

Anticipating Easter...

Pastor Cathe Evins

The best trip I've ever taken was the one that Jerry and I took to the Holy Land a few years ago. It was not just a "vacation" or a "tour".....it was a pilgrimage and a spiritual feast. To see the actual places mentioned in the Bible, to walk where Jesus walked, and to see Bible stories come alive as we stood in the locations where those stories originated was simply amazing. The reactions in our tour group became predictable - when visiting a site, we were either speechless or responded with the comment "Wow!"

As we approach Easter, I am reminded of the powerful impact some of those locations had upon me. To see the Church of the Nativity, which is built over the site where Christ is said to have been born, left me speechless (and many others as well). The sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit in that place was so tangible! No words were necessary there. To see the Garden of Gethsemane, where Christ knelt and prayed before he was arrested, was amazing.

The olive trees in that place are the same ones that were there the night Christ prayed (olive trees live to be over 5,000 years old). When we went to the tomb, our group celebrated Holy Communion there. Then we took turns going into the tomb.....it's very small and only about 3-4 people can enter it at a time, so there is a wait. At any given time, tour groups from around the world are there, also waiting their turn to enter. And of course, the best part is that when you enter the tomb, it's empty! When I went into that tomb, the scripture "He is not here.....He is risen" echoed through my mind in a joyful refrain! It was a great moment that I shall never forget.

So as we approach Easter, remember that Easter is all about what Christ has done for you and me, so that death will never be the end of us! Hallelujah! (The photos below show me entering the tomb and also the plaque that stands near the tomb).

Blessings, Cathe



EASTER EGG HUNT

WHEN: EASTER MORNING,
APRIL 4, DURING THE SUNDAY
SCHOOL HOUR.

*BRING YOUR EASTER BASKET!!!



*The Scroll is a monthly publication
of FUMC, Seguin.*

*The next deadline will be March 26.
Articles may be submitted to office@fumcseguin.com*



Pastor Ray Perales

To the Church,

There is so much going on at present that it has been difficult to decide on a topic for this month's newsletter. We have the pandemic (how many weeks to flatten the curve?), the winter storm (of the century), and the continued political division in our nation. A couple of things came to my heart this week with all that is going on: grace and hypocrisy, two subjects whose importance is evidenced by Scripture.

First, let me touch on hypocrisy. Our Savior reserved that title for a select few, always as a condemnation, and rightfully so. During this storm that is just now coming to an end, Senator Ted Cruz was photographed in an airport headed to Cancun with his family. (Cue the outcry on social media.) There were many who declared him a hypocrite. I am reminded of the immortal words of Inigo Montoya, "You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means." Technically, hypocrisy means to be insufficiently critical (think of hypothermia). It happens when we criticize others for something that we ourselves do. Taken from a political perspective, it would be akin to telling your constituents not to travel while flying to Mexico for a wedding, or voting to ban outdoor dining and then eat-

ing at an outdoor restaurant hours before the law you just passed goes into effect. I offer these merely as examples. Any resemblance to actual occurrences or governmental leaders is merely coincidental. A person can make a poor decision and not be a hypocrite. Let us not throw words around without meaning.

Secondly, there is grace. Whether you agreed with him or not, Rush Limbaugh was an integral figure in our nation. Was he a flawed man? Absolutely, but aren't we all flawed? Was he involved in controversy? Unquestionably, but if our lives were put on full display, would any be without some controversy? Sadly, his death ramped up incredible vitriol on social media. R.I.P. took on a different meaning (I will not share here what the initials stood for), and "rot in hell" was trending. This speaks volumes of the current state of our nation's soul. I may not agree with all that Rush said, but that behavior is disgusting. What is more distressing is the virtue that so many claim to possess that were making such statements. "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you." (Matthew 5:44) The need for these words is still present.

Praying for Godliness,
Pastor Ray

Missions Fundraiser

The missions team is hosting a rummage sale on April 17 in the church parking lot on Austin Street from 9 AM to 2 PM. Booth spaces may be purchased for \$30 with an additional \$10 refundable deposit to be paid separately as cash or check. Booth applications can be filled out online

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rMg5flk9cFN4es_kQF95hyJ9e_Mdu-WZOLDJQfVMOGqE/viewform?edit_requested=true

If you are interested in volunteering for this event or have a garage sale item you would like to donate, please contact the missions team at missions.fumcseguin@gmail.com

Paycheck Protection Program 2nd Draw Loans

Effective January 13th, the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) began allowing certain eligible borrowers that previously received a PPP loan to apply for a Second Draw PPP Loan with the same general loan terms as their First Draw PPP Loan. Second Draw PPP Loans can be used to help fund payroll costs, including benefits, etc.,

Full Forgiveness Terms

Full Forgiveness Terms Second Draw PPP Loans made to eligible borrowers qualify for full loan forgiveness if during the 8- to 24-week covered period following loan disbursement:

- Employee and compensation levels are maintained in the same manner as required for the First Draw PPP loan.
- The loan proceeds are spent on payroll costs and other eligible expenses; and
- At least 60 percent of the proceeds are spent on payroll costs.

