

Sparks Memorial United Methodist Church – 900 Maxfield – Waco, Texas 76705 – (254-799-5124)



## Jimmy's Jots

*Christmas time is upon us. In just a few short weeks we will be gathered with family, eating our Christmas dinner, singing songs and opening presents. There will be laughter and noise. Wrapping paper will be thrust around the room and the Christmas tree will become empty underneath. We will say our goodbyes to our loved ones when it is over with. Within a few days the lights and the decorations will all be put away. Christmas will all but be forgotten after the New Year and then we can start it all over again come next December.*

*What really happened on that day so many years ago? The Gospels of Matthew and Luke give us an accounting of the birth of Jesus. They tell of the quiet night where there were no family gathered, no eating of a Christmas dinner, no presents to open and the lack of song in the air. It is a very calming vision under the stars with some animals and shepherds gathered around. The story of Christmas takes on a different meaning from the hustle and bustle of today.*

*John on the other hand leaves out the birth story but begins the life of Jesus in another way. John gives us a simple and dramatic telling of the mystery of the Word made flesh, dwelling among us, and empowering us to become children of God. This is what the story of Jesus is about. It is the story of reconciling the relationship between ourselves and God. It involves not only a birth of Jesus Christ but a new birth in us. We are made new in Christ Jesus.*

*The word of God was God from the beginning, and the word became flesh and dwelt among us in Jesus. The birth stories told in Matthew and Luke are night stories. The story in John is a day story. Light appears, overcoming all darkness. In whom does such light shine where you are? Who has stories to tell in witness to God with us, right among us, visible in broad daylight through the ongoing ministry of Jesus?*

*I like this reflection of John's gospel. Christmas happens at all times during the year. We are being made new in Jesus Christ. What stories can we tell to others of being made new? The stories come to life of newness in Christ through the ongoing ministry of Jesus. We are called to carry on that ministry to others.*

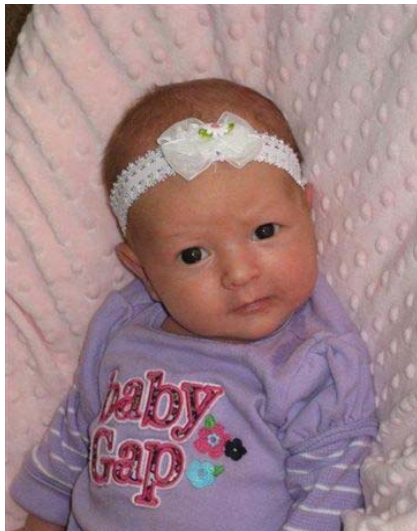
*Recently a group of us attended a seminar in Mansfield led by Bishop Schnase from the Missouri Conference about his book "Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation." Bishop Schnase gave us examples of how to carry that ministry of Jesus Christ to others. He told of how we could be the light of Jesus for others to follow so that they might be born again and become children of God.*

*It is in the Christmas experience that I want to continue the ministry for what Jesus came. The group that attended the seminar have met a few times to get some ideas to share so that we might touch others and grow the kingdom of God here. We will be calling a meeting for all of us to share in. All of us working together are going to stretch ourselves so we can touch others. We need your participation. We need your ideas. We need your voice. There are some ideas that are going to cause us to stretch ourselves physically and spiritually. We are moving forward in our evangelistic efforts in growing our church and growing the kingdom of God. The paths we take will be decided by a group effort with the Holy Spirit guiding and directing us. Come be part of this exciting new birth in the life of the church. Be in prayer about the decisions that will be made on how to move forward. Details will be coming shortly about how we will proceed with these meetings. The stories come to life of newness in Christ through the ongoing ministry of Jesus. These are the stories we have to tell. Join us in this exciting journey.*

Grace and Peace to All,  
Pastor Jimmy



*Welcome the newest arrivals to our church family.*



*Elizabeth Abigail Nims*

Born: 10-14-09 she was 7 pounds/11 ounces 19 1/2in. long. Parents are Chris and Mindy Nims of Coppell Texas. Grandparents are Jack and Pat Nims.



