



Axe Memorial UMC News

August, 2015 Issue 2

“Called to celebrate and share the joy of Christ.”

We are a group of Christians united through the Holy Spirit who are called to share and celebrate the joy of Christ! We hope you'll join us!

Live Nativity Requests

The Advent season and, of course, our live nativity will soon be upon us. We are working on securing the live animals which are a big attraction for families with children. Donations for this important cause will be greatly appreciated, the earlier the better.

We are also in need of some new costumes to replace older ones in poor repair. We need some costumes in smaller sizes, so if you can do some sewing, please let me know. Your help will be deeply appreciated. We are trying to avoid the stress of a last-minute push. Together we can get it done.

Please call or text Juli Amspoker at 214-803-3916 to help on this project. Thank you!!

Game Night

Mark your calendar for August 28th at 6:00 p.m. The movie selection will be “Do You Believe?” Bring a snack to share and enjoy a night of fellowship!

There's always something new happening at Axe! Check out the AAA Announcement this week!

Contact Information Pastor

Ernesto Sanchez
revsanchez@axeumc.org

Children and Youth Ministries Director

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Music Director

Terri Knagg
(972) 741-1722

Church Membership Secretary

Grace McLeroy
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Newsletter

Beate Hall
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Secretary

Jo Slater
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Visual Worship

John Duncan
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Webmaster

Judy Hunt
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**Every Sunday in the gym from 5:00 p.m.
to 7:00 p.m.**

We hope you'll join us!

Attendance and Giving

August 9th:

Sunday School: 88

Worship: 106

Visitors: 2

For general operations fund:

\$3,354.00

YTD for general operations fund:

\$141,228.00

YTD General Budget: \$165,129.00

August 16th:

Sunday School: 87

Worship: 121/24

Visitors: 2

For general operations fund:

\$2,079.00

YTD for general operations fund:

\$143,307.00

YTD General Budget:

\$169,649.00

Stephen Ministry

Do you need someone with whom you can talk and share about life, or perhaps, know someone who is trying to carry some burdens alone? We have a Stephen Minister who is ready and willing to listen. You may contact John Duncan or Bea Knagg to learn more. Call Jo in the church office for contact information.



Memorials

In Memory of Vickie Fitzgerald

For Live Nativity Animals

From Tammy Fitzgerald

FLOWERS!

We all enjoy the lovely flowers in the sanctuary each Sunday. These are usually the result of donations made by members to honor or remember a loved one on a special date. If you would like to help assure we have fresh flowers each week, perhaps you would be willing to participate in this ministry. To order flowers, you simply call Jo in the church office, 972-278-2175 She will check to be sure your requested date is available and will instruct you as to how to pay for them. The cost is \$45.00 for the two arrangements. You may take them home or ask to have them taken to a shut-in or to someone in the hospital. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

**1700 W. Kingsley
Garland, TX 75041
(972) 278- 2175**

**9:30 AM English Language Worship*
10:45 AM Sunday School*
11:30 AM Spanish Language Worship***

***Child care provided**

Both services in the Sanctuary

Facebook.com/AxeMemorialUMC

Twitter: Axe_MemorialUMC

Hearts and Hands Update

Hearts & Hands is staying busy.

When we began, we intended to help those in need with supplemental food. We did not want anyone to go hungry and you (the Church) supported us in this Axe ministry. You volunteered time and money to make the food pantry work and it did. Thank you.

We began by helping 10 to 12 families per week and we now see at least 120 families each Tuesday & Thursday, or 240 to 250 per week. You made this possible. Thank you.

After helping those in need with food we have discovered that we are only touching the tip of the iceberg. Yes, we are doing great work but more remains to be done.

We now offer showers to the homeless and are on the lookout for other resources to fill the needs in addition to food. We are now Hearts & Hands Community Outreach of Garland and you made that possible. Thank you.

