



Pastor Ponderings

July 2019

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I’ve commanded you.” – Matthew 28:18-20

Dear Friends,

- **Family Fellowship** meets each Sunday, at 6:00 pm. (Notice the time change!) We’ve played GaGa Ball, Corn Hole and Washers. Thank you, Dee for building the court! Thanks to Sandra for snacks! To Kerry & Kaelyn for support. We are singing contemporary songs and sharing in worship using “Sticky Faith Every Day; Noticing God More.” Invite families who don’t participate in church. Pray for 30 participants!
- The Blessing Box placed outside the Education entrance is an opportunity for us to assist our community since the Sinton Food Pantry has reduced its distribution to twice each month. Future Problem Solvers from the Sinton H.S. placed the box (with approval of Church Council) because of the need they identified in Sinton. It has been used regularly. The students are replenishing, and have invited us to do so also.
- Please be faithful in your generosity to support FUMC with your tithes and offerings. We are experiencing the usual summer cash flow problems. Please mail your gifts before you go on vacation or donate on-line through PayPal at <https://sintonfumc.org>.
- Vacation Bible School continues to be one of our great outreach activities for children. Without teaching the stories of the Bible, kids have no way to learn of Christ’s love. Please volunteer (especially men- they need male role models!). Forms for preregistration are available in the Narthex, Office, or online at <https://sintonfumc.org/ministries>.



We are busy! Let’s be fruitful, too! I love you and pray for you all.

In Jesus Joy & Justice,

Rev. Beth Peterson

Pastor Beth

FROM OUR D.S.

For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Matthew 25:35

Throughout the day, groups of 50 to 100 arrived to the Humanitarian Respite Center. They gathered around a woman with a microphone saying in Spanish, “You are in McAllen, Texas and you are now in a safe place. If you are hungry, get in line for some food, if you need clothes get in the clothing line, if you need a shower, check the schedule and get in the shower line. We also have a nurse who can help with minor medical issues.”

I was part of a team of El Valle District seminary interns, three El Valle District pastors, and nuns from New Jersey who served at the center the third week of June. Approximately 1000 immigrant refugees each day were welcomed at the center. I saw many children, a lot of them lying on a mat on the floor, others sitting in small chairs often used in Sunday school classes but now used at the center, and others simply playing. It was especially hard to see the children just trying to find a good place to rest, but adults too were finding their space whether in a hallway on a mat, underneath a table, grouped together against the wall, people were simply finding their space.

Dignidad: El Valle District has a longtime partnership with Catholic Charities and the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen providing supplies, food, and presence as we seek to respond out of our Christian walk. The center’s purpose is “The HRC provides refugees compassionate care via a safe environment, legal orientation and general information, a warm meal and water, hygiene products and a warm shower, a clean change of clothes, temporary shelter, medical supplies and assistance if needed and transportation services. The target population are recently detained individuals primarily from Central America, that are about to be released by ICE and are referred to our agency from their local detention centers”

(<https://www.catholiccharitiesrgv.org/respitocenter/History.aspx>).

El Valle District and many of its churches will continue to support this effort as part of the center’s efforts to restore dignity (*dignidad*) to this vulnerable community. Along with local resources, we have received a grant that encourages church participation to respond to needed requests of several respite centers throughout the Rio Grande Valley. One of the things that stood out to me along with all the activity of a 1000 people in this large space was the strong rather pungent smell that just comes with the gathering of so many people. It reminded me that there was a lot of work to be here.

Dinners - Those of us who volunteered for three days mostly worked in the kitchen. We made hundreds and hundreds of ham and cheese sandwiches which are given to folks along with water and basic supplies as they leave the center. We made pots and pots of soup. We assembled and distributed hundreds and hundreds of cereal cups with milk. We washed dishes, swept and mopped the dining room and the kitchen, setup the dining room, and threw away trash. I went to HEB for supplies multiple times and just did what needed to be done to feed everyone. We served over 2000 meals in our brief time there. The food lines were long, and as soon as breakfast service ended the lunch line began to form. It felt like the line never got shorter than 300 plus in a line at any one time.

