

# David Haas Memorial United Methodist Church Newsletter

## VBS 2015 – God’s Word is Shared



The Preschool Peak program for ages 4 & 5, directed by Michelle Farr, gave our smallest participants hands on activities geared to their young learning style, while sharing God’s love through stories from the bible.

VBS Director Lucrecia Mouser said VBS 2015 allowed David Haas Memorial United Methodist Church (DHMUMC) to share God’s word with 45 children ages 4 to 12, plus 21 teens that helped put on the program. According to Mouser these children all come from different social & economic backgrounds and as far away as, Bordelonville, Erath, and even one youth staff from Texas. 14 youth from DHMUMC participated in VBS.

She said we were blessed to have 16 adult volunteers share their love for Jesus each day by helping in classes, with food preparation and cleaning. She added, “We can’t thank these wonderful volunteers enough for all of their hard work.”

Our Everest Theme taught children about God’s power to provide, comfort, heal, forgive and to love us forever.



Participants ages 6 to 12 were gathered into climbing crews and spent the evening going to Music, Bible Stories, Arts & Crafts and Games. These children learned lessons and experienced God’s love in a way that will last a lifetime.

Teens were able to develop responsibility and get to know what it means to be in service to God. During the week Youth Director Vinson Mouser met twice with the youth staff and held devotionals.

## DHMUMC Offers Two Worship Services

The Traditional Service takes place each Sunday at 10:50 AM. The Traditional Service offers traditional hymns, sermon and special music from our Adult Choir.

The Contemporary Service will take place each Sunday at 5:00 PM beginning in September. The Contemporary Service offers modern Christian music and a sermon with the use of multimedia.

# Evangelism Committee Working Hard

Evangelism Committee Chairwoman Lucrecia Mouser met with her committee at the beginning of the year and set into motion several ideas', some of which have been completed and some that are still in motion.

Committee Member Helen Eves suggested to the committee that the church needed some directional signs so that people in our community could more easily find our church. Several members of the committee pointed out that they had seen other signs in other communities directing people to Methodist Churches and thought it was a good idea to do the same in our community.

A motion to get directional signs was made and passed and the issue was forwarded to the Administrative Council for further action.

Church Member Vinson Mouser, who attended the meeting, spoke about a recent trip the churches Boy Scout Troop had taken and how

the troop mentioned how impressed they were with the mugs and the welcome they received.

Vinson Mouser recommended we do the same for our church visitors. Following a brief discussion the Evangelism Committee voted unanimously to purchase coffee mugs with the Methodist Cross and our church information on the side. It was decided that these mugs would be given out to visitors who attend a service at our church.

The coffee mugs were purchased at the end of May and the first mug was handed out in June to a family visiting our church.

There was a discussion about having more directional signs put up inside the church explaining what the various rooms were and which way to go to find a room. It was noted that a few signs are already up but a couple more were needed and a few needed repair.

The issue was sent to the Trustees who

## Scouting.....Continued from previous page

adults in attendance was given a coffee mug with the churches information on the side of the mug. He said several parents and leaders of

the next Evangelism Committee we will make a list and return it to the Trustee's.

# Scouting Report Comes with Mixed News

Scouting Representative Vinson Mouser reports that the church's Boy Scout Troop is going strong with 18 active youth members and 3 adult volunteers.

In June the Boy Scout Troop attended Summer Camp and Badges were earned in Life Saving, Swimming, Canoeing, Archery, Rifle, Shotgun Shooting, and more. Mouser reports that several

of the boys will be moving up in rank after this camp.

A Court of Honor has been planned for August to award the scouts their badges and ranks.

Mouser advised that the American Heritage Girl's took their last trip in June and held a Court of Honor. **(Continued on next page)**

In May, after 5 years of working with the Girl Scouts and American Heritage Girls, the adult leadership voted to close the troop noting a decline in membership due to the lack of additional adult volunteers.

American Heritage Girl Leader and church member Angell Duplechain said it had been a joy to be involved with this portion of the scouting ministry but it was no longer effective and it was time to look at other options.

Mouser said he has a few other ideas and will be approaching the council in the near future.

Cubmaster Tabitha Aymond reports that there are currently 12 active Cub Scouts and 4 adult leaders.

Aymond said their last outing was to Camp Lost Bayou Boy Scout Camp near Chicot State Park for a STEM (Science, Technology, Mathematics, Electronics) Camp.

She said there were 7 cub scouts in attendance and 10 leaders/parents. According to Aymond everyone had a good time.

