“The Rains Came Down…
...and the Floods Came Up!”

The words from the well-known children’s song (based, of course, on the story of the “Wise Man and the Foolish Man” found in Matt. 7:24-27) became all too familiar to us all this past week.

When the rains ended (and many of us breathed a collective sigh of relief), unfortunately, the waters continued to rise...and the floods did indeed come—and with them danger, destruction, evacuations, displacement, loss, and even death.

Some from Champions were able to not only share some of this congregation’s resources (such as ice, bottled water, soft drinks, and socks) but were also able to work at the local Lowe’s (which graciously also used their own personnel and resources to set up an evacuation receiving site). Those who were coming from the evacuated areas were brought in on the large military vehicles that were either able to drive through the deep water to the apartment landings or were able to be filled with the people who were brought to them by boats. Parents with small children, newly-wed couples, singles, the elderly, the wealthy, the newly unemployed, many with their pets—the floods were certainly not a “responder of persons.” The mixture of emotions was evident—from sheer shock, to sorrow, to grief, to hurt, to the tearful reunions with loved ones, to the great feeling of relief in just getting back to dry ground and being given cold drinking water and dry socks. It was a privilege to be able to be a part of this day, to share the resources, to help those rescued make connections with family or friends or a shelter...but it was an even greater privilege to share the time—to listen to their unique stories, and when possible, to share a prayer. Actually, I am sure that those who were the helpers were just as blessed as those who were helped. All of this just reminds us of the conclusion of the song—that the only sure place to build is on “the Lord Jesus Christ!”

We will have additional opportunities to help our neighbors and to “let our light shine.” Today, we will take up a special contribution which will be used to help those who have suffered loss—both from our congregation and our community.

The plan for our community is to purchase some of the basic needed items and to distribute them in our neighboring hard-hit areas. This sharing will be an opportunity not to “let our light shine” to gain recognition for ourselves, but an opportunity to follow Jesus’ command to “let your light shine that men may see your good works and glorify the Father who is in heaven.” That’s it...serve Him...serve others...and give Him the glory! It is something that we can certainly do because “The Rains Came Down...and the Floods Come Up”

--Larry

**Family Matters**

We are honored by our guests today! Please stay and share lunch with our Family Circle 5 following this morning services. Please give us a record of your visit today by completing the visitor’s information that is in the folder which will be passed down the aisle toward the end of our services today. Come again!

Special thanks go to Chris and Lori Ball, their boys and others who helped them for taking the tables, drinks, plates, and other essentials out to the park for last Sunday’s picnic and to Al and LaNell Allee for preparing those items. These blessed us all—Shine on!

Read Judges this week!

Our hearts were touched as Josh Vires asked for the prayers of this congregation Sunday. We are blessed with Josh and his family! Let’s give him our prayers and support.

We are sorry that Paul and Cassandra Gaunt are moving to the Round Rock area. Paul has already begun his new job there. Cassandra will be here while they sell their house. We will miss them at Champions! Champions is serving the meal at Impact today. So many are involved—from the planning, to baking brownies, to preparing the main meal, to setting up tables and serving. So many with the heart of a servant!

**Parting Thought:** What’s that saying? Think ahead! It wasn’t raining when Noah starting building the ark! Good advice!

**Volunteer Suggestion:**”
Reed All About It: 99%

During last week’s storm we lost our power for about 18 hours. Compared to the devastation seen in the area, this was a minor issue. I decided to try to monitor the repair progress on the Centerpoint web site. The first message that greeted me was 99% or our customers have power. While I was happy for all these folks who had power and impressed at Centerpoint’s repair prowess, it did not help me with my lack of power. I entered my address into the web site and was told my house did not have power. As the commercial says, “Thanks captain obvious.” Next I signed up for power outage text message update. Within a few minutes I received a text message saying that my power was out and that the estimated time for repair was unknown.

My theological take on this is I wanted Centerpoint to abandon the 99% and focus on my needs as the 1%. Seriously, I am sure Centerpoint was doing everything possible to restore power. The feeling I had from their web site was not aligned with the efforts of their crews.

Most people were not affected by the storm, but many people’s lives were devastated. Fortunately we live in a community were people care about the needs of others and are willing to give up resources of time and money to help those in need.

The parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15:4-6) teaches us the importance of caring for others, even when they are in the minority.

