

# The Onalaska Evangel

A Monthly Newsletter of

The First United Methodist Church of Onalaska



July 2009

## Caring Requires Family Help...

One of the more humorous things about being a pastor, is that we are expected to know everything about everybody. One of those things we are just supposed to "somehow know" is when people are sick or in the hospital.

I have even received jokes about how the pastor got a word from God when someone needed pastoral care.

I wish it worked like that, but unfortunately, it doesn't. The only way we know what is going on, is if you tell us.

Some years back now, there used to be systems in place to notify the church if a member were hospitalized. They would ask you your religious affiliation or even what church you attended. Back then, it was customary for hospital staff to call the church to tell them you were being cared for at their facility.

All this has changed. We now demand privacy. We don't want people to know too much about us or what we're up to. So, information is a bit harder to come by.

I first had the idea for some sort of article about spiritual care at hospitals when I was talking with the Methodist Chaplain's Office in Houston. I also talked with a col-

### ...No Mind Readers

league of mine who is a hospital chaplain. Both sources advised me that they don't do anything unless they are requested to do something. Again, back when --- hospital chaplains would "make rounds" much like doctors do. Not anymore. Apparently, there were too many complaints about unwanted chaplain visits. So, they have adopted a policy that they will visit only when requested to do so.

What has had an impact on the church the most was the enactment of HIPAA. Basically, this is a Hospital Information Privacy Act that prohibited hospitals from releasing any information about you to just about anyone who would call or inquire unless you agreed to allow them to do so. What this means to the church is we don't get anymore phone calls telling us you have been admitted for treatment.

What this means to you is the church doesn't know your status unless you tell us.

The church just can't operate on gossip or half information. We don't have the resources

to call all the hospitals between Houston and Tyler to see if you are there because someone "thought" you went to the hospital.

Please don't ask a friend to tell the Church because most of the time they forget or don't remember half of the details.

So, keep this in mind. If you wish for the Church to provide spiritual care during your time in the hospital, you or a member of your family needs to call the Church and let us know.

The same is true for the hospital chaplain. You will have to request they visit by contacting them directly or requesting their service when you notify the Church.

Thanks for helping us do a better job of helping you.

Joy!!!  
Pastor Paul



I ask now for Your forgiveness.

Please keep me safe from all danger and harm.

Help me to start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude.

Let me make the best of each and every day to clear my mind so that I can hear from You.

Please broaden my mind that I can accept all things.  
Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over.

And give the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limits  
I know that when I can't pray, You listen to my heart.

Continue to use me to do Your will..

Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others. Keep me strong that I may help the weak...

Keep me uplifted that I may have words of encouragement for others.

I pray for those that are lost and can't find their way.  
I pray for those that are misjudged and misunderstood..  
I pray for those who don't know You intimately.  
I pray for those that don't believe.

But I thank you that I believe that God changes people and God changes things.

I pray for all my sisters and brothers..  
For each and every family member in their households.

I pray for peace , love and joy in their homes that they are out of debt and all their needs are met.

I pray that every eye that reads this knows there is no problem, circumstance, or situation greater than God.

Every battle is in Your hands for You to fight.

## UMW NEWS

Our next UMW meeting will be in September but we are still planning to have our UMW lunch on August 2nd after Church Service. Here is the menu :

### *Cool August UMW Luncheon*

Sliced Ham with Spicy Cherry Sauce  
Hash Brown Potato Casserole  
Spinach salad with Mandarin Oranges, Craisins and Cheddar Cheese  
Rolls & Butter  
Choice of Dessert  
Iced Tea/water

We still need ladies to sign up to help serve and to bring food. Please call Billie at 646-2881 to get on this list.

We are also planning a trip to the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Houston. This will be a fully guided tour and is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13th. After the tour, we'll have lunch at a Restaurant as yet unnamed, and then return home. We'll have a sign-up sheet at our September meeting, but mark this date on your calendars ladies.

