

Axe Memorial UMC News

September, 2015 Issue 1

“Called to celebrate and share the joy of Christ.”

We are a group of Christians united through the Holy Spirit who are called to share and celebrate the joy of Christ! We hope you'll join us!

Live Nativity Requests

The Advent season and, of course, our live nativity will soon be upon us. We are working on securing the live animals which are a big attraction for families with children. Donations for this important cause will be greatly appreciated, the earlier the better.

We are also in need of some new costumes to replace older ones in poor repair. We need some costumes in smaller sizes, so if you can do some sewing, please let me know. Your help will be deeply appreciated. We are trying to avoid the stress of a last-minute push. Together we can get it done.

Please call or text Juli Amspoker at 214-803-3916 to help on this project. Thank you!!

Game Night

Mark your calendar for September 25th at 6:00 p.m. The movie selection will be announced. Bring a snack to share and enjoy a night of fellowship!

There's always something new happening at Axe! Check out the Pastor's Corner!



**Every Sunday in the gym from 5:00 p.m.
to 7:00 p.m.**

We hope you'll join us!

Contact Information Pastor

Ernesto Sanchez
revsanchez@axeumc.org

Children and Youth Ministries Director

Sheena Gordon
sheena@axeumc.org
(469) 563-8183

Music Director

Terri Knagg
(972) 741-1722

Church Membership Secretary

Grace McLeroy
gmcleroy@verizon.net
(972) 278-0716

Newsletter

Beate Hall
axenews@axeumc.org
(817) 938-0308

Secretary

Jo Slater
axe@axeumc.org
(972) 278-2175

Visual Worship

John Duncan
media@axeumc.org

Webmaster

Judy Hunt
web@axeumc.org

Attendance and Giving

August 23rd:

Sunday School: 74

Worship: 105

Visitors: 2

For general operations fund:

\$2,939.00

YTD for general operations fund:

\$146,246.00

YTD General Budget: \$174,169.00

August 30th:

Sunday School: 99

Worship: 106/52

For general operations fund:

\$3,997.00

YTD for general operations fund:

\$

YTD General Budget: \$178,689.00

Stephen Ministry

Do you need someone with whom you can talk and share about life, or perhaps, know someone who is trying to carry some burdens alone? We have a Stephen Minister who is ready and willing to listen. You may contact John Duncan or Bea Knagg to learn more. Call Jo in the church office for contact information.



FLOWERS!

We all enjoy the lovely flowers in the sanctuary each Sunday. These are usually the result of donations made by members to honor or remember a loved one on a special date. If you would like to help assure we have fresh flowers each week, perhaps you would be willing to participate in this ministry. To order flowers, you simply call Jo in the church office, 972-278-2175 She will check to be sure your requested date is available and will instruct you as to how to pay for them. The cost is \$45.00 for the two arrangements. You may take them home or ask to have them taken to a shut-in or to someone in the hospital. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

**1700 W. Kingsley
Garland, TX 75041
(972) 278- 2175**

**9:30 AM English Language Worship*
10:45 AM Sunday School*
11:30 AM Spanish Language Worship***

***Child care provided**

Both services in the Sanctuary

Facebook.com/AxeMemorialUMC

Twitter: Axe_MemorialUMC

Pastor's Corner: Garden Tending

God's blessings and peace to all! Welcome back! After a great summer I have to ask, "How's your garden?" My wife Ivette's favorite pastime is working in the garden. If you see flowerbeds in front of the home, it's obvious that Ivette, not me, has put a lot of love and care into them. The results are beautiful flowers, trees, and shrubs. I'm pretty sure many of you have also worked hard in your gardens this year. Many people take great effort to care for and cultivate their garden, but how many of us make an effort to cultivate our spiritual garden? The spiritual life has often been compared to a garden, which requires frequent care and cultivation. One necessary task to cultivate our spiritual life is the daily practice of prayer. It's amazing how many of us neglect this important practice. Our flower and vegetable gardens wouldn't survive the relentless sun without water, yet how many of us fail to water our spiritual garden with the essential ingredient of prayer? A spiritual garden will not last long unless it is watered daily with the practice of prayer.

Ever wonder why our lives seem so dry and brittle and God seems distant? Could it be because we make little effort to spend time with God in daily prayer? For most of us prayer is an afterthought, something we do only when we are in trouble or have some need. How would you feel if the only time your children spoke with you is when they needed money or help? Imagine how God must feel! The practice of prayer requires discipline. It requires that we take time out of our busy schedules and focus our attention upon God. It is difficult, at best, to go this alone. One day we may feel very committed to this task, yet another day we may feel too busy, or tired or preoccupied with something else to make the effort. This is why I think we need some help with this discipline.

One such help is to have a prayer partner, someone who depends on you to pray for them and someone upon which you can depend to pray for you and keep you on task. Solomon, the wise king of Israel, once wrote, "It is better to have a partner than go it alone. Share the work, share the wealth. And if one falls down, the other helps. But if there's no one to help, tough!" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 MSG) Solomon knew that any task is easier when you have someone to help. This is also true for our prayer life. When we have a partner who depends on us, it gives us more incentive to pray. We will also be more faithful if we know that we will be asked by our partner if we have been praying. Prayer partners work on the same principle. It's easier to cultivate your spiritual garden and maintain a vital, dynamic relationship with God when we have some help to do so. As Solomon said, when you have a partner to work with, you not only share the work, you share the wealth. And what great spiritual wealth we can harvest when we work together to cultivate our spiritual garden. The fruit that is produced is a life filled with "love, joy peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23 NASB) These are fruits that mature into eternal life.

