

### *AN EASTER CELEBRATION*

Please join us for an **Easter Celebration** on Easter Sunday following the Celebration Breakfast. You can enjoy a delicious meal and the younger WOH folks are invited to join in an egg hunt. Watch the entry for a donation box – we'll need plastic eggs, stickers, candy... **KIDS – INVITE A FRIEND** – and don't forget to bring your Easter basket! Many thanks go out to our **MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH & LEADERS** for organizing this event!

### *EASTER LILIES*

If you would like to purchase a lily to decorate the church for Easter, see the Clipboard signups. You may give in honor of someone, to celebrate a special event, or in someone's memory. The cost is \$9 each.

### *CONFIRMANDS*

Lent is an intensified time of preparation for our confirmands, and especially those who will be confirmed at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Please remember these young people in prayer during this important time: **JACE WARD, OLIVIA COTTRELL AND SHELBY VERHOEVEN**



### *HOLY WEEK WORSHIP*

**"Someone's Praying Lord"** On Mon-Fri of Holy Week, 7:30-8 am, join pastor in prayer wherever you're at—or come by the church for prayer with him in person

**Mundy Thursday** (7 pm, April 9)

The Forgiveness, Footwashing, Holy Communion, Stripping of the Altar

**Good Friday** (7 pm, April 10)

Passion of Jesus, Burning of Transgressions

**Holy Saturday, The Easter Vigil** (7 pm, April 11)

Services of Light, Readings, Confirmation, Baptismal Vow Renewal, Holy Communion

**The Resurrection of Our Lord** (Sunday, April 12)

7 am Easter Sunrise in Brin's Garden

8:15am Classic Grace Worship

9:15am Easter Breakfast & Kid's Easter Celebration

10:45am Celebration Service

# Words of Hope

APRIL

A monthly newsletter from Word of Hope Lutheran Church

APRIL

## THE 1<sup>ST</sup> LAST SUPPER

As followers of Jesus, we think of Jesus' "Last Supper" with the disciples as the starting point for Holy Communion. In the gospels, there is a strong indication that the last meal Jesus had with his disciples was originally a meal commemorating the Passover—a meal now commonly referred to as a "seder." Ever wonder what that Passover seder was like? Wonder what the celebration means? The Seder meal is the meal by which the Jewish community remembers the trials and tribulations endured during the biblical time of the deliverance from slavery in Egypt. In the between-services time on Sunday, April 5, we will respectfully explore this meal and its meaning with young and old. All are invited.

## KITCHEN CLEANUP



On Saturday, April 4 at 9:30am volunteers will be cleaning out and organizing the kitchen cabinets at WOH. It should be a great time of fellowship as well - come help make it sparkle!! Contact **ANNETTE FRAZIER** (231-1845) for more details

## PICTURE PLEASE

You've braved the cold weather, survived the snowstorms, navigated the icy sidewalks, and huddled in heavy sweaters and overcoats for long enough. We know just what to do when old man winter finally takes his leave. Shed those heavy layers and bloom! It's time to put on your Easter best and join us for a round of new Family Pictures. We've welcomed many new folks to Word of Hope and we want to update our picture gallery, so get dressed up, bring your smiles and join us for an "eggs-citing" celebration on Easter Sunday!

## WOH WOMEN

Women's Spring Luncheon will be Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at Flag Fork Herb Farm Café. Join us at 11am for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. We'll need to make reservations by the 12<sup>th</sup> so be sure and check the **CLIPBOARDS**. For more information contact **ANNETTE FRAZIER** (231-1845).

## MOWERS WANTED

We're looking for volunteers for the WOH Lawn Mowing Corps. Like last year, we hope to have 4-6 people who are willing to ride the tractor once every 2 months and keep the place looking good. If you're interested, see Pastor or **JASON LAMBIRTH**.

## WOH YARD SALE

Spring is a time when many of us get the urge to clean closets, garages, etc and as you're doing so we would like you to **SAVE THOSE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, TOOLS, FURNITURE.... TO DONATE TO THE WOH ANNUAL YARD SALE - SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 8AM-1:30PM!!** Drop your donations off the week of the sale or the night before or we can arrange for someone to pick them up. Contact **DARLENE TAYLOR** (868-9769 or dtaylormom5@aol.com) for more information.



