



Ashford Messenger

April 2019 | Newsletter of Ashford United Methodist Church

(Read the latest **Cross Connection** [here!](#))

Dates to Remember

4.14-4.20—Holy Week

4.18—Maundy Thursday Communion Service &
Foot Washing

4.19—WHAM Ecumenical Good Friday Service (12N)
(Ascension Episcopal Church, 2525 Seagler Rd 77042)

4.21—Resurrection Sunday
Services @ 6:30, 8:30, & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School @ 10:00 a.m.

4.27—AUMC/ACEC 2019 Gala

5.2—National Day of Prayer

5.4—Youth/KSF Int'l Annual Car Wash (**Flyer**)

5.5—"I Can" Sunday

Announcements *(all clickable links)*

e-Giving & NEW Text-to-Give

Financial Peace University

Get Fit at Ashford

Meals on Wheels

Power Wednesdays

A Humble King Upon a Donkey

by Jennifer Rubino Champion

"Look, your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden." ([Matthew 21:5 HCSB](#))

Jesus made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on the back of a lowly and humble little donkey. He, the Son of God, rode in one an animal that wasn't at all grand or majestic. I always think of donkeys as pack animals, carrying massive and heavy loads through the hills of Peru or Mexico. I imagine them on a farm grazing in a pasture with no real purpose. A donkey, however, is very special and it is the animal in which Christ wanted to use for the purpose of coming in to Jerusalem. The donkey was chosen specifically by Jesus.

A closer look at the donkey and we can learn much more about this fuzzy little creature. A donkey for example, is often used for sheep herding. They will bond with the sheep and in the event of danger, they will let out a weird noise that alerts the sheep to safety. Is it ironic that Jesus Christ came in on the back of an animal that is used for sheep herding and protection?

Donkeys are also utilized as companions in a stable to nervous horses. They have a calming effect and offer great companionship to a horse during times such as storms. Is it ironic that Christ came in on an animal that can calm and comfort during a scary event like a storm?

Patience is another characteristic of a donkey that is taken advantage of in today's society. Children can be placed alongside a donkey and there is no fear the donkey will harm them. The donkey is patient and kind and children can ride one without fear of being rejected and thrown off. Donkeys are often used in programs to assist handicap people because of their patient and loving nature. Is it ironic that

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April 2	Ed Erwin, Des Hully, Aaron Smith
April 4	Valeree Jackson
April 6	Lee Brunell, Julius Macharia
April 8	Peggy Erwin, Victor Garza, Jeff Miller
April 11	Haven Adolph, Hunter Adolph
April 14	Maria, Todd, Eva Wanjiru
April 16	Jessie Turner
April 19	Dale Head
April 26	Darren Drake
April 29	Usha Christie
May 1	Rudy Rahnert, Carlos Villarroel
May 2	Miriam Dominguez
May 6	Coner Miller
May 10	Grace Nkrumah
May 11	Deborah Drake
May 12	Bob Collins, Wavell Nelson

Missing from the list? Let us know and we'll recognize you next month!

What Easter Does

Jesus' resurrection from the dead is life-changing and life-giving for his followers. But, as Henry Knox Sherrill notes, Easter's "joyful news ... does not change the contemporary world." On earth, we still must deal with sin, pain, death and brokenness. And "still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice," Sherrill adds. What Easter does, though, is provide Christians with "the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline and make the sacrifice."

By defeating the grave, Jesus empowers us to bear our worldly troubles with joy, peace and hope. His resurrection assures us that trials, tears, and suffering are only temporary, while eternal victory and life with Jesus are permanent.

The Ashford Files

Lorraine White *(Written by Maria Todd)*

You could call her the "Pastor's Wife" but you would be missing out on lots of interesting, fun, cool, and surprising things about Lorraine White. For instance—you may have guessed she's from the South, but did you know she grew up on a farm in Tuscaloosa, Alabama?

Lorraine is one of two children (her older brother passed away just last May), born and raised on a hog farm, an experience which kept her childhood very busy. She and her brother often rose early before school to tend to the hogs and returned from school to more farm chores before dinner and settling in for the night. Summers meant more time to work on the farm, not to say there wasn't fun too with cousins and other extended family nearby. She still goes back to visit her hometown one or two times a year, usually during the summer and at one holiday when she can manage it. These experiences continue shape Lorraine's love of family and fearless attitude toward hard work. An attitude that's welcomed at AUMC.