*Mya Kate PenaDeLa*

Born 10-11-09, at 10:39am, she weighed 8lbs. & 2 ozs., she was 21 inches long. Her parents are Logan PenaDeLa and MaryAnne Tayloe of Lufkin, Texas. She is the granddaughter of Janet Winkelmann and James PenaDeLa and the great-granddaughter of Carolyn Winkelmann. She is a beautiful baby and our family has been so blessed.

## Goodsearch.com

Many of us find information we need by searching for it on the internet. One of the ways many of us have done that is with a search engine like Google or Live Search. I'd like to tell you about a better way you can search. It will be just as fast and accurate but will help raise money for Sparks Memorial United Methodist Church or for another of your favorite charities while you search.

Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and type Sparks Memorial United Methodist Church in as your charity of choice (or another charity of your choice – however you may have to have that choice verified). You will also find downloadable tools that will enable you to make Good Search your search engine of choice each time you search. That way you won't have to go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) each time you search the internet, just open your browser.

The blessing of using Good Search is that each time you search the internet with Good Search; you will earn a few pennies for Sparks Memorial United Methodist Church or your charity of choice. That may not sound like much, but if enough people join up, it will not take long for those pennies to start to add up.

They also have a site for shopping online as well: [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com) that will accomplish the same thing. If you prefer to shop online, you will see that these businesses will donate a portion of your purchase to Sparks Memorial United Methodist Church, or your charity of choice. If we're going to search and shop, why not bless our church while we're doing it?

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Jimmy

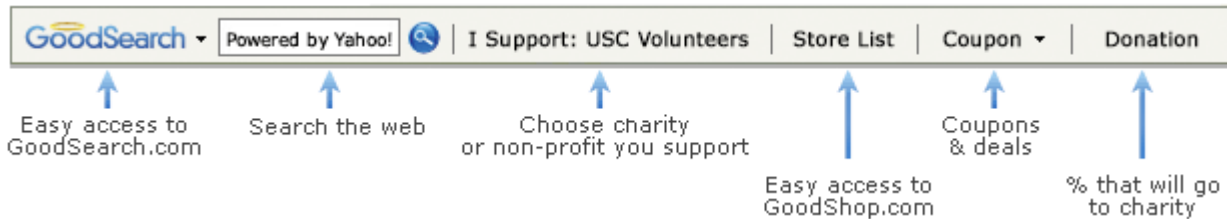
## Goodsearch.com ~ Continued

Greetings!

This month we're going to keep our newsletter short and sweet, focusing on our new [toolbar](#).

This software, which takes just a minute to install, allows you to support your favorite cause even if you forget to go to our site first! This is a real game changer in both the ease of using our site and amount of money your cause can earn.

Here's how it works...



1. Download the toolbar at <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/>
2. Search the web directly from the built-in search box. Each search generates a donation (about a penny per search) for your cause!
3. Shop online as you normally would at any of our 1,300+ participating stores including Gap, PetSmart, Dell, and Staples. When you're at the store's website, our toolbar will automatically light up displaying the percentage donated and any available coupons. **With our new toolbar, your purchases will generate donations even if you forget to start your shopping at GoodShop!**

Please spread the word as we expect that this software can increase your donations five times or more! Here is a sample email to use (please feel free to make it more personal)...

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Every time you shop online at your favorite stores you could be saving money and earning a donation for "Your Organization Here."

Our new toolbar, developed by GoodSearch & GoodShop takes just a few seconds to download. More than 1,300 top stores including Apple, Best Buy, Gap, PetSmart, and Staples are pitching in and will donate a percentage of each sale to our organization. There's no extra cost to you and you may even save money as the merchants are providing us thousands of money-saving coupons!

The GoodSearch toolbar also includes a search box which is powered by Yahoo! Each time you search the web, about a penny is donated to us!

There's no easier way to help (your organization). Please spread the word!

Here's a link to the toolbar for more information: <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/>

# Mission Outreach Ministries



## **Food Drive for Caritas Continues**

The missions committee decided to continue collecting food for Caritas. The children will collect your food during children's time every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Caritas is currently in need of pastas, rice, boxed potatoes, macaroni and cheese and other items. Please help support our local area mission by providing food for needy families.

