

February 2012 Newsletter

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills

201 South Montgomery Highway, Birmingham, AL 35216

Project HOPE Update

Nicaraguan Trips, January 2012 March 2012

There were ten of us this year – Cindy Barberini, Casey & Cheryl Crownhart, Melissa & Jonathan Doroh, Ruth Johnson, Debbie Riha, Lauren & Amy Schroeder, and yours truly – who spent January 14-21 in sunny Nicaragua. Under the theme ***Jesus Is the Light of Our Lives***, the group traveled to three villages (El Marañonal, Monte Redondo, and La Cartonera) leading Vacation Bible School type activities among 350 children. The team taught two Bible stories: Jesus healing a paralyzed man who was lowered through a roof and the story of the resurrection. There were also singing & dancing, crafts, and games to make for some very exciting days. One of the crafts involved the children placing their paint-stained hands on the back of a new tee shirt in the shape of the sun, and then being able to take that new shirt home. It was amazing and gratifying to see shirts from previous years' visits still being worn by several of the children.

As in past years our team worked alongside of a dozen Nicaraguan volunteers. Often language became a challenge in our working together, but through patience, love, and a host of creative efforts the challenge was overcome and some very beautiful, deep, and enduring relationships were formed. These volunteers will eventually take the program our group taught them, along with leftover supplies, to other villages in Nicaragua so that in time over a thousand children will learn of the new life we have through our Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

with crosses, candy, and little toys. Also one of the craft projects consisted of assembling a wash cloth, pencils & sharpeners, and candy bound together with a hair band which the little ones could take home. All of these gifts were made possible with your labors of love and your financial offerings. Our Nicaraguan friends are deeply grateful for your generosity.

On March 17-24 a second LCVH ministry team will travel to Nicaragua. Deborah & Jackson Como, Donna & Greg Crabb, Anna Crabb, Dee Hellmers & yours truly will complete a small church in El Pastal which was started by another church a few years ago. Our group will install windows and paint walls (and perhaps shore up a sagging roof) so that our Nicaraguan friends will have a beautiful place for worshipping God and gathering for community activities.

Shortly after the second team returns from Nicaragua I will offer a slide presentation on the ministries of both our January and March Project HOPE teams in Nicaragua.

(continued on page 4)



On your behalf our team also distributed gifts to our Nicaraguan brothers and sisters in Christ. These included: 1,500 food packages of rice, corn meal, beans, oil, sugar, and salt; 150 hygiene packages of soap, shampoo, tooth paste & brushes; children's books in Spanish; hundreds of flip flops; and 400 children's gift baggies filled

“O Blessed Spring” A Lenten Series on Repentance and New Life

The word *Lent* comes from an ancient word meaning *spring*. For Christians, Lent is more than one of the seasons of the calendar year. Lent is a special season of the church year. Lent is a forty day spiritual walk of repentance beginning with Ash Wednesday; preparing us for the death of our Savior on Good Friday. But thanks be to God - out of this death will come Easter life. The darkness and death of winter is always overcome by the light and life of spring. That is why we can say: “O Blessed Spring!”

Repentance is the path to new life. How important is repentance? Consider the following. John the Baptist was called by God to prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah through a “preaching of repentance.” (Mark 1:4) Our Lord proclaimed: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” (Matthew 4:17) In the first of his famous *95 Theses* Martin Luther declared: “When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, ‘Repent’, He called for the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.”

In our series this year each midweek service will search the Scriptures to grow and mature in our understanding of our Lenten Lord’s call to repentance and the beautiful promise of new life.

