



Dear Partners in Ministry:

Our Church Council, with a lot of input from the Congregational Vitality Committee is about to change our governing structure. Well, maybe not the actual governing structure, that will stay the same – council officers and members, etc. What will change is some of the committees. We will combine and shift duties into “ministry” groups.

The council will vote on the proposed structure on February 2nd and there will be an informational meeting for the congregation on February 15th after worship.

Why do this? One goal is to find better ways to do the work of the church by involving fewer folks on committees and many more in short term projects. All ministries will look at ways to use technology to improve methods and communication. And all the ministries will look for ways to make us a “green” church.

We hope this will be a time of renewal and new energy. The details will be available after February 2nd.

Pastor Sue



December 16, 2008

Dear Friends:

Most of us have enjoyed Thanksgiving with you family and friends and are now anticipating Christmas celebrations with parties, delicious meals, cookies, gifts, etc. Our clients are not so blessed.

We are endeavoring to help these people with our annual Adopt-A-family and the Giving Tree programs plus the other services we provide throughout the year. With the economic downturn we have received less cash and food donations. But once again, as the holidays draw near, the Lord has blessed us with many thoughtful persons like you who are concerned for those who are less fortunate.

Thank you so much for your gift of food.

God's blessing to you,

(signed) Carol and John DeGuire – Feed My People

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January 6, 2009

Thank you Lord for writing upon so many wonderful hearts to bless others through our special program, Adopt-A-Family. All 50 families were truly blessed.

There were many other families that were blessed through the toys, extra food, and clothing donated. Many families were touched through your generosity. The love of Christ poured out upon us through you was felt by many.

Please continue to smile upon your children Lord, and help us all to stay on the paths of righteousness so we may be a blessing to those in need of one. Remember to include us in your prayers when you talk with our loving Father.

In God's grace and mercy,

(signed) Johnniest B. Henry, St. John's Comm. Serv. Ministries

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December 18, 2008

Dear Emmaus Homes Friends,

Emmaus Homes invites you to join us as we continue to help over 300 Spirited People with developmental disabilities lead Spirited Lives through our 21st Annual Open Your Heart Dinner at the luxurious Renaissance Grant Hotel in downtown St. Louis on Friday, February 6, 2009.

Since the dinner's inception, we have raised nearly \$2 million for our life changing mission, which is to provide quality of life for the men and women of Emmaus. At this year's event, guests can mingle with "stars" of yesterday and today as Open Your Heart goes "Hollywood". You can help support Spirited People Leading Spirited Lives by attending the event as a guest, dinner sponsor, sponsoring a table for clients, donating an auction item, or even volunteering your time at the dinner.

For information on sponsorship, volunteer opportunities, or to request a dinner invitation (\$150 per guest) please contact Gabrielle Martin at 636-534-5214 or by email at marting@emmaushomes.org.

Thank you for your consideration to support *Spirited People Leading Spirited Lives!* We look forward to seeing you this year!

Cordially,

(signed) Gabrielle Ballard, Events Coordinator

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Thank you for all the cards and caring words for the loss of my mom, and for the job the We Care Committee did at the luncheon.

Love,

Judy York and family

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Thank you to the congregation for your love and support during the loss of my mother, June. The amount of cards received from the congregation was overwhelming. Thanks again.

Tammy, Chuck, Lindsey, and Bradley Knoll

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KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

John Schuette at Green Park, Walt Miller at Orchid Terrace, the family of Dana Faerber who passed away on December 23rd, Judy York and her family on the death of her mother, Dolores Hoelker, the last week in December, and the family of Melba Schulz who passed away on January 18, 2009.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Chris and Brandi Armistead on the arrival of Caylie Jean on Wednesday, January 7th, 2009. Caylie weighed in at 9 lbs 15 oz and is 22 inches long. She joins her sisters Tiffany and Chloe, and her brother Gavin at home. Her grandparents are Ben and Carole Armistead.

WE CARE COMMITTEE

We have had two funerals in the last couple weeks. Judy York's mother, Mrs. Hoelker and Dana Faerber. The church provided lunch for the families; this is what the We Care ministry is all about.

I would like to thank all the help who put it all together. My helpers were Alice Noland (2), Joan Hemingway, Dottie Vinyard, Hilda Leonard, Joan Schumacher, and Nancy Krenning. Without these gals it couldn't be done. THANKS!!

We also need donations of cakes and jellos. Virginia Hladnick, Alice Noland, Patty Siewing, Sandy Stevenson, Shirley Nottelmann, Joan Hemingway, Dottie Vinyard Clara Hornung, and Merle Schuette. Thanks to these ladies we had wonderful desserts and jellos (even some stuffed celery).

