

The Open Door

P.O. Box 688 Ingleside, Texas 78362 Phone: 361-776-2820 Fax: 361-776-0876

February 2010

Amen & Amen

Amen for the many folks who helped make building *casitas* possible: those who helped with raising funds, those who traveled south to do the building and their family members who stayed behind and all who kept the ministry in prayer.

Mark your Calendars

Upcoming Thursdays for the **Mobile Canteen ministry**:

February 25
March 18
April 29

If you would like to help, contact Bonnie Hodge (776-3994)

Open Hearts

Open Minds

Open Doors

The people of
The United Methodist Church

Ash Wednesday Worship Service



Forgiveness can be a difficult thing. We seek forgiveness when we know we have hurt someone. We ask for forgiveness when our actions have created a barrier in our relationships. We offer forgiveness as a way of setting our relationships back on track. The grace of God, which forgives our wrongdoing, enables us to move beyond the guilt, depression and anger of broken relationships.

Wednesday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m. we will observe a time for seeking and finding forgiveness during our traditional Ash

Wednesday worship service. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the forty days of Lent, a time of repentance, in which we seek to be reconciled to God, our neighbor and ourselves.

This time of worship will be unique as we make a silent prayer offering to God those areas in which we need to give and receive forgiveness. The sign of God's grace will be offered in the form of ashes making the sign of the cross on each person's forehead (or the back of the hand). We will also observe Holy Communion as a remembrance of Jesus Christ's sacrifice for us. We hope you'll join us for this special service.

Beginnings: an Introduction to Christian Faith

Beginnings is a 12-week small-group spiritual journey for seekers, new believers, and longtime Christians who want to explore the basics of Christianity in a relaxed, nurturing atmosphere. Participants can bring questions, gain knowledge, and form or deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Each group session includes:

- weekly meetings with a meal
- a 20-minute video presentation
- discussion of video and readings

Some of the topics include salvation, forgiveness, suffering, sin, resurrection, prayer, the Good Life.

Join us on Sundays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall starting February 28. Contact Donna (776-5390) or the office (776-2828).

Beginnings changes lives.

In Our Prayers

Julie Archibald
 Rodney Ayoub & family
 Bob
 Carla Buster
 Bill Butler
 Carroll family
 Alexandra Chircop
 Shari Clay
 Family & friends of Jack Allen
 Bill Fergie
 James Gandy
 John Guin
 David & Martha Habluetzel family
 Halle family
 Iris Hanson
 Nat Hoover
 Craig Hughes & family



Eva Kinney
 Kevin Langruck
 Joann Lokey
 Carol Podest
 Doug Richardson
 John Shaver
 Brenda Shedd & family
 Mike Small
 Christine Smith
 Fay Smith
 James Smith
 Carie Swartz
 Shirley Terry
 Bryan Veteto
 Billie Williams
 Pastor Ralph Willis
 Helen Young

Lectionary Readings

February 7:

Isaiah 6:1-8
 Psalm 138
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 Luke 5:1-11

February 14:

Exodus 34:29-35
 Psalm 99
 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
 Luke 9:28-36



February 21:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
 Romans 10:8b-13
 Luke 4:1-13

February 28:

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
 Psalm 27
 Philippians 3:17-4:1
 Luke 13:31-35

The scripture readings in worship will likely be chosen from this list. We encourage you to use these passages in your devotional time.

Come to the Valentine Celebration

Sunday, February 14

Join us for a potluck luncheon in the Fellowship Hall after the late service.

After the meal, we are going to play games and enjoy a time of fellowship with each other.

Some games will be provided, and you may also bring your own favorite ones.

All ages are included, from children to adults. Bring your dominoes, cards, and board games and enjoy the afternoon.

Sunday School

9:40-10:30 a.m.

3 yrs-1st:	Room 1B
2nd-6th grades:	Room 1A
7th-8th grades:	Room 2
9th-12th grades:	Room 10A
Misfits:	Room 4
Good News Crew:	Room 6
Nursery (under 3):	Room 3

Please join us beforehand in the Fellowship Hall
 9:30-9:40 a.m.
 for coffee, juice and visiting.

