



Medina Messenger

Newsletter of the Medina United Methodist Church

December 2008

From The Heart Of Bill...

Max Lucado wrote a book some time ago entitled "When God Came Near" that highlights what Christmas is all about. I think Lucado picked the perfect title because that's what Christmas is really all about – GOD COMING NEAR! He came to earth as a human being so we could-among other things-know Him!

At the birth of Jesus, everything about God suddenly became seeable, touchable, and knowable. Jesus Christ is not only our idea of what God is like; He's also God's idea of what man was created to be like. He is FULLY God and FULLY man. He's not some impersonal force.

Think about how God made his entrance onto this planet as a Human Being. He could've come in all of His glory, but who among us would be able to stand? Instead, He came into this world the same way we do, through a birth canal. He comes to us in human flesh because if He came in all His power and glory, we would be forced to follow Him because of the magnitude of that sheer power and glory. God doesn't want us to follow Him because of His power. He wants us to follow Him because of His love.

I think of the movie, "Coming to America" in which Eddie Murphy plays an African Prince who is next in line for the throne in some far off African country. One of the more humorous scenes involved



a woman that had been trained to be his wife! This woman was taught from birth to obey and fulfill his every command. When the Prince finally meets her, he decides to test her by commanding her to hop on one foot. She immediately begins to hop. Then he commands her to start barking while she's hopping and she starts hopping and barking! It was then the Prince realizes that he didn't want someone to obey him; he wanted someone who would love him.

The whole movie revolves around this Prince finding someone who would love him for who He is, not just because He would one day be King. This Prince comes to America not as a Prince but as an everyday common person in the search for someone who would love him for who he really is.

Let me suggest that's part of the reason Jesus came to us in human flesh. He comes to us not as a KING, but as a SERVANT so that we will love Him for who HE really is and not because He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (Philippians 2:6-11)

Don't misunderstand what I'm getting at. The Bible does talk about a time when Jesus will return in all his GLORY and at that time every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

But that doesn't necessarily mean that

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Medina United Methodist Church Worship Schedule

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

Wednesday
7:00 p.m. – Mid-week Study

Church Council meeting time to be 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."

that everyone will love Him. When Jesus returns for the second time EVERYONE, whether they love him or not, will be forced by His sheer glory to fall on their knees and confess Him as Lord.

Christmas is an opportunity to peer into the manger and see the love that God has for us. God sent His son into the world not to scare us, but to save us.

My prayer for all of us is that we will embrace the love in the manger.

*Merry CHRISTmas,
Bill*

The Incarnation

“Was there a moment, known only to God, when all the stars held their breath, when the galaxies paused in their dance for a fraction of a second, and the Word, who had called it all into being, went with all his love into the womb of a young girl, and the universe started to breathe again and the ancient harmonies resumed their song and the angels clapped their hands for joy?” - Madeleine L'engle

Christmas Eve

This year we will have 3 young people read various portions of the Christmas Story found in Scripture.

Pastor Bill will make a few comments after each reading. We will also have Christmas Carols interspaced throughout the service and conclude with “Silent Night” by candlelight!

6:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

11:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service with Holy Communion



Kerrville District Laity Awards Banquet

On Saturday, January 17, 2009, in conjunction with the annual Equipping the Saints workshops, our Bishop Jim Dorff and our District Superintendent Rev. Bob Allen will recognize outstanding United Methodists from all over the district.

The celebration will be held at 11:45 a.m. in the Family Life Center. A great lunch will be provided at a cost of \$12.00 for all who attend.

An R.S.V.P. is required for lunch. Call the District Office at (830) 896-6400 (no later than January 9th). That is your only cost for the day since the workshops are free!

District Event Offers Opportunities for Learning

Equipping the Saints 2009 has a great lineup of workshops and classes.

This year, E.T.S. will be in Fredericksburg on January 17, 2009

Some of our workshops are “old favorites” and some are brand new and exciting.

Our presenters are a great group of talented and experienced lay people and clergy from around the Kerrville District and the Southwest Texas Conference.

We are combining our “Equipping the Saints” training day and our **District Laity Awards Banquet** again this year.

Some of the classes offered are: Finance, Stewardship, The Role of the Trustees in the Local Church, Stephen Ministry, Local Mission and Outreach, Christian Education, Small Member Churches, Youth Ministry, United Methodist Women, District Disaster Relief Information, Godly Play Experience, Local Church Lay Speakers, Highland Lakes Card Ministry, PPRC/SPRC, Recruiting Young Clergy.