If you've ever wondered what we serve for our funeral lunches, the menu is ham, cheese, mostacioli, tossed salad, jello salads, pickles, potato chips, and of course cakes and cookies for dessert. This is our way of making this time a little easier for our members.

If you would like to help on the day of a luncheon or contribute a dessert or jello when you hear this service will be needed, please call Lois Decker 314-843-0183 or let Shirley know.

Thanks again.

Lois Decker (We Care)

MUSIC NOTES

Children's Choir will practice next Sunday, January 25th immediately after worship service. Mr. Hickman has been ill so I will be depending on Beth Hickman and Dawn Schillinger and Debby Wodicker for assistance.



50+ GROUP

The 50+ Group is going to Bevo Mill on February 21st. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. We will meet at church at 11:00 a.m. to carpool to the restaurant. All are welcome to join us for a good meal.

ST. PHILIP'S WOMEN'S RETREAT



The third annual St. Philip's women's retreat has been scheduled for Saturday, March 21st. It will again be at Camp Fenwick and will last from 9:00 a.m. until approximately 3:00 p.m. More information will be coming later but be sure to save the date!

CEREAL, CEREAL, CEREAL

Women's Fellowship will be collecting cereal of all kinds for Joint Neighborhood Ministry during the month of February. Please put your donations in the box in the gathering space.

YOUTH PROJECT FOR OUTREACH MISSION MINISTRY

All youth will be making sandwiches for Joint Neighborhood Houses. The Super Bowl money that will be collected on February 1st will be used to purchase the supplies.

Because of dates possible, we plan to make these on February 22nd after church service, to be delivered on Monday, February

23rd. Parents are also invited to help, if you like. This project will probably take 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Any questions, call Virginia 843-3605.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

The youth group is having another Parent's Night Out February 14th from 5 – 10 pm. We will be watching anyone between the ages of 2 and 12. We will have pizza, activities, movies, and fun. Free will donation proceeds to benefit the mission trip. Be sure to sign up if you want to take advantage of this event.

TRIVIA NIGHTS

The Trivia Nights for this year's event are Friday, March 6th and Saturday, March 7th. The best way too support our Trivia Nights is to get together a table of 8 for \$100 and come and play! If you cannot make it, but would still like to support the church in this fund raiser, you can donate gift cards to use as prizes at Trivia Night.

We ask that you purchase gift cards in \$10 increments to the following businesses:

Borders
Friday's
Kohl's

Olive Garden
St. Louis Bread Co.
Target

When you purchase the cards, please place them in a sealed envelope with your name, the amount of the card, and the store or restaurant where the gift card was purchased. Please give these cards to Shirley Nottelmann in the church office and she will get them to the Trivia Committee. Thank you so much for your support.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship will meet on Tuesday, February 17th to go to Cyrano's for lunch. We will gather at church at 11 am to carpool. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. If you have any questions contact Jan Freese or Virginia Hladnick.

BOOK SALE

The Women's Fellowship will be sponsoring a book sale on February 28 (Saturday) and March 1 (Sunday) to replenish their treasury for service projects. If you have any books that you don't want anymore let Janet Remmers know. They appreciate all the donations they can get.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



Lent begins on Wednesday, February 25th with the Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm. Be sure to mark your calendar and join us in worship at one of the most important times of the church year.

COMING EVENTS

February 1	Communion Sunday Youth Sunday Worship and Music Comm. after worship Super Bowl collection Sunday by youth
February 2	Bible Study Class 9 am Church Council meeting 7 pm
February 3	Bell Choir practice 7 pm
February 4	Choir practice 7 pm
February 8	Birthday Sunday
February 9	Bible Study Class 9 am
February 10	Bell Choir 7 pm
February 11	Free Lunch – noon Choir practice 7 pm
February 12	Yoga Class 6:30 pm
February 15	Faithful Readers Book Club after worship Congregational meeting with coffee and doughnuts
February 16	Church office closed – Martin Luther King Day observed
February 17	Crier articles due Women's Fellowship – Cyrano's 11 am
February 18	Choir practice 7 pm
February 19	Yoga Class 6:30 pm
February 21	50+ Group – Bevo Mill 11 a.m.