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 a.m.	Worship service
9:30 a.m.	Fellowship/ Coffee
9:40 a.m.	Sunday School
10:45 a.m.	Worship service

FEBRUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																	
	1	2 UMW Susannah Circle General Meeting Conv. English <i>Imagine Yourself Debt Free</i>	3 Choir Practice	4  Quilters' Group	5	6																																																	
 Breakfast Meeting	8 Cub Scouts Conv. Spanish	9 Conv. English <i>Imagine Yourself Debt Free</i> 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee	10 Choir Practice	11 7:00 p.m. Futures Committee	12	13																																																	
 Noon St. Valentine's pot luck luncheon followed by games & fellowship	15 Cub Scouts Conv. Spanish	16 UMW Response Circle Conv. English <i>Imagine Yourself Debt Free</i>	17 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service Choir Practice	18 Quilters' Group 7:00 p.m. S.P.R.C	19	20  Dinner Group																																																	
21	22 Cub Scouts Conv. Spanish	23 10:00 a.m. UMW (Banana Bingo) Lexington Nursing Home/Aransas Pass Conv. English <i>Imagine Yourself Debt Free</i>	24 6:00 p.m. Preparation for "Surviving the Night" Choir Practice	25 Keenagers 5:30 p.m. Salvation Army "Surviving the Night"	26	27																																																	
28 5:30-7:30 p.m. "Beginnings" starts Fellowship Hall						<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">March 2010</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	March 2010							S	M	T	W	T	F	S		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	31			
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Weekly Options

- MONDAY** 9:30 a.m. **Daytime Bible Study**, every Monday; Room 10B
 6:00 p.m. **Cub Scouts**, every Monday; Room 1B, 6, & Fellowship Hall
 7:00 p.m. **Conversational Spanish**, every Monday; Room 4
- TUESDAY** 10:00 a.m. **United Methodist Women Susannah Circle**, 1st Tuesday of the month; Fellowship Hall
 5:30 p.m. **Conversational English**, every Tuesday; Room 4
 6:30 p.m. **Imagine Yourself Debt Free**, every Tuesday; Room 10B
 7:00 p.m. **United Methodist Women Response Circle**, 3rd Tuesday; Fellowship Hall
- WEDNESDAY** 9:00 a.m. **Mother's Day Out**, every Wednesday; Room 3,
 7:00 p.m. **SonRise Singers**, every Wednesday; Fellowship Hall
 7:30 p.m. **Praise Choir**, every Wednesday; Sanctuary
- THURSDAY** 9:30 a.m. **Quilters' Group**, every 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month; Fellowship Hall
 11:30 a.m. **Keenagers**, last Thursday of the month; Fellowship Hall
- SATURDAY** 6:00 p.m. **Dinner Group**, 3rd Saturday of the month; Fellowship Hall



Deadline: February 15

Earthquake in Haiti devastates country

Southwest Texas Conference members start raising funds, offer prayers

(from the January 22, 2010 edition of the United Methodist Witness)

Rachel L. Toalson, Managing Editor

Haitian officials say the death toll from a magnitude-7 earthquake January 12 that tore through Haiti could exceed 100,000 and that monetary damages are yet undetermined. But as the news sources reported the tragedy, United Methodists across the nation began immediately rallying to offer aid to the poorest country in the western hemisphere.

Bishop Jim Dorff and Virgilio Vazquez-Garza, assistant to the Episcopal Office, called the Southwest Texas Conference staff members together January 15 to offer prayer for Haiti and participate in a free will love offering. Many churches across the conference have done the same, praying in particular for the family of the Rev. Clinton Rabb, 61, who died January 17 in a Florida hospital from injuries sustained from being trapped in the ruins of a hotel for 55 hours. Rabb was head of the office of Mission Volunteers for the General Board of Global Missions. Rabb and the Rev. Sam Dixon, who also died in the January 12 earthquake, and the Rev. James Gulley, who survived, were in Haiti for meetings examining how to improve Haiti's health services.

Dorff said UMCOR [United Methodist Committee on Relief] Sager Brown also is coordinating a shipment of health kits that will provide basic necessities to people in Haiti. Information about assembling and shipping the kits are at: <http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/health-kit/>.

Officials are calling the January 12 disaster the worst earthquake to hit Haiti in more than 200 years. Even before the earthquake, nearly 80 percent of Haiti's population lived on \$2 a day. No city in Haiti has a public sewage system, malnutrition is practically commonplace, only half of Haitian children have vaccinations against diseases like measles and diphtheria, clean drinking water is accessible to less than half the population and almost 200,000 Haitian people live with HIV or AIDS.

Dorff is urging the conference to pray for all people in Haiti at the time of the earthquake, their families and their future. He also urges prayer for all the people who are involved in rescue, recovery and restoration. In addition Dorff is urging United Methodists to give toward the relief cause in Haiti—individually or through special congregational offerings.

"Our God is a mighty God," Dorff said. "In times of crisis and tragedy we know that our God is continually with us. The support and hope we need is available to us and the people of Haiti. The Christ of the cross and the Christ of the empty tomb are fully engaged in this ministry. So are we."

