

As Texas continues to bake in record heat, the drought news for the state continues to be bleak – Texas is now in the midst of its most severe one-year drought on record. Preliminary reports from the National Climatic Data Center indicate that July 2011 was the warmest month ever recorded statewide for Texas. We've also set the record for least year-to-date precipitation. These statistics rank the current drought as the most severe one-year drought ever for Texas. Texas would need more than 4.5 inches of rain in the next two months to avoid breaking the 1956 record for driest 12 consecutive months. If you haven't noticed it has been HOT and DRY this summer in Texas!

In the same way that the drought is starving the land, our cattle and our productivity, we can also experience a spiritual drought within our lives which starves us in other ways. Absence of rain on the land causes empty dams, dying animals and poor returns -- and in the same way a spiritual drought robs us of joy, peace, meaning and purpose. A spiritual drought is caused not by the absence of rain, but by the absence of working on our relationship with God.

Dry times, times of feeling a loss of God's presence, are inevitable in the Christian walk. Spiritual droughts occur for a variety of reasons.

Neglect of the relationship: If you are not investing time in drawing near to God, don't be surprised if God seems hard to find. God hasn't moved, but your priorities, time and attention may have pushed a gap into your awareness of God's presence.

Neglect of responsibility: I find God to be strangely silent when he has given me direction and I have failed to do it. This dynamic seems particularly true around the area of asking for guidance. Imagine your doctor's response if you came back to her month after month asking for advice on how to lose weight, but you never tried the diet she has repeatedly recommended.

On the backside of intensive growth: Ironically, it is not unusual for people to experience a loss of presence following a time of excessive presence or growth. I wonder if God doesn't back away a bit to allow us time to integrate intense spiritual experiences. It is very normal and won't last forever.

Mystery: Some times you just won't know. These are the hardest times to endure. These are also the times of greatest faith. Believing is easy when God seems in every conversation and on every street corner. Being faithful is not so easy when God seems strangely absent.

So how do you make it through the drought?

Stay rooted in God's Word. Psalm 1 says, "but the delight of righteous people is in the law of the Lord, and on His law they meditate day and night. They will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither and in whatever they do, they prosper." God's Word will continue to feed and sustain you even in dry times. God will give you the message you need.

Remember what God has done in the past. Take time to reflect on who God is and what God has done in the past.

Purge. Sometimes we just get in spiritual ruts. I suspect you have activities and possessions that have no spiritual value. They keep your priorities ensnared. Let go of these things and replace them with something dedicated to God.

Attend to spiritual loose ends. Look for direction that God has given you that you have failed to take. Then attend to it. Address areas of complacency in unfaithfulness.

Acceptance. If none of these suggestions seem to have any positive effect, then you may just need to accept that where you are right now is where God wants you. Stop asking God why you are in a drought and look for what God wants you to do while you are there. In short, trust and obey.

Dry times will pass. They are not always entirely bad times, but they certainly aren't fun times. Blessings to you as you weather life's dry times.

The mission of Troy United Methodist Church is to be a Bible based community church where people are transformed by the Spirit of God into deeply committed followers of Jesus Christ.

OUR PRAYERS GO OUT TO...

ASSISTED LIVING/NURSING HOMES

Brooksie Curlee ~ *Meridian, Temple*
 Betty Havard
 Vi Howell ~ *Garden Estates, Temple*
 Johnnie Krumnow ~ *Temple Living Center, Temple*
 Margaret Maedgen ~ *Park Place, Belton*
 Henry Olejnik ~ *Wm. Courtney Home, Temple*
 Laverne Reinhardt
 Alma Smith ~ *Temple*
 Ruth Taylor ~ *Weston Inn, Temple*
 Louis Zaleski ~ *TLC Western Hills, Temple*

HOME/CONTINUING CARE

Grace Allison	Donette Collier
Glenda Cvikel	Wanda Dorsey
Lois Fellows	Marie Gover
Laurie Herring	Janet Klement
Don & Minnie Knepp	Rowan Sebek
Jamie Thomason	

IN LOVING MEMORY

Phil Dunham
 Jo Prince
 Irene Blasingame

We appreciate updates on those on our prayer list.