Many churches are adopting this new spiritual discipline or ministry and I thank my colleague, Reverend Darrell, for sharing this experience from his church. In the next few weeks we will have signup sheets for anyone interested in joining Prayer Partners. I want to encourage everyone to consider signing up for Prayer Partners and pairing up with someone who can provide you with some spiritual support and to whom you have some spiritual accountability. Remember, it's better to have a partner than go it alone. See you in church. Blessings!



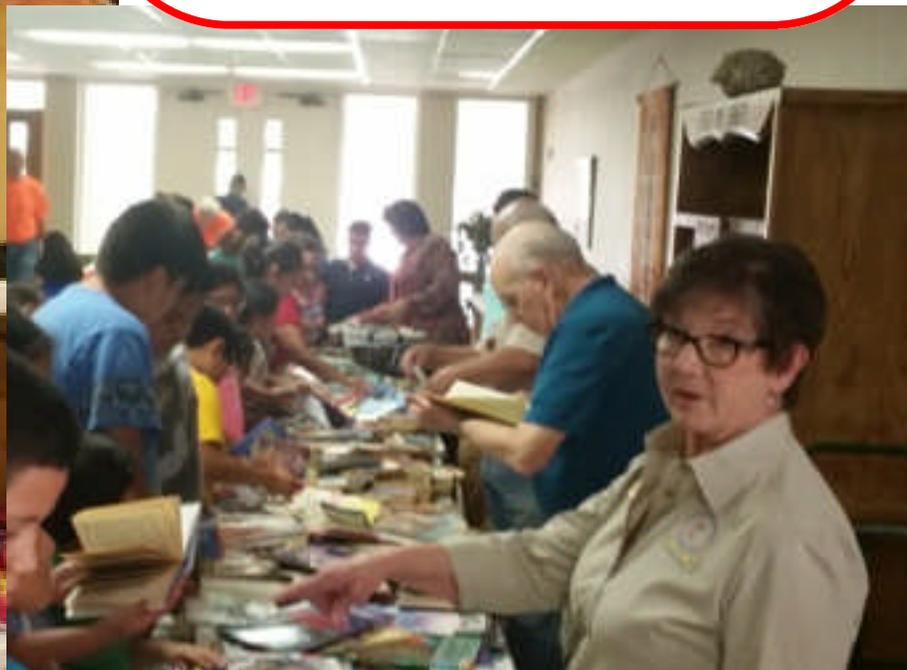
BACK TO SCHOOL

A special thanks to everyone from Axe UMC who volunteered their time, the school supplies, the donations of 30 pairs of shoes, the financial contribution of over \$300.00 (which was used to purchase additional school supplies), and the free books for the kids to enjoy.

It was a wonderful outreach to the community to assist 350 kids with items needed to help them start their school year off right.

New World looks forward to continuing our "teamwork" efforts of working with Axe on future events!

Becky Maynard
New World UMC



Trustees Say "Thank You"

The trustees wish to give a big shout-out THANK YOU to our Boy Scout troop for the cleanup efforts they have performed in our church courtyard. They have "adopted" the courtyard as a project one Saturday each month. In addition to leaf-raking one Saturday, they also met with Dave Hester on another Saturday to learn about the ins and outs of the cleaning and maintenance of the two massive air handlers. What a great contribution!

Sunday School

Reminder that during the Sunday School hour we should send our children & youth to the appropriate rooms.

Nursery- 0-3yrs

Children Sunday School- 4yr-5th grade

Youth Sunday School- 6th-12th

We need to encourage our young people to attend Sunday school to be a part of an age appropriate experience learning about our amazing God.

Klassy Krafters

The Klassy Krafteer will meet each month on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings.

Time: 9:30 till Noon

Where: Craft Room

Date to Begin: September 10, 2015

Please join us to make craft items to brighten the lives of others!!!

Need Information?

Contact Faye Cocke fcocke@verizon.net or call cell 214-287-7185

Box Tops 4 Education!

Remember, Axe is cooperating with the community by collecting and sending our Campbell soup labels and "Box Tops 4 Education," along with our used ink cartridges to Southgate Elementary School. A box for these is provided in the Narthex by the usher's closet.

AAA Announcements

Charles Killion has graciously invited AAA & 2 By 2 Class members to come to his lake house for hamburgers & fun on Sept. 19. We will meet at the church at 9:30 to carpool there. Bring lawn chairs. and join us.



Snack Supper

Hello Brothers & Sisters,

The Youth Ministry Department is in need of some followers of Christ to provide snack supper for the UMYF group. Dining around a table in fellowship is symbolic of communion. It is a sacrament in the Methodist church that we value greatly. Each Sunday we dine together and use this as an opportunity to get to know each other more and bond. We would love for someone new to come to provide dinner and dine with us and get to know some of the youth that are moving through this program. We meet Sunday evenings from 5pm-7pm. We have a time for games, bible experience, and we follow with a fellowship meal together around 6:30pm. As of now we are averaging 6 youth. It is not a huge group, but we are mighty. We look forward to you and your family or Sunday school class signing up together. Below are the available dates:

October 4

October 18

November 22

November 29

December 6

December 13

December 20

December 27

Please contact Sheena to sign up for one of the available dates.

Sheena

P.S. Don't feel like cooking? Sunday Schools can sponsor a pizza or burger night for the youth. Easy cleanup with all the same fun and fellowship. –Beate