

Insight

October 2011

Volume 4 Issue 8



Pumpkin Patch

Welcome to Williams



Welcome

Welcome to Williams Memorial United Methodist Church. Our church campus is located at 4000 Moores Lane on the north side of Texarkana. Moores Lane is north of I-30 between Summerhill and Richmond roads.

Worshipping

We invite you to worship with us. Our services are Christ-centered, Biblically grounded, and culturally relevant. The words, music, and means of grace are all designed to empower you to grow in your relationship with God and in ministry to the world.

Sunday services are in the Sanctuary at 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., and the Xperience Service is in Wesley Hall at 10:30 a.m.

Learning

Sunday school classes for all ages meet at 9:15 a.m. On Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m. there are programs for your children and youth.

Believing

We enter into the family of Christ through baptism. We recognize God's action in baptisms in other faith communities; you do not have to be re-baptized to belong to Williams. If you have not been baptized, we will be honored to baptize you.

Growing

Our goal is to be like Jesus Christ in this world. We are constantly growing in grace; we have not arrived. We grow through worship, prayer, and study of God's Word. Through large meetings, small groups, and discipleship, we are changed from our old selves to our new selves.

Belonging

We hope you will consider belonging to the Williams' faith community. You can talk with us after church or come by during the week. We would be honored to assist you in belonging at Williams.

Find Out More...

Visit our visitors page at
welcometowilliams.com/visiting
 or scan the code to the right with a smart-
 phone QR Code reader



Stay Connected



This monthly Insight magazine is a great way to stay connected with all that is going on here at Williams Memorial United Methodist Church. Did you know, however, that there are many more ways to stay informed about what is happening at Williams?

Website - Visit www.welcometowilliams.net to find out more about our church. Click on the “News and Events” page to see the most recent articles and upcoming events happening at Williams. You can also view photos, see the calendar, download forms, listen to sermons and read past issues of the Insight.

Facebook - If you are connecting through facebook, head on over to [facebook.com/wmumc](https://www.facebook.com/wmumc) and “like” our page. Check in to wmumc in facebook places and let your friends know you are worshipping with us. We post links, scriptures, questions, photos and more in our feed. There are also pages for our Youth Ministry, Williams School, College and Young Adult Ministry, and Prayer Team. Not on facebook? Do not worry. You can still view everything on the page, you just cannot comment or view connected pages.

Text Messages - We recently started sending out updates by text message. This is a great way to stay informed, on the go. Just go to welcometowilliams.org/text to sign up for one or more of our messages. Currently you can join the Youth Ministry list, Williams Reminder list, and Williams Emergency list.

E-news - To get email reminders, sign up for our weekly Williams E-news. This email comes to your inbox with a link to the news section of our weekly bulletin which contains the announcements, prayer list, financial updates, and weekly calendar. We also include links to our recent web posts of news and upcoming events.

We invite you to use one or more of these methods of communication to keep up with all that is going on at Williams. If you have questions or suggestions about how we can communicate better, please let us know.

www.welcometowilliams.org

Submitting an Article

We are always looking for great stories about how God is moving in and through the lives of our people and ministries. If you have such a story we ask that you send it to us.

Email your article of around 400-600 words to williamsenews@gmail.com.

If you have one or more high quality photos, please send them. Include your contact information so we can get in touch with you.

Articles must be submitted the first Friday of the previous month. So for the November Insight, the deadline is October 7, 2011.

We will try to use all submissions. Please understand we may have to edit your article for space. Use of your story is not guaranteed.

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Our New Members



Dan and Cindy Dobell,
Michael



Brandon and Jackie Nix,
Carter and Carson



Robert and Lisa Davis,
Anna and William



Brady, and Christy Paddock,
Mary Claire and Sarah Jane



Mark and Jennifer Stanley,
Matthew and Brooks



John and Blaire Haile,
Elise

Second Sunday Photos

Every second Sunday of the month, photographer Jerry Hatfield will be in the courtyard taking photos from 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.. These are not only for new members, but anyone who would like an updated family or individual photo. Just give us your name, and email and we will send you an email with your family photos to use as you wish.



