

Insight

November 2009

Volume 2 Issue 9



Welcome to Williams

A monthly publication highlighting the mission of Williams Memorial United Methodist Church



November Sermons

11/1/2009

“Making All Things New”

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalm 24

*Revelation 12:1-6a

John 11:32-44

11/8/2009

“Giving From Our Hearts”

Ruth 3:2-5,3:3-17

Psalm 127

Hebrews 9:24-28

*Mark 12:38-44

11/15/2009

“God Answers Prayer”

*1 Samuel 1:4-20

Psalm 113

Hebrews 10:11-25

Mark 13:1-8

11/22/2009

“Who Is and Who Was and Who Is to Come”

2 Samuel 23:1-7

Psalm 132:1-12

John 18:33-37

*Revelation 1:4b-8

11/29/2009

“Fulfilling the Promise”

*Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

Give Thanks by Danny Wayman

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. 1 Thessalonians 5:18-24

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. We take extra time for family. We eat good food. When I was young it also included getting out of the city and being with grandparents.

I miss those days. Many of our loved ones are now in heaven and I am the grandparent. My wife's grandmother always made the yeast rolls. Decades of experience and thousands of rolls made her meals a delightful, light, and fluffy experience. The celebration is the same but the roles have changed. Now my brother-in-law makes the rolls. They are OK but we really miss grandmother (and her rolls).

We have much to be thankful to God. Food is plentiful. Our homes are secure and we do not live in fear, but giving thanks in all circumstances is not easy. We miss our loved ones who are not with us. Illnesses afflict us and those we love. Paul prays that God will keep our spirits and bodies sound and blameless. That is my prayer for us as well. May we all have a safe and sound Thanksgiving all year round.



A Joyful Noise- By Patsy Morriss

The first time Sherri Waters said “I want you in the choir,” in my direction, I looked over my shoulder. Finding no one there and realizing she meant me, I laughed and replied, “No, you don’t.” While I applauded her inclusive attitude and her desire to expand the choir, I had no intention of corrupting the group’s magnificent sound.

When she later made it clear that her invitation was serious and insisted that I could sing given a little instruction, I was touched. Despite my inability to identify myself as a soprano or an alto, she encouraged me to give it a try.

I mulled it over until Don came home from choir one Wednesday night with the news that Sherri was offering choir members an incentive. She promised to cook for anyone who brought a guest to practice the following week.

There isn’t much I won’t do for a home-cooked meal. Well, except learn to cook. Anyway, since I was considering trying choir anyway, I took the plunge.

What I remember about that first choir practice is how nice everybody was. They all made me feel so welcome, and responded to my lack of knowledge with friendly assistance. The choir is a family that embraces new members warmly.

Dinner the following Sunday evening at Sherri’s was even more of a treat. Her house is filled with souvenirs of the very interesting life she has led. She’s a good cook, too.

Five years later, I’m feeling pretty comfortable in the choir loft with my back-row buddies Lisa Waits and Carolyn Bland. It’s a joy to be a part of this group and to hear the music from the inside; somehow the tenors and the basses blend even more beautifully when you’re sitting right between them.

I still lack the musical talent of many of our choir members, but I now know that I can sing. And while I’ll never be able to sing like Stephanie Laird, I can still contribute to the wonderful blend of voices that is the Williams Memorial United Methodist Church Chancel Choir.

Consider becoming a part of the choir and contributing to this joyful noise unto the Lord. Sherri or any choir member will answer your questions, or you can just show up any Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room. Be sure and mention my name — that way, we both get a home-cooked meal!

Suzi Mercy- She's Having Fun

By Patsy Morriss

Cindy Lauper said it best: Girls just wanna have fun. And while Suzi Mercy is a girl who loves to have fun, her definition of fun undoubtedly differs a bit from Cindy Lauper's. A talented seamstress who learned to sew making doll clothes at age ten, Suzi has found fun in creating most of the banners, altar cloths and paraments we use in worship at Williams.

Her green eyes twinkle as she describes the steps involved in creating a particular banner. "It's a lot of fun," she says when you ask her how many hours of work went into it. She doesn't consider it work to stand at the dining room table husband John has elevated to a comfortable level, laboring over a banner. If you press her she'll admit that it can take 120 hours to complete a single banner. For her, though, it's an outlet for what seems to be an endless supply of creativity, as well as an inclination to resist sitting still.

"They called me 'hyper' when I was a kid," she says, flashing her brilliant smile.

Suzi was drawn into liturgical arts when she saw a need and volunteered to fill it. She and some other church members noticed the deterioration of the church's beautiful altar cloths and set out to make new ones. Through trial and error they discovered the most effective methods to turn out the flawless products one can now see in the sanctuary every Sunday.

