

ECHOES

February 2010

Mission Statement

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are called to **invite** people to know Christ, to **build** a community of faith, and to **serve** all in love to the glory of God!

Adopted Easter, 1995

**Palm Valley Lutheran Church
A Stephen Ministry Church**
2500 East Palm Valley Boulevard
Round Rock, Texas 78665
Phone: 512-255-3322 Fax: 512-388-2389
www.palmvalleylutheranchurch.org

Rev. Dr. David P. Koppel, Senior Pastor
Rev. Joaquin Figueroa, Hispanic Ministry
Rev. David Tietz, Visitation Minister
Mollie DeVries, Executive Administrator
Les Williams, Director of Youth and Education

¹⁻² Honor and enjoy your Creator while you're still young, Before the years take their toll and your vigor wanes, Before your vision dims and the world blurs And the winter years keep you close to the fire. ³⁻⁵ In old age, your body no longer serves you so well. Muscles slacken, grip weakens, joints stiffen. The shades are pulled down on the world. You can't come and go at will. Things grind to a halt. The hum of the household fades away. You are wakened now by bird-song. Hikes to the mountains are a thing of the past. Even a stroll down the road has its terrors. Your hair turns apple-blossom white, Adorning a fragile and impotent matchstick body. Yes, you're well on your way to eternal rest, While your friends make plans for your funeral. ⁶⁻⁷ Life, lovely while it lasts, is soon over. Life as we know it, precious and beautiful, ends. The body is put back in the same ground it came from. The spirit returns to God, who first breathed it. (Ecclesiastes 12:1-7, The Message)

Dear Friends,

Life moves pretty fast. You can't wait to grow up; pretty soon you are finishing school, starting a job, getting married. Before long you have a baby, and you think that things will get back to normal once the baby arrives, but they never do. You blink once and that baby is off to college and you are wondering where the years went, you and your spouse are trying to adjust (and sometimes trying to remember why you got married in the first place all those years ago) and deal with an empty nest and soon its retirement time and where did all those years go? The next time you look up your friends are dying around you and you wonder, "Is that it? What happened?"

Oh, I can see it happening already. My kids are growing up. My life hasn't worked out the way I planned. (Thank God!) The years are flying by. The years are harder on my body than they are on my mind (or so I think! If I am starting to lose it, would I even know?).

I played dodge ball last week with the middle school and high school kids. I have to admit, I do love the game. And I am getting better at it.... I can actually take a couple kids out of the game before I get hit now. But here is what I notice.... The next day, I can feel that I played dodge ball the night

before. Yes, it is true. I am getting older. Not necessarily better, but definitely older.

The writer of Ecclesiastes (some say that it is Solomon, the wisest man in the world) put it this way: "*Honor and enjoy your Creator while you're still young.*" Don't miss out on it! Honor God and enjoy Him! Enjoy creation, and all that God has blessed you with. Don't wait – you might not get another chance!

And, in the end, he says,
*Life, lovely while it lasts, is soon over.
Life as we know it, precious and beautiful, ends.
The body is put back in the same ground it came from.
The spirit returns to God, who first breathed it.*

That isn't a bad thing. Life is a gift. We come from God, and we return to God. That is not bad at all. It isn't as if it is all over. It isn't as if there is nothingness after death. It isn't as if we don't know where we are going.

"The spirit returns to God, who first breathed it."

In a few weeks, it will be Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of Lent. We will receive ashes on our foreheads and hear the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." That used to bother me. I didn't want to be dust. I certainly didn't want to return to dust. But the part of me that will return to dust is just the perishable part anyway. "*The spirit returns to God, who first breathed it.*"

I am not the creator, I am part of creation. I am mortal. That's OK, that's how God in his infinite wisdom, made me. And the mortal part will fade away ("*All we are is dust in the wind*" – Kansas).

But "*The spirit returns to God, who first breathed it.*" So we trust God, and we know where we came from, and where we are going, and meanwhile, "*Honor and enjoy your Creator while you're still young.*"

Trust God. He is the one constant – in life, in death, and in the life to come. He loves you now and forever.

Eternally is His grip,

Paster

Pastor



Operating Budget:

Jan– Dec 2009 Income	\$764,966 (93.75% Projected Income)
Jan– Dec 2009 Expense	\$753,746 (92.38% Projected Expense)
Net income over expense	\$ 11,221

The natural response to receiving is giving. It is our way of saying “thanks”. Gifts received stimulate gifts given in response. That the original giver cannot be reached directly or is not in need of our generosity is of little consequence.

