



A Spiritual Oasis Committed to Christ,
to Peace, and to Service

March 2017

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

Newsletter

UMWomen Readers!

Submitted by Staci Scott

If you enjoy expanding your knowledge through reading, consider The United Methodist Women Reading Program.

It includes books from five areas of focus:

- Education for Mission
- Leadership Development
- Nurturing for Community
- Social Action
- Spiritual Growth

Within each of the categories, there are many books available spanning a spectrum of topics. Education for Mission includes *Faith Ed* (teaching about religion in an age of intolerance), *Love Casts Out Fear* (a Jihad survivor's journey from revenge to redemption) and many other choices. A Sunday school class recently finished reading *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, a selection from the Social Action category.

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Honduras Trip with HOI

Submitted by Sheryl McNichol



We started January 21st, 2017 at 3:30am in the airport. All 30 of us gathered together getting to get to know each other, while 34 Large trunks were checked in full of Medical supplies and school supplies. This rather large task, which has been organized by Tarrytown United Methodist Church each year for the last 20 some years, was put together this year by Jerry Campbell and Annett Morris. Annett did not travel but she was there at the airport with breakfast tacos, juice and fruit and to wish us well on our trip. After boarding in Austin, debarking in Austin, re-boarding another flight, we made it to Houston to connect in time. Then we made it to within 45 minutes of Tegucilpa, Honduras and our flight was forced to turn around and go back to

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JESUS ROCK STAR CORNER

Submitted by Carolyn Smith

JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN. This is something our Jesus Rock Stars take to heart. They have been studying how through helping and loving others they glorify God. If you attend first service you will see the children participating in the service. The children are eager to assist with worship services. When they arrive each Sunday morning they are ready to serve.



Taylor brings the Light of Christ into the church.



Tony assists with offering.



Gwen assists with communion.



Kaitlyn and Tony practice their acolyte skills.



Taylor reads scripture.



Taylor, Jozi, and Gwen have bright shining lights for God.

In addition to the children, Miranda, Gretchen, and Derrick run the power point.

Back in the classroom, we study how God's light always shines within us. Sometimes our light may not be bright but it is always there. We talked about things which make the light of God shine bright within us.

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More from Jesus' Rockstars:

St. Valentine's Day was nearing. The children wanted to thank their church family for teaching them about Christian love.

To show our love to the members of our church family the Rock Stars made Valentine cards.



Mr. Neil discusses St. Valentine with the children as they make Valentine cards.

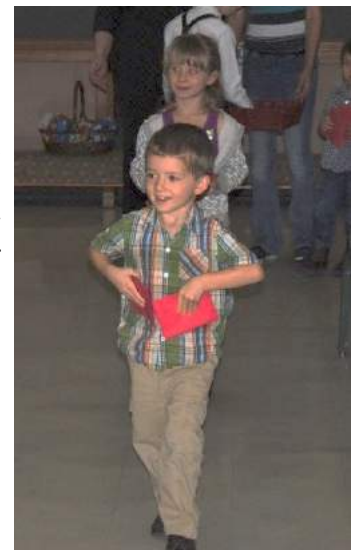


The boys also joined into the creativity.



Tony and Gwen performed a skit during Children's Moment at first service. Jett and Jozi performed during second service. They told us where we can find Christian love and who is our family.

James and Kaitlyn's big smiles tell us how much they love their church family.



Our Valentine's party had several games.

Our classes had an exciting month. We look forward to our studies, learning more of how to glorify God.

