

Invite Grow Serve

GOD FILLED SPIRIT FED JESUS LED

Prayer * Scripture * Unity

Van United Methodist Church

April 2016

vision proposed by council 4/2015

News in the Pews

Pastor's Column

John Wesley began what became known as the Methodist movement. Among the many subsequent results is The United Methodist Church. Wesley never intended to start a church. His movement began with weekly meetings. Wesley and his brother, Charles, were seeking a way to stay faithful to God. The way they devised was for small groups to meet and answer questions about their discipleship.

Covenant Discipleship Groups are formed from this tradition. For a Covenant Discipleship Group all one needs is a willingness to attend once a week and a desire to be faithful to God. Each group sets a weekly meeting time and place. The initial meetings are spent with the group writing its own covenant: Questions about discipleship that members will answer each week. Once the covenant is written the group meets each week to answer the questions. The meeting should take less than an hour each week.

If you have a desire to grow in your faithfulness to God, are able to meet once a week, I invite you to attend one of two information meetings about Covenant Discipleship Groups. Saturday, April 16, 6pm, and Monday, April 18, 7pm.

Blessings, Pastor Mark

YOUTH

Over the last month we have had a lot of youth involved in church activities. We brought a large group to the Harvest America concert in Dallas. We got to connect with thousands of other Christians while listening to great music and a speaker. We also had youth involved with the Holy Thursday play, Good Friday service and the Easter egg hunt. We are looking forward to a full summer with VBS, camp, UM Army and special needs VBS.

Thank you for all of your prayers and support for the youth of this community,
Jeff Siemens



starting April 3, 2016
sermon series

Relationships by the Numbers

Marriage - Apr 3

Parenting - Apr 10

Friendship - Apr 17

The Grand Poobah - Apr 24

Please join us for a

Bridal Shower

in honor of

Chelsea Pearson

Bride-elect of Nathan Johnston

Saturday April 16

TEN - THIRTY | RAINWATER HOME
IN THE MORNING | 230 COUNTRY LANE
Van, Texas 75790

Bed Bath and Beyond*Target*Dillard's
RSVP to Kristi Johnston @ 903-621-6050

First Monday Prayer Walk: the Monday Morning Prayer Group will be walking through our church, asking God's blessings on every part of it, from 9:30 'til 10:00 the first Monday of every month. All are invited to join us!

UMW

The United Methodist Women had an informative meeting in March on leprosy. The speaker had recently returned from a mission trip to India to minister to those with leprosy, so had first hand knowledge of living conditions and medical problems of those with leprosy.

The April meeting will be held on Monday, April 4 at 5 p.m. At this meeting, kits for UMCOR will be assembled. Thanks to all the folks who have donated items this month so that these kits can be donated to those who have experienced a disaster in their lives.

The program for the meeting in May will be to use chipped and broken china pieces to create new works of art. Plan to attend with some creative ideas to make items for shut ins and those in nursing homes.

*I will never forget your precepts,
for by them you have preserved my
life. Psalm 119:93 NJV*

**Collecting in April
Spaghetti and Meat Sauce
for
Van Community Ministries**

Every Sunday please bring a bag of spaghetti or a jar of meat sauce.



Please place in tub in foyer

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

3/29/16 VUMC GENERAL FUND

Budgeted Revenue General Fund	\$260,325
Total Budgeted Revenue Received YTD	\$ 69,341
Budgeted Expenses General Fund	\$269,043
Designated 2015 Revenue (reduce expenditures)	<u>\$ (17,274)</u>
Net Expenditures	\$251,769
Total Budgeted Expenses paid General Fund YTD	\$ 54,679

FAMILY LIFE CENTER FUND

Budgeted Revenue Family Life Center	\$ 600
Total Revenue Received YTD	\$ 1,795
Budgeted Expenses FLC	\$1,800
Total Expenses Paid YTD	\$ 2,140
Family Life Center Balance as of 3/22/16	\$ 33,183

APPORTIONMENTS

2016 Conference Apportionments	\$ 29,017
2016 Conference Apportionments Budgeted	<u>\$ 7,841</u>
2016 Conference Apportionments Paid YTD	\$ 1,432
Balance due for 2016 Conference Report	\$27,585
2016 District Apportionment	\$ 3,072
2016 District Apportionment Paid YTD	<u>\$ -</u>
Balance Due for 2016 District Report	\$ 3,072

Submitted by: Norma McCarty, VUMC Finance Chairman

VBS

Hold the date, June 27-30 for VBS. The theme of the program this year will be *Cave Quest: Following Jesus, the Light of the World*. If you want to beat the rush to volunteer to help, contact Nancy McClanahan or Mary Redman. There will be a training session in Tyler on Saturday, April 16th. Please contact Nancy or Mary if you are interested in attending.

APRIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- ◆ **Trustees Meeting**
Wednesday, April 6th, 6:00pm
- ◆ **Finance Committee:**
Wednesday, April 13th, 6:00pm
- ◆ **Church Council:**
Sunday, April 24th, 5:00pm

Our Prayers Go Out To....

Family of Betty Campbell
Glenda Brewer
Lena' Pettiet

Steve Huffines
Polly McCarty

Vibrant Church Initiative
Carson Keller

Jim Corley
Judy Garrett

Men & Women serving in the Military & in harms way & their families

Eddie Olson - Korea

Michael Terry - Ranger Training

Our Friends in Nursing Facilities...

Joyce Staton

Nettie Swinney

Pav Evans

Brenda Reeves

Glenda Thompson

Enid Hopper

Our Home Bound Friends...

Gay Powell

Pat Ice

Glinda Raulston



SUMMER EVENTS

June 12-18 Visiting UM Army
June 20th-24th Youth : Lakeview Camp
June 27th-30th: VBS
July 6th-8th: Special Needs VBS
July 10th-15th: VUMC UM Army

Prayer Chain: The telephone prayer chain will continue as usual. In addition to that, we will begin to send urgent prayer requests by email. There is such power in prayer, this will give an opportunity for more of us to be in prayer, and will unify us.

Notes from Nanci Evans

Prayer: Keeping it Simple

I have found myself on an email prayer chain these last few weeks. I have a sneaking feeling it was by accident as I didn't sign up for it. However, I am pleased to pray for these people whom I really don't know well. This has brought me face to face with the fact that I am not comfortable with my current prayer skills. I have had a love/frustration relationship with prayer. I have prayed without ceasing, I have prayed for specific outcomes, I have prayed for healing, I have prayed for myself, I have prayed on paper, with friends, alone in meditation, I have prayed in gratitude, in frustration, in wonder, and in sadness.

I suppose it has been the prayers that haven't been specifically answered to my understanding that have caused my greatest spiritual growth. It has taken me into the dark land of "Why?" As God answered Job, in his Why, the answer is "Because I Am." And Job bowed in worship. It's that simple!!

My equally disturbing prayer issue is being around people who say, "God answered our prayers when He saved us from the tornado." Well what about those poor schmucks who lost everything? Did He love them less? Were those prayers somehow less fervent? There is no easy explanation to these questions.

These days, instead of praying for the parking space, for financial freedom, for perfect health, I find myself praying more that His will be done. I come to understand I don't know what's best in any given situation. I pray that those asking for prayer will receive Jesus' loving and healing presence in their struggles. Healing comes in many different forms. The Lord's prayer and David's prayers in the Psalms have become "enough."

The most simple prayers I read in the Bible have become my favorites:

"Lord, Carest thou not that we perish?"

"Lord I believe, help me in my unbelief."

"Let this cup pass from me, but let Thy will, not my will be done."

"Cast me not away from your presence, and do not take Your Holy spirit from me."

And the ever popular, simply "God, Help me." and "Thank you, God"

Matthew 6:1-13

(to be continued)

Sunday Worship Services

9:00am *Contemporary Praise & Worship*

10:00am *Sunday School*

11:00am *Traditional Service for Contemporary People*

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Hospitality Table

Looking for an opportunity to serve others?

The Hospitality Table is available.

There will be a sign up sheet by the church office for those interested.

Men's Covenant Discipleship Group

Mondays, 5:15am

Fellowship Hall

VUMC 411

lead by Pastor Mark

Orientation class for those new to Van UMC. Topics will include introduction Christian faith, Methodism, Van UMC. This class is great for those new to Van UMC and those interested in joining the church. Will be held during Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall.

Stretching your charitable dollars

Feeling charitable? Many of us understand the importance of supporting the church financially, but want to be sure we make the most of our charitable dollars. A gift to the church endowment fund is a great way to support the church now and in the future, making your gift one that will keep on giving. Endowment funds are invested and the income may be used to support special church projects and initiatives for decades to come. If you have a passion for a particular ministry, consider either contributing to its endowment if one exists or setting up a fund specifically designated to support that ministry.



