

Church Matters

Church Matters

December 2016

Eules First United Methodist Church

Inside this issue:

Prayer List	2
Birthdays / Anniversaries	2
Memorials / Honorariums	3
Food Pantry	3
UMW	3
Hams	3
From the Pastor	4
Stop Hunger Now Volunteers	4
Blue Christmas	4
December Calendar	5
Important Dates	6
Revelation Bible Study	7
Thank You	7
Eules First Preschool	7
End of the Year Giving	7
E1ement Students	8
Eules First Kids	8
Building Q&A	8
Church Council	9
Stewardship Moment	9
New Office Reception	10
Pastor Open House	10
Advent Calendar	10
Wesley's Questions	11
Night of Hope	11

Highway Update

Once upon a time most of our church offices looked out onto our playground. What a joy it was to look out the windows periodically and see children at play!

Now, our office windows look out on a Midas auto shop and a bank's drive-through and parking lot.

We are now squarely in the midst of change!

In sum, we are out of the Admin Building; the northernmost and oldest building on our campus. The building dated to the mid 1950s and at one point housed almost all of the programs of the church other than worship.

The state has taken possession of the building and will be demolishing it in the next couple of months, making way for the widening of Airport Freeway.

Our Building Committee has reestablished conversations with the GFF architectural firm and plans to meet with them in December.

Our Church Council, at a meeting Monday, November 21st, called for a task force to do a quick study on our options for the future. Throughout this process - for almost 3 years now! - we have held out the possibility that we might ultimately be best served, as a congregation, by scrapping our current site and moving to a different location.

Let this be perfectly clear: NO ONE is strongly advocating this option, but every group that has discussed it feels that we owe it to the future church to investigate all possibilities we can conceive.

As we have said for almost 3

years now, please pray for your

church! Pray daily, pray without ceasing, that we will discern where God is leading us. Please know this as you pray: everyone on staff of our Church, and all of the lay leadership, are happy to do our best to answer any question you might have.

Eules First United Methodist Church has not survived 140 years by refusing to face change! Rather, we have, for almost a century and a half, faced change knowing that our God is faithful and will continue to lead us!



Let There Be...

Let there be Advent!

I don't want to "let there be Advent." I want to make it happen! I want to write the best devotionals and the best sermon series ever! I look forward to the majesty of our choir's Cantata performance on December 18th. My calendar is already nearly full for the entire month of December, and I could not be more excited!

It's almost as if I don't want to have any time to stop, to think, to pray, to be.

I bet I'm not the only one! There is so much to do!

Can't we wait until Lent to try this "be" thing?

In a word, no.

I want to take this opportunity to invite you to make time to be this Advent season. In fact, just referring to it as Advent rather than Christmas might help.

Yes, you can still get things done. Yes, please, keep your commitments and family traditions as appropriate. But, in the midst of them, make yourself take the time to be.

Because, after all, there is nothing you and I can do to make Christmas come any sooner. There is nothing we can do to make God love us; and Advent is historically a

time the Church has devoted to preparing to receive the Good News of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords taking on human form.

Receive is a passive word. You don't go get it, you don't take it, you receive it. You let it happen.

So, let there be Advent! And let us find ways and time simply to be between now and Christmas!



Prayer List

We are praying for...

New Concerns:

Ami Muncy
 Ann Horn, Barbara Borland's aunt
 Arthur Schirmer
 Becky Waff, Glenn Best's mother
 Bet Brown, Anicia Brown's sister
 Carlton Elkins, Carla Fink's father
 Clara Kelner, Ric and Shelly Grant's granddaughter
 Cody Brown, Jackie Robinson's cousin
 Curtis Borland
 Dodie Davis
 Don and Linda Martin
 Don Martin
 Donna Smith, Denise Foley's sister
 Dorothy Robinson, Jackie Robinson's daughter
 Faith and Elena
 Galina Hall
 Germaine White, Jo Kemp's friend
 Gwynn Herrick
 Ila Gravely
 Jeff Albro
 Jessica Cooley, Michael Mulholland's girlfriend
 Karon Cromer, Janet Ledbetter's friend

