



# Franklin United Methodist Church

## *Polly's Ponderings*

### *Chip It Away!*

*There is a story about a man who had a huge boulder in his front yard. He grew weary of this big, unattractive stone in the center of his lawn, so he decided to take advantage of it and turn it into an object of art. He went to work on it with hammer and chisel, and chipped away at the huge boulder until it became a beautiful stone elephant. When he finished, it was gorgeous, breathtaking.*

*A neighbor asked, "How did you ever carve such a marvelous likeness of an elephant?" The man answered, "I just chipped away everything that didn't look like an elephant!" If you have anything in your life right now that doesn't look like love, then, with the help of God, chip it away...*

When I was in Seminary one of my favorite teachers shared this scripture with us: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17. It was a theme verse for our internship. We were entering into the process at one place in our spiritual journey and we were expected to come out of that process renewed and a bit more refined through God's chipping process.

In the Greek there are two words that can be used to convey "newness" one speaks of *new* in the sense of renovation (i.e. repair) and the other in the sense of *fresh existence*." In the scripture from 2 Corinthians 5:17, it is the later meaning that is conveyed. God doesn't just renovate He brings to us a fresh existence. We take on new ways of looking at things, new values, new motivations, new perspectives, and new ways of thinking.

One of those new ways of thinking is a deeper sense of gratitude - thankfulness. I have found that even in times of great struggle and despair there is always something for which to be profoundly grateful. When God works on removing anything that doesn't look like love then little by little stuff like bitterness, anger, judgmental attitudes, discontentment, etc. are being chipped away. And what remains is more and more a reflection of love. Now you might be calling me a bit of a "Pollyanna", but that's okay with me. Because you see I have placed myself in the Master Creator's hands and when I am honest and open myself up to His perfectly discerning gaze those areas that need chipping away become clear. Sometimes it is painful but each and every day He is chipping away at me and the image that is immerging is little by little bearing more of the likeness of Christ. And the process is like clearing away the dead skin and letting the fresh new skin come through. I feel more vibrant and alive. And my heart is filled with gratitude.

So this month of Thanksgiving, let's celebrate by getting out the hammer and chisel and asking God to help us "chip it away".

## Music Notes

"We are here to praise You, lift our hearts and sing. We are here to give You the best that we can bring." Choir practices are on a roll with our Christmas Cantata that we will present to the congregation on Sunday, December 11th. Mark this date on your calendars now. We will be singing "The Coming of the Lord." This beautiful rendition by Pepper Choplin will be sung in it's entirety with solos, duets and the youth telling the story. It's not to late to come to practice with us. I have a book and a CD ready for you to practice with. See you Wednesdays at 5:30PM.

"Sing"cerely,

Rhonda

Note:

Thanks to one of my friends for helping to paint some of my rooms in my house. This is the season to be thankful for the people in our extended family of friends that have been a blessing to us and in return been a blessing to others. Sometimes the circle is not broken!!! Have faith, keep praying, and being thankful for all things.



*Your Friend always,*

*Marie Kellum*

## Food, Fellowship, Fun, and Faith

Want to get a fresh perspective on Christmas?

Want to see the miracle of the nativity with fresh eyes?

Then come join us in the Activities building of First United

Methodist Church for Pastor Standing's study,



## "A Look at the Christmas Story through the Eyes of the Four Gospel Writers. "

This Advent study will be offered on Wednesdays, November 30th, December 7th and 14th, 2011. You may chose either the mornings sessions from 10:30am to noon, or the evening sessions from 6:30pm - 8:00pm. Childcare will be available during both sessions. A light supper will be served during the evening sessions. Bring a fresh perspective to Christmas through the eyes of faith.

## 10th Annual Holiday Feast of Sharing

The local churches and businesses of Franklin along with the Franklin Food Pantry are working together to insure that ALL families in our area will have a Merry Christmas by providing help to any family in need. Help will be available in the following ways:

- A Holiday Feast dinner on Saturday, date to announced.
- Toys and/or clothes for kids
- Food and/ or clothes for Adults and Families

If you know of any family in need of this help or if your family needs help, please let us know by providing the following:

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Help Needed: (check below)

Holiday Feast Dinner \_\_\_\_\_

Kids Presents \_\_\_\_\_

Food or Adult Clothing \_\_\_\_\_

Elderly Help \_\_\_\_\_

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Return ASAP to our church Office, call it in or you place it into the collection plate on Sunday. If you have any questions please call Beth Vickers at 979-828-5652 home or 979-828-1406 cell phone.

