

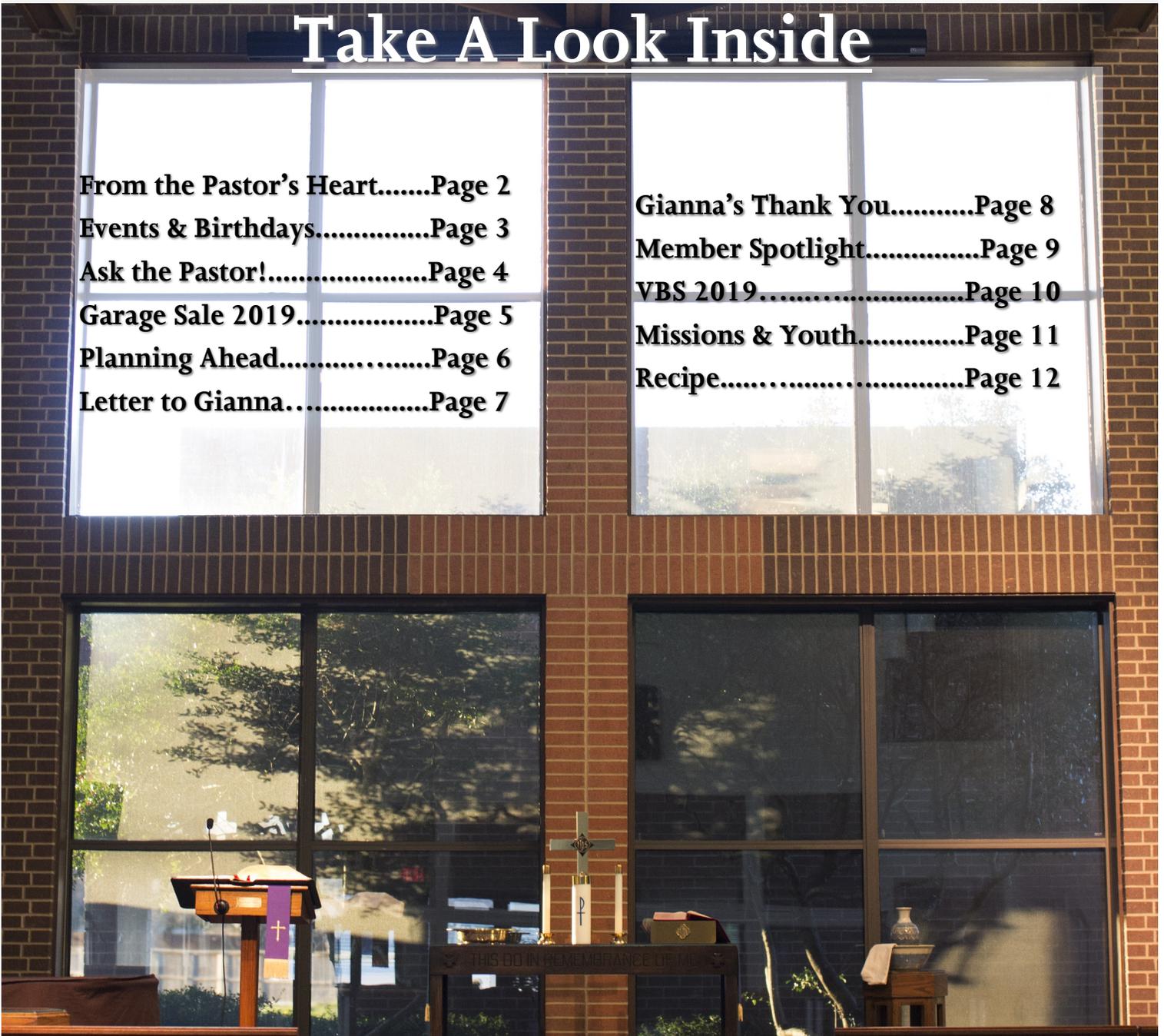


# *the* **New Covenant** *Window*

## Take A Look Inside

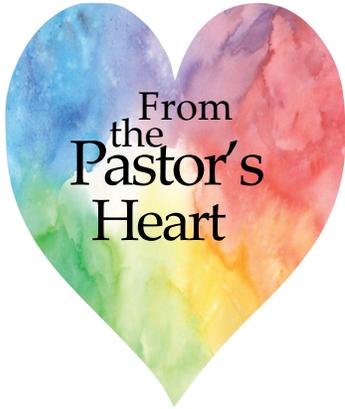
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*Sharing God through love and service*