Lenten Midweek Fellowship Dinners and Services Schedule

Ash Wednesday—Feb 22 Worship at 6:45 p.m.
 February 29 Dinner at 6:00 pm, Service at 6:45 pm
 March 7 Dinner at 6:00 pm, Service at 6:45 pm
 March 14 Dinner at 6:00 pm, Service at 6:45 pm
 March 21 Dinner at 6:00 pm, Service at 6:45 pm
 March 28 Dinner at 6:00 pm, Service at 6:45 pm



It’s *Spring Fling* Time Again-



Mark Your Calendar! “Spring Fling” Church Cleaning Day - Saturday, March 10th

From 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. there will be a spring cleaning here at LCVH. More news will come as the time approaches! But the property board invites you to set this time aside...a list of jobs of all types are ready for you when you arrive!

OWLs (Older, Wiser Lutherans) to visit Bessemer Hall of History

The OWL's February activity will be held on Saturday, February 25. We will leave from LCVH at 10:00 AM arriving at the Bessemer Hall of History at 10:30. The short, 10 minute, guided tour will start at 10:30. The guide will then be available to ask questions as we self tour. While admission is free, a donation of \$5.00 per person is suggested.

We will leave for the Bright Star at 11:30. <http://thebrightstar.com/php/menu.php>

Please sign up at church or contact the church office by Thursday, February 23 and ask for your name to be added to the sign up list. Everyone is invited.

KidzQuest for February

Lost and Found

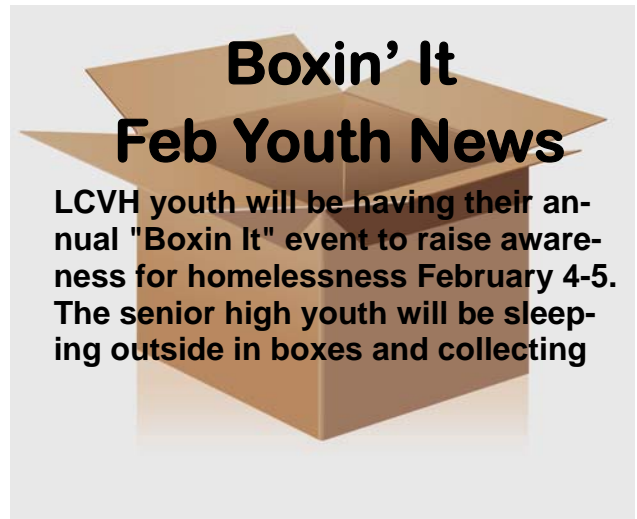
This month in KidzQuest, we will be learning about two more parables that Jesus told: The Lost Coin and The Lost Sheep.

Scripture: Luke 15:3-32

Memory Verse: We had to celebrate this happy day ... he was lost but now he is found" Luke 15:32

Bible Point: We know that God is happy when we are found in Him and not lost to sin.

Faith Builder: When we lose our way and fall away from God, He is always looking for ways to find us and bring us close again.



(An artist's interpretation of the Good Shepherd and an ancient coin are pictured on page 7.)

Our Organists and Musicians



LCVH is blest with some very talented pianists and organists who are sharing their talents with us on a rotation bases for our Sunday and midweek worship.

- Jody Coombs
- Rachel Julian
- Ruth Johnson—our Director of Children's Ministry
- Julie Decker—one of our Church Elders and active member

Laurie Zorn, a new member to LCVH, occasionally accompanies the adult choir on anthems.

As most of you know, our own Ruth Johnson is a multi-talented musician—a fine violinist, pianist, choirs director, and organist. The Ardivino family—Joe, Lori, and sons—provide our special worship services with musical gifts on trombone, trumpet, oboe, alto saxophone and clarinet. Another faithful member, Melissa Phillips, provides wonderful choir accompaniment on flute and piccolo. The list goes on.....Mark Hellmers, Todd Pickard, Cole Crownhart,,,,,,,,,

Adult choir members who give their voices in song and support to our congregational singing are::

- Sopranos: Ellen Seltz, Clarine Strand, Rachel Elsey, Alma Gaertner, Katherine Crabb
- Altos: Laurie Zorn, Jaki Ahlemeyer, Katie Romp, Donna Crabb
- Tenors: Len Suelter, Keith Johnson, Debbie Riha, Dot Von Hoene, Kevin Taylor, Scott Strand
- Bass: Parker Stroom, Darrell Lauppe, Mike Zorn

Children's Choirs and Soloists—what can we say except they are wonderful, tuneful, truthful, and energetic in the Spirit of their faith.

