



Medina Messenger

Newsletter of the Medina United Methodist Church

February 2008

From The Heart Of Bill...

Ash Wednesday (February 6th) marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is the 40 day period (not counting Sunday's) before Easter. It is a time of preparation for Easter. It's also a time that we intentionally become more reflective as to what our Salvation cost God... His Son. It's a somber time.



In some ways, I get a little confused by some of the events leading up to Lent. Some churches celebrate FAT TUESDAY or MARDIS GRAS, the day before Lent officially begins. This festivity is actually hundreds of years old. The practice can be traced to the word CARNIVAL. If you look up that word it literally means, "Farewell to the flesh." The tragedy is that the practice has become more of a time of indulging the flesh. If you travel to certain places... it's a time where anything goes! If you don't believe me go to Bourbon Street in New Orleans. I believe God is deeply grieved by such practices.

For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of

God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. - Romans 8:5-8

Traditionally, Lent is a time in which a lot of Christians choose to give up something. The idea is that whenever you miss whatever you gave up... you can then think about how much more God gave up in sending His only begotten Son. The practice of Lent still has merit today. This Lent, I want to encourage you to give up something...but I also want to encourage you to replace whatever you give up with something good. In other words... add something significant. For example: if you give up a half hour sleep each night, replace that half hour with a time of personal devotion. God deserves our very best and what better time to remember that than Lent.

Of course, it's important to remember that there's nothing we can do to earn our salvation. Whatever you decide to do for Lent needs to simply be a response to what God has already done through His Son, Jesus Christ.

*Blessings,
Pastor Bill*

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Medina United Methodist Church Worship Schedule

Sunday

9:45 a.m. – Sunday School
11:00 a.m. – Traditional Service

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. – Mid-week Study

Administrative Council meets the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise announced.



Our Vision

"We invite everyone into the family of GOD, where the LORD is praised and felt, love is shared, and lives are blessed."

Apportionment letter from Conference January 11, 2008

Dear Rev. Stegemueller

I am proud to be a United Methodist today and proud of what you and your church have done through your connectional giving to enable the ministry of The United Methodist Church. By supporting the work of The United Methodist Church with a 100% payout of your church's 2007 apportionments, you have enabled ministries in this conference, nationally and throughout the world.

People's lives are being changed throughout the world because of your giving.

* People in our own conference area who have not been active in church are being introduced to Christ through four new church starts since annual conference.

* People in Africa are being introduced to Christ through the work of the African University supported by your apportioned giving.

* UMCOR is supporting disaster relief with 100% of special gifts going directly to disaster response because its administrative costs are paid by your apportionments.

* Persons are being helped to understand their call to ministry and are being educated so that they can be effective pastors for our churches.

* Children and Youth are able to go to Summer Camps and Mid-Winter events where they experience God's love in a new way.

* Children are being fed and clothed.

* Children with AIDS are receiving treatment.

The Churches of the Southwest Texas Conference are of The United Methodist Church are indeed "Offering Christ to All" through their connectional giving.

So again, thanks for your support of the work of The United Methodist Church beyond the walls of your own church. You are one of 307 churches who gave 100% of their apportionments. The \$11,524 your church gave to apportioned causes combined with the giving from other churches in the conference totaled \$9,729,769 of all apportioned dollars.

Peace & grace,

David A. Seilheimer

Lent and Easter Schedule



ASH WEDNESDAY

(The Start of Lent: 40 days before Easter not counting Sundays)

Ash Wednesday Service: February 6th at 7:00 PM

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, March 16th

We will have our Annual Celebration with Palms

HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE

Experience the Passion of the Last Supper

March 20th at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary

EASTER EGG HUNT!

Saturday, March 22nd at 10:00 AM at the Church

(Please Bring a dozen plastic eggs with stuff inside!)

EASTER DAY SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 23rd

SONrise Service at Deer Creek Camp at 7:00 AM

(Reception and Breakfast following)

11:00 Easter Service with Flower Cross

(Bring your Flowers!)

Come hear from our missionaries

On Sunday, February 17th at 6:30 PM our missionaries, Ray and Lidia Zirkel will come and share their experiences on the mission field.

At 5:00 PM we POT LUCK SUPPER in his honor. There will also be a POWERPOINT presentation.

God is doing some incredible things through Ray and Lidia's ministry in Costa Rica and you don't want to miss this opportunity to hear about it!

Men's Group Breakfast

On Thursday, February 7th at 7:00 PM the Men's Group will have their monthly breakfast. We will have a special speaker from the Wycliff Bible Translators!

Daylight Savings Time

Don't forget to move your clocks FORWARD one hour on Sunday, March 9th or you'll miss church!

Congratulations Marcia Bower!

On Saturday, February 26th at First United Methodist Church in Borne, Marcia Bower received the CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP AWARD at the District Celebration.

The following was submitted for her nomination:

On behalf of Medina United Methodist Church, I would like to nominate Marcia Bower for the Christian Discipleship Award.

