



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

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

# *Connections*

## Newsletter

### **Attic Pipe Break Causes MESS**

By Sergio Longoria, Neil and Jane Howard

This is the first of two articles for this month's newsletter. We are all familiar with the phrase, "I have good news and bad news. Which do you want first?" Since we are writing the articles, we will use our answer to this question. Give me the bad news first.

"We had a broken water pipe in the attic just at the peak of the ice storm." Then, while we were trying to get our heads around the toughest case in a bad news situation, we looked forward to the other part of the equation. Give me the good news.

"Our long-awaited Rest Room Renovation has begun" (see adjacent article). What a boost! That is incredible news and with that good news, we now have more energy to deal with the disaster and what a catastrophe this past week has been.

**STORM DAMAGE continued on p. 6**

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Dear Church Members,

I hope you and your family fared this recent freeze with only minor incidents. The church had a significant issue within the sanctuary. There was a leak from the water heater in the attic above the women's restroom. The trustees are filing an insurance claim and obtaining the needed repairs. We were very fortunate; our cleaning company, CityWide Janitorial Service, also does remediation. They came promptly and cleaned up the debris. The Multi Ministries Buildings fared the freeze without incident.

With Glenda Morrison's resignation as the church treasurer, the Council has acquired an accounting firm's services, Virtual Church Secretary.

The Council also voted to hire a part-time Administrative Assistant. Please welcome Stephanie to the church staff.

Remember the youth for your odd jobs. The Holy Land trip is rescheduled to the end of May. Their tickets do not cover all meals. Please help if you can.

We are looking forward to a better 2021.

*Carolyn Smith*  
Council Chair

## JESUS' ROCK STAR CORNER

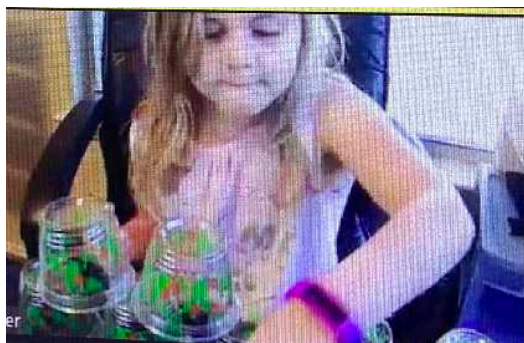
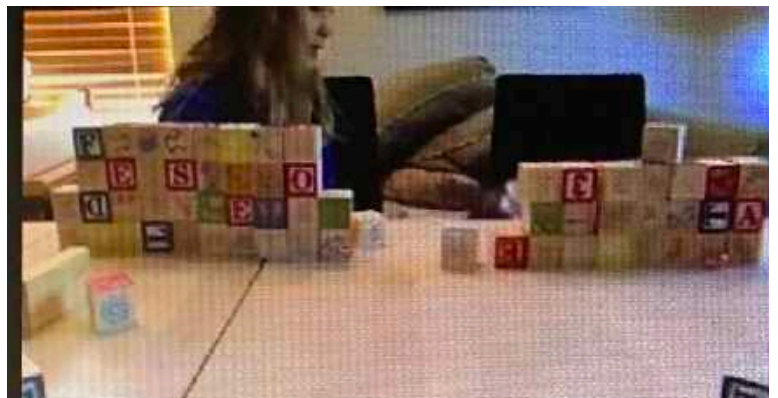
Submitted by Carolyn Smith

The children had a great month spending time learning about Jesus and how he loves us always. In studying the Parable of the Lost Sheep, the children discussed how much Jesus loves us. Jesus does not care what we look like, he cares about what is in our hearts. We as people often only see the outside, and we do not always see the same thing.

To help us find the Lost Sheep, we became sketch artist detectives and drew the Lost Sheep. They were all given the same description of the sheep.



How many times are we given instructions but think we know a better way. In our study of the Battle of Jericho, we learned how important it is to listen to God and follow his directions. Once the people followed God's directions the Wall of Jericho fell.



After building their wall, the children answered questions to get an opportunity to knock down the wall.

The children have been wonderful through all the virtual classes. We have begun the Zoom session 30 minutes before class giving the children time to visit with each other. If you would like to be part of our class, please contact Carolyn Smith.

carolynsmith2215@gmail.com.

## BE LIGHT YOUTH November 2020

Submitted by Pastor Suzette

In less than 90 DAYS, **BE LIGHT YOUTH** will fly to the Holy Land. We have earned our travel expenses but are now looking to earn spending money during the trip to cover the cost of daily lunches, one dinner and for a memento perhaps. To that end, if you have any Springtime outdoor work, please contact Pastor Suzette. We will bring a crew to rake, paint, dig, pull, climb, pack unpack, clean etc. I will collect the funds and distribute to the YOUTH during the trip. Thank you for considering us.

In preparing for our travels to the Holy Land, we are doing a 30 days Scripture overview. We are reading small sections of Scriptures which bring us through key highlights from Creation to Revelation. As we read, we are considering these three questions: What does this tell us about God? What does this tell us about people? and What does this tell us about the relationship between God and people? We then discuss during our BE LIGHT YOUTH time.

