



La Vernia United Methodist Church

September 2011



Faith & Family Night

JARS OF CLAY

Enjoy a Live performance from **JARS OF CLAY** and a Silver Stars Player testimonial!

SAVE the DATE
Sat, Sept 03, 2011

Come Fellowship this Summer with the San Antonio Silver Stars!

Faith & Family Night

Special Offer for United Methodist Church
\$20 Gets Lower Level Ticket, Hot Dog, Chips & Drink
PLUS \$5 Donation to **Nothing But Nets!**
AND... **Mark Swayze Band**, from University UMC, performing Pre-Game out in the Courtyard!
Call NOW to reserve your seats!
Ask for UMC Block of Seats!

Check in the office for a registration

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY

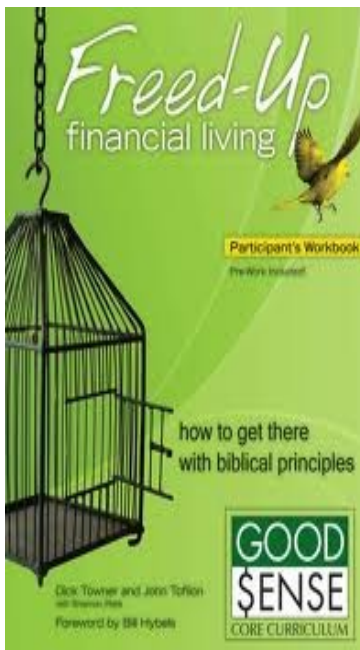
Pastor Harry plans to offer Disciple 2 Bible Study, Into the Word Into the World, on Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts beginning in September. It will be 32 weeks on Mondays from 6 – 8:30 PM. You do not have to have completed Disciple 1 in order to participate. We will begin registration in July; however if you want to get on the list early just e-mail me at harry.lvumc@gmail.com or call me at church at 830-779-2621 or on my cell phone at 830-534-8339, and I will write your name down. The Study Manual will cost approximately \$37.00. Books can be shared. **THERE ARE STILL SOME SPOTS LEFT!**

Emmaus Yard Sale Saturday October 1st 7 am– 4 pm

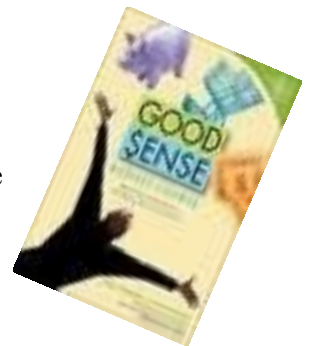
La Vernia United Methodist Church

Contact George Villegas if you would like to donate or have items picked up. His number is 210-488-2500 and email is emerson10@lavernia.net. Items may also be delivered to the church that morning.

Good Sense Ministry.



The Finance Committee is sponsoring the Freed-Up Financial Living Course from the Good Sense Ministry. The aim of this course is to allow participants to discover tools and develop skills that will enable them to manage and control their finances. The course is intended to grow an understanding of biblical financial principles and an ability to put them into practice. The Freed-Up Financial Living Course will be offered in two separate three-hour sessions in the Family Life Building. The first session will be held on Friday the 30th of September from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The second session will be on Saturday the 1st of October from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Child care services are available upon request. Pizza will be served on Friday night and coffee and donuts will be served on Saturday morning. The cost of the Participant's Workbook is \$17.99 (couples attending the course may share a workbook). Those interested in attending should contact the church office.





CHARGE CONFERENCE SET FOR 2011

According to the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, the Charge Conference “shall be the connecting link between the local church and the general Church and shall have general oversight of the church [in our case,

Administrative Board.]” The voting membership in a Charge Conference includes all attending people who are Administrative Council members. Historically the Charge Conference was set up by John Wesley as a means to support and hold accountable the leaders of each local congregation. It has continued in this capacity for over 200 years.

This year, as we did last year, we will have a joint meeting of Charge Conferences with several other churches. This year it will be at 3:00 PM on Sunday, September 25, at First UMC in Floresville. The other church charge conferences scheduled to meet at the same time with us are: Ernest T. Dixon UMC, First UMC of Floresville, First UMC of Pleasanton, Resurrection UMC, and Christ UMC of Stockdale. We will meet together for a short time of introductions, worship and sharing. The San Antonio District Superintendent, Rev. Carl Rohlfs, usually has words of affirmation and challenge. Then we will meet separately with our own Charge Conference to conduct the business of the Annual Charge Conference which includes:

- A Preliminary Report of our Ministry from the past year
- A Basic information sheet with a directory of officers and leaders
- List of Church Officers nominated for 2012 which requires a vote

- Recommendation of Pastors’ Compensation for 2012 which requires a vote
- Vote to elect new Lay Speakers and continue old Lay Speakers
- Report of the Pastors’ which includes membership audit
- Reading of names of inactive and a vote to drop inactive members
- Narrative Reports from each Pastor and Professional Staff
- Continuing Education Reports from each Pastor
- Review and evaluation of Goals and Objectives from 2011
- Vote to approve proposed goals for 2012
- Report of the Trustees, Finance Committee, UMW plus any other ministry group

While anyone is welcome to attend the Charge Conference, when it comes to matters of voting, only members of the Administrative Board are officially members of the Charge Conference with a privilege to vote. A Church Conference is one in which all church members have the right to vote, but since several congregations are meeting at the same time and same place, the District Superintendent has decided to restrict the voting to the Charge Conference.

