



Justin United Methodist Church Newsletter

April 2007

What Would Happen If You Came To Church?

By Pastor Buster

When I was little my sister walked me to a small Baptist church in Farmers Branch. I stopped going when I was eight or nine because my sister stopped going.

When I got my own apartment I liked getting up late, having a leisurely breakfast, and looking at the Sunday paper. Sundays were the day of the week to recharge my batteries. But as the years went by, I began to wonder if this was all there was to life? I didn't have any kind of foundation or grounding to my life that everything else was built on.

I wondered what would happen if I went to church? I got all kinds of thoughts about it. I thought people would see me and say, "What are you doing here?" I thought if I went I'd look stupid because I wouldn't know what to do. I especially thought if I went to church then I'd be told what I had to think and I'd lose the freedom I had to believe what made sense to me.

It took me a while to get up the courage to decide to go to church. Once I got up the courage, I had to pick a church to go to and on top of that, I had to get

up early and take a shower and put on a suit.

Once I got there I looked around wondering where to sit. I wanted to be close to the back so I could make a quick escape if things got too weird. Sure enough, everybody started standing up and sitting down and repeating things—and I didn't know what to do.

But people were nice to me even though it was obvious (to me at least) that I was new. The preacher didn't stand up there and yell—he just talked

See *Church* on page 2

Inside this issue:

Joy Circle	2
April Birthdays	3
Music	3,4
Youth Calendar	4
Holy Week Schedule	5
Quiet Time with God	6
Bible as Prairie Companion	6

Efficient Living

Contributed by Jerry Fisher

Our lives are constantly shifting in a changing world. As a result, I feel that I am continually struggling with time constraints that stress me out! I want to be a good employee, a good husband, a good father, a

good son, a good son-in-law, a good grandfather, a good project manager, a good teacher, a good steward of the community and my own spirit. Sometimes, with all these roles, there is not enough of "good me" to go

around. Besides all that I need a little "me" time to go for walks, stargaze, garden, collect, read, create, sleep or just plain old spiritual renewal. I am blessed to have family, team mates

See *living* on page 2

Joy Circle News

Contributed by Jean Ann Chambers

The Joy Circle isn't all fuddie-duddies; we have some fun also. We are having fun now with the Secret Sisters exchanges. Ladies who want to participate have drawn Secret Sisters' names. We send or bring to church little reminders of our friendship for our

"sister". It might be a card or a gift or just something fun. In the summer, we go for a lighter touch with dinner and a movie night, one outing each month through the summer. We also have a lot of laughs during our meetings sharing life's

ups and downs. We get great satisfaction sharing prayer requests. It is a wonderful gift to find someone who has walked the same road before you or at least understands what life can throw at you sometimes. Most of us have had "kid" or parent

problems or health concerns, and it is so sweet to feel a sympathetic touch. If you would like to feel part of a friendly, considerate group, please come to the next meeting. We will meet April 10 at the home of Judy Lopez.

Church Continued from page 1

about life. It felt good, so I went back. I began to learn about God, about myself, and about how we're supposed to treat each other. I began to get a sense of some roots to my life, a foundation I could build on.

What would happen if you came to Justin United Methodist Church? Well, for one thing, our church is open to anyone. You'll find an acceptance that feels good. We're friendly and welcoming so you'll feel comfortable even if you don't know what to do. You don't have to put on a suit. We sing hymns from the hymnal, and I give a short message that hopefully will help you in your life for the week ahead.

I'm not going to tell you what you have to think—we can agree to disagree. But I do have

some things that are important to me, and I'll let you know what those are. As a church family we basically have the same beliefs as other churches, but my emphasis is more on how to live like God wants us to.

I want to invite you to visit our church on Sundays at 9:30 AM. We'd be honored for you to stay for a little while and join us for coffee, milk, juice, and donuts. Our Sunday school is at 10:45AM.

