



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

CALLED . . .

EMPOWERED . . .

SENT . . .

“Called through the Gospel to be a nurturing, dynamic community, celebrating God’s presence in our lives, and sharing with all God’s abundant grace in Jesus Christ”

MARCH 3, 2010
VOLUME 35, No. 5

HOLY WEEK AT SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY MARCH 28, 8:30 & 11:00 AM



We remember Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem as we gather on the patio for the beginning of our worship and then enter the sanctuary with a *procession of palms*. As the service continues, we then move into the story of Jesus’ Passion.



MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 1, 7:00 PM

We remember Jesus’ Last Supper as we celebrate *First Communion* for our 3rd grade youth. At the conclusion of this service we will “*Strip the Altar*” to prepare for the *Prayer Vigil* which lasts until 7:00 pm on Good Friday.



GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 2, 7:00 PM

We remember Jesus’ death with a *Service of Darkness*.

WHEN YOU COME TO WORSHIP . . .

MORNING WORSHIP - 8:30 & 11:00
YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:45 AM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:00 AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 7 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

The Celebration of Holy Communion.
The lessons today are: *Isaiah 55:1-9;*
Psalms 63; and *Luke 13:1-9.*

MARCH 10 LENTEN MIDWEEK COMMUNION

7:00 pm

“*into Compassion*”

Matthew 14:13-21

Mark Dellagiacoma, preaching

SUNDAY, MARCH 14 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

The lessons are: *Joshua 5:9-12;*
Psalms 32; *2 Corinthians 5:16-21;*
and *Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.*

MARCH 17 LENTEN MIDWEEK COMMUNION

7:00 pm

“*into Criticism*”

Matthew 9:1-8

Dr. Steve Larson, preaching

SPIRIT IN THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 9:30 AM

BRIARCLIFF COMMUNITY CENTER
ON PACE BEND ROAD

[www.spiritinthehills.org]

This year’s **offering** has been designated for the ELCA’s ‘Stand with Africa’, Caritas (an Austin social service agency), and Lutheran World Relief.

FROM MY POINT OF VIEW . . .

*The following Point of View was written by
Pastor Merle G. Franke.*

Lent . . . A Journey Of Healing

The season of Lent has a history that reaches back to near the beginnings of the Christian Church. Its customs and practices have varied widely in the various denominations of the Christian family. In recent times there has been some decline in the observance of Lent. In fact, from time to time in my ministry I have heard occasional mild complaints about the season. "Why do we have to go through this season again?" Or, "Lent belongs to another age." But when considered in the proper intent, Lent belongs to every age, every time.

Such questions and comments are missing the point of a very important time in the Church Year - and in our spiritual growth. One of the positive factors in the Lenten season is that it can be a journey of healing. What does healing have to do with Lent? Well, the fact is, it fits exactly with the theme and substance of the season. Many congregations offer healing services as a part of their Ash Wednesday worship. The Lenten journey of healing places special emphasis on spiritual healing.

These words from Psalm 51 are familiar to most of us as Lent begins, "*The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit.*" (Ps 51:17) And the broken spirit needs healing. "*A broken and contrite heart you will not despise,*" the Psalm continues. How often do we give serious consideration to the brokenness in our lives? A broken relationship, a broken promise, a failure of good intentions. A conflict that has not been resolved. The psalmist reminds us of our brokenness and frailty as humans. To acknowledge and confess our condition before God is an essential part of our relationship to God. Yes, Lent is for this age. We are still broken and frail. We are still in need of that spiritual healing, perhaps more than physical healing. In every age, in every time.

In Lent there is a special emphasis on deliberate introspection, of deliberate pausing to examine where we are in our faith journey. Once again that faith journey must examine what things or attitudes are getting in the way of our relationship with God. What are the most important values which govern and direct our actions? It is that kind of deliberation that reveals our need for healing.

We are in mid-season in our Lenten journey with our theme: "*In Jesus' Footsteps.*" In our private devotions and in our worship together we are invited to reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross. May Lenten reflections and deliberations become a journey of healing for all of us.

EASTER LILIES

We have pre-ordered **Easter Lilies** to decorate the chancel on Easter morning. If you would like to purchase a flower [\$10.00] to honor someone, please sign up on poster in the narthex.



WITHIN THE FOLD

BAPTISMS

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was celebrated Sunday, February 21, for **Michael Jordan Scott**, husband of Laila Scott, **Cole Mathias Scott**, and **Callum James Scott**, sons of Jordan and Laila Scott. Jordan's sponsor was his wife Laila Scott, Cole's sponsor was Diana Kanon, and Callum's sponsor was Adrianna Peabody. The Guardian Angel [sponsor] for Jordan, Cole, and Callum Scott was Josh Norem.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE



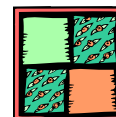
Thanks to those who participated in the **Mobile Unit Blood Drive** February 28. 24 donors gave 21 units of blood, a gift of life.



VINTAGE FRIENDS RIVER CRUISE

On Thursday, March 18, the **Vintage Friends** [retired members and friends] will take a trip on the Vanishing Texas River Cruise on Lake Buchanan. The church bus will leave the church at 9:00 am to meet the 10:30 check-in time. Cost for the 2 hour tour is \$21.50 [includes a box lunch on the boat]. Bring your camera and binoculars for the possibility of seeing eagles. For more details see the flyer in the narthex. To reserve your seat on the bus and to participate in the event, please sign up in the notebook in the narthex.

QUILTS TO LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



On April 3rd, our quilters will be boxing up the **quilts** they have made in the past year so that they can be sent to **Lutheran World Relief** to be shared with those in need around the world. The quilters are requesting donations of packing "peanuts" to help with the packing. If you have any you might like to share, please bring them to the church by April 1st. Thank you, and thank you to the quilters for their wonderful ministry.