Although this year our charge conference is early, our committees and staff are making the necessary decisions and preparations to be ready for it. It will be good to get this “out of the way” early because in October we will concentrate on our Stewardship emphasis about which I will write next month.
SHALOM! Pastor Harry

To Everything There is a Season...

The Lectionary calls this “Ordinary Time” in our liturgical calendar. I find myself smiling at this “ordinary day” here at our church. This morning we said goodbye to a dear man who served our church faithfully and brought such joy to our lives. Following the committal service there was a delicious lunch provided by our Expressions of Love ministry and the time of fellowship brought laughter and healing to all who attended. I ate lunch with one of our couples who are expecting their fourth baby this January – and am reminded of the poignant passage in Ecclesiastes of “a time to be born and a time to die”.

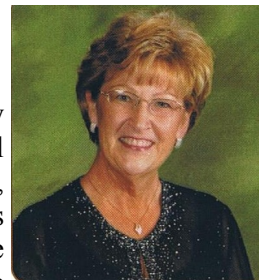
Our “ordinary day” here means the Childcare Ministry is up and running on the opening day for the new season. Sunday morning we had a prayer time for students and teachers who were anticipating the upcoming new school year. The altar was lined with a wide array of students. There were kindergarteners heading off for their first day of school - and they knelt besides college students who were moving out of their home and into a dorm room for the very first time.

Our calendars show a very busy month of September ahead. There will be plenty of committee meetings, planning sessions, Crossfire youth events and Aging Gracefully luncheons. The tenth anniversary of 9/11 will be remembered on the second Sunday of the month. We will look back on that fateful day and see how God has remained faithful to us each day since that time.

We will be gearing up the Confirmation classes this fall as well as new adult Bible studies. Weaving throughout our busy calendar will be the added fall favorites of football games, marching bands, the Fall Festival and (hopefully) cooler weather.

To everything there is a season – and the fall season in our church provides activities and ministry options for all ages. Yes, it is “ordinary” – in an extraordinary kind of way. This is such a great church! Please make plans to include some of the activities on your calendar this year!

Blessings to you.....Pastor Cyndi



Ministries of our Church

The recent 2010 Annual Report of the Texas Methodist Foundation featured an article on our church. That article highlighted two of the ministries our church supports—the Twice Blessed Thrift Ministry and the La Vernia Christian Food Pantry—as examples of how our church is a part of a “bold ministry of faith” that embodies our church mission “to serve, share and offer Christ.”

The Twice Blessed Thrift Ministry and the La Vernia Christian Food Pantry are only two examples of the many ministries supported by our church that also include the Kairos Prison Ministry, Aging Gracefully, Threads of Love, Cross-fire, and many more. All of our ministries are deserving and each serves God in its own unique way. I celebrate everyone who lifts up Christ through their loving service to our many church ministries. Copied below is a part of the Texas Methodist Foundation article on our church. Those who are interested in reading the entire article may find it at the Texas Methodist Foundation web site at: www.tmf-fdn.org.

CHALLENGES – ALL CHURCHES HAVE THEM. Limited budgets, repercussions from a sluggish economy, and, most of all, a natural tendency to turn inward and preserve what they have rather than reach out to others when times get tough. These conditions can make answering the call for new ministries seem impossible. Add on opposition from City Hall, and a challenging situation becomes downright daunting. **With help from TMF lending, stewardship education, and endowment building services, La Vernia United Methodist Church is proving no obstacle is big enough to defeat a congregation determined to answer God’s unique call for them to serve their community.**

La Vernia UMC stared down a number of challenges to get their successful thrift ministry off the ground. Living out their vision statement “to serve, share and offer Christ,” they literally had to fight City Hall to do it. Now, the entire community is enriched.

Like most ministries at La Vernia UMC, the Twice Blessed Thrift Ministry began with an individual calling. When members have a new ministry idea, they present it to a ministry council for approval. To be considered, “the new ministry must serve a critical mass, be consistent with the church’s vision and mission statements, and have a ‘shepherd’ to take charge,” shared the Rev. Harry Kahl, La Vernia UMC’s senior pastor.

La Vernia’s unique approach encourages individuals with a heart for mission to step up and answer God’s call. “The ministries approved through the council also need to maintain a good balance between what we call ‘in reach,’ or serving ourselves, and outreach to others. It’s often easier to reach inward,” Rev. Kahl added. “We want ministries to be guided by the Holy Spirit. If they are, they will flourish. If not, they will falter.”

