A Bit of Joy!

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, JOY, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

(Galatians 5:22-23, NIV)

One of the things I love the most about the ways of the Lord is the joy he gives me. No matter what situation I may find myself in, God always comes through with JOY. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and is available to us all. That’s why I was so interested in a book I came across a few years ago, when I was taking a class on C. S. Lewis, a 20th C. Christian author and theologian. Surprised By Joy: The Shape of My Early Life, is a partial autobiography published by Mr. Lewis. Throughout his life, Lewis experienced the death of his mother at an early age and many years later he would lose yet another woman of his life: Helen Joy Davidman Gresham, whom Lewis was married to for four years before she died of cancer. Among other things, the book Surprised by Joy chronicles those times in his life where he experienced “stabs of joy” in the midst of the experience of pain.

Knowing that God wants to give us joy, might we be able to pass on that joy to someone who needs a loving touch – perhaps a kind act – to someone who is in need? This Christmas season there will be many opportunities to receive joy and share joy with someone who has a need. Taking time to look after someone is a gift of charity that we all have the ability to share. What time in your life have you been surprised by the joy God has to give you? Spend time this season not only reflecting on that gift that God gives you but also take the time to consider who God is asking you to share that joy with. Reflect on the following story, perhaps as a way of remembering that joy comes to those who realize it is available regardless of external circumstances. True joy is found within.

Happy in a Shack

A man and wife enjoyed playing “Here’s How I’d Remodel That House” game as they traveled. They would take turns picking out certain houses and explain how they would remodel them. One day as they were driving, they saw an old, dilapidated house that looked like it had been abandoned. The husband stopped in front of the house and said, “I tell you what I’d do with that shack. I’d bulldoze it down and start over.”

At that moment, an elderly man stepped out of the house onto the front porch. With a big smile on his face, the old man waved at them as though they were long-lost friends. The couple waved back and then drove on down the road.

The husband said, “Do you think he would have been that friendly if he knew what I said about his house?”

After a long pause the wife replied, “Probably so!”

The happiest people in the world are those who don’t allow anything or anyone to steal their joy.

(Kent Crockett, I Once Was Blind But Now I Squint, Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2004, 30)

For his anger endures but a moment; in his will is life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. (Psalm 30:5, Jubilee Bible 2000)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

In Christ’ Love,

Pastor Rosie
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Ministry Workshop 2015
Tools and Training for the Ministries of the Church
Sponsored by the Ministry Team of the Coastal Bend District, United Methodist Church

Three Dates and Places to Choose from:

Saturday January 31, 2015
Three Rivers FUMC
Corner of Church & Cave Street, Three Rivers
8:45 a.m to 12:30 p.m

Saturday February 7, 2015
Grace United Methodist
14521 Northwest Blvd., Corpus Christi
8:45 a.m to 12:30 p.m

Saturday February 21, 2015
Port Lavaca FUMC
814 N. San Antonio, Port Lavaca
8:45 a.m to 12:30 p.m

Mark Your Calendar and Plan to Attend!!!

These workshops are for EVERYONE!
Gain Tools for doing Ministry in and outside the Church
Plus Training in the Specific areas of Pastor Parish/Staff Parish, Trustees, Finance, Treasurers, and Leadership
A Merry Christmas to all from the COGS!

We would like to thank everyone who donated books, crayons and coloring books for the children at Driscoll Children’s Hospital. Monica Reagan has graciously offered her help and the help of her Sunday school group to assemble the coloring book pages and crayons so they can be delivered. We look forward to brightening the days of the Driscoll patients.

We will be delivering the books as a Christmas donation, but our plan is to continue the coloring books and crayons as a continuing mission. So, next time you’re at the dollar store, stock up and bring them to church. We’ll make sure they get to the right place!

We had the Baptist youth as our guests this month. We played Bible Jeopardy! We hope to be able to find a version of Bible Wheel of Fortune, too! The youth had a great time playing and learning. Thank you to Pastor Rosie for your help with the snacks!

Have a great December!

Mary Anne Hartung
Youth Director

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

**Hanging of the Greens** will be held on Sunday, December 7th, the 2nd Sunday in Advent, after the Worship service. We will also have a fundraiser luncheon for apportionments that day, for any donation that you would like to give. (Desserts are still needed) Please bring your family and friends to help decorate the church and enjoy a tasty lunch!