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Here's an easy way for you to help area schools. There are several school employees who are members of our church. Each school takes advantage of corporate-sponsored fundraisers.

Campbell's Soup Labels For Education. Save the UPC code from Campbell's, Pepperidge Farms, and Swanson products. For more information, go to:

<http://www.labelsforeducation.com>

General Mills Box Tops for Education. Save the box tops from General Mill products. For more information, go to :

<http://www.boxtops4education.com>

Empties4Cash. Save used computer ink cartridges and old cell phones. For more information, go to:

<http://www.empties4cash.com>

Place all the items in the tub in the missions area in the narthex. Our school employees will divide the items for their participating schools.



# Things to Remember!

1. November 29 – Greening of the church following Pot Luck Luncheon
2. December 13 - Christmas Cantata-Lunch to follow.
3. December 13 – Youth are invited to Lakeview UMC for a combined youth Christmas party. Bring a snack food.
4. December 15 – Pastor’s Lay Support Committee – 7:00
5. December 20 – Enchanted Tree
6. December 20 - Pastor Jimmy and Shannon will be hosting an open house at the parsonage from 3:00 – 5:00.
7. December 22 – Pastor’s Lay Support Committee – 7:00
8. December 24 – Christmas Eve Service - 5:30
9. Hand Bell Choir practice – Sunday’s @ 4:00
10. Piece Makers Quilting Ministry – Thursday’s 6:00
11. Bible Study – Wednesday’s 10:00
12. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays - bring cans of food and boxes of food for Caritas





# Notations

## *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*



During 1857-1858 revival broke out in Philadelphia, PA. A young preacher, Dudley Tyng, one day preached to 5000 men using Exodus 10:11 as his text: "Go now ye that are men and serve the Lord." About 1000 responded to his invitation that evening. On the following Wednesday he was out checking his corn-shelling machine when his arm accidentally got pulled into the machine and was severed off. The doctors did not believe he would live. While Tyng lay in great pain, he entreated his doctor to accept Christ. With a room filled with other preachers he asked them to "Sing, sing, Can you not sing." His last admonition to his friends was to "Tell the people to stand up for Jesus." George Duffield witnessed his friend's death that day and heard his dying words. That week he wrote the words to our hymn, "**Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus.**"

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross;  
Lift high His royal banner, it must not suffer loss;  
From victory unto victory His army shall he lead,  
Till every foe is vanquished, and Christ is Lord indeed.*

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the trumpet call obey;  
Forth to the mighty conflict, in this His glorious day;  
"Ye that are men now serve Him" against unnumbered foes;  
Let courage rise with danger, and strength to strength oppose.*

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus, stand in His strength alone;  
The arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own;  
Put on the gospel armor, each piece put on with prayer;  
Where duty calls, or danger, be never wanting there.*

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the strife will not be long;  
This day the noise of battle, the next, the victor's song;  
To Him that overcometh, a crown of life shall be;  
He with the King of glory shall reign eternally*

"May **THE GOD OF HOPE** fill you with all the joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13.

*Love and Blessings,  
Jan*

# “Happenings!”



## THANK YOU!

*We want to thank everyone who baked cookies for the Jubilee. We greatly appreciate all you did and they were very much enjoyed during our fellowship time. We also want to thank those who served as ushers and greeters during the event to help make it a success.*

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jennifer Proctor and Justin Rich who were joined in marriage during a beautiful ceremony at the church on October 31, 2009. We wish you much joy and happiness.

