Ponderings from your Pastor

Dear Friends,

In three months, Bandera United Methodist Church will celebrate 150 years of mission and ministry to our community and surrounding area on April 28, 29 & 30, 2017. It is exciting to hear and see the pulse of the congregation beginning to build as we inch ever so closer to that historic occasion. At our visioning session, earlier this month, a great deal of planning was accomplished and leadership was established to help our church appropriately mark this occasion.

With a nod to our historic roots, we will have an Old-Fashioned Tent Revival and Gospel Sing to kick things off on Friday, April 28. Our guest preacher will be Rev. Mark Winter (www.onemanshow.org). Mark is well known throughout Methodism for his quick wit, dramatic presentations and thought provoking messages of hope and promise to all generations.

After the revival, worshippers will be invited to enjoy the delights of homemade ice cream as we gather around the campfire for a time of singing hymns and songs that helped shaped generations of faithful followers. Saturday, April 29 will be a full day of activity around our campus. Tentative plans are to host our annual FISH FRY fundraiser in conjunction with a CRAFT FAIR featuring local and area artisans as well as a MISSION FAIR showcasing our own mission emphasis and activity in our community. HISTORICAL DISPLAYS will be set up around the campus for folks to walk through that will represent the history of the church and community spanning the last century and half. In addition, there will be a street fair with games and other enjoyment as well as a magic show for the youngsters.
The evening will be capped off with a concert aimed toward youth and the young at heart as we gather to move and groove to the sounds of today’s popular Christian music and culture.

Sunday, April 30 will be a day of WORSHIP & CELEBRATION with one service at 10AM. Our guest preacher will be Bishop Joel Martinez, and we will hear from other dignitaries and VIPS. In addition, Bishop Robert Schnase will provide words of greeting and we will hear special music from the Sterling Quartet as well as enjoy works specially commissioned for our Hand Bell and Chancel choirs continue to move boldly forward into our future for the next 150 years. Speculation is building that John Wesley himself is scheduled to make an appearance in the worship service along with other dramatic presentations. Following worship, we will gather under the pavilion for our fellowship meal with special entertainment from the Sterling Quartet and others.

Concluding the activities will be a Concert Piano Recital by Dr. Raquel Martinez in tribute to the Polly, Texas Schoolhouse Restoration Project. There will be an offering taken to help with the Polly Texas Schoolhouse Restoration. So please give as the spirit leads you. All in all, it promises to be a full and rewarding weekend that remembers our historic past, but also encourages and equips us to continue to move boldly forward into our future for the next 150 years.

There is much more to come as plans are being finalized, but save the date (April 28-30, 2017), invite others to come and plan to help mark this historic occasion with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. To God be the glory!

Blessings,

Larry

Bandera UMC

Moving Boldly into the Future
It seems hard to believe that a year ago, we began training our first group of Stephen Ministers. My how the time has flown. We had 7 Stephen Ministers who started and completed the 50 hours of training needed to become a Stephen minister. We miss you Pat Carman! They were commissioned in May of last year and since that time they have been very busy. They write cards and call our shut-in and those who are ill, go make hospital and home visits, deliver poinsettias, and much more. They are a kind, compassionate, and loving group of people who want nothing more than to listen, pray, laugh and cry with you; three of our Stephen Ministers are already helping others but we have 3 more who are waiting to work alongside you and help you in the way only they can do. The care that our Stephen Ministers provide in no way replaces your relationship with Pastor Larry, but is meant to be in addition to his support and guidance. Stephen ministers work in the strictest of confidence and what you discuss and share is between you and your Stephen minister. If you or someone you know could benefit from this kind of one-on-one care, or you have questions about the role of a Stephen Minister please contact Pastor Larry, Roberta Himebrook, or Cathy McRorey.

If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please speak Roberta Himebrook or Cathy McRorey. We are looking to start another class, but we need at least 6 people to commit to the training. We currently have 4 who have expressed the desire to become a Stephen Minister.

If you are grieving the loss of a friend or loved one, we have a series of 4 books called “Journey through Grief” that we would love to give you. They are wonderful books that will help you understand and move through your grief. You can contact any Stephen Minister or Cheryl in the church office and we will get a set for you.
February Gathering Info & News

TIME & PLACE

This Monday, February 6th, we will be having our meal in the Gym at First United Methodist - Kerrville at 6pm. The Soul Sisters Reunion Group will be providing chicken spaghetti. Please kindly bring a side dish or dessert for us to share or both! We will then be worshipping at 7pm in the Sanctuary. Our Fourth Day Speaker will be Scottie Schaefer.