4 “What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?” 5 When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’

As Christians we need to remember to address the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of everyone. Sometimes that means getting out of our comfort zone in order to help those in despair. This is a command of Christ, and it is the mission of Christians. How are you doing in meeting this mission? Blessings, Alan

John’s Jogs: Naomi and Ruth #1

In view of the cynicism, distrust and animosity running rampant in today’s society, I thought a series of four articles on one of the most astounding friendships of all history would be appropriate. This is also the story of two of the most famous mothers of all time. This made it appropriate for a build up to a Mother’s Day article and an outstanding way of “letting your Light Shine”.

There are probably more mother-in-law jokes around than any other topic. If we think about it I’m sure each of us could come up with one. Of course mostly they are given in humor and a generous spirit. However, in far too many cases they are based on life’s situations. Too many times there is a frustration and tension between in-laws. Thus the story of Naomi and Ruth is an anomaly. It presents a committed friendship that is seldom seen outside of marriage or parent-child relationship. This friendship ultimately has an effect of tremendous proportions on the history of mankind. There are five phases in the development of this story:

FIRST IS THE HISTORY OR THE SETTING: In the time of the Judges, Israel had a severe famine. A man of Bethlehem in Judea named Elimelech, his wife Naomi and two sons Mahlon and Kilion went to live in Moab. Moab was a nation descended from the son of the unholy relationship of Lot and his oldest daughter. While in Moab the two sons married local girls. Kilion married Orpah and Mahlon married Ruth.

Within a ten year period all three men died leaving behind widows without children. In this male dominated society, women without father, husband or son to care for them could quickly become destitute; they had few rights.

Naomi, hearing that the famine in Judah had ended, decided to return to her homeland. Perhaps she thought relatives would take pity on her and give her a place to live. But certainly they would not take in all three women. Moreover, Naomi pointed out, she was too old to bear other sons, even if the women were willing to wait until they were grown to marry them. So Naomi urged Ruth and Orpah each to return to their mother’s home and begin looking for another husband. Initially they both rejected the idea, but after Naomi reasoned with them further, Orpah agreed to return. She left with a tearful goodbye. We are now ready to see the most astounding: COMMITMENT.

Next week – The Commitment and Return Home. ??

“IN SEARCH OF THE LORD’S WAY”
AIRS ON CHANNEL 53 TV SUNDAYS
7:00-7:30 AM

MAY TOPICS:
MAY 1: “WERE YOU THERE” - How should you respond to the cross?
MAY 8: FORGIVING YOURSELF - Do you know how to forgive yourself?
MAY 15: WHAT GOD WANTS FOR YOU God wants the best for you.
MAY 22: THIRSTING FOR GOD - How can we renew our passion for God?
May 29: SEARCH ME, O GOD - Would I ask God to search my heart for good or bad?
**Special Collection Today for Flood Victims in our area communities.**

Dear church family,

We appreciate so much the outpouring of love and compassion you have given our families during Marilynn's hospitalization and her passing. The prayers, the rides to MD Anderson, the food, visits, and Oh, so many cards and still coming, phone calls and many other ways of kindness you have shown were such a blessing. The flowers you sent and the meal at church meant so much. We are thankful for those who were able to attend the memorial service as well. We will not forget how much our Christian family means to us.

Love,

Bob, Linda, Larry, and Robin

**Impact Meal Today**

**Helpers Needed to go to Impact**

The church bus will leave from the building immediately following morning services.

Contacts: Emmett Gaines & Amanda Mahle

**Ladies Night Out**

May 5th at 6:00 p.m.
@ Dixie McConathy's House
Please bring a Mexican Food Dish to share

**Camp Kichaca**

2nd-6th Grades
June 21-24th

This is for children that have completed the 2nd grade through the 6th grade. Be watching the table in the foyer for applications.

If you are interested in being a counselor, please write an essay on why you would like to be a counselor and how you can make a positive impact on the campers. Please give your essay to Chris Ball by April 30th. Counsellors will leave for camp on June 20th.

Any questions, please see Chris or Lori Ball.

**Sunday Morning Bible Hour**

Ages 2 to Kindergarten

Parents and children are dismissed to check in during the song before the lesson.

Teachers: Josh and Kimberly Vires

April Memory Verse:

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

- Psalm 119:11

**Attention All Members**

**Farewell Scrapbook for A.D. and Golda Pinson**

Angela Joachim is making a scrapbook for Golda & A.D. to be presented to them at the Family Circle #7 luncheon on May 15th. PLEASE submit a card, note or picture from your family to be included in the scrapbook for the Pinson’s. You may give your cards to Angela Joachim or place them in Charles Joachim's mailbox in the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Angela Joachim.