Katelyn Reed Mallett, Julie Martin, Mason and Tucker Boshier, Kim Jones' nieces and nephews
 Kay Urfer, Michelle Barker's mother
 Larry Everett, Charlotte Everett's husband
 Layne Parnell, Billie Bradford's friends
 Lester Lawler, Charlotte Everett's son-in-law
 Marsha Matus, Dottie Rust's friend
 Michael Greig
 Michelle Barker
 Moving of Church Office
 Our Country
 Pallatt family
 Praise for the Eules Fire Department, EMS, and Police.
 Ron Coats
 Sandy Hammonds, Janet Ledbetter's friend
 Zuzu Verk and her parents

Continued Strength and Healing:

Ann Burns
 Ann Keller
 Baker and Michelle Ingram
 Bobby Trainham, Billie Bradford's friend
 Bobette Banks, Billie Bradford's friend

Burton family
 Cameron Mode and family
 Candy Klasen
 Carol Rust, Dottie Rust's daughter
 Charlotte Everett
 Cheryl Bowie, Billie Bradford's friend
 Denise Foley
 Donna Smith, Denise Foley's sister
 Doris Alexander, Dottie Rust's sister
 Doug Graham
 Ed Zachow
 Glada Rose
 Gordon and Linda Roberts, Nancy Bickel's friends
 Greig family
 Honor Vaughn, Teresa Sprague's mother
 Isabel Family
 Janice Vernon, Don Wilson's sister
 Joe Brown, Jackie Robinson's brother
 John Lewis
 Judy Mulholland
 June Ivey
 Kellsey Abbott, Sherwood and Cheri Abbott's granddaughter
 Kevin Maines
 Landon Power
 Lilia Olvera and her family

Lisa Moffatt, Lynne and Alan Moffatt's daughter-in-law
 Mark Rust, Dottie Rust's son
 Marlene Hill, Vic and Judy Torres' friend
 Mary Esping, Amber Hawthorne's Mom
 Michele Heroux and family, Amber Hawthorne's friend
 Mike Sprague, Stephen Sprague's brother
 Miss Johnnie, Patsy Brown's friend
 Nick and Lisa Schoenberger, Ron Coats' friends
 Nolan Fisher
 Nolan Hardwick, Barbara Collier's father
 Ollie O'Sallis' family and friends
 Pat Holland, Cindy Balentine's sister
 Pierre Tshimanga's family
 Rev. Bud Sprague, Steve Sprague's father
 Richard and Sue Morrow
 Rita and Brian Webb
 Robbie Breaux, Audrey Coats' friend
 Rose Marie, Patsy Brown's friend
 Sam Stearns and parents
 Stan Clarke, Sue &

Richard Morrow's friend
 Sue Martin
 Sydney Marie Peel, Pat May's great niece
 Terron Muller, Les Foley's niece

Comfort in a Time of Loss:

Family of Bill Wallace
 Family of Lew Hewitt, Vic Torres' friend
 Family of Phyliss Falkenber, Patsy Brown's sister-in-law
 Nick Sandoval and family

Protection:

Alex Saracoy (National Guard)
 All Police Officers and Firefighters
 Allen McCleland (Army), Vic & Judy Torres' grandnephew
 Colton Hardaway (Army) and Zack Pulver, Michael and Lore Osborn's son and son-in-law
 Daniel Collier (Air Force), Bob Collier's grandson
 Eric Sheer (Marines), Vic & Judy Torres' grandnephew

Gavin Haubrich (Air Force)
 Jim Orsund, Ellen and Aaron Garcia's friend
 Josh Crow (Navy), Annette Kelleher's son
 Justin Knighton (Army)
 Kayla Brown (Army), Jackie Robinson's niece
 Kevin Balentine (Army), Cindy Balentine's son
 Koki Fuimaono (Air Force) Leland Brown's friend
 Mason Vaughn (Marines), Stephen and Teresa Sprague's nephew
 Matthew Lee (Air Force), Michelle Barker's brother
 Sam Weatherby (Army), Gary and Carol Turner's nephew
 Stephen Tate (Army), Janet Ledbetter's son
 William Crowder (Air Force), Yvonne Rohlfling's son

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.