ALL COMMITTEE NIGHT DATE CHANGE

Please note that because of Spring Break, our March **All Committee Night** will be held on Tuesday, March 23rd, instead of March 16th.



ELCA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF IN HAITI

Because of your generosity, Shepherd of the Hills was able to forward \$10,163 to the **ELCA Disaster Relief** program for **recovery in Haiti**. Thank you!! On January 22nd, the IRS enacted a ruling that people who give to charities providing earthquake relief in Haiti can claim these donations on the tax return they are completing for 2009. Taxpayers who itemize deductions on their 2009 return qualify for this special tax relief provision. Only cash contributions made to these charities after January 11, 2010, and before March 1, 2010, are eligible. If you would like a statement reflecting your contribution towards Haiti relief, please contact our Financial Officer, Trixi Spinelli [trixi@shephills.org].

For the next few weeks we will also be receiving contributions for Disaster Relief for recovery in Chile, following their massive earthquake. Please mark your contributions for "Chile Relief."

NEW MEMBERS

New Members will be received into the congregation on Sunday, April 11th. On Sunday, March 28th at 5:00 pm, there will be an Orientation for New Members with the Church Council in the Upper Room. If you are interested in becoming a part of the ministry of Shepherd of the Hills, please contact one of the pastors.



MEN'S RETREAT "FINDING HOPE IN HARD TIMES"

Our annual **Men's Retreat, "Finding Hope in Hard Times"**, will be held at the T Bar M Conference Center in New Braunfels, March 26-27. The Retreat will focus on how God's Word offers the hope that secures our faith and empowers our lives today. The cost is \$100.00 per person, which includes lodging in the Country Inn ["motel like" accommodations with two to a room] on Friday night and two meals on Saturday. To register, complete the registration form [in the narthex] and return it, along with a \$40.00 deposit, to the Church Office no later than Wednesday, March 10th. Because of T Bar M's policies, after March 12th you will be responsible for the full amount of the retreat, unless someone is found to take your place. Contact Pastor Steve Youngdahl [steve@shephills.org, 327-3370] for more information.

CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH [CRHP] RENEWAL WEEKENDS



Christ Renews His Parish [CRHP] is an adult renewal weekend that bring congregation members together. CRHP activates, stimulates, motivates, reconciles, heals, liberates, involves, and invites us to seek Jesus personally in our life. CRHP does this through communion, God's word, shared faith, prayer, ministry and discipleship. CRHP's purpose at Shepherd of the Hills is to continue to build a Christ centered, Spirit empowered congregation. Consider attending the **Men's Weekend**, April 17-18 and the **Women's Weekend** is April 24-25.

BREAKFAST FOR THE HOMELESS

Shepherd of the Hills is **preparing** [March 29, 5:30 pm], and **servicing** [March 30, 5:30 am] **breakfast for the homeless** this month at First Methodist Family Center downtown [maps are available at the Welcome Center]. To help, or for more information, contact Len Johnson [259-5927, ljohnson277@austin.rr.com].



YOUTH MINISTRY MARCH HIGHLIGHTS



☺ 3RD GRADE YOUTH



- ✓ Wednesdays, March 10, 24, 31
5:45 pm First Communion classes

☺ 9TH - 12TH GRADE YOUTH

- ✓ Sunday, March 7
1:30 pm Meet at Church for CROP Walk
- ✓ Our planned Spring Break trip to Eagle Pass has been cancelled. In its place we will be having daily activities around Austin. We are still planning some of those activities so if you will be around during that week please share some ideas of potential events. Events may include movies, day trips and service opportunities. Our first event will be a bowling outing on Sunday March 14th. Meet at church at 6:00 pm.
- ✓ Sunday, March 14
6:00 pm Bowling
- ✓ Sunday, March 21
6:00 pm Meeting-In-Home [M-I-H] [TBA].
- ✓ Sunday, March 21
6:00 pm [M-I-H] [TBA].
- ✓ July 8-17 High Adventure Trip
Registration for this summer's trip of camping and canoeing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of Northern Minnesota has begun. This trip is a great opportunity to witness God's awesome creation in a pristine setting. The trip is set for July 8-17; to register contact Mark Dellagiacoma [mark@shephills.org].



2010 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN

Registration forms are in the narthex for this year's Vacation Bible School, June 21-25, 9:00 am-12:00. Come meet our new friends at **High Seas Expedition, Exploring the Mighty Love of God.** See you there!



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS STAFF

Stephen M. Youngdahl, <i>Pastor</i>	❖	Heidi Schwerdtfeger-Jones, <i>Pastor</i>
Merle G. Franke, <i>Pastor</i>	❖	Rebecca Guengerich, <i>Christian Growth & Spiritual Director</i>
Kevin McClure, <i>Music</i>	❖	Mark Dellagiacoma, <i>Youth and Family</i>
Vernon Moeller, <i>Organist</i>	❖	Amy Ruedas, <i>Child and Family</i>
Lisa Schaffer, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	❖	Trixi Spinelli, <i>Financial Officer</i>
Mary Gimenez, <i>Building Manager</i>	❖	Karon Miller Hammond, <i>Preschool Director</i>
Lois Bilbrough, <i>Technical Support</i>	❖	Morris Janitorial, <i>Custodian</i>

PHONE: (512) 327-3370 ❖ **FAX:** (512) 327-6021 ❖ **WEB SITE:** www.shephills.org
E-MAIL: CHURCH - sheep@shephills.org ❖ STAFF - (first name)@shephills.org

Good News FOR MARCH 2010

**Be still, and know
that I am God!**

— *Psalm 46:10*

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