Christian Discipleship Award

On Sunday, December 14th during the morning worship, you will have an opportunity to turn in a ballot nominating:

1. One Adult for the “Christian Discipleship Award”. This is for the person who best exemplifies what it means to be a Disciple of Christ. Some of the past recipients of this award: (2008) Marcia Bower (2007) Clint Bock (2006) Clara Ann McWilliams (2005) Challie Thornton

2. One Youth (New this year!) that best exemplifies what it means to be a Disciple of Christ.

Winners will be recognized at the District’s Equipping the Saints on Saturday, January 17th at 11:45 at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church and will be presented by our new Bishop, Bishop Jim Dorff.

Check out your facts

Unsolicited Tip #342: For the love of humanity! Check it on <http://snopes.com/> before you forward any email and risk reducing your credibility.

GIVING THANKS

Thanks so much for your loving support for Sondra and me while Tommy Payne journeyed 'through the valley of the shadow' these past few months. We (Tommy, also) were uplifted by your prayers, cares, and concerns and delighted by your calls, visits, communion, etc. that were so helpful during the darkest hours. Your lights shone brightly through the darkness for us all. May the good Lord bless you and continue your service to others through him.

*God bless,
Donna Payne and Sondra Payne*

Dear Friends and 'Family,'

I cannot say "thank you" enough for all the support, prayers, visits, flowers, calls and cards during my recent illness and medicine adjustment. All of your prayers and concerns are working, as I am so much better! God is so good - He does answer all of our prayers in His way and His time. God Bless each of you.

*I love you all...
Clara Ann*

Dear Friends,

Paul is doing well. He goes in on the 18th for x-rays and we are praying he can get rid of the brace and start putting weight on his leg. He'll be 7 weeks post-op and they tell us it takes 12 weeks for bone to heal completely.

We thank you so much for your cards and your prayers. We love you and miss you so much and still have hope that we can come down after the first of the year. The Lord willing we will be there.

Thank you, again, and Jesus and His Angels be with you.

*Always,
Ruthe*

Poinsettias

It's that time again! Time to celebrate our Lord and Savior's birth. Please start thinking of the Poinsettias to be placed in church for Christmas. They will be given in honor and/or memory of your loved ones, either family or friends.

There will be inserts in the upcoming (Sunday) bulletins for you to fill out. You can either put the forms in offering plate or give to Clara Ann. Please note on your check that it's for Poinsettia's.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Clara Ann at 589-7754.

Deadline is December 12th.

Christmas Cheer Baskets

If you wish to donate toward the purchase of items to fill the baskets, please make your check payable to Medina United Methodist Church and note on it "Christmas Baskets." For more information, please contact Clara Ann at 589-7754.

Cash donations can be given to Clara Ann.



Third Annual Christmas Party at the Barker's

Sunday, December 7th beginning at 5:30 PM

Come for good old-fashioned fun and fellowship –
and don't forget it is potluck, so bring your best dish!



Medina UMC Drama Team

The Medina UMC Drama Team will have presentations of "Even Now" and "One Way Home" on Sunday, December 14th at 11:00 a.m. Please bring donations of food items for the Baptist Food Pantry to this event.

Immediately following in the Fellowship Hall there will be a potluck meal of sandwiches, chips, dip and Christmas desserts.

Our kids are working hard to bring the message of Jesus to Medina so please, invite those who may not know the Lord or who have wandered far away and could use a reminder this season that even now, there is still only one way home!

Oh, and to top off the whole event, Santa Claus is coming after lunch and we're having a party. So, this day is complete with Jesus and Santa - it doesn't get any better! We sure hope to see you there. For drama questions, call Sylvia Rogers at 589-2921 for food and party questions call Judy Moore 589-2597.

UMW MEETING (United Methodist Women)

The UMW will meet on
Wednesday,
December 17, 2008
2:00 p.m. in the
Fellowship Hall

Program:
Mary Zirkel Christmas

Hostess:
Carolyn Penland

*Come and enjoy the Program,
Refreshments and Fellowship!
Men are invited, too!!*



*In honor of the
50th Wedding Anniversary of
Norman and Mary Carolyn Stephens
Their children and grandchildren
Request the pleasure of your company
At a coffee and cake reception
Sunday, December 21, 2008
From 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Medina United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall
Medina, Texas*

*Everyone is invited –
we hope you will come help us celebrate!*