Birthdays

December

01 - James Putnam	10 - Sarah Roberts	Hurlbut
02 - Claudia Chico, Millie Richter	12 - Megan Roberts	22 - William Putnam
03 - Iris Elliott	13 - Norma Lively	24 - Sara Taylor
04 - Noel Mason, Michael Osborn, Kent Polenz	17 - Teresa Watts	26 - Christine Kyambadde
05 - Heather Capshaw	19 - Chris Brooks, Courtney Barton	27 - Rose Everett
08 - Harvard Sande	20 - Rachel Heyduck	30 - Madeline Church, Katie Lewis, Glada Rose
	21 - Brendan Gerardi, Brenda Hankins, Brenda	

Anniversaries

November

	3
06 - Rex & Paula Wood	
07 - Jay & Billie Bradford	
17 - Joe & Jennifer Tindel	
18 - Kent & Tami Polenz	
20 - Lewie & Linda Moore	

Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of Loved Ones/General Budget:
Friendship Class

In Memory of Jane Ledbetter/General Budget: Barbara Borland

In Honor of their 66th Wedding Anniversary/Dry Food Pantry:& Pastor's Emergency Fund: Jimmy and Helen Payton

In Memory of Sandra Holifield (Linda Bishop's Sister)/Pastor's Emergency Fund:
Genesis Class

In Honor of Jimmy and Helen Payton's wedding anniversary/General Budget: Texas Health Resources Foundation

In Memory of Linda Bishop's sister/Food Pantry: Rex Wood

In Memory of Deceased Loved Ones/Pastor's Emergency Fund:
Friendship Class



Food Pantry

December Food Pantry Volunteers:

2 -Doris Brown, Brenda Hurlbut, Linda Lewis, Hedy Taylor

9 -Phyllis Augustus, Nancy Bickel, Gloria Daves, Dottie Rust

16 -Marie Bean, Doris Brown, Billie Pallett, Jill Schaneberg

23 -Darlene Carter, Georgia Hill, Judy Torres, Paula Wood

The Food Pantry has almost finished giving out Thanksgiving Bags and are getting into the Christmas mode.

Please remember, if you have Christmas decorations that you no longer want, bring them to the Food Pantry and we will put them out for our clients. They are always grateful.

We have need for stocking stuffers for the

children of the clients. Things such as: small games, coloring books, crayons, pencils, reading books, barrettes for hair, cologne, combs, hair brushes, card games, dominoes, etc. These are for children and young teenagers.

We appreciate any and all of your help.

- Food Pantry Volunteers



United Methodist Women

On behalf of United Methodist Women, we want to thank you all: the bakers, and those who purchased items with such generous donations. On Sunday, November 13, a little over \$380 was collected for us to send to 6 Stones assist for their Christmas event, Night

of Hope.

This has been such a wonderful year for the UMW of Euless First. We have shared the love of Jesus through your gifts towards local and international communities.

Watch for 2017 for Bake Sale dates. Each Bake Sale

benefits a different ministry. Each month following worship on the morning of the Bake Sale, we will have an information luncheon with a speaker from that ministry.

Again, thank you all and have a blessed and happy Thanksgiving.



United Methodist Men's Hams

The Euless First United Methodist Men are getting ready to smoke their annual holiday hams. The pick-up date is

December 19 in the morning. Hams are \$30 for a half ham and \$55 for a whole ham. However, there is a very limited

quantity of hams this year, so please get your order in as soon as possible! To order, call the office at 817-283-4421.

From the Pastor

I need Advent. That's right; I didn't write that I love Advent or want Advent to start or even that I am getting excited about Advent.

If I want to celebrate Christmas as a Christian, I need Advent.