This is our biggest fundraiser for the youth mission trip, and it takes MANY folks to pull it off! We really need your help to make it a success. Young or old, we have a job for you from making signs, picking up donations, setting up tables, sorting & pricing items, selling, cleaning up...We'll begin the set up on Friday at 6:00pm - dinner's included! Please watch the weekly sheet and clipboards for more information and **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

## "THE SHACK"...

..is a very popular, imaginative and even controversial book of fiction which explores what a very discouraged person might experience in a weekend encounter with God. On four Sunday evenings beginning Sunday, April 19, from 6:30-8 pm, we will have a special book study to talk about some of the book's profound implications. The reading assignment for the first session is pages 7-87—that's a substantial chunk but it will quickly launch us into the heart of the conversation so start reading!



## BREAKFAST AT KEENELAND

**IT'S TIME FOR BREAKFAST WITH THE WORKS at KEENELAND!** WOH Men's Group would like to invite the congregation, family & friends to join in this great event! There's plenty to do for the entire family... watch the world-famous Thoroughbreds as they workout in preparation for their next big race, or have a photo taken in real jockey silks! Breakfast is bright and early at 7am Saturday morning! Date TBA so watch for updates!!



For more information contact **FRANK ADAMS** at [Daddo99@hotmail.com](mailto:Daddo99@hotmail.com). **PLAN TO BRING A FRIEND!**

## BLOOD MOBILE

Thanks to all who shared the gift of life at our March blood drive. Our next Bloodmobile will be Sunday, June 21!

## LENT & HOLY WEEK AT WOH

As winter turns the corner into spring, we enter into the most sacred time of the year in our life with God. Lent, a time of renewal in faith and life, builds toward the great drama of Holy Week and Easter. At Word of Hope, some have participated in mid-week "house church" worship each Wednesday and we've encouraged everyone to go back to the basics through the use of **PoWeR SuRGe** ~ becoming more regular in Prayer, Worship, Reading the word, Serving others, building Relationships of faith, and Giving."

Holy Week itself begins on April 5<sup>th</sup> with the Sunday of Palms & Passion ~ a day to remember the joy of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as well as the rapid and crushing path to his death on the cross. Then, the "Three Days" ("Triduum" for those who recall high school Latin) at the end of Holy Week round out the details of Jesus' love. Maundy Thursday recalls Jesus washing the feet of his disciples and the new commandment or "mandatum" to "love one another as I have loved you." It was also "on the night in which he was betrayed" that he invited those who would follow him to be nourished for the journey by partaking in Holy Communion ~ and we too will "do this in remembrance of me." This meal is meant to fuel our service for others.

On the Friday made and called "Good" because of Jesus' willingness to take on our brokenness, we once again witness the love that goes all the way to the grave for us. In Jesus' death, the wrong we have done is all burned away. *That is symbolized here at WOH in the "burning of transgressions" ~ pieces of paper upon which folks have anonymously written about their burdens are burned at the end of the Good Friday worship.*

By ancient tradition, the Easter Vigil (on the Saturday night before the day of Easter) is a time to witness the joy and light of Christ's resurrection leaping like a fire from the darkness of death. In the early church, this "all nighter" was a baptismal/new member/Easter sunrise/Holy Communion service all rolled into one. Although ours is considerably shorter (about an hour and 45 minutes), it still has the feel of what early Christians experienced in those first years and decades after Jesus' resurrection.

This year, our confirmands will affirm their faith at the Easter Vigil. Confirmation is both an individual's confession of faith as well as a celebration for the whole church as we recognize how blessed we are that an entire group of youth are ready to become adults in the church. In this celebration, we rejoice as confirmands intentionally accept Jesus' invitation: "whoever would be my disciples must deny himself, pick up his cross and follow me."

In this holiest of seasons, all are urged to be renewed in this invitation and know once again the joy of that holy connection to the love of Jesus that will not let us go.

## AN EASTER OPPORTUNITY

George Gallup, the noted pollster, says his research shows that 95% of the people who live in the US believe in God / 70% would be open to an invitation to attend church / 33% do not have a church home / and only 25% of the people who do not have a church home have been invited to "come and see." Talk about opportunity!



The Season of  
Easter

Easter is a time when folks are probably most open to an invitation. Think of someone who, through conversations you've had, has indicated an emptiness in their spiritual life. Take the time to pray for that person over the days ahead and **listen** to their concerns. **Then, as we get close to Easter, if you sense the nudging of the Spirit, take the risk. Invite the friend.** It's possible someone will say "no" but the prayer and invitation is always a sweet celebration of the hope that comes as a result of Jesus' resurrection.

