I still need help with the Finance team. I still need one person to train to pay the Church bills over the internet. And, I still need three people from the 11:00 service to commit to counting the offering and preparing the deposit each week. These are two of the most important functions performed by any volunteer. If the money doesn't get counted, and the bills don't get paid, there will be no worship on Sunday. If the money doesn't get counted, and the bills don't get paid, there will be no children's ministry. If the money doesn't get counted, and the bills don't get paid, there is no Bible study, no Senior Coffee, no Heart2Heart, no baptisms, and no funerals. Our church completely ceases to function if the money doesn't get counted, or if the bills are not paid. Please ask yourself what you can do to serve your church. And, if possible, please help with our Finance Team.

In Christ,

Rocky

**Stewardship Team**

The Stewardship Team will meet *Sunday, March 5th at 12:00 pm*. We have both old and new business to address.

The meetings are long, but these are very important decisions we are making.

Thank you so much for your service to your church!

And the winner is ....

**Prayer Partners**

Remember to pray for your partner and don't forget to leave a card and/or small gift of encouragement. All of us look forward to receiving at least a card each week.

**Special points of interest:**

- March Birthdays: 2
- Girls’ Breakfast Club: 2
- Volunteers: 2
- March Important Dates: 3
- Church-wide Clean up: 3
- Pictures: 5
Worship Volunteer

Throughout March you will be offered an opportunity to sign up for worship volunteer. You can sign up to serve Communion at either the 9:00 or 11:00 service. And, you can sign up to give the Invocation at the 11:00 service. Any adult, or any child who has completed Confirmation, may sign up. You will be committing to serve sometime between April and September 2017.

Communion Server | Date | Heavenly Perks | Invocation (11AM)
--- | --- | --- | ---
9AM—Katie B | 5 | Linda E and Jackie E | Lynne V
11AM—DD S | 12 | Debbie G and Tish T | Solange L
 | 19 | Katie B and Beth & Scott | Joey A
 | 26 | Amanda & Nate and Jody S | Freda T

This month Senior Coffee will meet on the 9th, and the 23rd, at 9:00 am. You don’t have to be a senior to attend. You only need to be available! This is just coffee and conversation. Come and join!

Memorial Service

The Memorial service for Alice Hanselman (Mike’s mother) will be on Saturday, March 11th, at 1:00 pm. Sympathy cards can be mailed to: Mike Hanselman, 537 Canterbury Park Ln, Ponder, TX 76259. The Hanselman family genuinely appreciates all of your prayers and well wishes.

Ladies, let’s get better acquainted over breakfast, and a cup of coffee. We possibly could solve the world’s problems!

During March we will meet at Mom’s Café, Justin, 9:00am Dates: March 2, 16, 30 (every other Thursday that is NOT Senior Coffee Day)
March Important Dates

01  Ash Wednesday service 7:00 pm.
02  Girls Breakfast Club Mom’s Café, Justin, 9:00 am
05  First Sunday of Lent.
05  Stewardship Team meeting 12:00 pm.
05  Heart2Heart Lenten craft 6:00 pm.
07  Mom’s in Prayer 8:30 am
07  Women’s Bible study 6:00 pm.
08  Bible Study and D.O.G. 6:30 pm.
09  Senior Coffee 9:00 am.
11  Alice Hanselman memorial 1:00 pm.
12  Second Sunday of Lent.
13  - 17  Spring Break
14  Mom’s in Prayer 8:30 am (check with Joey)
14  Women’s Bible study 6:00 pm.
15  Bible Study and D.O.G. 6:30 pm.
16  Girls Breakfast Club Mom’s Café, Justin, 9:00 am
19  Third Sunday of Lent.
21  Mom’s in Prayer 8:30 am
21  Women’s Bible study 6:00 pm.
22  Bible Study and D.O.G. 6:30 pm.
23  Senior Coffee 9:00 am.
25  Church cleanup.
26  Fourth Sunday of Lent.
28  Mom’s in Prayer 8:30 am
28  Women’s Bible study 6:00 pm.
29  Bible Study and D.O.G. 6:30 pm.
30  Girls Breakfast Club Mom’s Café, Justin, 9:00 am

Churchwide Spring Spruce-up

We will have a church-wide, inside and out, cleanup day on

Saturday, March 25
9:00-noon

All ages welcome. Sign up for projects that best suit your skills and/or interests during church Sunday on March 12 & 19. There is so much Spring Cleaning to do. And, the playground and church yard, need a lot of attention. We all share in the benefit of the church. Please participate in keeping our facility functional and attractive.

