

# CHURCH MATTERS

CHURCH MATTERS      DECEMBER 17, 2013

## BLUE CHRISTMAS



We are just 8 days away from Christmas Day. For many of us, this is a

time of happy anticipation with the waiting for the arrival of Jesus marked with joyous occasions, the laughter of children, the lighting of candles and the wrapping of gifts. Yet we all take our turn when the holidays present more of a challenge because of a loss or hardship that has occurred in the past year. You or someone you care deeply

about could be facing a disease or illness, the loss of a relationship, the grief of a loved one's death, or a financial challenge. Any number of situations can make the usual response of joy difficult this season.

This year, Eules First will be offering a service of hope and healing for those who are struggling. We hope you will consider coming or bringing someone who might benefit from a message of hope this Wednesday evening, December 18. Pastor Steve and seminary pastoral intern, Stefani Reed will share with us a word of peace and give you an awareness

of the light of Christ even in the darkest of situations.

This will be a powerful evening of worship as we anticipate the light of Christ coming into the world. The service will include communion

If you think this invitation might belong to someone else, forward it along and invite them to attend with you. This could be an amazing blessing for them. We understand Christ came to give each one of us this great gift of unconditional love. So, "Come, let us adore him" and receive the gift.

## BLUE CHRISTMAS

**What:** Service of comfort and hope

**When:** December 18, 6:00 p.m.

**Who:** Everyone and their families who suffer from pain, loss, isolation, grief

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Join us this year as we look at, "A Different Kind of Christmas: Reframing the Christmas Story." Pastor Steve will be following Mike Slaughters' book.



**Dec. 29:** Sermon Topic: By a Different Road, Matthew 2:1-12

Please join us this Advent season, and be sure to invite a friend, as

Here is what is still to come this Advent Season and our Christmas services:

**Dec. 18:** Blue Christmas Service 6:00 p.m.

**Dec. 22:** Sermon Topic: Jesus' Wish List, Luke 2:8-20

**Dec. 24:** Family Service at 5:30 p.m., Service of Candles and Communion at 8:00 and 11:00 p.m. Childcare will be available for the 5:30 and 8:00 p.m. services.

**Dec. 25:** Lessons and Carols 3:00 p.m.

together we look at the Christmas story in a new light, emphasizing that it is not your birthday— its Jesus'.

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PRAYER LIST

If your prayer request has been left off, please resubmit it. All requests are for 30 days only, and will need to be resubmitted after that time.