## KID'S NITE OUT

"Spring has Sprung" at our Kid's Nite Out! Kids of all ages are invited to join the fun on **SATURDAY, APRIL 18<sup>th</sup> 5-8:00pm**. We'll celebrate the warm weather with plenty of outdoor games & activities! Don't miss it and **BRING YOUR FRIENDS!** Questions? Contact **DARLENE TAYLOR** or **BOB COOK**.

## UNWIND NITE



It's time to 'unwind' and take a break once again. Time to get to know some WOH folks in a relaxed setting and find out how much we really have in common—the delights as well as the aggravations? Our next "Unwind Nite" will be **THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 7 pm** at the Duvals'. Come and enjoy an agenda-free evening of conversation.

## WOH SHIRTS

We are in the process of ironing out the details for the general purchase of Word of Hope shirts with our "Amazing Grace Place" logo. There are still a couple of wrinkles but we expect the purchase price to be about \$30 each and a variety of colors available. Watch for the signups on Sunday morning.

## VIDALIA ONIONS

Check in with our local supplier, **BOB LIPINSKI**, for this year's crop of Vidalia onions. They're great for all those summer cookouts! And a bargain too - a 10 pound bag for just 10 bucks! All proceeds benefit Shriner's Hospital. Contact Bob at [Romeohudson843@yahoo.com](mailto:Romeohudson843@yahoo.com).

## VBS COMING UP



Our Summer Vacation Bible Camp will be here before we know it! The dates are **Monday – Friday, June 8-13**, 9 am - 4 pm with a kickoff party on Sunday, June 8. The theme is *Crocodyle Dock – Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light*. Once again we're partnering the Luther Road traveling ministry team, who will help us put on a full week of VBS Day Camp. We also have a great team working out the details for the week. So far those team members are: **SHANNON & KENNY HOLBROOK; KRISTIN SLAVIK; JENNIFER POLNISCH; APRIL LAMBIRTH; LAURA BROWN & MAGGIE BERRY and TODD COTTRELL**. It's not too late to join the team we'll need plenty of volunteers from the congregation. So mark your calendar now and think about which friends you would like to invite ... to participate or volunteer!

## SPRING FLING & TALENT SHOW

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm! It's Hee-Haw Time!! Watch for some of your favorites – "The Cornfield Jokes", "Pickin' and Grinnin'" and even a little "Korn News". So start rehearsing your favorite act, brush off that banjo (or your instrument of choice) and make plans for **WOH'S ANNUAL SPRING FLING AND TALENT SHOW!!** If you know of an individual or group who've been hiding their talents now is the time to come forth! It'll be a GREAT night of entertainment for all - a night to enjoy a great meal then kick back, relax and prepare for plenty of laughs! You won't want to miss it! Contact **DARLENE TAYLOR** ([dtaylormom5@aol.com](mailto:dtaylormom5@aol.com)) or any SH Youth Group member.

## ESH STATE CLOTHING DRIVE

During the month of April we're inviting folks to collect men's new and gently used clothing for Eastern State Hospital. Items can be placed in the collection box in the church entry. It's just another way in which we share the love of Jesus with ALL others and bring praise to the One who shared the greatest love with us.



## BRIN'S GARDEN

As spring draws near we'll have some great opportunities to enjoy the outdoors ...especially visit the garden down in the corner of our property. It's a quiet, meditative spot where you can sit on the park bench and, amazingly, experience God's calming presence near a bustling thoroughfare. The pause will do you good.

## EKY CONFERENCE

### SPRING ASSEMBLY AT WOH

**Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am**

Come and see how our youth are working to fulfill, "God's Work – Our Hands: Every Person a Missionary" as Uth4God groups from various churches in our EK Synod present ministries in which they have been involved. Our Word of Hope MS & HS Youth representatives will lead the Opening Worship. Everyone is invited to attend and most welcome to attend.