We give to someone else in the name and spirit of the first gift. So it is with us, the Christian steward as we responds to that Great Steward (Christ) who received from God and shared with us. It isn't much of a leap of faith for us to share with others out of gratitude for what has first been given to us.

So “THANK YOU” to all who contributed to our 2009 Operating Fund, for your faithfulness in returning to God that which he first gave us. It never ceases to amaze me, that when we lean on him, he gives us “enough” to accomplish our needs. Possibly not all of our “wants” but our “needs” were met. Our December contributions were 12.9% of our year's total contributions.

Regardless of the economy, regardless of the “issues” before our church body, we have been blessed with revenues to cover all of our expenses for the year of 2009, with a small surplus of \$11,221. You will recall that some years ago a resolution was passed to send 10% of any surplus to the SWTX Synod for their support. That check is being sent in January 2010.

When we compare 2009 contributions to 2008, we see an increase of \$29,153 or 4.5% increase. But on the expense side, the increase for 2009 was only \$2,441 or a .33% (1/3 of 1%) increase in total expenses for the year over 2008.

If you have been thinking about the possibility that you might like to lead the Bell Choir, but you were just not quite sure and you have not picked up the phone to call us, we are still waiting to hear from you. Possibly, God is calling ***you*** to do this job. You think?

Our Property Committee is planning a Work Day on February 6th to trim the trees on the property, with a “rain” date of the 13th. If you like to help with project of this nature, plan to be here at 8:00am with your chain saw, tractor or other tools. We would appreciate your assistance in helping maintain our beautiful oak grove.

There will be a second Work Day on March 20th to beautify the beds around the church in preparation for Easter, with a “rain” date of 3-27. Please mark your calendar to join in the activities, bring your gloves and favorite hand tools. We always work hard but we always have fun and fellowship.

In this Echoes you will find a copy of a Time and Talent form that we ask you to complete, one for each adult member of the household. We also list the different committees and what their job tasks are, in this edition of Echoes. If you are not presently involved with one of these committees but think you would like to do so, please mark that on your Time & Talent page as well, return them to the office and the committee chair will contact you. We certainly need the involvement of all members of our congregation to make our church all that it could be. That means that we need ***YOU!***

We hope to see each of you at our annual meeting on the 31st of January, 2010 following the late service.

In His service,

Mollie DeVries,

Executive Administrator

***** Next Echoes Deadline ***
Friday February 19, 2010**

Church Council

Summary of action taken at the called meeting of the Palm Valley Lutheran Church Council on Wednesday, January 13, 2010.

- † Approved proposed letter from Palm Valley Lutheran Church to Bishop Hanson the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA for vote at the annual meeting.
- † Approved a resolution to begin the process of reversing Resolution #1 and Resolution #2 passed at the most recent Churchwide Assembly. The resolution would be voted on at the annual meeting, if approved the resolution would be presented at the 2010 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly.
- † Prepared four options for vote at the annual congregational meeting on how to designate the benevolence funds normally sent to the Southwestern Texas Synod will be handled for the 2010 budget.
- † Approved the agenda for the 2010 Palm Valley Lutheran Church Annual Meeting to be held on January 31, 2010.
- † Accepted the resignation of Gary Bounds, effective with the close of the January 13, 2010 annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Cotton
Council Secretary

Adult Forum - January 31st

We plan to have an Adult Forum on Jan. 31st at 10:00am in the CLC at 10.am. The purpose of this forum is for you to meet the new council candidates and to review the budget prior to the vote to adopt it at the Annual congregation meeting to be held at 12:30 on the 31st.

There will also be time for dialogue regarding the results of the recent surveys completed by the congregation. We hope that you will plan to attend one of these forums.

82nd Annual Churchmen's Banquet

The 82nd Annual Churchmen's Banquet is **Thursday, February 18, 7:00 p.m.** in the Christian Life Center (CLC), sponsored and served by the Women of the Church. The menu consists of a great turkey and dressing dinner with all the trimmings, plus Cherry Pie! If you would like to help, there are posters in the Narthex and the Christian Life Center to sign-up for one or more of the following.

- 1) Bake a turkey and make dressing (turkeys are provided).
- 2) Bake bread – 3 loaves of Swedish brown or white bread (we have recipes we will share for the Swedish brown bread if you need one).
- 3) Make cherry pies (2 if possible).