Over a month ago we began a hard journey with a young man living in his car. We helped him with showers and a job interview. We helped him in getting his car running for work. We helped him with food and gas. He came to church. I would love to report a fairy tale ending, but that is not the case. A few backslides occurred. The good news is he is now employed and has a room in a house in our neighborhood.

Three weeks ago a family (a mom & two kids) living in their car was sent to us and needing showers, so we opened up. They also needed food and we helped out. They have been using our facility each day we are open for showers and now help with the food pantry as well. They still live in their car today but it is a work in progress.

Last week another call came in for help. A family (Mom & three boys) were staying in a hotel and were out of food. We opened up and supplied them with food. This is another work in progress with no quick solutions.

These are just a few of the lives we are dealing with every day and you made a difference to them. We would like to continue exploring ways to make things better for those in need in our neighborhood. We will be receiving a grant for emergency housing this fall and likely will spend all of it and more with your blessing.

Hearts & Hands is no longer just in the food pantry business. With your help we are going to provide other services for those in need. As our volunteer base grows, so does our ability to do God's work.

Thank you once again.

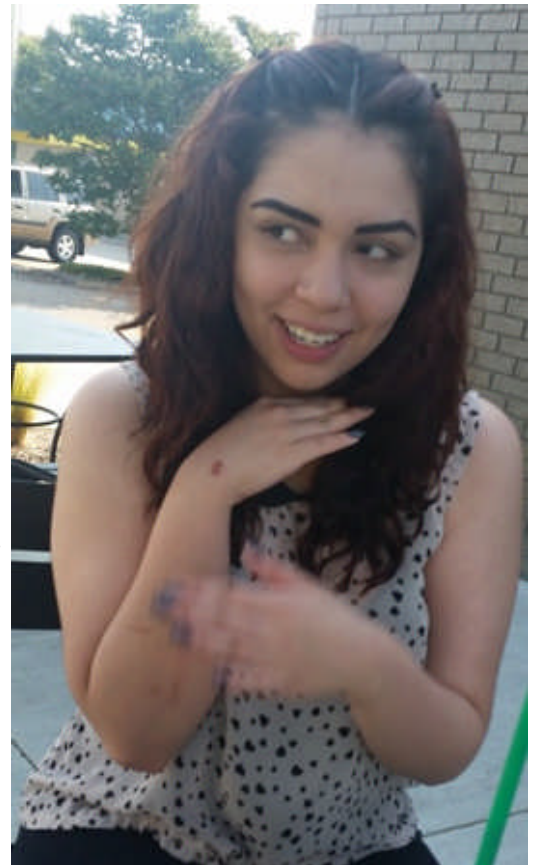


Youth News

Meet senior, Diana Diaz, from Garland High School. Each summer she dedicates her summer to service at Axe Memorial. Diana herself was a part of a summer program at Axe when she was younger. At a young age, she felt the positive influence from volunteers of Axe. Now she feels a huge connection with our church and the children that come during the summer time. Diana strives to be a positive teacher during the summer months and yearns to be a productive person outside of volunteering here. She is a young person in our community that wants to do well, but like most young people she faces the evils of the world and struggles. As someone who is young in her faith, it is important for her to be emerged by others who are wise in their faith and who are strong, mature Christians. What is our role

as

Christians of Axe Memorial? We must fill these gaps and rub shoulders with these young people like Diana who enter our doors. We need someone volunteering next to her that can be a positive influence to her. We need someone volunteering next to her that will rub shoulders with her and share their Christian faith. We need someone next to her that can answer those hard questions she is struggling with. Does it matter if you follow God at a young age, don't you have your whole life to do that? "I want to be good and follow scripture, but not a lot of my friends do and I don't want to be left out." These are things that our young people actually struggle with. How will Axe support them in their struggles? Will we stand together and share our faith with them?