One of the first banners Suzi made was for the Williams liturgical dancers' performance at the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. Like most of the banners,

it evolved from the scripture it features. Isaiah 40:31 says, "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

"I thought the themes of hope, walking and running were perfect for the Race," she says. "I always read the scripture over and over until I get an idea of how the banner should look. I think I'm inspired by the Holy Spirit."

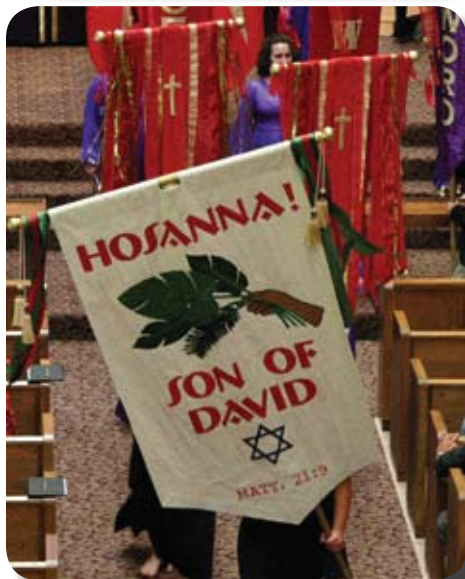
Having now made more than 20 banners, plus a number of altar cloths and pulpit and lecturn scarves, Suzi is considered the local parament expert. Members of Hardy Memorial United Methodist Church consulted with her recently as they planned for their new sanctuary. Hardy member Bennie Raney, herself a professional seamstress, praises Suzi's work.

"Suzi Mercy is phenomenal," she says. "You can see the heart in everything she does."

Suzi's heart is evident in almost every corner of Williams Memorial United Methodist Church. She coordinates the Tribe of Dan and, with John's help, dresses the stage for the Xperience Service. Her costumes can be found on everyone from the liturgical dancers to the cast of The Living Last Supper; she even made Victorian costumes complete with hats for the Madrigal singers a few years back.

Director of Music and Fine Arts Sherri Waters finds Suzi's assistance with worship invaluable.

"Whenever I talk to Suzi about helping with a hope or plan for



worship, she says ‘Oh, that’s easy.’ Nothing I ask her to do is easy. I probably tried to do it myself before I mentioned it to her, and it’s definitely not easy. I have not found anything she can’t do.”



Every year Suzi makes a special stole for each member of the Confirmation Class. She’s an active member of United Methodist Women, recently serving as co-chair for the Mercantile Store. Her handmade “Silver & Stone by Suzi” jewelry and “Crazy Good Bows” for little girls are available for purchase in the Good Treasures Book Store. She directs the profits from these items back to the church, crediting her husband for affording her the ability to do so.

“John is wonderful and supports all of it – including financially,” she says. “He has an artistic eye and offers helpful design suggestions.”

“He’ll even go to the fabric store with me if we’re out of town,” she

adds with a laugh.

Children Kelsey and Spencer, now 20 and 17, are also supportive, and helped as young children by wearing the appliquéd clothes their mom made for them. Making those appliqués, she explains, taught her the skills she would later need to appliqué banners.

Listening to Suzi discuss the mechanics of bringing her works of art to life is fascinating. She uses fabrics and materials gathered from just about everywhere, embellishing banners with pom pom material from the party store and ribbon from the gift-wrap aisle that she strips of its wire edging. Deconstructed Christmas tree ornaments, bells and silk plant leaves have all found their way into her masterpieces.

For lettering, she downloads a type font from the Internet and enlarges it on the copy machine. Letters and designs are appliquéd first and then attached with special glue to prevent puckers.

She has even created, with John’s help, devices for storage including special hangers for pulpit scarves and stands for banners.

Senior Pastor Danny Wayman points out that Suzi’s gifts of service have added immeasurably to the



Williams faith community’s worship experience. If her creations were purchased by the church, he adds, each one could easily cost thousands of dollars.

“Suzi is one of the most faithful members of any church I know,” he says. “Her commitment to excellence in alter preparations, paraments and banners is a great addition to our worship services.”

A more modest individual would be hard to find. Suzi isn’t one to bask in praise for her talent and hard work. She’s more likely to be busy looking for yet another way to help. Her attitude is best summed up by her own words.

“It’s a joy.”





Xperience Worship

Xperience Notes- Clap Your Hands

I recently was talking with someone about worship and the subject of clapping came up, The question arose, "Why are we encouraged to clap along in the worship service?" Basically I believe there are three reasons this is important.

1. Clapping encourages us to use our whole being. Worship is something we are supposed to do with all that we are. We are encouraged to worship with our hearts, minds, body and soul. Clapping allows us to be physically involved.

