

First United Methodist Church  
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# NEWSLETTER

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Jim Curran, Pastor

Ann Wilkinson, Editor

## THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR JIM

Several months ago, I began a discussion focused on the questions Rev. Adam Hamilton asks in his book "Leading Beyond the Walls". Rev. Hamilton is a United Methodist pastor who began the Church of the Resurrection in 1990 with his family being its only members. This church now averages over 6,000 in worship each weekend. The questions he asks in the beginning of his book are the same questions he began his ministry with. In June we discussed question #1, which was "Why do people need Christ?" In July, we discussed question #2, "Why do people need Church?". In Aug., the question was "Why Do People Need *This Particular Church*". In September the question was "To Whom Does Our Church Belong?" This month, we will begin a discussion on "What's next?"

Once a congregation has answered the questions above, the discussion should move to "What do we do with this?" An easy answer is "Serve God." The harder answer is rooted in the "how to serve God" discussions. All of this leads us to a point of, "How do we build God's church **here and now**?" The above questions help us with the "**here**" part of this question. Let us discuss the "**now**" part.

Why build God's church NOW? Again there is an easy answer, "It is God's will." Let us discuss a couple of other reasons.

Reason #1: People need and want what we have. We live in a society that is becoming more and more isolated. Experts are telling us that people feel more alone and isolated than at any time in history. Gangs, alcohol, drugs and other problems can often be traced back to a lack of belonging and lack of a purpose. When I first came to Falfurrias/Premont, I often asked, "What brought you to this church?" As people have joined the churches, I often ask the same question. The most common response I received is that these churches offered a sense of family, support and belonging. These churches offered what they had been looking for. So that indicates to me that our churches have exactly what people are looking for. The problem is that the people outside that church do not know that what they are looking for is inside our churches.

Reason #2: Statistics show that our churches are in danger of failing unless trends change now. When one looks at our congregations, they will see a lot of gray hair. The fact is that in another 10-15 years, the people who keep our doors open (our "foundation members") will no longer be with us or will no longer be physically able to do what they now do. Experts tell us that we must replace these "foundation members" with 5-7 new people to maintain the same level of giving and ministry. In other words, it takes 5-7 new people to replace each of our "foundation members". Most people who come into a church are not in a financial or lifestyle situation to give as our "foundation members" do. They will need time to "grow into" this. So the question becomes, can we replace our "foundation members" before we run out of time? That emphasizes the urgency in building God's church "NOW."

The good news is that we still have the “foundation members” to stand with us and support us. More good news is that we have what the community wants. The best “Good News” is offering the message of Christ to our world. Our sense of urgency must be elevated. Maybe we should call it “Condition Red” or something similar in order to help us understand that we must act NOW.

Each of us has friends and family members who are not Christians, much less committed Christians. We all are surrounded with people who want what we have inside our churches and need the “Good News”. We must find new ways to reach out and invite them to join us. Remember, we are Christ’s hands and voice in this world. If we do not give them the truth, who will? Next month we will discuss the next step.

Amen and God Bless,

Pastor Jim Curran

361-652-8360

### **Bazaar is Coming!**

Falfurrias FUMC Bazaar date has been set for Saturday, November 7. **Carne Guisada??** Plates will be sold for \$5.00. Volunteers are needed in every area. Men with trucks and/or trailers will especially be needed before this event to help transport material from the El Buen Pastor location to Falfurrias FUMC.

### **Premont First United Methodist 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Both Falfurrias and Premont F.U.M.C. will join together in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> year of ministry for the Premont F.U.M.C. There will NOT be worship at Falfurrias on October 4. The worship at Premont F.U.M.C. will be at 10:00am with a luncheon to follow.

### **Youth Group is Starting**

The long-awaited Youth Group is starting. This combined Falfurrias and Premont Youth Group will be aimed at teens. It will begin with monthly meetings. The first will be Wednesday, September 30 at 5:30pm. The October meeting will be Wednesday, October 21 at 5:30pm. Please encourage teens to come and bring friends. We have sponsors, but need help providing dinner/snacks for this group. If you can help, please contact myself or Grace Mata.