Marcia has been a fixture in the life and history of the church. Her name is synonymous with the word FAITHFULNESS. She has been actively involved at Medina United Methodist Church for the last 40+ years and has served in just about every capacity imaginable. People remember that back in the 70's and 80's she worked tirelessly with the youth. She faithfully led a Girl Scout troop at the church for years. She has ALWAYS been interested in making a difference in the name of Christ.

Today, she is in her late 80's and yet her age has not slowed her down one bit. She is what a lot of young people would call "With It." I love the way she's not afraid to try new things. She has served the last couple of years as SECRETARY to the Bandera County Christian Fellowship and attends all meetings. She has also served as Secretary not only for the Ad Council, but also every Church Conference as secretary for as long as anyone can remember.

She is the kind of member every pastor would love to have in his/her church. She attends and participates in just about everything the church has to offer. She is a regular in Sunday School and in Bible Studies and usually is the first one to show up. Some



time ago she went on an Emmaus Walk. She has since continued to meet regularly with her reunion group faithfully ever since. She is actively involved in the United Methodist Women and has held many offices within that organization.

She never misses a quiet time and has her own little corner set up in her house where she prays and reads her Upper Room and yearly Discipline. Last year she set out to read the Bible for the first time cover to cover. Currently she is almost done with that task!

As her pastor I have never heard her say anything negative or derogatory toward any human being. She exemplifies what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. In the context of short term Bible studies I have often asked the group who they look up to the most spiritually. Marcia's

name undoubtedly is always mentioned. At her age many people are content to sit back and let other people do the work of the church with the attitude of, "I've done my part," according to Marcia there's always work to be done.

As a Pastor, I love to hear people within the church celebrate what God has done in the midst of His people. I find it interesting that usually where ever I see God working in the local church... Marcia is somehow involved.

Marcia, without a doubt, is one of the best examples of what it means to be a disciple of Christ and on behalf of Medina United Methodist Church; I count it a privilege to be able to nominate her.

Bill Stegemueller
Pastor, Medina United Methodist Church

Mark your calendars!

We will be taking pictures for a NEW Pictorial Calendar on March 11th and 12th.

Look for more information in the next newsletter.



Youth Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 3rd at 5:00 PM
at Rick and Jane Turner's House!



Medina United Methodist Church Statement of Financial Income and Expense January 1 through December 31, 2007 Year End Report

Total Income - General Fund	\$104,930.11
Total Operating Expenses	\$99,065.61
Net Ordinary Income for 2007 to date	\$ 5,864.50

GOD BLESSES ALL THAT GIVE FROM THE HEART!

Record of our Stewardship, 1/27/08

General Contributions:	Last Week	Year to Date
Received	\$1,493	\$6,085
Budgeted	1,932	\$7,727
Over or (Short)	(\$439)	(\$1,642)

In addition to budget contributions we received:

	History	Budget
	Offering	Budget
01/06/08	1,856.35	1,931.66
01/13/08	1,737.11	1,931.66
01/20/08	998.43	1,931.66
01/27/08	1,493.00	1,931.66
YTD	6,084.89	7,726.62

2008 Planning Calendar

Medina United Methodist Church

FEBRUARY -

Tues 2-5 at 11AM- Olan Mills instructions for Directory
Sun. 2-17 at 5PM Feast and Fellowship with Ray Zirkel
6:30PM Ray Zirkel - Missionary Talk
Thur. 2-28 at 7PM - Ad Council

MARCH -

Sun. Mar. 9 at Noon - Feast and Fellowship Meal
Tues. Mar. 11 and Wed. Mar.12 - Pictures for Directory
Sun. Mar. 16 - Palm Sunday
Sat. Mar. 22 at 10AM Community Easter Egg Hunt.
Sun. Mar. 23 - Sunrise Service at Deer Creek
11AM - Easter Services
Thur. Mar. 27 at 7PM - Ad Council

APRIL -

Sun. April 20 at Noon - Feast and Fellowship Meal
Thur. April 24 at 7PM - Ad Council
Sat. April 26 at 7PM Bandera County Relay for Life

MAY -

Sun. May 18 at Noon - Feast and Fellowship Meal honor graduating Seniors
Thur. May 22 at 7PM - Ad Council

JUNE -

Sun. June 22 at Noon - Feast and Fellowship Meal
Thur. 6-26 at 7PM - Ad Council

JULY -

Sun. July 20 at Noon - Feast and Fellowship Meal
Thur. July 24 at 7PM - Ad Council

Bandera County Relay For Life

The Medina Family and Friends Team for the Bandera County Relay will be having a planning meeting on Thur. Feb. 7 at 6:30 PM in the Craddock Cottage. We need people interested in helping make this year's Relay more successful than last year's. We need team members, workers, walkers, and anyone interested in helping find a cure for cancer.

On Sat. Feb.16 the Medina Team will have a table setup at the Bandera Fire Station on Main Street. "SHOP FOR THE CURE" is a garage/yard sale being held by the Bandera County Relay Teams. Time: 9AM till 2PM. All monies raised by the sale of items from the Medina Team will help us to reach our goal. Come join us for some fun and lots of surprises.