

The Witness

Volume 11, Issue 8

April 15, 2010

GIVE LIFE: PLANT LIFE BLOOD DRIVE AND PLANT SALE

Sunday, April 25th is the blood drive and plant sale sponsored by the Agape I Circle. Plants will be purchased from Maurepas High School Agriculture Department, and profits will benefit the mission fund of the Agape I Circle. Plant purchases help both education and missions. Hanging baskets will be \$10.



Women's Circle Meeting

The Agape II Circle will hold its monthly meeting on **Tuesday, April 20th at 10:00 a.m.** at the Centerville house. All women are invited. Call Elaine Day at if you need further information. 664-4987.



UMM Brisket Sale

United Methodist Men will hold a Brisket Lunch sale on Sunday, May 16. Plates are \$6 and will come with coleslaw, beans and a cookie for dessert. Proceeds will go toward providing our Youth with a student intern this summer. See any member of UMM to purchase your tickets, or call Billy Gibson at 405-4910 for more information. Let's support the young people of our church!!



Pizza & Movie Night at Pastor Bob's

**Friday, April 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at the
Home of Rev. Bob, Evelyn & Ruth Deich
10020 Summerfield Drive
Bring a friend!**

**We will be watching and talking about the
movie, "The Blind Side"**

**Please RSVP to Ms. Evelyn
225-223-8766**

YOUTH and CLUB ALMOST (You can help!!)

Youth are continuing to meet at 4:00 p.m. on Sundays. Volunteers are needed to prepare supper for youth and Club Almost (12-15 kids). If you would like to help, please sign the sign-up sheet in the narthex of the church.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH

Finance Committee meeting has been postponed to next Monday, April 19th at 6:00 p.m. at the Mattie house. The Administrative Council will meet the same evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Mattie house.

MANNA BAGS ARE HERE!!



Honoring God in the Dry Seasons

Don't be surprised, but recessions are not new to God. The Bible is replete with stories of feast and famine - seasons of plenty and seasons of lack in the world. What we need to remember is that God honors people who trust Him.

Genesis 26 says "*there was a famine in the land... and Isaac sowed seed in that land and received in the same year a hundred times as much as he had planted, and the Lord favored him with blessings. And the man became great and gained more and more until he became very wealthy and distinguished...*"

Isaac sowed seed *in the midst of a recession* and still received a hundred-fold return! Why? Because the Lord blesses people who live faith-filled, faith-driven lives! During the middle of this famine/recession, Isaac continued to sow seed and because of his faithfulness, enjoyed an incredible harvest. It may be that the greatest test of faith is what we do when we have little. I think of the widow who Jesus commended for giving a small gift "out of her poverty" as the one who truly honored and pleased God (Mark 12:38-44).

We all tire of hearing empty messages on prosperity, knowing that riches have much more to do with inner peace and contentment with what we have, not focusing on what we *don't* have. I think of the words of Helen Keller, "*When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.*" Too often the world is screaming at us, "*Look what you don't have,*" when we should be counting the blessings we *do* have!

We've completed one year of our three-year Building Fund campaign, and we have received right at 35% of the pledges you've made. Now, with our new building rising up from the earth, we can see the tangible fruit of your faithfulness. I commend you and thank you!

Just as we celebrate the success of our Building Fund, I also want to be open and honest with you about our Operating Budget. We've fallen behind last year's giving by \$23,000. In other terms, we've given about 83% of what we gave through the first quarter of 2009.

Many of you know that we have been in the process of interviewing candidates to lead our Youth and Young Adult ministries. To make this vital ministry a reality, we've shifted some salaries and other funds around, but we need your help. We thank you in your faithfulness and encourage you (if you've fallen behind) to "keep sowing the seed."

My experience has always been this: When God's people know of a need, they always respond. I know you will do the same, as faith-filled, faith-driven people.

Bob

YOUNG AT HEART Wednesday April 21st at South Park picnic area

Activities for Young at Heart for April will be a picnic at South Park on Vincent Road, on Wednesday, April 21, 2010. **There will be no program at the church this month.** Meet at the park around 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. We will need a count of those who plan to attend by Sunday April 18th.

Fried chicken, coleslaw, baked beans, bread, and drinks will be provided. **We will need ten (10) desserts. If you will volunteer to bring one, please call Marlene Milton at 665-8845.**

Bring a lounge chair if you wish.