*Advent/Christmas Is Coming!!*

*November 27th is the First Sunday in Advent*



The sanctuary will be decorated for the Christmas Season with lovely Poinsettias given by members In Honor and In Memory of loved ones and friends.

Twenty five plants will be ordered at a cost of \$15.00 each. If you would like to place a Poinsettia in the sanctuary, please look for one of the order envelopes at the ushers stand and place in the offering plate or return to the church office. Orders will be taken beginning November 6th. These plants may be taken at the close of the Christmas Day Service by those Honored or by the ones placing plants in Memory.



## Coats for Kids

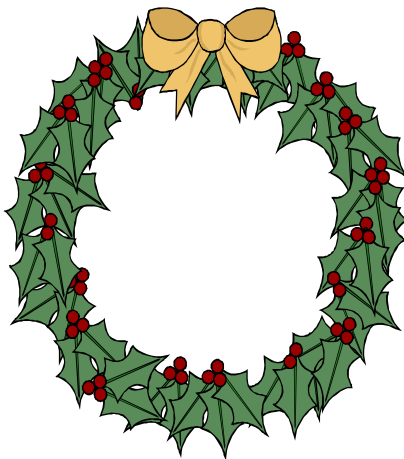
The "Coats for Kids" drive is starting and you can help in two ways:

- Donate a new or slightly used children's coat to the clothes closet. (A donation box will be set up in the drop off area of the clothes closet).
- Spread the word to those who might need a coat, or people or organizations who might want to get involved and donate.

Distribution will continue until all of the coats are gone. There is no charge for the coats. Please help keep our children warm this winter.

As always the clothes closet welcomes all used clothes in good condition for all sizes. To volunteer on Fridays (10am-2pm) or Saturdays (9am-12noon) Please contact Beth Vickers at 979-828-5652.

*Come One, Come All!*



**To our Fabulous Clothes Closet Christmas Décor Sale! Friday and Saturday, November 18th & 19th, 8:00am until 2:00pm in the Activity Center. We need volunteers to help with pricing, tables, signs, and selling. Go through your Christmas attic right now and we'll take any donations. All proceeds will go toward professionally made signs and improvements for the Clothes Closet. You can drop off your donations at the clothes closet or call the church office to make arrangements @ 979-828-3355**

## ***NOVEMBER - A MONTH FOR THANKS AND GIVING***

We have such a wonderful opportunity this month to give thanks for all of the blessings of life that God has provided for us. Yes, we have this opportunity daily, and monthly but there is just something so special about this month when we celebrate Thanksgiving. Let us remember that no matter how much we give and how much we do, we can never outgive God!

### ***Sunday, November 6*** ***All Saints Sunday***

On this Sunday during the Worship Service we will remember family and friends who have died during the last year. Votive candles on the altar will be lighted and names called for those we wish to remember and give thanks for. Four of our church family will be remembered and their pictures displayed on the altar. They are:

Ruth Easterly  
Emma Mae Boyd  
Mary Lou Miller  
Aron Sanders

### ***Sunday, November 13*** ***Honoring our Veterans***

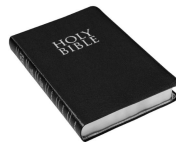
November 11 is observed as National Veterans Day. On this Sunday November 13 we wish to pay honor and give thanks to all who have served in a branch of the service.

We will have a special altar on which we would like to display a photo or snap shot of each of our veterans when they were in the service. If one is not available of that time, please use a current picture. We ask that you bring these pictures to the church office by Wednesday, November 9th.

### ***Harvest Sunday November 20***

You will see our altar area begin to take on the look of the Harvest Season as the Worship Committee brings the look of a true harvest to this area. November 20th is the Sunday just before Thanksgiving Day and we have designated it as Harvest Sunday. We will have baskets of fruit and vegetables symbolizing first fruits of the harvest. We will also have empty baskets to be filled by our church families with canned goods and staples for our local Food Pantry. This is a way we can give to others just a small amount of what God has given to us. If it is not convenient for you to bring food items, Special Harvest Sunday Envelopes will be available for monetary gifts. There will be a special time during the service for these gifts to be brought forward to the empty baskets.