Our Youth Group, C.O.G.S., is collecting coloring books, crayons, and children’s books to donate to **Driscoll Children’s Hospital**. If you would like to donate any of these items, please, leave them in the church office or call Mary Anne Hartung at 361-229-4631. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Our **Advent Offering** will be received From November 30th through December 24th. This offering will be divided evenly between the following projects: **Becky Harrell** (Mission Interpreter, South Central Jurisdiction), Methodist Mission Home in San Antonio, Methodist Home in Waco, and NOMADS.

**NOMADS 2015 Project**---We are in need of your ideas and suggestions for projects & repairs for our next NOMADS visit next year. If you know of any repairs that are needed to the church and parsonage or if you know of a community project or needy family that needs repairs to their home, please, call the church office.
2014 Charge Conference
Sunday, November 16
Rockport FUMC

Artist’ rendering of Jesus Christ

“Live” Artist

Worshippers from Sinton FUMC and others in the “Cloud of Witnesses”

Worshippers of God

District Superintendent,
Rev. Eradio Valverde, Jr.

Our Symbol of Continued Commitment
Greetings from the Wesley Nurse

Holidays can be a very challenging time for those who are trying to keep their eating on the healthy side. Not only is there an abundance of food around, it is often very unhealthy. I came across this article from Communicating Food For Health and wanted to share these tips for “lightening” up the holidays!

**Holiday Tip # 1**: Control Portions - Set the holiday table with your family’s heirloom china. This will help you automatically downsize portion sizes, because until the late 1960’s, dinner plates were 9 inches or so in diameter. Today’s plates have an average diameter of 12 inches. No one will notice a decrease in portion sizes when you use smaller plates and glasses. Cut Grandma’s luscious Christmas cake into 18 servings, portion your favorite holiday cookie recipe to make 4 dozen instead of 3 dozen cookies, cut fudge into 1”x1” pieces, and use 4-ounce glasses for your favorite sparkling punch.

**Holiday Tip # 2**: Double Up on Vegetables. Serve vitamin-packed, lower carbohydrate vegetables like asparagus, Brussels sprouts, or broccoli in large bowls. Put higher calorie mashed potatoes and winter squashes in smaller bowls. Place a smaller serving spoon in the bowls with potatoes or winter squash and your family and guests will automatically – and unknowingly – serve themselves smaller portions. Instead of meatballs and cheese logs, feature vegetable appetizers like marinated mushrooms, tomato bruschetta, roasted asparagus, stuffed tomatoes, etc.

**Holiday Tip # 3**: Give Healthful Gifts. Give homemade gifts that are packed with healthful ingredients. Bake breads that feature hearty whole grains, bring a basket of luscious fresh fruit instead of a box of candy as a hostess gift, or tie a bow around a bag of mixed nuts instead of cookies.

**Holiday Tip # 4**: Lighten Up: Lighten up favorite recipes. Use fat-free evaporated skim milk instead of cream in custard pies and sauces, boost flavor in casseroles with spices and seasonings instead of butter or salt, and bake foods instead of frying them. No one will notice the changes!

**Holiday Tip # 5**: Make Fruit the Star: Give colorful fruit a starring role. Serve fresh sliced berries for a holiday breakfast, include colorful chunks of fresh fruit such as pineapple, mango, kiwi, and red grapes on bamboo skewers for a holiday buffet; offer nibbles of dates and grapes instead of cheese and crackers, etc.

I would also remind you to pray. Pray daily for the strength you will need to honor your body and God with healthful eating. I’m really terrible at remembering scripture but one of my favorites is 2Timothy 1:7: “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.” Pray that when you are overly tempted, God will give you the self-discipline you need to not to over-do it too much! Some indulgences are expected during all the festivities so remember, progress, not perfection!

Merry Christmas!
*Kerry, Wesley Nurse*
Merry Christmas from the staff of First United Methodist Church
Sinton, Texas

Pastor Rosie Grattan, Missy Nañez,
Isabel Encinia, Mary Anne Hartung and
Bobbie Knapick
This event has recently been moved to Thursday, Dec. 4 at 6:15 pm

Sinton Reindeer Fun Run/Walk

Benefitting Sinton Food Pantry
Friday, December 5, 2014
6:15 p.m.
(Prior to the Sinton Holiday Parade)

The fun run/walk will begin at the San Patricio County Courthouse and each participant will follow a course down Sinton Street to the Dave Odem Building. This is a fun run/walk not a race. The walk will finish back at the San Patricio County Courthouse at the start/finish line.