Eligibility

A borrower is generally eligible for a Second Draw PPP Loan if the borrower:

- Previously received a First Draw PPP Loan and will or has used the full amount only for authorized uses.
- Has no more than 300 employees; and
- Can demonstrate at least a 25% reduction in gross receipts between comparable quarters in 2019 and 2020.

On January 20th, our 2nd Paycheck Protection Program application was submitted to our lender (First United Bank & Trust). 100% of this loan was designated for payroll cost. The loan was approved, and on February 11th we received \$150.6k in funding for our church and Weekday School.

I trust that you are safe, healthy, and experiencing a new wave of God's presence in this time. We can be thankful to have received such a wonderful gift during this unusually challenging time. Praise God.

Bonnie Dixon

Year-to-Date Financial Report January, 2021

Donations	\$73,409.00
Expenses	\$65,750.00
Donations Exceed Expenses by:	\$7,659.00
Checking Account Balance	
Beg. Balance as of 1/1	\$64,294.00
End. Balance as of 1/31	\$74,953.00

Ministry Happenings!



Students at the Baptist Christian Academy pose with the church bus after they purchased it for school activities.

Children's Ministry News

For the month of March, we will be learning about waiting and trusting God. The children will continue practicing their song, "Guide Us, Lord", in choir that they will be singing on Palm Sunday. The children were all given jelly beans and a jelly bean jar. They have the opportunity to collect jellybeans throughout Lent for doing good deeds daily.



FUMC Weekday School will start taking Registration for the 2021/2022 School Year on March 4th for church members. We will open registration to the public on March 8th. We will be offering Summer Fun Days for infants through children entering the 5th grade. Our Summer Fun Days theme will be "All about Science." If you are looking for a safe and fun place for your children give us a call at 830-379-4116 and ask for Michelle or Veronica.

Monthly Memory Verse:

Psalm 27:14
 Wait for the Lord.
 Be strong and don't lose hope.
 Wait for the Lord.

Monthly Life Application:

Patience – Waiting until later for what you want now.

The Basic Truth:

I can trust God no matter what.

Blessings,
 Michelle, Veronica, and Kiana

To My Beloved Church Family --

I hope you will forgive me for not having shared this news earlier. I needed some time to process and commune with God for His support, help, and guidance. I am no stranger to Him in this department.

In mid-December I was diagnosed with a blood clot in my right leg, and during the ensuing treatment, it was discovered that I had lymphoma. Mine is a highly treatable cancer with an equally high rate of remission. As both my doctors have said, "Shirley, if you're going to have lymphoma, this is the one you want." I will undertake four chemotherapy infusions, the first of which is already behind me with no ill side effects whatsoever; and then with God's will and healing, I will claim remission.

I covet your prayers during this time. I assure you that during the past weeks, I have felt covered by your steadfast faith and the constant prayers that I know you regularly offer for all God's children. I cherish you, my friends, and I feel uplifted and safe in your care and presence. I look forward to experiencing the Lenten season and the Joy and Glory of Easter with you, as always and even more so this year.

God has been merciful and gracious to me. I would enjoy telling you about some of the "green lights" He has placed in my path during these past weeks. There were many, many Divinely blessed moments!

Shirley Otero
 Church Organist

Weekday School Offers Senior Scholarships

The FUMC Weekday School would like to invite all graduating seniors who attended the preschool program to apply to our new scholarship program. We will be offering three \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors who attended the weekday/preschool program at least one year. Please contact fumcweekday-board@gmail.com to receive the application. All applications are due by March 26th.



Wednesday Youth to Thrive
 5:30 - 5:45 pm Games, Hanging Out
 5:45 - 6:15 pm Dinner
 6:15 - 7:00 pm Devotional

Pastor Melissa Lind
 Associate Pastor for Youth & Young Adult Ministries

God continues to bless the youth program of this congregation, even through a pandemic! We have an amazing group of students that are primarily gathering for our Wednesday night Youth to Thrive program, with 12 to 19 students regularly participating in this program and they are bringing their friends! These students are engaging, silly and just so much fun! It is such a joy to walk with them on their spiritual journey.