Dorff said gifts can be given to support UMCOR's Haiti Relief efforts by donating to Haiti Emergency UMCOR Advance #418325. Individual or special congregational offering money can be sent to: Treasurer, SWTX Conference, Attention: Haiti Relief, United Methodist Church, 16400 Huebner Rd., San Antonio, TX 78248. Gifts also can be made online at: <http://secure.gb-gm-umc.org/donations/umcor/donate.cfm?code=418325&id=3018760>. One hundred percent of the donations will directly help the people of Haiti.

Please
reserve the date:

June 14-18

Vacation Bible School

Galactic Blast

*a cosmic adventure praising
God*

News from Becky Harrell

Estimado(a) Hermanos(as),

Have you hit the wall yet, totally frustrated that at every turn you are not getting the result *you* wanted, or any result for that matter. I am there, waiting something like a minute to a minute and a half, an enormous amount of technological time for an internet email page to load or to change from one page to the other...I have had it. No more.

Totally frustrated by what is trying to control me, I have finally said *enough, I don't*

have to do this any more. I shut down all the programs, push my chair back from the keyboard and screen and look at that monster as if it were going to yell at me for stopping. In the background I hear music and the words, "I'm alive again, you shattered my darkness, washed away my blindness....I'm alive again". Wow.

The frustration is gone as quickly as it welled up in me, covered over by the thought of what Christ has done for me. My frustration at the loss of a minute or two is nothing like what many in Haiti are now experiencing, and I feel ashamed at my impatience.

Frustrations will continue to come whether for a moment or

for a day, but they don't have to overtake my life. Christ has overtaken me and just the thought of Him can put out the stirrings of trouble nearby. Heaven awaits us, the wall is gone and is replaced by light, hope, and joy.

God is good. Don't forget the Haitian people, God's people, God's creation. God is SO Good and with us in all things!

con mucho cariño,

Becky Harrell

Becky Harrell, Missionary
General Board of Global Ministries,
United Methodist Church

Missionary Advance Code #15141Z

T.O.P.S.

(Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

Tuesday, Feb. 23rd, 6-7pm.

at Our Lady of the Assumption
2414 South Main Street

Free. Refreshments provided.

TOPS® is a low-cost non-commercial weight-loss support and wellness education organization. Along with a private weigh in, meetings provide members with positive reinforcement and motivation in adhering to their food and exercise plans. TOPS encourages healthy lifestyles as a support group.

For more information contact:
Joyce (776-2718) or Martha
(776-7768).

Yes, Lord, I Have Sinned

(but I have several excellent excuses!)

Why is it, James Moore asks, that we try to justify everything we want to do? We use words, scapegoats, blaming other people, circumstances, past events, even evil spirits ("the devil made me do it!") to attempt to excuse bad choices we make with our own free will.

What does the Christian faith have to say about all this? The author reminds us of what our faith tells us about excuses: first that God sees through them; second, that God is more interested

in forgiving us than in hearing our excuses; third, that God wants penitence—not excuses—from us.

For 12 weeks we will be studying James Moore's book, *Yes, Lord I Have Sinned But I Have Several Excellent Excuses* starting on Monday, February 15 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 10B. We hope that you will join us.

For more information, contact the church office (776-2820) or Ann Miller (776-0197).

From the Side Office

As many of you are aware I am working toward full ordination within the United Methodist Church. In this discerning process I have been on a journey that you have traveled with me. Your prayers and support have been such strength and comfort for me. I have just a couple of more things to complete and hopefully, prayerfully, in June at the annual conference of the SWTX conference, I will be ordained an Elder. I want to thank you for your prayers and support!

In the above example, I want you to understand that as we journey through life, we do not do it alone. That as we encounter things we share them with others: some of the things, privately with a select few; some of them with everyone. The key is that we share. We share joys and burdens. We share life. We as the body of Christ are called to be there for each other, for the world. Especially, as we experience some challenging times in the economy and workplace, we are called to be there for each other. I encourage you to hold each other up in prayer and in any other way possible: to be the body of Christ, to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

“For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge,⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness,⁷ and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love.” 2 Peter 1:5-7

God’s Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Lee

e-mail: secretaryiumc@cabl Leone.net
web page: <http://www.inglesideumc.com>

Ministers:
All Members of the Congregation

Church Secretary: Sandy Hoover	Bishop Conference Bishop: James Dorff
Program Director: Katherine Kearley	Corpus Christi District Superintendent: Rev. Barbara Ruth
Nursery: Sandy Hoover	Pastor: Rev. Lee Romero
Newsletter Editor: Katherine Kearley	Music Director: Leo Oliver
Accompanist: Carolyn Krebs	

Addresses Service Requested

Ingleside United Methodist Church
2572 Church Street
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Ingleside, Texas 78362

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Sharing Love

Building Faith