I know what it's like to live without a church family. I lived that way for twenty-five years. Now I know what it's like to be part of a church family, and I've got to tell you—it feels so good. If belonging to a loving, caring, fun church family sounds good to you, come check us out. We'd love to have you!

Buster



Dick Chase cleans the metal pedestal for the bell in front of the church. The cleaning and painting of the bell was some of the work completed on the Workday March 17.

A note from the choir director

A Happy & Joyous Easter to all!! Thanks to Brandon Tyler for assisting with special music during March and Judy Lopez for her solo in the Easter Cantata. Paulette Layfield also gives so much when she plays piano during the worship services. We have such wonderful talent in our choir. Plans are underway for revamping the choir loft. We have been in need of new seating for some time now, so a change will be most wel-

come. Please pray for and encourage all who are carefully considering the best way to utilize that area of the church.

With Lent behind us we have exciting anthems ahead of us...one will include some of our Youth!! I'll keep you posted.

Until then...keep a song in your heart!

Lynn Richardson
Chancel Choir Director

Prayer Vigil Begins After Good Friday Service

Contributed by D'Arle Tyler

If you haven't done so already, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall to participate in our Prayer Vigil. The 24-hour vigil will begin at 8 p.m. immediately following the Good Friday service and will go until 8 p.m. Saturday.

Participants in the vigil may pray from anywhere, but the sanctuary will be open also.

One new detail this year – each participant will call the next on the list (unless you choose not to be called.) This call serves as a reminder that each person is a link in the chain.

The prayer times are in half-hour increments. Please sign up for as many as you'd like!

living continued from page 1 and friends that help me when I stumble or fall behind.

One of the books I have been reading is "The Personal Effi-

ciency Program" by Kerry Gleeson. From this book I have changed how I manage my computer file folders, my emails, my home files, and my

stuff. I am still reading and still working on managing my time and space and it seems to be helping. If you feel pressed for time and do not have time to read books like this, may I

suggest you take a few minutes to read the online article at <http://www.article-emporium.ca/Article/Not-Enough-Time-in-the-Day-/4263>

April Birthdays

2	Tyler Bailey
4	Bill Stockton
4	Laurita Vargas
5	Lindsay Smith
11	Steve Chambers
12	Danny Chambers
16	Trey Bailey
18	Brent Womble
22	Dottie Chase
28	Cindy Clement
30	Ryan Bailey

Deadline for May Newsletter:

Wednesday, April 11

Please submit your news and photos to D'Arle Tyler at darlatyler@earthlink.net or put in the "Newsletter" box in the church office.

Thanks for making our newsletter great!

April Youth Calendar

1 Sun. Youth 4:30-6 p.m.

4 Wed. Youth sponsors dinner (lasagna) 5:45-7 p.m.
Parent/Youth meeting following dinner – Summer Planning!

8 Easter no youth

11 Wed. Tech Lab: Leave from church at 5:45 p.m.;
return at 8 p.m.

15 Sun. Go-carting!! Leave from church after Sunday School.

18 Wed. Youth 7-8 p.m.

22 Sun. Youth 4:30-6 p.m.

29 Sun. Paintball!! Leave from church after Sunday School.

Mark Your Calendar!! Church Camp is June 25th-30th for youth who've completed grades 6-8. See Wally for more info.



BELL NOTES:

The Bell Choir will be performing one last piece on April 29 before breaking for the Summer. Pachalbel's "Canon" is a great favorite of many and is especially beautiful when performed by a bell choir.

We are also planning an outing for May. The Dorothy Shaw Bell Choir is presenting their Spring Concert on Sunday, May 13. This is a Fort Worth based group of young people between the ages of 13 and 20 who perform world-wide! They are a phenomenal group and if you have never seen them, I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. We are assembling a group to carpool together from Justin UMC. Here are the details:

Dorothy Shaw Bell Choir Spring Concert
Sunday, May 13 at 3:00
Howard Walsh Fine Arts Center, Fort Worth

We will leave church after Sunday School, eat lunch (restaurant to be decided) and then arrive for the concert at 2:30. More details are on their website: www.dorothyshawbellchoir.org/springconcert.htm. Everyone is invited. Admission is free but I imagine they will take donations. See me if you would like to go.