The Conference School of Christian Mission will be August 23-25 at Lon Morris College. Application forms and further information are on the UMW Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall. The District School of Christian Mission will be August 15th, and will be held at Carthage UMC. We'll have more information on that plus a sign-up sheet soon!  
Paulette



## Choir Notes.

by Dottie

The choir has had some good practices on Wednesday nights. We meet at 6:00 every Wednesday and would like to invite everyone who enjoys singing. We have had a lot of exciting music to offer each Sunday. We are working on some great 4th of July music.

The choir will be taking the Month of August off. Time to get to sit in the congregation and see and hear our Pastor from a different perspective. July may also be a time when a lot of our members will travel.

Happy 4th of July everyone and may God Bless you.

## SMALL GROUPS

We currently have two small groups meeting on alternating Tuesdays. The Hidden Cove group meets at Les and Karen Simpson's house on the first and third Tuesday at 7:00 pm. The Yaupon Cove group meets at Larry and Karen Sides' house on the second and fourth Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Both groups engage in lively discussion using the scripture texts from the Revised Common Lectionary for the upcoming Sunday. These groups are easy to join and keep up with since there is no curriculum to follow, only the Biblical texts.

If you would like more information about either of these groups or if you would like to start a Small Group contact Sandy Croll or Pastor Paul. 646-5859



## OMC TRAVELING VBS

This year the Spiritual Growth Committee is trying something new. We are entering the mission field by taking our VBS to a day school. Most of these children would not have an opportunity for VBS if we didn't go to them.

Our curriculum theme is CROCODILE ROCK and the message is that God is with us, God is powerful, God does what he says he'll do, God gives us life, and God cares for us. At Crocodile Rock we hope to foster the idea that fearless kids should shine God's light.

We'll have music, crafts, Bible stories, games, snacks, visits from the Egyptian Pharaoh and Jesus, and lots of fun. We still could use one or two people as crew chiefs (children monitors). You would not be teaching, just helping move the children between stations. Please consider this as an invitation to help us and contact Sandy Croll at 936-646-6923.

The date of VBS is July 20-24 from 8:30 to 11:30 am. Please pray for us as we enter into mission to spread the Word of the Lord and make disciples.

Sandy Croll

## 50's FUN NIGHT

Mark your calendar, get out your dancing shoes, fluff up your poodle skirt and guys buy a new white t-shirt—we're going back to the fifties.

August 1st about 6 p.m. the fellowship hall will be transformed back to the fifties and memory lane. The music will be oldies that were new back then—some rock, some easy listening and some big band, reminisce, show us how you cut a rug back then or just come and enjoy an evening with friends. Glen Miller, Vera Lynn, Frank Sinatra and a host of others will be there for your enjoyment

*written by Max Ehrmann in the 1920s --  
Not "Found in Old St. Paul's Church!"*

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste,  
and remember what peace there may be in  
silence.

As far as possible, without surrender,  
be on good terms with all persons.  
Speak your truth quietly and clearly;  
and listen to others,  
even to the dull and the ignorant;  
they too have their story.  
Avoid loud and aggressive persons;  
they are vexatious to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others,  
you may become vain or bitter,  
for always there will be greater and lesser  
persons than yourself.  
Enjoy your achievements as well as your  
plans.  
Keep interested in your own career, how-  
ever humble;  
it is a real possession in the changing for-  
tunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs,  
for the world is full of trickery.  
But let this not blind you to what virtue there  
is; many persons strive for high ideals,  
and everywhere life is full of heroism.  
Be yourself. Especially do not feign affec-  
tion.  
Neither be cynical about love,  
for in the face of all aridity and disenchant-  
ment,  
it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years,  
gracefully surrendering the things of youth.  
Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in  
sudden misfortune.  
But do not distress yourself with dark imag-  
inings.  
Many fears are born of fatigue and loneli-  
ness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline,  
be gentle with yourself.  
You are a child of the universe  
no less than the trees and the stars;  
you have a right to be here.  
And whether or not it is clear to you,  
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it  
should.