Early Registration participants must be preregistered by November 25, 2014. Reindeer Fun Run/Walk entry fees are non-refundable. T-shirts guaranteed to the first 100 participants.

Get in the spirit by wearing your holiday themed costumes and tying jingle bells to your shoe laces & Santa hat.

Early Registration Deadline: Postmarked/Received by November 25, 2014
Entry Fee: $10.00
Late Registration Fee: $15.00

For more information and directions please contact Sinton Chamber at 361-364-3538.

Sinton Reindeer Fun Run/Walk Registration Form

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
City: ________________________________
Email: ________________________________
Phone: ________________________________
Age on Dec. 1st: ________________________________
Gender (circle one): Male or Female
T-shirt Size (circle one): L XL XXL
Emergency Contact: ________________________________
Phone: ________________________________

Declaration of Authenticity of Contract & Waiver
Please read the following statement carefully. To participate, you must sign and return this statement with your application.

☐ I do hereby waive the Sinton Chamber of Commerce, any sponsor or fellow participant, from any liability due to personal injury, loss or damage to any property that may occur during the Reindeer Fun Run/Walk.

☐ I understand and comply with the Reindeer Fun Run/Walk General Guidelines and Rules for Participant.

☐ I agree to allow the Sinton Chamber full use of images and other promotional materials (photographs, video tape, audio tape) taken during the Run/Walk for purposes of promoting the Reindeer Fun Run/Walk this year and in future years.

Signature

Parent signature if participant is under 18

Date

Before mailing, be sure that you have included the following:
☐ Completed 2014 Reindeer Fun Run/Walk application with signed Declaration of Authenticity Contract & Waiver.
☐ Please make check payable to Sinton Chamber

Mail to:
Sinton Chamber of Commerce
218 W. Sinton Street
Sinton, TX 78387
Prayer List:
- Kevin, Betty & Irene Wahl Richter
- Teresa Schubert
- Neta Deleon
- Ryan Rivera, Jr.
- Sam Nelson
- A.L. Nelson
- Denice Hadwin
- Stephanie Jetton Brezina
- Dale Umland Drawe
- Karen Reilly
- Patsy Bremer
- Matt Terhune
- Rob Knox
- Greg Rossignol
- Donelle Bethel & Hope Bethel
- Marilyn Moore
- The Family of Charlie Pruett
- Tracy Medlock
- Jeane Wolfe
- Tommy Hartung
- The Family of David Miller
- The Family of John Cuevas
- Francis Siemer
- Carrie Shedd
- The Family of Hester Hatch

Nursing Home, Assisted Living, Long-Term:
- Sallie Brewer
- Arlan Maley

Military:
- Wesley Hartung
- Cameron Collier
- Rachal O’Cañas
- Crystal O’Cañas
- Matt Lowder
- Kevin Campbell

Memorials
(Received November 1-30, 2014)

DAVID MILLER
Nina DuBose
Marilyn Moore
Dr. & Mrs. Lynn Drawe
Paroda Deitch
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Vanecek

RICKY COLLINS
Chris Day

STANLEY BUSHONG
Mr. & Mrs. Darrow Lee

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS
OCTOBER 2014

OCT. 5: Worship - 42  Sunday School - 15
Total Offering: $3,818.45

OCT. 12: Worship - 44  Sunday School - 22
Total Offering: $7,422.52

OCT. 19: Worship - 37  Sunday School - 12
Total Offering: $4,433.27

OCT. 26: Worship - 65  Sunday School - 22
Total Offering: $4,184.70

GIVING TO FUNDS
OCTOBER 2014

APPORTIOMENTS FUND= $1,025.00
BUILDING FUND= $125.00
CHILDREN’S WORK= $200.00
CHOIR FUND= $20.00
COMMUNION RAIL FUND= $18.00
GENERAL FUND= $13,144.57
MEMORIAL FUND= $135.00
SPECIAL OFFERING= $5,181.37
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP= $10.00

If you would like to add a loved one to our prayer list, please, call the church office at 364-2031, or email us at umc@att.net.

In Loving Memory

This is the mail-in portion of our VBS Registration form, feel free to print this out and mail this in, there is no charge this year for our 3 day evening program. If you would like to volunteer, please call Holly Houser at 290-0936.
Our Christmas Eve Worship Service will be on Wednesday, December 24th, 5:30 p.m.