FRIENDS OF TROY UMC

Christopher Aguillon	Randi Allen
Jesse Alford	Jerry Beene
Roger Boone	Patti Branscum
Dylan Brown	Maudie Bulls
Corbin Burke	Shawn Cambell
Jacque Collier	Jim Collins
Charlie Dupree	Sabrina Eaton
Kathy Edmundson	Alma Rose Ellis
Jack Flinn	Gabe Frampton
Gene Fricke	Elly Gill
Bryan Harmon	Bobby Johnson
Bobby Jones	Cameron Jordan
Shirley Kelly	Judith Koke
Sandy Lansford	Jeannie Lynn
Weldon Mahan	Barbara Massey
Mary McGuire	S.M. Meeks
Lori Meyer	Ed & Francis Miller
Kim Morris	Deborah Muller
Leona Murrah	Kay Newman
Mrs. Henry Olejnik	Sayleigh Olveda
Annette Ortiz	Freddie Parker
Marsha Perry	Michelle Price
Sharon Richards	Al Ruppert
Adam Russell	Connie Salsiccia
Nancy Snead	Eugene Tedford
Ed Tsyitee Family	Jeff White
Marsha White	Perry White
Betty Zook	



Without everyone's support, we could not have had the successful VBS we hosted. Nearly 75 different children were involved and many, many helpers. Thanks to you ALL!! Looking forward to it again next year!

OUR SERVICES

Sunday Worship Services

8:30 am (Contemporary)
 11:00 am (Traditional)

Sunday School

9:45 a.m.

United Methodist

Youth Fellowship

Jr. High 5:00 ~ 6:15 p.m.
 Sr. High 5:45-7:00 p.m.

They share a light meal from 5:45-6:15.



Coffee and doughnuts are served before Sunday School each week. Join us!!



PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A CAMPUS ANGEL FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR!!



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Phil Dunham

Katherine Maedgen
Lou & Janet Klement
Richard & Betty Hester
Kevin & Kellie Johnson

Piper Kay Brawner

Larry & Sarah Stewart

Stephen Meeks

Mary Gilstrap

In honor of

Jamie Thomason

Lou & Janet Klement



The flower calendar has openings on Sept. 4 and 11. If you would like to honor or remember someone on one of those days, it will be appreciated. Cost is \$30 and you are encouraged to take

them home to enjoy following the late worship service.



If you are interested in serving in one or more of the following areas, please contact the church office. Schedules are made quarterly so you will know in advance when you serve. If you can't keep the

commitment, contact me and necessary changes will be made.

Greeters for 8:30 and 11:00 services

Ushers for 8:30 and 11:00 services

Liturgist for 11:00 service

Youth Meal Provider at 5:45 on Sundays



HEB Grocery is offering an instant 11 cents savings per gallon of gasoline when you purchase it with an HEB gift card. This offer is good through October 31, 2011. Please consider purchasing that gift card through our SCRIP program!!



August 28

Vacation From Overconsumption

September 4

Vacation From Negativism

September 11

Vacation From Pride



Church offices will be closed on Monday, September 5 to observe this holiday!



First Day of Autumn is September 23



United
Methodist
Women

The Troy UMW will meet on Wednesday, September 14 at 7 pm at the church. Bring a salad or dessert to share. We will plan fall and winter projects and Lois Fellows will present a devotional. All ladies are invited to come and be a part of our UMW.

For more information contact Betty at the church or Carolyn Walston at cawalston@sbcglobal.net.

Please share your college student's mailing and e-mail addresses with us. It's a great way for us to stay in touch with these young people when they are away from home. Even if we had it last year and there are no changes, give it to us again!!



The Troy Ministerial Alliance is hosting a Back to School/Back to Church series of worship services. Each church will host an evening and each pastor will preach once. Why not join the other churches in our community in worship. There will not be a community service during the Labor Day weekend.

Sept. 11 Grant's Chapel Baptist Church
Sept. 18 Troy United Methodist Church
Sept. 25 Oenaville Baptist Church



Churches Touching Lives for Christ

This organization, located at 702 W. Ave. G in Temple, helps many people in the area with utilities, clothing and food. Contributions are always welcome. Volunteers are needed too!! If you have a few extra hours a month, please consider helping out. Our "team" works about twice a month. The upcoming days are Saturday, Sept. 10 at 8:30 am and Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 12:30 pm.



Details are being finalized on our new building!! The builders hope to break ground in October! Watch for more information soon!!!



September Birthdays

- 2 Anna Birdsell
- 4 Sandra Hill
- 5 Mark Roessler
- 6 Sheri Mast
- 7 Courtney Ledger
- 9 MacKenzie Bartlett
- 10 Billy Bane, Kaylan McCracken
- 11 Tanya Mikeska-Reed
- 15 Becky Coufal
- 16 Minnie Knepp, Jackie Lewis, Brian Bartlett, Alyssa Sanders
- 17 Donald Knepp
- 18 Sherri Valenta, ShaShawna Bush
- 19 Jennifer Welsh
- 20 Grace Allison, Kissa Vaughn
- 22 Gigi Thompson, Michael Havard
- 24 Dustin Coufal
- 25 Janet Klement, Joyce Reinhardt
- 27 Sissy Vaughan, Reed Ketcham
- 28 Jack Hobday, Maegan Payne
- 30 Anleigh Jarma, Korrigan Look



Fall Festival time is here again!! October 8 is quickly approaching and there is plenty to be done. Please ask the businesses you patronize to make donations for the auctions, plan what you will bake, volunteer to work, clean out your garage and closets for donations for the garage sale! Above all, pray for another successful event and mark your calendars to be here to support your church in the biggest fund raiser of the year!!