The temptation is to jump full-throttle into Christmas itself the day after Thanksgiving. In fact, as I write this the week before Thanksgiving, and I have

already observed the retail world running at about 10-20% Thanksgiving and 80-90% Christmas.

Our Advent theme this year helps. "Let there be Advent" both reminds us that Advent is the season before Christmas, and invites us to find time, or make time, to let Advent happen.

You've noticed, I'm sure, that "Let there be Advent" is in the passive voice. The active voice would bring it to us more like "Make

Advent Happen," or "Celebrate Advent." Using the passive voice reminds us, though, that God acts before we do, and that God's most magnificent act in history, the birth of the Christ child, is something God chose to do and has done.

And there's nothing you and I can do about it.

Except receive it. "Let it" be. Let it be Advent.

Thanksgiving Volunteers



STOP HUNGER NOW

You and your family and friends are invited to Stop Hunger

Now's first Black Out Hunger meal packaging event on Black Friday! With your help, we will package more than 15,000 meals in our warehouse for people suffering from hunger around the world.

Instead of spending the day fighting the crowds at the mall, you can spend the day with your family celebrating the holiday by helping people in need. We hope you'll come share our mission, package meals and connect locally with the global movement to end hunger in our lifetime.

Here are the details:

Black Out Hunger Event

Friday, November 25 from 10 a.m. to Noon at the Stop Hunger Now Warehouse

807 S. Great Southwest Parkway, Grand Prairie, TX 75051

To register go to: goo.gl/OoQWJy

Feel free to contact Jeff Jones at jjones@stophungernow.org if you have any questions. Space is limited, so register today!

Blue Christmas

Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue." Not everyone is up to being cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human

situations, make parties and joviality painful for many people here at Eules First and throughout our community.

For the third year in a row, Eules First is a part of a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are blue at Christmas. We again will have a Blue Christmas service that will be reflective,

accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope.

Our service will be December 21, at 7:00 p.m. We want to remember the struggle with darkness and grief faced by those living with loss. Join us as together we find peace in the incarnation.



December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				6:30 Men's Coffee 7:00 AL-Anon	9:00 Food Pantry Open 7:00 Boy Scout Lock-in	10:00 AL-Anon
4- 2nd Sunday of Advent	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:00 Library Opens 8:30 Worship 9:00 Abundance Cafe 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 5:00 E1ement Students CTCYM Mission Trip Meeting 6:00 Fresh Start Christmas Party	6:30 Boy Scout Troop Meeting 7:00 AL-Anon 7:00 Trustees Meeting	10:00 UMW Harmony Hope 3:00 Beach Club	6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir Practice	6:30 Men's Coffee 6:00 UMW Thoughtful Friends 7:00 AL-Anon	9:00 Food Pantry Open	10:00 AL-Anon
11- 3rd Sunday of Advent	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:00 Library Opens 8:30 Worship 9:30 Abundance Cafe 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 5:00 E1ement Students Progressive Dinner	6:00 UMW Executive Board Meeting 6:00 Night of Hope 6:30 Boy Scout Troop Meeting 7:00 AL-Anon 7:00 Finance Meeting		6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir Practice	6:30 Men's Coffee 7:00 AL-Anon	9:00 Food Pantry Open 6:00 Pastors Open House	9:00 Choir Practice/ 10:00 Kids Practice for Cantata/ followed by Caroling 9:00 Ham Pick-Up 10:00 AL-Anon 12:00 Harmony Class Christmas Party
18- 4th Sunday of Advent	19	20	21	22	23	24- Christmas Eve
8:00 Library Opens 8:30 Worship- Christmas Cantata 9:30 Abundance Cafe 9:30 Blood Pressure Screening 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship- Christmas Cantata 5:00 E1ement Students 5:00 Food Pantry Open 6:30 Choir Christmas Party	12:00 Advent Lunch Devotional 6:30 Boy Scout Troop Meeting 7:00 AL-Anon 7:00 Church Council Meeting	12:00 Advent Lunch Devotional 7:00 Choir Practice	12:00 Advent Lunch Devotional 7:00 Blue Christmas Service	12:00 Advent Lunch Devotional 7:00 AL-Anon	9:00 Food Pantry Open 12:00 Advent Lunch Devotional	10:00 AL-Anon 5:30 Children/Family Service 8:00 Communion & Candlelight Service 11:00 Communion & Candlelight Service
25- Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31- New Years Eve
11:00 Worship	Office Closed 7:00 AL-Anon	Office Closed	7:00 Choir Practice	7:00 AL-Anon		10:00 AL-Anon 3:00 New Beginnings Class Holiday Party