Adair Family	Bickel's cousin	Jack Loftin, Stephen	Pierre Kenyon's mother	Pat Holland, Cindy	Goodrich's friend
Alan LaMarche, Larry and Phyllis Augustus' friend	Don Mode	Pilney's co-worker's father	Mariagraco Castoneda, Caro and Pierre Kenyon's baby niece	Balentine's sister	Vincee Carlisle
All the homeless in this cold weather (and always)	Doug and Heidi Graham	Jackie Keith	Marlene Hill and John Lewis	Pearl Henry	Warner Muirhead
All those in addiction	Dylan Ratliff	Jan Isabell	Maurine Padgett, Nancy Bickel's co-worker	People of Syria and Egypt	<b>In the Military:</b>
Benjamin Cundiff	Edna Utesch, Johnny	Jason Schmidt's father, Norbert, Johnny and Teresa Watt's friend	Maxine and Bill Wallace, Kimberly Knighton's friends	Persons struggling with depression	Carl Miller
Betty Owen, Janet Ledbetter's cousin	Watt's mother	Jim and Janeeke Richter, Caro Kenyon's friend	Michael Mulholland	Pierre Tshimanga's family	Chris Mulford, Pat Bailey's grandson
Bill Evans, Sharon Menix's son-in-law	Elaine Bell, Lynne Moffatt's friend	John, Kristine, and Gianna Dickson, TJ Pepper's friend	Michele Heroux and family, Amber Hawthorne's friend	Richard Morrow	Colton Hardaway and Kayla Davis, son and daughter-in-law of Michael and Lore Osborn
Bill Farmer	Elisse Gordon, Ginger Miller's niece	John West, Mary Williams' step-dad	Michele Moffatt, Alan and Lynne Moffatt's sister-in-law	Robbie Breaux, Audrey Coats' friend	Eric Sherrer, Justin Sherrer, Patric Owen, and Alan McClelland, Grandnephews of Vic and Judy Torres
Bob and Sylvia Newsom	Family of Brenda Young, Shametrious Sims' Aunt	Kathy Hootens, Lucille Link's niece	Michelle and Baker Ingram	Ron Hula, Stephen Pilney's friend	Gail Worofka
Bobby and Debi Francis	Family of Frances Hodo	Kellsey Abbott, Sherwood and Cheri Abbott's granddaughter	Mitch, Chris and Heather Grimm's uncle	Ruth Trimmer, Vicki Smith's mother	James Fiaccone, Sue Fiaccone's grandson
Brandon Hale, Lia Maloney's friend	Family of Marilyn Hobbs, Lesli Cummings' friend	Kevin Maines	Mr. Hori, Cara Fink's brother's father-in-law	Safe travels over the holidays	Jason Knighton
Bryan Craig and family, Doug Mulholland's son	Gabriela Troya, Caro Kenyon's sister	Kristin Hammit and family	Nancy Jones, Billie Bradford's cousin	Stan Clarke, Sue & Richard Morrow's friend	Jeffrey Stone, Lucille Link's nephew
Cameron Mode	Garry Partain, Fred and Billie Pallett's nephew	Lex Kelner, Ric and Shelly Grant's grandson	Nick and Lisa Schoenberger, Ron Coats' friends	Sydney Marie Peel, Pat May's great niece	Josh Crow, Annette Kelleher's son
Caro and Pierre Kenyon	Gene West, Peggy Ray Robertson's brother	Lou Alice Ashby, Billie Bradford's friend	Nolan Hardwick, Barbara Collier's father	Terron Muller, Les Foley's niece	Justin Knighton
Carol Hail, Dale Cox's aunt	Gordon and Linda Roberts, Nancy Bickel's friends	Marcie Dauphine		Tim Powel	Stephen Tate
Carol Rust, Dottie Rust's daughter	Greg, Evelyn Denmon's friend	Margaret Kenyon,		TJ Pepper	
Charleen and Jim Coleson, Kim Knighton's mother and father	Greg			Tom, Khiah's friend's grandpa	
David Viggiano, Nancy	Helen Dering, Mary Williams' friend			Tom Whitten, Jo Kemp's friend	
	Isabel Rosero, Caro Kenyon's mother			Tyler Nelson, Lori	

MEMORIALS

- Friendship Class/ Youth/In Memory of Richard Stone
- Robert & Sonia McMillon/ Memorial Fund/In Memory of Carol Francoise
- Jimmy & Helen Payton/Memorial Income/In Memory of Carol Francoise
- Together Class/ PEF/In Memory of William Heyduck
- Pat May/Memorial Income/In Memory of William Heyduck
- Kent & Tami Polenz/Memorial Income/In Memory of William Heyduck
- D.L. Cook/ Memorial Income/ In Memory of Carol Francoise
- Janet Ledbetter/ Children's Ministry/In Memory of Surman Young
- Weldon Cannon/ Memorial Income/ In Memory of Carol Francoise
- J.E. Loveless/ Memorial Income/ In Memory of Carol Francoise
- Kent & Tami Polenz/ Apportionments/ Memorial Apportionments
- Jack & Glada Rose/Memorial Income/In Memory of Carol Francoise
- Helen Voss/ Memorial Income/ In Memory of Carol Francoise
- Robert & Iva Nail/ Memorial Income/ In Memory of Carol Francoise and William Heyduck
- Glen Gleghorn/ Memorial Income/ In Memory of Carol Francoise
- John and Holly Quinn/Memorial Income/In Memory of Carol Francoise
- Steve and Norma Runyon/ gave to Music Fund/ In Memory of Carol Francoise

BIRTHDAYS

- December**
- 19 –Jeanette Jentsch, Courtney Barton
  - 20 –Rachel Heyduck
  - 21 –Eric Demmer, Brendan Gerardi, Brenda Hankins, Brenda Hurlbut
  - 22 –William Putnam
  - 23 –Adam Bohnenblust, Bryce Francis
  - 24 –Sara Taylor
  - 27 –Jane Everett
  - 30 –Madeline Church, B.J. Gray, Katie Lewis, Glada Rose

ANNIVERSARIES

- December**
- 18 –Kent & Tami Polenz
  - 19 –Lee & Sandy Swann, Larry & Linda Lewis

## CAROLING AT HEARTLAND

The Eules United Methodist Women invite you to meet them at Heartland Nursing Home in Bedford starting at 6:00 p.m. on

December 19th we will bring Christmas joy to those who might not have a chance to get out. Even if you say you can't carry a tune in

a bucket, don't let that stop you from spreading the joy and the reason for the season. Falalalalala lalala!!!!!!



## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Special congratulations to Raleigh and Berkley Wren who

welcomed their son, Meryk Silas Argilious Wren, 8 lb 3 oz, 20.5 in

born on December 5 at 4:41 p.m.

## ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

The flowers that grace our sanctuary each Sunday are a beautiful contribution to worship as well as a special way to honor your loved ones.

Now is the time to reserve flowers in recognition of special people or events in 2014. Please contact the church office to reserve your special date, request

a special kind of arrangement, and let us know who you would like to honor/remember in 2014.

## FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Just a reminder that the Food Pantry is open every Friday the except the 5th Friday of a month. For 2014 that will be Jan. 31st, May 30th, Aug. 29th & Oct. 31st that the Food Pantry will not be open.

The Food Pantry Volunteers will be going to the Food Bank on Wed. Jan. 15th, for fun, work and doing God's good work.

Here is the volunteer schedule:

### December

- 20– Darlene Carter, Helen Davies, Jill Schaneberg, Judy Torres, Brenda Hurlbut
- 22– Doris Brown, Trish Franklin, Marie Lusk, Dottie Rust

### January

- 3 –Joe Roberts, Sheri Roberts, Hedy Taylor, Judy Tribble
- 10 –Helen Davies, Gloria Daves, Linda Lewis, Maggie Lucas, Yvonne Rohlfling
- 17 –Darlene Carter, Kathy Chapman, Jill Schaneberg, Judy

- Torres
- 24 –Doris Brown, Trish Franklin, Brenda Hurlbut, Marie Lusk, Dottie Rust
- 31 –Pantry closed.

### Desperately Needed Food Items:

- Boxed Cereals
- Canned Soup

## NEW NAME TAGS

Have you noticed the new name tags? They are pretty nice! They have the church logo, pretty colors, and our names nice and clear! For some of us the small things are pretty great! Special thanks to Sally, Beverly and our great office volunteers for modernizing our name tag boards in the entrance hallway to the sanctuary.

Studies show that if your church has more than 120 attenders, one can no longer know everyone's name. Well Eules First meets that criteria. There are a lot of people that you may not know their names. Name tags make a wonderful way to make guests and new (and old) members get to know each other better. Together community is

cultivated, and we encourage further growth. Please help do your part, and diligently wear your name tag!



### CULTIVATING THE CALL

During the month of November, Pastor Steve hosted over 50 church members reflecting on 2013 and clarifying our mission in

our community. If you missed a meeting and would still like to participate in the conversation, we will begin organizing addition small

group meetings to continue these discussions in January. More information to come.

### DINNER FOR 8

Your Hospitality Team is organizing Dinners for 8 in 2014. The concept is simple, you say ok to going out to dinner once a month for 3

months with other church members. Once you sign up, you will be divided into small groups of 8. It is a great way to keep our growing

church seem a little smaller! Please consider joining in. More details coming soon.

### CLASSICS ADVENT DINNER



The Classics, those 65 and up, had a wonderful meal following church this past Sunday. What a wonderful time to enjoy the season with our church family. Special thanks to Janna

and Buddy Hamm, Dave and Linda Lewis, Kent and Tami Polenz, and Rita Young for helping coordinate our 2013 Advent Dinner for our Senior Adults---A good time was had by all. Also a special thanks to the office volunteers that called Classics to remind them of the

event. A very blessed Christmas to all, from the Classics!

### UNITED METHODIST MEN'S HAMS

The UMM had another great year of smoking hams. Thanks for all their hard work. They work all hours beginning the Thursday before they are ready. They also endure

smoke filled clothes for us to enjoy our Christmas ham. They did such a great job selling hams that they had to create a wait list. Funds collected from the hams sales

go to help ministries that the UMM supports. Thanks UMM for all you do!

### PASTORS OPEN HOUSE



Reverends Steve and Rachel Heyduck wish to extend a big thank you to all those that came out to enjoy their Open House last Saturday, December 14th. It was a great success.

Special thanks to Dave Lewis for helping with parking, to Janna Hamm, the Fresh Start Class, Sharon Menix, Lee Swann, and Charlotte Halleck for helping with cookies and platters. Their efforts make the event much more manageable. Until next year,

from the Heyducks to you Merry Christmas.



