

September 2015

Cross & Flame

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GANADO TEXAS

First United Methodist Church
200 Twin Oaks Blvd.
PO BOX 345
Ganado TX 77962

Pastor Mark Smith
361-771-3750 - Church
361-771-2321 - Parsonage
325-340-2080 - Cell
pastor@ganadofumc.com

WE WOULD LOVE TO
HEAR FROM YOU!

If you would like to share special events, celebrations, ministries, encounters with God, please email your article or information to Tyanne Rakowitz at tyanne@ykc.com. If you don't use email, please call Tyanne at 771-5210 to have your information included.



In This Issue:

- Pastor's Letter, page 2
- September birthdays, Prayer Requests, page 3
- What's Happening, pages 4 - 7
- Finances, page 7
- September Calendar, page 8

Up in the Saddle – Loose Reins

By Pastor Mark

Coming from a long line of ranchers, it was expected that everyone in our family (according to my Grandfather), should know “the backend from the frontend of a horse”. So from an early age, learning to ride was as basic as reading and writing. While a long way from an “expert” horseman, I do take pride in that I know which end to bridle, and can (most of the time) stay upon the gentlest of horses. My grandfather was good with horses, and I have always wished that I could have learned the ease and gracefulness of his ability. Growing up my Grandfather had a beautiful Palomino named Chief. The horse was aging and had been my Grandfathers since a colt. This horse was amazing, and many a time my Grandfather would return back the house from being out on the ranch reading a book (his favorite pastime), the reins loosely held in his hand, with Chief instinctively finding the way. It was a lesson in patience and trust learned from many miles and experiences together. Growing up my early years were filled with stories about my great, great grandfather, who was a circuit riding Methodist Minister from around 1850 until his death in the 1870's. One summer day found me reading through some of his old journals, which are at the Conference Office. In one, he describes how he arrived in a small community (name unreadable) which apparently was on one of his routine circuits. He wrote, “Being absorbed in the Epistle of James, I have no idea how I arrived. Thank the Lord for a good horse!” This is why there is a bronze of the “Circuit Rider”, by Scott Rodgers, on my desk. If you look close, you will see a pastor, absorbed in his reading, the reins loosely held in his hands.

Being a Pastor we walk a fine line. It is my firm belief that this is God's Church, and that you, my dear Congregation members, are its caretakers. My job is to provide love, nurturing, and Spiritual guidance. It has been my observation that the best Pastors hold loose reins, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide the church. As we begin this journey together down the trail to salvation, let us all hold loose reins, and let the Holy Spirit take us home.

Blessings!

For the Month of September

<i>Birthdays</i>	
September 1	Mary Lou Yackel
September 1	Gunner McCann
September 2	Linda Taylor
September 3	Ruth Ella Yackel
September 4	Terri Parker
September 5	Mandi Pesek
September 10	W. H. Bishop
September 10	Ana Leigh Garrett
September 11	Kyle Raz
September 14	Karter Crabb
September 14	Ryleigh Garcia
September 14	Tony Hlavaty
September 17	Renee Bures
September 17	Rhonda Garner
September 18	Angela Adrian

<i>Birthdays cont.</i>	
September 18	Susan Duke
September 19	Rebecca Bridges
September 20	Robin Taylor
September 27	Everett Williams
<i>Flowers</i>	
September 6	OPEN
September 13	OPEN
September 20	OPEN
September 27	OPEN

***Wishing all of our birthday “peeps” many blessings on their special day!
Happy Birthday!***

Prayer Corner...

Jason Peters, Angela Adrian, Charles Peel, Herbert Henry, Nelda Hensley, Justine Vesely, Jenny Wiegand, Peggy Dodds, Gayle Engelmohr, Jack and Joy Crabb, Rita Zajicek Pargmann, Josephine White, Evy Wimberly, Leroy Maikoetter, Patsy Sanders, Eldon Penner, Charlie White, Rick Lee, Brook Fowler Brown, Perri Raz, Sharron Dutcher, the Mackin family, Arnold Johnson, Michelle Benavides, Laney McCann, Imogene Kacer Sandra Smith and Lloyd Smith family.

Church Members and family who are homebound:

Jewel Rosenquist, Clarence Counts, Edna Stanford

Church Members and family who reside in the Nursing Home:

Louise Pagel, Jesse Castillo, Gus Tegeler, Jr.