Projects include, but not limited to:
- wheel dirt to low spots in yard
- repair fence & gates at playground
- wash windows
- move pile of clay at shed to back
- paint swing set in playground
- level landscape pavers, add mulch
- rebuild mower ramp at shed
- cut down 2-3 small trees
- tear out wood frame in playground
- provide 2-3 dozen cookies ☺
- __________ your idea

Tools needed for complete projects: various yard tools, wheelbarrows, chain saw. If you have any that we can share, please bring.
We've had a wonderful start in our 2017 Children's Ministry! From Epiphany Sunday thru Transfiguration Sunday, it's been great fun and a learning experience!

**Our Children's Pancake Breakfast was Saturday, February 11th.** 18 hungry children showed up bringing their friends! Many thanks to our volunteer griddle chefs Darin Gray, Amanda and Nathan McClure and Solange Lavender. (I even learned a few new tricks in the art of making the best fluffy pancakes!) Carol Navis, Jody Santo and Janet Kincaid were servers and helped with clean up, as did other attendees. Thanks ladies! Solange Lavender, Jane Stanley, Tori Dickens, Ginger Deussen, Debbie Gustafson, Chris Mills, Ellen Taliaferro, Jody Santo and I supplied ample amounts of milk, chocolate milk, orange juice, real butter, bacon and sausage!

Afterwards Rebecca and Xavier Valenzuela presented a puppet show about Love to the delight of all the children. Joyce McKelvey demonstrated how to make animal figure balloon art, and each of the children were so happy to take one home. Thank you to everyone who made this special children's event such a great success!

On Sunday, February 12th, the children had fun decorating over 130 cookies, they were all beautiful and unique and it became quite competitive! They were presented to our church family 2 Sundays in a row to show our love and appreciation and to say thank you for supporting our Children's Ministry. Thank you so much!

A special thank you to those volunteers who taught and entertained my Children's Ministry classes as I attempted to fill in for Rocky on Transfiguration Sunday, February 26th. Debbie Gustafson, 9:00am Children's Ministry, Solange Lavender, Rebecca and Xavier, 10:00am Sunday School and Kim Renslow 11:00am Children's Ministry. Thank you. You are so appreciated!

The Good News Club started February 20th for the new spring series. Joey Arterberry, Petra Klotz and I are representing our church in this volunteer after school program to bring the Good News to the children at Ponder Elementary. We are excited to be apart of this amazing program.

I can not express how grateful I am for all of your continued support of our Children's Ministry!

A heartfelt thank you!!

In Christ,

Tish Turner, Children's Pastor
Children’s Ministry in February:
Pancake Breakfast, puppet show, playground fun

Beautiful cookies decorated by our children
Only in Texas

Texas bar sues church over lightning strike!

Beer Joint Sues Church In Mt. Vernon, Texas

Drummond’s Bar began construction on an expansion of their building to increase their business.

In response, the local Baptist Church started a campaign to block the bar from expanding, with petitions and prayers. Work progressed right up until the week before the grand reopening, when lightning struck the bar and it burned to the ground!

After the bar burned to the ground due to a lightning strike, the church folks were rather smug in their outlook, bragging about ”the power of prayer”. The bar owner sued the church on the grounds that the church ”was ultimately responsible for the demise of his building, either through direct or indirect actions or means.”

In its reply to the court, the church vehemently denied all responsibility or any connection to the building’s demise.

The judge read through the plaintiff’s complaint and the defendant’s reply, and at the opening hearing he commented, ”I don’t know how I’m going to decide this. It appears from the paperwork that we have a bar owner who believes in the power of prayer, and an entire church congregation that now does not.”

True Story, or is it?

From Snopes: In that earlier telling, the name of the tavern and that of the town where the incident took place are not given. Later versions would flesh out the tale, such as a July 2007 blog post which presented the incident as having happened in “a small, Midwestern conservative town” and the August 2008 version given in the Example section above which dubbed the lightning-struck watering hole Drummond’s Bar and located it in Mt. Vernon, Texas.

The story isn’t supposed to be read as relating something that happened in real life; it’s a modern day admonition to churchgoers to not allow transient secular needs to get in the way of their faith. What a person believes or will stand up for shouldn’t change because there’s a monetary factor involved; otherwise, it’s not true belief. As the fictional judge points out, there is something untoward about a congregation so willing to put worldly matters first that it denies it believes in prayer.

While the tale is an exaggeration of its underlying moral, that overstatement is a way of prompting folks to measure the contents of their hearts against those of the fictional congregation to see if they themselves aren’t at times engaging in a bit of religious distancing. Do they set aside their faith, and their pride in it, when faith becomes inconvenient? Or do they stand up for their beliefs and proudly proclaim them, even when doing so is to their disadvantage, financial or otherwise?