Van UMC
326 W. Main Street
PO Box 1919
Van, Texas 75790

Van United Methodist Church Newsletter

van_umc@yahoo.com
903-963-5563

Sunshine Friends Preschool

Now Registering!



Summer
Program

School age
aftercare program



3 preschool
programs
to choose from

Pre-K
aftercare
program



903-963-1418

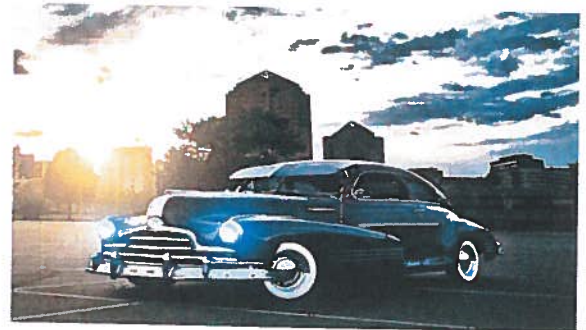
Now a CCS Provider!

April 30th:

**The Annual Shine & Show
Auto & Cycle Show**

**Van United Methodist Church
326 W. Main St. Van, Texas 75790**

Check flyer for more info..



After our New Year's Eve Spaghetti Supper, the Valentine's Day Dinner, and the Easter Week activities and Easter Egg Hunt, we are preparing for our fourth church-wide activity for the year. It will be an Auto and Cycle show and will take place on April 30, 2016 from 9 A.M. until 2 P.M.. Competition will be great to select the Top 25 Entries, Best Car, Motorcycle, Truck, Rat Rod, etc. Trophies will be given to all winners. There will be a \$20 entry fee for the entrants who want their cars to be judged in the competition. That fee will include a ticket for lunch, dessert, and drinks for the registrants. You can even put in your vote for the People's Choice Award. But there will also be a FREE registration for those who would like to just have their car on display for the show...that category will include several of our church members. There will be flyers posted at the church and around town to spread the word, and a copy of the flyer will be sent to the church email list. Like the other three activities, the purpose of this show is to have a great community gathering and serve as a BRIDGE activity between the church and our area residents. There will be vendors, face-painting and Balloon Animals, Bounce Houses and hopefully, a Train Ride for the kids, and a Bake Sale and Cake Walk, along with vendor's booths, a Silent Auction, and plenty of food for all those who attend. Please make plans now to attend and contact Vernon and Pat Hargrave (903-360-2754) to see how you can volunteer your time to help prepare for a great success for the day.

JOIN A
**Covenant Discipleship
Group**

Launch Meetings

Sat April 16, 6pm & Mon April 18, 7pm
Based on John Wesley's class meetings
Meets Weekly

(meetings last less than an hour)

Group creates discipleship covenant

**Group members mutually accountable to each other
Encourages spiritual disciplines**

**Prayerfully consider joining
a covenant discipleship group**

**CHURCH
COMMUNICATIONS
101 WORKSHOP**

Sunday, April 17th
12pm-6pm

Lunch will be served

RSVP to Pastor mark by April 13
(for food count)

Presented by April Canik,
Communications Consultant

CHURCH SECRETARY NEEDED

Part-time (Monday-Friday)

Van United Methodist Church. A person who is a committed follower of Jesus Christ. Good interpersonal skills. Flexibility a must. Willing to learn. Ability to be a part of a dynamic team.

Experience with Microsoft Publisher, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Google Calendar. A High School graduate with two years effective secretarial experience. Please send resume with references to mark@vanumc.org or call 903-963-5563 for more information.

HELP NEEDED IN NURSERY

For Sunday mornings

Please contact the church office 903 963 5563

Scout News.... Michael Hubbard to receive the Eagle Scout Award!

On Saturday, April 23, at 3 pm Michael Hubbard will receive the Eagle Scout award. This is the highest award of Boy Scouts of America and the first to be earned in our troop in many years. The family of Mike and all members of Troop 376 wish to invite all members of the congregation to attend the ceremony and to celebrate with us at the reception immediately following.

Mike's Eagle Project was the planting of trees around homes that lost theirs in the Van tornado last May. He has also served the troop as Senior Patrol Leader, including doing so for Scout Sunday services here at the church and participated in service projects for our church, such as painting stripes in our parking lot. Please come out and celebrate with us!