Important Church Dates

December

- 5-** Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room (New Office)
- 11-** E1ement Students Progressive Dinner 5:00 p.m.
- 12-** Night of Hope at South Euless Elementary School at 6:00 p.m.
United Methodist Women Executive Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Swor Parlor
Finance Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room New Office
- 16-** Pastor Open House 6:00-8:00 p.m. 10033 Daly Dr. Hurst, TX 817-658-1151
- 17-** United Methodist Men's Ham Pick-Up beginning at 9:00 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal 9:00 a.m./ Kids come rehearse with Choir 10:00 a.m./ Caroling following Choir Rehearsal
- 18-** Blood Pressure Screening between services in the hall next to Swor Parlor
Christmas Cantata Let There Be Christmas, both services
Food Pantry Open 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Choir Party 6:30 at Dave & Linda Lewis' home
- 19-23** Advent Lunch Devotionals 12:00 p.m. Conference Room (New Office), bring your lunch!
- 20-** Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.
- 21-** Blue Christmas Service 7:00 p.m.
- 24-** Children/Family Christmas Eve, with Communion and Light at 5:30 p.m.
Communion and Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 8:00 & 11:00 p.m.
- 25-** Sunday Christmas Day Service at 11:00 p.m. (No Sunday School)

Regular Events:

- Sundays-** Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. | Abundance Café at 9:30 in the Family Life Center Café | Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. | E1ement Students at 5:00 p.m. | Food Pantry on the 3rd Sunday evenings 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- Mondays-** Al-Anon meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Library
- Wednesdays-** Handbell Practice at 6:00 p.m. in the Bell Choir Room | Choir Practice at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room/Sanctuary
- Thursdays-** Men's Coffee at 6:30 a.m. | Al-Anon meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Library
- Fridays-** Food Pantry from 9:00 a.m. till 12:00 p.m. except 5th Fridays
- Saturdays-** Al-Anon meets Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Library

Revelation Bible Study

Revelation is the most widely talked-about book in the Bible. I wouldn't be surprised if more books were written about Revelation than all the other books of the Bible. I have, honestly, shied away from tackling Revelation in any

meaningful way in my nearly 3 decades as a pastor. I will do so no longer! I am inviting you, beginning in January, to join me for a bible study of the Book of Revelation. Before Christmas we will be deciding the duration

of the study and the times it will be offered. If you are interested in participating in this study, please let me know what days and times work best for you. I can offer a couple of different sections, but really want to optimize availability for you!

Thank You

To all of my Sunday School and church family,

I would just like to tell you words can't express how much all of you mean to me, and I can't thank you enough for your thoughts, prayers, and good wishes

during my recovery from being sick.

It is so comforting to have so many friends, and family praying for me. It has given me the strength to persevere and has warmed my heart.

I am making progress but it is taking me a little longer than expected to get back to normal. But I will be back.

Love to all you and thanks again.

Sincerely, Shirley Mercer

Eules First Preschool

Tis the season to be jolly, Falalalalalalala! We will be presenting the Christmas musical, "A Bunch of Gifts" for our families and friends on Dec. 13 and 14 at 10 AM, followed by a reception in the Family Life Center with our surprise guest - SANTA and Mrs. Claus! When we return from Thanksgiving break we will be focusing on CHRISTmas and all the fun activities that go with it.

Preschool will not be open from December 19 to January 2. School will resume on January 3.

