



Pleasant Retreat UMC

P.O. Box 207
Thorndale, Texas 76577

Church Phone: 512-824-0226
www.umcthorndale.org

Each Week @ PRUMC

SUNDAY

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

12:15 p.m. Youth Group

12:30 p.m. Confirmation

TUESDAY

10 a.m. L.A.M.B.S.

WEDNESDAY

6:45 p.m. Prayer in the
Chapel

7:30 p.m. Choir Practice

SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

8:00 a.m. Bacon, Bull and
Blessings (Men's Group)

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**WANT TO BE THE FIRST
TO RECEIVE YOUR
NEWSLETTER AND
SAVE POSTAGE TOO??**

Just send an e-mail to
ministerterry@hotmail.com
with PRUMC Newsletter as
your subject to receive your
newsletter by e-mail.

Pastor—Rev. Terry Dougherty Phone: 979-224-3660 E-mail: ministerterry@hotmail.com

November 1, 2011

New Heavens and a New Earth

“See, I will create new heavens and a new earth.

*The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind.*

*But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create,
for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.
I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people;
the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.*

Isaiah 65:17-19

Signs of change – long nights, short days, and cooler weather let us know that the holiday season is just around the corner. It's again time to get out the turkey roasters and pie plates. It's time to think about who will be sitting around the Thanksgiving table this year – and who may be especially missed. Christmas decorations already are displayed in the stores and holiday advertising can't wait even until the first of November to be aired. It's hard to ignore the signs that seek to tell us when and how to spend our money, time and energy needed for a happy holiday.

Isaiah 65:17-25 presents God's ultimate creative will as a world at peace and promises its arrival. Reading these verses helps us to envision a glorious world – one much different than our present reality. These verses also raise some questions – why hasn't this promise been fulfilled? Was it really a promise, or just wishful thinking? Are there really new heavens and a new earth to expect? It's the kind of text that can lead a person to despair and atheism – or to a committed and living hope.

Jesus taught his followers that the new heavens and the new earth were already happening, that God's kingdom was right in their midst, though yet to come in its fullness. The signs of the promises of Isaiah are all around us if we have eyes to see them and ears to hear them. Ours is to call attention to those signs and to nurture them into fullness wherever and whenever we can. The kingdom is already here, and it's coming with all its fullness soon. For those who keep looking at the stars waiting for a sign – the wait may be unbearably long. Yet for us who are willing to be the signs of God's kingdom – we live the heavenly life here on earth and testify to God's good future. We are the signs of the change that is coming.

Blessings, Pastor Terry

All Saint's Sunday—November 6, 2011

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus . . .” Hebrews 12:1

We remember those in our faith who have gone before us: the cloud of witnesses. The imagery of this verse suggests an athletic contest in an amphitheater. The witnesses here are not spectators, but inspiring examples.

Let us remember those in our church family who have died this past year:

Idonya Clawson

Harvey Smith



SUNDAY SERMONS



November is a month full of Thankfulness! On November 6 we give God thanks for all of the saints that have inspired our lives. November 20 will be Thanksgiving Sunday as we anticipate a Thanksgiving Day full of family, friends, feasting and football.

NOVEMBER 6 All Saints Sunday
Matthew 5:1-12 Everyday Lives of Ordinary Saints

NOVEMBER 13
Matthew 25:14-30 New Rules

NOVEMBER 20 Thanksgiving Sunday
Luke 17:11-19 Hypermnesia

NOVEMBER 27 First Sunday of Advent
Luke 1:26-38 Mary of Nazareth

In Our Prayers



Assisting in Worship this Month

November 6 Mark Drumm
Communion: Taylor family

November 13 Barbara Smith

November 20 Linda Kennedy

November 27 Brenda Pritchard

Grace Hall
Darlene Biehle
U.S. Armed Forces
Betty Nutt/Rose
Brian Roger/Kovar
Jerry Brown/Lucas
James Dawson/Hobbs
RAIN

Glen Anders
Charlene McDaniel
Pioneer Mission
Michael Deutsch
Beverly Scott/Pritchard
Janice Michalk
Bob Scarborough

David Pritchard
Shirley Ling
Jerry Hill
Sue Rogers
Birdie Gambrell
New Tribes
Caregivers

Current Prayer Concerns

Flood Victims
Ruth Shigley
John Michaels
Bruce (Big Tracks) Hendricks

Susan Ponder
Graham Dickerson
Nancy Foster

Michael Goldman
Barbara Rogers/Kovar
Fire Victims
Client Murphy

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Hailey Meadors	11/4
Robert McCoy	11/10
Nettie Dee Harper	11/13
Emily Hafernik	11/14
Ruby Gambrell	11/15
Kaleb Hairston	11/17
Tonni Talley	11/20
Trey Organ	11/26
Client Murphey	11/27
Cissy Murphey	11/28
Burke Bauerschlag	11/29
Jay Hall	11/29



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Jenny & Walter Lucas	11/6
Elizabeth & Jim Hall	11/7
Theresa & David Goetz	11/14
Carla & Jay Meadors	11/15
Kitty & James Lockhart	11/18

*Three things will last forever -
faith, hope and love - and the
greatest of these is love.*

1 Cor 13:13

A Blueprint for Ministry

The following is an excerpt from an article written by Joe Fort, District Superintendent. The entire article will be printed over the next several months in this newsletter.

