

February, 2020



First United Methodist Church Palacios

Message from the Pastor

Valentine's Day Reflection

John 13:35 *"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

As I walked into Walmart, I was overwhelmed by the Valentine's Day décor and gifts display that seemed to have arrived on January 2. The balloons, cards, candy and stuffed animals in every shade of pink and red shouted the arrival of the day. I must admit I was a little annoyed. "Can't we have a break from a sales pitch for even a few days?" I wondered aloud. As I think back on that moment, I still wish we could be given a break from the glitz and pressure of our commercial sales, but then I thought about Valentine's Day. Like Christmas, it's a celebration of love! I did my research and found that it has both Christian and pagan roots. The Christian tradition is sometimes attributed to a jailed priest name Valentine signing a love letter, "From Your Valentine." Another, version tells the story of a Roman priest, also a man named Valentine, who also was jailed, but for marrying couples so that men would no longer be eligible for Roman military service.

So around 500 years later, Valentine's Day and all its commercial hype on romantic love has morphed, into both an adult and children's celebration where we are encouraged to demonstrate our friendship, love and affection for one another. Well, maybe that's not altogether awful. An article on the United Methodist website, proposed that we intentionally reach out to people around us, who may be out of the loop for this celebration. Sending cards, or candy to a college student or a military service person who is away from home, might be someone who would appreciate the reminder of our love and support. Random acts of kindness in your workplace or community were also suggested. I loved the idea of taping a dollar bill to a vending machine just to bring a smile to an unknown person. I know that members of our church will be donating time and energy to senior citizens in our community this month, and that was another suggestion in the article. Maybe we should be doing these things all the time, but as we strive to live into the abundant love that God so generously gives to us each

Contents

Fellowship Luncheon	2
Financial Update	2
Joys and Concerns	3
Missions Corner	4
Admin Council	5

moment of our lives, perhaps we can take up this challenge. We can make Valentine's Day a day to celebrate God's love for all of us as well as for our loved ones. God bless each of us as we seek to make love real today, on Valentine's Day and every day.

Síockán/Paz/Peace

Dave

Announcements



Our first Church Luncheon of 2020 will be Sunday, February 9! Let's start this year off with a big get together. Bring your favorite dish, a healthy appetite and a friend.

Financial Update: FINAL 2019 TREASURER'S REPORT

We finished 2019 with a negative bank balance of \$2,472.60. Although income was better than usual in December, we finished paying all our apportionments of \$7,555.00 making us a five-star church. Writing that large of a check contributed to the negative bank balance. In January, 2020 we will be paying property taxes of \$2,945.76 on the property at 208 Lucas which we have yet been unable to sell. These are large expenses for us to absorb.

In December we received a large donation from a member to be used solely for the upkeep and care of the church. That money has been set aside for that purpose. However, there are so many maintenance projects needing attention, it is hard to know what to tackle first.

Our property insurance has gone up yet again an additional \$350 per month. The Administrative board will be giving this their attention but we can only hope in getting it decreased. We are also changing electricity utility companies, hoping to reduce rates.

In summary I would like to impress on each member the costs associated with keeping this church on a solid footing. We are trying to save everywhere we can and have proposed a very tight budget (see 2020 budget in your November newsletter). I know there are a lot of fancier things we want – and maybe need a little – but it is imperative we strive to economize. Questions or comments regarding our financials can be addressed to palaciosumctreasurer@gmail.com.

I know each of you will join me in prayer for the financial health of our church. On February 1, 2020, Maxine Kubecka will be your new treasurer. Martha Law

Joys and Concerns

Bill and Sandy Miller celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a reception at Weimer Hall. Display included Sandy's wedding gown.



In early January the women of the church held a baby shower for Cha'e Neimeyer Wagner. She and her husband Jarred are excited, and looking forward to Baby Levi's birth in February.