2. Clapping encourages us to work with each other. When we clap and join with our neighbors to our right and our left we become one instrument. Our unified rhythm is a congregational offering of praise to God. Just like singing along with the words on the screen, clapping together brings us together

3. Clapping encourages us to participate in worship. Worship is not a spectator sport. We are not supposed to watch each other sing songs, or play instruments. Psalm 100 says, "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing." We are encouraged by God to make a joyful noise, sing songs, and clap our hands as in Psalm 47:1 "Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy."

Sunday Schedule

- 8:15 Early Worship in Sanctuary**
- 9:00 Fellowship Time**
- 9:15 Sunday School**
- 10:15 Fellowship Time**
- 10:30 Xperience Worship in Wesley Hall**
- 10:30 Sanctuary Worship in Sanctuary**
- 4:00 Cornerstone Worship**
- 4:00 Youth Band**
- 5:00 Alive @ 5**
- 5:00 UMYF**

I do not want to tell you how to worship. We all are comfortable with different ways of expressing our praise to God. I do want to encourage you though, not to be timid. Just the simple act of putting your hands together, joining with your neighbor, and praising God can be such an uplifting experience.

Peace and Grace

Russell Martin

Director of Xperience Worship

Looking For You

Do you sing, play an instrument or act? Do you have experience working with computers or sound boards? The Xperience band is looking for participants in each of these areas. If you would be interested in singing or playing with the Xperience Band, or you would like to be part of a drama team, or technical team, please contact Russell Martin or Kerri Crocker.

Mentoring Success

We have begun our Mentoring program for 2009-2010 School Year. We mentor at Theron Jones. So far 9 people have agreed to spend time with students once a week in 30 minutes sessions. Some of us have two students and spend an hour a week. TISD has developed a new philosophy: Kids of Hope instead of Kids at Risk. Mentoring is not just tutoring students but approaching the program by letting children know the world cares / we care about them.

Kids of Hope is composed of 4 Aces. Every adult holds 4 aces. Listed below are the Aces and their meaning in this program:

- Ace of Hearts – An Anchor. Parents or responsible adult raising a child
 - Ace of Clubs – Other caring adults who can be a positive person in the child's life
 - Ace of Spades – High expectations – The sky is the limit. Reach for the stars. That we believe in them more than they have believed in themselves – We are treasure hunters helping them find successes
 - Ace of Diamonds – opportunities to Succeed – Success breeds success.
- The four corners of the diamond are ways to feel successful:

1. belonging to something positive
2. feeling useful
3. feeling competent
4. feeling empowered

We need to let children know that winning may not happen every day, but success can happen in one of the above areas daily.

I pray that God will touch your hearts and if you have 30 minutes a week to spare you will join the mentoring program.

Grace and Peace

Margy Chaufy



Dear Williams Family:

Thank you for responding so well to my last letter in May when the Williams Memorial United Methodist Church was in great need of your financial assistance. Due to your generous gifts, we survived the summer and are well on our way to another successful year both in our ministries and in our finances. At the present time, we have approximately \$400,000 in expenditures remaining for the year. That is a large amount, but I am happy to say that in past years, our church has risen to meet a need this large.

