

NEWSLETTER

MOOREVILLE METHODIST CHURCH

VOLUME 1

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DEVOTIONAL

As I sit here in the air conditioned confines of my study, the mercury outside (actually my iPhone weather app) tells me that it is 100 degrees outside, and that it feels like 104. As the long, hot days of summer press on, I am looking forward to the cooler days of autumn. I am hoping for the changing of

color and the leaves to fall. This will be a welcomed change of season as we will definitely get a reprieve from the blazing sun.

We are also in a season of change here on the hilltop. As we prepare for our future, there is one central question we need to answer, and the question is this: Where is God working and how can we join Him? It is imperative that we put Jesus Christ first and at the head of everything we do, day in and day out.

As we move from the dog days of summer towards the hopeful cooler days of autumn, we find ourselves in a season of change.

DEVOTIONAL, CONTINUED

We are preparing for promotion Sunday, MidWeek Manna, as well as our annual Fish Fry and our Harvest Festival in October. To round out 2023, we celebrate with the culmination of Advent. There will also be service projects for Sunday School classes, and our youth are working on getting out into our community and helping others. We continue to prayerfully seek ways of how we can get off this hilltop and go and serve God here in our neck of the Kingdom. Who, because of us, will know the love of Jesus?

In the parable of leaving the 99, Jesus asks the question, "...and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying?" (Matthew 18:12b, nkjv) When we go from this hilltop every week, do we go and search for one who has perhaps gone astray? Do we ask the Lord to bring one into our path? The deeper question I ponder is this: are we looking as we walk along the way?

As we depart the hilltop every week, we have but one task, and that is to go and love people like Jesus. As we go, pray for the Lord to bring just one somebody along your way. Aimee and I are excited about finishing 2023 strong and having an even stronger 2024!

Finish Strong,

Kevin Diggs

Pastor

Matthew 18:10-14

TESTIMONIALS

If you are viewing this newsletter on a computer, click any of the images below to view our YouTube video with information about Mooreville, church members' testimonials, and some of the anticipation for our upcoming sermon series, *Experiencing God!*



WHY MOOREVILLE?

"It is so welcoming and it is so relaxed. It is a place where you and your family can feel at home with so many neat activities like Midweek Manna, Vacation Bible School, and neat things that include an entire family of all ages."

MIDWEEK MANNA

Midweek Manna is a Midweek Meal and Contemporary Service + Bible Study. It is laid back, the food is GREAT, and there are offerings for all ages who want to come and participate. "It is a great time midweek to come back to our roots."



EXPERIENCING GOD

Join us starting August 27 in Sunday School and during the Service as we work through our new series, *Experiencing God!* "You don't want to miss it." "Faith without action is dead, and that's not what He wants for us."



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**KATELYN &
ANDREW PIMENTEL**



TRISH ZAWACKI



RUBEN LOA

PRAYER LIST

**MELINDA COLYER
MIKE FOX
SHELLEY GASTON
GRIDER FAMILY
KELSEY HANCOCK**

**JAN HUBER
EVA MARSHALL
TERRY MOORE
JACQUELINE NORMAN
MARK PHELPS**

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

Let's Help Our Teachers!

With summer ending, a new school year approaches. We have the opportunity to help a few members of our church family who are in the educational field! Lara Hunt, Amanda Niemeyer, and Tonya Ford have provided us with a wish list that we are passing along for anyone who would like to contribute to their classrooms for the upcoming school year! To view the list, either scan the QR code with your phone's camera or click the school supply beside the teacher's name!



LARA HUNT'S
BACK-TO-SCHOOL WISH
LIST



TONYA FORD'S
BACK-TO-SCHOOL WISH
LIST



AMANDA NIEMEYER'S
BACK-TO-SCHOOL WISH
LIST



MINISTRY MOMENTS

Fixin' Fences

A story by Nathan Barrier of God's presence and reminder of Romans 8:28; "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."

In 1986, Cindy and I bought the old Carpenter farmhouse on FM 2837 about 2 miles west of Rosenthal, Texas. The house itself had been built brand new by Ed and Mildred Carpenter circa 1928 on the same site as the doctor's house had once stood in the tiny town of Hillside, Tx. There had been a post office, livery stable, general store, drug store, and a few other businesses located in that community. But Ed Carpenter, like many in that area during the 19th and 20th centuries, was a farmer. The town itself had long ceased to exist before we ever bought that old house in 1986. However, the story I'm about to tell began when I brought my grandfather's 1952 Ford 8N tractor to central Texas.



When we moved to the old Carpenter place, 'Sparky' had been in east Texas for 34 years and did not run. I paid to get Sparky running again and took him for exercise down Kraemer Pass road because it was near our house and had virtually no traffic; it was not even paved. During one of those outings, about a mile south of FM 2837, I discovered a grave marker in amongst a large elm tree and smaller hackberry trees about 200 feet into a corn field along Kraemer Pass road. I walked out to it and found two gravestones surrounded by a wrought iron fence that had been badly damaged by a farmer's plow.

MINISTRY MOMENTS

I took our children to see the monuments, and later, our grandchildren. I always felt a tug at my heart to see the final resting place of a man and his wife and no other graves or markers anywhere near anything.