Blueprint item no. 4: A Heart for Missions

A missional church is more than a church that simply takes up several communion offerings each year and sends them in to the denomination. While giving is important, it is also essential that a congregation be involved in hands-on mission experiences. The nature of these will vary from church to church, and will be determined by the needs of the community around the congregation. If the church seeks to reach the lost, then it must also have a compassionate heart and willing hands for the needs of the lost around it. This commitment cannot be nominal, it must rather be substantial.

Churches should also be committed to missions in a global perspective, beyond the necessary commitment to needs that are local. There are countless opportunities for your church to be in ministry around the world. See where the itch is, then scratch it. Perhaps you can support a missionary in the Third World. There may be some other cause that ignites a fire in the hearts of your people. When God moves your folks to be generous with Kingdom efforts in far away places, the Spirit will become more active in your church. A missions-committed congregation will be a congregation that is both generous and spiritually more alive.

Next Month: Blueprint item no. 5 — Personal Evangelism

Bishop Janice Huie to Visit District November 17th

The presiding bishop of the Texas Annual Conference, Janice Riggle Huie, will be in the West District on November 17th for special meetings with clergy and laity. Her meeting with district clergy will take place at 2:00 p.m. The laity session will begin at 6:00 p.m. Both gatherings will be held at Christ UMC, College Station. Please let Shirley McCoy know if you are interested in going so that

COMING IN 2012...

January 29 at 3 p.m. Christ UMC, College Station
L.E.A.D. Institute - Leadership training for local congregations

February 11 and 18 Christ UMC, College Station
Lay Speaking School

GROW

LEARN

BE A DISCIPLE

Children's Sunday School

Children's Classes are held each Sunday at 10:15 a.m.—10:45 a.m.

Beginning on October 30 we will learn about God's promise to Noah. Nettie Dee Harper will tell the story to begin the series. Advent lessons start on November 27. There's something new every week! All children ages 3—11 years old are welcome!

Children's Sunday School Teachers

Nettie Dee Harper
Jonica Taylor
Theresia Goetz
Rebecca Fisher
Linda Grimm
Linda Kennedy



Parents and other adults are invited to stick around to enjoy a cup a coffee and an opportunity to fellowship in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 10:15 a.m.

Jr./Sr. High Sunday School

Invite a friend to join you! Class begins at 10:15 a.m.—Don't be late! Teachers are Brenda Pritchard, Client Murphy and Christine Sower.

BEGINNING ON NOVEMBER 27
CLASS WILL START AT 9:45 A.M.

There's Always More to Learn!

Our Adult Sunday School class meets in the "old kitchen" area behind the Sanctuary. Class begins at 9:45 a.m. Currently we are studying the topic of Tradition and Wisdom as found in the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon.



We all shop for groceries, sometimes two or three times a week. Now turn those shopping trips into easy cash for your school, and encourage friends to do the same! Just look for the Box Tops logo on hundreds of products like Cheerios, Hamburger Helper and Kleenex in almost every aisle of the store—each one is worth 10 cents for your school.

Please cut out your box tops and drop them in the basket in the church Narthex.

All tops collected will be evenly divided between our Teachers of the Thorndale, Lexington and Copeland Schools.

Love And Ministry Build Servants

Standing: Donna Larken, Marlene Coffman, and Dale Holman
Seated: Rosemary Mathis, Olive Olive, JoAnn Cornelius and Nettie Dee Harper



LAMBS was started by Pastor Vicki Averitt. In the beginning Dee Kress and Katherine Page directed the projects, starting by making banners and quilts. Through the years the group has basically remained the same, doing service projects and making crafts to sell for money to donate to service organizations and to buy supplies for their projects. Over the years they have made Christmas Stockings, crafts, quilts for the Waco Methodist Children's Home, greeting cards, hospice gowns, heart pillows and Alzheimer quilts, pillowcase dresses, jewelry, prayer shawls, prayer afghans, baby afghans, sent Christmas Care packages to soldiers, sent proceeds from craft sales to Smile Train and visiting Rockdale and Taylor Nursing Homes. LAMBS not only meets as a service organization, but it also a time for friends, food and fellowship. LAMBS meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the Activity Building. All are welcome to participate!