UPCOMING MEN'S AND WOMEN'S WALKS

This year's men’s walk HC61 will be April 27-30, 2017 at Mt. Wesley – with John Hewitt as our Lay director. If you have an interest in being on team, please get your applications in to him – his email is jmhewitt@stx.rr.com and phone number is 830-285-7925. MORE details on THAT are SURE to be coming soon as we will go FULL speed ahead to cultivate and help our upcoming pilgrims who have yet to be determined – WHICH if you have a pilgrim in mind…..please complete the pilgrim app and get that back to our registrar, Laura Rhodes via email llrhodes@hctc.net OR at KFUMC at 321 Thompson Drive, Kerrville, Texas along with payment.

This year's women's walk HC62 will be Sept. 14-17, 2017 at Mt. Wesley as well. More information to come! Prayer Vigil sign-ups for both walks are live online at the following locations. Please try to sign-up to get the spots filled early!

Men's Walk HC 61 - https://goo.gl/bGNiii


Mt. Wesley Facilities to Receive Renovations and Upgrades

Mount Wesley, the retreat and conference center located in the heart of the Hill Country in Kerrville, will finally be receiving some much-needed renovations and additions to the facilities. The first addition will be the creation of the new “welcome” center. It will be located in the what was known as the “old office.” The purpose of this space is to house guest relations. It will also hold a new gift shop. The Worship Center will be equipped with new chairs and an updated sound system.
The Wilson building, one of Mount Wesley's most used spaces, is being completely renovated inside with new ADA compliant restrooms. The “slab” will be removed to make room for a new structure, which will be designed at a later time.

Mount Wesley has faced numerous challenges and changes over the last several years. Over the last several months, the Mount Wesley Advisory Team (with the assistance of Camp Director Christian Moore) has begun a process of finding a path forward that addresses many of the realities that are faced by the camp. These renovations will help address those challenges.


It’s really not about the food, but that’s part of it! and we need help for Next Month!

Just a reminder that the meals at our monthly gatherings are provided from within the community. An individual or group of any kind (reunion, Sunday school class, neighborhood, knitting class, karate class, etc.) agrees to provide the entrée and the rest of the community brings sides and desserts. This is done by sign up sheet and we need folks for Feb. 2017 and beyond. We typically have between 65-75 at each gathering except for immediately after walks and that number doubles. If you, or a group you are involved in, are interested in providing a meal, please look for sign-up sheet or contact Food Coordinators Steve Hamilton (iowasteve85@yahoo.com) 830-739-5508 or Philip Stacy (Philip.stacy59@gmail.com) 830-739-2829.

Reunion Group Offerings:

The Men’s Emmaus Reunion Group meets on Wednesday evenings at 4:30 pm and then they stay for the meal. They normally meet in the Adelante Sunday school room/104.

The Women’s Emmaus Reunion Group also meets on Wednesday evenings but they meet at 6:15 in the cut-ups room.

Both groups welcome new members.

If you want to be a part of a reunion group and this time does not work for you please contact Bonnie Bevers or Sharon Anderwald and we will see about starting other groups at different times and days.
"CRAFTERS" WANTED

BUMC will have booths available for rent on Saturday, April 29th when we celebrate our 150th, so if you have talent or know some who does and would like to rent a space to show and sell your craft please contact me at:
Elizabeth Major @ 830-796-7996 or elizabeth.major@wildblue.net. Look for details to follow in the next few weeks! Only handmade items please!

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Bandera County Offer Fun Ways to Support Them!
The Boys and Girls Clubs of Bandera County are currently working with two well-known give-back programs, Painting with a Purpose and the Valero Texas Open, to offer ways the community can support them, AND enjoy a fun-filled experience!

On Sunday, February 5th 2017, from 2-4 PM, the Painting with a Twist outlet at 8910 Bandera Rd, Ste 205, San Antonio NW, TX 78250, will be hosting their Painting with a Purpose give-back program to support the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bandera County. The program will give 50% of each seat registration ($35 cost), back to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bandera County. In addition, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bandera County is offering a van ride to/from the event to the first 13 adults that sign up, so call 830-796-8109 to reserve your seat! To register, go to:

The Valero Texas Open is currently offering their give-back program, Birdies for Charity, to help support area non-profit organizations. This multi-faceted pledge option starts with an opportunity for you to donate a stated amount, or individually pledge from $.01 - $.04/birdie, that will be achieved during the golf tournament to be held April 17-23, 2017. The average number of birdies that have been achieved during the past few years has been approximately 2000, so your $.01/birdie would amount to $20.00. A person or organization can donate $1,000+ and receive (4) Good-Any-One-Day general admission tickets. To obtain a pledge form, come by any of our 3 sites: Alkek Elementary, Hill Country Elementary, or the Teen Center at 715 Maple St. in Bandera. Additional pledge forms are at the Flying L Pro Shop, or, pledge online at www.ValeroTexasOpen.com/Birdies, designating the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bandera County as your charity of choice. If you have any questions, please call 830-796-8109 for further information.
DRIVING TOWARD A BETTER COMMUNITY

Bandera County Helping Hand

6th Annual

GOLF Tournament

Friday, May 5, 2017
Flying L Guest Ranch
12:noon Shotgun Start

Participate! Donate! Sponsor a Hole!

$75 Registration Fee includes:
18 holes of Golf with Cart. Dinner and Prizes

Registration: 830-796-8300
February Birthdays

2nd Edith Applegate
3rd Alice Koenig
4th Kylee Henderson
6th Louise Henson
7th Sharon Anderwald
7th Lincoln Wood
9th Lynn Post
9th Lilly Putney
9th Ginger Goode
10th Sharon Cameron
10th Mary Freeman
10th Roger Gomez
11th Judith Meade
12th Shelby Colsten
12th Caitlin Prince
14th Gloria Robbins
14th Bill Pearce
15th Theresa Espinosa
16th Austin Wilson
18th Larry Scott
19th Lisa White
20th Mason Walls
20th Kristin Montague
21st Tanner Gooding
21st Connie Young
22nd Bart Byerley
22nd Sissie Sandidge
23rd Diane Conoly
23rd Christina Freeman
24th Alice Anne Nix
28th Loren Putney
28th Carol Wolf

Acolyte Ministry

Feb. 5
First Service: Logan Harmon
Second Service: Onna Shaw & Ryleigh Laine

Feb. 12
First Service: Lindsy Lewis
Second Service: Marcus Grant & Cheyenne Sheeds

Feb. 19
First Service: Porter Bernard
Second Service: Sally Sheeds & Alyssa Sheeds

Feb. 26
First Service: Logan Harmon
Second Service: Ozzie Knowles & Anthony Davis
Music is (or should be) a vital part of our lives. It is an easy way: to remind ourselves of what God has done in the past, to recall God's attributes, and to remember God's love and care for us. We are not the only ones who need to hear these words; those around us need to hear them too. If Paul and Silas weren’t afraid to sing hymns to God at midnight, neither should we be afraid. God is waiting to hear the praise of His children.

I would like to announce a new name and new faces for the Contemporary Service’s music group. “Abundant Grace” will have the additional voices of Bonnie Bevers, Shikisha Coloney, and Cathy McRorey along with me as lead singers and Worship Leaders beginning in February. There is still a need for other musicians who are willing share their talents in the areas of guitar and bass. Abundant Grace rehearses on Thursday evenings at 6 PM in the Sanctuary. Rehearsal time for the Chancel Choir is now Wednesday evenings from 7 – 8:30 PM. The Chancel Choir, along with anyone else who would like to join us, will be joining the Faith Community Choir to present the Easter cantata “Amazing Love” on April 9, 2017 at 6 PM in the Bandera UMC sanctuary. Child care for the performance will be provided. Practices for the cantata will alternate between St. Christopher Episcopal Church and Pipe Creek Presbyterian Church beginning February 5th at 2 PM.

The Bandera Bells will be playing on the third Sunday during the 10:45 service. Any youth in Middle School or High School are welcome to join us. Practice is on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:30

Jubilation Bells, our adult bell group, is looking for TWO full-time ringers and ONE substitute ringer. I have been told that there are many former bell ringers in our congregation. Would you pray about joining the Jubilation Bells so that we can continue to ring in full three-octave harmonies? Rehearsal for Jubilation Bells is Tuesday evenings at 6 PM.

Praising the Lord in Song,

Esther Cook
Bonnie’s Beat

It’s hard to believe we are already three and a half weeks into 2017! It’s a busy time of year in the Youth wing at Bandera UMC. We have fundraisers, camps, meetings, and services galore! It’s an exciting time in our little corner of the world!

