



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



Jimmy's Jots

As I looked out at the congregation today I saw that there were many people absent. I sort of expected it because of the weather. We don't want to get out in that nasty weather and possibly get wet so we stay home where we are safe from the elements. I also know that there are others that were not with us because of other engagements that have been previously planned. And then there are those that physically can't make it because of sickness or injury or some other reason. Then I asked myself what those that weren't present in the service were missing. And I also asked what the members that were present were missing because the others weren't there. With these thoughts in mind I began reading an article about what the most important ingredient is in worship.

Well, I ask you that same question? What is the most important ingredient during the worship service? Is it the music? Is it prayer? Maybe it is the scripture reading or perhaps it is the sermon. One definition of worship is a church service or some other rite showing reverence or a devotion to God. This indicates there is some physical aspect going on by the words "showing reverence". If we are "showing reverence", this must mean that we must be participating in something. If we are participating in something then I believe the most important ingredient during the worship service is your presence.

You can't have worship without a community of faith. You can have solitary moments of prayer or singing songs but worship requires a gathering of those whose desire is to celebrate our Creator that is made present to us through the life of Jesus Christ. Worship requires a response. Without you, there is not worship service. The most important ingredient in the worship service is your presence and your participation. Worship is a corporate affair. It invites us to participate in many ways.

The Introit calls us to begin to focus our minds and to be centered. The Call to Worship invites us to praise God and allow the Holy Spirit to come into our presence. Our voices in song are bound together in unison to offer praises and thanksgiving. Our children's moment and the sermon ask us to listen to the word of God and to respond and take action. Our scripture readings open us up to God's word. Romans 10:17 tells us that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Our invitation hymn invites those who want to join the church to come forward. When we recite the liturgy for baptisms and Holy Communion, we do it with a corporate voice and a response to action.

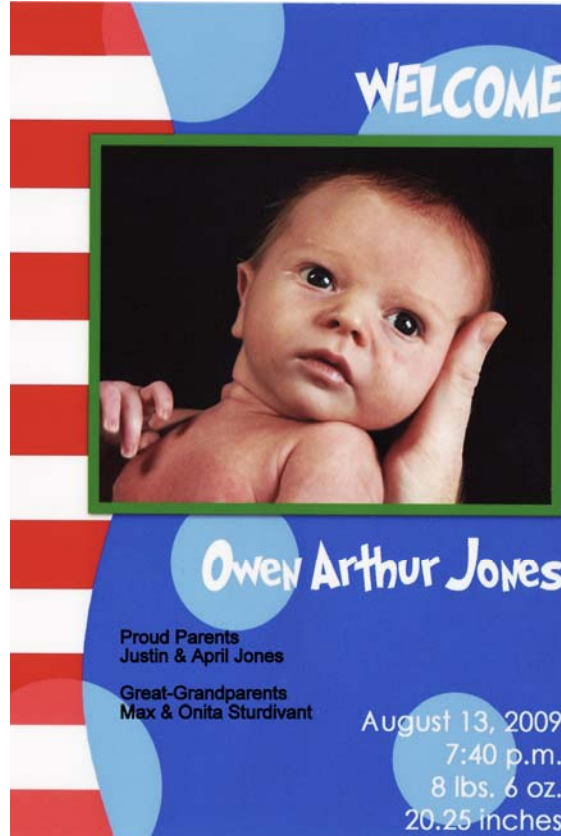
All of these play important parts in worship but you are the main ingredient. Worship depends on the interaction of the entire congregation by focusing on every element whether that be prayer, scripture reading, singing hymns or responding to the call to worship or benediction. All of these play a significant role in the service but all of them require your presence and participation.

If you aren't in worship you are missed. Worship just isn't about the listening to the sermon. Worship is about you and God. So, without you there is no worship. You are the catalyst, the main ingredient for worship each Sunday. I hope to see all of you next Sunday so we can worship together.

Grace and Peace to all,
Pastor Jimmy



Welcome the newest arrival to our church family.



