

## *A word from the pastor...*

Selfless generosity is a keystone characteristic found in growing, mission-minded congregations. Bishop Robert Schnase in his book, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, tells a stunning story about a downtown congregation in a moderately-sized community. Occasionally, transients, homeless persons and street people would stop by the church looking for hand outs. Often times street people could be found sleeping on the front steps.

The staff spent much time developing rules, guidelines and policies for how to help these people or how to refer them to other agencies where they could be helped. For hours they discussed such issues as whether or not to give these people seeking help cash or vouchers. One day's discussion took considerable staff time with few conclusions.

As the pastor was leaving the church later that afternoon, he noticed the part-time custodian carrying out the garbage to the large trash bin in the ally. There was a homeless person sprawled out beside the bin, looking barely conscious. As the custodian approached the trash bin, he set down the garbage bag he was carrying, reached into his pocket, pulled out his wallet and removed a few dollar bills. Without having been asked, he walked over to the homeless person and gave him the money, said something, then continued his work and returned to the church.

The pastor was amazed and humbled by this extraordinary display of generosity. The part-time janitor who earned less than anyone else on staff gave naturally and generously without even being asked, while the staff had spent several hours trying to figure out policies and procedures for doing the same thing. The pastor asked the custodian why he gave the money without even being asked. He also asked him whether he thought the homeless person might misuse the money for alcohol or drugs.

That issue didn't seem to matter to the janitor. "I always do what I can," the janitor answered, "I give them a little money and say, 'God bless you,' because I figure that even though they may be pretty messed up, they are some mother's son, some father's child and so I give them something. What they do with the money—well, they have to answer to God about that. I just have to answer to God about what I do with mine."

Friends, that janitor has the love of Jesus in his heart. We may have a more favorable position in life than he, but we can learn from him. The best people and the best churches naturally do good without having to think too much about it. God's goodness overflows their fellowship inviting all kinds of needy people to come and drink. This is the radical hospitality and the selfless generosity that characterizes great congregations like Kingswood and some individually Christian janitors!

Pastor Joe



## Music Notes

The Amazing Grace Choir is excited to announce the date and time for our Spring Concert ~ Wednesday, May 13, at 6:15 p.m. Please join us in the Sanctuary following supper for a fun program of ringing and singing. The program will last about 30 minutes, and will showcase what we have been working on this year. We also have a very special song prepared that includes multiple generations of Kingswood members. You do not want to miss this special evening of music. The Amazing Grace Choir will end the year with our traditional "night out on the town." We will have supper and a field trip on Wednesday, May 20. We have had a great year, and are looking forward to music camp at Blue Lake.

## Prayer Mission

In the month of May we would like to focus on prayer for our Music Ministry. We have been blessed with talented musicians as part of our staff, members of the congregation, and the adult, youth, and children's choirs. And, as always, continue to pray for the spiritual and financial health of our church.

Here are some verses to reflect on:

John 4:24; Psalm 150:6; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; Psalm 33:2-3



Miss Audrey

# U M Y F

As April, or as I like to call it "Audrey's birthday month" comes to a close, the youth are finishing up their school year. Everyone seems to be ready for summer and the big mission trip to Savannah. Dance recitals for Emma, Katherine and Mallory and musicals for Justin are just some of the activities that the youth are involved in right now. It is a busy time for all.

The Senior Recognition Sunday will be May 10th at the 8:30 service followed by a reception during the Sunday school hour. It is hard to believe this will be my sixth one. Time has a way of flying by without any one noticing.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support of the Youthworks Mission Trip. We are going to have one more fundraiser, Cinco De Mayo Fajita Funday on May 10th. You can pick up your fajitas from 11:00 to 1:00 on that Sunday.

Please keep us all in your prayers.  
God Bless,  
Mr. Jack



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## UMW NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

On Sunday, May 3, 4 - 6:00 PM will be  
**Family Game Night**  
with the Youth and all church members!  
Bring a snack to share and \$5 entry for  
missions, youth excluded.  
Prizes and fellowship fun!

The Dorcas Circle will hold a salad luncheon  
meeting at 10:00 am Tuesday, May 12 in  
Lacefield Hall.



Ask the LORD for rain in the spring, for he makes the storm clouds. And he will send showers of rain so every field becomes a lush pasture. Zechariah 10:1 (NLT)



### DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

- Sunday, May 3.....Family Game Night, 6 p.m. in Lacefield Hall
- Sunday, May 10.....Happy Mother's Day  
UMYF Senior Recognition  
Cinco de Mayo Fajita Funday 11 a.m.– 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 12.....Dorcas Circle Salad Luncheon, 10 a.m. in Lacefield Hall  
Lydia Circle Meeting, 6 p.m. at the home of Shirley Bryan
- Wednesday, May 13.....Amazing Grace Choir Spring Concert, 6:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- Monday, May 25.....Memorial Day

### MAY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

May 6	May 13	May 20	May 27
ROAST BEEF NEW POTATOES BROCCOLI ROLLS	SPAGHETTI W/MEAT SAUCE SALAD GARLIC BREAD	CHIC-FIL-A NIGHT CHICKEN SANDWICH CHICKEN TENDERS SALAD	GUMBO FRIED SHRIMP BOILED SHRIMP CHEESE GRITS COLE SLAW HUSH PUPPIES

Dessert, tea, lemonade, and coffee offered at all meals.

CHEF SALAD AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST • PIZZA IS ALSO AVAILABLE EACH WEEK AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE MAIN MENU