



Jimmy's Jots



This month for Jimmy's Jots I would like to share with you a poem that was given to me that had been printed for the church many years ago. It talks about our expectations of the church. Please think about this when the church just isn't exactly like you think the church should be.

I would also like to add that I am including more articles in the newsletter. We have had 23 people join the church since I have arrived. There are many opportunities for events and seminars that are put on by other churches and the conference for us to attend. We are a growing church, both spiritually and numerically, and we have opportunities that will help us in each of those areas if we just take advantage of them and have leaders in the church willing to commit some time and energy in them. They are opportunities for us, please take advantage of them.

If you should find the perfect church
Without one fault or smear
For goodness sake! Don't join that church
You'd spoil the atmosphere.

If you would find the perfect church
Where all anxieties cease
Then pass it by lest joining it
You mar the masterpiece.

If you should find the perfect church
Then don't you ever dare,
To tread upon such holy ground,
You'd be a misfit there.

But since no perfect church exist
Made of perfect men,
Then let's cease looking for that church
And love the church we're in.

Of course it's not a perfect church
That's simple to discern
But you and I and all of us
Could cause the tide to turn.

What fools we are to flee our post,
In that unfruitful search
To find at last where problems loom
God proudly builds His Church.

So let's keep working in our Church
Until the resurrection.
And we each will join that church
Without an imperfection.

*Grace and Peace to all,
Pastor Jimmy*



Welcome our 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

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.

Quilting/Sewing Ministry



A total of 33 handmade quilts were dedicated on August 31 by the Piecemakers Quilters. They will be donated to Quilts For Kids, an organization which gives quilts to needy and displaced area children.

Quilters will meet each Thursday night at 6:30. Please join us so that we can continue this ministry.

Shannon Sansom



For our August Mission Project we collected new backpacks for the students of La Vega Primary School. We had set a goal of 10-15 backpacks and yet again the church exceeded that number with a total of 25 backpacks for disadvantaged students. Thank you for all that you do for the mission projects. You are doing what God wants us to do by reaching out to others less fortunate.



Our September mission project will be a blood drive in conjunction with our Harvest Festival and Health Fair. More information on this will be upcoming. Donors must be at least 17 years of age to donate.

Things to Remember!

1. September 14 – Harvest Festival Meeting 6:00
2. September 18 – Lunch delivery to businesses
3. September 19 – Harvest Festival 9:00 – 2:00
4. October 15 – Charge Conference 6:30 – 8:30
5. October 17 – Young Adults – Putt Putt – time TBD
6. October 19 – Evangelism Meeting 7:00
7. October 25 – 27 – Revival with Rev. Mark Winter
8. Craft Night every Monday 6:00 – 9:00
9. Piece Makers Quilting Ministry – Thursday's 6:00

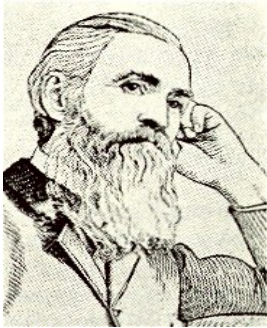
1st and 3rd Sundays - bring cans of food and boxes of food for Caritas

Church Conference

Church Conference will meet on October 15 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



The Sweet By And By

The history of this precious hymn is given by the author himself, Sanford F. Bennett. Mr. Joseph Webster, like many musicians, was of an exceeding nervous and sensitive nature, and subject to periods of depression. I found that I could rouse him by giving him a new song on which to work.

He came into my drug store, walked down to the stove, and turned his back on me without speaking. I was at my desk writing. Turning to him I said, "Webster, what is the matter now?" "It's no matter," he replied, "it will be all right by and by." The idea came to me like a flash of sunlight and I replied, "The Sweet By and By! Why would not that make a good hymn?" "Maybe it would," said he indifferently. Turning to my desk, I penned the words as fast as I could write. I handed the words to Webster. As he read, his eyes kindled, and stepping to the desk, he began writing the notes. Taking his violin, he played the melody and then jotted down the notes of the chorus. It was not over thirty minutes from the time I took my pen to write the words before two friends with Webster and myself were singing the hymn, **The Sweet By and By**.

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*There's a land that is fairer than day, and by faith we can see it afar,  
For the Father waits over the way to prepare us a dwelling place there.*

*refrain:  
In the sweet by and by,  
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;  
In the sweet by and by,  
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.*

*We shall sing on that beautiful shore the melodious songs of the blest;  
And our spirits shall sorrow no more - not a sigh for the blessing of rest.*

*To our bountiful Father above we will offer our tribute of praise,  
For the glorious gift of His love and the blessings that hallow our days.*

"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!”