Family of:

Jean Henry, Donnie Skalicky, Wesley Paul Smith, Johnny Stavinoha

All military personnel:*Thomas McDowell - US Army**Chance Poulton - USAF**Ben Smith - US Army**Jacob Uptain - USMC**Zachary Walker - US Navy**Jason Williams - US Army**Clinton Andel - US Army**Chris Green - US Air Force**Brett Wilkinson - US Air Force**Richard Dolan - US Army (Afghanistan)**Brendon Price - USAF (Dubai, United Arab Emirates)**Carson Price - USAF (Kadena Airforce Base, Japan)**Terrell Radford - US Navy (Yokoshoma Naval Base, Japan)*

Prayer requests may be made by calling the Church office at (361) 771-3750 or email Tyanne Rakowitz at tyanne@ykc.com. Requests are kept on the list for one (1) month.

What's happening...**Operation Christmas Child 2015
"Christmas in July"**

I'm sure you are thinking that it can't be time to be thinking about Christmas, it's only summer time! But, for Operation Christmas Child (also know as OCC) it is the perfect time to begin preparing for OCC 2015! This year's OCC campaign will be called, "Christmas in July" and we will kick it off the first Sunday in July! Operation Christmas Child's 2015 FUMC campaign will look TOTALLY different this year! We are so excited to change it up a little bit and hope that our church family will be in full support of this ministry.

For those of you who may not be familiar with this ministry, I would like to start out by giving a little information about this ministry. Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Shoeboxes are packed for children ages 2-14 with items such as toys, candy, hygiene items, crayons, coloring books, etc. These boxes go to children around the world and as they are distributed the children are introduced to the Gospel of Jesus Christ! *The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ!* And that my friends includes us, "the local church" worldwide!

Let me start out by letting you know that we are NOT asking for any donated items this year only monetary donations. This is the major change we are making to the OCC campaign this year. We are also going to set a goal of 60 boxes this year vs. the 150 that we packed last year. The OCC Ministry Team believes that this is a more realistic goal for our church at this time. A goal of 60 boxes will allow us to pack 10 boxes for each age group for boys and girls. We have estimated that it takes around \$25 dollars to fill each box with good quality items; therefore we are looking to collect \$1,500.00. With the changes we are making it will allow us to have uniformity in each box and streamline the packing process.

For the next few months you will see a Christmas tree in the foyer of the church with "gift tags" hanging on the tree. Each tag will be labeled with a different dollar amount of either \$5, \$10 or \$25. If you would like to make a donation towards OCC we ask that you select the tag relating to the amount you would like to spend and put the donation along with your tag in the shoebox by

the Christmas tree. We will have a “candy cane” goal maker hanging by the tree to track our progress. We do ask that you not remove any tags unless you will be making a donation as we have tags on the tree that total our need of \$1,500.00. In early November we will have a church family packing party where we will all come together to assemble the boxes and get them ready to be sent to children all over the world!

We DO NOT need empty shoeboxes as we already have them! We are blessed again this year to have the cost of shipping the boxes covered by the memorial fund of Carolyn Appling; I know she is smiling down from Heaven on us! If you have any questions about the OCC ministry, please contact me or Perri Raz and we would be glad to answer any questions you may have. You may also visit the website, www.samaritanspurse.org and click the link, “Operation Christmas Child”. Please keep this awesome G in your prayers!

Blessings,
Angela Adrian

Ganado Christian Youth Fellowship (Youth Group) Kickoff...Wednesday, September 9th at 6:30pm. Ages 6th grade through 12th grade. Help spread the word!

Kids of the Kingdom (Sunday School) Kickoff...Sunday, September 13th at 10:15am! Ages Kindergarten through 5th grade! Come “Meet the Teachers”, enjoy a snack and see what’s in store for the year!

Sunday School Rally Luncheon and Games...Sunday, September 13th at 12:00pm! Hamburgers and Hot Dogs are on the menu! Water games for the youth and adults too! Dress casual and bring a towel!

Our Brothers and Sisters at First Baptist Church in Ganado are hosting a Beth Moore simulcast at their Church on Saturday, September 12th from 9:30am to 4:15pm. The cost is \$20.00. Please contact Pastor Ryan at (361) 771-2403 for more information.

Ganado Nursing and Rehabilitations’ Homecoming Event for Residents! Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 6:30pm. Volunteers are needed to assist with makeup, passing out refreshments, photography and cleanup. If you would like to help, please contact Karen Keen at (361) 771-8158 or Lacey Sprague at (361) 771-3315.

Volunteers needed...

VOLUNTEERS needed for Youth Ministries...Sunday School, GCYF.

VOLUNTEERS needed for reading at the Ganado Elementary School!

VOLUNTEERS needed in the nursery! Two adults are needed in the nursery at all times.

Do you enjoy singing a “joyful” noise? Awesome! We need YOU for the Christmas Program!

If you are willing to volunteer for any of the areas mentioned above, please contact Pastor Mark at pastor@ganadofumc.com or Tyanne Rakowitz at tyanne@ykc.com.

Worship Volunteers...