## ICE STORM

If you happened to miss it, there was a large ice storm that came over the DFW area December 5th. As a result many of us were stuck in our homes for many days. We also chose to cancel church on Sunday, December 8 along with most other churches in the area.

For some of us this was the first time Church has ever been closed. Yet the roads were such, that it was best for us to ask you all to stay home

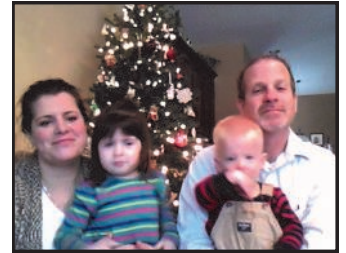
and stay safe.

Pastor Steve and family still had a message that morning, and lit an Advent candle for the Sunday. If you have not yet seen the video from last Sunday, it is still available to watch through our website, [www.fumceuleless.org](http://www.fumceuleless.org). Just click on Worship and the 2013 Archives.

It was quite humorous video with the young Heyducks attempting to blow out the

Advent Candles, and running around during Steve's message. Yet, it was very apropos for the message, *Giving Up on Perfect*.

It was wonderful to worship together even in such a non-traditional manner. Hopefully it was a bit of warmth in the midst of such a cold weekend.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Aubree Marlow has been hard at work with the Children's Ministry at Euless First United Methodist Church. This last week she sent out the first installment of the Euless First Kids Email Newsletter. If you would like to subscribe to receive more information about the Children's Ministry, send Aubree an email at [children@fumceuleless.org](mailto:children@fumceuleless.org) or go to the website and under

Children click subscribe.

Euless First Kids are also getting ready for some fun events this Advent season. On Sunday, December 22, during the K-3rd grade Sunday School Class is putting will be performing and hosting a puppet show, led by Ms. Robin. This will be a wonderful chance for all the classes to worship, praise,

learn the Christmas story, and appreciate the classes hard work.

Secondly, on Sunday, December 29 at 9:45, there will be a Birthday Party for Jesus in the Café. We will have crafts and a cake, as well as a time to remember the reason for the season.

## NEXT SERIES

In February, we will be doing a series in worship that needs your input. The series title is "FAQ," which, as many of you know, stands for "Frequently Asked Questions."

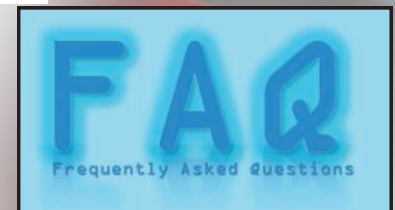
Over the next 6 weeks, I will

be looking for the most frequently asked questions about Christianity, religion, our faith, etc. I will take questions from anyone, so invite your friends, and even your enemies, to pose questions.

Share your questions with me any way you choose.

Thanks for participating!

-Pastor Steve



# January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1 New Years Day</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>2</b> 10:00 PRAYER TIME	<b>3</b> 9:00 FOOD PANTRY OPEN	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8:00 LIBRARY OPENS 8:30 WORSHIP 9:00 SONRISE CAFE 9:45 CHILDREN'S MUSIC 9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00 WORSHIP 5:00 ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER 5:00 ELEMENT STUDENTS 5:30 DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY III	<b>6</b> 7:00 HANDBELL REHEARSAL  7:00 TRUSTEES MEETING	<b>7</b> 10:00 HARMONY HOPE	<b>8</b> 7:00 CHOIR PRACTICE	<b>9</b> 10:00 TIME OF PRAYER  6:00 THOUGHT FUL FRIENDS GROUP	<b>10</b> 9:00 FOOD PANTRY OPEN	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 8:00 LIBRARY OPENS 8:30 WORSHIP 9:45 CHILDREN'S MUSIC 9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00 WORSHIP 5:00 ELEMENT STUDENTS 5:30 DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY III	<b>13</b> 7:00 HANDBELL REHEARSAL  6:00 UMW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  7:00 FINANCE MEETING	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:00 CHOIR PRACTICE	<b>16</b> 10:00 TIME OF PRAYER	<b>17</b> 00 FOOD PANTRY OPEN  5:00 ELEMENT STUDENTS SENIOR NIGHT OUT	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:00 LIBRARY OPENS 8:30 WORSHIP 9:45 CHILDREN'S MUSIC 9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS 11:00 WORSHIP 5:00 ELEMENT STUDENTS 5:30 DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY III	<b>20 MLK JR. DAY</b> OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 HANDBELL REHEARSAL	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:00 CHOIR PRACTICE	<b>23</b> 10:00 TIME OF PRAYER	<b>24</b> 9:00 FOOD PANTRY OPEN	<b>25</b> 9:00 GOD'S GRAND PLOT
<b>26</b> 8:00 LIBRARY OPENS 8:30 WORSHIP 9:45 CHILDREN'S MUSIC 9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00 WORSHIP 5:00 ELEMENT STUDENTS 5:30 DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY III	<b>27</b> 7:00 HANDBELL REHEARSAL  7:00 CHURCH COUNCIL	<b>28</b> 6:30 UMM MEETING	<b>29</b> 7:00 CHOIR PRACTICE	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

