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# COLLEGE MOUND GAZETTE

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Pastorbob45@sbcglobal.net

Pastor phone: (214) 536-5714  
Church phone: (972) 524-1823  
www.collegemoundumc.com

Celebrating 175 Years of Ministry in the Community

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## *Prayers & Joys*

Our nation, our leaders, our troops, our law enforcement officers, and relationships during these challenging times, for the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI), folks traveling, Joy for a Successful Souper Bowl luncheon. We raised \$500 for two local charities, the Penney family, Barbara Rasor, Maxine Tankersley, Stevany Hutchinson (heart procedure), A.K. Vent (Jody Briggs father, 86 years old with health issues), Charles Gann (Wanda's brother), Charles Sanders, Rosamond Family, Family of Bessie Dolezalek, Michelle Ashley, Sandra Beesly, Beverly Davis, Sammye Gentry and Family, Aryianna Gardner (Max and Martha's great-granddaughter, in Children's Hospital with heart issues), Deana Hughes (Darrell's sister, going into Assisted Living, Suzi Mohr, Family of JoAnn McCutchan, Family of Clara Burnett, Family of Joe Saucedo, Cassidy Bacon (flu), Anne Brown (pancreatitis), Rita Hunt (knee surgery)

## **This Week at College Mound February 9-15, 2020**

- ☞ **Game Night:**  
Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- ☞ **United Methodist Women:**  
Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- ☞ **Men's Group:**  
Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. at Hickory Roots Restaurant
- ☞ **Ladies Bible Study:**  
Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- ☞ **Thursday Bible Study:**  
Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 12 noon and 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- ☞ **Supper Club:**  
Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m. at a restaurant TBD
- ☞ **Birthdays and Anniversaries:**  
Lisa Lane – February 9<sup>th</sup>  
Bruce Shook – February 10<sup>th</sup>  
Wanda Sikes – February 10<sup>th</sup>  
Bobby Thomas – February 10<sup>th</sup>  
Lacy Penney – February 12<sup>th</sup>  
Marilyn Johnson – February 14<sup>th</sup>  
Don & Ronda Hamilton – February 14<sup>th</sup>  
Earl & Donna Reynolds – February 14<sup>th</sup>  
Sam & Adrienne Bacon – February 15<sup>th</sup>

## Last Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Attendance in Sunday School: 31

Attendance in church: 72



Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 If you boast, boast in the Lord.

Sermon: "Using the Right Pair of Glasses" We need to look at the world through the lens of Christ and the Cross. Peter was trying to tell the Christians in Corinth that they needed to change the way they look at the world. During the week, we need to keep our "in Christ" glasses on at all times. God's grace helps us find our "in Christ" glasses and helps us to help others find their "in Christ" glasses!



The Lord's Supper was served to all.



Brynn Preston & Grace Warner are really enjoying their Children's Moment with Ms. Anne!

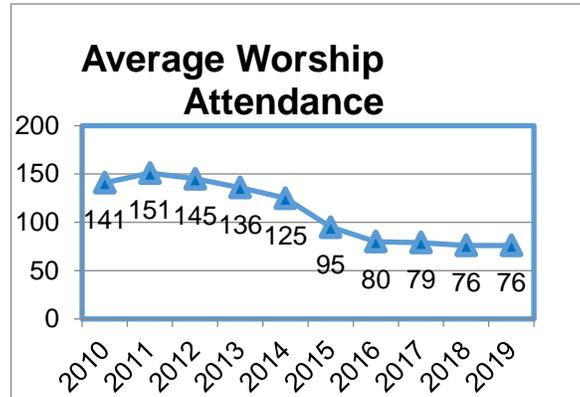
Thomas King has arranged for a License to Carry Course for us on Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. The class will be from 8 a.m. – 12 noon, followed by the shooting portion of the class until 1:30 p.m. This is NOT a class to teach you how to shoot – rather, it is a course to teach you the responsibilities and laws for carrying a concealed handgun. However, there is a shooting portion of the class where you must demonstrate sufficiency with your gun. You will need to bring your own semi-automatic handgun or revolver (at least .22 caliber), 50 rounds of factory ammo, and ear/eye protection. If you are interested in getting your Concealed Handgun License, please speak with Thomas to get registered for this class.