Feb. 17: At 5:00 pm. we need the ladies to help with preparations for the banquet. At 7:00 pm we need the men to set up the tables and chairs. We will also finish decorating at this time.

Feb 18: All ladies are needed for final preparations and serving the meal. We need some women starting at 4:00 to receive the food and others at 4:30-6:00

Tickets are still only \$10 and can be purchased from Roland or Sharon Krienke, Roy Krienke, Al Buuck, Janette Madsen, or in the church office. Profits go to help our youth attend Bible Camp this summer.

Tommy Maxwell Speaker for the Churchmen's Banquet

After high school, Tommy earned a football scholarship to Texas A&M where he played both sides of the ball for Coach Gene Stallings and was part of the 1968 team that beat Paul "Bear" Bryant's Alabama Crimson Tide team in the cotton bowl. Tommy was inducted into the Texas A&M Athletic Hall of Fame.

It was while Tommy was a student at Texas A&M that he came to put his whole trust in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Tommy went on to play in the NFL for several years, and won a Superbowl with the Colts. After retiring from the NFL, Tommy enrolled at Dallas Theological Seminary, where he earned his Master of Theology degree in Old Testament studies. Tommy was then a senior pastor, then went on to become a Senior Development Officer for DTS. After a group of coaches asked Tommy to lead a Bible Study he started a new ministry called Coaches Outreach. Tommy says "that Bible Study is very important, it's not just to learn facts, but to get to know the God of the universe." Come hear more!

Bell Choir Director

Needed: One individual who enjoys music, (especially hand bell music) and has the talent to lead and work with a team of bell ringing, fun loving, great individuals who enjoy making a joyful noise unto the Lord.

We need a new Director for our Bell Choir, and if you have any interest, please contact Mollie DeVries at 255-3322 in our church office.

Generally the choir has practice on Wednesday evenings at 6pm and they play for services on an arranged schedule. This is a volunteer position, so the hours are great and the pay is terrific, as you earn “stars in your crown” with the Lord, and the appreciation of your congregation

“It’s Tough Being a Woman”

This is the title of Beth Moore’s newest Bible Study on the Book of Esther. This is a 12 week study using video lessons and a personal study journal. This study will begin on Thursday evening February 4th at 7:00 pm and meet through the spring. If you are interested in taking this journey to see how God places every woman in the right place at the right time, please join us!!! To sign up or to get more information contact Lynne Koch.

Lutheran World Relief

Many of you are aware of the crisis in Haiti. Lutheran World Relief is deeply involved in helping the survivors in this area by working with other humanitarian partners already in Haiti, but could really use your prayers and monetary contributions. Health and school kits, as well as quilts, will be distributed as soon as transportation lines are opened. Updates are available at lwr.org.

Our quilters are well on the way to meeting last year’s record of 150 quilts for Lutheran World Relief. If you can help, they meet every Tuesday from 1-4pm. Also, the month of March we’ll be collecting full size bars of soap and adult toothbrushes. Watch for soap and toothbrush sales now, and bring to the church in March!

Women’s News February Calendar

Tuesday, weekly, 1:00 p.m.	Afternoon Quilters
Wednesday, Feb 10, 12:00 p.m.	Noon Prayer Group
Monday, Feb 15, 6:15 p.m.	Sing-Along @ TCC
Tuesday, Feb 16, 10:00 a.m.	Esther Circle
Thursday, Feb 18, 6:30 p.m.	Rebecca Circle
Friday Feb 19, 6:30 p.m.	Adults’ Night Out
Saturday, Feb 20, 4:00 p.m.	Circulo de Mujeres
	Marta
Monday, Feb 22, 6:30 p.m.	Sassy Seniors
Thursday, Feb 25, 3:00 p.m.	Cluster

Preschool News

February is all about LOVE at the preschool! We’ll celebrate Valentine’s Day with class parties. We’ll also learn about taking care of our bodies as we focus on nutrition, dental health and our five senses. A visit from the dentist will round out the fun!

February is also registration time for the 2010 – 2011 preschool year! Our registration dates are as follows:

- *Feb. 2 Closed Registration Begins – for families currently enrolled at PVLCP
- *Feb. 16 Church Member Registration Begins – for members of Palm Valley Lutheran Church
- *Feb. 24 Alumni Registration – for families previously enrolled at PVLCP
- *Feb. 25 Open Registration Begins – open to the public

On Sunday, February 7 the preschool will have an Information Table set up between services.