A New Opportunity



Matthew 25:35-40: "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'"

Beginning the first Monday of October, we will be serving a community meal on Monday evenings. It's not just a meal for ourselves, it's a meal for some really special guests that normally visit our church on Monday mornings! Ever since I read Mike Slaughter's book *Change The World: Recovering the Message and Mission of Jesus*, I have been praying, along with our missions committee, about expanding our food pantry ministry. I believe this new ministry is the answer to our prayers!

www.welcometowilliams.org

All of our assistance, that normally takes place on Monday mornings, will now take place in the evenings. This will not only allow the working poor to take advantage of our food pantry, financial assistance, and community meal, but it will also allow more involvement and interaction from our congregation as well!

The meal will be served from approximately 5:30-6:30 p.m., and will be followed by a short worship service. There will be plenty of opportunities for you and your family to help cook, eat a great meal, help distribute food boxes, and worship with our guests! I believe that this will open up our church for even more ministries! Anyone interested in teaching a basic computer class? Mentoring? Helping someone out with their homework? A gently used clothing store? Or maybe another ministry that God has placed on your heart! Please be in prayer for this new ministry, and all of the other wonderful plans that God has for us! God bless!

In Christian love;

Tommy Earl Burton

What's This?



A QR or Quick Response code is a two-dimensional code that is readable by a QR code reader on your smartphone.

They are appearing on magazines, business cards, store products or any place a user needs more information.

We have included a few QR codes in this month's Insight. They may link to the website of the ministry, or more photos.

For more on QR Codes and links to a reader for your phone visit welcometowilliams.com/qrcode

Sunday Schedule

- 8:15 Early Worship in Sanctuary**
- 9:00 Gathering Time**
- 9:15 Sunday School**
- 10:15 Gathering Time**
- 10:30 Xperience Worship in Wesley Hall**
- 10:30 Sanctuary Worship in Sanctuary**
- 3:30 Youth Band**
- 4:00 Cornerstone Worship**
- 5:00 Alive @ 5**
- 5:00 U.M.Y.F.**

*United Methodist Women of
Williams Memorial United Methodist Church
present the annual*

MERCANTILE STORE

Silent Auction and Soup Supper

Wednesday, October 5th

5:00 p.m. till 7:00 p.m.

Located in Williams Memorial

Welcome Center and Parlor

Crafts - Sweets - Casseroles - Pies

Silent Auction - Soup - Handmade Items

*25% of all Good Treasures Bookstore proceeds will be donated to UMW
All proceeds go to support United Methodist Women Mission Projects*

Glorify God, Inspire Others to Follow Christ, Make Disciples of Jesus Christ

Williams School



We have begun our traditional school year in a big way. All the students and staff have adapted well. As you can see from the pictures, we had a great first week.

Williams School had some exciting events in September. We were back in the saddle again with our fun Western Day. The children dressed up and enjoyed many “western” activities. Thanks to Ms. Devon and our volunteers for making this such a special day.

October will bring visits to the pumpkin patch and dressing up for Trick or Treating. I am not sure who enjoys this more – our children or the volunteers who give out treats.

As always, there are many things going on at Williams School. These

are some of the activities that make our school so special. The staff and I thank you for your support and for sending your children to our great school which not only offers strong academics but fun as well.

Ms. Paula, Director



Find Out More...

Visit us on Facebook by visiting facebook.com/williamspreschool, or scanning the code to the right with a smartphone OR Code reader



Children's Ministries



Alive @ Five Schedule and Menu

Oct. 2nd -
Class (Chicken)

Oct. 9th -
No Activities

Oct. 16th -
Class (Hot Dogs)

Oct 23rd -
Class JYF (Pizza)

Oct.30th -
Pumpkin Palooza



Alive @ Five Sundays 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Our Sunday night programs started back on September 18th but its not to late to come join us.

4 & 5 Year Olds -Story Time / Dinner/ Cherub Choir/Activities.

This class is a great way to learn about Jesus. We tell Bible Stories, play games, and learn songs.

1st & 2nd Graders. - Bible Zone/ Dinner/ Praise Choir

This lively group gathers for Bible stories, activities and games.

3rd & 4th Graders - Bible Basics/ Dinner/Praise Choir.

Children learn the books of the Bible and memory verses along with related games and activities.

5th & 6th Graders -Music/ Dinner/ JYF (Junior Youth Fellowship)

Bible study and games are part of Sunday evening activities. In addition, there are trips, events and on-going mission projects.

Children's Choirs

Amy Kirk directs the Sunday evening children's choirs. Activities include learning music to present during worship services, learning music-reading and choral-singing skills and learning spiritual truths through music.

