

# ECHOES

September 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*



## Notes From Pastor Dave

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift." Matthew 5:23-24

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8-9

Dear Friends,

I was recently driving across the South when I began to notice billboards for attorneys. Some were "run-of-the-mill" ads, some were advertising class-action lawsuits for any number of illnesses, and some were interesting. One said, "We sue lawyers!" I couldn't help but think that that particular attorney probably didn't have many friends who were attorneys.

Then there were ones with phone numbers that spelled out words. One divorce attorney's phone number spelled out "Freedom." But the one that really got me was a defense lawyer's number that spelled out, "Wasn't Me!" I actually laughed out loud when I drove past that one!

But then I got thinking – isn't that part of the problem? I remember working with little kids when one of them did something that wasn't helpful, and when I asked him about it, he said, "It wasn't me!"

We learn at an early age to shift the blame to someone else, anyone else. Sometimes it works. So we try it again...

As we become teens and adults, we find ourselves saying the same thing. For some of us, it seems to be an involuntary reaction. Bart Simpson says, "It wasn't my fault. It wasn't me. You can't prove it!"

And so we go through life, sometimes getting away with things, sometimes not, but not taking responsibility and not getting the one thing that we desperately need: Forgiveness.

## 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](http://www.palmvalleylutheranchurch.org)

Rev. Dr. David P. Koppel, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Joaquin Figueroa, Hispanic Ministry  
Rev. David Tietz, Visitation Minister  
Mollie DeVries, Executive Administrator  
Teri Hunt, Interim Director of Youth

If you don't confess, if you don't own up to a mistake or an out-and-out wrong, you can't ask for forgiveness, because asking for forgiveness comes with admitting that we have done something wrong and need to be forgiven. And forgiveness doesn't come without asking for it.

This messes up our relationships on a couple of counts. First, if you've wronged someone and don't admit it, it can become a "pebble in your shoe." It just constantly hurts and makes a sore spot. It is a sore spot for both people.

Second, neither of you will get the forgiveness and fresh start that you need—and we all need that as individuals and as people in relationships.

Sometimes we are afraid to admit that we've hurt somebody else. We think it will make us look weak or bad or not in control, to the other person, and also to ourselves. As Dr. Phil says, "How's that working for you?"

As humans, we all make mistakes, errors in judgment, and sins. And we all need to be forgiven. The cost is this: we have to be honest, admit our sin, and ask for forgiveness. The payoff is incredible: renewed relationships and fresh starts.

Sometimes we don't want to ask God for forgiveness. We think that He will be angry when he learns what we have done, or we think that He will think less of us. Here's the part we forget: God already knows all that we've done. And He loves us no matter what. He wants us to come to Him, to admit what we've done, ask for forgiveness, and to get help in making a new start. That's exactly what He wants, and that's exactly what He gives us.

That's not to say that there aren't sometimes earthly consequences for our sins. That's part of life, too. But God offers us forgiveness of sins, new life, and a new beginning. And no matter what we've done, He has already prepared a place for us in heaven with Him. Go to Him today. Get it off your chest. Ask for help and a new start. And you will get it.

In His forgiving grip,

*Pastor*



Church Operating Budget:	
January - July 2010 Income	\$ 436,328 (94.65% Projected Income)
January - July 2010 Expense	\$ 430,988 (92.20% Projected Expense)
Net	\$ 5,340

## **Boy did we have a great VBS this**

**month!!** What a great experience to see 150 youngsters and volunteers as well, having a great time exploring Egypt.. Our hats are off to Cheree Peterson, Pam Dieterich, Kim Kabala, Leah Murphy, and all the many volunteers who had a part of this great experience for our children. Thank you one and all for your dedication and the great effort put into this VBS experience.

**Do** you really enjoy little people, especially little people under the age of four? We have an opening for a very part-time paid position in child care here at PVLC. If you have an interest in working in this area a few hours a week, please contact me here at the church office. We could really use your help.

**Speaking** of our children, I often wonder if we as parents or grandparents are teaching our children about good stewardship. "Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

**It** is never too early to teach principles of good stewardship. As a rule, children who are old enough to receive an allowance, no matter how small the amount, are old enough to understand stewardship.

**Start** early. Good stewardship, taught and witnessed early will be used and understood throughout their life.

**Discuss** the importance of "giving" with your child. Giving is often viewed as an option rather than our Christian responsibility. Talk to your child about why the church needs money, i.e. Sunday School materials, Bibles, pastors, A/C, etc. In doing so, they will gain a sense of participation and importance in the church.