## Baylor University and TSTC

Both Baylor and TSTC had their move in days with many new students beginning their college education. Sparks Memorial was well represented at each of these events. Thanks go out to Pastor Jimmy, Judy Pursche, Kimberly Riendfliesch, Arnold Blair, Juliana Moreno, Glenn Craig, Steven Stone, and all who contributed cookies. There were many students that stopped by our table and inquired about the ministries at the church. We gave out our tri-fold brochures and flyers about the Harvest Festival at both events and also gave out cookies at TSTC. There are lots of students looking for a home church while they are attending college. A couple of the students have already visited the church. Let's make this opportunity and welcoming opportunity for them. When you see a visiting student, greet them and talk to them. Let them know we are glad to see them and that they will find a wonderful and worshipful experience at Sparks Memorial UMC. Make them feel comfortable and a part of the family. I look forward to our young adult ministry growing with these students.



## 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.

# “Happennings! - Continued!”



## Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival is just around the corner. Many plans have been made and many people are busy. This year we will be including a health fair, blood drive, children's play area, craft room, bake sale, live auction, silent auction, BBQ lunch, and Friday lunch for businesses.

There will be much help needed in these areas. We are trying to personally ask each of you to help in these areas. If we do not ask you personally, please let us know you are willing to help. We don't want to leave anybody out but we might miss a few people. We want you and need you.

Our health fair will feature many different areas. I don't know what all will be present but we will have the bloodmobile in the parking lot. There will be a sign up sheet so you can sign up for a specific time to give blood. Carter Blood Center will be in the church on September 13<sup>th</sup> to go over some of the requirements and answer any questions you might have. Many requirements have changed and new regulations are in place. Bring your neighbors and friends to worship that day so they can find out the new regulations.

There will be other health related centers at the church. Some of those that will be present are Walmart Vision Center, McLennan County 911, Lynn's Pharmacy, Bellmead Fire Department and Treat N Go Clinic. There might be others that will be joining also. There will be a lot of information for you to pick up and you can get your blood and blood pressure checked. There will be something for everybody.

We will have plenty of crafts available. Some of the women have been very busy on craft night at the church creating cute crafts. You can get a look at them in the Family Life Center. Make sure you tell others about the different crafts that are available.

Something new this year will be a children's play area. We are inquiring about renting a giant bounce house for the kids. There will also be other things for the children such as a tic-tac-toe game, lollipop tree, bean bag toss and some other things. The children will have lots of fun in these areas. Tickets for each of the games are only \$0.25 each.

The bake sale will be in full swing. Lots of goodies for everybody. Make sure you get there early so you can buy all your favorites before they are gone. You might even buy some of the goodies and freeze them for the holidays. You will be getting reminders to make something to put in the bake sale.

There will be a live and a silent auction. Some of the items we already have are: Judge Baylor House B&B, Scarborough Renaissance Festival tickets, Billy Bob's tickets, movie passes, autographed pennants, rodeo tickets, restaurant dinners, Museum tickets, Six Flag tickets, a day at the Spa at Canyon Oaks, oil change, Lighthouse B&B, Medieval Times tickets, and many other items. I've heard that another quilt will be auctioned and possibly another Italian Feast. Please ask businesses you frequent to donate. You can even purchase an item yourself and put it in the auction. We do need about 3 more people to help during the auction. If you can help, please see Pastor Jimmy.

We will be serving lunches to the businesses on Friday. Extra help will be needed during this time. Please, please, please help if you are available. We will need people to help prepare the food, dish the food into containers, sort the plate lunches for businesses, and deliver the food to the businesses. This is one of the biggest money makers we have and we need your help. There are flyers available for you to put up at businesses and tickets to sell for the Friday lunches. Tell the businesses about our lunches and ask if they would like to buy

some and have them delivered. The cost for these lunches are only \$7.00. It includes, brisket, sausage, potato salad, beans and desert.

Lunch on Saturday is also a time when we need everybody's help. We will be serving a lot of people. It is going to be a tiring day so if we all pitch in and help it will go much easier on all of us. The cost for lunch on Saturday is \$8.00 and will include the food already mentioned plus the drink. Please let Wynona or Pastor Jimmy know if you can help in the food area. It is desperately needed.