## GENEROSITY

Special Thanks to the 100 families that have turned in their commitment cards to the 2014 General Budget for \$344,646.97. This brings us to 75% of our financial goal. We had an exciting response from 27 new families committing to give. Between the Thanksgiving Holiday and ice storm we know there are more people planning to turn in their commitment card and we encourage you to do that now.

With 181 active families involved in weekly worship and at least 1 small group, we are encouraged that we can secure between \$350,000 and \$375,000 which will help us begin 2014 in a good place financially.

One of the highlighted moments of our discussions in November was from Thomas Hawthorne, our finance committee chair for

2014. He commented that if you have a regular pew that you sit in each week---then this is your church and your church needs to hear from you on receiving your commitment back it. Please help us reach our ministry needs for 2014. Turn your commitment card into the church office. If you still need a card give us a call and we will stick one in the mail to you.

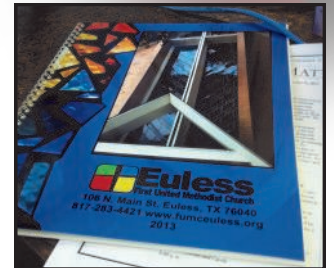


## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Yeah!! Yahoo! Super!! Our 2013 Church Pictorial Directories have arrived. Each family's directory has been labeled to ensure that everyone gets their copy. There will be a designated table beginning Sunday to pass the directories out. We will be delivering to homebound folks.

As in any printed material, should an incorrect name or number be listed, please let the church office know so we can get our master lists updated. We also will be unveiling the process to view the directory online. The online version can have pictures added as new

members join, making it a virtual directory. Also ---as addresses and numbers change we can ensure these get corrected. Special thanks to the many people who helped with the various tasks to coordinate this project.



## PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

### Angel News:

You're invited to *Let's Dress Up for Christmas*, a musical performed by the Euleless FUMC Preschool and Kindergarten, December 17 and 18 at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Their performance is sure to warm your hearts and get you in

the Christmas spirit. The programs will be followed by a reception in the Family Life Center. Our Christmas parties will be December 19 and 20.

Parents' Day Out was another success. We had a Polar Express theme and enjoyed train treats

and hot chocolate. Our doors were transformed into Polar Express engines with a track running down the hallway. All crafts and games had a Polar Express theme. We will be out of school for the Christmas holidays from December 23- January 6. Merry Christmas to all!

## FROM THE PASTOR

"They like Jesus, but they don't like the church."

With all the recent hubbub about the "Nones," or those who identify their religion as "none of the above," You might think Jesus' popularity would be waning. Not so.

It seems that a lot of people who don't want anything to do with organized religion are still

interested in Jesus.

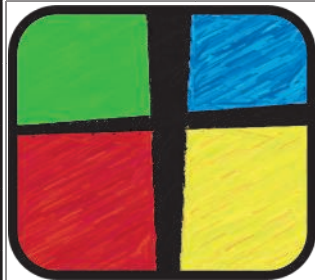
But, then, we know that Jesus himself continues to be a very compelling figure. His existence, his life, his teachings have left their mark all over the world.

Next month, I'll be preaching a series about Jesus. This series is intended for everyone - longtime church folk as well as people

who feel disillusioned by the church. After all, we are all drawn to Jesus, right?

I hope that you'll invite friends to join us. These four Sundays will be worth it.

At Euleless First UMC we like to say we are "trying to follow Jesus a little better today than yesterday." I believe this series will help us in this effort.



# Eules

## First United Methodist Church


**Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

106 N. Main St.

Eules, TX 76040


Phone: 817-283-4421


fumceules.org

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 [Pinterest.com/EulesFirstUMC](https://pinterest.com/EulesFirstUMC)

 [Instagram.com/EulesFirstUMC](https://instagram.com/EulesFirstUMC)

**Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

Return Service Requested

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