**Encourage** participation. There are numerous ways children can be of service. They could be an acolyte, a crucifer, a Sunday School helper, get involved in the youth group projects, or help serve at the men's banquet.

**Teach** commitment. Sometimes commitment and sacrifice go hand in hand. We may, occasionally, need to remind our children of the importance of faithfulness. It may be tempting to stay up late on Friday, but difficult to attend an early Saturday commitment. Or that could be a late Saturday night and early Sunday morning church. A candy bar or bubble gum may look inviting to buy, but will you use money designated for Sunday School to purchase it?

**Set** a good example. The best way to raise responsible stewards is to be one. What do our children see? Do we practice what we encourage them to do? Or do they witness reluctance and sporadic habits in our giving and participating? Remember children are great imitators and do not always sift good behavior from bad. Let's be good examples to them.

**Our** Welcome Center is still in need of volunteers to be present at the center before and after the three worship services. We want to make sure we have greeters there to share information about our church and its programs with visitors to our church. If you would be willing to serve in this manner, please contact me or Cheree Peterson. We would be happy to discuss the details with you.

**Summer** is almost over and I am so grateful we have not had a month of 100+ temperatures as we did last year, but any is plenty. Children heading back to school means fall is just around the corner. I hope you have had a great summer with your family and have been able to get away for a period for recreation before having to settle into the school year schedules.

En agape,

*Mollie*

Mollie DeVries, C.C.A.  
Executive Administrator

Church Council Report

Summary of action taken at the called meeting of the Palm Valley Lutheran Church Council on Wednesday, August 18, 2010.

- No new business.
- The Executive Committee purchased a gas grill for the pergola behind the CLC.

***PVLC Endowment Fund  
in Action***

Did you know that our Endowment Fund provides assistance to many worthy organizations both in the Round Rock area and beyond, helping to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the world, in addition to funding special projects for PVLC? In the first seven months of 2010, grants have been distributed to fund the following:

- Haiti Emergency funding - \$3,000
- Mission to the World - \$10,000
- Spirit of the Hills Mission - \$25,000
- TLU scholarships - \$2,078
- SW Texas Synod Sustentation Fund - \$20,000
- Proud Dragon Parents-Project Graduation - \$500
- Stony Point - Project Graduation - \$500
- Hutto - Project Graduation - \$500
- Westwood - Project Graduation - \$500
- McNeil - Project Graduation - \$500
- Granger - Project Graduation - \$500
- Hendrickson - Project Graduation - \$500
- Assisted 22 local families in need - \$1,800
- Stephen Ministry Training (1) - \$1,600
- PVLC Council Retreat 2010 - \$5,540
- PVLC Youth High School scholarships - \$7,500
- PVLC Youth Camp Scholarships - \$775

The guidelines of the Endowment gift restrict these funds from being used to fund "operations" of the church.

These are your Endowment Fund dollars at work, reaching out and touching lives in the name of Christ. We are blessed to have these funds to use in this manner.

***Women's News  
September Calendar***

- Tuesday, weekly 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Quilters
- Wed., Sept. 8 12:00 p.m. Prayer Group
- Thurs., Sept. 16 2:00 p.m. Rebecca Circle
- Friday, Sept. 17 6:30 p.m. Adults' Night Out
- Sat., Sept. 18 4:00 p.m. Circulo de Mujeres  
Marta
- Mon., Sept. 20 6:15 p.m. Sing-Along @ TCC
- Tues., Sept. 21 10:00 a.m. Esther Circle
- Thurs., Sept. 23 3:00 p.m. Cluster
- Mon., Sept. 27 6:30 p.m. Sassy Seniors

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***Reminder to the Esther Circle!***

Ladies, please remember to bring breakfast bars/cereal/granola bars to our September meeting (Sept. 21) for the homeless teens at Round Rock High School.

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***Sassy Seniors***

Sassy Seniors has the following schedule for the 4th Monday of the following months subject to changes as needed:

- September - Mimi's
- October - Saltgrass
- November - Olive Garden
- No Meeting in December
- January—Hunan Lion

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**140 Years and Growing**

Be watching for more information on the 140th Anniversary Celebration of Palm Valley Lutheran Church—coming soon!

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**Greeters Needed**

We are still looking for a few more people to volunteer to be greeters on Sunday mornings, especially at the 11:15 service. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.