Most sets—necklace, bracelet and earrings—are priced at \$20 for the entire set!

Dale Holman has donated her unique hand-crafted jewelry to PRUMC to benefit our Mission Fund. Her creations are on display in the L.A.M.B.S. room (the room also is used for Children's Sunday School). These one-of-a-kind pieces would make great gifts! Please see Marlene Coffman if you would like to make a purchase.



ADVENT 2011



Advent marks the beginning of the church year. It begins with the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day and ends Christmas Eve. Advent comes from the Latin word, *adventus*, meaning "coming." It is a season to prepare for the coming of Christ in various meanings: the promised coming of the Messiah to the Jews, the coming of Jesus being born in Bethlehem, the promised return of the risen Christ in final victory, and the continual coming of Christ into the lives and hearts of believers.

Why do we put up a tree in the house and place ornaments on it? Why do we light candles on a wreath? Children learn the meaning of our Christian traditions through storytelling and ritual. Come and share the story of Advent—come and experience the promise and joy of this holy season!

HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE
Sunday, November 27, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

ANNUAL ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

Monday, December 5, 2011

Gathering begins at 6:00 p.m.

All ladies are invited!

Bring an ornament (value \$10 or less) and a dish to share. At the end of the evening you will leave with a new ornament for your tree and lots of wonderful memories of a fun time with good friends.



In Bethlehem Inn

Plans already have begun for a special telling of the Christmas story! The play is set in the dining room of Bethlehem Inn — that means everyone gets to eat and participate in the story! Please let Shirley McCoy or Mark Drumm know of your desire to play a part. Rehearsals will begin this month and the dinner will take place on **DECEMBER 18 at 5:30 p.m.**

The Journey

Walking the Road to Bethlehem

Travel with us from Nazareth to Bethlehem in a fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. Using historical information, archaeological findings, and personal reflections, United Methodist pastor and author Adam Hamilton illuminates this most amazing moment in history. We will follow the footsteps of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and others, gaining insight into our own journeys with Christ. There will be studies for all ages and Sunday sermons will reflect the journey through the season of Advent.

STUDY FOR ADULTS BEGINS on
Tuesday, November 22 at 6:30 p.m.
AND
Monday, November 28 at 10 a.m.
(same study—two times)

The Journey for
Children will
start on
November 27
at 10:15 a.m.
during Sunday
School.

Junior and Senior High
students will journey on
Sunday mornings at
9:45 a.m. beginning on
November 27

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

I would like to purchase _____ poinsettia plants at \$12 each. Total Amt. Due _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Please make checks out to PRUMC and note 'poinsettia'. Mail the form and check to the church address or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday. **ORDERS ARE DUE BY NOVEMBER 28, 2011.** Plants will decorate the church on December 18 and 25— they can be taken home after Christmas Day worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

MISSION

The mission of Pleasant Retreat United Methodist Church is to reach out and welcome all peoples to become disciples for Christ.

VISION

The vision of Pleasant Retreat United Methodist Church is to be a community of Holy Spirit inspired people providing facilities and ministries to enable us to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

We're on the web!
www.umcthorndale.com

DATES TO REMEMBER

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS!
November 6, 2011

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS TODAY!

BACON, BULL & BLESSINGS
Men's Breakfast
November 12 — 8 a.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MTG.
November 14 — 7 p.m.

Meeting with Bishop Huie
Christ UMC, College Station
November 17— 6 p.m.

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
November 20, 2011

ADULT STUDY—The Journey
Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m.
November 22, 29, December 6, 13 and 20
Monday mornings at 10 a.m.
November 28, December 5, 12 and 19

HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE
Sunday, November 27, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Save the date!

Ladies Ornament Exchange
December 5, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

In Bethlehem Inn
December 18, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

THE CHURCH NEEDS YOUR USED PRINTER INK CARTRIDGES. PLEASE PLACE THEM IN THE BOX NEAR THE CHURCH FRONT DOOR OR BRING THEM TO THE CHURCH OFFICE. THESE CARTRIDGES WILL HELP OFFSET THE COST OF CHURCH OFFICE SUPPLIES. (s.a. the paper used for this newsletter!)

Remember to bring your canned goods on the first Sunday of each month to support the Food Pantry at Shiloh Baptist Church.



LOVE FUND

Otherwise known as the pastor's discretionary fund. A fund has been established to enable the pastor to meet emergency needs of church and community members. You are invited to contribute on the first Sunday of each month with an offering placed on the Communion rail. This month we were able to assist a family with a part of their rent. Thank you for caring for our neighbors!

Poinsettia Orders are due by Nov. 28!



Hope you enjoy our monthly newsletters. If you have announcements, articles or pictures that you want to submit for December 1 issue, please submit them to Pastor Terry no later than November 22th.