There are some other ways you can help support the food part of the Harvest Festival. We are trying to keep costs down as much as possible. We would like to have donations of brisket. Be on the lookout for some specials on briskets and pick one up and donate it. We are in need of 15-18 briskets and only have had 3 donated to date. If we can get them donated, all we will have to pay for is to have them cooked. This will save us a lot of money. If you can't buy a brisket but can donate the money to buy one, please see Wynona or Pastor Jimmy. There will also be a call for volunteers to cook potatoes. The bags of potatoes will be purchased and all we are asking you to do is to cook them and cut them up for the potato salad. If you will volunteer to cook a bag of potatoes, please see Wynona or Pastor Jimmy.

I am pleased to say that the profit made from the Harvest Festival has been suggested to split as follows. 10% to missions, 30% to the budget, and 60% to a capital improvement fund. All of these are worthwhile causes and they will be used for God's work. We are trying to help in local missions as well as a United Methodist missionary. Some of the money will cover some of our expenses as a church and the rest will be used to begin improving and renovating some of the church area and make it more attractive to others when they visit.

As you can see, there is a lot that goes on during Harvest Festival to get prepared. It can be a fun time where the church pitches in as a team and can fellowship and work along side of each other. If we all work together in all of these areas we will have a successful Harvest Festival and help us further our ministries at Sparks Memorial UMC.

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### **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:

[sparksumc@yahoo.com](mailto:sparksumc@yahoo.com).

Therefore, my dear brother,  
stand firm. Let nothing move  
you. Always give yourselves  
fully to the work of the Lord,  
because you know that your  
labor in the Lord is not in vain.  
1 Corinthians 15:58

**Sparks Memorial United Methodist Church  
2009 Harvest Festival Contribution Form  
Saturday, October 19, 2009  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Friday Business Lunch**

- |                                                                                                           |                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will help cook the meal                                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> I will prepare the lunch plate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will help place the lunch plates with the associated business                  |                                                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will help organize the lunch plates according to locations close to each other |                                                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will help deliver lunches to the businesses                                    |                                                         |

**Saturday Lunch**

- |                                                    |                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will help cook the meal | <input type="checkbox"/> I will help serve the meal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will prepare a desert   | <input type="checkbox"/> I will help prepare drinks |

**Miscellaneous Needs**

- |                                                         |                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will provide a brisket       | <input type="checkbox"/> I will cook a sack of potatoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will provide a loaf of bread | <input type="checkbox"/> I will make potato salad       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will provide money \$_____   |                                                         |

**Bake Sale**

- |                                                 |                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will provide a cake  | <input type="checkbox"/> I will provide a pie           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will provide a bread | <input type="checkbox"/> I will provide candy/jam/jelly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will provide _____   |                                                         |

**Work Areas**

- |                                                             |                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will help in the silent auction  | <input type="checkbox"/> I will help in the live auction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will help in the children's area | <input type="checkbox"/> I will help in the craft room   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will help in the bake sale       | <input type="checkbox"/> I will help in the health fair  |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please turn into the church office or Pastor Jimmy or the offering plate

# “Happenings! - Continued!”



TO: Youth Ministers, Youth and Parents of the Central Texas Conference  
RE: CTC College Preview Day – Sept. 12, 2009 (let Pastor Jimmy know if you plan to attend)

If you have seen the latest [Interpreter magazine](#) about “Crafting Quality — Developing principles Christian leaders,” you know that this process begins in the local church. But it continues as our young people discern and choose their future paths, usually beginning with their choice of college. Because we lose too many of our young people at the college level, our conference is making a concerted effort to help students consider the benefits of choosing a United Methodist-related school and, if not, at least staying connected through our campus ministry opportunities at most schools. We’re asking for your help to make sure as many students as possible attend the College Preview Day Sept. 12 on the campus of Methodist Children’s Home. We have commitments from 27 exhibitors and will have separate sessions for students and their parents.

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**Central Texas Conference United Methodist College,  
University, Seminary, Campus Ministry Preview Day**

**September 12, 2009 • 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Methodist Children’s Home, 1111 Herring Ave., Waco, TX**  
[www.methodistchildrenshome.org](http://www.methodistchildrenshome.org)

