

*"For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for Him and how you have shown your love to Him by caring for other believers, as you still do." Hebrews 6:10*

Sunday evening, January 26, 2025 the church family joined together to share a meal and to celebrate what the Lord has been doing among us over the last year. Rev. Jim Jackson, Brazos Area Connecting Elder and Pastor of Madisonville Methodist was with us to preside over the meeting. We are grateful for his willingness to serve in this manner. There are copies of the Charge Conference Report available in the church office and you are welcome to come and look it over.

During the meeting we looked toward goals for 2025. The focus will be on 1. Discipleship through small group development. 2. Catechism study, which is Global Methodism 101. 3. We will work to build on the volunteerism we already experience and seek to increase it in the areas of Youth, Blast, and Missions. And we gave Certificates of Recognition to three individuals, who have stepped down from years of ministry in a specific area. It was a great evening.



**Elizabeth Reinhardt** has given her life to the education of children, both as a professional and as a volunteer. Very few of us remember a time when she was not serving as the Children's Sunday School teacher. In addition, she has a long running history of volunteering at the Vacation Bible School programs. It was a great honor to recognize her years of service and to see Mary Kamas present the certification. Elizabeth was greatly moved by the presentation.

**Rhonda Miller** has used her musical talents in many ways over the years. She has worked with our children and our adults through her gifts as a Choir Director. She has been serving in this capacity for all the fifteen years that I have



been with the church. It is sad to see her relinquish this responsibility. However, as sad as it is to see her give up choir it is equally exciting to know that she will continue to lead the Ukulele group, "Sunshine Strummers". Join me in both giving thanks for Rhonda and in the prayer for new leadership to step forward. It was an honor to see Deborah Hicks and Cathy Reed present the certificate to Rhonda. Rhonda was really surprised and clearly emotional as were Deborah and Cathy.

By now you see a pattern of years of service that are not continuing in the particular ways that they served in the past. Our final recipient follows in that pattern. But there is one difference between the previous two and this last one – **Maria Cottrell** is not a member of the church – but is no less a part of this family of faith. Maria has served in the preschool program for as many years as I can remember. She began her service as a classroom teacher and then moved into assistant director to Sherry Buchanan, Preschool Director. Her humble servant attitude was evident in her service as church custodian. It was a pleasure to see Sherry present the award and receive it on behalf of Maria, who was unable to attend.

I know you will join me in celebrating the way God has used these three women in His service here at Franklin Methodist. And I ask that you join me in praying for the way God continues to use them as witnesses of His love in their families, church, and community. We are blessed to have them among us.