## Christmas Open House at the Parsonage

*Pastor Jimmy and Shannon will host an open house at the parsonage on Sunday, December 20. Join us for a come-and-go holiday fellowship from 3:00-5:00.*

### Need to have an article published in the newsletter?



If you would like to have an article published in the newsletter, please submit the information at least a week before the 1st of the month so we can mail out the newsletter prior to the beginning of the month. Information may be given to Kim Rierendflesch or Jimmy Sansom. If you'd prefer, you may e-mail your information to:

[kpursche80@aol.com](mailto:kpursche80@aol.com)

### Prayer Ministry

We have started a prayer ministry. One aspect we lack at Sparks Memorial UMC is a deep and meaningful prayer ministry. This does not mean that you have to pray out loud or lead the prayer. We get together on Wednesday's at 10:00, begin with a study of prayer using different scriptures to guide us, then gather together in the sanctuary and lift up in prayer each other, the church, our church representatives, those that are in the hospital or are homebound, our joys and our concerns, or any other matter that we want to lift up to God and then retreat to a place on our own where we can dialogue with God on our own. God answers prayers and wants us to lift them up to Him. Please join Pastor Jimmy and others if you would be willing to participate in this ministry. Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."



# “Happenings!” Continued...



## *Ruff Skin Cream* by Carolyn Riendfliesch

*You can get all these ingredients at a Dollar General Store.*

- 1 15-16 oz. Bottle of Baby Lotion*
- 1 7.5 oz. Jar of Petroleum Jelly*
- 2 8 oz. Jars of Vitamin E Cream*

*Mix all ingredients together gently.  
Makes 1 ¼ qts.*



*Practice @ 4:00 on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.*

*The handbell choir will be performing on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.*

*If you would like to join please talk to Sarah Blair.*

## *I hear the Prophet Callin'*



*Please join us for our Christmas Cantata given by the choir on December 13, 2009 @ 10:45 a.m.*

# In Our Prayers

## Prayer Requests

### Our Leaders

Bishop Mike Lowry  
District Superintendent,  
Roderick and wife Carol  
Miles

### The Family of Faith

Alvin Adams  
Bob & Norma Abel  
Alma Angle  
Ruth Bailey  
Gladys Bishop  
Amanda Bowden  
Vivian Brewer  
John & Linda Brown  
Herman Buro  
Olivia Cloud  
Mary Ann Craig  
Mae Day  
Vanus DeArmon

## Prayer Requests Continued

Naomi Fentress  
Virginia Hassel  
Barbara Huber  
Malcolm Jackson  
Marvin Jeffcoat  
Margarite Loveless  
Cora Makowski  
Marilyn Merritt  
Lorene Miller  
Edith Navara  
Christine Pursche  
Ernest Pursche  
Jack Saunders  
E.J. Smith  
Oneta Sturdivant  
Max Sturdivant  
Wilma Vinson  
Hugh Yates  
Jeneta Young

## Prayer Requests Continued

### Our Extended Family

Skip Blancett  
Jayden Carnes  
Josh Crell  
Skip Huber  
Paul Hulsey  
Mark Jackson  
Layne Lynch  
Corey McCarron  
Donna Meyer  
Chuck Merritt  
Gregg Rogers  
Charles Stone



But when you  
pray, go into your  
room, close the  
door and pray to  
your Father, who  
is unseen.

Then your  
Father, who sees  
what is done in  
secret, will  
reward you.

Matthew 6:6

# December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1.	2. Choir Practice @ 7:00	3.	4.	5.
6. <b><i>Food for Caritas</i></b> Bring your can goods and non- perishable foods. Handbell's @ 4:00 Choir Practice @ 7:00	7.	8.	9. Choir Practice @ 7:00	10.	11.	12.
13. Christmas Cantata "I Hear the Prophet Callin" Performed by the Choir @ 10:45	14.	15. Pastor's Lay Support Committee @ 7:00	16. Choir Practice @ 7:00	17.	18.	19.
20. <b><i>Food for Caritas</i></b> Bring your can goods and non- perishable foods. ~ <i>Enchanted Tree</i> ~  <i>Handbell's @ 4:00</i>	21.	22. Pastor's Lay Support Committee @ 7:00	23. Choir Practice @ 7:00	24. Christmas Eve Service @ 5:30	25. Christmas Day	26.
27. Handbell's @ 4:00	28.	29.	30. Choir Practice @ 7:00	31. New Year's Eve		

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UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**  
900 Maxfield  
Waco, Texas 76705

