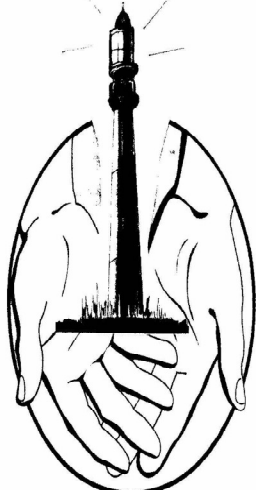


A BEACON OFFERING CHRIST TO ALL



A Publication of the First United Methodist Church of Rockport

# The Rockport Beacon

"Let Your Light So Shine..." Matthew 5:16

### Mission Statement

*Offering Christ to all through worship, ministry, discipleship and fellowship to the glory of God.*

Vol. 17, Number 4, April, 2011

[www.fumcrokport.org](http://www.fumcrokport.org)

## Plan To Attend Holy Week, Easter Services At FUMC



Palm Sunday which is April 17 will feature services at both 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. At the 10:30 service, the choir will present the Cantata "Once Upon a Tree".

Holy Week services begin on Wednesday evening, April 20th at 5:00 p.m. with a Fellowship

Meal and worship at 5:45 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion will begin at 7:00 p.m. Good Friday services begin at 12:00 p.m. with the Way of the Cross and



end at 3:00 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service will be held at Rockport Beach Park at 7:00 a.m. with Pastor Thom bringing the sermon. Fellowship time and Sunday School at the church at 9:15 a.m. followed by the Easter celebrative worship service at 10:30 a.m.





## FROM THE PASTOR

And old expression implies that love wears dark glasses and carries a white cane. “*Love is blind,*” but blinder than love is hate ... especially when it takes the form of color blindness or church blindness. Besides, various cultural or religious discriminations, *memories* can also blind us.

The dark glasses of persons blinded by memories have mirrored lenses through which they always look backwards. Memory blindness is quite popular today as a way to avoid personal responsibility. “*Oh, I was abused as a child!*” Or, “*My family was dysfunctional.*” Indeed, there are many valid cases of child abuse ... but there is also an abundance today of what professionals call false memories.

Those who are unhappy, who lament because they aren't living the kind of lives they want to live, can create or augment memories of being abused or neglected as children. These memories are like coloring books: usually they are just outlines. Yet they can be colored in to make others responsible for present unhappiness. It's a convenient coping mechanism to remove responsibility for patterns of personal behavior or for one's present state of unhappiness.

There's a well-known adage, “*The victors in life write history.*” That's true. Read any history book and you'll see that whoever won the war wrote the history of the war. Today, however, the losers in life are busy writing their own histories as they reconstruct their childhoods or their marriages in a way that justifies their present state of unhappiness or pain. The coloration of the memories is in proportion to the size of the problem or the inability to deal with it.

Paul's *Letter to the Ephesians* tell us:  
*There was a time when you were in darkness, but now you are the light in God. Well, then, live as children of light. Light produces every kind of goodness and justice and truth. Be correct in your judgment of what pleases God. Take no part in vain deeds done in darkness; rather, condemn them. It is shameful even to mention the things these people do in secret.* (Ephesians 5. 8-12)

Those shameful things done in secret are not necessarily acts performed in some darkened bedroom. More likely they are the shameful thoughts with which we play in the back rooms of our minds. Such thoughts breed deeds of darkness. The writer of *Ephesians* continues:

*But when such deeds are condemned, they are seen in the light of day, and all that then appears is light. That is why we read: “Awake, O sleeper, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light”* (Ephesians. 5. 13f.).

*Lent was a spiritual season of purification which encouraged you to undertake a good spring housecleaning ... of your mind. However, a single act of whitewashing thoughts that are dark and dangerous won't do it. Our thoughts are like mice ... creatures of habit and routine. After they are driven out, they quickly return to their nesting places in your home. A complete change of mind patterns requires daily purification. Be on your guard with your thoughts. While hidden from view, they are readily find expression in words and deeds.*

*Nourish today the desire to have only the kind of thoughts you believe God would find pleasing ... since such good thoughts are healthy for you, others, and the world.*

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## The Rockport Beacon

*The Rockport Beacon* is published monthly by the First United Methodist Church of Rockport, 801 E. Main Street, Rockport, Texas 78382.

Send address changes to *The Rockport Beacon*, P. O. Box 1045, Rockport, Texas 78381.

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## ***From The Director of Christian Education***

April Awakenings...

Happy Spring to everyone, I just love the warm weather and promises of nature's renewal.



The children and youth will be planting flowers in front of the Annex on Sunday, April 3 at 1pm. Anyone else who would like to join us please do. Snacks and water will be provided.

Also, if anyone has any small shovels we could use put your name on them and drop them off at my office. Thank you for your help.

Sunday, April 10 at 1pm all children ages birth-3<sup>rd</sup> grade are invited to attend the First Learning Tree Easter Party. There will be buggy rides, cupcake decorating,



face painting, an Easter Egg Hunt and of course a visit from the Easter Bunny. The party will be held here at church. Make plans to attend. It should be lots of fun.