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 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 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 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

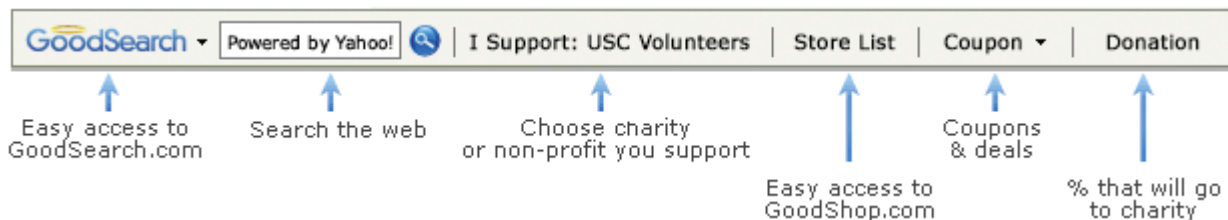
Goodsearch.com ~ Continued

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)...

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 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 1st and 3rd 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.

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. October 11 – Worship Committee 4:00
2. October 17 – Young Adults – Putt Putt – time TBD
3. October 19 – Evangelism Meeting 7:00
4. October 25 – 27 – Revival with Rev. Mark Winter
5. October 25 – Poor Man’s Meal following the service
6. November 1 – Daylight Savings Time ends – move clocks back 1 hour
7. November 1 – All Saints Sunday
8. November 5 – Charge Conference 6:30 – 8:30
9. November 22 – 5:00 Tri Cities Ministerial Alliance Music Service @ Concord Baptist Church
10. November 29 – Greening of the church following worship
11. Piece Makers Quilting Ministry – Thursday’s 6:00
12. 1st and 3rd Sundays - bring cans of food and boxes of food for Caritas

Church Conference

Church Conference will meet on **November 5th from 6:30 – 8:30**. Many forms and reports will need to be made. Committee chairs need to start writing their reports to be handed in at the end of the church conference. A lot of information is needed to prepare for the conference so I will be asking some of you to help get the information to me. There are important issues that will need to be voted upon such as the leadership of the church and the pastor’s salary. Your vote needs to be included so please plan on attending.



Notations

Day By Day



Karolina Sandell, born on October 3, 1832 at Froderyd, Sweden. She was a daughter of the pastor of the parish church of that community. Being a frail youngster, she usually preferred to spend her time in her father's study rather than to join her comrades in play.

When she was twenty-six years of age, she accompanied her father on a journey to Gothenburg, but tragedy occurred before the destination was reached. The ship gave a sudden lurch and Lina's father fell overboard and drowned before the eyes of his devoted daughter. From this experience came the precious hymn:

Day By Day

Verse 1

Day by day and with each passing moment,
Strength I find to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure,
Give unto each day what He deems best;
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

Verse 2

Ev'ry day the Lord Himself is near me
With a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He fain would bear and cheer me,
He whose name is Counselor and Pow'r.
The protection of His child and treasure,
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;
"As your days, your strength shall be in measure,"
This the pledge to me He made.

Verse 3

Help me then in ev'ry tribulation,
So to trust Your promises, O Lord;
That I lose not faith's sweet consolation,
Offered me within Your holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,
E'er to take, as from a Father's hand,
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,
Till I reach the promised land.

"May **THE GOD OF HOPE** fill you with all 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

“Happenings!”



Academy of Christian Education

The 2009 Academy of Christian Education will be held Nov. 9-13 at Still Water Lodge, Glen Lake Camp and Retreat Center in Glen Rose. During the week, one full day each is dedicated to theology (especially concentrating on UM theology, practice, and history), Bible, and Christian education basics. Each evening is spent in small groups concentrating on using the information in practical and effective ways. Each day ends with a worship service planned by the participants using their “multiple intelligences” or learning styles, and organized for the age groups their small group serves in their place of ministry: children, youth, or adult.

This event is for all persons who lead education and spiritual formation ministries and is for all age levels. Some scholarships might be available. There is a limit of 30 people. The cost is \$350 which includes lodging, 11 meals, and materials.

Prayer Ministry

Pastor Jimmy wants to start 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 would get together one day per week 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. I believe God answers prayer and wants us to lift them up to Him. Please let Pastor Jimmy know 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.”



Bible Study

Bible study will start back up on Wednesday, October 21 at 10:00. I am looking into material for the next study and will let you know what it is as soon as I decide. If you are planning to attend the Bible study, please let Pastor Jimmy know so he can order enough materials for all.

If Bible study does not work for you during the day time I am willing to hold an evening Bible study also. Please let me know if you would like to have an evening Bible study. Also, if you are willing to lead a Bible study, that would be wonderful.

“Happenings!” Continued...



