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THE PASTOR'S PEN

On April 8th something important happened. Fourteen people stuck around after the monthly potluck social to participate in a quick and easy exercise that would provide ministry opportunities for the rest of the year. They divided into three small groups, each group sitting at a different table, with group members answering three questions: (1.) What are two or three physical assets of your church? (2.) If you asked someone what some of your gifts are, what would they say? (3.) What groups of people do you connect with in your community? Based on the responses to these questions, under the guidance of a facilitator, the group came up with two ministry opportunities.

One reason the exercise was important is because it started from our assets, not our liabilities. It's easy to take for granted the gifts which God has bestowed on us. So this exercise allowed us to reflect, with gratitude, on our blessings. So instead of starting from "We could _____, but we need to _____, _____, and _____", our starting point is "We can _____, because we already have _____, _____, and _____".

Another reason the exercise is important is because neither the Pastor nor a committee made up of five or six people come up with ideas for ministry. Instead, the congregation does! The people who will be doing the ministry discern, based on their gifts and assets, what God is calling them to do.

Another reason it was a success is because it was quick, easy, and fun! The entire process took only one hour. I saw people participating who typically are spectators. And I heard laughter! Laughter was coming from the different tables as people shared with each other and got to know each other a little bit better.

Two ideas came out of the exercise. One suggestion was that the church sponsor an ice cream social at The Cove, a local drop-in center for homeless teens. Our church periodically makes financial donations to The Cove, but this suggestion takes our involvement to another level: one of relationship! We are currently waiting for a response to an inquiry to The Cove about the idea.

Another suggestion was that members from our church partner with members of the Royal Imperial, Sovereign Court of the Central Texas Empire (RISCCTE) to have a revival-style gospel drag show at the church during Pride weekend to benefit the Red Door Project. The RISCCTE is a group of folks whose performances benefit 501(c)3 charities, such as our church and the church's Red Door Project (which serves the HIV community of Waco and the surrounding area).

The exercise reminded me that God has surrounded me with ministers, and I am

grateful! It highlighted the church's assets, which also makes me grateful! I expect we will be conducting the exercise again in the future. For those who were unable to participate this time, I hope you can join us next time! You are sure to be blessed, if you do!

Peace and blessings,
Charley

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The following is a tentative list of upcoming church activities and community events. Contact the church for a confirmation of the calendar.

Weekly Events:

- **Central Texas MCC Worship** (1601 Clay Ave.) on Sundays at 11:00 a.m.
- **Live and Let Live AA Group** (4209 N. 27th St.) on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 6 – Accessibility Sunday. Worship will take place downstairs in the Social Hall.

Sunday, May 6 – Information Forum (Part Two). Join the Pastor after worship for the second of a two-part information forum about what Central Texas MCC is all about.

Sunday, May 13 – Mother's Day. Part of our worship service will be dedicated to honoring the mothers among us.

Tuesday, May 15 – "See Jane Beat Cancer" Book Release Party at UU Fellowship (4209 N. 27th St.) 6:30PM-8:30PM.

Saturday, May 19 – Court Show in the church sanctuary at 7PM benefiting the church and Red Door Project.

Sunday, May 20 – Accessibility Sunday. Worship will take place downstairs in the Social Hall.

Sunday, May 20 – Potluck Social immediately after worship in the Social Hall. Good food, good fellowship!

Thursday, May 17 – HIV Support Group at 6PM in the Social Hall begins with a home-cooked meal and continues with connection and conversation.

Sunday, May 27 – Spaghetti Dinner. Stick around after worship on Anniversary Sunday for a silent auction and an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner. \$10 suggested donation.

BIRTHDAYS

The following people, who join us for worship, have birthdays this month. If you have corrections or additions to the birthday list, please call the office at 752-5331 or email us at centexmcc@earthlink.net.

Alta Mostyn – May 7

Tabitha Ross – May 11

Information Forum



Join Pastor Charley after worship in the Social Hall for the first of a two-part on **Sunday, April 29** and the second session on **Sunday, May 6**. This is for you...

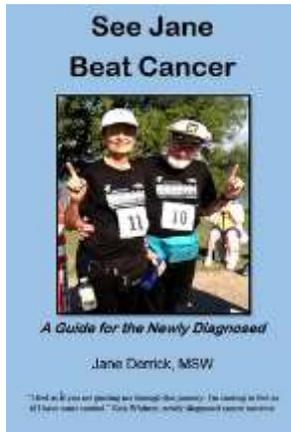
- if you are interested in becoming a member of Central Texas MCC;
- if you aren't ready to become a member, but are interested in knowing more about Central Texas MCC; or
- if you would like a "refresher course" on who we are and what we are about.

Mother's Day



Join us for worship on **Sunday, May 13** for worship, when a portion of the service will be dedicated to honoring the mothers among us!

"See Jane Beat Cancer" Book Release Party



Jane Derrick faced triple negative breast cancer in 2012 after a full life as wife and mother, social worker and community activist, and is five years out from successful treatment. "See Jane Beat Cancer: A Guide for the Newly Diagnosed" is a personal breast cancer journey which empowers survivors to take control of their cancer. The author guides the reader through the processes of gathering support, getting a second opinion and becoming autonomous in treatment decisions. She shares her emotions, her readings, her exercise program, her daily diets and recipes and her spiritual focus in her walk of victory, inspiring courage and a steadfast commitment to thrive. The important points of each chapter are summarized with Takeaways and the reader is engaged with Reflection Questions.

Come to the book release party on **Tuesday, May 15** from 6:30PM to 8:30PM at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (4209 N. 27th St.). Music will be provided by Lee Van Wagner, along with free pizza and Jo's cookies! RSVP is not required, but helpful for food planning. You can RSVP to jane@seejanebeatcancer.com or phone: 254-715-7827.

"Say Something" Hat Show



On **Saturday, May 19**, The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Central Texas Empire presents "A Say Something Hat Show!!!" Wear your best hat and bring your best gospel! Potluck covered dish dinner at 6PM, and show time at 7PM at Central Texas MCC.

All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner



Join us for worship on **Sunday, May 27** when we celebrate our church's 32nd anniversary! We are grateful from where God has brought us and we look with gratitude towards the future!

And if you stick around after worship for the fun and fellowship, you'll sure to leave with an attitude of gratitude because we're serving up all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinners with all the trimmings for a suggested donation of \$10. In addition to the dinner, there will be a silent auction.