Missions and Outreach Corner

- January's rail offering of \$142 was used to replenish the "Helping Hands Fund" which is used to help with local needs as they arise. Other donations designated to this mission were received at different times, so First UMC of Palacios is reaching out to those in need within the community.
- The Pat Allen Christmas Dinner was a success. Over 200 dinners were served that day and there have been enough donations to not only pay for the 2019 Dinner but a great part of the 2020 Dinner as well.
- The Shoe and Sock Drive at Christmas went flawlessly. This is a letter from Palacios Junior High regarding the drive:

Dear Members of FUMC,

The Christmas Shoes and Socks ministry was such a blessing for our students. Our 10 Junior High students were thrilled to receive new shoes and socks for Christmas. They were so excited to unwrap their new shoes, try them on and model them for us.

Several students left the office with the new shoes on their feet!

Thank you again for helping to meet the needs of our students at Palacios Junior High and for sponsoring such a wonderful service project in our community.

Sincerely,

Buddy Kelley, Principal

Leah Graves, Asst Principal

Rhonda Huitt, Counselor

- February's Rail Offering will go to our Wesley Nurse for the Diaper Ministry. Leslie will be telling the congregation about the parenting education programs that are occurring here at our church late in January.
- The *Blessing Box* is being temporarily moved to the entrance of the church until a more permanent container is made and a good location on our grounds is found.

Shrove Tuesday **Pancake Supper**



February 25, 2020
5 to 7 p.m.

Parish Hall
St. John's Episcopal Church
301 E Main St, Palacios

Pancakes were traditionally eaten on the day before Ash Wednesday because they were a way to use up eggs, milk, and sugar before the fasting season of the 40 days of Lent. *Laissez le bon temps rouler!*

Come join us for fellowship, pancakes, sausage, and more.
Recommended Donation \$5.00. Maximum recommended Family Donation \$20.

A continuing effort of St. John's Episcopal Church to prepare for the Lenten Season.
Supported in Christian Unity by the First Presbyterian and United Methodist Churches of Palacios.

In late February, a Palacios tradition

Administrative Council Minutes - January 14, 2020

Erwin Janszen, acting Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Pastor Dave opened with a prayer. In attendance: Leland Singer, Pastor Dave Moreno, Bill Law, Melissa Law, Martha Law, Leslie Machicek, Tony Barber, Marty Rieck, Vanessa Kunefke, Ken Johnson, Maxine Kubecka and Meredith Holub.

Included in the Council packet: Agenda, Finance Report, Monthly P&L Budget Performance, Balance Sheet, Transaction List and a Statement of Cash Flows.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Motion by Vanessa Kunefke, second by Leland Singer, all in favor.

Financial Reports were provided and explained by Martha Law.

We finished December with a bank balance of \$15,663.07 which made us overdrawn in the operating account of \$2472.60. We paid the remaining apportionments in the amount of \$7555.00 which makes us a five-star church. We need to get new signature cards at the bank. There has been a change to our property insurance premium, raising it approximately \$350.00 per month, I recommend the trustees look into the policy and adjust some of the property values. The parsonage is currently being valued at \$383,000 which makes the premium \$5796.84 per year. I'll be paying the property taxes about January 20th in the amount of \$2945.76, so that will be a big expense for us. In December we received an individual donation of \$3500 with the stipulation it be used for the care and upkeep of the church. So now the

maintenance fund is \$6967 and the repairs fund is \$4142. We have not yet had to tap into the Johnson Fund. Leland Singer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, second by Tony Barber. All in favor.

A motion to add Maxine Kubecka to the checking account as the Treasurer and keep Wanda Johnson, Martha Law, Erwin Janszen, Linda Curtis and Jimmy Neeley on the checking account was made by Tony Barber, second by Leland Singer. All in favor.