New comers and visitors are always welcomed.
Please join us,

Carolyn Smith
Amanda Theriot

Neil Howard
Miranda Smith

CPFUMC Youth: A Student's Epiphany

Submitted by Bonnie How

I shared this story/joke with the youth group:

"It was a busy day as folks waited in line at the Pearly Gates. Peter stood as gatekeeper, checking each newcomer's name in the Lamb's Book of Life. But the numbers weren't adding up. Heaven was getting a little crowded. A bunch of folks were unaccounted for. Angels were sent to investigate, and before long two of them returned. "We found the problem," they said. "Jesus is out back, lifting people over the gate." Karsten got it right away, that Jesus was getting people into heaven through the back way, over the back fence. Karsten said, "So that means that when Trump becomes president, Jesus will be there at the wall, lifting people over it." I stared at him for a moment, surprised by this astute assumption. Then I said, "We, the hands and feet of Jesus, we'd better be there, lifting people over that wall."

Dear United Methodist Women,



Thank you so much for your amazing support of the recent outreach event, The Red Bench. Your generosity was so appreciated. The soups, salads, crackers and desserts were all incredible. You outdid yourselves. Everyone was talking about how great the food was – especially the Butternut Squash Soup and the Gluten-free squares.

Not only did you provide a wonderful meal, but many of you were hard at work in the kitchen, doing dishes, and making sure no one was lacking for anything. It was a long day, but you made everything seem easy. Your work behind the scenes was crucial to the event's success.

From all of us who were involved as table hosts, planners and organizers, and guests, we thank you. You are all a blessing to us. We give thanks to God for you and your efforts.



A Child's Haven Happenings

Submitted by Lesley Foyt

February was a special month celebrating love and friendship, our country and the state of Texas. The kids had a great time at their class Valentine's parties. Our wonderful parents provided a special lunch and the children exchanged Valentine cards and played fun Valentine games. They also learned about our country and state flags, our state foods and animals, and the job of a president.

Our Fruit of the Spirit this month was love. John 13:34 says "As I have loved you, so must you love one another." This month the kids demonstrated love by making special Valentine cards for Sagebrook Nursing Home. In class, the teachers talked about how God loves everyone and wants us to love our family, friends and neighbors. In March our Fruit of the Spirit will be gentleness.

A Child's Haven has begun registration for next school year. If you know of anyone who might be interested in attending, they may contact me at director@childshaven.net. We will be having our spring fundraiser this year on April 29th. Please be on the lookout for more information coming soon! We are looking forward to a spring full of love and learning!

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Houston. Then we were boarded onto another plane to get us to Tegucilpa before the airport closed at 5:30pm. This airport is pretty scary, due to its location in the middle of the mountains. You fly over the mountains and drop down really fast. After that small hiccup, everything else was smooth and amazing.

Once we finally landed in airport in Honduras we were greeted by our coordinator and armed guards that continued to stay with us throughout the entire trip. We jumped on a bus and drove another 4 hours to a really nice hotel, stayed overnight, and drove another 4 hours the next morning to our final destination in the Agalpa Valley, the region of San Estban. This was a working cattle ranch with lots of cabins, nestled down in the valley; really beautiful.

The first afternoon was a lot of unloading and sorting of all the trunks from the team on school supplies, medical and construction crew. Every morning breakfast was at 6:30am, lunch at noon and dinner at 6pm. Monday was a work day at the ranch, the



construction crew had a list of 84 chairs to cut out, 10

children's desks, 2 teacher's desk and 2 teacher chairs, 4 large bookshelves and 2 small bookshelves. So they got to work.

Within the region we stayed where HOI supports about 50 different small towns and so we had about 30 teachers show up on

the ranch, so we could train the teachers how to use the supplies. Remember, these teachers have had no formal training except us, once a year. So, to teach them to use hole-punches they have never used before was amazing. Then the clinic was open for the day on the ranch and they had 5 doctors of different fields and 2 registered nurses.

Tuesday we headed out to the town of Palmira. This is where we concentrated the rest of the week with VBS and finishing a school house, by putting in concrete, painting, and then putting all the furniture into it. To see the kids, play with them, teach them, and communicate with them was truly a wonderful experience. I wish I had more space to give you more details. The 2nd Saturday of March I will be giving a presentation of my journey with loads of photos. Come join the United Methodist Women at CPFUMC that morning at 9am to hear more about it.