Meals

A monthly rotating menu of Pizza, Tacos, Chicken strips and Hot Dogs will be offered.
(A donation of \$5.00 a meal or \$40.00 a semester is suggested.)



Fun Park Photos



Blessed by Pumpkins

by *Gloria Elmore*

They say that time really flies when you're having fun! Turn the clock back 12 years and you'll find me in a conversation with a youth director who had an idea about a pumpkin patch in the front yard of our church. "How can I help?", I said, and the rest, as they say, is history! The Pumpkin Patch at Williams Memorial has been a blessing to me from the first day and I know it has been a joy for many children and adults in our community.

Our pumpkins come from a non-profit company that generates funds for missions nationwide. Williams Memorial focuses on the ministry of outreach and the Pumpkin Patch gets people excited about coming to church and provides a chance for its members to meet the community. For two weeks in October our front lawn becomes covered in a sea of orange and its welcoming atmosphere draws young and old. The entire community anticipates the arrival of the pumpkins!

The excitement begins on the second Sunday of October, when the truck arrives and church members and volunteers unload the pumpkins. The fun continues until the last Sunday of October when we have Pumpkin Palooza, a community family night complete with food, candy, games and prizes. In the evenings, teenagers, parents and other volunteers sell pumpkins and gourds to the community for fall decorating and jack-o-lanterns. Costumed kids jump and run, squealing with delight through a maze of orange and yellow!

Parents and grandparents stroll around, pointing to the unique beauty of each pumpkin, some smooth and round, some wrinkled and speckled. Photography buffs are in heaven! Many people will come by in the middle of the afternoon, just to take a break from the stressful day

and breathe in the fresh fall air.

Morning in the Pumpkin Patch is for Storytime and it is my favorite time! Volunteers read stories, play games and provide pumpkins for about 1000 or more preschool and kindergarten children each year. Storytime gives us a chance to share God's love and care for His people, just like the farmer cares for his pumpkins.

Sharing the Gospel is never as sweet as it is in the Pumpkin Patch! Our storytellers say that God picks us up, cleans us inside and out and puts a smile on our faces! The realization of the forgiveness of sin through Jesus comes across on the faces of parents and teachers. That is when I know that we are doing what God has called us to do at Williams Memorial. We are glorifying God and making disciples of Jesus Christ!

You may have thought that the Pumpkin Patch was just a fund raiser or wondered what's so great about pumpkins! I hope you will take time to enjoy the beauty of God's creation, relax and see what He has made for our pleasure. Come out and play in the Pumpkin Patch and I think you will come away with that feeling that I have had for so many years. You will feel blessed!

Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. You give glory to God when you produce a lot of fruit and therefore, show you are my disciples." John 15:5-8



PUMPKIN PALOOZA

**WILLIAMS MEMORIAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

SUNDAY OCTOBER 30

4:00 P.M.-6:30 P.M.

**TRUNK OR TREAT, GAMES
DANCERS, SINGERS, LIVE BANDS
HOTDOGS, CHILI, LEMONADE
CANDY, COSTUME CONTEST
PUMPKINS**

**4000 MOORES LANE TEXARKANA, TX 903-832-8663
WWW.WELCOMETOWILLIAMS.ORG/PUMPKINPATCH**

Music and Fine Arts

Centenary College

This is a very active time in the music program of our church. Sunday evening, October 9, we host Centenary College Choir in concert at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. It is free to attend. We will take a love offering to help cover expenses. This is a choir of world renown. Alumni are invited to sing the last song with the choir, as is their custom. I know that you will enjoy the concert.

Bell Choirs and Dancers

All our programs are in full rehearsal mode. Hopefully you will be worshipping with each of the music and arts groups as they lead in worship. We have welcomed Laila Al-Dubais as co-leader of Liturgical Dance. It is a blessing to have her talents. Wesley Ringers, Ageless Handchimes and our Children's Choirs are all singing and ringing to the glory of God.

Christmas Cantata

The Chancel Choir has begun rehearsals for the Christmas Cantata, Follow the Star, Follow the King. It is a great time to join this fun endeavor. We meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights in the Choir Room. It is located right beside the Chapel. There is no audition. It is rewarding to be in worship leadership.

Mission Trip

The third week of October all the ordination candidates are going on a mission week with Bishop Huie and all the cabinet of the Texas Annual Conference. I am one of those ordination candidates, so I ask that you keep us in your prayers for safety as we rebuild houses in the McAllen, Texas area.