Here is a short reflection from one of our seminary interns who served: “Full of compassion, I lived those moments as a spiritual connection recalling Jesus’ teaching to love our neighbors as ourselves. What was more heart broken is the unimaginable number of children at the Respite Center who could say in Spanish “Me das” to express their need for food especially in morning while all immigrants lined up to receive the breakfast. This experience has enabled me to think twice and be grateful to God each time I have the opportunity to eat, that there are those who struggle to have this food, each time I have an opportunity to choose, that there are those who do not choose because they can only take what is available. From those experiences, I have known what it means to transcend our zone of comfort and really resemble Christ by serving others with joy” (Yves Kinangwa).

Helping -If you are interested in helping here or other places along the border please go to www.riotexas.org/immigrationresponse or www.elvalleumc.org/immigrant-response to find ways to help and

donate. You can also access the Humanitarian Respite Center directly at <https://www.catholiccharitiesrgv.org/HumanitarianRespiteCenter.shtml>.

Our bishop believes in radical hospitality as fundamental to who we are as the church. Sometimes we need to take hospitality to people in genuine and authentic ways. Schnase writes, "Hospitality also describes the yearning to be sent by Christ into the lives of others to share the gracious love of Christ in whatever circumstance we find ourselves. Radical hospitality respects the dignity of others, and expresses God's initiating and inviting love for every person" (19).

I believe this is sacred work. It's sacred because the immigrant refugees who have gathered here are part of our community. It's sacred because children deserve our very best as the church. It's sacred because this crisis moves us past our comfort zone and helps us move deeper towards God and one another. I understand the border brings complex issues to us. Policy needs to be reshaped, government institutions are being pressed, ICE and border patrol systems are being deeply stretched, cartel and human traffickers continue to cross the border, needed work at the source in the Northern Triangle countries must take place, and we need folks trying to figure out best practices in all these areas. But part of this work is not complicated; it's simply sacred. This is sacred work because we get to help restore dignity and help serve dinners.

Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez

El Valle and Coastal Bend District Superintendent

THERE IS ALSO A GREAT NEED TO HELP WITH MUCK-OUT OF HOMES IN THE VALLEY:



CRISIS CLEAN UP HOTLINE

956-465-4127

THERE IS CURRENTLY A WAITING LIST OF INDIVIDUALS
NEEDING HELP WITH CLEAN UP AFTER THE RECENT FLOODING.
PLEASE CALL THE ABOVE NUMBER TO ADD YOUR NAME IF HELP IS NEEDED.

GREETINGS FROM THE WESLEY NURSE!

I recently listened to a webinar called Associated Cognitive Disorders in Early Pathway to Dementia. It was presented by Dr. Maryam Vasefi. She shared some information that I think you will find interesting!

Dementia is a decline in the memory or thinking skills that limit someone's ability to perform their every day activities. It is a general term in relation to mental disability. There is progressive decline and a person will eventual be unable to live independently. This is usually a result of progressive damage to nerve cells. Common causes include smoking, excessive drinking, diabetes, and coronary artery disease.

Alzheimer's disease is condition in the brain where plaques and tangles have developed causing a significant mental decline and an eventual inability to care for oneself or perform activities of daily living. Four common drugs used in the early stages include Aricept, Exelon,

Kerry's References:

Alzheimer's Association. 2019 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures. *Alzheimers Dement* 2019;15(3):321-87.

Associations Between Midlife Vascular Risk Factors and 25-Year Incident Dementia in the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Cohort, doi: 10.1001/jamaneurol.2017.1658.

Estimation of the Genetic Contribution of Presenilin-1 and -2 Mutations in a Population-Based Study of Presenile Alzheimer Disease, DOI: 10.1093/hmg/7.1.43

Genome instability biomarkers and blood micronutrient risk profiles associated with mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease, *MutationResearch*776(2015)54–83

Office of Policy Development and Research, Aging in Place: Facilitating Choice and Independence.