This year marks the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of College Mound UMC. Traditionally, May 24 is the date United Methodist Churches celebrate John Wesley's Aldersgate Gate experience that occurred on May 24, 1738. It is also known as Heritage Sunday. Church Council agreed that May 24 would be a good day to celebrate this historic event. A small committee is being formed to help plan the event. Billie Sue Squires and Barbara Rasor have agreed to serve on the committee, but we are looking for a few other folks to help. If you are interested in serving, please let Pastor Bob know. The first meeting will be held in a couple of weeks.



## FROM THE PASTOR

In the email I sent out last week, I noted that attendance at church events was up almost across the board in 2019 compared to the previous year. That is a positive takeaway from 2019, and we should celebrate that. As I have noted before, there is one statistic I look at to gauge the health and vitality of a church; it is average worship attendance. Below is a chart of the average worship attendance at College Mound for the past ten years.



**One of the goals the Church Council set for 2020 is to increase the average worship attendance by 5%.** It will take everyone at College Mound working together to achieve that goal. I will be the first one to admit that numbers aren't everything. People are not numbers. People are people. There can be fruitfulness and vitality in churches where there are 10 people in worship or 1000 people in worship.

It's no secret that in many churches across the United States, the average worship attendance has dropped in the last ten years. Many factors have led to the downturn, but I believe the time is right for that trend to reverse. That's one of the reasons I am an advocate of the Healthy Church Initiative and why I believe the Healthy Church Initiative can reverse that trend at College Mound. I've seen the trend reversed at other churches in the North Texas Annual Conference, including churches I have served in the past. Churches that have successfully implemented the Healthy Church Initiative see the average worship attendance stabilize and then begin move in a positive direction. The Healthy Church Initiative is not a formula, or a program, or some other kind of magic bullet. I've found the Healthy Church Initiative to be effective because it gets back to the basics. The focus is on being faithful disciples of Jesus Christ and allowing God to work in and through each of us individually and collectively as a whole so that College Mound UMC might bear fruit in the community.

John Wesley said, "There is no such thing as a solitary Christian." As faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, it's important to attend worship whenever you are able. There are several folks in our congregation that desire to attend worship but cannot. There are several caregivers in our congregation that desire to attend worship but cannot. There are valid reasons for not being in worship. We need to reach out and support those folks in their time of need. There is always room for improvement, but overall I believe College Mound does a good job of reaching out to folks.