## After the Storm



We have just come through a brief, fairly powerful storm. Some of you may be responding: Fairly powerful! Have you seen the trees? Don't you know how long we've been without power? This is a huge, big deal! And perhaps it was. And yet having picked up debris following a tornado a few short years ago, I also realize that I have not seen houses left in piles of splinters. And, to my knowledge, no one died. We can become so comfortable that a strong rain and wind storm can leave us feeling that our lives have been massively disrupted...when in reality we've suffered inconvenience.

When I think of major storms, I remember Hurricane Celia that blew through Corpus Christi when I was a kid. We lived there at the time. I remember mopping up water with towels that the wind was forcing under the doors and my parents doing the same as water was forced under windows. They kept my brother and me away from windows in fear that they would shatter and blow out. Trees went down along with every wood fence. I remember watching whole trees, roots included, blowing down the street with playground equipment. When the storm was over, one of the houses across the street had a fence post sticking out of the roof like some huge 'god' had thrown a spear. A

brick wall of one of the biggest hospitals had collapsed. Houses were nothing but rubble in many areas. Some people had ridden out the worst of the hurricane in center closets with snakes who were just trying to get out of the storm. My dad drove home from work after the storm started and his car had been smashed against railings by the winds as he drove. But he made it home in one piece. And when it was over, not a single window was left in any of the downtown office buildings. There was no electricity, water or phones. The National Guard imposed curfews.

I also remember that we were among the very lucky. We lost one window when the fence went down and some trees. Like everyone else, we were without utilities. Water came back pretty quickly. The whole neighborhood celebrated when our phone rang. We were the first ones on our street. It was 3-4 weeks before electricity was restored. There were street 'parties' with grills set up cooking everyone's best meats before they spoiled...open to all to eat. We had a Coleman stove that provided the heat for neighborhood baby bottles. Neighbors helped neighbors in putting back trees and anything else that didn't get a contractor. Neighbors who had never met got to know one another. Real community developed very quickly when all of the fences were down, the a/c off leaving windows and doors open. There were some difficult, even challenging, and some downright hard moments... I missed most of those because I was sent with my brother to stay with grandparents during the worst of the aftermath.

With our 'little' storm last night and my memories of a 'big' storm, I've been reflecting on the storm that faces our church (especially the larger UMC). And I realize that I'm one of the very lucky ones. Yes, as a woman I have faced some folks who don't think that I should be ordained. But I have never faced the prejudice that is a part of the day in and day out lives of both people of color and our LGBTQ siblings (it's acceptable to just say 'gay' if the alphabet intimidates you). Yes, the journey to full inclusion is disruptive to those of us already fully included. But that's really all that it is...a minor disruption, an inconvenience. But our very lives are not held in the balance. Most of us are confident that when we or our children leave home for work or school that we will all return home unharmed. The same is not true for everyone. I am aware that when I 'fight' or speak out for social justice that I do so as a choice. For others, their very existence requires that they either cower and hide or stand and fight. There are no other choices. They cannot choose to not be effected in a meaningful, life altering way.

So brothers, sisters, siblings, today we have survived a big rain storm that was minor compared to a tornado or a force 4/5 hurricane. We have been inconvenienced. But we are really fortunate. When we grow weary (or bored) in the fight for full inclusion and justice in our church, community and world, I pray that we will remember that we are really fortunate. I pray that we will remember the power that we hold. And while this is a fight that might be won without us, it is still a fight that needs us. Desmond Tutu said: If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. And from Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act. And another favorite Bonhoeffer quote: The Church is the Church only when it exists for others . . . not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others.