Subjective cognitive decline and risk of MCI, DOI:10.1212/WNL.0000000000005863

Subjective Cognitive Impairment (Guest Editors: Andrea Tales, Frank Jessen, Christopher Butler, Gordon Wilcock, Judith Phillips, Tony Bayer), Supplement 1, 2015

<https://www.j-alz.com/blogs/discussion/diagnosing-subjective-cognitive-impairment-non-dementia-related-context>

The diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease: Recommendations from the National Institute on Aging-Alzheimer's Association workgroups on diagnostic guidelines for Alzheimer's disease, doi: 10.1016/j.jalz.2011.03.008

US National Library of Medicine, Clinicaltrial.gov.



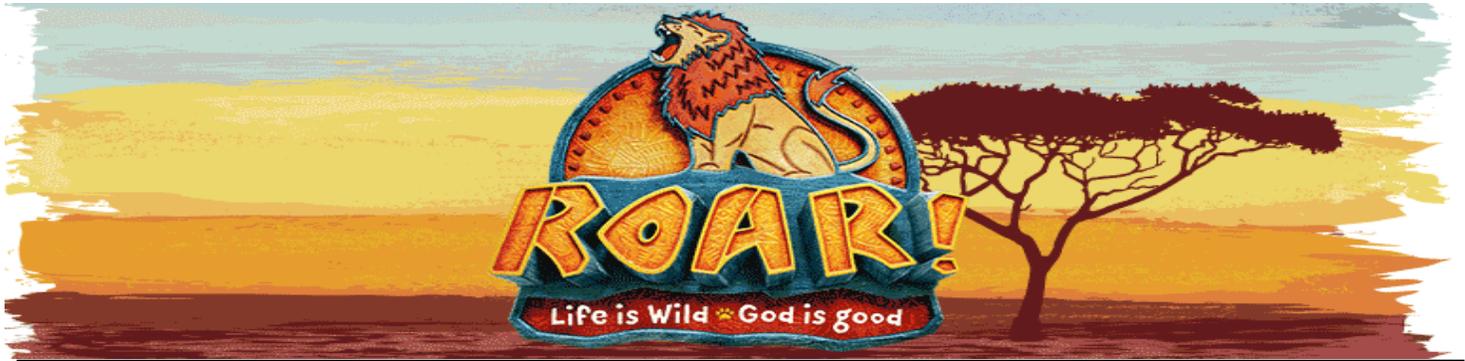
The GaGa Ball pit is open! Join us for games, snacks, and casual worship every Sunday!

All ages are invited!

For more information contact Kaelyn (Kaelyn.dubose@hotmail.com)

or Kerry DuBose (kdubose@mhm.org).





July 22nd thru July 26th 5:30-8:30PM

Want to volunteer, donate jungle or safari themed animal supplies or have questions—speak to Monica Reagan or Holly Houser



Opportunities for Service

Lay Readers:

- 7/7 Denise Cluiss
- 7/14 Patrick Houser
- 7/21 Becky Stalcup
- 7/28 Sandra Coates

Hospitality Refreshments:

- 7/7 Charlotte Walker & Bobbie May
- 7/14 Evelyn Brough
- 7/21 Kerry DuBose
- 7/28 Evelyn Brough

Greeters for July: Sandra & Nate Coates

Money Counters for 2019:

Contact Bonnie Hartung for more information. Sandra Coates, Anna Franklin & Bonnie Hartung

FREE MEALS FOR KIDS DURING THE SUMMER

Offered by SINTON ISD for Ages 1-18

June 3 thru July 12 at Smith Middle School

Breakfast 7:30-8:15 am

Lunch 11:00-1:00 pm



Of: Wanda Fairly

Of: Janie Montelongo

By: Sue McDaniel



Continue to Lift Up in Prayer:

- Jennifer & Mike
- Elizabeth Nunez
- Gabe McFarland
- Griffon Holloway
- Black family in relocation
- D'iana Jimenez's Dad
- Wes Bonner
- Suzanne Dietzel
- Kathy Wheeler
- Joe Garcia
- H.B & Carla Davis
- Melinda Rivera
- Barbara Tiseo
- Jodi Miller
- Christie Fairchild
- Joyce Smith
- Greg Smith
- Jackie Williams
- Rebecca Donnelly
- Jerry Oulliber & Grace
- Ronda Threadgill
- Karen Urban
- Tenley Threadgill
- Emma & David Hoffman
- Adam Hoffman
- Richard & Deborah Lampert
- Ryan Shazer
- Jimmy Mauch
- Tom Allen
- Robert West