Sherri Waters

Children's Music

Children's Music

Attention Parents of kids aged 4 through 6th grade:

I can't wait until Kids Choirs start meeting again!! I have missed y'all this summer! Our first rehearsal will be Sunday, September 18.

Kids Choir meets during Alive @ Five, our children's programming that takes place on most Sunday nights during the school year. If you have participated in past years, welcome back! If your family hasn't joined choir before, then this is the year to begin! We have lots of super fun songs and movements to learn so that we can present them in worship services this fall.

If you have any questions about your child participating in children's choirs at Williams, please call me at 903-276-8576 or email me at amykirkmusic@gmail.com. I would

love to hear from you! Also, if you would like to assist in the kids choir room, or start a new choir, I would love to help you do that! Call me!!

In His Love,

Amy Kirk



College and Young Adults

It's October and praise the Lord the days of 106 degrees are over for 2011! Along with the cool Fall air comes a fresh start. New classes, new people, new weather, new clothes (my personal favorite). There's something about breathing in that Fall air that just feels like something new and fresh.

Fall is a time of year when most of us set our schedules for the year. The summer has kind of been whatever... spontaneous weekend trips, staying up until 3 a.m. Eating cheerios for breakfast at 2 p.m.... But Fall reminds us that staying on schedule, at least most of the year, does matter. We schedule classes, study groups, club sports, work, and other extracurricular activities. It's easy to fill up our calendars before making time to fellowship with others for the purpose of praising our Father.

I encourage you to remember the most important extracurricular activity; spending time with God our Creator knowing that He can make us feel fresh again, no matter what the weather feels like outside!

"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." Lamentations 3:22-24

Ways that you can get involved with a faith community this Fall:

Unplugged Worship

Unplugged is an outdoor student led worship experience with acoustic music and student led devotions. Unplugged meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 8:30 p.m. in the Courtyard at Williams Memorial UMC. Join us Wednesday October 5th!

Bible Study

Our Bible Study meets on Monday nights beginning with a community meal at 5:30 p.m. and then bible study at 6:30 p.m. in Room 132.

We do studies that cause us to grow in faith. We stretch the boundaries and aren't afraid to ask the tough questions. Dinner is always served, so come hungry and bring an open mind! Join us for our Fall study, When Christians Get it Wrong.

Get in the Mix!

The Mix is a local group of college age students that meet in the Game Room on the first floor of the Student Union at the A&M Bringle Lake campus every Thursday at 8 p.m. for Worship, a message, and Bible study.

Students out of Town...

It's that time of year again where we want to know where you live! No, not to stalk you. To give you gifts, yes, gifts! We want to have your current mailing address if you are attending school out of town, whether you are working on your undergraduate, graduate school, trade school, or any kind of institution you pay money to better your future in the working world! Check your mail boxes around finals time! Please send your current mailing address or the address of a student you know to kaitlin.mcmichael@gmail.com.



Williams College
& Young Adults

www.facebook.com/WMCYA

Upcoming Events

Monday September 26th-
Passion Worship Simulcast
Trinity Baptist 7p.m.

Tuesday September 27th -
Movie Night at Cinemark

Monday October 3rd -
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
in the Bookstore

Wednesday October 5th -
Unplugged Worship
8:30 p.m. in the courtyard.

Monday October 10th -
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
in the Bookstore

Monday October 17th -
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
in the Bookstore

Monday October 24th -
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
in the Bookstore

Monday October 31st -
Pumpkin Carving at the
McMichael's 6:00 p.m.



Youth Ministries



The Youth Are
Collecting Candy
For Pumpkin
Palooza's
Trunk or Treat

Please drop off a
few bags of your
favorite candy in the
"candy boxes" that
are located in the
Welcome Center!



Find Out More...

Visit the youth website at
welcometowilliams.com/youth
or scan the code to below with
a smartphone QR Code reader



Seeing Ourselves Through God's Eyes

Mark 1:35-37: "In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.'"

Spiritual Disciplines is the theme for our youth's small group Bible study during October, and reading the Bible, praying, and journaling are three very important aspects of that very special time we have with God.

When we read our Bibles, we see how God worked in the lives of others, and we begin to see how God is at work in our lives. Praying is the time where we spend talking with God and listening to God. Journaling is where we write down our praises, concerns, and any other thoughts that cross our minds. For me, it's a written form of prayer.