### ***Bible Sunday November 20***



How often do you pick up your Bible to read and study the Word of God? Do we just get so busy and forget. Do we just know that on Sunday morning there will be a Bible in the pew that we can use? Do we just depend on the Pastor or Lay Reader to read scripture to us?

We encourage you to break those habits and bring your Bibles to church on Bible Sunday November 20. Read from your own Bible for the scripture readings. Yes, there are different translations but there is just something about reading from your own Bible. You can even mark in your own Bible when there is a something that really is meant just for you.

**BRING YOUR BIBLE TO CHURCH ON NOVEMBER 20**

## October Visitors

Jim & Jean Smith  
Starlet & Perry & Makensie Bell  
Paul Voelket  
Perry & Phyllis Herrington  
Louise Johnson  
LeAnn Lennie  
John & Marjorie Gipson  
Ralph & Yvonne Corn  
Zoe Cavazos



## Quilter's News

Quilters will meet November 14th and 28th. If you would like to participate please join us in the Activity Center the 2nd and 4th Monday from 9am till noon.

We are the Praying Pieces Quilting Bee and some are members of the Brazos Bluebonnet Quilting Guild which meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Brazos Center in Bryan. All are welcome.

Block of the month meets Nov. 17th in the Activity Center Kitchen.

Peggy Cooper

### Acolytes for November

November 6  
November 13 Will Neyland  
November 20  
November 27

### Trustees Meeting

Sunday, November 13th, 2011  
Church Parlor following the  
Worship Service

## Lay Readers

November 6 Sandra Hoegemeyer  
November 13 Marie Kellum  
November 20 Kip Kissinger  
November 27 Mary Jane Magill

## Ushers

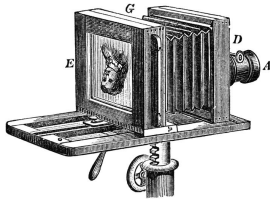
Bob Otto & David Blajeski

## Couple to help with Communion

Ray & Virginia Akins  
Howard & Sandra Hoegemeyer

## NOVEMBER MISSION

The November Mission will be the 10th annual Feast of Sharing. Local churches-along with the Franklin Pantry are working together to insure that all families in our area will have a Merry Christmas. The meal is not just for Food Pantry Clients but for all families in our community. The meal is covered, however monetary funds are needed to purchase gifts, which will be given to pre-approved families to open on Christmas morning. The Church would like to raise money so that gifts can be bought. Your offering can be left on the alter rail after the communion or in the offering plate anytime during the month. Please make your checks Feast of Sharing in the memo line.



## Directory for 2012 Planned


We will soon begin taking photos of members for the 2012 Directory. You might be having family visit for Thanksgiving and /or Christmas, and it would be very special to get all of them together for a photo which could be included. Photos will be taken at the church (outside the front door if the weather allows) on Sundays in late November and during December.

Also, if preferred, we can use the photos from the 2010 Directory or other photos which you provide. New forms for information and permission will be included in the December newsletter; these will need to be completed before publication.

Please contact Anne Perry at 979-828-4374 if you have questions.

Thanks,  
Anne Perry



 <p>United Methodist Women WOMEN - UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</p>	<p>United Methodist Women will meet on November 2nd in the Activity Building Kitchen 9:30am. All women are welcome.</p>
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### USHERS-USHERS-USHERS

### GREETERS-GREETERS-GREETERS

Ladies and Gentleman, we are again in need of ushers and greeters for the 2012 year. Training and mentoring are available for all new participants.

Please contact Bob Otto at 979-828-2114 for more information and to volunteer for this very important church ministry.

LIFE IS A GIFT,



THAT'S WHY WE CALL NOW  
THE PRESENT.