**Wednesday Night Meal**

April 27th

Menu: Hamburgers and Mac and Cheese

Time: 6:00—6:30 p.m.

Adults: $5, Children and up, $3; Two and under, Free. Please place number to attend in the attendance book today.
Prayers & Notes

Prayer Requests:
Families Who Have Lost
Loved Ones: Gauntt,
Enders, Kendall, Sandhop,
Mckee and Breithaupt
Members who suffered loss
in the recent flood.

All Flood Victims
Cassandra Gauntt in the loss
of her great-grandmother.
Laverne Bonham is back
home. A sign-up list is posted
on the bulletin for sitters on
Monday, Wednesday and Fri-
day afternoons.

Terry Bennett has been
moved temporarily to another
facility due to flood waters.
Terry will have knee surgery
on May 3

Keith Underwood will have a
nerve ablation procedure on
April 27th in The Wood-
lands.

John Hixon is recovering
from surgery to repair a bro-
cen bone under his left eye
from his recent fall.

Baileigh Vires’ MRI was
normal and a throat infection
was causing the fever.

Buddy Damron, June Free-
man’s brother, is being treated
for a serious infection in his
leg.

Jackie Stearnsman, Linda
Lopez’s step-dad and Chris-
tian preacher at Florida School
of Preaching, has been diag-
nosed with an aggressive rare
leukemia.

Mary and Von Chappell,
Debbie Bills’ mom and step-
dad. Mary is home making
progress. Von’s cancer re-
quires much assistance. Debbi-
will remain in Alabama to
help.

Jerre DuVerney, Dale’s
wife, is home recovering from
surgery. The path report
showed no cancer!

Valerie Arrington’s dad has
a squamous cell carcinoma
removed from his temple on
April 26th.

Champions Members Ongoi-
ing Concerns: Ann Adams,
Jerry Johnson, Tasha Di-
Raffaele, Glenn Dixon, Jan
Kelly, Donna Nance, Keith
and Linda Underwood, Beth
Haden, B.B. & Dorothy Snell
Family and Friends of
Champions: David Beegle,
Owen Cobb, Glenda Fariss,
Shelia Morrison
Employment Concerns: Th-
omas Reed, Wes Smith,
Rudy Morris, Susan Ellis
Expectant Parents: Jeff and
Rebekah Johnson, Jordan and
Natalie Arnold

Hospice Care: Nora Zarate,
Letha (Earlene Antwine’s sister)
Cancer Concerns:
Mary McCall Adamek, Laura
Carroll, Colter Taylor, Larry
Young, Steven Cerny, Bea Au-
gustin, Jack Snyder, Rocky Har-
rell, Don Freeman, Lawrece
Smith, Sandra Underwood, Gary
Brown, Nancy Miller, Pat Morris-
son
Missionaries:
Dale DuVerney, Peter Chin, Ed-
die Cloer, Roman Halamicek, Eric
Tan, Roland Moshen, Workers at
Biblical Institute of Central
America, Eastern European Mis-
sion, Jordan Arnold, Will Han-
stein, Madison Avalos

Assisted Living/Rehab/ Nursing Homes: Margurite
Pennington, Juanita Cox, Julia
Garcia, Nell McDonald, Gladys
McHenry, Marie McCall, Jean
Simpson

Prayers for Military:
Antionius Brown, Landon White,
William E. Taylor IV, George
Marcus Jones, Melanie Adams,
Travis Long, Aaron Jean, James
Chin, Casey Bolin, Charles Du-
Verney, Ryan Bonham, Phillip
Cuccerre, Jr., Eric McCall, Darion
DuVerney, Meghan Gillispie

Nursery Attendants
April 24: Rosie Martinez & Nadine Riley
May 1: Susan Frazier & Alaina Robinson

If you cannot serve, please find a replacement by checking names
posted on the wall outside the nursery classroom. Contact: Karen
Casey

FOR THE RECORD

April 17/16

Sunday AM: 367
Sunday P.M. Park: 50
Bible Class Attendance: 238
Wednesday Night: 135

Contribution: 16,611.31
Weekly Budget: 20,048.00

YTD Contributions: 332,110.46
YTD Budget: 320,768.00

Over/Under: 11,342.46

Service Times:
SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Bible Classes
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sunday Morning Bible Hour

SUNDAY NIGHT:
6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Bible Class 9:45 a.m.
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Elder of the Month
April—Britt Jones

Food Coordinator
Check with your Family Circle
Leaders

Little Champs:
Mothers Day Out
Contact: Lisa Killough
littlchamps@att.net,
281-893-2062
Lisa Killough—Director

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