Confirmation classes will be starting Sunday, April 17. We have three lovely girls

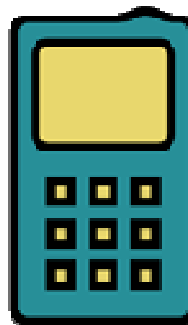
that will be attending classes. We need three volunteers to be a "Friend in the Faith" to help guide our girls through their journey. Don't worry it won't be that hard and won't take up too much time. Anyone interested please let Thom or myself know.

There is a new time for Bells on Wednesdays. The younger children now known as the Joyful Noise Ringers will meet from 4-4:30 pm and the older children named Bible Bellers will practice from 4:30-5 pm, just in time for dinner.



The "Bring Your Own Bible Study" is in full swing but there is lots of room for more. Tuesday's at 10 am.

Keep bringing your old cell phones and ink jet cartridges.









### **First Learning Tree**

I lost a good friend and First Learning Tree lost a staunch supporter with the passing of Sue Morton. I think that many of you knew that Sue was our “Story Lady”. Every Thursday at 9:00 she would arrive for story time. Sometimes she would be dressed in character or others she would bring her precious cat with her. But always, Sue would arrive with a smile and stickers or treats to pass out to the kids.

When her illness prevented her from reading to the children, we searched for other “Story Ladies” but none were able to fill her shoes. Sue had a passion for children and the importance of instilling the love of reading in a child. This was so evident in her interactions with the kids. Many times I would hear, “Is Story Lady coming? You know the other one”. Our children loved Sue also. Her death has affected so many of us, young and old hearts. We all miss her.

Sue was also passionate about First Learning Tree. She was active in our Pumpkin Patch. She would read to the children that visited the Patch, she made signs for the Fall Festival, she made the

original First Learning Tree sign that was located on Live Oak, she held a “Tea Party” for the children and brought hats for all the girls to wear and linens to dine on. She felt it was important to be exposed to the finer things in life. She would also inquire about how things were going at school and always would remark on the outstanding job that the teachers were doing. Her faith in my leadership never wavered; even when I questioned my own skills, she was there encouraging and supporting me.

In her memory, we are building a library in the Rec. Room and it will be named “Sue’s Library”. Sue and I talked many times about moving the library out of my office and having a library that was more accessible to the children and teachers. With the memorial funds that have been received, I am honoring her request. I hope to have the library finished by the end of April. It will be a living testimony to Sue and her of First Learning Tree.

Kathy Daniels

### **Thank You From Sue and JC Morton**

*We wish to express our gratitude to the Christian family of FUMC Rockport for all the love, care and concern you have shown to us during Sue’s illness. Thank you for all the cards and hand written notes of encouragement. A special thank you to the youngsters who made beautiful cards, each a work of art. The prayers have been truly felt for prayer has no boundary of time or space.*

*Sue wrote thank you seems like too small of words to convey my gratitude. I wish you all good health and happiness. May God bless you with His tender mercies.*

## Reminder of Special Lenten Worship Events

A Lenten Study titled, "We Cannot Serve God and Mammon: Transformation and The Church" is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, April 3rd from 3-5 p.m. here at the church. The leader will be Pasha Buck. The Lenten workshop will focus on an understanding of what we have promised as disciples of Jesus, especially in the work toward transformation—the coming of the Kingdom of God on Earth as it is in Heaven. There will also be "prayer images" that we can use to help us be quiet enough inside to "hear our signals" and help us be more receptive to the love, wisdom, and power of the Holy Spirit as we live our daily lives.

Pasha Buck began her career as a college English teacher (University of Kansas and Westmoreland County Community College, PA), started writing when her four children were small, and began a three-year study for her clergy license (Disciples of Christ) at age 63. She has also been a farmer, run a small business, and worked for Heifer International as Regional Director of the Great Plains States. In the 1970's, she designed and directed a program to help long-time, older residents of a PA state hospital be able to live on their own outside the hospital, teaching them how to cook, shop, maintain a household after they had spent nearly their entire adult life in the hospital. She also spins/weaves rugs with fleece from her own sheep, "plays with clay" with the neighborhood kids and Health Center residents, plays saxophone and leads the Band-Aides at The Village in Indianola, IA where

she lives. She is a retreat leader and spiritual director, leading clergy retreats and days apart, as well as working with individuals, both clergy and laity.

April 6 the Lenten Luncheon will be at First Presbyterian Church at noon. The Wednesday night Fellowship Meal at 5:00 p.m. The menu is Turkey, mixed vegetables, rolls, spring salad, cookies and ice cream and Skip Timmer will lead the worship at 5:45 p.m.