These three disciplines help us answer the questions we have in our lives. Why should I obey my parents? Why can't I hang out with anyone I choose? Why can't ..., and the list goes on! It's hard to see God in our lives sometimes, and that's why these spiritual disciplines are so necessary.

When I was about three or four years old, I barely remember going

car shopping with mother and daddy. I can remember sitting in the drivers seat playing with the steering wheel as they walked around the outside of the car. At some point, I reached over and took the car out of gear. I remember daddy quickly running to grab me and stop the car from rolling out into traffic.

I remember being scared, and a little unhappy about the whole situation! I wanted to drive! There was no way in the world that he was ever going to convince me that I couldn't drive! Daddy had the last say, and that was that! He never would have been able to explain to me that I would get hurt or maybe worse, and he probably didn't even try.

That's how it is with God at work in our lives! There are some things that are just too complicated for us to understand, and we need to rely on God's understanding and not on our own. Through the regular practice of our spiritual disciplines, reading the Bible, praying, and journaling, we can begin to get a glimpse of our lives through God's eyes!

In Christian love;

Tommy Earl Burton

Sundays at Williams

Sunday mornings at 9:15am, all students 7th through 12th grade gather in the youth center for Sunday school. We begin with fellowship, discuss upcoming events, and then begin our lesson for the day.

Sunday nights the youth meet from 5-7 p.m. in the youth center. We begin with fun and fellowship. Then we have worship with our youth band, Broken and Perfect, hear a message, eat supper together, and then break into our small groups.

Wednesdays at Williams

Wednesday nights sr high youth have Bible study in the youth center from 6-7 p.m. After Bible study, we will head out to Subway, Chic-Fil-A, Sonic, or maybe even What-A-Burger for fellowship and supper! Youth have to provide their own ride and their own money!

Pumpkin Patch

Pumpkin Patch begins on Sunday October 16th with the delivery of our pumpkins at approximately 3:00 p.m., and will run through Sunday October 30th! Every day we will need your help. This is such an exciting time of the year when adults and kids from all over our area come to our campus to buy pumpkins, get their picture taken in the pumpkin patch, and hear, through Story Time In The Pumpkin Patch, a wonderful message about Jesus.

Pumpkin Palooza

Pumpkin Palooza will be held on Sunday October 30th from 4-6:30 p.m. in the Pumpkin Patch! It's a time for everyone to come together to dress up in your favorite costume, play games, eat, and have fun with your church family!

Youth October Calendar

Sunday October 2nd -

Youth 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday October 5th -

Sr High Bible study 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday October 9th -

North District Youth Rally at FUMC Waskom

Wednesday October 12th -

Sr High Bible study 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday October 16th -

Unload Pumpkins at approx. 3pm

Wednesday October 19th -

Volunteering at Randy Sams' Outreach Center

Sunday October 23rd -

Youth 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday October 26th -

Sr High Bible study 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday October 30th -

5th Sunday Pancake Breakfast

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Parlor

Pumpkin Palooza 4-6:30pm



Adult Ministries



Williams Travelers

The Travelers will be leaving for their adventure to Fredericksburg on October 10th. They will visit historic sites including the Pioneer Museum, the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, Texas White House, and National Museum of the Pacific War. The Travelers will also spend time shopping in downtown Fredericksburg while sampling local eateries, like the Chisolm Trail Winery and the Auslander Restaurant and Biegarten.

The Williams Travelers organize two trips every year to fun and interesting places. Past destinations have included Branson, Missouri and North Carolina, even cruising in Alaska. Watch for news in the Insight and the weekly bulletin about where these adventurers are headed next and how you can join in the journey.

Williams Book Club

Join this group of ladies on the second Monday of each month. They meet at 12:00 p.m. in the Children's Library to discuss what they liked and didn't like about the book of the month. They will be reading *Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister* by Gregory Maguire for their meeting in October. The only thing you have to bring to this meeting is your love of reading.

The Gospel of John – a Nine Week Study

The Bible will be our only text book.

This Bible Study will focus on the

story of Christ's miraculous life as told in the Gospel of John. Using only the gospel itself, we will study the walk of Jesus, from his birth, through his three-year ministry, his teachings and his healings, and finally his death and resurrection.

This nine-week study will take place on Thursdays, beginning October 6 at 10:00 a.m. in room 103. There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center. This class is taught by Martha Morriss

XYZ

The second and fourth Thursday of each month, you will find a group of seniors adding eXtra Years of Zest to their lives by playing games and having fun.