Speaking of church, Lorraine has great memories of being a "Sunflower Girl", a group run out of Midway Missionary Baptist where she and her family were members. The Sunflower Girls were a small group of young ladies working to carry out church missions, learning about the Lord and improving their relationship with Him. Her family could even be counted on to donate a hog for the church raffle!

A business major at first, she decided the money didn't overcome her lack of enjoyment in the work so she changed her major to education. A graduate of the University of Alabama (Roll Tide!), Lorraine moved to Houston in 1993 and landed her first teaching position in Alief ISD. That was followed by a stint in Katy ISD where she is an Assistant Principal today. After teaching for 16 years in Intermediate, Elementary, and Middle school, Lorraine decided she like Elementary best and her position allows her to use her natural rapport with children. Even as a child she was told to become a teacher because of her way with children.

Lorraine met Pastor Irv while attending Windsor Village United Methodist Church. She says he approached her one Sunday after the service and asked her if he asked her out would she go? The invitation threw her a bit but she responded "possibly" and that was just the beginning. Pastor Irv did ask her out Mother's Day weekend and it was the best first date ever! The pair went to Kemah where they ate, strolled around, and eventually ended up in an air hockey competition so heated it drew spectators! (Lorraine won by the way.) Less than a year later they were married and became a blended family of nine—Jasmine and Jeremiah (foster children they adopted after their marriage), Nadia, twins Morgan and Mariah, Marcus, and Alexis (eleven if you count turtles Shelton and Runny).

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Thank You, Ashford from Kenya Scholarship Fund Int'l

Hello Alice, I hope you are well. We really lack words to express our gratitude for the support KSF International gives our 12 boys. Indeed it would not have been possible for many of them to get education that they so deserve if it were not for your organization. May good Lord continue to expound your boundaries.

Thank you once again and God bless you and all KSF International members.

Yours sincerely,
Maina

Comments from attached appreciation letters...

You have helped me much that I am able to stay in school with equal chances like other students. This term I attained a B- grade. You have also helped ease my parents' burden of school fees. May God bless the work of your hands and reward you abundantly. Thank you for your time. Yours faithfully, Anthony Gichinga

You have greatly made an impact to me. I have settled in my studies and am doing well in my classes. You have been a role model to me and I promise that when I grow up and become financially stable, I will also help the needy student to pay their school fees. Thank you for your support. Yours faithfully, Christopher, Gitau Hgina

I come from a humble family that cannot pay for my school fees. I am a student who does well in his academics. In the previous term, I scored a B- and have maintained my grade of B- this term. So I was pleading that I would get a sponsorship that I would be able to continue with my studies. Yours sincerely, Eliud Kibocha Kamau

Thank you for your hand of mercy on my education and for assisting me with financial support. You have helped me to be confident knowing that there is someone behind me for support. May the Lord bless you and I wish you success in your life. Yours faithfully, Francis Mugo

I am a form four student at Kahuho Uhuru High School and a third year beneficiary of Kenya Scholarship Funds. It has been a time free from challenges of school fees and of which I have spent maximum time in class. My grades have really improved since you gave me a scholarship. I am now aiming for an A in my examinations. Thank you so much for taking the time to read my letter and also for your continued support. Yours faithfully, Peter Njuguna

First and foremost, I want to thank you for the support you have given to me and also to my parents who are very happy and grateful for the love and care that you have shown us. The only way that I can thank you is by working hard and achieving a good grade which will take me to university for further studies. May God bless you for the work you have been doing. Yours faithfully, Samuel Marharia

This scholarship has aided in unleashing the potential within me which faded away as soon as I realized that my mother couldn't pay school fees for me and I lost hope, but now you've come to my rescue. My joy is beyond words. I remember how often I was sent home because of fees and by the time I would come back; I'd realise my classmates were way too far ahead of me. But this is settled as I will now not be sent home for my school fees arrears would have been paid by you. I am very happy and appreciate your continued sponsorship all through my education in high school. Yours faithfully, William

A HUMBLE KING... (CONT'D)

Christ came in on the back of an animal that is so patient and loving?

A donkey is a hard worker and taker on of burdens. Their bodies are strong and a person can load a donkey's back with great weight. The donkey will carry the load over and over again because that is its objective. He does not buck in complaint nor sit idle when there is work to do. Is it ironic that Christ came in on an animal that carries such great burdens?