### **Contemporary Worship**

A contemporary worship service will follow each Youth Group meeting at 7:00pm. All are invited to attend and experience a different way of worshipping God.

### **The Wheelchair Ramp is Finished**

The wheelchair ramp at Diana Barerra’s home was completed before she came home from the hospital after having her first knee replacement (the other knee will be replaced after she recovers from this one.) Special thanks to Diana’s uncle Andy Guterrez, B.J., Juan Cisneros, and Joel Mora who did the work. The Hand of Hope Ministry contribution covered the cost of the materials. Good Job!

### **Next Movie Night**

Due to schedules the next Movie Night may not be until after the first of next year. That is, unless we want to get together for a Christmas Movie in mid-December. We will be discussing this.

### **Bible Study Continues**

Bible Study continues, Tuesdays at 6:30pm in Premont and Thursdays at 6:30pm in Falfurrias (immediately following Eat-Well). We are learning about God’s amazing grace. The tool we are using is the video based study

“What’s So Amazing About Grace” by Phillip Yancey. This is an exciting study that everyone will benefit from. If you think you know about grace, Mr. Yancey will challenge you and bless you. Feel free to join us any time! Bible Studies will not meet the week of Oct. 26-29 due to Charge Conference.

### **2009 Charge Conference**

The 2009 Charge Conference for Falfurrias/Premont will be held Wednesday, October 28, at 6:00pm at the Falfurrias FUMC. The necessary forms have been mailed. Rev. Larry Howard has communicated to pastors that the emphasis of this year’s conference should be on what WILL be done NEXT year to reach into the community, not so much on what was done last year. Both churches look forward to this event.

### **Southwest Texas Conference 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

A celebration will take place Saturday, November 14 in Goliad to honor 150 years of the Southwest Texas Conference in ministry. Please make plans to attend with me.

### **Happy Birthday Dr. Wilder and Betty Nielson**

Dr. Lowell Wilder and Betty Nielson are turning 90 years young soon. There will be a celebration on Sunday, Oct. 18, 12:30pm at the Falfurrias FUMC fellowship hall. Please bring a covered dish to show your love and support for these dear friends.

### **Testimonies Wanted**

All willing to tell their faith story, their conversion story, how Jesus has affected or changed their lives is invited to do so. Few things touch others hearts as much as hearing how Jesus has affected your life. Our stories are how we connect with each other.

### **Pastor Jim’s Office Hours**

Pastor Jim will be in his office, Monday’s 8:00-10:00am in Falfurrias and Tuesday’s 9:00-11:00am in Premont. He can always be reached by his cell phone 361-652-8360. Pastor Jim will not be in the office the week of October 12 – 17 and Thursday, Oct. 22.

### **HELP WANTED**

There are several things that the church does or will need help with. Please contact Pastor Jim if you can help with any of these.

- Falfurrias is looking for someone with an interest in starting a Children’s Sunday School or Worship.
- Childcare during movie nights is needed in Falfurrias.
- Both churches need a webmaster to ensure the information on their websites is accurate and timely. (The United Methodist Church is spending millions of dollars to advertize our churches from the web. This will not help us unless our individual church sites are included.)
- Both churches need someone to act as an advertising contact. This person would ensure that upcoming events are advertised.

In God,  
Pastor Jim Curran  
Cell #361-652-8360

### **HANDS OF HOPE, A Community of Shalom**

The Thrift Store would like to thank Carson Gates, Dr. Wilder and Joel Mora for taking their discards to Good Will. This cleared out items that have been on display for months and has allowed new items from the many donations they have received to be put on display.