BE LIGHT YOUTH have joined with the ACH to develop an outdoor garden area under the oaks. The first part is removing overgrowth and rocks and weeds. They have done this twice and still have more to deconstruct before our new talented ACH director will start rebuilding a space for our littlest disciples to learn about plants and God's world. They also assisted with moving the downed tree branches after the winter storm. It will take quite some time to complete but we are enjoying the time outside and being together. the



## BE LIGHT YOUTH (continued)



YOUTH also acquired a set of outdoor chairs to use during our mission workdays. It will help us socially distance while we eat tacos or just take a break (moving rocks is hard heavy work!).

MIDWINTERS - ARE- HAPPENING!! UT Wesley has come up with a series of events starting virtually and hopefully moving a a one day event this spring. First up is Virtual game night with the UT Wesley students. Pre-registration required so contact Pastor Suzette to get plugged in ASAP.

BE LIGHT YOUTH appreciate your prayers as they tackle school, college classes, part time jobs, Girl Scout cookie sales and service project, competitive volleyball and illness. These strange times have really brought out amazing strength in these young people. They are setting goals and striving to accomplish them. Sarah will be graduating a year early and headed off to college in the fall. This month, we also celebrate Mady's birthday.

### Coming Up:

- Sunday, March 7 - in-person at NOON; outdoor garden and breakfast tacos. Bring gloves, water bottle and face mask.
- Wednesday, March 17 - Spring Break - outdoor garden and St Patrick's family movie party
- Sunday, March 21 - Spring break - NO YOUTH
- FRIDAY, March 26 virtual MID WINTERS games night with UT Wesley Students - registration required. contact Pastor Suzette
- Sunday, March 28 -Palm Sunday - strawberry picking at Sweet Berry Farms in Marble Falls
- Sunday, April 4 EASTER Sunday: CONFIRMATION at outdoor Sunrise as we welcome Jozi and Mady in the faith.

## Sanctuary Building Renovation Begins (The Good News)



By Sergio Longoria, Neil and  
Jane Howard

Renovation of our Sanctuary Building restrooms was selected as a high priority capital project at a congregation meeting on February 17, 2019. That was just two years ago, but doesn't it seem like ten years since we had that meeting? We all have a more profound understanding of what Einstein proposed with his general theory of relativity – “massive objects cause a distortion in the space-time continuum.”

The COVID-19 pandemic hit the entire USA in early 2020 and the idea for this project lay dormant for several months. In-person indoor worship services were suspended by a vote of the Church Council on March 17, 2020. The church office and buildings were also closed. The church embarked on a live-streaming project to fill the void for worship services. What better time than now to renovate?

As the enormity of coping with the pandemic carried on week after week, we looked ahead that summer with a fundraising campaign along the lines of a Fall school assignment, “what did you do last summer?” As Glenda Morrison often says, “This is a Mighty little church.” The results of this campaign proved our collective strength to accomplish our goal.

We selected Qual-Con G.C., LLC construction company to perform the work. Barbara King managed the contractor selection and design input from the church. From October through December our project was under architectural and City of Cedar Park permitting review. The renovation began on February 24, 2021 with the Demolition Phase of the project.

The demolition phase of the renovation job has become much bigger because of our “Attic Pipe Break event.” It will now include restoration of water damaged areas of the Sanctuary building. Since a picture is worth a thousand words, look at the adjacent picture and go to the website for even more pictures and videos.

To see the complete story, click [here](#) . That will be the source of the latest daily renovation photographs and videos so you can keep up with the progress without leaving your home for personal inspection. Now, that is good news indeed!

## STORM DAMAGE continued from p. 1

During the peak of the ice storm, we noticed the humidity readings from our Wi-Fi thermostats were rising unexpectedly. While everyone was locked in their homes, Jorge Soto managed to get to the church and looked in the front door, “there is water everywhere.” Holy cow! And the bad news just kept coming.

Because there are multiple front lawn water valves and because everything was covered by 3-8” of snow and ice, the initial water shut off attempts were unsuccessful. By 8pm that night Debra and Sergio Longoria had reached out to the City of Cedar Park and waited for a city employee to turn off the city water. Guided by a summer time picture of all the valves in the lawn, Sergio and the city employee finally found the total water shut off valve and turned the water off for good .... at midnight! Even though the copper pipe feeding the attic hot water heater was insulated, it



split and ran unabated for the better part of 2 days during the coldest part of the storms. City Wide of Austin came the next day to remove much of the debris that had showered down from the ceiling carried by the water and started drying fans.

The insurance adjuster was onsite Friday February 26<sup>th</sup>. Did we tell you everyone is on long wait lists for every service connected to the historic weather? The adjuster’s experienced eye and his measured survey unearthed more extensive damage. We were told to do a two foot “flood cut” to expose all external walls where he measured 90-98%

humidity, largely due to the exterior insulation. Since the water was  $\frac{3}{4}$ -1.5” everywhere in the building, this was no longer just fix the damage under the waterfall.

