahti, Mittie Perry

In Honor: Rodney & Sue Price  
Given By: James & Anna Butler

#### Thank You

Dear First Methodist Church Members,  
Thank you so much for the delicious lunch you prepared for our family following our Mom's funeral. We really appreciate your hard work and loving service you provided.  
The Martin Family

#### Leadership Training Event

A North District Leadership Training Event will be held **January 10, 2016** from 2:00—5:00 p.m. at Marshall First UMC, 300 E. Houston St., Marshall.

- Workshops Offered:
- Heartspring Methodist Foundation "RUTH"; *The Lord Enabled her...*
- Tools For Dealing with Change
- Puppets for Jesus
- Forever Blessed: Children's Ministry Beyond Sunday Morning
- The Role of the Staff Pastor Parish Comm.
- Discipleship Ministry
- Missions of the United Methodist Church

#### Year to Date Financial Report as of November 30, 2015

General Budget Year to Date Received: \$490,506.91  
General Budget Year to Date Expenses: \$497,448.27  
Year to Date Difference: (\$6,941.36)  
Building Note: \$517,453.37

#### Serving on Sunday – January 3, 2015

**Liturgist:** Dr. Amber Daub  
**8:40 Ushers:** Annabelle & Tucker Vasser, Bobbi & Gary Wade  
**8:40 Prayer Partners:** John Roberts  
**11:00 Ushers** Joyce Weekly, Terry Hallonquist, Chad & Tressie Huff

#### Serving on Sunday – January 10, 2015

**Liturgist:** Susan LaBay  
**8:40 Ushers:** Ginger Bailey, James Stephens, Andra Jones, Craig Witherspoon  
**8:40 Prayer Partner:** Sue Price  
**11:00 Ushers:** Brenda Barth, Dodie Potts, Jim & Betty Buchanan

#### Serving on Sunday – January 17, 2015

**Liturgist:** Chad Mitchell  
**8:40 Ushers:** Michael & Amy Whittle, Bob Kautzman, Bubba Carlisle  
**8:40 Prayer Partner:** Bill & Kathryn Blair  
**11:00 Ushers:** Bronda Moore, Cullen Lewis, David Holman, Desiree Rhodes

#### Serving on Sunday - January 24, 2015

**Liturgist:** Donna Dean Hutcherson  
**8:40 Ushers:** Jim Cline, Kerry Kilgore, Bill Plunkett, Lee Gaw  
**8:40 Prayer Partner:** Jay & Anne Orr  
**11:00 Ushers:** Jim Thomas, Johnny Horne, Keith Barber, Linda Shields

## Parents Night Out Ministry

Looking for a chance to spend some quality time with your spouse or just have some "me" time? Parent's night out is a great opportunity for the kids to have some fun while parents can get away. This ministry will serve parents with infants six weeks up to children in the fifth grade. We currently need people to help with childcare. Duties will include playing games, assisting with crafts, and just having fun with the kids. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, or know someone who might be, please contact Danyelle Meyer at 903-660-3216 or at [education@fumchallsville.org](mailto:education@fumchallsville.org).

Our first Parent's night out is set for **Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00p.m. - 10:30p.m.**

\*\*\*A reservation for Parent's night out is required by Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. To make reservations you can sign up on clipboard located in the Wesley Hall, call the church office, or email Danyelle Meyer at [education@fumchallsville.org](mailto:education@fumchallsville.org).

## New Bibles Studies coming soon

Our Wednesday night programming will resume on Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. We hope that you will join us as we start the year learning more about deeper relationships with our spouse as well as learning how to take more time to pray. Please read the descriptions to explore what meets your personal needs.



Falling for someone is easy. But staying in love? Discover how to keep romance alive and deepen your commitment to one another. This **four-week study, led by Johnny and Donna Horne** will enrich your experience with practical tools that will help you delve deeper into the subject. Beginning Wednesday, **January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:40** in the Parlor. Please contact Danyelle Meyer if you need more information.



## New Bible Study

In *Before Amen*, Max Lucado, a self-professed "recovering prayer wimp," reveals his personal struggles with prayer. This four-week study will show you how he discovered that prayer is not a privilege for the pious or the art of a chosen few but a simple tool all believers have been given to have a conversation with God. We hope that you will join Chad and Kara Mitchell in the conference room at 6:40p.m. beginning Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. If you need more information, please contact Danyelle Meyer.

## Volunteers needed to help with Children's ministry

If you would like to help share God's love with the children of our church and community, then volunteering in the children's ministry here at church is the thing to do. I am currently seeking volunteers to help lead children's church for both early and late services, teachers for Sunday school, Kingdom Kids leaders, and also substitute teachers. If you feel led to help with any of these areas, please contact Danyelle Meyer at 903-660-3216 ext. 18.