Project HOPE –
continued from page 1



Somehow, some way I hope that even if you cannot travel to other countries that you too feel a part of the ministry of Project HOPE.

Through your prayers, your words of encouragement, your gifts, and your financial offerings our whole LCVH family is doing what Jesus commanded us to do: offer to the world the **HOPE for tomorrow and for eternity we have through Christ**. For your support in those efforts I constantly praise God and sincerely thank you.

Coordinator for Project HOPE

Pastor Cliff Hellmers

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity

It's time for another Thrivent Builds Habitat House!

Who and Where:

The house will be for the Rodgers family of Jonesa and Kourtlin

The location is 153 Martin Drive in Centerpoint.

When:

We will begin the build on **February 25th** and continue each week-end until the dedication date which is estimated to be around April 21st. (no work day before Easter is planned)

What YOU can do:

- In the coming weeks we will have a fundraiser like last year to hopefully raise the funds needed to build the house. The bulletin board will be set up in the hall with information by April. We will have an email journal of the build again this year and if you would like to keep up with the build or want to be a part of the build.

- We will need someone to head up a team to prepare a noon time meal.

Usually we prepare for around 30-40, but will know the week of the meal.

Contact Donna Crabb by email at dmcrabb@uab.edu or by phone 205-979-0549.

Donna Crabb

Other information can be found at: thriventbuilds.com Or www.habitatbirmingham.org

Correction to January 2012 Newsletter: Parrish Mason and Madeline (Maddie) Grace Alvis, were born December 15, 2011. Their were baptized on January 22, 2012. Proud parents are Amy (nee Parrish) and Adam Alvis.

Mercedes Marathon— Sunday, February 12

We are looking for 5 members to form a relay team for the Mercedes Marathon on Sunday, FEB 12th. Each team member would run a little over 5 miles. There is a fundraising goal of \$1000 a person. Sounds like a lot, but team members will be given a form letter to send out to family, friends, church members, etc. so they could raise what they can. It adds up faster than you would think!

If anyone is interested in joining, they can contact me or Matt by email or phone (542-1788) for more details.

Thanks, *Abby Cahill*

LCVH February 2012 Newsletter

**Lutheran Church Vestavia Hills Church Orientation!**

When: Next Sunday - February 5
 Where: Church Sanctuary
 Time: 9:15-10:00 a.m.

Attention! For all new members, for all those who desire to join our church family, for all those who worship with us regularly but not an official member, for visitors wanting to learn more about our church home! This orientation is a time to come and learn about our life together! A time to make sure we are serving you well in your transition and assimilation into our church family! A time to ask questions! Pastor Ahlemeyer will lead this orientation.

“Lutheran Happenings of the South” Welcomed at LCVH

Youth leaders from the south met at our church on January 28 and 29. to support each other in their ministry. God blessings go with you as you return to your local congregation!

Narthex update and church sign update

The narthex is undergoing a fresh coat of paint on a few walls – thank you to Mike Zorn - in preparation for the new stained glass panels to be installed that represent our church discipleship theme of *Wisdom, Faith, and Service*. The panels have arrived from the Center of Liturgical Arts at Concordia University Nebraska. Thank you to the generous gifts of members that have already paid for this project!

We are blessed by the gifts of our Sunday school and special gifts from members above and beyond our church general fund budget to share with the congregation that we have reached our goal to refurbish the church sign! The property board will be working in the time ahead to move forward on this project.

Confirmation Class February Schedule Sunday, February 12 from 4-6 p.m. For our activity we will go ice skating at the Pelham Civic Center. Parents and family are invited to join us. We will start skating at 5:00 p.m.