If you would like to be part of our Worship volunteers, ie. Worship Leader, Ushers, Acolytes, Communion Asst. or Communion Steward, please contact Barbara Larson at barbara @ykc.com or (361) 771-2928. ***Thank you!***

Mark your calendar! Joint Worship Service (Ganado and Louise) and Church Picnic has been set for ***Sunday, October 18th!*** More details to come!

WOW! The Backpack Ministry was a huge success!***Because of YOU!***

Pastor Mark and I delivered 17 full backpacks to Ganado Elementary for the start of the new school year! Kindergarten received 7 backpacks, 1st Grade and 3rd Grade each received 5! I can't say "thank you" enough for your help in making this ministry a success!

Blessings to each of you,
Tyanne

A few kind words from Ganado ISD!

Pastor Mark, Thank you and your caring congregation that got together to create our delicious faculty/staff luncheon for G.I.S.D. What a great way to end our work week and start another year. You all filled our tummy with "yummy-ness" and our hearts with happiness. The scripture cards that were passed out was "icing on the cake."

Diane Bubela
Proverbs 17:17 "A friend loves at all times"

To all the wonderful people at First United Methodist Church, Thank you so very much for the warm fellowship and the very delightful lunch. It was enjoyed by all. Thank you once again for thinking of Ganado I.S.D. workers and staff. May you all be richly blessed.

Ann Tanton

Dear First United Methodist Church Parishioners, Let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude by saying, thank you! You all treated us to an exceptionally delicious lunch break!!! Everything was incredible!!! What I truly appreciated MOST was the genuine friendliness and love which you exuded. Thank you for helping us have a great start for our Back to School adventures in Ganado.

Sincerely Yours,
 Maria Vorajakmol
 Elem. ESL Teacher

Seniors saying “Thank You”!

I would like to thank you for honoring me at Sunday Service and for giving me a Bible that will guide me and travel with me, wherever I may go.

Thank you,
 Cody Plant

Dear FUMC, Thank you very much for awarding me a scholarship to help out with my college expenses. It is very appreciated.

Sincerely,
 Gunner McCann

FINANCES AT A GLANCE (JANUARY – JULY):

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Difference</u>
July	6,517.00	7,599.38	(1,082.38)
	Received to date (January-July 2015)		\$43,733.72
	Spent to date (January-July 2015)		\$51,134.60
			(\$7,400.88)

September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>5:30pm Praise and Worship Practice</i> <i>6:30pm Square Dance</i>	2 <i>5:30pm FROGS RG Holy Molys RG</i> <i>6:00pm Kids of the Kingdom Planning Meeting</i> <i>6:30pm GCYF Planning Meeting</i>	3 <i>9:00am Membership to Discipleship Training (Gonzales)</i>	4	5
6	7 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	8 <i>8:30am Kiddy Kampus</i> <i>5:30pm Praise and Worship Practice</i> <i>6:30pm Square Dance</i>	9 <i>5:30pm FROGS RG Holy Molys RG</i> <i>6:30pm GCYF Kickoff</i>	10 <i>8:30am Kiddy Kampus</i>	11 <i>11:30am First Responders Appreciation Luncheon</i>	12 <i>9:30am Beth Moore Simulcast (First Baptist Church)</i>
13 <i>9:45am Adult Sunday School</i> <i>10:15am Kids of the Kingdom Kickoff Sunday</i> <i>12:00pm Sunday School Rally Luncheon and Games</i>	14 <i>5:00pm Cub Scout Training</i>	15 <i>8:30am Kiddy Kampus</i> <i>5:30pm Praise and Worship Practice</i> <i>6:30pm Square Dance</i> <i>6:30pm Nursing Home Homecoming Event</i>	16 <i>5:30pm FROGS RG Holy Molys RG</i> <i>6:30pm GCYF</i>	17 <i>8:30am Kiddy Kampus</i>	18 <i>6:30pm Emmaus Gathering (Port Lavaca)</i>	19
20 <i>10:15am Kids of the Kingdom</i>	21 <i>6:00pm Administrative Council Meeting (Ganado)</i>	22 <i>8:30am Kiddy Kampus</i> <i>5:30pm Praise and Worship Practice</i> <i>6:30pm Square Dance</i>	23 <i>5:30pm FROGS RG Holy Molys RG</i> <i>6:30pm GCYF</i>	24 <i>8:30am Kiddy Kampus</i>	25	26
27 <i>4:00pm Nursing Home Worship Service</i>	28	29 <i>8:30am Kiddy Kampus</i> <i>5:30pm Praise and Worship Practice</i>	30 <i>5:30pm FROGS RG Holy Molys RG</i> <i>6:30pm GCYF</i>			

FUMC Ganado
P.O. Box 345
Ganado, TX 77962