They are asking that people please hold up a little on donations for about a month to give them time to get all of the items now stored on to the display racks and tables. They thank everyone for their donations but have been overwhelmed with donations recently and had too much in storage. Most of the stored clothing is women's clothing of small or medium sizes so they do still need large size clothing, children's clothing and men's clothing.

They are also in need of helpers to work in the Thrift Store on Wednesdays from 8:30am till 2pm. If they could get about four people to volunteer, these volunteers would only need to work one day a month. If you can give one day a month to this cause, it would certainly be appreciated. Contact Ann Wilkinson if you want to volunteer.

Hands of Hope has been trying to get a new roof on a home in Encino for almost a year. They finally got a roofing crew together and wouldn't you know it – the day they removed the roof, it poured down rain. Everything in the house got soaked. Some of the crew did not return to the job but we thank Joel Mora for his continued work on this project. The labor was volunteer and Hands of Hope paid for the materials.

Hands of Hope also paid for the materials needed to build the wheelchair ramp for Diana Barrera. The labor was volunteer.

The Thrift Shop, with a few small donations, provides the only income for Hands of Hope so they are unable to do as much outreach work as they would like. They are able to assist some people with utility bills, etc. and to pay for either materials or labor in a few repair projects. With today's prices, they are not able to pay for both material and labor.

### **WESLEY NURSE NEWS AND NOTES by Grace Mora, R.N.**

#### **October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month: the 2009 Domestic Violence Awareness Project**

Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the "Day of Unity" in October 1981 which was started by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The intent was to bring together advocates from across the nation who were working to end violence against women and children. The Day of Unity soon became an entire week devoted to range of activities conducted at local, state, and national levels.

The activities were as varied and diverse as the program sponsors but had common themes: mourning those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived, and connecting those who work to end violence.

In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. The same year marks the initiation of the first national domestic violence toll-free hotline. In 1989 the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 101-112 designating October of that year as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Each year, the Day of Unity is celebrated the first Monday of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This is just a brief history of this organization.

Campaigns promoting and providing resources and information designed to raise public awareness of domestic violence are listed below. These are to be used and adapted throughout the years in communities across the states, tribal nations, and territories.

- **Empty Place at the Table-** following a cluster of domestic violence murders in Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania in 1993, the community responded by holding a rally and march outside the courthouse. With the help of Women's Resource Center the organizers created the Empty Place at the Table exhibit which is made up of the victim's place setting, photographs, personal items, as well as newspaper clippings about the homicides. The exhibit works to: recognize the individuality of each victim, establish a way to mourn the loss of their lives, raise awareness about domestic violence and its impact on our communities, and to ensure these deaths are not forgotten
- **Purple Ribbon-** history of how that tradition is vague. Across the country families and friends of victims have adopted the purple ribbon to remember and honor their loved ones who have lost their lives at the hands of person they once loved and trusted. In addition to the demonstration of support for victims and advocates, the display of purple ribbons throughout a community conveys a powerful message that there is no place for domestic violence in the homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, or schools of its citizens.
- **Clothesline Project-** is a visual display that bears witness to the violence against women and children. The clothesline project comprises T-shirts designed by survivors of abuse and those who have lost loved ones to it. The shirts are hung on a clothesline display to- honor survivors and memorialize victims, help with the healing process, educate, document, and raise society's awareness of the crimes of violence against women and children. The shirts on the clothesline represent a wide spectrum of abuse. Although each shirt is unique, a common color coding is generally used to represent different types of violence against women and children. White T-shirts represent women and children who have died as a result of domestic violence. Yellow or Beige represent women and children who have been assaulted or battered. Red, Pink, or Orange for women and children who have been

raped or sexually assaulted. Blue or Green for women and children survivors of incest. Purple or Lavender for women and children attacked because of their sexual orientation or identification.

**Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault** are pervasive and life threatening crimes affecting millions of people across our nation, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion or education. Domestic violence and sexual assault not only severely impact victims but our entire communities and are linked to many other social ills.