LCVH Blind Event Thank you to all who helped at our last blind outreach event on January 26th. We provided a meal and devotion and toured the Alabama Institute for Blind to learn how we can help them in the future.

Special “Firehouse Shelter” Sunday will be on Sunday, February 5th! We will highlight our partnership with this incredible mission to the homeless in Birmingham during worship! During the bible study hour a member of the Firehouse team will lead us and share with us an update about the great things happening at the shelter. Thank you to Amy Mooney, who is going off of the board and to Matt Cahill who will be joining the board as one of our representatives from LCVH!

New phone directory coming! Watch for a new phone directory that will be coming out in the weeks ahead.

Next Pastor’s Reading Group is February 1st at 6:30 p.m. The book is “Journey with Jay” by Jan Muir Peine. You can pick up a copy of the book in the church office with a free will offering suggested at \$10.00. The book tells of the personal faith journey of an area man named Jay Basselin. The book details his inspirational recovery from a catastrophic brain injury. Jay Basselin will be here at LCVH that night leading the discussion on his book and re-telling his experiences (the book might also be found at your local bookstore.)

Nicaragua Mission Team has returned! In May, they will share a review of the highlights of the trip with the congregation after our second mission team comes back which is traveling over spring break in March!

NEW BOOKS IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY!

Hey Parents! Be sure to drop by the Church Library (adjacent to the church office) to check out some of the new books on parenting that are available for you to borrow. The titles include:

[The Five Love Languages of Children](#)

[The Five Love Languages of Teenagers](#)

[Taming Your Family Zoo-Six Weeks to Raising a Well-Mannered Child](#)

[Right from the Start – A Parent’s Guide to the Young Child’s Faith Development](#)

[Teaching Your Children Values](#)

[Money Doesn’t Grow on Trees](#)



We also have the “Little Visits with God” Devotional Books from Concordia Publishing House, which include:

Book 1: [Little Visits for Toddlers](#)

Book 2: [Little Visits with Jesus](#)

Book 3: [Little Visits Every Day](#)

As a “side note” regarding church library items: If you have checked a book or DVD out of the library and have finished it, please make sure to bring the items back so that others may enjoy the resources in our library! Many thanks!

Ruth Johnson, Director of Children’s Ministry

In Our Prayers

Paul Boles; Kayda Richey; Emily Frantz; Albert Brabec, father of Debbie Russell; The family of John Farmer, son-in-law of John and Ellen Ballard, husband of Carol Ballard Farmer; ; The family of Christina Heichelbech, killed in the storms of January 23rd; Other Victims of the January 23 tornadoes; Leslie Coggin; Butch Kirby; Stu Hehn; Barbara Bachmann; Doris Parrish, sister in law of Lee Parrish; Arvella Wolf, Amy Mooney & Greg Wolf’s grand-mother; Andrew Perry; Rick Kingery, Amy Mooney & Greg Wolf’s uncle; Carol Lords, Principal at Hall Kent Elementary School; Clarence Bergsma, father of Carolyn Hogan; JoAnn Como; Jean Wolter; Jean Blackwell, mother of Ron Passmore; Druscilla Defalque, friend of the Filipowski family; Pam Kirby; Kristin Ganett; Frank Wright, Linda Frawley’s father; Lori Leveille; Henry Cranston; Bo Canning’s mom, Martha Canning; Judy Dorchester; Joan Fowler; Pastor Mazak; Gaye Norman; Margaret Passmore; Judy Brosch; Jane Schrubbe; Maisie House; Lynn Tunnell, father of Andy Tunnell; Miranda Schrubbe, daughter in law of Jane Schrubbe; Larry Seltz, father of Andy Seltz; Rebecca Jayne Brooks, mother of Mona Brooks; LCVH Friends and Family in the Military.

