



Branching Out

A newsletter of Kyle United Methodist Church

March 2010

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Dear Church Family,

I want to talk with you about a cause that our Mission Committee adopted and one that I am passionate about. It is called IMAGINE NO MALARIA. We are in the midst of the Lenten season. If you chose to "give up" something for Lent, we've asked that you consider taking that money that you would have spent on that item for the day, and donate that back to our Imagine No Malaria campaign. The UMC is working to end deaths from malaria by 2010. Just as the cross is a sign to us of God's love, we are called to be a sign of God's love and commitment to the world. We are called to "Know, Act, and Pray."

KNOW

The key to overcoming malaria's burden is achieving sustainability, which we will accomplish through:

Prevention: Distributing insecticide-treated bed nets (Nothing But Nets), and working to drain standing water where mosquitoes breed.

Education: Teaching people in rural areas how to protect themselves from mosquitoes and how to identify early symptoms of malaria...before it's too late.

Communication: Using radio and cell phones to deliver lifesaving information about malaria.

Treatment: Improving existing hospitals and clinics, training community health workers and providing life-saving medicines to those in need.

ACT

Every 30 seconds a child dies from malaria. Count with me. 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30.

Your pledge of \$1 a day (\$28/month) for three years will save 100 lives.

Also, in lieu of purchasing Easter lilies, the Worship and Mission Committees are inviting you to make a \$15 donation in honor or memory of each of your loved ones. "Honor a life by saving a life." **Instead of a live plant, a keepsake will be made and displayed on Easter Sunday for you to take.** Sign-up forms will be available soon.

PRAY

As we engage the compassion of an entire denomination in this life-changing ministry, we invite you to share a prayer of hope or lift up great works in praise. Let the world know we are praying for a healthy and whole future. Give thanks for our healthy children and help save someone else's precious child.

Please take time to visit www.ImagineNoMalaria.org to learn more about our cause.

God bless you all!

Pastor Barbara

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00am Traditional
Worship in the Sanctuary

10:00am Sunday School
in Individual Classrooms

11:00am Blended Worship
in the Family Life Center

March 7th
"Pure Mercy"
Luke 13:1-9

March 14th
"Pure Forgiveness"
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 21st
"Pure Love"
John 12:1-8

March 28th
Palm Sunday
"Pure Joy"
Luke 19:28-40

The children will parade into worship waving palms during this most jubilant time when we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.
(Both 9 & 11am services)

Easter Season Worship... "Springing" into April!

Palm Sunday: March 28, both 9 & 11am services: The children will parade into worship waving palms during this most jubilant time when we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

Holy Thursday, April 1, 6:30pm: We will journey with Jesus on that Passover night. We will meet in the Family Life Center to share a remembrance "meal" (bread, grapes, cheese.) Then, we will move into the Sanctuary to share Holy Communion. And, then we will meet outside, to recall Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Good Friday, April 2, 6:30pm: We will remember Jesus' death on the cross by using a Celtic service which uses colors to take us through the Bible, from creation to the cross. Not a service you'll soon forget.

Easter Sunday Services, April 4: 9:00am Early Service in Family Life Center & **11:00am** Late Service in Family Life Center
Noon: Easter Egg-stravaganza...Children will hunt Easter eggs outside (weather permitting.)



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PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE STUDY!

The Christian Book Club is now meeting at 242 Hutton in Plum Creek (*not Starbucks*)... everyone is welcome! Join us every Thursday at 7pm. For more information, please email Jessica Haughton at: hottnhere@gmail.com.

GLASSES FOR HAITI

If you have any used glasses that you no longer wear (still in decent condition,) please donate them to our church. The United Methodist Men have collection bins in both buildings. They will be hand-delivered by the Lion's Club in San Marcos to people in Haiti who desperately need them.

GREETERS & USHERS NEEDED

Thank you to all of you who have been serving as our ushers and greeters for both worship services... *great job!* If you feel led to also help in this most important area (afterall, you are the first impression of our new guests) please join us. Contact Amanda Brown via email: browna@hayscisd.net.

YOUTH NEWS!

The Senior High of the youth group are invited to meet up for coffee at the Kyle Starbucks, Sundays at 3:00pm, to hang out and talk. There will also be a youth group Campout/Retreat on March 26 - 28. Details TBA, but it will be at lake (for kayaking and swimming fun) and there will be s'mores! For more information contact Jessie Bates at email: bates.jessica72@gmail.com.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Planning is underway for this summer's Vacation Bible School. It will be held on June 7-11 from 9am to noon. The director is Christy Steubing. The theme is "Galactic Blast: A Cosmic Adventure Praising God!"