- 1 in 4 women are beaten and raped by a partner during adulthood
- 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have experienced an attempted or completed rape.
- 3 women are killed by a current or former intimate partner each day in America, on average.
- More than 22% of women and 7.4% of men surveyed, reported being physically assaulted by a partner, averaging 6.9 assaults per year.
- Around 2.3 million people each year in the U.S. are raped and/or assaulted by a current or form spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend.
- About 37% women seeking injury related treatment in hospital emergency rooms were there as a result of injuries inflicted by a current or former partner.

**Children** are particularly vulnerable as both victims and witnesses to domestic violence. In order to break the cycle of violence we must intervene and provide services. Domestic violence shelters and programs provide children with a safe and caring atmosphere where they can process their trauma and begin to heal.

- About 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year
- Men who were expose to physical abuse, sexual abuse, and adult domestic violence as children are 4 times morel likely than other men to perpetrate domestic violence as adults, according to a large study.
- Incest accounts for half of all sexual abuse cases.
- Children that are exposed to violence are more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, engage in teen prostitution, and commit sexual assault crimes.
- Girls and young women between ages 16 and 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner abuse.

In addition to the devastating physical and emotional damage domestic violence has on victims and their families, it also has huge financial costs. The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds 5.8 Billion dollars, including 4.1 Billion dollars in direct health care expenses.

While our nation has come a long way in meeting the needs of victims, there remains a significant gap between funding and the demand for services. As more and more victims request services, it is essential that their needs are met. In 2008, a 24 hour survey of domestic violence programs across the nation found that over 60,000 victims were served in one day. Unfortunately, due to lack of resources, there were almost 9,000 unmet requests for services. In 2008 the domestic violence hotline got 236,907 calls but over 29,000 went unanswered due to lack of resources. It is our duty to report these acts of violence to the authorities. We live in a world that is stressful and trying. We must advocate for those who suffer from domestic violence.

## FALFURRIAS NEWS

**SONGFEST.** The Songfest the last of August was a big success. There were over 70 people in attendance and all enjoyed singing and listening to specials. Some of those scheduled for specials were unable to attend so others filled in for them. One of the performers was heard to comment, "Welcome to amateur night." There may have been a few problems for some of the singers but everyone enjoyed them anyway. The use of our new audio-visual system was demonstrated with the singing of two songs from this screen instead of using our local musicians and hymnals.

**BIRTHDAY PARTY.** We will be having a birthday party on October 18<sup>th</sup>. This will be a covered dish luncheon following church at 12:30. Desserts will be furnished so everyone is asked to bring meat, salad or vegetable items for the dinner. The honorees are Dr. Lowell Wilder and Betty Nielsen who will both be celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays. Betty's birthday was on September 25<sup>th</sup> and Lowell's will be on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our church schedule is so full in September and October, that we had to pick a date between the birthdays for this celebration. Be sure to come and help them celebrate.

**FALL BAZAAR.** November 7<sup>th</sup> has been set as the date for our annual Fall Bazaar. Plans at this time are to have a white elephant sale, a bake sale and maybe a plant sale along with a noon meal. The noon meal (take out only) will consist of Carnie Guisado, beans, rice and potato salad. Advance tickets will be sold and there will also be tickets for sale at the door as long as there is enough food to fill the order. Tickets will be \$5 each. Serving time will be 11am to 2pm.

**WINTER TEXANS** We will be looking forward to greeting the first of our Winter Texans about the first of November. We always look forward to this time of year when we can renew old friendships and hopefully make some new friends.

**NEW EXERCISE CLASSES.** A new type of exercise classes will start Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 8am. There exercises are to help you to have better balance but has not been named at this time. They were to have started about a month ago but due to Wesley Nurse Grace Mora being out so much with meetings and medical problems, it didn't get started as planned. Tentative plans are for the group to meet 3 times a week, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. This may be changed after the first meeting when the group of interested parties gets together and can better determine day and time most convenient for them. If interested, talk to Grace or Meta Talley.