Our first 5th Sunday Fellowship of 2017 will be held January 29th. This is particularly exciting because it is also YOUTH SUNDAY! We will have one service at 10:00 am. Our middle and high school students will lead us in worship, presenting all aspects of the service, including the sermon and communion. They will lead us in prayer and tell us about some of the things they have done in the last year, what those experiences have meant to them, and how God is moving their lives. It is sure to not only be a fun service, but a moving one, as well. I hope you will join us in Celebrating our Lord and Savior and all the wonderful things He is doing in our teens’ lives.

C.R.E.W. will host the annual Baked Potato Sale on Saturday, February 18th, in conjunction with Bandera’s Mardi Gras celebration. Lunch will be served from 12:00pm – 3:00pm (the parade is at noon) in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is $8.00 per plate and includes the baked potato bar, salad, dessert, and drink.

The youth group will attend the Mid-Winter Retreat at Knott Creek Falls outside Harper the first weekend in March. Students from the area will come together for a weekend of music, fellowship, food, and fun.

On a personal note, I wanted to thank the congregation of BUMC for your continued love and support. Earlier this month I was given the opportunity to further my Youth Ministry education at Perkins School of Theology at SMU in Dallas. It was a wonderful week of learning, networking, worshipping, and fellowshipping with Youth Ministers from across the US. I came back with so many ideas, lots of new knowledge, and a fire to grow our ministry together. It was truly and awesome week.
SEND ME LORD

It is an exciting time for our congregation as we approach 150 years of service to Christ and to our community. We are planning a wonderful celebration because, after all, we only do this once! There are so many opportunities for your service and I would encourage everyone to eat your Wheaties and show up. Smile and say, “send me Lord” and “put me to doing”! We need your time, your energy, your gifts, your talents, your prayers and your witness and it is my desire that you will reap many blessings, because it is in giving that we receive.

In Christ,

Larry Scott

Baked Potato Sale

February 18th
12pm - 3pm

$8 per plate
Includes baked potato, fixings, salad, dessert & drink
United Methodist Women (UMW)

UMW meets the 2nd Thursday of the months September - May. Their goal is to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission both locally and beyond. They currently are studying Adam Hamilton's book, Why? Making Sense of God's Will. The four topics covered; why the innocent suffer, why prayers go unanswered, why can't I see God's will for my life, and why God's love prevails are questions we all ask during our lives. If you would like a copy to take part in this study and discussions call Carol Wolf (210-381-3003) or Linda Bausch (970-481-5176). The next meeting is Thursday Feb. 12 @ 9:30 in the fellowship hall.

Prayers, Packages, & Greeting (PP&G)

PP&G is a ministry of prayer and care packages for Deployed armed forces members. If you have an address of a deployed AF member, please submit it to the office and include your name and phone number. They do not have to be from our church or even Bandera. Where they are from doesn't matter, we want to show our support and share God's love with them during their deployment.

We haven't done a mailing recently due to a lack of names. Sooo--- please get that info to the church office so we can get the care packages on the way to them.

To our church family: The Carman and Tyra families want to thank you all for the many delicious meals, prayers, cards, phone calls, visits and hugs during Pat’s illness. Your loving care means so much.

.... By the way, keep those hugs coming.
New Bible Study Offerings in the New Year

Dead Sea Scrolls: On January 11th at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall, we will begin a new DVD course taught by Gary Rendsburg of Rutgers University on the Dead Sea Scrolls. These scrolls were part of the library of the Essenes, a Jewish Sect, which lived in Qumran, Israel, about the time of Christ’s birth. They were initially discovered in 1947 by a Bedouin shepherd who was chasing an errant goat into a cave. This was eventually determined to be the greatest archaeological discovery of the 20th century. The course includes 36 lectures. We will meet weekly in the Fellowship Hall for an hour and a half each class. During that period, we will view two 30 min. lectures and discuss each. The course will end on March 22nd. Bob Major will facilitate the discussion. He can be reached at 796 7996.

Learn to Guard What God Has Entrusted to You: In this 6-session Bible study, Beth will encourage you to guard what God has entrusted to you, further His kingdom by sharing Christ with others, and pour into future generations just as Paul once mentored Timothy. This study will begin Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the library and is facilitated by Cathy McRorey. The participant books are $13 each and the money for your book can be given to Cheryl in the church office. Please contact Cathy for more information at 830-328-1096.

Ecumenical Bible Study: Everyone is welcome to join the Ecumenical Bible Study that meets on Thursday evenings. A group of people generally meet for dinner at 5 pm and then go on to the study, but if you just want to join the study that is great too. The group meets at 6:30 pm in a home in the Bridlegate subdivision. They meet year around and various members choose the study so we get a wide variety of styles and topics. Contact Roberta Himebrook at 830-460-0242 for more information or directions on how to get there.