Please continue to save Box Tops - it's cash for our school! The state has now taken possession of our playground and we have moved to our interim playground area. We are grateful to Jordan Graham for fencing in our area as part of his Eagle Scout project. We are collecting sponsors and gearing up

for our February luncheon and auction to raise money for a bigger and better playground! If anyone is interested in being a sponsor for the Preschool, please contact Linda Lewis at 817-283-0129. We have different levels of sponsorship - ranging from tickets to the lunch to having your business listed as a sponsor on the electronic billboard on the church property.



End of Year Giving

We want to make sure that everyone is aware of ways that you can give. I know it sounds like a desperate conversation, but really we just want to make sure you are aware.

During the holidays the church office will be closed on the Monday and Tuesday following Christmas. If you need to leave something for the office, please be aware that

there is a new locked mail box near the Swor Parlor doors. This is a secure box, and we check it every day that the office is open.

E1ement Students

BE. LOVE. SERVE.

E1 EMENT STUDENTS



Wow! Is it December already? It's hard to believe that it's almost time for our Progressive Dinner and SERVE: Christmas Gift Project! These are great traditions that are really important in the life of our students. Speaking of which, some other really important dates are coming up in the spring and summer for us, and we need your help! Please take a look at the "Coming in 2017" section to the right, and take a moment to consider how you might get involved with helping the E1ement Students in the coming months - in particular, we could use all

of your help, ideas, and input in our ongoing Life Skills series that has been recently featured in the Top 5 during worship, and the CTCYM Mission Trip. If you would like to know more about these opportunities (you know you do!), please contact Shane.

In December

- 04 - CTCYM Mission Trip Meeting
- 04 - LOVE. & SERVE. | Christmas Gift
- 11 - BE. & LOVE. | Progressive Dinner
- 17 - LOVE. & SERVE. | Christmas Cantata Rehearsal & Caroling w/ the Choir

- 18 - LOVE. & SERVE. | Christmas Cantata
- 18 - SERVE. | E1UMC Food Pantry
- 25 - CHRISTMAS | NO E1ement Table.

Coming in 2017

The continuation of the Life Skills series and "Destination Unknown" Bible Study plus the following events:
January - Mission Trip Retreat & Chili Cook-off
February - Midwinter Camp
March - Fundraisers
April - Arbor Daze
May - Senior Recognition
June - CTCYM Mission Experience



Eules First Kids

O Holy Night! What a glorious month we are entering, such an exciting time of the year. Thoughts turn to presents, Christmas trees, family...and food. But being mindful of the 'reason for the season' can be difficult to instill in children. That is where

church comes into play. We will be learning more about the characters in the story, and the 3rd thru 6th graders will be diving even deeper into Mary's story, Joseph of Bethlehem, Mary and Elizabeth, From Nazareth to Bethlehem, and the Gospel (Good News!)

brought forth into this world. And on Christmas Eve during the family service we will explore the ABC's of Christmas! So much happening, so little time, but loads of fun and energy all propelling us into the new year full of new possibilities.

Building Q&A

Will the Bell Tower remain where it is ? The new property line will be very close to the Bell Tower. We expect it will be removed and we will store the bell till we determine where it will fit into our new master plan.

Will the trees be cut down? We believe a few trees will be removed with highway construction. We are hopeful the remaining trees

will be able to withstand all the disruptions of construction nearby.

Will Main Street be getting a median? We expect a median to be built on Main street which will eliminate a North turning lane into our parking lot. The master plan does include a new entrance to our campus off of the hwy 183 service

road but we are unsure of that completion date.

When will the Main Street bridge be complete? The latest projections are expecting a September, 2017 completion.

For full list of Questions & Answers, go to the church blog.

Church Council Chair Update

Dear Church,

It is an exciting time in the life of our church. We have been preparing for the last 35 months for the highway project effects, which are now upon us. I believe we now have another 35 months ahead of us working with our Building Committee on how our campus will look. I send a warm thank you to our church staff and

laity team who have helped make these last 35 months go smoothly with minimal ministry interruptions as possible.