### **FALFURRIAS FAMILY NEWS**

The month of September started off with sad news. Mary Arevalo was in the hospital with a staph infection. Joy Perez was also in the hospital. Meta Talley had to have a melanoma removed from her arm. Grady Cage was again undergoing cancer treatment. Pat Goldman is still under the weather. We lost our dear friends, Dot Givens and Barbara Tuma. Toward the middle of the month, Ruth Best had to be hospitalized and Diana Barrera had knee surgery.

We were looking forward to another of Dot Givens' whimsical birthday poems as she celebrated her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday but there will be no more poems. Dot had several major health problems and went into Hospice Care just before her birthday on September 1<sup>st</sup> and went home to meet her maker on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dot chose to be cremated and there was a memorial service held for her in Houston. When the family is able to make the trip to Falfurrias, her ashes will be buried beside her husband. Her daughter, Pat, is having knee surgery so won't be able to make the trip for a while. Our prayers are with Pat and the rest of the family.

We all have many happy memories of Dot and her family when they lived in Falfurrias and were such active members of this church. I remember that we were having some sort of big church gathering in Fellowship Hall when Dot was called into the men's restroom by a little boy needing help with his clothes. When Dot came out, she commented that now she had been in every room in the church.

Ruth Best has been having health problems for some time now and they got so bad that she had to be hospitalized on September 8<sup>th</sup>. She was taken to the hospital in Kingsville by EMS and then transferred to ICU at Spohn Shoreline in Corpus Christi. She was kept in the hospital until they could get a diagnosis and get her stabilized. Pastor Jim, Meta Talley, Georgia Kane and other friends looked after her needs until her family could get here. She was later moved to the nursing home in Falfurrias where she is undergoing therapy. We are sure she would appreciate your visits and keep her in your prayers.

Diana Barrera's knee surgery went well and we thank the group of men who built the wheelchair ramp for her. Am not sure of all of the names of the workers so will not name them but we do want them to know that we thank them. Keep Diana in your prayers as this is the first of two surgeries.

We had a recent note from Margot Thompson telling of her recent foot surgery due to osteoarthritis. Bill's Parkinson's Disease gives him trouble with his balance so he has to be very careful. Both are doing well despite these health problems but we keep them in our prayers.

Betty Long spent the Labor Day weekend in Bay City with her daughter, Betsy, and her husband. Betsy met Betty in Corpus Christi on Friday and brought her home on Tuesday. Betsy had to be in Corpus Christi on business both of those days.

September 6<sup>th</sup> was a red letter day in our church. We gained four new members that day. Vanessa Curran transferred her membership from St. Mark's UMC in Victoria, Mary Menking along with Andres and Eleanore Rubio transferred their membership from another denomination.

We welcome all of them and hope that they find their membership here will be spiritually fulfilling and that it will be a place where they can communicate with God and find fellowship with their fellow members as a family of God.

There was a big birthday celebration at the church to help little J.T.Cisneros celebrate his first birthday. Pastor Jim took pictures and they were projected on the screen at church as background to the announcements. We all got to enjoy the pictures of the huge SpongeBob Squarepants piñata with J.T. sitting on top of it.

Little J.T and his mother, Illiana, recently journeyed to Tennessee with daddy, J.J., who will be in Tennessee for a few weeks of work training. J.T. and Illiana have returned home to await J.J.'s return.

Betty Nielsen welcomed her 12<sup>th</sup> great grandchild on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> with the birth of little Nora Fay Coppedge who weighed in at 8 lbs. 15 oz. and was 21 inches long. Little Nora was the fifth grandchild of Genie and Lonnie Vaughn. She is the 3<sup>rd</sup> child of their daughter, Laura, and her husband Robert. She seems to be a magnet to her big sister and brother who like to stare at her and pet her (as the 3 yr-old big sister puts it).

Betty also has spent time in San Antonio with her son, Jay, and his family and had daughter, Tena, here for a visit.