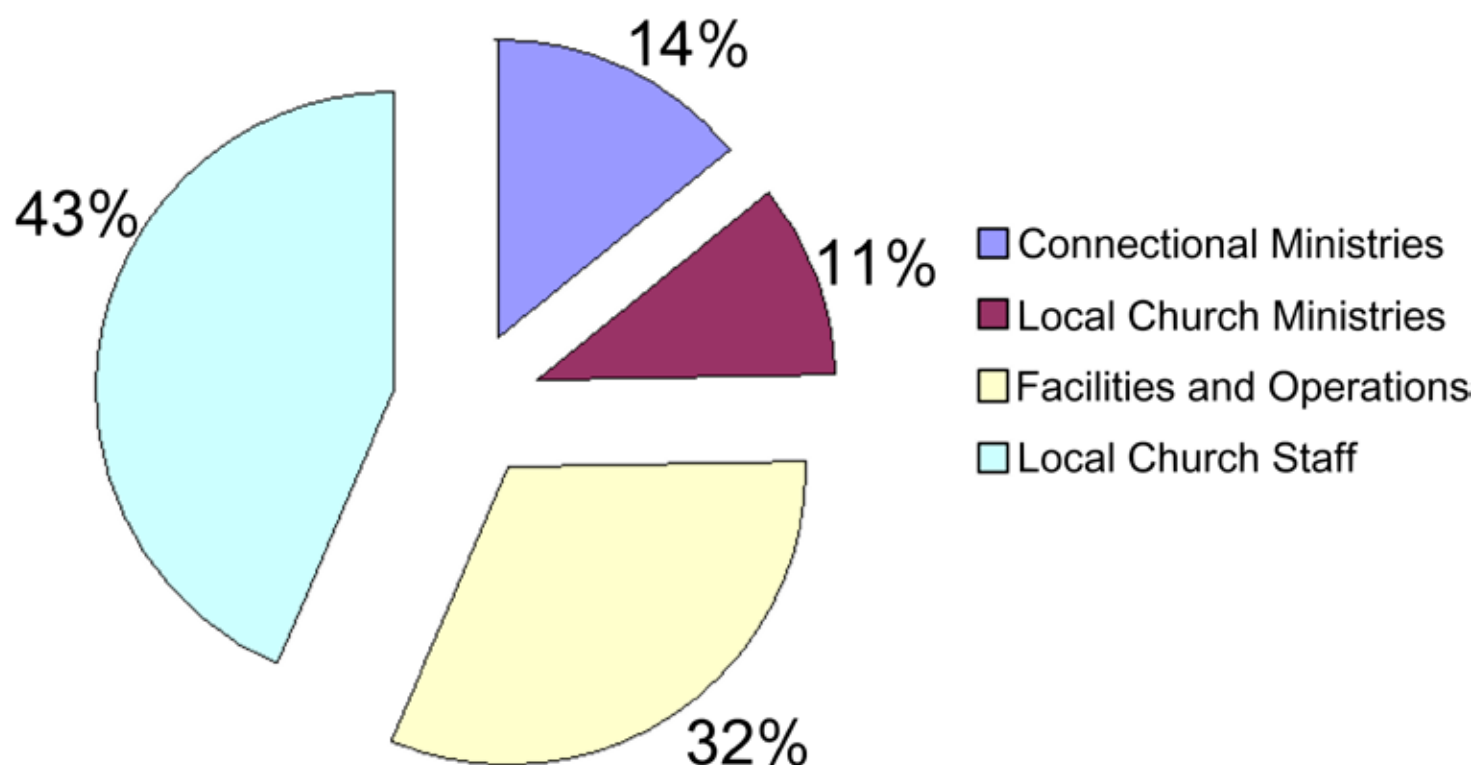
It will take every single church member to make this happen again this year. Some of you gave generously back in May and actually prepaid a good portion of your gift for the 2009 year. That means we cannot necessarily count on our typical large December gifts to finish this year's financial commitments. I hope all of you will take the time to prayerfully consider what the ministry at Williams Memorial United Methodist Church means to you, your family, and this community.

You will soon be hearing from members of the church in regard to the 2010 Stewardship Campaign. The church staff and church committees are working hard to prepare a budget with minimal increases. The staff members are being very good stewards of our funds. I encourage you to continue your strong support of these programs and ministries. Thank you so much for your support. I am looking forward to announcing both a strong financial year for 2009 and great results from the Stewardship Campaign for 2010.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Henry Russell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Henry Russell, CPA
Texarkana ISD

Our 2010 Church Budget



Proposed General Operating Budget for 2010

Connectional Ministries	\$ 201,983
Local Church Ministries	\$ 152,000
Facilities and Operations	\$ 457,425
<u>Local Church Staff</u>	<u>\$ 625,774</u>
Total	\$ 1,437,182

Your offerings make the ministry of your Church possible.

Connectional Ministries make many different ministries here in the United States and around the world a reality.

Local Church Ministries are for the education, worship, evangelism and other ministries here at our local Church.

Facilities and Operations are the cost of our building in mortgage payments, maintenance, insurance, utilities; and then the printing and administrative expenses of doing ministry here at Williams.

Local Church Staff are the salaries for your Pastors and Lay Staff in leading the congregation in doing the work of ministry here in Texarkana.

Thank you for making all these ministries strong and healthy here at home and around the world.



RENEWED VISION

An Interview with Kristi Lower

By Russell Martin

If you ask Dr. Kristi Lower how long she knew she wanted to be a doctor; she will stick out her hand about three feet off the ground and say, “Since I was this tall.” “I’ve always wanted to be a doctor” she says, “It was always a dream of mine.” Now an ENT surgeon at Collom and Carney, she is fulfilling a dream she has had since she was a small child. It is a dream, however, that almost came to an end.

Kristi Lower has been married to Hal Lower for 19 years, and has three beautiful children, Sophie age 9, Olivia age 7 and Hallie age 5. She lives with her family in Texarkana, Texas where the children attend school and her husband is a banker. From the outside it seemed she had everything she could want and things were going well. It was something that happened on the inside though, inside her brain, that took her breath, and almost her sight away.

“I was working 5 days a week and everything was fine, and I actually had a day I got off early and was going to pick up my girls at school.” she said. “I remember distinctly, pulling up to the red light to turn left and my vision got blurry a little bit and I thought wow, I’m working way too hard, I need to change my contacts, something’s not quite right.”

Later that day she changed contacts, got some rest, and felt better. Her vision, however, was getting worse. She told her husband something was just not right, but without other symptoms like a headache she was not that concerned

“I woke the next morning and it was much worse,” she said. She cancelled her surgery appointments and made an appointment of her own with her ophthalmologist. By this time one eye had started turning in to the middle, and an MRI later revealed the source of the problem. A tumor of less than an inch was in her brain stem.