Therefore be at peace with God,  
whatever you conceive Him to be.  
And whatever your labors and aspirations,  
in the noisy confusion of life,  
keep peace in your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery, and broken  
dreams,  
it is still a beautiful world.  
Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

## Lectionary Readings

### July 5

*5th Sunday after Pentecost*  
\*\*2 Samuel 5: 1-5, 9-10  
Psalm 48  
2 Corinthians 12: 2-10  
Mark 6: 1-13

### July 12

*6th Sunday after Pentecost*  
\*\*2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19  
Psalm 24  
Ephesians 1: 3-14  
Mark 6: 14-29

### July 19

*7th Sunday after Pentecost*  
\*\*2 Samuel 7: 1-14a  
Psalm 89: 20-37  
Ephesians 2: 11-22  
Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56

### July 26

*8th Sunday after Pentecost*  
\*\*2 Samuel 11: 1-15  
Psalm 14  
Ephesians 3: 14-21  
John 6: 1-21

\*\* Indicates Sermon Text

A Lectionary Readings Brochure  
is available for the Sundays  
through the end of December  
2009

**New "Drop In" Sermon Series  
"Summer with the Kings"  
started June 14th**

To paraphrase John F Kennedy

Ask not what your church  
can do for you...

Come share and show  
everyone what you can  
do for your church...

Volunteers can make a big  
difference in the activities and  
caring of the church, please  
consider sharing...

# Hospice Care of the Southwest—317 W Church #112, Livingston, TX—3279991

## Volunteer Opportunities

### **Patient Care Volunteers Can:**

Visit with patients  
Read to patients  
Write memories patient wishes to share with family  
Provide non-medical direct patient care

### **Patient Care Volunteers Cannot:**

1. Sit with patients for more than 4 hours
2. Administer patient medications
3. Transport patients or family members
4. Pass medications
5. Feed a patient
6. Provide any direct patient care  
(Vol. are not required to change adult briefs, lift or move patients, they are only there for companionship and caregiver relief)

### **Office Volunteer Opportunities**

Compile new admission Referral Packets for nurses. These are given to each family upon patient admission. They contain all pertinent hospice information a family will need.

Copy Documents as needed

Answer telephones

Filing

Compile Continuous Care Packets for Nurses. If nurses or team members need to be in the home for possibly 24 hours or longer in the case of a crisis, these packets contain all the information and forms they may need. Bring organizational skills to work with you and assist the Office Manager.

### **Assist Bereavement Coordinator with Bereavement Program**

Our Bereavement program continues for a 13 month period following the patient's death. During this time we have grief support material and booklets that are mailed to the families. Volunteers may assist with these mail outs.

Volunteers may make phone calls periodically throughout the 13 month period as part of our way of staying in touch and assessing the needs of the family. These are done at approximately the 1, 6, and 11 month mark.

Volunteers may assist with the mail out of post card invitations to our Grief Support Meetings which are also followed up with phone calls to verbally reinforce the cards.

Volunteers may assist with the annual Memorial Service that Hospice Care of the Southwest holds for family members and staff.

Volunteers may visit with grieving family member to offer support and comfort.

### **Other Patient Care Projects**

Volunteers may assist Activity Directors at nursing homes and assisted living facilities with activities such a calling Bingo for residents.

Volunteers may do crafts for patients, such as knitting blankets, prayer shawls, and caps. There are numerous other craft projects.



Mission men built a ramp for an elderly couple who are both severely handicapped. This ramp will facilitate their trips to doctors and shopping.



Church members and friends enjoyed a picnic using the new grill and enjoying the shade of the trees around the Smith Building.

Watch for the August indoor evening of fun and join in the planning for a fall event when the outdoors cools down enough to be pleasant in the afternoons