Lynn Richardson
Bell Choir Director

Volunteers Donate Time to Storehouse

Contributed by Chris Stockton

Saturday, March 3, seven members of JUMC volunteered to work at the Community Storehouse in Keller. We had a great time and got lots accomplished. We worked a total of 14 hours doing things that would probably have gone undone. We now know to call on Wally if painting is a project in our future. He did a fantastic job painting the office area of the clothing resale shop. Hopefully,

we can get some youth to work with the Mission Team on the next project so they can see more talents from Wally. Thanks so much to those who volunteered.

Melanie Payne has volunteered to be part of the Mission Team. Her career allows her to know and understand the importance of helping people. I am sure she will be able to help move the Mission Team to new levels of doing for others.

Worship News: Holy Week Schedule

Contributed by D'Arila Tyler

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 1 9:30 am
Worship Service

Maundy Thursday,
April 5 7 p.m. Com-
munion Service

Good Friday, April 6
Sanctuary will be open
for prayer beginning at
6 a.m. 7 p.m. Tenebrae
Service Remember to

bring your nails from
Ash Wednesday. We'll
have some extras in
case you forget.

24-Hour Prayer Vigil
8 pm, April 6 – 8 p.m.,
April 7 Sanctuary will
be open.

Easter Sunday, April
8 6:45 am **Sunrise Ser-
vice** on JUMC's future

site (Located on Boss
Range Rd., south of
Justin elementary)
Please bring a chair or
blanket! 8:30 am

Potluck Breakfast in
Fellowship Hall 9:30
am

Easter Worship 10:45
a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt in
Fellowship (no Sunday
School)

Please bring cut flow-

ers Easter morning to
decorate the cross. It
was beautiful last year!

Childcare will be pro-
vided for all services
except Sunrise.

On behalf of the Wor-
ship Team, thank you
to everyone for all your
help in making this
time special and
memorable!

Fellowship Class Begins Book in Series

Contributed by Dinah Murdock

Our class has started
the Spring 2007 Adult
Bible Studies edition.
We will be studying
portions of First John
and Revelation in this
series. The focus is on

'Our community now
and in God's future'.
The Easter lesson's key
verse comes from
Revelation 1:17-18; *He
placed his right hand
on me, saying, "do not*

*be afraid; I am the first
and the last and the liv-
ing one. I was dead,
and see, I am alive for-
ever and ever."*



John and Joyce Hay attending the Fellowship Class. The class is enjoying the new studies of the Bible for adults.

Quiet Time with God

By Alice Russ

It's funny, the responses we give when someone asks us about our prayer life. We, as Christians, may feel defensive because most of us do not pray like we know we should. I can't help but think about Jesus on the night he was arrested. He asked His disciples to watch and pray with Him, at which time, they promptly fell asleep. We don't doubt the love the disciples felt for Jesus, they just

lacked staying power.

Teresa of Avila was a Spanish nun who lived in the 16th century during the Reformation of the church. She wrote a book entitled, *Interior Castles*, about the importance of developing this staying power. She worked within the Catholic Church to inspire a deepening of the spiritual life of a church that had gone way off course. She wrote about the importance of spending time

with God and the benefits it brings to us. She helped me to see that we need to do more than believe in God and have an awareness of His presence. We may give Him our conscious thought in spurts throughout the day. This is a wonderful thing to experience. But in a meaningful relationship, we spend time with the one we love. We honor them with our undivided attention. We talk to

them, and we listen. This quiet time that we set aside gives God the chance to inspire us, to strengthen us, and to guide us. It may feel strange to us at first, to spend time in prayer, if we are not accustomed to it, but Teresa encourages us to continue the practice and God will bless it.

The sanctuary is open on Wednesday's from 6:00 a.m.–6:30 p.m. for those who wish to use it for their special quiet time with God.