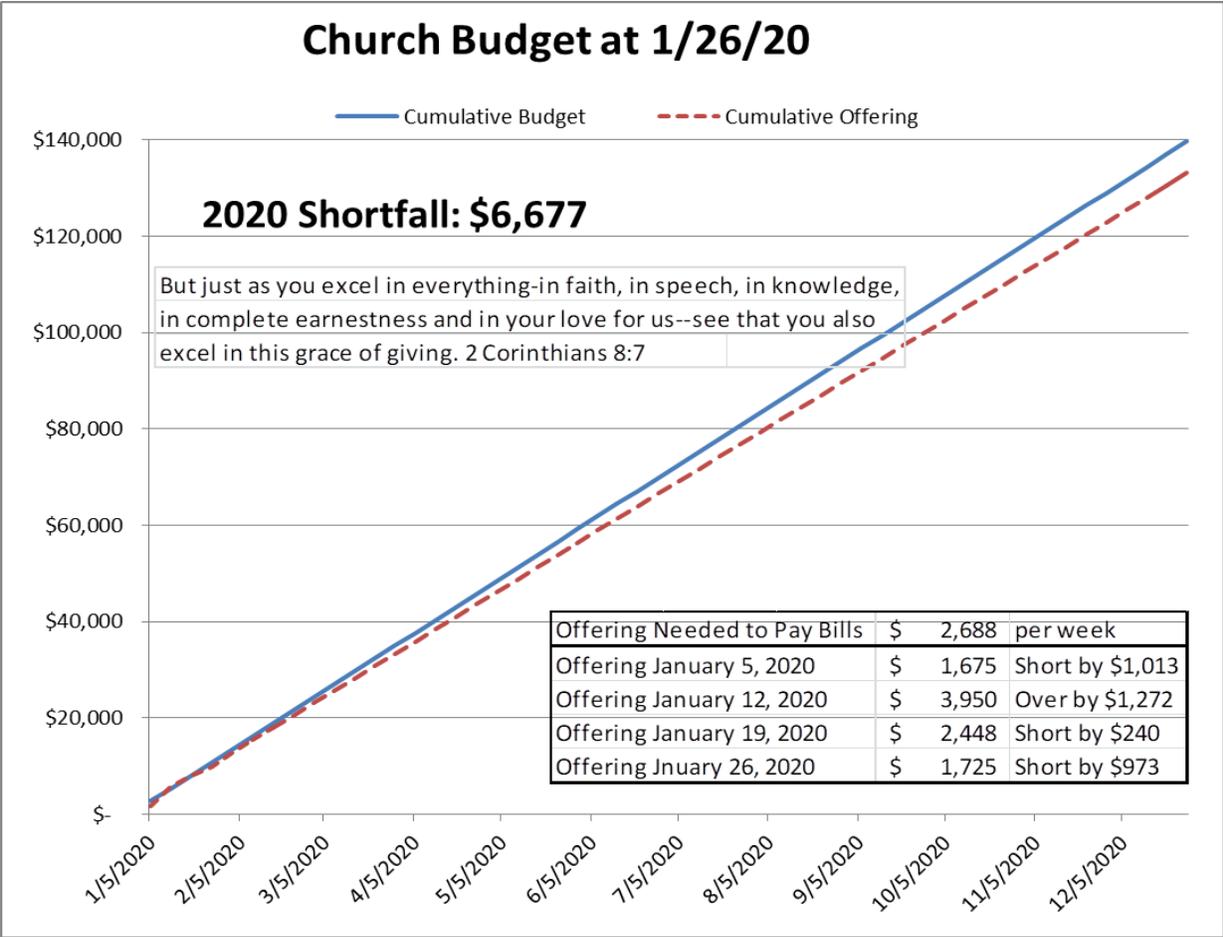
But in many cases, it simply gets down to priorities. Attending worship and Sunday school need to be a priority. Let's not sugar coat things; these are dark times that we find ourselves in. One needs to be grounded in the Scriptures and nurtured and sustained each week in a worshipping community.

If there are folks in the congregation that you have not seen in a while, perhaps even years, call and check on them. Invite them back to church. If there are people you know who do not have a church home, invite them to worship with us at College Mound. If folks visit College Mound one time, the odds are pretty good that they will come back.

Deep down, people know something is amiss in our country. God is at work during these dark times stirring the hearts and minds of people once again. God is leading people out of the darkness and into the light. College Mound UMC can be the conduit through which God brings people to the light of Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor Bob



Note from the Treasurer: Our 2020 Budget has gone up by \$4,219 vs 2019 Budget so offerings will need to go up by a comparable amount over the course of this year to stay even. We are starting January in the hole but the full year estimate is based on just those 4 weeks so the full year estimate will fluctuate some until we get a few months of actual donations on the books.



Our Thursday Bible Study class is having a great time, learning about God's Word. Come join them at noon or 7 p.m. this Thursday in the Fellowship Hall!

... as it is written,  
"What no  
**EYE HAS SEEN,**  
nor **EAR HEARD,**  
nor  
the human  
**HEART CONCEIVED,**  
what God has prepared  
for those who love him"

1 Corinthians 2:9, NRSV