February 22	Sunday School making sandwiches after church
February 23	Bible Study Class 9 am
February 24	Bell Choir 7 pm
February 25	Lent begins – Ash Wednesday Service
February 26	Yoga Class 6:30 pm

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 1	JoAnn Leber
Feb. 2	Bud Leonard
Feb. 3	Gary Gutjahr
Feb. 3	Rachel Fischer
Feb. 4	Brian Werner
Feb. 5	Allison Lamont
Feb. 7	Danielle Kelly
Feb. 8	Kirk Thurmond
Feb. 9	Elizabeth Vogt
Feb. 14	Dustin Knoll
Feb. 14	Eleanor Morris
Feb. 17	Kathy Vogt
Feb. 18	Harrison Fischer
Feb. 20	Gavin Armistead
Feb. 20	Joseph Jackson
Feb. 21	Cara Holdener
Feb. 23	Virginia Hladnick
Feb. 23	Hayden Werner
Feb. 24	Jerica Gordon
Feb. 26	Chloe Gutjahr
Feb. 27	Emily Mikusch
Feb. 27	Luke Siewing
Feb. 28	Joan Hemingway
Feb. 28	James Kelly
Feb. 28	Dave Schiele
Feb. 29	Tiffany Walsh



LITURGISTS, USHERS, ACOLYTES AND CHILDREN'S TIME FOR FEBRUARY

Liturgists



February 1	Jennifer Larsen
February 8	Jim Caldwell
February 15	Mike Shelton
February 22	Michelle Torigian

Welcoming Teams

January 25

Mike Shelton	Ardelle Dischiniger
Kathy Shelton	Pat Siewing

February 1 - Youth Sunday

February 8 and February 15

February 22 and March 1

Nancy Krenning	Ardelle Dischinger
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Acolytes



February 1	Rachel Fischer
February 8	Ashley Kulich
February 15	Sarah Witte
February 22	Haylee Thibodeaux

Children's Time

February 1	Bob Leber
February 8	Michelle Torigian
February 15	Barbara Barnes
February 22	Sandy Stevenson



PUPPY SIZE

This is one of the neatest stories you will ever hear. You will know perusing what this little girl is talking about at the end (you'll want to share this with your loved ones and special friends.) 'Danielle keeps repeating it over and over again. We've been back to this animal shelter at least five times. It has been weeks now since we started all this' the mother told the volunteer. 'What is it she keeps asking for?' the volunteer asked. 'Puppy size!' replied the mother. 'Well, we have plenty of puppies, if that's what she's looking for.' 'I know...we have seen most of them,' the mom said in frustration. Just then Danielle came walking into the office. 'Well, did you find one?' asked her mom. "No, not this time." Danielle said with sadness in her voice. "Can we come back on the weekend?" The two women looked at each other, shook their heads and laughed. 'You never know when we will get more dogs. Unfortunately there's always a supply,' the volunteer said. Danielle took her mother by the hand and headed to the door. 'Don't worry, I'll find one this weekend,' she said. Over the next few days both mom and dad had long conversations with her. They both felt she was being too particular. 'It's this weekend or we're not looking any more,' Dad finally said in frustration. 'We don't want to hear anything more about puppy size either' Mom added. Sure enough, they were the first ones in the shelter on Saturday morning. By now Danielle knew her way around, so she ran right for the section that housed the smaller dogs. Tired of the routine, mom sat in the small waiting room at the end of the first row of cages. There was an observation window so you could see the animals during times when visitors weren't permitted. Danielle walked slowly from cage to cage, kneeling periodically to take a closer look. One by one the dogs were brought out and she held each one. One by one she said, 'Sorry, you're not the one.' It was the last cage on this last day in search of the perfect pup. The volunteer opened the cage door and the child carefully picked up the dog and held it closely. This time she took a little longer.

'Mom, that's it! I found the right puppy! He's the one – I know it' she screamed with joy. 'It's the puppy size!'

'But it's the same size as all the other puppies you held over the last few weeks,' Mom said.

'No not size,,the sighs. When I held him in my arms he sighed,' she said.

'Don't you remember? When I asked you one day what love is you told me love depends on the sighs of your heart. The more you love, the bigger the sighs!'

The two women looked at each other for a moment. Mom didn't know whether to laugh or cry. As she stooped down to hug the child she did a little of both.

'Mom, every time you hold me, I sigh. When you and Daddy come home from work and hug each other, you both sigh. I knew I would find the right puppy if it sighed when I held it in my arms,' she said.

Then holding the puppy up close to her face she said, "Mom he loves me. I heard the sighs of his heart!"

Close your eyes for a moment and think about the love that makes you sigh. I not only find it in the arms of my loved ones, but in the caress of a sunset, the kiss of the moonlight and the gentle brush of cool air on a hot day. They are the signs of God. Take the time to stop and listen; you'll be surprised at what you hear.

'Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.'

May this year 2009 be filled with sighs!

Found on the internet.