February Birthdays

- 1 Sarah Cain
Karl Herschbach
Leigh Walter
- 2 Arlene Reynolds
- 3 Elmer Behnke
- 5 Ken Harrison
- 6 Dave Crownhart
- 7 Melissa Phillips
Nora House

Bobbie Schuleter
- 8 Raven Savage
- 9 Trent Savage
- 10 Thomas Barberini
- 11 Laura Stuman
- 12 Deborah Como
- 15 Jordan Madsen
- 16 T. Jay Stuman
- 18 Christopher Siebold
Len Suelter
Hannah Walter
- 21 Dee Hellmers
- 22 Nikolas Heino
- 23 Carter Crownhart
- 25 J. T. Clifton
- 26 Lori Heino
- 27 Rick Swanson
- 28 Scott Strand
Brittany Passmore



*To Rita, Ben, and Sharon,
A big belated Thank-you, for y'all's hard work during the Stewardship season.
Without y'all, I would still be folding the T and T sheets in the library and we would
be using plain envelopes for our giving. Bo*

THOSE WHO SERVE at Our Worship —FEBRUARY 2012



| | Sunday FEB. 5 | Sunday FEB 12 | Sunday FEB 19 | Sunday FEB 26 |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| ACOLYTES | | | | |
| 8:00 | Kristen Decker | Sarah Cain | Nicholas Dietschweiler | Trent Decker |
| 10:30 | Taylor White, Logan Romp, Mary Frances Lembke | Carter Crownhart Meagan Mooney Sam Walter | Katelyn Pickard Joe Ardivino Cole Crownhart | Beck Wolf, LT Clifton, Vinzent Wesselman |
| ALTAR CARE | Rose Phillips Debbie Westerfield Rebecca Creamer | Ann Zarzour Rosemarie Borman Margie Filipowski | Ann Zarzour Rosemarie Borman Margie Filipowski | Rod and Debbie Russell |
| COMMUNION ASSISTANTS | | | | |
| 8:00 | Bob Kleinstein Don Schmidtke | Bob Kleinstein Jason Lueck | Jason Lueck Don Schmidtke | Julie Decker Terry Cook |
| 10:30 | Sandy Dacheux Mark Walter | Joel Kuehnert Ben Hogan | Jonathan Doroh Scott Mooney | Mark Walter Scott Mooney |
| COUNTERS | Jim and Lisa Boyle | Henry Piasky Tom Barberini | Ben & Carolyn Hogan | Dale & Rose Phillips |
| GREETERS | | | | |
| 8:00 | Jane Schrubbe Gertie Hengel | Lindaq Frawley Annelle Johnson | Terry & Susan Cook | Bettie Zimmer Rosemarie Borman |
| 10:30 | Rebecca Creamer Paat Emery-Addor Wayne and Marlene Riley | Kim Rieger Ed and Doris Schulz | Lee & Elaine Parrish Scott & Amy Mooney | Darrell Lauppe Debbie Russell |
| LAY READER | | | | |
| 8:00 | Jane Schaefer | Brian Cain | Susan Cook | Pastor Mazak |
| 10:30 | Robb Romp | Kim Rieger | (Mike Kotraba) | (Julie Kotraba) |
| USHERS | | | | |
| 8:00 | Terry Cook Nicholas & Ken Dietschweiler | Jason Lueck Dave Norby | Jackson Como Brian Grau | Don Israel Bob Kleinstein |
| 10:30 | Jim Norman Todd Pickard Ron Passmore John Gaertner Wayne Riley | Phil White Glenn Schneider Ed Schulz Tony Valasek Al Riha | Jonathan Doroh Wayne Geisler Rod Russell Mark Walter | Ben Hogan Scott Mooney Steve Wojcik Paul Smith |
| NURSERY 10:30 | Melissa Phillips Sam Walter | Kimberly & Steve Geisler | Abby & Matt Cahill | Cheryl Crownhart & Casey Crownhart |

This newsletter is a publication of the Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
 Monthly newsletters are also posted on LCVH's website vestavialutheran.org
 You will also find, posted on our website, the weekly Sunday bulletin and news inserts