*Em* doodles  
www.emdoodle.com

# November 2011

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		<b>1</b> Preschool-Story time	<b>2</b> UMW 9:30 <u>Activity Kitchen</u> Choir 5pm Youth 6pm	<b>3</b> Preschool-Chapel	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Men's Bible Study Noon in Parlor	<b>8</b> Preschool-Story time	<b>9</b> Choir 5pm Youth 6pm	<b>10</b> Preschool-Chapel	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Quilting 9am Men's Bible Study Noon in Parlor  Habitat for Humanity meeting 5pm  Vision Team Meeting Education Bldg 6-pm	<b>15</b> Preschool-Story time	<b>16</b> Choir 5pm Youth 6pm	<b>17</b> Quilting BOM Activity Building Kitchen Preschool-Chapel	<b>18</b> Clothes Closet Christmas Garage Sale 8am-2pm	<b>19</b> Clothes Closet Christmas Garage Sale 8am-2pm
<b>20</b> 4-H meeting in Activity Building 4pm	<b>21</b> Men's Bible Study Noon in Parlor	<b>22</b> Preschool-Closed	<b>23</b> Thanksgiving Office closes @1pm No youth or choir	<b>24</b> Thanksgiving Office Closed Preschool-Closed	<b>25</b> Thanksgiving Office Closed	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Quilting 9am Men's Bible Study Noon in Parlor  Vision Team Meeting Education Bldg 6-8pm	<b>29</b> Preschool-Story time	<b>30</b> Choir 5pm Youth 6pm  1st Advent Study 10:30am or 6:30pm			

November 1 All Saints Day - Revelation 7:9-17 - Psalm 34:1-10, 22 (UMH 769) - 1 John 3:1-3 - Matthew 5:1-12  
 November 6 Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25 - Psalm 78:1-7 (UMH 799) - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - Matthew 25:1-13  
 November 13 Judges 4:1-7 - Psalm 123 or Psalm 76 (UMH 797) - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 - Matthew 25:14-30  
 November 20 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 - Psalm 100 (UMH 821) - Ephesians 1:15-23 - Matthew 25:31-46  
 November 27 Isaiah 64:1-9 - Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (UMH 801) - 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 - Mark 13:24-37

# November Birthday's

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1st Julie Foltermann            | 18th Ariel Campsey<br>Nathan Shutt               |
| 4th Carty Hicks                 | 20th Laura Hailey<br>Douglas Campbell            |
| 5th Sara Davis<br>Frank Perry   | 22nd Betty Fuller                                |
| 6th Marla Zahn<br>Candy Jepsen  | 24th Julie Neyland                               |
| 7th Gaynelle Duncan             | 25th Greg Stem<br>Ken Reinhardt                  |
| 9th Jack Cloat                  | 26th Seth Kissinger<br>Donna Otto<br>Cathy Hayes |
| 12th Sarah Stem<br>Anez Pitcock | 28th Kenneth Jordan                              |
| 16th Toni Black<br>Bryan Kellum | 29th Joetta Misterek                             |



- |                              |
|------------------------------|
| 10th Steve & Charlene Conrad |
| 11th Don & Cynthia Hobart    |
| 26th Dona & Sebie Harris     |



## Remember Those In The Military

- Jason Hawk    Matt Horn  
Chris Pennington  
Eric Michael (Air Force)  
Bradley Huggins (Army)  
Aaron Huggins (Army)

Did we miss your special day?

If we did, we are sorry and would like to make sure we have it on our calendar. Please call the church office at (979) 828-3355.



## Food Pantry

**2nd Sunday is Food Pantry Sunday. They are in need of canned meats, sugar, coffee and coffee creamer, shampoo, deodorant, cooking oil, mouth wash, dish soap, aluminum foil, tooth paste, soups, powered laundry detergent.**

## Prayer

To keep the prayer list as up-to-date as possible, please contact the church office with any changes to the specific situations. If possible, we would like to briefly list the specific need for each one on the list.

## Concerns

*Prayer Works*



- |   |   |                               |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Tom Fuller– Cancer (Beth Vicker’s Brother)                        | ★ | Billy J. Wallace– Health      |
| Leslie Davis– Cancer (Friend of Kay Ison)                         | ★ | Courtney Carver ★ Ted Mikeska |
| Darrell Knabe– Lymphoma   | ★ | Joetta Misterek– Cancer       |
| Marjorie Shenkir’s brother, Monty Michael, for continued healing. |   |                               |

## Franklin United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 556  
Franklin, TX 77856

Phone: 979-828-3355  
Fax: 979-828-3355  
Email: franklinumc@valornet.com

*Happy Thanksgiving*



*November 2011*

Visit us on the web  
[www.umc-franklin.org](http://www.umc-franklin.org)



## Purpose Statement

Franklin United Methodist Church is a fellowship of believers who respond in faith to God's Love as revealed in Jesus Christ, seeking to glorify Christ in all that we say and do.

Our responsibility is to provide an environment for our congregation to grow in Christ through worship, Bible study, prayer, fellowship, witness and service. Our Mission is to declare in word and demonstrate in unselfish, loving action the character of Jesus Christ in the world to the end that others may be drawn to Christ and His Church.