## DINER'S NIGHT REMINDER

We've had a few enjoyable gatherings as WOH folks come together in these 'get to know ya' times! The fun continues..... **March/April Gatherings**

**HOST: Kelly & Rob Moore**

**Guests:** Bob & Sue Cook; Julie & Jerry McEwen; Darlene & Bob Taylor; Don & Colleen Black.

**HOST: Dawn & Chuck Webb**

**Guests:** Dave & Glenda Earnest; Janice Hampton & Lamare Adams; Shannon & Kenny Holbrook; Marjorie Floro. If you'd like to be a part of these gatherings, contact **JULIE McEWEN** (552-0062)

## PINCHING PENNIES??

Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization which makes food available to folks for a reduced cost. They are able to do this by purchasing in bulk and making up set "packages" on a monthly basis. If you would like help making your food dollars stretch check out their website: [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com). Several WOH folks are already utilizing this service and find it very helpful.



## 2009 SANCTUARY CANDLE CHART

There are still plenty of opportunities if you would like to sign up to provide the sanctuary candle for a given Sunday. See the charts posted on the bulletin board in the entryway. (The cost of the candle \$5/ Sunday)

## PARENTWEEN GROUP (PTG)

Come join us in these support group get-togethers where we share the joys and challenges of parenting. All parents of Middle School & High School youth (teens & tweens) are invited to this informal conversation. The next event is Sunday, April 5th, 6:30 pm. Neighbors and friends are also most welcome. For more information: Call Pastor 272-8515. (We meet on the first Sunday of the month at 6:30pm)

## WOMEN'S SERVICE GROUP

All women of WOH and their friends and neighbors are invited to join us as we explore areas in which we, as women, can reach out in our community. Our first get together will be Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Bring a small snack and we'll put the coffee on. And bring your crochet or knitting project to keep busy while we chat. Childcare will be provided in the nursery. Contact **JANICE HAMPTON** or **DARLENE TAYLOR** for details.

## WORSHIP HELPERS



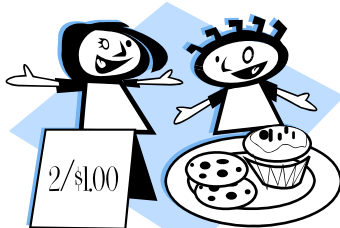
We are looking for folks who would be interested in sharing their gifts as ushers, communion assistants and communion care folks. We would like to put together a regular schedule for those who are interested. In addition, we would like to include those who would like to serve as Assisting Ministers. There will be some basic training. If you're interested in any of these areas of ministry at WOH see **Pr. DUVAL** or sign up on the clipboards on Sunday.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE...

is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. If you've got news to share, updates from your WOH team or "a view from the pew" please send it to [TADWrig@cs.com](mailto:TADWrig@cs.com) or [Darlene at dtaylormom5@aol.com](mailto:Darlene at dtaylormom5@aol.com). Darlene also coordinates the building use calendar, so if you are planning an activity at the church, make sure you get it on the calendar! There is a LOT going on here at Word of Hope, and every event is important to the ministry and outreach of our church!

## THE BAKELESS BAKE SALE

Sugar free? Calorie Free? Who needs a bake sale anyway? Bring your checkbook and your support for Word of Hope. A bakeless bake sale is coming our way in the between-services time on Sunday, May 31. The proceeds will be split between the general fund and the Emergency Reserve which provides for major, unexpected repairs at WOH. Watch for more details on this fun fellowship that will require NO preparation—just a mindset for a miracle.



## WOH FOLKS ...



### WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

On Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> **SHANNON, KENNY & ABBY HOLBROOK; MIKE, MINDY & THOMAS HOULIHAN and LAURA & EMILY BROWN & MAGGIE BERRY** were received as members of WOH. We delight in your presence with

us in the ministry of this congregation.

**MARY WEBB IN THE SPOTLIGHT** She will be performing in the musical 'Guys and Dolls' with her home-schooling group May 7 & 8 at 7pm at Crossroads Christian Church. Mary has a solo part and will perform with the chorus. Definitely worth a night out! Watch for details!

**THANK YOU** for the New Testament CD's and Daily Bread Devotionals. These items enhance my spirituality. Thanks for letting us meet here on Sunday nights. *Cathy, AA*

**CONGRATULATIONS** to **MARY & DENNIS REIBOLD** who recently celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. May God continue to bless you in your life together.

**OUR THANKS** to **JOHN POLNISCHEK** for doing the winter maintenance on the lawn mower – which means we're ready to ride!

**MANY THANKS** to all the folks who worked to put together the 'Stone Soup' Event. Special thanks to **JANICE HAMPTON & DAWN WEBB** for coordinating everything, to **DON BLACK** for cooking our 'stone soup', to the **MANY BREAD MAKERS** and **ALL** the contributors who made our soup pot so abundant.