Monday Morning Women’s Bible Study: Come join us on Monday mornings for a time of fellowship and study. We meet around 9:45 am in the fellowship hall for coffee and donuts and the begin the Bible Study at 10 am. We meet year around so we are always starting new studies, so all are welcome any time. Contact Karen Hoskelis for more information at 830-796-7479.

Look for information to come on a new Lenten study coming soon, called “The Creed” by Adam Hamilton. This study will be facilitated by Larry McRorey and will take place in the church library.
"BUSY" is the word to describe Helping Hand. In December, we helped 45 new families. We aided 215 families with food, clothes, utility assistance, and miscellaneous help.

Monetary value we gave away totaled $154,650 for the year, that being food, clothes, household items, toiletries, and furniture. We were blessed with 192 volunteer hours.

We received $6,543 in the Red Kettle/Bell Ringing at Lowe's. I certainly appreciate those from our church who did their share of bell ringing. Thank you so much.

For February, our special food item will be canned meats. But, once again all food items are needed for our Food Pantry.

Thank you for your many donations as we continue to help those in need in Bandera County.

Marianne Sandige
So That We May Hear With Joy, What You Say to Us Today

The month of February can leave icicles on our noses, or it can smell a lot like roses. It’s up to us how we look at life, do you see joy...or is it strife? Forgive me but February does make one a bit poetic so I will resist the urge to regale you with second rate verse, although I hope I made you smile. But I will ask you this, do you see the joy or do you see the strife?

Throughout the Bible we see the importance of joy…Jesus came to make our joy complete and the book of Psalms tells us that joy is found in the face of God. The root of joy is interesting and I am not talking about just being happy all the time; although happiness and joy do go hand in hand but there is a depth to joy that enables us, in times of great suffering and distress to be resilient. Think of Paul and Silas singing in their prison cell, they had endured great hardship yet they lifted their voices in song and the result was freedom.

Sometimes we have emotional shackles that keep us under motivated and we operate from fear rather than joy. Science reveals that we have a fast track located on the right side of our brain and it focuses on relationships and not problems. And... “joy is the jet fuel of relationships”, and I believe we can train our brains to stay on that fast track and learn that no matter what the circumstance, it is our return to joy that will set us apart. As we count down to our 150th Celebration don’t you think it would be awesome to be fueled by joy?

We have so much to accomplish to make this celebration so very special. The perfect platform to highlight not only our history but our future too! So, my prayer is this, when someone asks you to help, say yes and say yes with enthusiasm. Smile! Joy can be contagious; and as long as we are who we are, we remain relatable in our community.

Our Pastor is striving to make all the churches in Bandera come together and support one another. And it is up to our congregation, not only as a group but as individuals to form real relationships so that we begin to draw the community closer and show them the joy that we find on 11h Street. We have living water to share, we have our witness to share, and we have the love of Christ to share too, don’t we? So, trace the hand of God’s faithfulness in your life and then extend it to others.

Many hands one heart,

Elizabeth
And last but certainly not least

Adelante Adult Sunday school class

The Adelante class is continuing their journey of the Bible cover to cover. Currently they are studying Proverbs. This group of "young at heart" adults are finding that God speaks to them differently each time they read the Bible. This is the second time in recent years that they have read the entire Bible. Come and join them any Sunday in room 104.

Thank you to your congregation for their thoughtfulness and your give was like a ray of sunshine on a gloomy day. Your act of kindness moved me to tears. May God’s blessings be on all of you now and always.

God, bless you all.
Family of Marsha (Skeeter) Glossbrenner

P. S. the gift was so unexpected.

(We helped Marsha through our youth and the UMARMY this past Summer, and we took her a box of food and other goodies this December)

Bandera United Methodist Church
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Director of Student Ministries: Bonnie Bevers
Director of Children’s Ministries: Shawn Morrison
Director of Fine Arts: Esther Cook
Office & Facilities Administrator: Cheryl Young
Newsletter: Cathy McRorey (cathy.mcrorey@yahoo.com)

Deadline for the March Newsletter is Friday, March 17th

Dear ladies of BUMC, thank you so very much for the delicious food you provided for all our family and friends who attended the memorial service for our dear Mother, Pat Hainline. We greatly appreciate all your kindness to us during this difficult time.

With Warm Regards,
The Hainline Family