We were pleased to have our new game warden, Royce Esle, worship with us on the 20<sup>th</sup>. We hope he felt welcomed and was spiritually uplifted.

Do you have any old jewelry laying around that you no longer use or want? Lucy Gates says that if you do, she would like to have it and will make a monetary donation to the church in exchange for it. She takes old jewelry and makes new jewelry out of it. She can use single earrings, broken bracelets or necklaces in addition to any other unwanted jewelry items. Either contact Lucy direct or bring the items to Ann at the church

Lucy has been to visit Holly and grandson, Garrett, to help Garrett celebrate his 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Little Garrett will have a new brother in November.

Willie and Ann Wilkinson have 4 step great grandchildren but had their first natural great grandson born on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Little Cash Daniel Chrane arrived a little early but weighed in at about 6 ½ lbs. He is the son of Sarah and Jonah Chrane and grandson of Richard Wilkinson.

#### CARES AND CONCERNS

Grady Cage	* Ruth Best
Dot Chitwood	*Lavon Moss
Pat Goldman and her nieces	*Kennard Moote
Mike and Suzanne Stanfield	*Lillie Morse
Suzanne Stanfield's mother	*Diana Barrera
Grace and Joel Mora & families	*Nels Nielsen
Fidencio Garza family	*Blanche Butler
J.J .Cisneros family & J.T.	*Georgia Kane
Robert Arevalo family	*Local Heath Care System
Hands of Hope and its programs	*Local, State, National & World Leaders
All military and their families	*People suffering from natural disasters

## PREMONT NEWS

Hopefully the hot summer days are past as the Fall Season was ushered in with a nice cool front and abundant showers for which we are grateful.

The Premont Church is in the final weeks of preparations for the Hundred Year Anniversary to be celebrated on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Nancy Teague stated that she had received over 100 responses to the invitations she had sent from the church. We hope that many more will come in soon. We all are looking forward to the celebration. Cleaning, painting and remodeling are being done as Mike Vera did a great job on remodeling the halls into the bathrooms. Linda Hamilton, Melinda Quintanilla, Dottie Murray, Kathryn Tuma and Tommy Teague were wielding paint brushes, brooms, dust clothes, etc. Thanks to all for hours of labor.

## PREMONT FAMILY NEWS

We were all so thankful and happy recently when Don and Evelyn Guynn and Faye Smith joined the Premont Methodist Church. They were members of the local Presbyterian Church and shortly after it closed, they started attending church here. This was several years ago and we have considered them “ours” for a good while. Pastor Jim was touched and pleased as he welcomed them into the church family and we all joined him in this welcome.

We were so touched when Pot (Walter) and Betty Brown reported that their little 10 year old granddaughter, Emily, cut her long brown hair and donated it to *Locks of Love* that is a program that makes wigs for children with cancer. It was such a generous gesture from a little girl. The family now lives in Michigan and Betty and Pot miss them.

Pot was kept busy displaying 129 American Flags at the cemetery to honor veterans on Labor Day. Pot especially welcomed the rain as he has cattle in addition to all he does. He and Betty attend many activities for grandchildren in Bishop. Betty said it helps to keep them young – and always on the go.

We were all saddened to lose our beloved Barbara Tuma. She fought a valiant fight and even though she was ill and weak, she was an inspiration to us all with her positive and cheerful attitude. She was such a great artist and left lovely artwork at the church for us. We all miss her.

Evelyn and Don Guynn enjoy playing Bridge. They go to the Kingsville Women’s Center to play with long time friends. Evelyn recently took a birthday cake to the group to honor Betty Nielsen. She also had a cake for Faye Smith. Congratulations ladies. Faye recently celebrated her birthday at the hunting lease with her son Jimmy and wife Melva.