Your cadets will voyage into outer space praising God. Through daily missions, your kids will see space like never before, gain a new perspective on our planet Earth, and learn easy "green" earth tips they can practice at home. This cosmic combination of faith and fun will have your cadets developing a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

A sign-up sheet for volunteers (we need everyone!) is in the Family Life Center. And, our first planning meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 10 from 6-6:30pm** during dinner. For more information, please contact Christy at email: christy@steubing.org.

We are grateful to God for all of you who have joined our church family! If you have not, but are interested, please call Pastor Barbara at 557-5772 for an individual meeting. Welcome!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDIES

We have temporarily changed the schedule for Wednesday night meal/studies to accommodate the Lenten studies. From Feb. 24 through March 31, we will eat from 6:00 - 6:35pm. Please help us clear tables and clean up the kitchen, so we can break for our studies at 6:45pm. The youth, children, men and women will divide up into their own groups which will end at 8:00pm. Childcare is still available from 6:45-8pm.

If you still want to join the men and women's study, please come on March 3rd, and we will catch you up. The women are discussing "Chocolate for Lent" and the men are studying "Treading Water in an Empty Pool: On Disappointment." If you did not join a study, please feel free to stay and visit with each other.

JOIN US ON THURSDAYS FOR CHRISTIAN YOGA!

We meet in the Family Life Center at 11:30am until 12:30pm for **Empowered Yoga**: a traditional beginner's class...

...and from 1:00pm until 2:00pm for **Compassionate Yoga**, a gentle yoga with modifications.

Please email kim-miller@austin.rr.com for more information. Namaste.

TRUSTEES OFFICERS

The Trustees nominated new officers for 2010. Thanks to Brad Johnson, President; Nick Haughton, Vice-President and Ann Marie Oswalt, Secretary. Thanks for the fine leadership of past president Butch LaFleur, past vice-president Chris Hehr and members Bill Wallace and Joshua Steubing! We also welcome new Trustee members: Chad Benninghoff and Merlin Friesenhahn. Other existing members include Butch LaFleur, Terry Runkle and Lynette Barker. We appreciate our Trustees!

COMMUNITY EVENT:

Ask the Doctor Community Cancer Awareness Event. Flyers are posted on bulletin boards. The event will be held Thursday, March 11, 7-8:30pm at Seton Hospital in Kyle...or Thursday, April 15, 7-8:30pm at Buda City Hall.

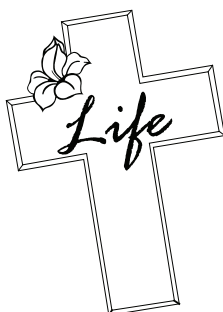


VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Bags of individually wrapped mini-candy are needed to stuff plastic eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. Volunteers, please help us do this on **Saturday, April 3 at 10:00am** in the Fellowship Hall.

HONOR A LIFE... BY SAVING A LIFE

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NOTES OF GRATITUDE...

Thank you to those who helped with the Church Clean-up Day! To: Brian Barker, Allen Boone, Marty Foye, Brad, Zachary and Vincent Johnson, Virginia Moore, Terry Runkle, and David Wilson...Great job!

Thank you to the United Methodist Men for the delicious meals you cooked for Fat Tuesday and every 3rd Wednesday night family meal!

Thank you to the United Methodist Women for providing every 2nd Wednesday night family meal!

Thank you to everyone who supports our missions and our church ministry general fund as well. The needs in our community and the world are many. By supporting our church, you are making a tangible difference as Christ's Body and are answering a higher calling! Bless you!

A note of thanks from David A. Seilheimer, Conference Office Treasurer (a portion of the letter)

Please relate you to your congregation how proud I am to be associated with a church which is so generous and committed to living out its faith as part of the UMC. During 2009, you were one of 279 churches in the Southwest Texas Conference which gave 100% of their connectional share of ministries. Because of the apportioned funds which were received, the UMC was able to immediately be in Haiti after the tragic earthquake through UMCOR.

A note of thanks from Mrs. Francis Sledge:

To the members of Kyle UMC: Thank you so very much for the beautiful flowers you sent when I was injured. I have enjoyed them very much.

Note...Ms. Sledge went to be with our Father on Thursday, Feb. 25th, after this note was written. May God bring peace and comfort to her family and friends at this time.



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