For more information please visit our website at www.palmvalleypreschool.org. You can always email us at abc123@palmvalleypreschool.org or call us at (512)388-5054.

Memorial Service Alice Eulenfeld Johnson

A memorial service of celebration and thanksgiving for the life of Alice Eulenfeld Johnson will be held in the Sanctuary on March 7, Sunday at 3:00 pm. A reception following the service will be held at the Johnson-Gordon Homestead. All relative, friends and acquaintances are invited.



Lent By Pastor Figueroa

In the liturgical calendar Wednesday the 17th.is Ash Wednesday that marks the beginning of Lent season. Lent season is a period of 40 days (Sundays not included) that culminates with Easter Sunday that this year is April the 4th.

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism.

By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. All churches that have a continuous history extending before AD 1500 observe Lent. The ancient church that wrote, collected, and propagated the New Testament also observed Lent, believing it to be a commandment from the apostles.

Because Sunday is the day of the Resurrection, we skip over Sundays when we calculate the length of Lent. Therefore, in the Western Church, Lent always begins on Ash Wednesday, the seventh Wednesday before Easter. *If you are wondering what the Western Churches are, this is the short answer: roughly speaking, the western Church consists of Protestants, Catholics, and Anglicans.*

In many countries, the last day before Lent (called Mardi gras, Shrove Tuesday, Carnival, or Fasching) has become a last fling before the solemnity and austerity of Lent. For centuries, it was customary to fast by abstaining from meat during Lent, which is why some people call the festival *Carnival*, which is Latin for *farewell to meat*.

However, in the same way that fasting, biblically, it is more than just avoiding meat, Lent season, whose richness comes from the early Christian tradition, it is also something different and deeper than simple abstaining from eating meat.

In the liturgy for Ash Wednesday we read "as disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer and works of love- the discipline of Lent- help us to wage our

spiritual warfare. The Church invites you, therefore, to commit yourself to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline"

So according with its historic roots, Lent is a season to go deep in our faith to meditate and reflect in Jesus' great sacrifice that was willing to face the cross to pay the price for our sins. It is a time to confess and repent from our sins, understanding that confession is an act of humility asking for God's forgiveness and that we also need to repent, which means, to "change the course" of our lives, it is to say, to start a new chapter of our lives asking the Lord the strength and power to stop doing the sins we are confessing.

It is a time to think about our response to such sacrifice and Lent gives us the opportunity to 'sacrifice" those habits, behaviors and practices that separate us from the Love of God, but not only for 40 days but as the beginning of a new process of sanctification.

So, instead of abstaining of eating meat, Lent invites us to star the process of abstaining from what break down our friendship with God.

I believe that the right time to make resolutions for new year should be done in Lent, when we "clean" the house and let God come to our lives to change us so we may conform our lives to His model and example.

Let us go, brothers and sisters, into Lent season, with a renewed spirit trusting and asking the Good Lord, to forgive our sins and give us His power and authority to persevere and succeed in the fulfillment of the plan that He has designed for each of us, to His honor and glory. Amen

**All Committee Night, 7:00 p.m.
Monday March 1— Parish Hall**

**Church Council 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday February 17 – Conference Room**



Social Ministry

KEEPING THOSE RESOLUTIONS

It's a new year and many of us are in the process of making New Year's resolutions. We set lofty goals and make ambitious plans for new and improved versions of ourselves. Often though, what starts out with the best of intentions, ends up resulting in feelings of stress, frustration and failure. Here are some real-life strategies for making those resolutions a reality by year's end.

- 1) Anticipate bumps in the road. Foresee possible obstacles and set up a Plan B. For example: "If it rains and I cannot do that 4-mile walk, then I will work out with an exercise video."
 - 2) Be "The Little Engine That Could"—you know—"I think I can, I think I can!" Studies show that people who believe that they will succeed, and tell themselves so, will indeed accomplish what they set out to do.
 - 3) Do not set goals that are overly ambitious. Goals that are unrealistic in scope result in burnout and de-motivation. Set goals that are a stretch, but not out of reach for your target time frame and available resources.
 - 4) Work on your goals every day. Taking small steps daily not only keeps you focused on the task at hand, but also enables you to move slowly, but surely, toward your goals. You will feel a sense of accomplishment each day, motivating you to persevere.
 - 5) Go public with your goals. Including others helps reinforce your behavior, by keeping you accountable for your actions, and by providing a support structure on which to rely.
 - 6) Make yourself a priority (even though it may feel selfish). Giving yourself permission to focus on those things that will make you a happier, healthier person, ultimately results in your having more to offer others.
 - 7) Incorporate several ways to work toward any one goal. This keeps you challenged, increases chances for success, and keeps the process interesting so you don't get bored.
 - 8) Remember the deeper meaning behind your goals. A person is more likely to achieve a goal when it has true personal significance. For example, "I will exercise 4 times a week because I want to be healthy and set a good example for my children."
 - 9) Go straight to the top. Pray for God's guidance, for strength when you are struggling, for help to achieve your goals. Remember always: "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." ~Philippians 4:13
- May you all have a happy, healthy, blessed 2010!