## Christian Education News

**Sunday School** - Fall is here and brings along a lot of fun for our new Sunday School year! Children and youth will advance to their next grade level on Sunday, September 5, and we will begin the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final year of our Faithweaver Sunday School curriculum. We have a great group of teachers—some returning and some new. We welcome you and thank you for your service! Also, a special thank you to all of our summer Sunday School teachers! We will continue to meet for the opening in the Parish Hall at 10 a.m. and then children will be dismissed to their classes. Below is a list of the fall Sunday School teachers. If you are interested in serving as a co-teacher or a substitute for this Sunday School year, please contact Kim Kubala.

- 2's – Christina Johansson
- 3's – Beth Schroeder
- 4's – Peter Curran
- Kindergarten – Christina Rendon
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Susan Mathias
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Leah Murphy & Elizabeth Osborn
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Lori Brill & Pam Boerst
- 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> – Chris Orton & Terry Skinner
- 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> – Todd Brill
- 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> – Ken Anderson/Teri Hunt

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**Youth Praise Team** – We are starting a Youth Praise Team that will sing occasionally at church services. If you are in 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade and enjoy singing, please contact [PamDieterich@earthlink.net](mailto:PamDieterich@earthlink.net) to find out more.

**Sunday School Social—Sunday, Sept. 12—** We invite all to gather together in the grove immediately following the Sunday School hour for fun and fellowship. Pick up or bring your family a lunch and a cold drink and join the fun. We meet for a monthly social on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, so mark your calendar. Adults can visit while the kids play in the beautiful shady grove. If weather is a factor we will meet in the CLC. All are welcome – if you go to the late service – come after church, we are still around!

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**Adult Faithweaver** – The adult Faithweaver class will be taking a 6-week break from our current curriculum to offer the **Purpose Driven Life** class during the Sunday School hour starting Sunday, September 12. Please sign up for this or another Purpose Driven Life small group in the narthex or contact Lisa Napolitano or Susan Thompson for more information. We will continue to meet in Room 7/8 at the end of the hall in the Centennial Wing after the opening and the Faithweaver curriculum will be resumed on Sunday, October 24. Join us!

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**C**oming this Fall: Wednesday nights will be “**faith nights**.” We will offer Christian educational opportunities for all members and visitors.

Nursery:	Under 3
JAM:	Preschool—5th grade
Youth:	6th—12th grades

For adults:

- Adults will meet in small groups on different days and in different locations during the week to discuss **The Purpose Driven Life**, but there will be a group meeting on Wednesday evenings (Sept. 15—Oct. 20).
- **The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Mate** (Oct. 27—Dec. 15; no class on Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving).
- **Daniel: Lives of Integrity, Words of Prophecy** (a Beth Moore Bible Study—in 2 parts; Oct. 27—Dec. 15; no class on Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving).



## September: Recovery month

### Ministry

Statistics show that more than 25 million Americans were classified with substance dependence or abuse in the past year, and millions more live in households with people who abuse or have been dependent on alcohol or other drugs. As many as 74% of Americans say addiction to alcohol has had some impact on them at some point in their lives, whether it was their own personal addiction, or a friend or family member. Talking specifically about marijuana consumption, *Time Magazine* says that “42 is the percentage of people in the US who have tried marijuana—the highest of any country surveyed in a new study.”

In the face of these daunting numbers, which are really more than just numbers, it is time to give thanks to God because in the midst of darkness, positive changes are happening in our communities. Recovery Month, held in September of each year, is just such a time.

Recovery Month efforts are an initiative of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment.

Since 1990, towns, counties, and states across the United States have observed National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery month (Recovery Month) in September.

Our Governor, Rick Perry, proclaiming September 2010 as “Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month” has said, “While medical science has made great strides in learning about the nature of addiction and how best to treat it, it remains an important societal issue upon which our attention should remain focused.”

This year, the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Recovery Month recognizes the contributions of those working in prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery support services and promotes the good news that recovery from alcohol and drug addiction is possible. Thanks be given to God! This year also highlights the people for whom treatment and long-term recovery have given hope and a renewed outlook on life.

As part of September’s emphasis, NAADAC (Association for Addiction Professionals) is taking part in the theme “Join the Voices for Recovery: Real people, Real Recovery,” to spread the word that addiction is a medical illness, that treatment is effective and recovery is at hand and

by getting involved, we can help more people on a path of recovery to get a more fulfilling life.

Each of us knows someone with a substance use disorder, whether they are family members, friends, colleagues, or neighbors. Those of us that have struggled with these challenges have very compelling stories to tell and can have a powerful impact on helping others to seek treatment.