So together, let us hold onto one another, ever drawing our circle wider, staying the course. God calls us not to fight for ourselves but to work for and serve others, not for what makes us comfortable but for what comforts others. We are the people of God...called to share God through love and service...for the transformation of the world!

Peace be with you,

*Pastor Dana*

June 1	Summer Camp Deposit Due
June 2 - June 4	Annual Conference
June 2	No Confirmation Class
June 7 - June 8 6:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Confirmation Lock-In
June 8 8:30 am - 2:30 pm	Quilt Retreat
June 9 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Confirmation Sunday</b> Jade Chance's Baby Shower
June 15 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Parent's Night Out
June 16	<b>Father's Day</b>
June 17 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Project Transformation Dinner: Feeding the Interns (@ SMU)
June 17 - June 21 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Vacation Bible School
June 19 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Ewing House
June 24 - June 27 9:30 am - 12:00 pm	Project Transformation
June 30 5:30 am - 7:30 am 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Austin Street Youth at Waterford



- 2: Luis Ceja  
Alex May
- 5: Bruce McDonald
- 8: Alexis Young
- 11: Miles Sheerin
- 21: Terry Bolger
- 22: Jerry Lunday
- 27: Virginia Crane
- 28: Scott Castillo
- 29: Amanda Fedric
- 30: Gary Dunn

*I*  *Dad*

**The righteous man  
leads a blameless  
life; blessed are his  
children after him.  
Proverbs 20:7**

# Pray It Forward!

We will be taking a break during June and July.  
Please send all prayer requests & celebrations to

Cindy Wolfe via email: [maytag9713@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maytag9713@sbcglobal.net) or text: 214-315-9992.

You can also see Linda Easton or Cindy Wolfe during services.

1 Peter 4:8

*“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”*

# **ASK THE PASTOR**

**Have a question for Pastor Dana  
that you just can't say out loud?**

**Write it down, fold it up and drop it in the box!  
Located in Hallowed Grounds.**

**All questions can remain anonymous...or not,  
that's up to you. But every question will be  
answered, honestly and respectfully.**



# GARAGE SALE

What I saw at the ...

## New Covenant Garage Sale

*Jim Handy*

7:30 am. Friday morning. The weather was cold for May. Jo Ann and I entered the church parking lot a half-hour before the garage sale's 8:00 opening, only to find that the education building was already filled with dedicated shoppers perusing the merchandise. I'm sure some of them had been parked and waiting before the first person with a church key unlocked the door.

As we entered the *Hallowed Grounds* door, we found a few other early birds in blue *Go God* tee shirts, hustling to get things going for the day. Customers were polite and patient, as our small team instinctively divided into essential work groups: Pricers (*How much for this?*); Assessors (*What's that add up to now?*); Baggers/Toters/Trouble Shooters (*Let me help you, would you like a box for that?*); and Cashier (*Wait. Is that a Susan B. Anthony dollar coin?*). Of course, each of us also had the responsibility of dispensing first-rate customer service (i.e. kindness). That was the easy part.

*"Come on in! We're glad you're here. We've got stuff in every room to the very end of the hall!"*

It did my heart good to see how everyone who came in was met with an enthusiastic welcome. I think New Covenant's reputation as an exceptionally friendly and inclusive church was spread a little further that day.

My partners-in-crime were, most notably, Karen Crownover and Laura May, who tirelessly spear-headed this project and worked most of the previous day and night organizing and pricing hundreds of sellable items. The other worker bees included Doug Crownover, Kathy and Dan Rogers, Maggie Miller, Sallieann Nevins, Pastor Dana, Diane Duckworth, Jo Ann Pendarvis and myself.

People just kept coming in, all morning was busy-busy, with customers exploring through the Fellowship Hall and all three adult Sunday school rooms. Not to mention the large furniture items in the coffee clutch and, on the sidewalk patio, huge potted plants and a make-shift stand that displayed what must have been over thirty pairs of women's shoes.