Wesley Nurse, Leslie Machicek reported that Prevent Blindness will be here Monday, January 27th from 10-noon. We have 25 appointments total to fill and have filled 13 of those. They will do a vision screening and if you fail the screening they will mail you a voucher to see an eye doctor in Bay City for prescription and voucher for one free pair of glasses if you qualify. Eyes should be checked yearly, so if you haven't had your eyes checked in over a year, please call me and make an appointment.

A&M Diabetes classes are scheduled for the year. These classes are all day and lunch is provided, 8:30am-4:30pm. This class provides individual education and a year of follow-up support. The dates are as follows:

Tuesday, February 11 – Spanish

Tuesday, March 3 – English

Tuesday, June 2 – Spanish

Tuesday, September 1 – English

Tuesday, December 1 – English

Cameo Mead has now joined me to help provide counseling to individuals and families.

Her hours are Thursday 9 to noon in the Parlor. Clients are encouraged to call her and make an appointment. Her number is 361-739-3891. Also asking the board to please consider putting up security camera for the church.

Trustees Report

Leland Singer reported that we sold the Mission house for \$20,000. We cleared \$18,800 after paying 6% commission. 3% went to Sherry Williams, a licensed Texas Real Estate Company and 3% to Texas Coastal Properties. The door to the hot water heater needs to be replaced in the rent house.

Bill Law made a motion to move forward and get 3 professionals to give us a bid on placing of security cameras, consultation and installation. Second by Ken Johnson. All in favor.

Missions report was presented by Marty Rieck. Pat Allen Memorial Christmas Day dinner served around 200 plates. Shoe and Sock drive for 31 students of PISD went smoothly and was well received by the congregation. A thank you note from PJHS was shared. Noisy change offering for the Methodist Children's Home was collected. The amount was \$61.50. Rail offerings for January-Helping Hands Assistance Fund of FUMC Palacios (\$142 rail, \$45 donation in December and \$110 donation later in January. Rail offerings for February- Diaper Pantry/Wesley Nurse (will collect money at rail to buy diapers.) March-Five Star-Missionary Support, April-UMCOR Sunday-5 Star-Used to be One Great Hour of Sharing,

May-UMCOR #901670-Disaster Response-5 Star, June-Kingdom Kamp at Cathedral Oaks-5 Star, July-Helping Hands Assistance Fund, August-Palacios Charitable Fund and our church Mission Fund, September-Helping Hands Assistance Fund, October-Pat Allen Christmas Dinner, November-St. Andrew Society-5 Star, December-Heifer International – 5 Star. Blessing Porch Box and Signage is being removed. New design and location is under consideration, but it will be at our church.

Pastor Dave provided an oral **Pastor's Report**. A discussion about how everyone felt about disconnecting the office phone and getting a basic cell phone. Pastor Dave talked to the District Superintendent about our apportionments. He reported that our apportionments and budget are about the same as other churches our size.

Old Business






Safe Gatherings Online Certification – DeeDee Stork, Wanda Johnson and Linda Contreras need to be certified along with any other members of the congregation that want to be certified. Pastor Dave will set up a webinar for everyone that has completed the online certification.

New Business

Marty Rieck reported that the garage sale will be the end of June and wants everyone to start saving things that can be sold.

Motion to Adjourn: Pastor Dave closed the meeting in prayer at 8:03 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Melissa Law

BIRTHDAYS FOR FEBRUARY, 2020

<div>2 Nancy Howard</div>	<div>4 Douglas Kubecka Sharon Peacock</div> <div></div>	<div>6 Leala Kahlich</div> <div></div>	<div>Ayden Cruz</div> <div></div>
<div>15 Annette Stonedale</div> <div></div>	<div>29 Rhea Wise Han</div> <div></div>		

(I would like to include pictures on birth dates. If you or family members have upcoming birthdays, please send me a photo: murphy_miss@yahoo.com. The photos can be updated over time)

Reminder: Date for submitting contributions to the Newsletter to Miss Murphy, murphy_miss@yahoo.com and Candice Neese, cneese1012@hotmail.com, is usually by the 21st of each month



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