To find out more about Recovery month events or to learn about the nature of the addiction disease, please visit [www.naadac.org](http://www.naadac.org). If you have a great idea but don’t know where to start, go to [www.recoverymonth.gov](http://www.recoverymonth.gov) that provides with invaluable ideas and resources, including a Recovery Month Toolkit that can assist you in planning, launching and publicizing Recovery Month activities and events.

It is not a secret that as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, I myself have been in recovery for almost 37 years and that in order to know more about this disease and help others, I have gotten my license in the State of Texas as a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC.)

Also, to be in better position to help people, long ago I renounced my “anonymity,” so I can freely tell my story. Hence, if you are reading this article and either you want to get more information from the “experts” about what alcoholism means or you are already in recovery, I invite you to celebrate “September: Recovery Month” in our Church, just by meeting one time to share our stories and celebrate sobriety. If you want to keep this meeting anonymous and confidential, it is okay with me, just give me a call (Church phone 255-3322) or email me ([jfigueroa@palmvalleylutheranchurch.org](mailto:jfigueroa@palmvalleylutheranchurch.org)), suggest a date and let’ see where God leads us from there. Maybe....maybe He would like us to start an AA chapter in our Church. Who knows?

### **Helpful Numbers:**

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous	(512) 444-0071
NA Neurotic Anonymous	(800) 747-8972
OA Overeaters Anonymous	(512) 327-2802
GA Gamblers Anonymous	(888) 424-3577
Cocaine Anonymous	(512) 339-4357
Debtors Anonymous	(281) 470-8868
SA Shoplifters Anonymous	(713) 840 1833

# Thank You

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Trinity Care Center birthday party on Thursday, August 5th. It was wonderful seeing the smiles on the residents' faces when they joined our joyful singing and celebrated with gifts of cakes, cookies, toast, and punch. Your continued support at this event is greatly appreciated.

Ina Woodbury

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Thank you to all our friends at Palm Valley for all your prayers and cards following Alice's recent fall and hospitalization. Special thanks to Pastor Koppel and Pastor Tietz for their prayers and visits.

Alice Rue and family

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I would like to thank everyone who has given so generously to me and my family. Thank each and every one of you for all of the baby shower gifts and christening gifts for Kara. Since I cannot get it together enough to thank everyone individually, I do apologize. However, I do not want you to think I am not grateful, because I am very grateful for the gift of generosity each and every one of you have shared in abundance.

I thank God every day I am blessed to have all of you in my life. May God bless you and your families with as much abundance and generosity each of you give so freely. Thank you from my whole heart.

In Gods loving hands,  
Ruth, Heath, Kara, and Baylor Snow

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Thank you to the pastors for their visits and to all for their prayers, cards, and visits during my recent hospitalization and stay at Trinity Care Center. I am blessed to be a part of such a loving church family and am thankful to be back at home.

Doris Wallin

My sincere thanks for all the cards and phone calls during my recent illness. Special thanks to Pastor Koppel and Pastor Tietz for their visits and prayers.

Dorothy Burk

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On behalf of the hundreds of families we help each year from across Texas and around the world, we are grateful for your donations of pull tabs. Each tab helps make our house a home away from home for families with hospitalized children.

With sincere thanks,  
Lela Barker  
Ronald McDonald House Volunteer

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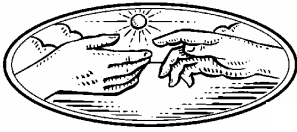
Palm Valley Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the scholarship. It will provide a great deal of help with college expenses and I appreciate it very much.

Sincerely,  
Katrina Koppel

**Special Thanks to these Helpers  
with the August Echoes:**  
*Johnnie Pecht                      Ann Grimes*  
*Jean Kammer*

**Next Echoes Deadline:  
Monday, September 20, 2010**



## Social Ministry

### Chara's Chain, A Ministry for Families of Newborns

The Social Ministry Committee has a very special ministry for new parents called Chara's Chain. If you are not familiar with Chara's Chain, let's take a minute to fill in the question marks.

This ministry provides a meal, a small stuffed animal, and a baby quilt to Palm Valley families with new babies up to three months of age. For babies over three months, they are presented with the quilt and a stuffed animal. For nonmembers of the church who have babies baptized at PV, we provide a small gift bag with a book. Information is also provided on the Faith Weavers Sunday school class for parents of young children.