Sympathies:

- Family of Gavin McFarland
- Family of Sandra Kotara Eubanks
- Family of Auggie Rendon

Military:

- Wesley Hartung
- Cameron Collier
- Jakob Unruh
- Tyler Scotten
- Brianna Monreal
- Chad Hutchins

Praises:

- Gary Hartung
- Richard Stiers
- Franklin (Aislinn's nephew)
- Sue McDaniel
- Baby Reese

JUNE 2019 OFFERING

June 2: \$2,679

June 9: \$1,650

June 16: \$1,076

June 23: \$2,178

June 30: \$1,723

Monthly Total \$9,306

Needed monthly \$12,198

Annual Apportionment: \$15,760

Paid this year: \$574

Apportionment Balance: \$15,185

Please remember to return your 2019 Pledge Cards

ATTENDANCE

June 2: Worship - 27

Sunday School- 7

June 9: Worship - 38

Sunday School- 34

June 16: Worship - 28

Sunday School- 17

June 23: Worship - 30

Sunday School- 17

June 30: Worship -24

Sunday School- 12

Monthly Worship Average 29

Have a Prayer Request,
Update or Praise Report?
Let the office know!



THANK YOU

A big thanks to our church family for all your work on our Fish Fry Sunday. A special thanks to Patrick Houser for all the great work he did for the fish fry- the fish was great!! Thanks to the men outside in the heat, servers inside, youth runners, Kaelyn DuBose for manning the beginning of the outside line, and Jessica Hartung for manning the pick-up and money outside.