We celebrated our 140th church anniversary this year. Clearly we have a rich history and a bright future. Each week we see a busy campus with our Preschool, Boy Scouts, Alpha classes, Bible Studies, Al-Anon, and

Food Pantry serving our community. It is exciting to see what lies ahead in 2017.

Thank you to all for your faithful attendance and generosity in supporting Euless First United Methodist Church!

Warmly,

Dave Lewis
Church Council Chair

Stewardship Moment

Handling Our Wealth

Part 2 of 4

A Little Bit More "Dear Lord, bless the labor of our hands, because you know, Lord, if we had just a little bit more, we could give more to those in need."

And when God answers that prayer, time and again He is disappointed. Polls suggest that as the income of Christians goes up, the percent of giving goes down. The dreams of society collide with the vision of God's kingdom. Sometimes we get caught up in the idea of a little bit more. "If I just had a little bit more, I could afford to be more generous." However, true generosity is rooted in habits of the heart, not in the bank balance.

But God remains undeterred. Again and again He floods us with blessings, hoping to trigger a hearty, generous and exuberant

response to His love. It is such a joy for Him to give that He wants us to experience that same sense of joy and fulfillment – the excitement of living in His image.

You see, He really doesn't need our money. It is all His anyway. If He needs a program funded, a hungry mouth fed or a home for the homeless, He can just as easily make it happen without us. But when that happens, we are the losers. We have lost the opportunity to experience the joy and fulfillment of helping one of His children, the kind of experience He finds so thrilling. We have carelessly thrown away an opportunity to become more like Him.

There is much work to be done that will be accomplished with our generous giving. During this time of the year, as we

recognize that He has given us "a little bit more," keep in mind the kind of joy He hopes that little bit more will bring to us.

What Does Scripture Say?

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." Malachi 3:10

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Reprinted by permission: Barnabas Foundation, Tinley Park, IL



Online Giving Link

New Office Reception

THE CHURCH OFFICE
HAS A NEW HOME!



The Church office has moved! We want to make sure everyone comes by, knows where the office is located, and see our new digs!

reception on November 27, immediately following the 11:00 Worship service. Drop by on your way to lunch.

The new office is located on the second floor of the Chase Bank building on the corner of Hwy 157 and

Hwy 10 (W. Euless Blvd.). The office entrance is in the back of the building (North side), and up the elevator to the right.

Join us for a cookie, and a quick drink. The address is 1010 W. Euless Blvd, suite 230. See you there.

You are invited to a

Pastor Open House

Since their arrival in 2012, Pastors Steve and Rachel Heyduck have invited the congregation to their home for a Christmas Open House. This is a time for them to show you hospitality. It is their

Christmas gift to you, their church family.

This year the Open House will be on Friday December 16, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Their address is 10033 Daly Dr. Hurst, TX 76053. They ask you to drop by

their home, have something to eat, and celebrate Christmas with them this Holiday season. Merry Christmas to all of Euless First United Methodist Church. May 2017 be our best year yet!



Advent Calendar



Let there be Christmas! WE are getting ready. We are preparing our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ. Here is a list of things that are coming this Advent season.

November 27-

- Hanging of the Greens, worship with children singing and decorating
- New Office Reception following the 11:00 a.m. Service.
- God in the Movies- 5:00 p.m. location TBD. Open to everyone! Please let Shane Mullin know you will be coming by Wednesday, Nov. 23.

December 10 - Fresh Start Christmas Party

December 11-Youth Progressive Dinner 5:00

p.m.

December 12 - Night of Hope at South Euless Elementary School 6:00 p.m.

December 16- Pastor's Open House 6:00 -8:00 p.m.

December 17- Choir Christmas Cantata Rehearsal 9:00-11:00a.m., (10:00 a.m. children practice too). Following rehearsal we will be Caroling at the nursing home, all are invited.

-UMM Ham Pick-up beginning 9:00 a.m. at the Church

-Harmony Class Christmas Party 12:00 p.m.

December 18- Choir Christmas Cantata, with the Chancel Choir.

-Choir Christmas Party at 6:00 p.m. in the Swor Parlor

December 19-23- Lunch Devotionals- Bring your lunch and make sure to join us daily at noon as we look at the coming Christ.