Life Line Screening

Axe Memorial United Methodist is pleased to offer a preventative health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventative health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive, and painless health screenings on 8/24/2015. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries (a leading cause of stroke), abdominal aortic aneurysms (which can lead to a ruptured aorta), hardening of the arteries in the legs (a strong predictor of heart disease), atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat (closely tied to stroke risk), and bone density screening (used to assess the risk of osteoporosis).

Register for a Wellness Package (all five tests) for only \$149 (\$139 with member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit <www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners>.

Sunday School

Reminder that during the Sunday School hour we should send our children & youth to the appropriate rooms.

Nursery- 0-3yrs

Children Sunday School- 4yr-5th grade

Youth Sunday School- 6th-12th

We need to encourage our young people to attend Sunday school to be a part of an age appropriate experience learning about our amazing God.

Box Tops 4 Education!

Remember, Axe is cooperating with the community by collecting and sending our Campbell soup labels and "Box Tops 4 Education," along with our used ink cartridges to Southgate Elementary School. A box for these is provided in the Narthex by the usher's closet.



AAA Announcements

The AAA planning committee will be meeting in the conference room on Aug. 31st at 9:30. Come with your ideas. We will be planning the Christmas luncheon as well as other events.

Garland Charities Link
A Collaborative Charity Organization Serving Local Residents
Get Up and Give Garland on September 17

GARLAND (July 29, 2015) - With this year's North Texas Giving Day set for September 17, Garland Charities are already gearing up for another exhilarating day of giving. On September 17, donations can be made 6 a.m. to midnight to more than 1,500 certified nonprofits listed on www.NorthTexasGivingDay.org. Donations \$25 and above will be amplified by \$2 million in general bonus funds and prizes.

Garland Charities Link is made up of twelve Garland based nonprofits that provide services to area residents in need. The joint effort was the brainstorm of Garland resident, Jeff Range, he felt that many residents of Garland participated in North Texas Day of Giving, but were not aware of all the choices available that were locally based. "Our intention is to use North Texas Day of Giving as a catalyst to build awareness and raise funds for the locally-based charities that serve the residents of our area. We feel the best way to do this is to work with the City, the School District and, through the Chamber of Commerce, area businesses to spread the word to their employees that Giving to Garland is an option on September 17. All twelve 501C3 nonprofits are onboard and are sharing this message for the good of Garland. While we are each trying to raise money, we each have our niche in the services we provide and we often refer clients to each other."

The participating charities are: Friendship House, New Beginnings Center, Garland Area Habitat for Humanity, Hope Clinic, Galaxy Counseling Center, Good Samaritans, Metro Family Ministries @theROC, Hearts & Hands, The Matthew 25:40 Project, The Warren Center, Achievement Center of Texas, and The Counseling Institute of Texas.

According to Garland Mayor, Doug Athas, "There is no side of Garland that better represents the heart of our community than the incredible charities that are at work every day helping residents on so many levels. Combined, hundreds of Garland volunteers provide vital services across a spectrum of need. On September 17, a quarter million residents can also "volunteer" by making a heart-felt contribution to our local charities in one easy contribution. They can designate that the money be divided however they desire. The reality is that we can't all give as much time as we want but we can still help by "buying" a few volunteer hours that will go to help our entire community. It will be great for Garland if we all "volunteer" generously on September 17!"

About North Texas Giving Day

Launched in 2009 by Communities Foundation of Texas with ongoing support from Center for Nonprofit Management and The Dallas Foundation, NorthTexasGivingDay.org is the most comprehensive and free public resource for connecting North Texas nonprofits and supporters. For supporters, the website simplifies the process of researching reliable information about nonprofits and community needs, and making charitable donations. For nonprofits, North Texas Giving Day serves as another awareness-building and fundraising tool. The website profiles more than 1,500 nonprofits, and since its inception has infused more than \$80 million into nonprofits serving the 16-county North Texas community. Visit www.NorthTexasGivingDay.org, Facebook-North Texas Giving Day or www.twitter.com/ntxgivingday.