We have struggled to find a curriculum that fits well with the program, was engaging and fun. But I'm excited to share with you the curriculum we began in January. I believe it was just what our program needed. This curriculum is by Ministry to Youth and is designed to guide students through three important spiritual journeys "Know, Grow and Go." KNOW: Building a firm foundation of your faith. GROW: Becoming More like Jesus and growing in your faith, GO: Sharing your faith and leading others by living out your faith. The goal of this curriculum is for students to talk about the Bible, what it means to follow Jesus, their questions and doubts, and what God is doing in their lives. It encourages group interaction, personal application and is very engaging, getting students talking about their faith.

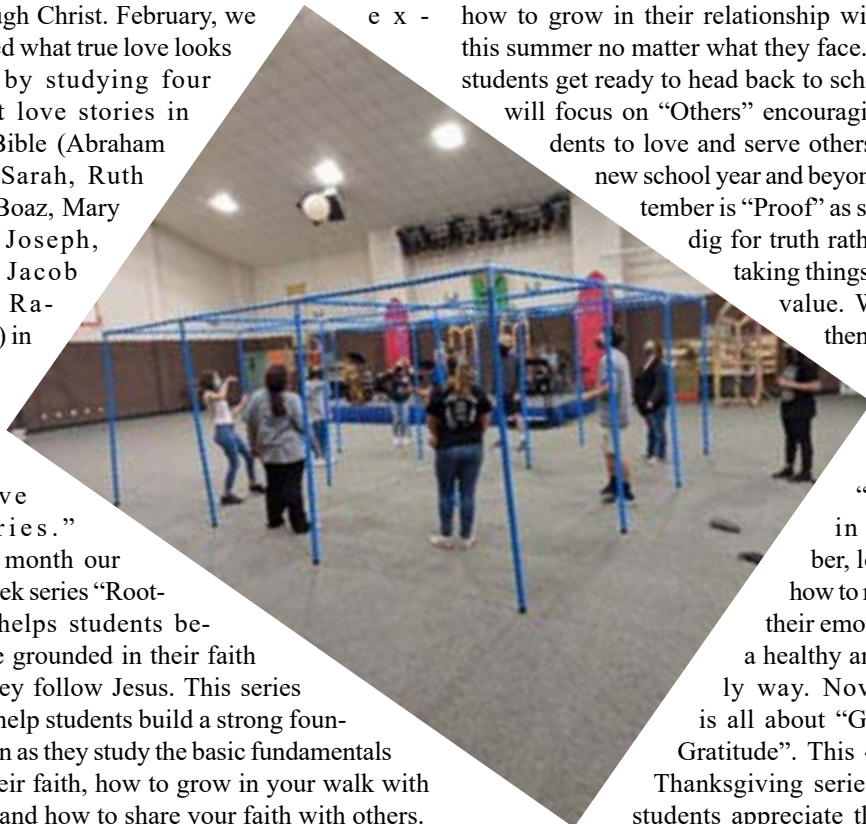
January and February our study focus was on "GROW" as we looked at having a "Clean

Slate." In January our teaching was on what it means to have a fresh start with God and that this fresh start is available at any time through Christ. February, we explored what true love looks like by studying four great love stories in the Bible (Abraham and Sarah, Ruth and Boaz, Mary and Joseph, and Jacob and Rachel.) in

"Love Stories." This month our 4-week series "Rooted" helps students become grounded in their faith as they follow Jesus. This series will help students build a strong foundation as they study the basic fundamentals of their faith, how to grow in your walk with God and how to share your faith with others.

As we move throughout the year on this journey we will explore in April "I Am". What are the characteristics of Jesus and how did his death and resurrection impact humanity? May's 4-week series is called "Struggles" and encourages students to trust God and rely on Him when they face struggles. This series will help students understand that everyone struggles, but only those who put their hope and faith in God will overcome their

struggles. As we move into summer for June and July, we will begin an 8-week series "Summer Survival Guide" that teaches students how to grow in their relationship with God this summer no matter what they face. As our students get ready to head back to school, we will focus on "Others" encouraging students to love and serve others in the new school year and beyond. September is "Proof" as students dig for truth rather than taking things at face value. We will then look at



"Mood" in October, learning how to manage their emotions in a healthy and godly way. November is all about "Grace & Gratitude". This 4-week Thanksgiving series helps students appreciate the love and mercy of God at Thanksgiving and throughout the year. We will wrap up 2021 with "Born", understanding the impact of Jesus' birth on the world!

I look forward to sharing more with you as we take this journey together as a youth group. Please keep all our students, volunteers, and staff in your prayers as we explore together just what it means to be in a loving relationship with Christ and share with others the amazing grace of God.