Hopefully Patti (Visel) Jenkins is headed for home. She was in Colorado Springs, CO., a few days and will stop in Los Alamos and Bondolier (old Indian Ruins). She will visit her Uncle Bob (Cliff’s youngest brother) then head to El Paso to visit Cliff’s youngest brother’s family. We trust she will have a safe journey home. It will be good to have her back.

Talk about a united church! Several members of the Premont congregation eat lunch at the Oasis on Sunday after church. Fourteen members and three children gathered there on the 20<sup>th</sup> and enjoyed visiting and eating together. Everyone is welcome.

Mildred Visel took Butch Ricks to Kingdom Camp recently. Butch is a charter member so to speak. He attended the very first camp meeting and this was his 26<sup>th</sup> year in attendance. Congratulations Butch, for your faithfulness and enthusiasm.

Ralph and Barbara Stoltzfus recently attended the grand opening of the new Robstown office of Capital Farm Credit. A ribbon cutting was held and members and guests enjoyed refreshments afterward. As Director Emeritus, Ralph was happy to visit with old friends who had served with him in the past.

They also attended the book reading/lecture and signing for the recently released book "The Master Showman of King Ranch" which is the story of Beto and Librado Maldonado who are long time employees of the King Ranch. The event was held at the King Ranch Museum, immediately followed by a reception/book signing. The event was immensely enjoyed by all.

We are so sorry to hear of Ruth Best's health problems. She is in the nursing home in Falfurrias for rehab and is reportedly recovering nicely. All of our prayers are with you, Ruth.

Harry and Susan Cherry are busy these weekends with activities of the grandchildren. They were at a baby shower for grandson, Blake Mead, and continue to support little gymnast Hannah.

Word from J.C. and Winnie Ruth Grantham, former members, is that son Roger recently retired at the age of 65. However, he has a nursery and 8000 oak trees to take care of and to sell so we imagine he will be kept pretty busy.

Winnie Ruth said granddaughter, Jessica, enjoyed her summer studies in Europe. She has a double major in Advertising and Education. Her father, Johnny, joined her after the study was completed and they toured in Austria and Italy, visiting the Vatican and other points of interest. J.C. and Winnie Ruth said to tell everyone hello.

Mark Mata will soon be teaching a Sunday School class in Premont. We appreciate him and his family and their enthusiasm.

Tommy and Nancy Teague received word on Saturday, the 12<sup>th</sup>, that their 8<sup>th</sup> great grandchild was born at 3:36pm. Lanie Elizabeth, 9 lbs. 5 oz., is the daughter of Sgt Jayson and Maranda Teague of Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. Milton and Robyn of Natalia, TX are paternal grandparents.

Richard Willis has returned from attending trade shows and family in Arkansas and Oklahoma. We know that he enjoyed this trip and we are happy to have him safely back in Premont.

We pray for healing for Agnes Martinez who has been having knee problems and also for Bob Epperson who has been under the weather. We missed him in church.

#### CARES AND CONCERNS

Mildred Visel	* Tommy and Nancy Teague\
Nina, Seth, & Skylar Johnson	* Faye Smith\
Linda Hamilton's parents	* Margarite Laughlin
Agnes Martinez	* Bob and Peggy Gill
Grace Teague	* Claire Martinez
Richard, and Mary Willis & Hector	* Dottie, Vince and Patrick Murray
Kristen & Rommel Williamson	* Marie and Butch Ricks
Terry Hale	* Conde Moreno
Amber Hibbard and family	* Gilbert Arevalo
Olga Perez	* Jesus Perez
Eva Cantu	*Leadership of our Country
Mike Shoen, Brian Morgan, & all those in the Armed Forces	

HUMOR  
KIDS ON LOVE

What Is The Proper Age To Get Married? - “Once I’m done with kindergarten, I’m going to find me a wife!” – Tom age 5

What Do Most People Do On a Date? – “On the first date, they just tell each other lies, and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date.” – Mike, age 10

When Is It Okay to Kiss Someone? – “You should never kiss a girl unless you have enough bucks to buy her a big ring and her own VCR, ‘cause she’ll want to have videos of the wedding.” – Jim, age 10