Brandon Tyler works on cables for the microphone in the sanctuary during the Workday on March 17. The microphone he worked on can now be used by someone in front of the altar.



Jean Ann Chambers takes trash out during the clean up on March 17.

The Bible as Prairie Companion

Contributed by Janet Noah

Editor's Note: Each month, Janet shares with you some of her observations during her weekday commute to Addison along 407. As she enjoys the scenic views, she finds that many sights trigger thoughts of Scripture.

Now the really weird thing both Buster and I noticed was that there seemed to be a lot of donkeys. Not herds of donkeys, but a donkey in a herd of cattle, or a donkey with horses. In fact, there is one horse on my route that has his very own donkey. Day after day, the horse and donkey are in the same pasture. They eat together, nap together and from time to time, we see them playing together. So what's with the donkeys? We found out. They are the guardians. They guard against coyotes. I guess a coyote doesn't want to deal with a donkey. Donkeys as

guardians immediately made me think of Balaam's donkey in Numbers 22:21-33.

²¹So Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the officials of Moab. ²²God's anger was kindled because he was going, and the angel of the LORD took his stand in the road as his adversary. Now he was riding on the donkey, and his two servants were with him. ²³The donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand; so the donkey turned off the road, and went into the field; and Balaam struck the donkey, to turn it back onto the road. ²⁴Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on either side. ²⁵When the don-

key saw the angel of the LORD, it scraped against the wall, and scraped Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck it again. ²⁶Then the angel of the LORD went ahead, and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left. ²⁷When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, it lay down under Balaam; and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff. ²⁸Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and it said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" ²⁹Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a fool of me! I wish I had a sword in my hand! I would kill you right now!" ³⁰But the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your

donkey, which you have ridden all your life to this day? Have I been in the habit of treating you this way?" And he said, "No."

³¹Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road, with his drawn sword in his hand; and he bowed down, falling on his face.

³²The angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? I have come out as an adversary, because your way is perverse before me. ³³The donkey saw me, and turned away from me these three times. If it had not turned away from me, surely just now I would have killed you and let it live."

Balaam's donkey was his guardian against God's angel.

At some point soon there will be a survey about the newsletter. We would like to know what you think about the newsletter as it and where you see it in the future. Please take the time to fill the survey when you see it. If you already have thoughts, please let either Doug Logan or D'Arle Tyler know.

Justin United Methodist Church
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Justin, TX 76247

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Pastor Buster Noah
Youth Director Mike "Wally" Waldrop
Secretary Denise Logan
Lay Leader Joe Lopez
Music leader Lynn Richardson

Sunday service:
Worship 9:30



Justin United Methodist Church

Weekly Events

Sun. 8 a.m. Men's Sunday School Class
8 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
4:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship
Mon. 7 p.m. Boy Scouts
Wed. all day Prayer in the Sanctuary
9 a.m. Women's Bible Study
6:15 p.m. Fellowship Dinner
7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous Meeting
7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thurs. 6:30 p.m. Disciple III Bible Study
7 p.m. Thursday Night Bible Study

April Events

Sun. 4/1 9:30 a.m. Palm/Passion Sunday Worship
7 p.m. Staff Parish Relations Committee
Mtg.
Mon. 4/2 7 p.m. Trustees Meeting
Thurs. 4/5 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service
Fri. 4/6 7 p.m. Good Friday Service
8 p.m. Prayer Vigil begins
Sat. 4/7 8 p.m. Prayer Vigil ends
Sun. 4/8 6:45 am Easter Sunrise Service
8:30 am Potluck Breakfast
9:30 am Easter Worship
10:45 am Easter Egg Hunt & Fellowship
Tues 4/10 7 pm Joy Circle Women's Group
Sun. 4/15 6 pm Church Council
Sat. 4/21 8 am Men's Breakfast
Sun. 4/22 6 pm Worship Team Meeting

See Youth Calendar inside