In steps Barbara King. Any other normal citizen would still be on hold: “your call is important to us, please stay on the line...” But Barbara performed a miracle: the representative for the remediation company which was to do our much larger water damage remediation arrived just as the insurance adjuster was leaving – they had a key overlap meeting of critical needs and advised us of a much more comprehensive plan to attack the damage. Importantly critical equipment arrived – five De-humidifying machines appeared and are at work as we write.

For photos and videos of the pipe break event, go to <https://cpfumc.org/2021-winter-storm-damage/>.



## Girl Scout Cookie Donations

Dear Church - Thank you for your gracious support of our HEALTHCARE HEROES and for our BE LIGHT YOUTH Mady as she gathered donations of Girl Scout cookies for local area hospitals and vaccine clinics. CPFUMC donated over 42 smiles adding to over 322 other boxes donated. The cookies will be distributed by the hospital chaplains as well as by Mady at the vaccination center on March 4th. Through your kindness, Mady was able to serve her community, earn badges and really enjoy making people smile and being a tangible high-five for some weary workers serving during such a time as this. Well done, once more Church!!



## STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Glenda Morrison resigned from her position as CPFUMC Treasurer so the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) had a special meeting. We decided to acquire the services of Virtual Church Secretary (VCS). The owner, Therese "Terry" Foley, has extensive experience working with small Methodist Churches and is familiar with all financial accountability required by the United Methodist Church--local, district, conference and national.

SPRC also decided to hire Stephanie Talley as part-time Administrative Assistant. She will be publishing the weekly Happenings, attending to emails, sending invoices to the Virtual Church Secretary as well as assisting the pastors with other projects as time allows.

The Church Council voted to approve both of these recommendations from the SPRC at its February meeting.

Karen V. Packard, Chair of SPRC

## Spring Work Day Event

The Spring work event begins on March 1st and ends on April 30th. In this way, you can come in when it is convenient for you, work on an item you wish to work on and leave without having to worry too much about close contact with others. A list of items has been prepared by the Trustees, items that need a little TLC. This list has been posted to the church's web site so that you can add your name next to the item you wish to tackle. You can find the list by following [this link](#). Last fall we got great participation and 90% of the items got corrected, it was much appreciated. And we believe we will have the same enthusiastic response this Spring.

After the catastrophic events of the winter storm and the flood that we experienced in the church building, the work of restoration and remodeling has begun. With that, the church building will be off limits for some time, but some of the tasks needed will be outside in the yard areas, parking lot, or the MMB. Please look in the list to see if there is something you can help the church with and once it is safe to go inside the sanctuary building we will make that known. Thank you

Sergio Longoria

Trustees Chair





# CPFUMC Calendar March 2021

Click [here](#) to go to the online calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 8:30am - Outdoor 9am - Children's 10am - Worship Live 8pm - Youth @	1 Congretation Work 4pm - Piano 6:30pm - TRUSTEES 7:30pm - Centering	2 Congretation Work 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	3 Congretation Work 4pm - Piano 5:30pm - Piano	4 Congretation Work 10am - Book 3:45pm - Piano	5 Congretation Work 6:30pm - Alcoholics	6 Congretation Work
7 Congretation Work 8:30am - Outdoor 9am - Children's 10am - Worship Live 8pm - Youth @	8 Congretation Work 4pm - Piano 6:30pm - FINANCE 7:30pm - Centering	9 Congretation Work 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	10 Congretation Work 5:30pm - Piano	11 Congretation Work 10am - Book 3:45pm - Piano	12 Congretation Work 6:30pm - Alcoholics	13 Congretation Work
14 Congretation Work 8:30am - Outdoor 9am - Children's 10am - Worship Live 8pm - Youth @	15 Congretation Work 4pm - Piano 7:30pm - Centering	16 Congretation Work 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	17 Congretation Work 5:30pm - Piano	18 Congretation Work 10am - Book 11am - Mbr Care 3:45pm - Piano	19 Congretation Work 6:30pm - Alcoholics	20 Congretation Work
21 Congretation Work 8:30am - Outdoor 9am - Children's 10am - Worship Live 3:30pm - Worship @ 8pm - Youth @	22 Congretation Work 4pm - Piano 6:30pm - Cancel 7:30pm - Centering	23 Congretation Work 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	24 Congretation Work 5:30pm - Piano	25 Congretation Work 10am - Book 3:45pm - Piano	26 NEWSLETTER Input Congretation Work 6:30pm - Alcoholics	27 Congretation Work
28 Congretation Work 8:30am - Outdoor 9am - Children's 10am - Worship Live 8pm - Youth @	29 Congretation Work 4pm - Piano 7:30pm - Centering	30 Congretation Work 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	31 Congretation Work 5:30pm - Piano	1 Congretation Work 10am - Book 3:45pm - Piano	2 Congretation Work 6:30pm - Alcoholics	3 Congretation Work

## Church Contacts

Find us online at [cpfumc.org](http://cpfumc.org)  
or call the church Tues-Thurs between 9 and 2 at this phone number:  
(512) 335-9540

Want to contact a Church Leader or submit something for a future Newsletter?

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Church Council Chair Carolyn Smith  
Music Director/Pianist Jodi Blount  
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