Mark Winter's "One Man Show" Revival Jubilee

NOT YOUR FATHER'S REVIVAL!

When some people hear the word “revival,” they think of draggy worship services and long-winded sermons. Not so with a One Man Show Jubilee! Mark Winter's One Man Show Jubilee is a mix of inspirational messages, humorous drama and programs designed to help people discover strength, hope and joy in God.

Sparks Memorial United Methodist Church will host a One Man Show Jubilee from October 25, to October 27, 2009

Sunday worship begins at 10:45 a.m. and evening services at 7:00 p.m.

The church is located at 900 Maxfield, Bellmead, Tx. 76705.

Rev. Winter, who lives in Ft. Worth, Texas, formed his One Man Show Ministries in 1999 as a “creative force for God.” He is a General Evangelist of the United Methodist Church and author of *If There Is No God*, published by Cook Communications. At one church where Rev. Winter conducted Jubilee services, the pastor wrote, *“Mark brought a unique and refreshing approach to revival that was enthusiastically embraced by our congregation. He held everyone's attention with his blend of humor, stories and gospel message.”*

You are warmly invited to attend these special services to be renewed in mind and spirit!

Fall Leadership Summit

Bishop Robert Schnase, author of one of today's most sought after studies on practices that propel churches into dynamic ministry, will be leading the Central Texas Conference's 2009 Fall summit Nov. 14 at FUMC Mansfield.

“The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations” will be the basis for this program, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with Bishop Schnase leading three plenary sessions. During lunche, CTC local church leaders will guide a dialogue on each of the practices, and discuss real local church models of how these practices are working here in our own conference area.

The Central Texas Conference has partnered with the Texas methodist Foundation in this event to local churches laity and clergy. Because of their support, the conference is able to offer our CTC churches some incentives to attend, and to register early. These include:

- 1) For the first churches who register **10 people before October 1**, they will receive 10 free copies of Bishop Schnase's book.
- 2) TMF will provide 15 media kits for the congregational study to be awarded to local churches in a drawing on that day.
- 3) **We will provide scholarships (free registration) for the first 15 small or ethnic churches who register 10 people (plus they will receive the free books if they register before October 1).**

Cost for the summit ranges from \$15 - \$25 depending on when you register. Please see Pastor Jimmy if you would like to attend. If we have 10 or more interested, we will see if we can be one of the first 15 small churches to register first.

“Happenings!” Continued...



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 Riendfliesch or Jimmy Sansom. If you'd prefer, you may e-mail your information to:

kpursche80@aol.com



From one pumpkin to another!!!



*A roman was asked by a cororker,
'What is it like to be a Christian?'
The cororker replied, 'It is like being a
pumpkin.' God picks you from the patch,
brings you in, and washes all the dirt off
of you. Then He cuts off the top and
scoops out all the yucky stuff.
He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and
greed. Then He carves you a new
smiling face and puts His light inside of
you to shine for all the world to see.'*

*This was passed on to me by another
pumpkin. Now it's your turn to pass it
to other pumpkins.*

*I liked this enough to send it to all the
pumpkins in my patch.*

Love to all,

Kimberly Riendfliesch



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
Whitney & Robbie 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
Skip Huber
Paul Hulsey
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

October 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1.	2.	3.
4. <u>Food for Caritas</u> Bring your can goods and non-perishable foods. Choir Practice @ 5:00	5.	6.	7. Choir Practice @ 7:00	8. Piecemakers Quilting Ministry @ 6:00	9.	10.
11. Choir Practice @ 5:00 Worship Committee @ 4:00	12.	13.	14. Choir Practice @ 7:00	15. Piecemakers Quilting Ministry @ 6:00	16.	17. Young Adults- Putt Putt T.B.D.

18. <u>Food for Caritas</u> Bring your can goods and non-perishable foods. Choir Practice @ 5:00	19. Evangelism Meeting @ 7:00	20.	21. Choir Practice @ 7:00	22. Piecemakers Quilting Ministry @ 6:00	23.	24.
25. Choir Practice @ 5:00 Revival w/Mark Winter-10:45 & 7:00	26. Revival w/Mark Winter-7:00	27. Revival w/Mark Winter-7:00	28. Choir Practice @ 7:00	29. Piecemakers Quilting Ministry @ 6:00	30.	31.



**SPARKS MEMORIAL
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

900 Maxfield
Waco, Texas 76705