The man's name was Stephen Turner Smith. He was born in 1840 and died in 1899. His wife, Mary Jane Estridge Smith, was born in 1849 and died in 1903. They were both born in Tennessee and moved to Texas in 1874, buying acreage in the growing little town of Hillside. Untouched and neglected for over 100 years, the McLennan County Historical Society and Find-A-Grave organization sponsored cleanups for the gravesite beginning in 2011. In 2015, the couple's great great granddaughter wrote an article about the tiny cemetery. In September of 2017, Donald and Mary Holly, local farmers from Downsville Texas, bought the 320 acre property that had once belonged to Michael and Mary Smith.

Now we fast forward to March, 2023 (just a few months ago). Raymond Holy, the brother of the man who bought the property where the Smiths lie buried is a farmer, too. And as a farmer, he has a workshop with a wood burning stove for those cold snaps in winter. He and his wife save old newspapers to help start a fire in the shop.



The weather had turned cold again in early March of this year, and he started a fire. While warming himself, he grabbed one section of an old newspaper out of a four foot stack of them saved over the years, and began to read it as he warmed up. The newspaper was not a Waco paper. It was the local paper the town of West still prints and sells. It was from 2015; nearly 8 years ago!! He looks at an article about a unique family cemetery and recognizes the headstone as the one in his brother's corn & cotton field. The article was about the Smiths and written by their great great granddaughter. She still lives. And she stated, in the article, that she would love to see the old fence around the gravesites to be restored.

Raymond Holy gave the 8 year old newspaper to his brother Donald. Mr. Holy read the article and decided to try to contact this great great granddaughter of the Smiths. And he succeeds!! Her name is Carol Baker. She asks the Holy's for permission to come on his property and visit the graves of her ancestors.

MINISTRY MOMENTS

Meanwhile, our Teen Sunday School Class was looking to find a community service project. This led me down dead end after dead end. On the way back home from this Mooreville hilltop toward Rosenthal, I thought about that tiny cemetery. I don't know why; I just did. Believe it or not, there were footprints in that field when I went to take photos that mid-March afternoon. One set was small and likely a woman's or a child's. Two other sets were much larger and likely men's. When I called to ask Mr. Holy that evening to see what his reaction would be for us to have his permission to clean up the tiny cemetery with the youth of Mooreville Methodist Church, he suspected the footprints were left by the family of Mr. Smith and he asked me this question: "What do you want to do, fix the fence?" You could have knocked me over with a feather. You see, he thought I had been in contact with Carol Baker since HE HAD TALKED TO HER ON THE PHONE JUST A FEW DAYS BEFORE MY CALL.



He didn't realize we had no idea about anything that had transpired. We didn't know about 2011 or 2015 or the previous 72 hours with his brother and the Smith's great great granddaughter. We are convinced this is no coincidence. We are convinced this is the work of The Holy Spirit nudging us to teach our teens to respect and serve and preserve.

On this very first conversation I had with Mr. Holy, he told me point blank that the Lord has His hand in all this that's happened in less than two weeks for a couple who's been buried for over 120 years. On Sunday, July 16, 2023 our Sunday School Class traveled the 8 miles to Hillside Cemetery from Mooreville Methodist Church and did our best for the Smith Family buried in that cotton field. "Caring for the graves of those who came before us shows respect for those who once walked the earth – whose mortal remains are contained therein."

CHURCH CALENDAR

AUGUST 2023

- Friday Morning Bible Study
 - Fridays at 10:00 AM
- Choir practice
 - Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM- No Wednesday evening practices
- Baby Shower for Katelyn and Andrew Pimentel
 - Fellowship Hall
 - August 5 from 11:00-1:00 PM
- Back to School Bash & Ice Cream Social
 - Fellowship Hall
 - August 6th from 5:30-7:00 PM
 - Blessing of the Backpacks

SEPTEMBER 2023

- Midweek Manna begins Sept 6
 - Wednesdays at 5:30 PM
- Clays for Christ
 - TBD- Late September date

LOOKING AHEAD

- Fish Fry
 - October
- Last Manna & Thanksgiving meal and possibly pack shoeboxes
 - November 15
- Christmas Program
 - December 3rd at 10:30 AM

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Kevin Diggs

Pastor,
Member Care
Team Chair

Carroll Huber

Lay Leader

Jay Elliott

Admin.
Council Chair

Jackie Rich

Admin. Council
Vice Chair,
Fundraising
Chair

Jan Elliott

Evangelism
Chair

Russell Easley

Finance +
Comm. + Long
Range
Planning Chair

Mike Kleibrink

SPRC Chair

Kevin Diggs

Worship Chair

Ryan Ford

Trustees Chair

Mike Davis

Building Chair

Logan Moore

Music
Director

Jennifer Grusendorf

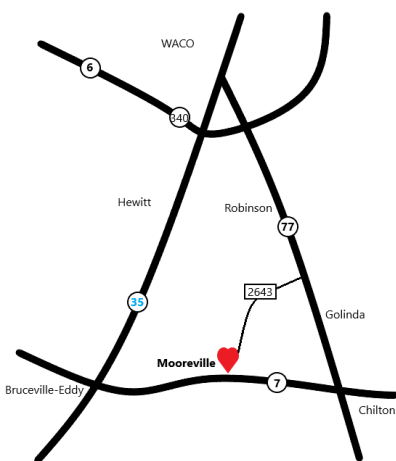
Children's
Director



MOOREVILLE METHODIST CHURCH

ABOUT US!

Sunday School: 9:30 AM
Sunday Service: 10:30 AM



@moorevillemethodist



pastor@moorevillemethodist.org



moorevillemethodist.org



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