We would like to stay in contact with our members who are away at college. We want them to stay connected to the church and know that we are praying for them while they are away at school. Would you consider being a "campus angel" for one of our students? Your responsibility will be to send a card or e-mail every few weeks just letting your student know that their church cares for them. It is just that simple! When the students return on holidays we will plan a special time for them to come together with all our campus angels. Would you be willing to participate in this special ministry? Just fill out the form and put it in the offering plate. We will pair "angels" with students and then send you their contact information. Also, we need contact information for church members who are college students.

I would like to be a campus angel for one of our students.

Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

I am providing contact information for a college student.

Student Name _____

Phone _____

Mailing address _____

E-mail _____





SEPTEMBER GREETERS

	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>
4	BJ Finch	Becky Baker Norman Baker
11	Don Valenta	Matt Jarma Karen Machalek
18	Bill Tyler	Becky Baker Norman Baker
25	Gary Doughty	Matt Jarma Kay Nan Ledger

SEPTEMBER USHERS

4	Gary Doughty Bill Tyler	Gaylon Ivey Bill Ledger
11	Darin Crawford Tommy Valle	Barrett Ledger Bill Ledger
18	Don Havard Russell Reinhardt	Norman Baker Matt Jarma
25	Don Valenta Sherri Valenta	Gaylon Ivey Matt Jarma

SEPTEMBER LITURGISTS

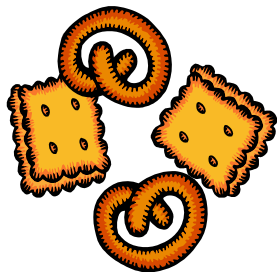
4	Jodi Bartlett
11	BJ Finch
18	Courtney Ledger
25	Nancy Birdsell

SEPTEMBER YOUTH MEAL PROVIDERS

4	Rodney & Tracie Tedrow
11	Bill & Lisa Ledger
18	Tommy & Jennifer Valle
25	Michael & Karen Lindberg




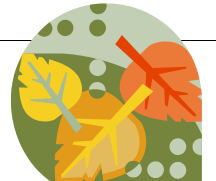
Remember our Snack
Buddy Program for
school children. We
need one-serving size
meals and snacks!



September 2011



A huge thank you to
everyone who helped
with the Backpack
Buddies program!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITES... Contemporary Worship: 8:30 Sunday School for all ages: 9:45 Traditional Worship: 11:00 Jr. & Sr. High Youth: 5:00-7:00				1 <i>Men's Fellowship 5:15</i> <i>Boy/Cub Scouts 6 and 7:00</i>	2	3
4	5 <i>Church offices closed</i> 	6	7 <i>Quilters 10-2:00</i> <i>Choir Practice 6:00</i> <i>Praise Team Practice 7:00</i> <i>Church Council Mtg. 7:00</i>	8 <i>Men's Fellowship</i> <i>Boy/Cub Scouts</i>	9	10 <i>Churches Touching Loves for Christ 8:30</i>
11 <i>Community Worship Service</i> <i>Grant's Chapel 6:00</i>	12 <i>Boy Scouts</i> <i>6 and 7:00</i>	13	14 <i>Quilters</i> <i>Choir Practice</i> <i>Praise Team Practice</i> <i>UM Women 7:00</i>	15 <i>Men's Fellowship</i> <i>Boy/Cub Scouts</i>	16	17
18 <i>Community Worship Service</i> <i>Troy UMC 6:00</i>	19 <i>Boy Scouts</i>	20	21 <i>Quilters</i> <i>Choir Practice</i> <i>Praise Team Practice</i>	22 <i>Men's Fellowship</i> <i>Boy/Cub Scouts</i>	23  <i>First day of autumn</i>	24
25 <i>United Methodist Women</i> <i>Sunday</i> <i>Community Worship Service</i> <i>Oenaville Baptist 6:00</i>	26 <i>Boy Scouts</i>	27 <i>Churches Touching Lives for Christ 12:30</i>	28 <i>Quilters</i> <i>Choir Practice</i> <i>Praise Team Practice</i>	29 <i>Men's Fellowship</i> <i>Boy/Cub Scouts</i>	30	