April 13 FUMC is hosting the Lenten Luncheon. Needed are people to sign up on the sheet on the volunteer desk to make 10-12 sandwiches each. We are expecting approximately 100 people to eat. The menu will also include chips, fruit salad and cookies and those items have already been provided. Please sign up for sandwiches. The Wednesday night Fellowship meal will be at 5:00 p.m. The menu will be brisket, baked beans, rolls, potato salad and brownies. Worship will be at 5:45 p.m.

Holy Week schedule is found on the front page.

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## ***Crazy Quilters Will Meet in April***

The Crazy Quilters had a wonderful time last month at the Retreat! There was no cooking and no dishes!!!

They will meet on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. through April except April 13th because of the Lenten Luncheon hosted here.



## **One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering To Be Taken Sunday, April 3rd**

Join United Methodists everywhere by Participating in the special offering that supports UMCOR's vital work. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation for UMCOR to bring restoration, healing and hope for tomorrow. Please give generously.

Restoration—Healing—Hope. Jesus teaches us to bring healing and restoration wherever we can.

So much of what UMCOR does is about restoration: giving sight to the blind, building up farming communities, helping workers to become self-sufficient and reconstructing places destroyed by disaster.

We are working ecumenically in Japan to help rebuild and restore as well as in Haiti and other earthquake devastated areas.

## **Order Easter Lily In Honor Or In Memory of Someone**

You may either order a flower which will be used to decorate the sanctuary for Easter or you may make a donation which will be used for a mission project.

In either case, you may specify your gift to be In Memory Of or In Honor Of someone.

Flowers are \$10 each. If you wish, you may take yours home any time after the service on Easter Sunday.

Monetary donations of at least \$10 may also be made. The money will be used for The Good Samaritans.

Order forms are available in Sunday bulletins or on the volunteer desk. Order deadline is Monday, April 18th.

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## ***Several Volunteer opportunities available***

Provide an Easter basket/gift for a child under CPS supervision. Take a name from the Easter basket in the foyer.

Volunteer to be an usher/greeter or a lector (read Scripture) on Sunday mornings. Contact the church office.

Join the Prayer Team which meets on Wednesday afternoons at 1:15 p.m. here at the church. Call the church at 729-1659 to volunteer.

## April Birthdays

- 01—Mary Townsend
- 01—Bob Meador
- 02—Taylor Schacht
  
- 05—Pat Speck
- 11—Lorraine Hott
  
- 13—Walter Henshue
- 14—Carl Lechlitner
- 18—Jane Garrett
  
- 20—Kevin Jamison
- 20—Jean Stobaugh
- 20—Janet Timmer
- 20—Cole Armstrong
- 21—Chris Weber
- 21—Lesa Larsen

- 22—Dale Motsinger
- 22—Jerald Luttrell
- 24—John Mead, Sr.
- 25—Edwina Garrison
  
- 27—James Miller
  
- 28—Frances Travis



## Emmaus Gathering Set for April 7th

The monthly Emmaus Gathering will be held on Thursday, April 7th, at 6:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 619 Lang Rd. in Portland. From the highway, exit Lang. The church is located one block west of the HEB on the left.



## April Anniversaries

- 07—Jack & Joyce Dittmar
  
- 11—Bob & Adeline Dunlap
- 17—Norman & Janice Spears
- 18—Terry & Linda Collins
- 19—Ray & Ellie Saenz
- 21—Richard & Chris Weber

### Interested in Attending Walk to Emmaus?

You may contact Steve Johnson or Chris Weber about getting you registered to attend a Walk.

The Walk to Emmaus is an adaptation of the Roman Catholic Cursillo Movement which originated in Spain in 1949. Cursillo de Cristianidad means "little course in Christianity." The original Cursillo leaders designed the program to empower persons to transform their living and working environments into Christian environments. In 1978 The Upper Room of the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church adapted the program for a primarily Protestant audience and began to offer it under the name The Upper Room Cursillo. In 1981 The Upper Room made further adaptations and changed the  
(continued on back page)



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# The Rockport Beacon

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Name of the Program to the Upper Room Walk to Emmaus. It is a highly structured weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people, and through them, their families, congregations and the world in which they live.

The Walk to Emmaus is a 72-hour experience which begins on a Thursday evening and ends on Sunday evening. It is usually held at a retreat center. You will live and study together in singing, prayer, worship and discussion. Discussions center around fifteen talks given by laity and clergy. These talks present the theme of God's grace and how that grace comes alive in the Christian Community and expresses itself in the world. You'll also discover how grace is real in your life, and how you can live in the life of grace, bringing grace to others. You will have the op-

portunity to participate in the daily celebration of Holy Communion and to begin to understand, more fully, the presence of Christ in his body of believers. You will experience God's grace personally through the prayers and acts of service of a living support community.

After a pilgrim attends a Walk he or she meets weekly in small groups with other pilgrims and then monthly with a larger gathering. Emmaus is Ecumenical.

Men and women attend separate Walks.

More information is available from Steve Johnson and Chris Weber, local leaders of the Emmaus Group, or from the church office.

Vol. 17 No. 4

April, 2011

Thom Elliott, Pastor

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