December 20 - Choir Rehearsal moved 7:00 p.m.

December 21 - Blue Christmas Service, 7:00 p.m. Join us for a time to remember the love of Christ in the midst of hurting and change.

December 24 - Christmas Eve: Children/Family Worship at 5:30 p.m.

-Communion and Candlelight at 8:00 & 11:00 p.m.

December 25 - Christmas Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Wesley's Questions

Part of John Wesley's genius, as the founder of the Methodist Movement, was the way he organized to make disciples. He established small groups everywhere he went. When these small groups met, they would go through a list of questions at each meeting. The questions were designed to guide the group members into a deeper walk with God. Here is the 21st (and final) question:

Is Christ real to me?

What a great question with which to end the series! What would it mean for Christ to be real

to me?

In a word, transformation!

Who doesn't enjoy the stories about Jesus; how he cared for people, healed people, fed people?

The stories of Jesus' exploits transcend the Christian religion. Before there was Raymond, everybody loved Jesus!

But do the stories make Christ real to us?

I think the difference is this; found in one of the stories of Jesus. On Mark 5 and Luke 8, we find the stories of Jesus healing 2 people. One is the son of Jairus, a synagogue leader, the

other is a woman.

Both find Jesus, reach out to Jesus, ask Jesus for help, in the midst of a crowd. Mark calls the crowd a "large" crowd, Luke uses the word "smothering."

The large, smothering crowd was full of people who found Jesus interesting, encouraging, heart-warming.

But Christ was real to Jairus and the nameless woman who reached out to Jesus.

Christ is real to us when we go beyond enjoying the stories and present our needs to Christ.



Night of Hope

Be a part of sharing the Joy of Christmas with 4,000 children and their families in the HEB community by partnering with 6 Stones and Eules First United Methodist Church for Night of Hope.

-VOLUNTEER to help at one of the HEB ISD Night of Hope parties. Eules First United Methodist Church is once again hosting the Night of Hope Party at South Eules Elementary School on Monday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m. **MANY VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO MAKE THIS EVENT HAPPEN!** We need help with the food and gift distribution, assisting children with crafts and wrapping parents' gifts,

servicing refreshments, greeting and registration. Signing up online is required to be able to participate.

-SPONSOR a child or children for \$60 each and 6stones' elves will do the shopping for you. Your generous donation will be maximized through the cooperation of area retailers. If you want to make a donation through our church, you can write a check made out to Eules First UMC with Night of Hope designated in the memo line and place it in the offering plate. Checks will be collected, and one check for the total amount will be written from the church and sent to 6stones.

-ADOPT one or more children and go shopping yourself. If a Sunday School class or other church group would like to adopt a family and do your own shopping, the leader or a representative of the class must go online and register in his or her name. Go online to 6stones.org/noh and follow directions to register to VOLUNTEER, SPONSOR OR ADOPT. For more information contact Pastor Beverly Springer at beverly@fumceules.org or call the church office 817-283-4421.





106 N. Main St.
Eules, TX 76040

Phone: 817-283-4421
fumceules.org



Twitter.com/EulesFirstUMC
Facebook.com/EulesFirstUnitedMethodist
Youtube.com/sheyduck
Pinterest.com/EulesFirstUMC
Instagram.com/EulesFirstUMC

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

Mission: Eules First United Methodist Church strives to follow Jesus Christ a bit better today than yesterday. Through these efforts we develop a relationship with Christ and thus transform people, their lives, our community and the world.

Purpose: We seek to follow Jesus better by moving people from knowing God, to growing in relationship with God, to going forth with God to serve others, and finally, glowing for God by witnessing to their faith to others.

Vision: Our vision is to be a community of God's love and grace so that the larger community and world see God by our actions and outreach.

Learning to Follow Jesus a Bit Better Today than Yesterday

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
NPA# 225165
Permit No. 2
Eules, TX
76039

Eules First United Methodist Church
PO Box 967
Eules, TX 76039