Sunday, April 11, 2010:

Sunday school attendance: 104
Worship attendance: 195



The Nursing Home Ministry is in need of a few new or gently used chairs and chests-of-drawers for needy residents. If you have any of these items or would like to help, contact **Jewell Whitehead at 665-5940.**

SUMMER CONFIRMATION DATES

Confirmation classes have been scheduled for three consecutive Tuesdays and Wednesdays for our 2010 Confirmation Class:

Tuesday, May 25th & Wednesday, May 26th
Tuesday, June 1st & Wednesday, June 2nd
Tuesday, June 8th & Wednesday, June 9th

Two lessons will be presented per day on this daily schedule:
 11 a.m. - 12-noon Lesson A
 12-noon - 12:30 p.m. Lunch (Provided)
 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lesson B

Classes are open to anyone completing 6th grade, or who is a youth or an adult who has not participated in a confirmation class. Register now with Rev. Ginny Allen at revginny@gmail.com or 225-772-6681.

Thank You

Thank you so very much for the prayers, cards, food and calls during my surgery and recovery. I am doing well and will be back to work full time soon

Linda McDaniel

* * *

Thanks so much to my church family for your prayers, cards, and a special thanks to Rev. Bob for his visit during my hospital stay. Thanks also for the beautiful flowers that were brought to me.

Charlotte Mayo

Acolytes for Sunday, April 18, 2010:

8:30 a.m.- Kellie & Lauren Price
 11:00 a.m. – Nathan Landry & Ashley Doggette



PRAISES

Becky Lambert, property settlement
 Ginny Allen's friend, Paul Enger, successful craniotomy for brain aneurysm
 Diane Boso, recovered from bronchitis
 Johanna Stroud, much improved, Dottie Doggette's friend

PRAYER REQUESTS

Our sympathy is expressed to the **family & friends of Evelyn Vicknair** at her death on Palm Sunday.

New this week: Diane Boso, shingles; Lil George, severe allergies; Steve Carney, Lana Kiker's nephew, surgery to remove tumor under tongue & reconstruct jaw from leg bone; John Page, Sr., Wesley's dad, stroke (BRG/BB); Sue Fairchild's dad, failing health; Mae Matthews, Terresa Ellis' mom.

Pending Surgery: Frank Villeneuve - brain tumors, Terry Alwood's friend; Brenda Lowe- colon cancer, DSHS basketball coach;

Pending Tests: Ethel Sheets, medical tests, mother of Jan Allen

Hospitalized: Dick Boso, OLOL; Jo Roberts, Ochsner; Kristi Rutherford, critical care, Lela Alexander's friend; Jennifer Lee, critical condition, Vicki & Spencer Varnado's friend

Home from hospital: Linda McDaniel; Tommy Hazleton - better, asks continued prayers; Fay Kling

Recovery: Bill Drake - ear; Dean Reese - motorcycle wreck, John/Betty Blackman's son-in-law; John Blackman – eye; Elizabeth Fox – ear.

Cancer Patients: Liz Perrin - leukemia, David Waldrep's mother-in-law

Ongoing Illness: George Smith; Wilbert Hutchinson; Hilda Neal, Margarine Smith; Norma Fox, Richard Fox's mom.

Ongoing Concerns: Addicted & their families, Marriages in crisis, Progress for couples in marriage counseling, Unemployed

In Nursing Homes (3): Connie Brown; Stella Jones; Jo Roberts

In La Plantation (2): Fay Kling, Wally Waldrup

Military Service & Families: Sam Allen, Ginny & Lee's son – SC, Germany 05/10

Continuing concerns:

God's guidance – Youth Minister, Youth Council, for our youth

God's guidance - for young adults seeking a career

A solid foundation in preparation for influx of new members

Ways we can care for the vulnerable of society: living alone, orphans, outcasts, foreigners, and poor; abused children; child protection agencies, family court system to help children.

Public Servants: Our national, state and local government officials, law enforcement & firefighters

Ministries & Missions of our church; our church leaders, Bishop Hutchinson, DS Ralph Ford, Pastors Bob Deich & Ginny Allen, our staff & volunteers

Educational administrators, teachers, staff & students

Parents rearing children, grandparents rearing grandchildren

Persecuted Christians – Proverbs 24:11-12

God's financial provision