Lenten Services Begin Feb. 17

During the six Wednesdays of Lent we will meet for fellowship and worship as part of our Lenten discipline. Suppers will begin at 6:00, served by various committees of the congregation. Worship is in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

Desserts for the Lenten suppers: the committees would like assistance from the congregation providing desserts. As you are able and as often as you would like, bring a dessert for a happy ending to our Lenten suppers.

PVLC Committees and Their Responsibilities

Christian Education— To provide educational opportunities for the whole congregation, children as well as adults.

Evangelism— To lead the congregation in its outreach to the community to attract new members and to retain members.

Property--See to the proper maintenance and protection of all property of the congregation, and to make certain the it is kept in good repair.

Social Ministry—To encourage Christian compassion and outreach to people in the congregation or community who are in spiritual or physical need, working in cooperation with other agencies engaged in aiding those in need.

Spiritual Life—To deepen the spiritual life of the congregation by providing devotional material for home use and to plan retreats and encourage prayer and Bible study.

Stewardship—To secure resources necessary to carry on the work of the Lord at PVLC and to assist members in using their time and talents in service to the congregation and community.

Worship and Music—Has the oversight of all activities related to the worship life of the congregation, such as altar service, acolytes, ushers, and worship materials.

Youth—To identify and minister to the needs of the youth of the congregation.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

From: Helen Blackman—Thank you to everyone who prayed for me, sent cards, called and visited during my hospital stay. A special thank you to Pastor Koppel and Pastor Tietz for their visits!

From: Bill & Gloria Flagg—Thank you so much for the pleasant surprise of the carolers coming to visit us. It meant so much to see so many of our friends from PVLC and to hear the lovely music. Let me say again that PVLC is the most friendly and caring church we were ever members of!

From: Norma Deck— I wish to thank everyone for their best wishes during my recent knee surgery and recovery. Thanks to Pastor Tietz and Pastor Koppel for their visits.

From: Beverly Johnson Gordon— So many of you extended kindness and compassion in response to the death of my mother, Alice Eulenfield Johnson, on December 15. Thank you for your condolences, understanding and most of all your prayers. Each kind word and helpful act has served to alleviate our sorrow. The ripples that spread from such an act have effects beyond us that we may never know.

From: Bonnie Mueller—I would like to thank my two Pastors, Pastor Koppel and Pastor Tietz for their many phone calls before and after my 2 recent surgeries. It helped a lot and I appreciate all my church family and friends for their cards and phone calls.

From: The Family of Edwin Felfe (Bonnie & Ronnie Mueller & Ronnie Jr.)— We wish to thank Pastor Koppel and Pastor Tietz for their many visits to our dad while he was in the hospital before his sudden passing, and their phone calls to us. Dad would remember and say “Bonnie your Pastors came to see me today and we had great prayers and visits”. Thanks to all our friends at Palm Valley for the outpouring of cards, memorials and phone calls. It has helped ease the pain. It helps to know Dad is now in heaven with Mom.

Special Thanks to these Helpers with the January Echoes

Johnnie Pecht	Marion Fowler
Ann Grimes	Jean Kammer
Emily Fehlis	Sheila Smith
Sarah Williams	Betty Hanson

Voting Process January 31st 2010

In years past the monitoring of voting privilege at Palm Valley has been somewhat relaxed with regard to confirming ones eligibility to cast a vote. Due to the critical nature of the issues facing our congregation at our January 31st 2010 annual meeting, guidelines will be monitored and adhered to. Decisions related to the ELCA resolutions passed in August, could result in a vote as to whether or not to leave the ELCA, thus the critical nature of the vote.

