

PASTOR'S NOTE

As I write this article, I am in Jacksonville, Florida. Beth and I drove her mother back to her home after Hurricane Irma passed through. We are grateful for our neighbors who helped us by watching our home and tending to our dogs while we are gone. While traveling we saw a lot of power/utility trucks from several different states heading to Florida to assist the millions without power.

When we pulled into the neighborhood there was no structural damage, but a lot of branches and limbs littered yards and streets. It was quite a messy scene. We unpacked and then began the work of cleaning up the myriad of branches, limbs, shrubs, etc. that covered the entire front and back yard and roof. But, we had an equipment problem. We only had one rake! Beth was quick to take the rake! This should be no surprise for those who really know her! But more seriously, Beth's mother called a neighbor who lent us a wheelbarrow, rake, pitchfork, and blower! We used the wheelbarrow and also raked the leaves and smaller branches on an old bed sheet (necessity is the mother of ingenuity), and drug them to the street corner for pick up later. A half gallon of water and a quart of Gatorade later the task was complete. I took the equipment back to the kind neighbor and learned they had a death in their family and were leaving the next morning driving to Tennessee. Prayers for your mercy and peace upon them O Lord!

A few minutes later I watched the news and saw the report of the total destruction of homes and neighborhoods in the Virgin Islands and Florida Keys, and somehow the multitude of limbs and branches littering the streets did not seem so bad! Beth's sister, Karen, invited us over for supper. I was to learn that Karen's daughter and 3 children were going to be at supper also, as they were in a flooded area and had been without electricity. Fortunately, their home was not flooded as many others in their neighborhood. Karen's son-in-law could not make it for supper because he works for AT&T and was working round the clock to help others. By the way, Karen's husband came home after 9 pm as he also works for AT&T. More long hours await them. My job of raking out a yard became a lot smaller with each bite of spaghetti I consumed.

As I reflect over the events of this yet unfinished trip, I realize the importance of neighbors even before I had left my driveway. State Farm insurance has a great theme, "Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there!" But State Farm has tapped into a theme that is woven into creation. We are people created in God's image. John Wesley taught that part of this image is that we are social people. We are connected together in community life even though our culture stresses privacy and individualism. This theme is emphasized so vividly by Jesus in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10).

And it is part of the greatest commandments which includes "to love our neighbor as we love ourselves". The great irony is that when things are at their worst and we find ourselves in helpless situations, neighbors show up! They show up in a convoy of power trucks or more simply with a leaf blower and wheelbarrow, rake and pitchfork, or with a spaghetti supper and a thousand other ways!

For those of us old enough to remember Mr Rogers, he had the cute little jingle on his show for so many years, "It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood... Won't you be my neighbor?" Well folks as I look outside the neighborhood here in Jacksonville, it is not so beautiful right now! The same is true for many other places in Florida and Texas. But looking on the inside

it is beautiful because of people, because of neighbors who show up! And some neighbors who will not make it home tonight to eat spaghetti with their family. And then I pray, "Lord, may I be such a neighbor! Lord, may we all be such neighbors!"

Blessings,
Bill

In an effort to have more up to date information in the event of a disaster, we would like you to fill out a Disaster Preparedness form to give us information on how we can best help you, or you can help another. The form is available for you to download on our website. Please return it to the church office or place in the offering plate this week. The Disaster Preparedness form will also be available as an insert in the October 1 worship bulletin.

WORSHIP

Join Us Sundays for Worship & Fellowship

Regular Schedule

Traditional Worship - 8:45 AM (Sanctuary)
Contemporary Worship - 11:00 AM (Sanctuary)
Coffee Fellowship - 9:45 AM (Fellowship Hall)

Communion: We will serve traditional communion at Traditional Worship on October 1. It will be served at the kneeling rail. Individual cups of juice will be served along with gluten free bread only. Intinction communion will be served at Contemporary Worship.

GO FISH!

We have more Invitation Cards to distribute as you invite others to worship! Please remember to sign your name on the card so they can look for you when they visit. These are available in the office and the Narthex of the Sanctuary. Go Fish!

You Are Invited To
Spanish Fort
United Methodist Church

Sunday Worship Times
8:45 AM - Traditional / 11:00 AM Contemporary
6690 Spanish Fort Blvd., Spanish Fort, AL 36527



ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE...

Go to www.spanishfortumc.org and select online giving or **CLICK HERE** for more information and to give online. *all gifts are tax-deductible and a year-end giving statement will be prepared for you for tracking and tax purposes.

If you have a QR scanning app on your cell phone, simply scan this code for easy access to our online giving option.

If you would like to set up a regularly scheduled automatic withdrawal from your bank account, please contact Jan Webb in the church office at jan@spanishfortumc.org or 251-626-1334.