- 10 a.m. **Gathering in the Preview Day Exhibit Hall – Johnson Student Center**  
*(parking behind Administration Bldg., on street and around the circle)*  
Welcome: Bobby Gilliam, President, Methodist Children’s Home  
Special Comments: Dr. Georgia Adamson, Assistant to the Bishop & Executive Director of Mission Ministries  
Special Comments: Jeff Jones, CTCYM Director
- 10:30-11:30 a.m. **Focused Sessions for Students and Parents**  
**Student Session – Mulkey Religion Education Bldg.**  
*(parking behind Education Bldg. and along street)*  
Panel of current college students - Jeff Jones, moderator  
Stefanie Reed – Texas A&M/Glen Lake Camp summer staff  
Courtney Thompson – Texas Christian University/Wesley Foundation Board member  
Payton Carter – Lon Morris/Bishop’s Scholarship recipient
- Parents Session – Harrell Chapel**  
*(parking behind Education Bldg. and along street)*  
Scholarship & Loan Opportunities - GBHEM representative  
Financial Aid – College financial advisor  
How to fill out government financial assistance forms  
Meaningful ways to stay connected with your student
- 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. **Exhibit Halls – Johnson Student Center**  
Informal visiting with school representatives and campus ministry representatives and resource materials from schools  
(Snack foods and bottled water available)

# “Happenings! - Continued!”



## Revival with Rev. Mark Winter

Sparks Memorial UMC is holding a revival jubilee. Our guest preacher will be Rev. Mark Winter from the One Man Show. The revival will be held October 25 – 27. Rev. Winter will preach Sunday morning and will be giving us our messages on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>.

A One Man Show Jubilee is a three-day spiritual renewal opportunity for the entire church and community. Sunday morning, Rev. Winter will kick off the event with a message explaining the Old Testament Jubilee and its relevance for today. He will also give a magical children's message.

The Jubilee continues in the evenings with messages and skits that emphasize spiritual freedom and restoration. He will end the event with a powerful sermon on the Jubilee trumpets, urging the church to "sound off" for Christ.

During his stay, he is available for a variety of devotional programs for men, women and youth. If you would like to have him bring a devotional to a group, please see pastor Jimmy.

This Jubilee is an excellent way to bring our congregation together to focus on what really matters. We will be encouraged, challenged, entertained and educated. After a Jubilee in Oklahoma, a United Methodist pastor wrote, *"It is evident that God has called and gifted Mark to the ministry of an evangelist. His love for God, his enthusiasm, energy and playfulness shines through his sermons and each character he portrays."*

Please mark the dates on your calendar and plan on being a part of this wonderful event. Invite your friends, neighbors and relatives. It will be an experience you won't forget.

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## 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.

# 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  
John & Linda Brown  
Herman Buro  
Olivia Cloud  
Mary Ann Craig  
Mae Day  
Vanus DeArmon  
Nettie Dellinger

## Prayer Requests Continued

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

## Prayer Requests Continued

### Our Extended Family

Jayden Carnes  
Helga Case  
Josh Crell  
Hollingsworth Family  
Skip Huber  
Paul Hulsey  
Layne Lynch  
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

## *Promises of Joy*

*For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

*2 Corinthians 4:17-18*

# September 2009

| Sunday                                                                                 | Monday                                                          | Tuesday | Wednesday                       | Thursday                                          | Friday                                         | Saturday                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                                                                        |                                                                 | 1.      | 2.<br>Choir Practice @<br>7:00  | 3.<br>Piecemakers<br>Quilting<br>Ministry @ 6:00  | 4.                                             | 5.                                  |
| 6.<br><u>Food for Caritas</u><br>Bring your can<br>goods and non-<br>perishable foods. | 7.<br>Craft Night<br>6-9                                        | 8.      | 9.<br>Choir Practice @<br>7:00  | 10.<br>Piecemakers<br>Quilting<br>Ministry @ 6:00 | 11.                                            | 12.                                 |
| 13.                                                                                    | 14.<br>Craft Night<br>6-9<br>Harvest Festival<br>Meeting @ 6:00 | 15.     | 16.<br>Choir Practice @<br>7:00 | 17.<br>Piecemakers<br>Quilting<br>Ministry @ 6:00 | 18.<br>Harvest Festival<br>Business<br>Lunches | 19.<br>Harvest Festival<br>9-2 p.m. |
| 20.<br><u>Food for Caritas</u><br>Bring your can<br>goods and non-<br>perishable foods | 21.                                                             | 22.     | 23.<br>Choir Practice @<br>7:00 | 24.<br>Piecemakers<br>Quilting<br>Ministry @ 6:00 | 25.                                            | 26.                                 |
| 27.                                                                                    | 28.                                                             | 29.     | 30.<br>Choir Practice @<br>7:00 |                                                   |                                                |                                     |

**SPARKS MEMORIAL  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**  
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