Many Blessings,
 Pastor Mel



Habitat for Humanity Update

On Feb 4th, we started construction on a new home at 427 Riley St. The work on Feb 4th was to remove some existing fencing and set the posts to re-build the fence on the east side of the lot. We also marked the slab in preparation for the walls to be raised. On Sat, Feb 6th, we completed the east side fence, unloaded a trailer load of lumber, and pre-painted the fascia for the house.

Early the following week, the pre-assembled walls and trusses were delivered to the job site. So we were ready to set the walls and load the trusses onto the walls that Thursday and Friday. And then as we all know, the Texas weather decided to get a bit nasty. The lot was so wet we couldn't work the week of Jan 7-13. Then came some significantly colder weather along with the snow and ice. So that knocked out working the week of Feb 14-20. But we worked some extra time during the week of Feb 21 – Feb 27 to get back on track. As well, the Site Blessing Ceremony was held the afternoon of Feb 27th.

If you're interested in volunteering to help at the job site, please contact Robin Roark at 512-695-3125 or TXRoarks@yahoo.com. Our work time is generally 8:00am - noon each Thursday and Saturday. You are also welcome to come help out for one day, a few days here and there, or each workday. No prior home building skills and no tools needed. We'll be glad to help you learn and we have all the tools needed.

And of course, there are always opportunities to shop, donate, or volunteer at the GVHFH Re-Store at 256 W. Court St. The Re-Store hours are Tue-Sat from 10:00am to 5:00pm. If you have some good stuff you need to get rid of, think about donating to the GVHFH. Give them a call (830-401-0422) and they will even schedule a time to come pick it up for you.



Texas Ramps Project

February continued to be a slow month for the Ramps Team. We did have the opportunity to prepare the ramp frames and prepare the material for the First Baptist Church in Seguin. The FBC ramp was relatively short – only 18 feet long. The materials were prepped on the morning of Feb 5th by Eric, Tom, Robin and a couple folks from the 1st Baptist Church.

We also received a request to build a ramp for the La Trinidad United Methodist Church. The request came early in February. Robin and Eric went to review the site so we could prepare a materials list and cost estimate. If their board approves the funding, they will buy the materials and we'll provide the building expertise for them.

Reminder, if you're interested in volunteering either at the warehouse or going out to build the ramps, please contact Robin Roark (512-695-3125 or TXRoarks@yahoo.com). No prior ramp building skills and no tools needed. We'll be glad to help you learn and we have all the tools on hand.



THE TEXAS RAMP PROJECT
Building Freedom for the Homebound

**Tuesday - March 2**

9:00a Butterfly Quilters, Rm 200

6:30p Missions Mtg, HH

Wednesday - March 3

5:30p Youth to Thrive, CLC

Saturday - March 6

8:00a Habitat Workday

Sunday - March 7

7:00a UMM Breakfast, CLC

8:00a Worship, Sanctuary

9:15a Sunday School

9:15a Confirmation, Youth Room

10:30a Worship, Sanctuary

10:30a Seasons Worship, CLC

2:00p Lenten Bible Study, HH

Monday - March 8

10:00a My Healthy Child Diaper Program

6:00p Mom's Bible Study, Doss Home

Tuesday - March 9

9:00a Butterfly Quilters, Rm 200

6:30p SPRC, HH

Wednesday - March 10

5:30p Youth to Thrive, CLC

Thursday - March 11

6:00p Wkday School Brd Mtg, HH

Sunday - March 14

8:00a Worship, Sanctuary

9:15a Sunday School

9:15a Confirmation, Youth Room

10:30a Worship, Sanctuary

10:30a Seasons Worship, CLC

2:00p Lenten Bible Study, HH

Tuesday - March 16

9:00a Butterfly Quilters, Rm 200

6:30p Finance Mtg, HH

Wednesday - March 17

5:30p Youth to Thrive, CLC

Thursday - March 18

6:30p Board of Trustees Mtg, Rm 10

7:00p PFLAG, Mosaic Church

Sunday - March 21

8:00a Worship, Sanctuary

9:15a Sunday School

9:15a Confirmation, Youth Room

10:30a Worship, Sanctuary

10:30a Seasons Worship, CLC

2:00p Lenten Bible Study, HH

Monday - March 22

6:00p Mom's Bible Study, Doss Home

Tuesday - March 23

9:00a Butterfly Quilters, Rm 200

6:30p Church Council, HH

Wednesday - March 24

5:30p Youth to Thrive, CLC

Sunday - March 28

8:00a Worship, Sanctuary

9:15a Sunday School

9:15a Confirmation, Youth Room

10:30a Worship, Sanctuary

10:30a Seasons Worship, CLC

Tuesday - March 30

9:00a Butterfly Quilters, Rm 200

Wednesday - March 31

5:30p Youth to Thrive, CLC

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