## First Friends Registration for 2016-2017

Beginning Monday, February 8-11 we will hold "In House" registration from 8:30-noon each day. All children already enrolled in our program may sign up for the preschool year 2016-2017. February 16 from 8:30-noon we will open enrollment to church members and past FF families. February 18 we will open enrollment to the community from 8:30-Noon. All classes are on a "first come first serve" basis. You must register your child in person and turn in your registration form and fee to insure your child's spot for the fall. If you have any questions please contact Sheila Carlisle at 903-660-3216.



## January Birthdays

- 1 Lou LaBay
- 2 Kimber Rice
- 3 Paul Aloia, William Stowe
- 4 Mike Bailey
- 5 Hannah Hagerty, Taylor O'Bryant
- 7 Regan Bailey
- 9 Ann McPherson, Randy York
- 10 Skip Buchanan
- 11 Carla Brown
- 12 Jeremy Schirmer
- 13 Charlotte Anderson, Amanda Phillips
- 15 Alan Dilday, Faith Reed, Cody Green
- 16 Betty Harris, Stefan Spatafora
- 17 Mary Pate, Garey Furnish, Chris Cox
- 18 Jerre Dollahite
- 20 Doug Coleman, Melissa Stapp, Tom Patterson
- 21 Trevor Ligon
- 22 Jacob York, David Holman
- 24 Koby Rhodes
- 25 Andra Jones
- 26 Tony Pate
- 27 Crystal Hardy, Sally Hendricks, Gayle Walker, Del Brown
- 28 Will Rhodes
- 29 Louisa Schirmer, Terry Warren
- 31 Parker Brooks, Sally Azbell, Eric Anderson

## Kingdom Kids

Kingdom Kids meet on Wednesday evenings. At 6:15 until 6:45 children in First grade through fifth grade participate in our children's choir, "Joyful Noise" led by Meredith Brooks. Each week the children will learn one important Bible point that will remind them how God works inside them and how to live out their faith each day in the real world. We will sing songs, hear great Bible stories, and do some amazing hands-on activities each night. **January 13<sup>th</sup>** will be our first Wednesday back after the holidays.



### First Friends Sunday

It's that time again to dust off the cook-books. First Friends will have their annual Silent Bake Off and Auction on **Sunday, February 14**. It's Valentine's Day so come and buy your sweetheart something! Due to popular demand we will have not only baked good, casseroles etc...but we will accept items to auction off as well. So put your thinking caps and aprons on and help us raise money for our preschool! (Remember all items need to be in Wesley Hall at the beginning of Sunday School.)

### You are Invited to a Baby Shower

A baby Shower for Ashley (Tevebaugh) Cleere will be held in the church parlor on Saturday, January 9, at 10:30 a.m. It's a boy.



### Youth Notes 2015

It's 2016 and I'm excited to get this month kicked off at Rescue Youth! This month the youth are going to be doing an event we are calling "Souper Bowl." We will be collecting soup cans all the way up to Super Bowl Sunday (February 7<sup>th</sup>) to donate to the Hallsville Outreach Center. If you would like to be involved you can collect and bring soup cans to the youth room all through the month of January.

On February 19-21<sup>st</sup> the youth will be going to Lakeview Conference Center in Palestine for the Ignite Youth Retreat hosted by the Texas Annual Conference. The cost for the weekend is \$115. The last day to sign up is Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Be on the lookout for more information on upcoming events in the next few weeks.

I am believing God for a life changing year at Rescue Youth and ask that you would be in prayer that God would be lifted up and glorified in all that is done.

In Pursuit of Him,

T.J. Gabelman



# First News

*Monthly Edition*

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Organization

Permit #8

Hallsville, Texas 75650

P.O. Box 365 • Hallsville, TX 75650 • (903) 660-3216

Pastor:	Brian Brooks (ext. 22)
Youth Ministries	T.J. Gabelman (ext. 15)
Christian Education Director:	Danyelle Meyer (ext. 18)
Director of Music Ministries:	Robin Carrington
Financial Officer:	Johnnie McPherson (ext. 11)
Church Secretary:	Darlene Suttle (ext. 10)
Communications:	Lori Lewis (ext. 21)
Pianist:	John Carrington
Praise Band Leader	Dan Herrington
Dir. of First Friends Preschool:	Sheila Carlisle (ext. 19)
Facilities Coordinator:	Pat Thompson
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – noon; 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. M-TH	

**Return Service Requested**