Comment I heard from a seasoned customer with a big smile: *"This is like having a bunch of garage sales in one place!"* I was amazed at how many things had been donated. The Celebration class room at the end of the hall was designated the "Man Cave", where tools and other male candies were available. Arrayed in the hallway were hundreds of books of all stripes going for a quarter each. Racks and piles of clothes were plentiful, and several customers bought them in huge quantities. As an avid reader myself, I could relate to one guy's excitement as he handed over \$4 for 16 novels. *"I go through two books a week"*, he told me.

During a shopping lull at about 12:30, Jo Ann and I exited the "store" to begin the rest of our day. I knew there was another day and a half left of this event, culminating in the back-breaking job of cleaning up the messy left-over chaos. On our way to the van, I silently saluted all those who took or would be taking part in this event. It had become bigger, more challenging and more rewarding than anticipated.

The final count of the money generated: \$2,225

The value of the good will and Christian connections generated: *Priceless*

**We want to thank everyone who was involved in making our First Annual Church Yard Sale a huge success!! It couldn't have been done without you!**

**With that being said....who's ready for our**  
**SECOND ANNUAL CHURCH YARD SALE!!**

**We want you to**

**GET  
RID OF YOUR  
STUFF**

**As we go through the next year, please consider anything you may want to donate or throw away, could be donated to our yard sale next year. Place it in a box out in the garage, carport, or spare bedroom, and when spring comes around in 2020 we will start gathering up your unwanted, working, items. Let's make 2020 bigger and better than 2019...**

**Afterall, we are in Texas, right??!**

## **GIANNA: Congratulations! Ready for the Next Chapter Now?**

**From Jim Handy**

*(Gianna Getto just recently graduated from Mesquite's Poteet High School, and will start attending the University of North Texas this fall. This article is about, for, and to her, with congratulations from the entire church.)*

**Hello, Gianna,**

**You and I have been attending the same church for over ten years, yet we hardly know each other. I don't think we have done anything more than nod "Hi" as we've passed in the hall. But, even without actually talking, I think I know a few things about you.**

**I know, for instance, that you are bright and conscientious. I can tell you are observant and analytical, paying close attention to what goes on around you. You carry a self-confidence that reflects strong trust in your beliefs and decisions. Such qualities mean that you are destined to reach much higher plateaus from here.**

**I'm guessing you have a deep creative gift, an artistic talent. You may not yet be aware of its dimensions, or of how to fully enjoy it, but I feel sure your life experiences will nurture it to blossom.**

**I wonder about all that you have learned from your time with New Covenant. The ideas, the insights, the truths, the spiritual growth you've absorbed here. Who, here, has been a mentor to you? And to whom, here, have *you* been a mentor?**

**Whatever your future paths, you will always be a learner *and* a teacher. And, whether you realize it or not, the life you've spent with this church will always contribute – in ways both large and small – to how you travel those paths.**

**My prayer, Gianna, is that we – your brothers and sisters of New Covenant – have helped sharpen and fortify you for the journey ahead. I have no doubt you will be successful, and I pray that with that success will also grow genuine happiness throughout all your life chapters.**

**And I pray you will keep in mind that God is forever with you, and that New Covenant is a place of home where you will always be loved and welcomed.**

**Congratulations and God bless you, Sister Gianna Getto. I wish you the very best in your next major chapter. It's been a pleasure finally saying more than "Hi" to you.**

# Thank You, New Covenant

By Gianna Getto

As I graduate high school, I think of all the places I've been and the people who have come and gone throughout my life. I haven't been to a lot of places, or even moved from the place I grew up, but in a way, I have a lot. I've moved school to school, one hobby to a different one, and even relationship to relationship. But the one thing that has always been a constant in my life, that has always accepted me with unconditional support and love, is this church and our church family. There are so many memories and experiences I owe to this place and I'll always be grateful for that.