This ministry is named for a member of our church, Chara Dufner, who passed away while expecting her second child. She had suggested this as a ministry, as she had experienced this loving care from a previous congregation. Sadly, she and her unborn child were taken to their heavenly reward shortly after she spoke of this ministry.

The quilts are provided by our Tuesday afternoon quilters and the books, stuffed animals, and meal are provided by the committee.

Our ministry depends on the new parents notifying the church who will then, in turn, notify the committee of the new baby. We welcome all church members to join us in this service of love and joy. If you would like to participate, please contact Jill Lampi at (512) 218-1664 for more information.

## FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT October 15-17, 2010



Ladies, how often do you have time to sit and be still and reflect on your spiritual life? This is what our Women's Retreats are all about. The retreats give us time to enjoy nature, visit with friends, make new friends, discuss our faith, and, of course, have a great time getting to know each other better.

Come join your sisters in Christ at the Wallin Ranch located west of Burnet, Texas, for a week-end of spiritual growth and fun. We have small/whole group discussions, worship, game time, mealtime, and even a little alone time to reflect on our sisterhood. Our overall mission is to bring spiritual sisters together with a few surprises thrown in.

The price for the full weekend is \$30, the price for Friday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday is \$20 and the price for Saturday is only \$10. We will meet at the ranch on Friday night for dinner. After Oct. 10, you will receive a packing list with directions and other items.

### **REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Sunday, Oct. 10.**

Take a moment, fill out the registration form (available on the poster board by the Palm Room or ask Joy Kovar or Peggy Felfe), and come join your sisters.

If you have any questions, ask any of the ladies who have attended one of our Women's Retreats. They'll be happy to talk about it!

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## MENS' BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars for the Men's Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 11.

Contact Russ Peterson or Brett Dieterich for more information.

## September Youth Calendar

Every Sunday: Adult/Sr.High Volleyball 4-6pm  
Every Wed.: Youth Group/Bible Study 6-8pm

### Upcoming Events

Oct. 7 Make a Difference Tour  
Oct. 22-24 Camping trip (tentative)



Once again we had a great time in Youth Group in August! The highlights were our messages from Paul Vacula, Vicki Rowald, Denise Blomquist, and Delaney Rowald. Thank you Paul, Vicki, Denise and Delaney for the inspiring messages you shared with us! Thank you students, parents, and volunteers for all the support you provide to our Youth program!

We had so many of our young people involved in this year's VBS program. I was blessed to be able to be a Family Leader. I got to see our Youth in action with the little ones and was so impressed with them! We have amazing Youth at PVLC!

Upcoming events include:

High School students will be having Sunday School again this fall. I know we didn't have it last year, but we've got a particularly amazing program set up for this year and I invite all of the 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders to attend Mr. Ken Anderson's High School Sunday School class this fall. Once Mr. A has completed the first 6 weeks of class, I will continue on with yet another program that I think you will all enjoy! I can't wait!

Further out, October 7 is the date for the Make a Difference Tour in Austin. We will need drivers for the students who have purchased tickets. I still have a few available. The price per ticket is \$22.50. I've provided the link below for those who would like to more information about the concert.

<http://www.makeadifferencetour.com/>

A Youth camping trip is tentatively planned for the weekend of October 22– 24. Watch the bulletins for announcements.

We are also planning on taking the Youth bowling on a weekend at some point, maybe more than once. We haven't firmed up dates for this yet, so please, again, watch the bulletins for announcements.

Please stop by and join us on any Wednesday night. We would love to have you see our Youth in action. They are an amazing group of young people and they can benefit from good adult Christian role models through fellowship and a good game of basketball (or whatever other activity we have going on Wednesday night)! Hope to see you there!

Your Sister in Christ,

Teri Hunt  
Interim Youth Director

**JAM** – Jesus & Me is back! We will start meeting again every Wednesday night starting September 8 from 6:00-7:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The JAM program has been expanded to now include Preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> graders. We welcome our new Preschool Leader, Carrie Jackson! Leah Murphy will be leading our K-2<sup>nd</sup> graders and we are looking for a leader for our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders. If you are interested in helping out on Wednesday nights, please contact Cheree Peterson or Leah Murphy. We will all meet together for a combined opening and then break off into age appropriate activities. Also new this year, if you would like to bring a sack supper between 5 & 5:30 to have before JAM, meet us in the Parish Hall kitchen. The nursery is available for children under 3. We will be providing various Adult Education opportunities, starting with the Purpose Driven Life, so bring the whole family. We look forward to seeing you soon!