“The radiologist told me it was probably malignant,” she said starting to choke up, “I lost it and I had to call my husband.” After that she called the neurosurgeon on call, a friend, who came up to look at her condition. “Pretty quickly he was able to tell me that it wasn’t (malignant), it was a vascular tumor that had bled, and was putting pressure on my nerve, and that I would be fine.” Tears returned, this time tears of hope, and she said, “And then right after that, I pretty much was.”

She was put on medication to reduce the swelling and six weeks later had a four hour surgery to remove the tumor. The surgery went well. Her vision continued to get better as her eye muscles strengthened. Recovery came over the next few months, and would not be without some interesting moments.

“I remember pouring a glass of orange juice for Olivia,” she smiled as she reflected, “and the glass was right there, and I poured it like six inches away, all over the cabinet because my depth perception was so off.”

When asked about how God was with her during this time, she started to get emotional once more. “We

"I just gave up control. It was amazing, amazing how peaceful that felt, and I really, honestly was never scared about surgery. I've always known God wouldn't give me anything I couldn't handle."

had a lot of challenges in my life, illnesses and such," she said. "I was saved when I was thirteen, so God has always been there, but honestly he wasn't in the forefront like he should have been."

"I knew that some of my strength came from God but I didn't give him credit for all of it." She said that when the neurosurgeon said she would be ok, it was then she sensed God's voice.

"I just gave up control. It was amazing, amazing how peaceful that felt, and I really, honestly was never scared about surgery. I've always known God wouldn't give me anything I couldn't handle."

During this time, though, it wasn't only her physical vision that was being renewed. Her two years off work meant that she could spend some time being a mom at home. For her three daughters this was an amazing blessing and for Kristi it was too. She teared up when talking about how much she didn't realize she had missed them.

"I was working too dad gum hard," she said, cried and continued, "there were nights I would come home and the girls would already be in bed, and I would hardly get to see them. I went from ninety to nothing, to being home 24/7 and that was really great.

She smiled again as she talked about getting to do all the room mom stuff, stay at home, and help with homework. When talking to Kristi it is evident how much she loves her kids and how much this chance to be home has meant to her.

Kristi had one final procedure recently to restore a lingering double vision problem and now has fully recovered. After spending a few weeks to work under the professor who trained her, making sure she remembers everything, she is ready to go back to work. She smiled and said, "I have all the confidence that I am 100 percent and ready to go back, and I went to work and found out that my whole first week is booked out, so I am ready to go."

The schedule at work may already be full, but it is with renewed vision that she is returning to her job. The time she has spent at home has helped her to focus on what is really important; like friends, family and most importantly God. She also says that she is so thankful for her friends, and her church, and for the support that they have given her and her family through this time.

"It's amazing how many people have called and written, people I don't even know wanting to pray for me, and know what they can do", she said. "It's a little overwhelming, but in a wonderful way."

When we were closing our interview she shared something one of those friends had told her upon hearing what she had been through.

"Sometimes you need to lose your sight, to find your vision" she quoted him, then paused, took a deep breath and she said, "WOW!"

The complete video version of this interview is now available on our website at www.welcometowilliams.org

Mark Your Calendars

Charge Conference on November 15

Once a year our Church meets to conduct the business of the congregation. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Bill Taylor, will meet with us to lead our discussion and decision making. Every member is invited to attend and participate in the decisions of the Church.

We will meet at 2 p.m. in Wesley Hall. This year we will be joined by Hardy Memorial and the Korean fellowship.

Joint Service of Worship and Thanksgiving

Williams will join with Hardy Memorial UMC and Union Hill Missionary Baptist Church for a service to the glory of God.

The last couple of years we have joined with these other congregations to offer Thanksgiving to God. This year it will again be the Sunday evening before Thanksgiving, November 22, 2009, at 5 p.m.

We will gather in the new sanctuary of Hardy Memorial located on North King's Highway just south of Myrtle Springs Road. Please join with our sisters and brothers from these congregations and give thanks to God for our blessings.

Meet our Staff- Jolena Hays



Hi, my name is Jolena Hays and I am the Administrator for Williams Memorial. I came to work in December of 1999 as the financial secretary under Pastor Matt Idom. I am responsible for all areas of finance for the church including the payroll for the church staff and the Williams School staff.

In December of 2003, I was promoted to administrator and shared responsibilities of management with Erin Bunch, church secretary. When Erin left in May 2006, I inherited all managerial responsibilities in addition to those I had at that time. I oversee the custodial staff as well as coordinate all plant repairs and upkeep.