## Missions Committee Report

Missions Committee Chairwoman Glenda Baker advised that the Missions Committee has been visiting Bayou Vista Nursing Home in Bunkie twice a month. Part of the visitation involves craft projects with residents. Some of the craft projects are on display in the nursing home near the dining hall. Baker said, "Help with this important mission work is always welcome."

The Missions Committee also had a table set up at Scout Sunday and Vacation Bible School.



Troop 101 Scout Members and Church Members Wesley Winegeart and Tanek Mouser work on Sailboating Merit Badge at Summer Camp.



AHG Troop 101 on their last trip, which was to the Myrtles Plantation in St. Francisville. Pictured left to right are: Lyla Duplechain, Kaia Mouser, Alexis Bonds, Rylee Jeansonne, Samantha Bonds, and MacKenzie Aymond.

## Care Committee Report

Care Committee Chairwoman Betty Mouser reports that the Care Committee has held two church dinners this year and has a 3rd planned for December 6th. She explained that there are usually 4 dinners but one was cancelled due to the timing of Vacation Bible School (VBS).

Mouser said that the Care Committee also participated in VBS and prepared meals for approximately 70 participants over 5 days.

# Youth Group Becoming Huge Success

Youth Director Vinson Mouser says the Youth Group (UMYF) is becoming a huge success.

He said, "When we started the youth group we were averaging 6 to 10 youth per meeting. We are now averaging 16 youth per meeting."

At each of the UMYF's Mouser said they have free time to socialize, games, refreshments, and a 10 to 15 minute devotion on topics youth are interested in and that it is all tied in with biblical scripture.

Mouser explained that 6 of the youth are members of our church and 1, although not a member of our church, attends the S.W.A.G. Contemporary Service with her parents.. Several of the other youth periodically attend the S.W.A.G. Service.

Mouser also advised that the youth programs at the church are all working really well together. He explained that many of the Cub Scouts are progressing into the Boy Scouts and once reaching the age of 11 they are now also joining the Youth Group. The same was happening with the American Heritage Girls until the troop was recently shut down.

He added the VBS program was a huge success for the Youth Program at our church. Many of the teens who volunteered for VBS were members of UMYF. They brought a friend with them to volunteer at VBS and the friends are now joining UMYF.



15 of the 21 UMYF volunteers on the last day of VBS.

## Administrative Council Report

Administrative Council Chairman Vinson Mouser reports that the Administrative Council was supposed to have met three times already this year but only two meetings had been held. He reported that the third meeting had been postponed to August 27th due to a scheduling conflict with VBS.

Mouser said the Administrative Council meetings have been going well and several items have come up at the Administrative Council meetings that were put into effect, most of which were mentioned in previous articles.

Mouser said the biggest need for the Administrative Council is to have all of its members attend, as often as possible, as it is the governing body of the church.

# “Wake Up Church and Pray Together!”

## Pastor’s Message

**Revelation 3:1–3** “Write this letter to the angel of the church in Sardis. This is the message from the one who has the sevenfold Spirit of God and the seven stars: “I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead. **2** Wake up! Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead. I find that your actions do not meet the requirements of my God. **3** Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly. Repent and turn to me again. If you don’t wake up, I will come to you suddenly, as unexpected as a thief.

God sent an angel to the Apostle John while he was in exile on the island of Patmos with a message John called “The Revelation of Jesus Christ”. This “revelation” begins with messages to seven churches in Asia. They were real, historical churches. But they were also representative of the types of churches that exist in all ages. When we read each description of churches, we should ask ourselves; does this describe me and my church?

Every week I receive an email newsletter with at least one article in it about how the traditional church in America is declining and slowly dying. The United Methodist Church publications deal with our denominational decline by offering “expert” analysis and possible solutions. Recently I purchased a book entitled, “Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive” by Thom Rainer. In the book Rainer describes 14 autopsies of dead churches and the similar paths to their demise. One of the common elements of dying churches is that these churches rarely prayed together. He states that “prayer and the health of the church went hand in hand. When the church is engaged in meaningful prayer, it becomes both the cause and the result of greater church health.”

My response to this point is to strengthen my commitment to prayer and to seek to lead my church in meaningful prayer together. A member of our congregation suggested that instead of ending our Sunday morning worship with an “altar call” for prayer, we could offer prayer at the altar earlier in the service. So beginning soon, instead of a children’s sermon at the beginning of our worship service I will invite us to gather at the altar or from our pews to have a few minutes of united prayer as a church. Please consider participating in this opportunity, since the life of our church may depend upon it!

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