“Never kiss in front of other people. It’s a big embarrassing thing if anybody sees you. But if nobody sees you, I might be willing to try it with a handsome boy, but just for a few hours.” – Kally, age 9

The Greatest Debate: Is It Better To Be Single Or Married? – “It’s better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need somebody to clean up- after them!” – Lynette, age 9

Concerning Why Love Happens Between Two Particular People. – “No one is sure why it happens, but I heard it has something to do with how you smell. That’s why perfume and deodorant are so popular.” – Jan, age 9

“I think you’re supposed to get shot with an arrow or something, but the rest of it isn’t supposed to be so painful.” – Harlen, age 8

“It gives me a headache to think about all that stuff. I’m just a kid. I don’t need that kind of trouble. – Kenny, age 7

THOUGHTS  
PEACE

Do not undermine your worth by comparing yourself with others. It is because we are different that each of us is special.

Do not set your goals by what other people deem important. Only you know what is best for you.

Do not take for granted the things closest to your heart. Cling to them as you would your life, for without them, life is meaningless.

Do not let your years slip through your fingers by living in the past, nor in the future. By living your life one day at a time, you live all the days of your life.

Do not give up when you still have something to give. Nothing is really over until the moment you stop trying.

Do not be afraid to encounter risks. It is by taking chances that we learn how to be brave.

Do not shut love out of your life by saying it is impossible to find. The quickest way to receive love is to give love; the fastest way to lose love is to hold it too tightly.

Do not dismiss your dreams. To be without dreams is to be without hope; to be without hope is to be without purpose.

Do not run through life so fast that you forget not only where you have been, but also where you are going. Life is not a race, but a journey to be savored each step of the way. ---Author Unknown

Do you need help in decision making? Try the Bible and prayer.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DAY	EVENT	FALFURRIAS	PREMONT
SUN	WORSHIP	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
	SUNDAY SCHOOL	10:45 AM	10:00 AM (Children only)
	NURSING HOME MINISTRY		3:00 PM (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun)
MON	PRAYER METING	9:00-10:00 AM	2:00-3:00 PM
	PASTOR’S OFFICE HOURS	8:00-10:00 AM	
TUE	UMW		9:30 AM 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tue.
	PASTOR’S OFFICE HOURS		9:00-11:00 AM
	BIBLE STUDY		6:30 PM
WED	ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD	6:30 PM 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	6:30 PM 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed every other mo.
	THRIFT SHOP	8:30 AM – 2 PM	
THU	BIBLE STUDY	6:30 PM	
	EAT RIGHT TO STAY WELL	5:30 PM (prior Bible Study)	

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Oct 4 – 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF PREMONT UMC. Combines worship service at 10am.

7 – Administrative Council meeting in Falfurrias – 6:30pm

8 – Support Andres Rubio trip to Harlingen. Andres faces deportation trial and needs everyone's support.

18 – Birthday Party for Betty Nielson and Dr. Lowell Wilder at the Falfurrias Church.

18 – Both churches will have a guest speaker that Sunday as Pastor Jim will have just returned from a retreat. Sam Holder will fill the pulpit that day.

22 – Pastor Jim will be in San Antonio for a Dist. Meeting of Commission on Race and Religion

**28 – 6pm Charge Conference for both churches at Falfurrias**

#### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

##### FALFURRIAS

5 Pat Goldman  
10 Joel Mora  
12 Holly Gates Lewis  
17 David Negri  
22 Lowell Wilder

##### PREMONT

8 Charles Schneider  
13 Terry Carlile  
15 Lacy Kibbe  
15 Tommy Kelso  
23 Amber Dawn Hibbard  
29 Herman Herrington  
31 Samuel Strong

#### ANNIVERSARIES

11 Randy & June Fugate  
18 David & Louise Negri

10 Bob & Irene Epperson  
22 Terry & Carmen Carlile