On a personal note, I have been married to my wonderful husband and best friend, Jeff, for 26 years this October. We have two daughters and one son-in-law, Whitney (19) and Rachel (22) and Lance Cheatham. We are members and active at Heritage Baptist Church where I sing on our contemporary praise team.

Other than my family and my love for music, I enjoy spending time traveling to new places with my husband. This is a new adventure without our kids and we are taking it all in. I appreciate and have learned to love many people here at Williams. I often tease that I have the best of both worlds...I have the privilege of having two church families. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and hope to for many years to come.

Music and Fine Arts Ministries



Sherri Waters- Director of Music
and Fine Arts Ministry



As we are fully into fall, we recognize and celebrate the lives of our members who have passed from this life to the next.

November 1 we observe All Saint's Sunday. It is a joint service. We join together for this special event.

Sunday evening, November 22 we are invited to Hardy Memorial United Methodist Church for our joint Thanksgiving Service. Years past have been wonderful, and I know this year will be as well. Our Chancel Choir will sing, and the children will ring the color bells.

Keep the Hanging of the Greens service on your calendar. It is Sunday evening December 6. We will have drama, music, bells and Advent celebrations as we decorate our church in anticipation of Christmas.

Our special Christmas Cantata is the morning of December 13. It is written for Harp and Organ accompaniment. Our choir is excellent, and I know it will be a beautiful morning. Fred Norton is our narrator.

The Christmas Eve services are at 5, 7 and 11 p.m. as in years past. Communion and candlelight will be a part of each service.

Grace and peace,

Sherri

MUSIC AND ARTS SCHEDULE UPCOMING EVENTS

HANGING OF THE GREENS- SUNDAY EVENING DECEMBER 6

CHRISTMAS CANTATA- SUNDAY MORNING DEC 13

SANCTUARY SERVICES, SUNDAYS 8:15 & 10:30 A.M. SANCTUARY

XPERIENCE SERVICE, SUNDAYS 10:30 A.M. WESLEY HALL

CHILDREN'S MUSIC IS PART OF ALIVE @ 5 CHILDREN'S MUSIC ROOM

WESLEY RINGERS, MONDAYS 8:30-9:30 A.M. HANDBELL ROOM

HANDCHIMES, WEDNESDAYS 3:30-4:15 P.M. HANDBELL ROOM

LITURGICAL DANCE, WEDNESDAYS 5:30-6:30 P.M. SANCTUARY

YES! WEDNESDAYS 6:30-7:00 P.M. CHAPEL

CHANCEL CHOIR WEDNESDAYS 7:00-8:30 P.M. CHOIR ROOM

CHANCEL CHOIR WARMUP SUNDAYS 10:15 A.M. CHOIR ROOM

TRIBE OF DAN-VARIOUS TIMES

THOUGH THEY HAVE BEGUN IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN ANY OF
THESE MINISTRIES. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SHERRI WATERS

AT SWATERS@CABLEONE.NET OR 903-832-8663

Children's Ministry

Alive @ Five Children's Ministries

Sunday nights 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

4 & 5 Year Olds-

Story Time / Dinner/ Cherub Choir/Activities

This class is a great way to learn about Jesus. We tell Bible Stories, play games, and learn songs.

1st & 2nd Graders.

Bible Zone/Dinner/ Praise Choir-This lively group gathers for Bible stories, activities and games.

3rd & 4th Graders

Bible Basics/Dinner/Praise Choir-Children learn the books of the Bible and memory verses along with related games and activities.

5th & 6th Graders

Music/ Dinner/JYF (Junior Youth Fellowship)

Bible study and games are part of Sunday evening activities. In addition, there are trips, events and on-going mission projects.

A monthly rotating menu of Pizza, Chicken strips and Tacos will be offered. (A donation of \$4.00 a meal or \$36.00 a semester is suggested.)

Children's Ministries Alive @ Five Schedule and Menu

Nov. 1st - Class
(Pizza) JYF

Nov. 8th – Class
(Tacos) BB

Nov. 15th – Class
(Chicken) BZ

Nov. 22th - No Activities
(Children play bells at
(Hardy Memorial)

Nov. 29th – No Activities

Children's Music



Amy Kirk- Children's Music Director

The Lord is GOOD!!! Mrs. Peggy Burson and Mrs. Shaun Edmonds have volunteered to be the Assistant Directors for the Children's Choir part of the Hanging of the Greens worship service scheduled for Sunday December 6. Thank you Miss Peggy and Miss Shaun!!!

The kids have already been working to learn new songs and old carols and they are doing GREAT. I hope all of you come to the service and see what we have in store. Angels, shepherds, cows, shepherds, sheep, donkeys, the Holy Family - what a blessed way to begin your Advent season!

Kids: Please come to every practice between now and the end of November. I have CDs of the music if you'd like to practice at home or in the car. Parents can call me at 903-276-8576 or e-mail me at amykirkmusic@gmail.com and i'll get a CD to you. Parents: we're already working on costumes, so call me if you can help. Thanks to all!!!