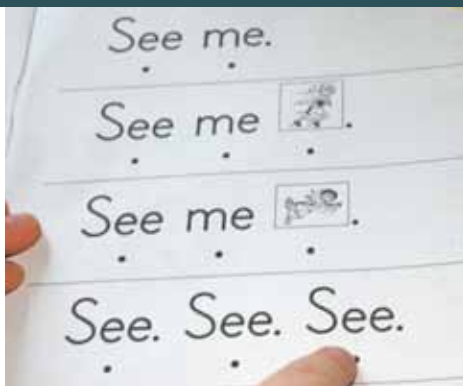
These ladies and gentlemen meet in the Youth Center at 9:30 a.m. In addition to playing games, they share a lunch and share joy and fellowship. Call Billy Roberts at 903-838-7639 if you would like to join this group.

W2LEO

Do you love to eat out, but hate to eat alone? W2LEO is full of fun-loving people that feel the same way you do. These widows and widowers (and married couples as well) meet at local restaurants twice a month to enjoy a meal and the company of others. They would love to have you join them. If you would like to find out where we're headed this month, contact Larry Walker at 903-832-5129.



Opportunities To Get Involved



Invest in a Child's Future

Williams Memorial has a unique opportunity of mentoring children at Theron Jones Elementary School.

If you would like to be involved with this outstanding ministry please contact Mel Luebbert at: maluebbert@gmail.com or 903-244-8847 for more information.

Sign-up sheets are also available in our Welcome Center.



Williams Memorial Hosting Financial Workshop

For four weeks starting October 4th we will be hosting the "Financial Workshop for Individual Investors."

This workshop, led by our own Gary Klein, will help you learn ways to save, invest, and work toward your financial goals. Whether you're just starting out, or want to learn something new, this will give you real-world strategies that are easy to follow.

There is no charge for the workshop but reservations are requested.

For more information visit our website at www.welcometowilliams.org, call the church office at 903.832.8663 or contact Gary Klein 903-831-5727.

Start Your Christmas Shopping Early!

Get 25% off your complete purchase during the month of October with this ad.

Excludes Monogramming and Food

Good Treasures Bookstore is located in Welcome Center at Williams Memorial United Methodist Church

Forgiveness and Justice

October Sermons

10.2.11

“How Would You Treat the Son of the Landowner?”

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalm 19

Phillipians 3:4 b -14

Matthew 21:33-46

10.9.11

“Rejoice Always”

Exodus 32:1-14

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Phillipians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

10.16.11

“What Belongs to God”

Exodus 33:12-23

Psalm 99

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

10.23.11

“Sharing the Gospel and Ourselves”

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

10.30.11

“Appealing to Greatness”

Joshua 3:7-17

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Matthew 23:1-12



The Lord passed before him, and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, yet by no means clearing the guilty, but visiting the iniquity of the parents upon the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.” (Exodus 34:6-7 NRSV)

Dr. Alyce McKenzie, a preaching professor from SMU, challenges preachers to be profound and riveting. Too often we think preaching that is entertaining must be shallow or if it is deep it must be boring. She challenges me to re-think my assumptions of what is possible.

We sometimes put God in the same kind of boxes. If God is love then God must be permissive, or a holy God must be full of wrath.

In the passage above, from Exodus 34, Moses shows us a God who is forgiving and does not clear the guilty. God has steadfast love and holds people to the consequences of their actions.

God gives us the freedom to choose to follow or not to follow God. God tells us of the consequences of sin and then in the midst of our despair offers us the path to come home and receive God’s grace.

Are you broken? Is hope almost gone? God’s love is real. Trust God. A new hymn says it better than I can:

There’s no sin we commit that God cannot heal.

Patiently, God abides with a love that’s real.

We may cry out in pain, broken in despair.

God still waits, offering hope, reaching out to care.

Child of God, precious one, God still longs for you.

Trust the grace of God’s love: Welcome home, dear child.

Welcome home, dear child.

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We invite you to come home. See you in God’s house in worship.



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Upcoming Events

- 10/5 - Mercantile Store
- 10/4 - Financial Workshop Begins
- 10/5 - Unplugged Worship
- 10/10 – Fredericksburg Trip
- 10/16 - Pumpkins Arrive
- 10/30 - Pumpkin Palooza
- 11/6 - All Saints Sunday
- 11/13 - Bishop Huie Preaching
- 11/13 - Charge Conference