No, to me there is no irony. The little humble and gentle donkey was chosen by Christ because in a way, it is representative of Christ in our lives. Christ herds us and protects us just like the donkey and the sheep. Christ is a friend and comforter during our times of stress. He is patient and kind over and over again even though we fail him daily. He is our carrier of burdens. He took on all our burdens and died for them.

Source: FaithWriters.com

LORRAINE WHITE... (CONT'D)

As far as the City of Houston and her new church home, Lorraine loves both. She loves the city because hailing from a small college town like Tuscaloosa, Houston by comparison has lots to do. There's always a sporting event or new restaurant to check out and the people are friendly and happy to share information. As a member of Windsor Village, Lorraine was a member of the choir and participated in numerous Bible Study classes. When Irv was appointed to pastor AUMC, Lorraine moved with him. She says she feels she moved seamlessly from the Windsor Family to the Ashford Family and was welcomed at AUMC and not judged. Lorraine feels at home at Ashford and has already rolled up her sleeves to work on last year's Back 2 School Bash and Peppermint Fair as well as this year's Easter Egg Hunt. She's joined the choir and already participated in Bible study classes. Lorraine says she wants to lead the way with Pastor Irv. Expect an interesting and fulfilling journey!

Delivering So Much More Than Just a Meal (Alice Hastings-James)

Many thanks to AUMC's dedicated volunteers who happily serve meals to 16 seniors, come rain or shine, every Monday to Friday from 10AM to 12 noon. This quarter, volunteer hours total 104. Interfaith Ministries loves AUMC volunteers!

Comments from happy clients include:-

- You brighten my day!
- This wellness check means the world to me, as I am elderly and have no family!
- God Bless our volunteers!

Clients have increased. Please [contact me](#) for additional information and to volunteer; **Energy Corridor Route 2 starts as soon as more volunteers are available!**

Designed to meet the nutrition and social needs of seniors, community-based Meals on Wheels programs are welcomed into the homes of some of our nation's most at-risk individuals with every meal delivery. Statistically,

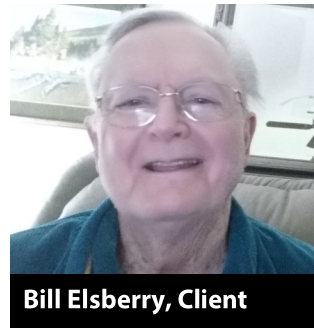
- 59% of home-delivered meal recipients are 75 or older
- 69% are women
- 59% live alone
- 35% live at poverty level
- 46% self-report fair or poor health
- 15% are veterans
- 25% live in rural areas
- 28% are a racial and/or ethnic minority
- 82% take 3+ medications daily

Frequent in-home visits provide unique opportunities to meet nutritional needs, combat social isolation, address safety hazards, and provide holistic care.

9 out of 10 recipients say Meals on Wheels helps them feel more secure and Meals on Wheels helps keep 8 out of 10 recipients who have previously fallen from falling again.

For the 59% of recipients who live alone, the person delivering the meal is often the only person they will see that day.

Finally, Meals on Wheels can serve a senior for a entire year for the same cost as just one day in a hospital or 10 days in a nursing home.



Bill Elsberry, Client



Wavell Nelson, AUMC MOW Volunteer

Information Source: MealsOnWheelsAmerica.org

HE GREW THE TREE

Editor's note: this is a favorite Barbara Mandrell song of mine from the early nineties—so appropriate at Easter time. Look it up on your favorite music app!

He molded and built a small lonely hill
that He knew would be called Calvary.
Then he made the seed that would grow to
be thorns that would make His Son bleed.
Then He made a green stem, gave it leaves and
then gave it sunshine, and rain, and
sheltered it with moss.
He grew the tree, that He knew would be, used to
make the Old Rugged Cross.

(Chorus)

Nothing took His life, with love He gave it,
He was crucified, on a tree that He created.
With great love for man, God stayed with His plan,
He grew the tree, so that we might go free.

With tears in His eyes, God looked down
through time,
Saw Him spat upon, rejected, and mocked,
Oh, still He grew the tree, that He knew would
be, used to make the Old Rugged Cross.

(Chorus)

He grew the tree, that He knew would be,
used to make the Old Rugged Cross.