Miss Amy

Williams School



"Fun with the Singing Zoologist"



"The Singing Zoologist"

"We need more than ever to train our children to be creative, problem-solving members of society. The arts allow children to exercise their creativity in ways other subjects cannot." - Michael Kaiser, President of the JFK Center for the Performing Arts

One of the goals of Williams School is to enhance our children's academic education through the arts. We're off to a great start this school year.

Walking by Mother's Day Out, you're likely to hear music playing. Peeking in the preschool classes you might see a craft being made, a musical activity in progress or a book being read or discussed. In addition to these daily art encounters, preschool classes enjoy weekly music classes and visits to our library for story time.

In late September, the Singing Zoologist visited our 3 and 4-year-old classes. Membership in the ArtsSmart program has enabled our school to have performers such as the Singing Zoologist visit the school. Five times a year local, regional or national artists will come to Williams School for a program or teacher workshop. The Texarkana Regional Arts Council (TRAHC) coordinates the ArtsSmart program.

This fall, Kay Thomas, visual artist/consultant, will lead a workshop for our teachers on using arts to support and reinforce our curriculum. Like our students, our staff is always learning!

Paula Hawkins



"Amy Kirk leads our weekly music class"



"Moving to the Music"



"Creating in the Classroom"



"Sherry Endsley, our storyteller"

Youth News

UMYF in November

Sunday November 1

MYF: Fish fry & Fun Night

Sunday November 8

MYF: Hay Ride and Cookout

Sunday November 15

MYF: North District Youth Rally at Tapp UMC New Boston
Leave at 4:30 p.m. and return around 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday November 18

Randy Sams'- Meet in Wesley Hall 4:30 (No Y.E.S!)

Sunday November 22

Combined Thanksgiving worship at Hardy Memoria

No Activities 11/25 or 11/29

Every Wednesday

5:00 -7:00 p.m. Open Gym
5:30- 6:30 p.m. Liturgical Dance
6:30- 7:00 p.m. Y.E.S!
7:00-8:00 Bible Study



October has come and gone, we are all full of pumpkin pie, and Thanksgiving is just around the corner! Yeah! November promises to be another fun and interesting month for our youth! I issued a challenge to our youth that if they had two consecutive Sunday nights in a row of an attendance of 35 or more I would get a Mohawk! If they have 40 or more they get to paint it! So please add me to your prayer list! Ha ha! I may have to change my name from Tommy Earl to Tommy Hawk! Anyway, there is excitement building in the youth at the thought of them getting to see me get a really weird hair cut! And this is not the only exciting thing for the youth this month.

The Methodist Men will be meeting with the guys from our youth group on Sunday November 1st, while the girls have a girls night out. The Methodist Men will be cooking fish, eating with the youth, and then no telling what may happen after that! This may be the most interesting Methodist Men's meeting ever!

We also have a North District Youth Rally on Sunday November 15th at Tapp UMC in New Boston, and our youth band will be providing the music. It's gonna be a lot of fun! On Wednesday November 18th, the youth have another opportunity to serve at the Randy Sams' Outreach Center. November is going to be another great month for our youth!

With UMYF on Sunday night, open gym, liturgical dance and YES! on Wednesday night, there are lots of opportunities for our youth to have fun, learn about God, and love their neighbor.

On behalf of our youth, I want to thank everyone for all of the prayers, love, and support that you have given to our youth group! None of what we are doing would be possible without your support! Thanks! God bless!



Adult Ministries

XYZ

Do you play Dominos, Bridge, Skip-Bo, or Hand & Foot? If you do or if you would like to learn as you fellowship with Christian friends then the XYZ Group is for you. This group of women and men with X-tra Years of Zest meet in the Youth Center on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 9:30 am. We play games, visit and share a lunch. Please come join us for fun and fellowship on Nov. 12th at 9:30 am. We will not meet on November 26th because of Thanksgiving Day.

UMW

The general meeting of the United Methodist Women is on the first Tuesday of each month. We invite women of all ages to come join us as we discuss our mission plans, enjoy a program by a guest speaker and share a special lunch. Our Meeting this month is November 3rd in the church parlor at 10 am.

Book Club

Our book club continues to grow as we get together to discuss our book of the month. We will meet on November 9th in the Children's Library to discuss *Lost Symbols* by Dan Brown. We have selected *More Than A Carpenter* by Josh McDowell for our December 14th discussion. We look forward to seeing new faces as well as our regulars, so please come join us.

UMW Princesses (20's 30's and 40's)

The Princesses will meet on November 11th in room 108 at 6:00 pm. We will have a fun activity as always. Please come join us and remember we do have childcare available, while mom enjoys a night of fun and fellowship with other young mothers.