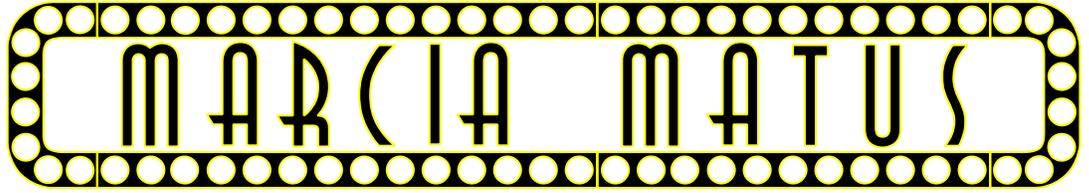
As a kid I remember being in Mrs. Carol's Sunday school class, learning with all the other kids there, kids I grew up with ever since I could remember. We would constantly read bible stories that taught me such lessons of acceptance, love, and good will. It helped me form friendships with people different than I, accepting different cultures, languages, and beliefs with my very diverse classmates at my school. And as I grew, I just appreciated that I was exposed to such lessons at such a young age, for I made connections I'll cherish forever because of them.

When I was in the 7th and 8th grade, I went to a private catholic school. Now while Catholicism is a fine religion, and very much similar to the Methodist church, I made the mistake of thinking it would be exactly the same. I expected a very wide range of acceptance and love but was met with strict rules and boundaries. I know not all catholic schools or people were like this, but the people at this school were very closed off, and did not accept anything different from themselves. From Muslims to the LGBTQ community, it was taboo to even be friends with a person in these groups, but I had many. Though I had many friends different from me, I never spoke of them, scared I would be judged for associating myself, and as the result I didn't have many friends. In religion class we learned that if you knew about Catholicism and were not a part of it, you were doomed. If you went against the bible in terms of sexual orientation, you were cast out. If you made a mistake, you were dirty. It made me very confused, wondering if I too was a bad person for supporting these people, making me have such negativity in my life. Was I a bad person too? For supporting different kinds of people? And often questioned my faith at these times. This may have been an extreme case of Catholicism, and many people prefer this religion, I understand that. But not growing up with it, and being told so many of my actions were bad all of a sudden was confusing for me as a kid.

But then, our Methodist church had a one-week mission trip to Florida. Even just being with my church made me feel so much better. I came out of my shell more than I had in a while, though it was just a start. It felt amazing and as we were there, gay marriage was legalized in all 50 states. The world seemed right at this moment, and my trust in God was the strongest it had been in years.

Busy and back in public high school, the church supported me through all of it. Helping with the kids, planning fundraisers with Princess, and just chatting with the people there always made me feel complete in a way. I had so many ups and downs through high school but my relationship with this church never faltered again.

Thank you so much. It has been such a ride.



By Kerri Embrey

## Member Spotlight

Marcia Embrey Matus is one of the last mainstays from the early days of New Covenant United Methodist Church. The church started out as New Methodist Church in Sunnyvale/Mesquite in 1980 and met for worship at the Catfish Cove restaurant just down the street. Marcia and her family moved to Sunnyvale in 1973 and she was looking for a place to call her church home. She saw the billboard sign for the new church and the location was convenient, so she decided to try it. Marcia and her youngest, Cindy, first came to worship just before Easter in 1981. In June of 1981, the church had the first “Sunday on the Lake” at Lake Lavon. Fishing, fellowship and picnicking very quickly drew in Marcia’s late husband, JR, and son, Michael. From then on the Embrey’s were involved in almost every aspect of the church.

Marcia did not grow up in a Methodist church but after visiting the new church, she felt such a connection to the new pastor and his wife, Amy, that she wanted to learn more. The Matthews were people that made you feel welcome. The people of the church were loving and accepting and helped a sinner feel good about coming to church and learning about the Lord. She read the Book of Discipline, she studied the doctrine in great detail and decided this was where she and her family wanted to be. They continued to attend worship services at Catfish Cove, the youth attended Sunday School at the “the little white house” just a few blocks down the road, until the permanent building was built in 1982.