STUDY

Youth

SFUMC YOUTH
Fifth Quarter

6TH - 12TH GRADERS | 9:30 PM - 11:30 PM

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6TH
FOOD, GAMES, & FUN

SPANISHFORTUMC.ORG

Spanish Fort
United Methodist Church

YOUTH GET TOGETHER



Get Togethers are something new that we're rolling out this school year at SFUMC Youth. We want to give our middle school and high school ministries some opportunities to build relationships and have fellowship together more than just once or twice a year.

Wednesday, October 18, will be our next Get Together. Join us behind the Sanctuary from 6-8 p.m. for inflatables, food and fun! All grades 6-12 are invited! Bring a friend with you!

STUDY HALL:

We are opening up the youth area for studying every Monday from 4-6:00 p.m. Bring your books and homework! Afterwards, we hope you will stay each Monday for our Remedy Youth Monday Night Bible Study. Contact Zack McCraw with any questions at zack@spanishfortumc.org

Children



Extreme Kids (K-3rd grade)

The Lessons will be the following for the next four weeks.

- Week One | Earning Money Work is how we earn money. It's not always easy, and it's not always fun, but work is a blessing from God that allows us to provide for others and ourselves. Work also gives us a chance to share our faith. When we develop an extra mile attitude, we can show people the love of Jesus through our work - and that's something far more valuable than money!
- Week Two | Giving Money Giving is a great way to show God we love him. God can take even the smallest gifts and multiply them to do great things. God doesn't want us to wait for someone else to do it. He wants all of us to give what we can!
- Week Three | Saving Money Saving money is good stewardship. It prepares us for the challenges and expenses we don't expect, and it helps us save up for things we want. The sooner we start saving, the more we will have to spend on those things later on, and the easier saving will be when we are grown.
- Week Four | Spending Money We all make choices when we spend money, and the choices we make determine whether we are wise shoppers. We need to consider our wants vs. our needs, prices, and safety so that we can be wise managers of the money God gives us!

Mission Effort from our Children's Ministry

Beginning in September we will resume our monthly mission projects. On the first Sunday of every month, *Serve Him Sunday*, and the first Wednesday of every month, *Work for Him Wednesday*. Your child will have the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ by working together to shine the light of Jesus to those who need it most.

For the 2017-2018 year, our mission focus will be UMCOR Relief Health Kits. We will collect (and eventually assemble) UMCOR Health Relief Kits. UMCOR is a ministry of The United Methodist Church that is dedicated to alleviating human suffering around the globe. UMCOR's work includes programs and projects in disaster response, health, sustainable agriculture, food security, relief supplies, and more.

The children will participate and support this organization within The United Methodist Church by working to collect the different supplies necessary for UMCOR Health Kits that will be sent to aid their efforts around the globe. Our goal is for each month throughout the entire year we will designate a different supply item required by UMCOR for the Relief Health Kit, and that we will focus on collecting and do so for the duration of that month. In the Spring after we have collected all the items required, the children will have the opportunity to help assemble the kits.

UMCOR HEALTH KIT : OCTOBER SUPPLY ITEM

Bath Sized Soap –

- **3 oz. and larger sizes only**
- **No Ivory or Jergens soap due to moisture content**
- **Do not remove from original packaging**

All emergency kits at UMCOR, have been carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Due to the fact that strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that the items collected abide by their specific guidelines regarding the requested items- Nothing more. UMCOR requires that all items be new and that items not be washed as they will be considered used.

How does my child participate: Have them donate the designated supply item for that month that is needed for the UMCOR Health Kit.

When do they bring donated items: Children may bring items with them to normally scheduled worship and program times.

Where are donation drop boxes: Donation Tub locations are on the Main Campus in the Narthex of the Sanctuary, and SFUMC West Campus Room #WD104 (more commonly known as Extreme kids worship room)

If you have questions regarding this effort, please contact Jennifer Robertson, Director of Children's and Nursery Ministries at jrobertson@spanishfort.umc.

SERVE

#WHYIMSFUMC

Our upcoming Stewardship Campaign #whyimspfumc (Why I'm Spanish Fort United Methodist Church) will be held in the month of October. We will be highlighting areas of ministry throughout the campaign.

At the completion of the Stewardship Campaign, on October 29, we will hold a Ministry Fair. Please join us at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and get plugged into ministry areas that Spanish Fort United Methodist Church offers. This may include ways to grow in your faith, or use your gifts to serve in the church, or you can just be introduced to all of these opportunities.