If you have any suggestions for next year, please let me know.
Sandra Coates

June 2019 Fish Fry Notes

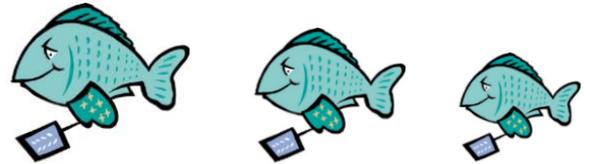
Sold 350 Tickets

Plated 284

Deposit \$3,616.00

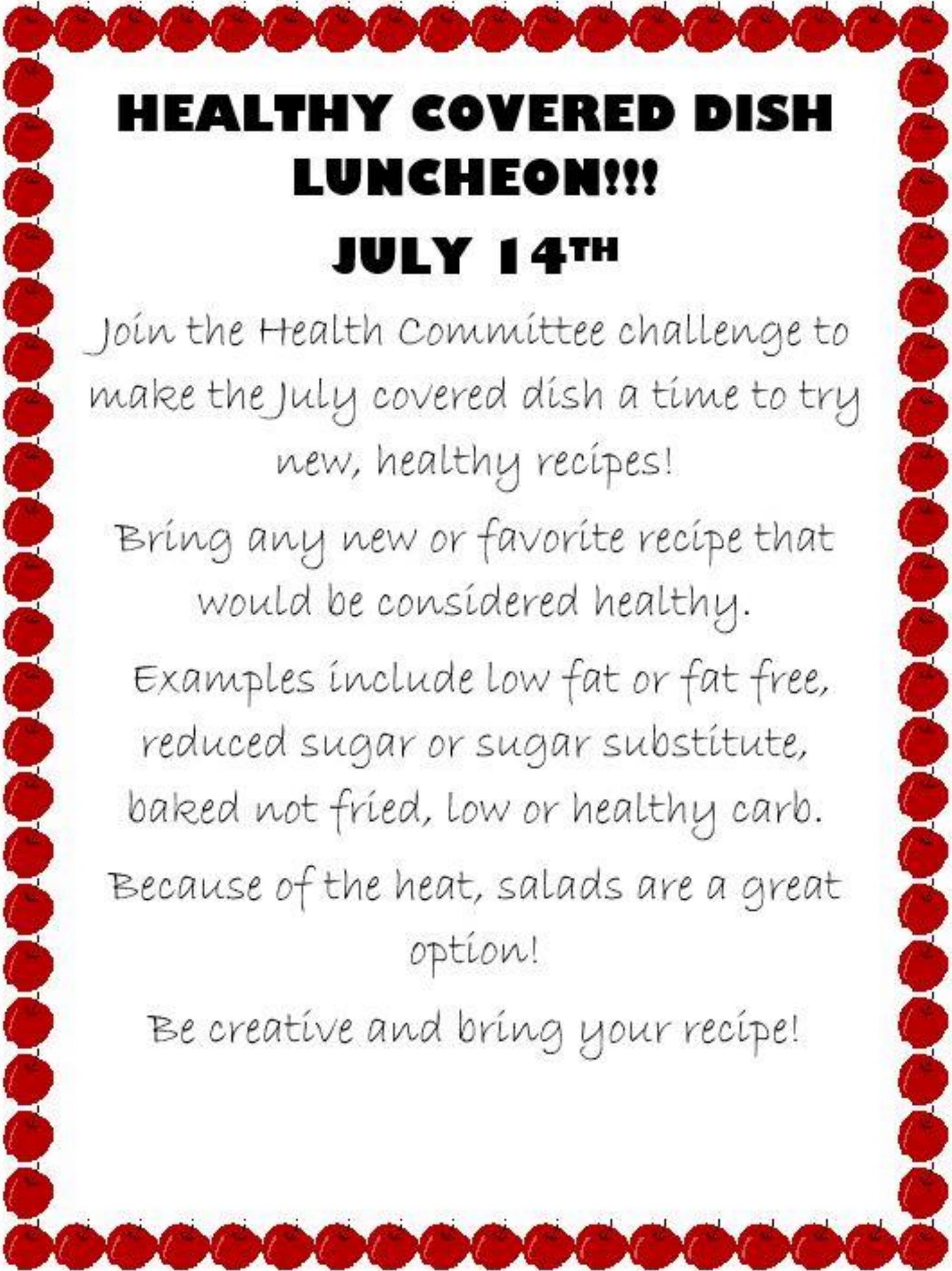
Expenses \$1,344.26

Total Profit \$2,271.26



Dear Fume,
Thank you for the reception after the scholarship presentation, and for the nice gifts I recieved to carry on with me on my new adventure.

Thank you again
Walter A. Coates, Jr



HEALTHY COVERED DISH LUNCHEON!!!

JULY 14TH

Join the Health Committee challenge to make the July covered dish a time to try new, healthy recipes!

Bring any new or favorite recipe that would be considered healthy.

Examples include low fat or fat free, reduced sugar or sugar substitute, baked not fried, low or healthy carb.

Because of the heat, salads are a great option!

Be creative and bring your recipe!



July 2019

First United Methodist Church

*Blessed is the nation
whose God is the Lord*

Psalm 33:12



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Cooking Well w/ Diabetes 10 AM	4 Office Closed	5	6 Happy Birthday Trey Threadgill
7 Men's Breakfast Family Fellowship 6-7:30PM	8 CBDRG Case Review 1:30PM	9	10 Cooking Well w/ Diabetes 10 AM CBDRG Unmet Needs 1:30PM	11	12	13
14 Healthy Covered Dish Luncheon Family Fellowship 6-7:30PM	15 Aislinn on Vacation All Week	16	17	18 CBDRG General Meeting 10AM Finance Committee Meeting 5:30PM	19	20
21 Church Council After Worship Family Fellowship 6-7:30PM Isabel on Vacation All Week	22 CBDRG Case Review 1:30PM	23	24 CBDRG Unmet Needs 1:30PM	25	26 Happy Anniversary Patrick & Holly Houser	27 Happy Birthday Krista Reagan
28 Family Fellowship 6-7:30PM	29	30 Happy Birthday Lissy Reagan	31			



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 5:30-8:30 PM