Convincing the council to approve a ministry is just the beginning. The shepherd must also mobilize support to sustain the fledgling ministry, and that includes garnering funding and recruiting others to assist.

“Some of our ministries are made up of one or two people, including the shepherd. Others involve many people coming together to serve, like the thrift store,” remarked Don Miller, who serves on La Vernia UMC’s ministry council. “We’re constantly taking the pulse of our ministries and meet quarterly to review how things are going.”

When the idea for their thrift shop came about, the ministry council immediately gave the green light to occupy a vacant house on

church property. The plan, however, was halted by local government concerns about zoning. Even neighbors nearby were suspicious about the motives of the church opening a “store.”

“Surrounding property owners worried that operating this ministry would compete with other local businesses,” said Fraser Jones, finance chair for La Vernia UMC. **“That house didn’t have a use, and when you look at how positive this has turned out you realize this is a great example of people seeing things differently. One sees a dumpy old house and wonders how this could work, while another person has a vision for serving that is unstoppable.”**

The person whose free-ranging imagination reframed an ordinary old house into a place of help and hope for the community is Jenna Spear, the shepherd for Twice Blessed Thrift Ministry. Convinced that providing a low-cost alternative for clothing, children’s items and small household goods was needed in their financially strapped community, she and other supporters were vigilant about finding a way to make the project work. Once it was clear that the store would operate by donation only and the prices would simply be suggestions, city officials finally gave permission to move forward.

“If someone offers less for anything we have in the store, no offer is refused. We’re not doing this to make money; we’re doing this to serve the community. We only accept donations for items because the people we serve have pride. They would rather pay what they can than receive things for free,” said Spear.

Since the economy worsened several years ago, need has increased drastically in La Vernia and other small towns nearby. With fewer and fewer jobs available for older adults, this sector of the community has been especially hard hit. The interfaith community food pantry previously served around 35 families twice a month; now that number has swelled to more than 100. Many individuals who visit the food pantry also rely on the thrift ministry.

“We get so many comments about how we’ve helped people shop for so little,” Spear added. But there’s another upside to taking donations for the thrift store items contributed by the congregation and the community. Those donated funds, literally thousands of dollars, have been used to support other ministries. **“The more we work at this, the more we understand what a gift this is for us as individuals, for the church, and for the entire community,” added Spear.**

**SCRIPTURE & SERMON FOR
September, 2011 at 11 AM**

Date: September 4 (Holy Communion)
Sunday: 12th Sunday after Pentecost
Title: Moses the Deliverer
Scripture: Exodus 3:1-12
Preacher: Pastor Harry

Date: September 11
Sunday: 13th Sunday after Pentecost
Title: Joshua the Conqueror
Scripture: 1 Peter 1:17 - 23
Preacher: Pastor Harry

Date: September 18
Sunday: 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Title:
Scripture:
Preacher: Pastor Cyndi

Date: September 25
Sunday: 15th Sunday after Pentecost
Title: Judges as Liberators
Scripture: Judges 4:4-9; 6:36-40
Preacher: Pastor Harry

**LA VERNIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 155 LA VERNIA, TX 78121**

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Pastor Harry's Cell Phone: (830) 534-8339

E-Mail: Kathy.lvumc@gmail.com

Web Page: laverniaumc.org

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 8:30 & 11:00 AM

CHAPEL SERVICE: 11 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS: 9:45 AM

CHILDCARE MINISTRIES: 7 AM - 6:30 PM MON-THUR

CROSSFIRE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP: 6:30 PM WED.

BISHOP: JAMES DORFF

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT: Carl Rohlfs

PASTOR: Harry Kahl

Associate Pastor: Cyndi Weidner

ADMIN. ASSISTANT: Kathy Balcar

YOUTH MINISTER: Javier Rios

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Sandra Ingle

CHILDCARE DIRECTOR: Kim Bachman

Wesley Nurse: Cheryl Cardenas

Choir Director: Randy Cobb

**CHAPEL SERVICE
SCRIPTURE & SERMONS SEPTEMBER 2011**

September 4	8:30 and Chapel "Barefoot on Holy Ground" Exodus 3:1-14
September 11	8:30 and Chapel "Recapturing 9/12" Psalm 91
September 18	8:30 and 11:00 "Giant Killing 101" I Samuel 17 (Contemporary)
September 25	8:30 and Chapel "Unraveled and Tangled" Psalm 51:1-12
September 18 in the Chapel - TBD	

Your Wesley Moment



As learned a man as John was, he was also a product of the 18th century culture.

In 1750 John wrote and gave a sermon called "the cause and cure of earthquakes".

John strongly believed that earthquakes were sent by God as punishment for man's immoral sin. He explained that if man would turn back to God and worship him, the Earthquakes would stop.

They knew nothing about tectonic plates or continental drift in those days.

The Vision Of LVUMC:

To Love God, Self & You

The Mission Of LVUMC:

To Serve, Share and Offer Christ

The Childcare Ministry and Church Offices will be closed on Monday, September 5th for the Labor Day Holiday.