An invitation has been extended to us for a chain saw team to help with disaster relief in the Savannah Georgia area. Volunteers are needed to join us from October 13-17. The schedule is as follows:

Friday, October 13 - Travel by church bus to Savannah. Depart west campus at 8:00 AM
Saturday, October 14 - Work day
Sunday, October 15 - Attend church and then work remainder of the day
Monday, October 16 - Work day
Tuesday, October 17 - Travel back to SFUMC by church bus.

If you prefer, you can provide your own transportation and join us for the weekend. We will be removing debris. All women and men ages 19 and older may participate. At least 7 people are needed. Bring chain saws, safety glasses, and gloves. Oil and gas for your chain saw will be provided.

We will stay at a local Methodist church with shower facilities. Bring sleeping bag, air mattress, cot, toiletries, etc. for your comfort. Bring money for meals. Drinking water will be provided, but please bring any snacks you may want for the duration.

Please contact Larry Davis, 533-8748 with any questions or to volunteer your time on this team.

Missionaries we support who are serving the Lord to the ends of the earth:

John and Lisa Hamilton; OMS International in Montevideo, Uruguay
Rob and Amy Ellis; New Tribes Missions in Tanzania, Africa
Ronnie and Nanny Calvert; Quito, Ecuador
Monica Maxwell; IMB Connecting, in Southern India

Connect @ MidWeek!

Adult Classes | **DINNER** | *Kid's Activities*

Come & Get Connected!

5:15 p.m. ~ Dinner
6:00 p.m. ~ Activities /All Ages

Menus for October

October 4: Tacos

October 11: Pork Loin

October 18: Hamburgers & Hot Dogs

October 25: Sausage & Chicken Jambalaya

COMMUNITY

CONGREGATION NOTES...

Baptisms:

Grady Hart, son of Alex and Nicole Hart on September 24, 2017

In an effort to connect with our church members, please contact the church office if you have the address for any individuals listed below:

Adkins, B. J.
Anthony, John J.
Anthony, Missy
Baker, John D.
Baker, Mary D.
Beck, Beth
Beck, Caleb
Beck, Jacob
Boltz, Mark T.
Busbee, Rae
Busbee, Robert
Dannenberg, Daniel
Dannenberg, Patrick
Dunbar, Hunter
Frierson, Abby
Frierson, Beau
Frierson, Dale

Lambert, David
Lybrand, Louise
McDonald, Jonathan
Meacham, Chase D.
Meyers, Aimee Lynne
Meyers, Diana
Morgan, Debbie
Murphy, Kay Best
Murphy, Suzanne
Music, Sherry
Pattillo, Beth
Pattillo, Dana
Pattillo, Van
Revere, Angela
Ricks, Ben
Small, James
Tanner, Bonnie

Frierson, Ellen
Gordon, Annie
Gordon, Dr. James
Graf, Michael
Hardin, Ann
Hardin, Bob
Hanshaw, Noah
Hanshaw, Steve
Hanshaw, Tanya
Henning, Hunt
Henning, Keri Ann
Hester, Joshua

Thompson, Fred
Thompson, Marie
Vaughn, Andy
Vaughn, April
Vaughn, Jan
Vaughn, Mindy
Walker, John S.
Wilson, Brian
Wilson, Jackie
Wood, Phillip
Wooten, Amanda

SIGN (*Service in God's Name*) would like to thank Spanish Fort United Methodist church and its members for your support in the Ribs for SIGN benefit on Saturday, September 24, 2017. The day was a huge success with a lot of people serving together for the benefit of widows and orphans in Baldwin County. If this ministry is something you would like to be a part of please call Todd Matthews 251-423-8633 or Clay Walden 251-422-7345.



SPANISH FORT
Celebrates Fall

Presented by:
The City of Spanish Fort

October 1, 2017
2 p.m. - Art Guild Show
3 p.m. - Mobile Pops Concert

Spanish Fort Community Center
7361 Spanish Fort Blvd
Spanish Fort, AL

Free Admission
Please bring canned foods
to donate to the Prodissee Pantry

CONTACT DEADLINES....Please understand that all information for the next month's CONTACT newsletter must be submitted in writing to Carmen Walker, in the church office, no later than the 15th of the current month.

The CONTACT, as well as other publications/correspondence, are sent to you by email. If you are not receiving email publications/correspondence and wish to, please check "subscribe" when you register your attendance on Sunday mornings, or go to our website and click on Media/SUBSCRIBE NOW!

Note: If you "unsubscribe" to one email publication/correspondence from SFUMC, you will no longer receive ANY emails from SFUMC.

STAFF

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Candler Cain - Congregational Care Pastor
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Jennifer Robertson - Children's Director
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Beth Allen - Director of Family Ministries
beth@spanishfortumc.org

Alison Hancock-Nursery Coordinator
alison@spanishfortumc.org

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday / 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. | Friday / 8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.
251-626-1334 phone | 251-626-1325 fax

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