Join us on April 2, at the Twin Lakes YMCA for our Annual Crop Hunger Walk. Check in begins at 1:30pm. This event raises money to help fight hunger and food insecurity. An ecumenical ministry from Church World Service, Crop Hunger Walk benefits communities around the world. However, 25% of the funds raised stay in our local community to benefit hunger relief through Hill Country Community Ministries.

Cedar Park has two goals this year! First, we would like to have 50% of our church participate. The walk is not long, the weather is always gorgeous and the conversation on the path is full of laughter. The walk is safe and accommodating for families with young children, teens and older adults. Benches along the way provide a nice break if you need. Secondly, we have set financial goal. We will work to raise \$1000. With your help, we can easily achieve this.

Registration is easy! You can visit the website at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/leandertx/> or you can visit the Crop Hunger Walk table after service on Sunday. If you are unable to participate, please donate! Any amount is appreciated.

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In addition, there is a Children & Youth version of the program. Books are available in large print, audio, e-books and languages other than English. Many of the books are available at local libraries.



A full selection of titles is found at this link:

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>

For the avid reader, you may wish to participate in one four Reading Programs. Plan One includes:

- One book from each category
- Selections may be from the 2012-2017 reading lists
- Regular reading of Response magazine (Response magazine is available in the church library)

Plans Two, Three and Four have an increasing amount of books culminating with a total of 20 books in Plan Four. These three reading plans include regular reading of *New World Outlook Magazine* in addition to *Response Magazine*.

Completers of any of the four plans will be recognized in the fall. Even if you are not interested in one of the four plans and just want to read a book or two, there are some good titles to be found. CPFUMC women reading books from the 2012-2017 UMW Reading Plan Lists are asked to submit the title of the book and date completed to Staci Scott for tracking purposes.

Happy Reading!

Especially for Parents

Cedar Park FUMC, A Child's Haven and Leander ISD are partnering to offer some great talks for parents.

Wed., March 8th at 9:15am, with light breakfast. Maryann Kluga of Leander ISD will share highlights of the Love and Logic program to be offered in late March. This approach to parenting is built around the science of crafting caring and respectful relationships.

Wed., April 5th, at 6:30pm, Danielle Gary of Leander ISD will present "Creating a Culture of Kindness to Address Bullying," empowering both parents and students. Ms. Gary is involved in the district in their anti-bullying campaign "It's Your Choice". This talk is appropriate for families, especially those with tweens and teens! Pizza will be provided.

Wed., May 3rd at 9:15am, Bonnie Hahn from the "Parents as Teachers" program will present a free program focused on helping families build strong foundations for academic success. She is a great speaker, and this program is also appropriate for expecting parents.

Please invite your friends and family to join us! There is a link on our website for the first event - please RSVP. Look for the next *evite* about a month before each upcoming event.



and Stew Cook-Off

Save the Date!

**Be the Church Sunday is on
April 23rd!**



We will have a few options including assembling flood buckets at the church, and adopting a park (with a family picnic to follow). Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the event. In the meantime, mark it on your calendars!

1ST ANNUAL SOUP AND STEW COOKOFF

Who will be the Stew Master on March 29th? Come be a part of this exciting event! Register online at www.cpfumc.org or by paper registration in the narthex.

If cooking isn't your thing, please come and enjoy the fun, cheer on the contestants, and enjoy sampling the fabulous soups and stews.

B4 you gather your things to leave, please stay after the meal for games of **BINGO**.

It is not too late to be part of the planning team. If you would like to help with this event or any of the upcoming cook-offs, please contact Carolyn Smith, carolynsmith2215@gmail.com or (512) 970-9087.