Per our constitution, “a member must be an active member that has been (a) confirmed, as well as have (b) communed (recorded) and (c) have a contribution of record “during the year of 2009 up to the Sunday before the annual meeting in this case January 24th”. This will enable us to post that contribution and allow us time to print out our official list of “eligible” voters. Again, loose cash in the plate will not constitute an eligible voter; it must be identifiable with either a check or cash in an envelope with your name written on it.

On the Sunday of our meeting (January 31st), you will be asked to clear the sanctuary following the 11:15 service, and go to the narthex where you will see tables set up with several people to assist you, much as you would experience in a state or national election.

There you will be asked to sign your name next to your printed name on the official list of voters, and at that time you will be handed ballots for the meeting. There are issues of grave concern to be decided and only “eligible voters” will be provided with ballots.

If you wish to confirm that your name will be on that list and that you are an eligible voter prior to that meeting, you may contact Mollie DeVries at the church office (8-5 M-F) prior to the 24th of January.

Please remember that in Texas, individuals under the age of 18 are not able to deal with property issues, thus they would be unable to cast a vote.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.



Lent: And when you fast...your Father who sees in secret will reward you." Matthew 5:16-18

February Youth Calendar

Every Sunday	Adult/Sr. High Volleyball	4:00-6:00 pm
Feb 3	Youth Bible Study	6:00-8:00 pm
Feb 3	JAM	6:00-7:15 pm
Feb 10	Youth Bible Study	6:00-8:00 pm
Feb 10	JAM	6:00-7:15 pm
Feb 17	Youth Bible Study	6:00-8:00 pm
Feb 17	No JAM	6:00-7:15 pm
Feb 24	Youth Bible Study	6:00-8:00 pm
Feb 24	No JAM	6:00-7:15 pm

Acolyte & Crucifer schedule for February

	8:00	9:00	11:15
Feb 7	Ac: Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Feb 14	Ac: Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	Cr.: Volunteer Needed		Volunteer Needed
Feb 21	Ac: Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Feb 28	Ac: Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	Cr. Volunteer Needed		Volunteer Needed

Wednesday Night Café and Bible Study 6-12th Grade

Youth Group on Ash Wednesday (Feb 17) will be joining the rest of the congregation in the Sanctuary for the Ash Wednesday service. Throughout the remaining Wednesdays of Lent the youth café will be closed and the youth will be eating with the rest of the congregation in the Parish Hall. At 7pm the youth will go into the CLC and continue to have their Bible study as well as small groups and games. Thus, if you were wondering if there is going to youth group during Lent the answer is "yes".

Youth Service Project

On Saturday February 27 the youth are going to be giving back to Round Rock by serving in the Round Rock Serving Center. The youth be meeting at the church at 9am and will return at 1pm. This is a great to get out into our community and help make it better so get your teenager out of bed and up to the church to serve!

JAM

During Lent, JAM will not be meeting. However, after Lent is over be prepared to JAM once again.

Letter from Les

During the weekend of January 8-10th thirty students participated in the Disciple Now Weekend. Students stayed in host homes throughout the Round Rock area and were led in Bible studies by their house leader, a couple worship times and games. The theme of the weekend was "Take it Up." Take it up simply means to be obedient to whatever Jesus is telling or calling you to do. For Jesus, he had to go the cross for that is what he was called to do. During our Saturday night worship time the students were challenged to think about what Jesus was calling them to do right now. If the students heard from Jesus some specific thing they were to do, and their answer was 'yes', they were to write it down and staple it to the cross as a way of telling everybody that they were going to 'take it up'. Students wrote down such things like 'forgiveness' or 'getting rid of jealousy and hatred' or 'inviting their friends to church' or 'praying for their family' and on and on the list can go. The weekend in itself was a powerful weekend but our Saturday night worship time was powerful. To quote a 6th grade girl she said, "It was like God was there." The Holy Spirit was definitely present and is present in the life of the youth ministry. There are now students in various schools who have said they will "Take it Up" and so lets follow them as they follow Christ.

Church Camp

Registration for summer church camp is now open. To register a student, grab a form off of the youth bulletin board and turn it into Les Williams along with \$85. The deadline to register for camp is Sunday February 21st. Below are the dates for camp

- 1st-3rd Grade: July 18-21
- 4th-8th Grade: June 13-18
- 9th-12th Grade: June 27-July 2

4th Grader Learns Ten Commandments

Congratulations to Jackson Snow, a 4th Grader who has learned the Ten Commandments by heart. His teacher is Chris Orton. May God bless him as he strives to follow these commandments.