Marcia originally joined the Celebration Sunday School class but then shortly after found her way to the Seekers class. She had such a yearning to learn and study the bible and the Seekers class met her needs to the letter. She missed one Sunday and was voted as the new Sunday School teacher. She was still learning about the bible and to step into a role of a teacher was somewhat intimidating. How could she teach people when she was still learning herself? As quickly as she became the teacher, just as quickly she was soon blessed with retired Methodist minister, Don Duran and his wife Gem, as mentors in her new journey. They came to join the class and helped her gain the knowledge and the confidence she needed to teach her Sunday School class. Marcia is still the teacher of the Seeker’s class and continues to do a wonderful job every Sunday.

From the beginning, from her first memory of walking into this church, Marcia felt loved, included and that her presence mattered. She has worked tirelessly in many areas of the church including Sunday School, Vacation Bible School; she has held several positions on the different committees in the church and has been a member of both the Chorale and Choir since the church began and this year she began serving as the Lay Leader.

To say that New Covenant United Methodist Church is blessed to have her is an understatement. The work of Marcia and her family in the early days is indescribable. Her commitment to helping this church continue to grow and help spread the love of Christ to any and all is evident in all she does. She trusts that the Lord will lead and guide every step she takes and is such a blessing to us all.

“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.” Jeremiah 17:7-8



**You're invited to join us for  
ROAR VBS June 17-June 21  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

**Ages 4 – going into 6th grade  
are welcome to attend!**

**Please register here by June 15th:  
<https://www.vbspro.events/p/events/04b682>**

**This epic African adventure engages the whole herd.  
At Roar, kids explore God's goodness and celebrate a  
ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life.**

**New Friends \* Amazing Experiments \* Creative Games  
Super Fun Snacks \* Surprising Adventures \* Incredible Music**

*See Yvonne Taylor or Laura May for more details*



## It's that time again! Let's help the little ones stay smart during the summer!

June 24 -27, 2019      9:15 am-12:15 pm.      Save the Date!

Reading week at Pleasant Mound UMC. Reading and interacting one-on-one with children from economically disadvantaged families who are traditionally underserved. Spend a few days helping them keep up those essential reading skills while school is out, and feel your heart glow while doing so.

June 17      6:00 pm

New Covenant will help provide dinner at SMU for 125 PT Corps Members (interns)

All volunteers are welcome. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the Missions bulletin board. Each volunteer will need to complete a background check and Ministry Safe Training if not on file from last year. More details to follow.

Please call **John Elfers at 469-951-8407** if you have any questions or concerns, and please be in prayer for this ministry.

### June 15

A time where parents, grandparents, guardians, etc. can have time for themselves while the youth of New Covenant watch the younger children.

Games, food, and fun will be had for all!

PNO will be from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.



### June 30

The children and youth of New Covenant will be singing songs and engaging with the clients of The Waterford Residence. This act of service was such a huge success in March, that we've decided to make it a quarterly event!

The kids even came up with new varying ideas on how they wanted to engage with the clients to include songs and playing games. They will be headed over to Waterford after second service.



# Strawberry Spinach Shrimp Salad

Linda Easton



## SHRIMP

- \* 1 1/2 lbs. shrimp, cleaned and patted dried
- \* 1 teaspoon Old Bay Seasoning
- \* Olive oil for Sautéing

## SALAD

- \* 6 oz. of baby spinach (about 6 cups)
- \* 1 pint strawberries, sliced
- \* 1 avocado, diced
- \* 4 ounces gorgonzola or feta cheese, crumbled
- \* 1/4 cup sliced almonds, toasted
- \* 1/2 cup red onion, thinly sliced

## DRESSING

- \* 1/4 cup olive oil
- \* 1/4 cup water
- \* 2 Tablespoons Greek yogurt, plain
- \* 3 Tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- \* 3 Tablespoons honey
- \* 1/4 teaspoon dry mustard
- \* 2 teaspoons onion, finely gradated
- \* 1 Tablespoon poppyseed

## INSTRUCTIONS

- \* Generously sprinkle Old Bay Seasoning over shrimp.
- \* Sauté shrimp in skillet with 1 teaspoon of oil over medium heat. Put aside.
- \* Toss salad ingredients together.
- \* Whisk dressing ingredients together until combined.
- \* Add desired amount of dressing to salad and gently toss or plate salads and add dressing to taste.