W2LEO

Please join us at Bryce's on November 3rd and again on Dec. 8th as we eat a good down home meal and fellowship together. We meet at 6:00 pm so come join us for good food and great fun.

United Methodist Men

The UMM will be meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Nov. 1 for a fish fry. Meet in the back parking lot of Williams. All men of the church are encouraged to attend.

Newsletter Articles

If your group is having a meeting or special event and you would like to have this information included in our Insight Magazine please send the article to suecamp@cablone.net before the 5th of the month prior to the event the next month. Example: have article to Sue by Nov. 5th if event is on Dec. 18th.



Sue Camp- Director of Education



Thank You From the UMW

Wow!! Another successful fund raiser for United Methodist Women! Our fourth annual Mercantile Store on October 7th was the catalyst for such enjoyable fellowship among friends that evening. Your UMW expresses a special "Thank You" to all who donated items or contributed in countless ways to our event. As planned, all money will go to support global and local mission projects. God is Good!



Good Treasures News

Bookstore Hours

Monday

7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday

7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday

7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Thursday

7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Friday

7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturday Closed

Sunday Morning

8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Antique Bibles and Framed Pages

The newest addition to the bookstore is our collection of framed Gigue pages, old Methodist hymnals and disciplines. These books and pages, which date back to the 1700's are the perfect gift for anyone interested in music or church history. The framed pages serve as a unique wall hanging for your home or office

Individual pages come either loose or in frames. Many are beautifully framed in such a way so that the text is visible from both sides. You are invited to come by and view these pieces or art during bookstore hours. Each piece is also available for purchase.

Good Treasures Bookstore Offers Gift Wrapping

The Good Treasures bookstore offers free gift wrap for items purchased from the store. We will also wrap items brought in for a small fee. Come by and get your Christmas shopping, and wrapping done the easy way.

College and Young Adult Ministries Begin Weeknight Bookstore Bible Study

Good Treasures Bookstore is the place to be on Thursday Night for all College and Young Adults!

November 5th we will begin a new study using the NOOMA video series by Rob Bell. These lessons are fun, provocative, and relevant to today's generation. If you are feeling a bit hungry - for physical food and spiritual food- you'll be at the right place! We will serve a light meal followed by a short video and discussion. Message your friends and come join us!

What: williams college/young adults
Where: good treasures bookstore
When: thursday night 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Gloria Elmore at 903-278-9935 or join Williams Young Adult Facebook for more information.

Attention parents of college students: please send updated address, e-mail and phone numbers to the church office for your student to receive care packages, weekly devotionals and other special event announcements.



Our Staff

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Welcome to Williams Memorial UMC

Our Church buildings are located at 4000 Moores Lane on the north side of Texarkana. Moores Lane is north of I-30 between Summerhill and Richmond roads.

We invite you to worship with us. Our services are Christ-centered, Biblically grounded, and culturally relevant. The words, music, and means of grace are all designed to empower you to grow in your relationship with God and in ministry to the world.

You are also invited to belong to the faith community. We enter into the family of Christ through baptism. We recognize God's action in baptisms in other faith communities; you do not have to be re-baptized to belong at Williams. If you have not been baptized we will be honored to baptize you.

We offer the sacrament of Communion on the first Sunday of each month in the Sanctuary at both the 8:15 and the 10:30 a.m. service. On the third Sunday of the month we offer Communion during the Xperience service in Wesley Hall. We encourage all people to respond to God's grace in receiving the sacrament. We practice open communion, which means you do not have to be a member of Williams or any church to receive from the Lord's table. We offer God's love freely to all persons.

As a faith community we believe every member is in ministry. Your baptism is your authority as a member of God's family. No one can take that away from you. We are all individually gifted and called to service. We live out that calling within community.

Our goal is to be like Jesus Christ in this world. We are constantly growing in grace; we have not arrived. We grow through worship, prayer, and study of God's Word. Through large meetings, small groups, and discipleship we are changed from our old selves to our new selves.

As you pray to God, we hope you will consider belonging to the Williams faith community. As you respond to God's grace, please talk to one of the pastors at the end of any worship service and they will be honored to assist you in belonging at Williams.





Upcoming Events

November 5	College Bookstore Bible Study Begins
November 10	Travelers Trip to Cowboys Stadium
November 11	UMW Princesses
November 15	Charge Conference
November 15	North District Youth Rally
November 22	Combined Thanksgiving Service at Hardy
November 29	No Youth or Children's Evening Activities
December 6	Hanging of the Greens
December 8	W2LEO Out to Eat
December 13	Christmas Cantata
December 13	Happy Birthday Jesus Party
December 20	Xperience "Carols and Communion"
December 24	Christmas Eve Services

More events can be found online at
www.welcometowilliams.org or www.facebook.com/wmumc