Upcoming cook-offs:

Spaghetti	May 31
Ice Cream	July 26
Chili	Oct 25

CPFUMC March 2017

See full calendar online at
<https://cpfumc.org/find-an-event/>

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church, CARE Calendar, Child's Haven Events, Choir, CP1UMC Youth, Mar 2017 (Central Time)
 Other Groups, Pumpkin Patch, SCOUTS, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Mindwinter @ Camp 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 6pm - Youth @	27 9am - Child's Haven 10am - Talley Piano 2pm - ESL - GED @ 7:30pm - Contempla 6pm - Shrove	28 9am - Child's Haven 9:15am - Tues 10am - Bible Study 3pm - Talley Piano 5pm - Shrove	1 9am - Child's Haven 11:30am - Talley 1pm - Easy Line 7pm - Ash 7pm - Bible Study -	2 9am - Child's Haven 10:15am - Disciple 2pm - Talley Piano 6:30pm - Buckles	3 9am - ESL - GED @ 6:30pm - Alcoholics	4 8:30am - Cub Scout
5 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 6pm - Youth @	6 9am - Child's Haven 10am - Talley Piano 2pm - ESL - GED @ 6pm - BScouts @ 6:30pm - COUNCIL 7pm - Wolf Den 158 7:30pm - Contempla	7 9am - Child's Haven 9:15am - Tues 10am - Bible Study 11:30am - Young @ 3pm - Talley Piano 6:30pm - GS #2101 7:30pm - AA Men's	8 8:30am - Introductio 9am - Child's Haven 11:30am - Talley 1pm - Easy Line 7pm - Bible Study -	9 9am - Child's Haven 10:15am - Disciple 2pm - Talley Piano 4pm - GS Daisy 6pm - Webelos 1 6:30pm - Buckles	10 9am - ESL - GED @ 6:30pm - Alcoholics	11 9am - UMW Meets
12 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 6pm - Youth @	13 9am - Child's Haven 10am - Talley Piano 2pm - ESL - GED @ 6:30pm - FINANCE 7:30pm - Contempla	14 9am - Child's Haven 9:15am - Tues 10am - Bible Study 3pm - Talley Piano 7:30pm - AA Men's	15 9am - Child's Haven 9:30am - Mbrshp 11:30am - Talley 1pm - Easy Line 6pm - Brownie	16 9am - Child's Haven 10:15am - Disciple 2pm - Talley Piano 6:30pm - Buckles	17 NEWSLETTER Input 9am - ESL - GED @ 6:30pm - Alcoholics	18
19 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 3:30pm - Worship @ 6pm - Youth @	20 9am - Child's Haven 10am - Talley Piano 2pm - ESL - GED @ 6:30pm - TRUSTEES 7:30pm - Contempla	21 9am - Child's Haven 9:15am - Tues 10am - Bible Study 3pm - Talley Piano 6:30pm - GS #2101 7:30pm - AA Men's	22 9am - Child's Haven 11:30am - Talley 1pm - Easy Line 7pm - Bible Study -	23 9am - Child's Haven 10:15am - Disciple 2pm - Talley Piano 4pm - GS Daisy 6:30pm - Buckles	24 9am - ESL - GED @ 6:30pm - Alcoholics	25 8am - Open Doors @
26 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday 10:45am - Worship 6pm - Youth @	27 9am - Child's Haven 10am - Talley Piano 2pm - ESL - GED @ 6pm - BScouts @ 7pm - Wolf Den 158 7:30pm - Contempla	28 9am - Child's Haven 9:15am - Tues 10am - Bible Study 3pm - Talley Piano 6:30pm - BS Pack 7:30pm - AA Men's	29 9am - Child's Haven 11:30am - Talley 1pm - Easy Line 5pm - Soup/Stew 7pm - Bible Study -	30 9am - Child's Haven 10:15am - Disciple 2pm - Talley Piano 6:30pm - Buckles 7pm - Webelos 1	31 9am - ESL - GED @ 6:30pm - Alcoholics	1 8:30am - Cub Scout 9am - Congregation