**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY** to **CRYSTAL, JOHN & JOE McMULLEN** upon the death of Crystal's mother, Yvonne Stover. Rest eternal grant her, O Lord.

**GOT GRADS??** Please share their names with us so that we can recognize those folks in our newsletter.

**THANKS** to **JULIE MCEWEN** for her impressive designs for our Lenten banners. A great addition to the season!

## REGULAR GATHERINGS:

- The Parentween Group (PTG) meets Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm (First Sunday eve of the month).
- 'Bread for the World' meets Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the church
- Church Council will meet Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the church.
- Prayer Time--Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the church
- The Care Team will meet on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm at **JULIE MCEWEN's**.
- The Joint Vision & Stewardship Team will meet Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the church

## FROM THE PASTOR



There is a phenomenon which is beginning to get some national attention and it has to do with church attendance—as in the “lack of.” Evidently 2008 was the first year since they’ve been keeping records that worship attendance was off in all 50 states of the union. Evidently this trend is noticeable enough that it’s even been getting some play on national news.

I recently read an article that made an assertion which really surprised me. It noted that worship attendance fell off dramatically in the Great Depression and skyrocketed in the 1950’s. That seems really counterintuitive; the popular assumption is that folks generally take their faith life more seriously in times of adversity. The author conjectured though that in part this was a social phenomenon—that people didn’t want others to see them when they were down and out but when prosperity returned it was time to come out of the depths.

At our church council meeting in March we discussed this article and offered some other perspectives on the possible reasons for the decline. Maybe people who have helped others find it difficult to accept support themselves when things get rough. Maybe some are angry with God—after having done all the “right stuff” and then being hit with adversity they’re not exactly in the mood to worship.

Of course every church is different and so is every person’s response to hardship as well as times of smoother sailing. What I’d hope would give us perspective is God’s own faithfulness to us in all circumstances.

To my way of thinking that’s what forms the backbone of our Lenten understanding. Jesus is single-minded in his focus to love us and reach out to us *whatever it takes*. In spite of our sin or our inclination to wander away, he is committed to us. It’s reflected in that singular Bible passage which may be the only one most folks can still say by heart: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only son...” Loved AND gave—God is committed to reaching out to us in season and out of season and will stop at nothing to walk with us through whatever comes.

I’m always blown away by that passage in Heb 12:2:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

If I’m honest with myself I can’t say that I’ve EVER been really joyful about a time when suffering was put before me but there is something magnetic about this Jesus who so boldly goes where no one would dare go before AND emerges victorious. It really makes me all that much more intrigued by that tantalizing statement from Paul: “I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things in him who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:12-13 (RSV)

Can we really learn how to do “all things”—like praise and glorify God, even and especially when things are not going as we’d prefer? Can we envision a cloud of witnesses who’ve been through far worse than we can ever imagine and now encourage and cheer us from the heavenly sidelines? Can we sense that deep interconnectedness as the people of God—an interconnectedness which like the interwoven roots of many trees support and hold each individual fast in the winds and storms? Can we forget about the numbers and simply concentrate on how each person will live each day as a statement of faith and hope?

That’s a pretty tall order. But maybe not for those who are willing to trust that with God all things are possible.

I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things in him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:12-13

### *“House-of-God-Keeping*

With our April emphasis, we’re breaking with the past practice of having a new emphasis each month. Instead we’ll continue with what we focused on in March **“Bring Change to Word of Hope”**—except with a twist or dare we say “a change?!”

**“Bring Change to Word of Hope”** has been a great focus because it reminds us of the Lenten emphasis on “repentance”—a word which from the Hebrew literally means to “turn around” as in **change** directions. Lent is a time to honestly confront whatever it is in us that pulls us away from God and be open to God’s directing.



Now as we turn the corner on Easter, it is the resurrection of Jesus Christ which beckons us to a very different change—the promise of new life even in the midst of what would discourage us or suck the vitality out of us. And THAT’S a welcome change we can really get behind!

\*And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being **changed** into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18 (RSV)

## *WOHLY-Word of Hope Lutheran Youth Activities*

### **UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL(MS) ACTIVITIES:**

- **SUNDAY, APRIL 12 EASTER EGG HUNT** – As part of our Easter Celebration MS's will host an Easter Egg Hunt for the younger WOH folks. We'll stuff the eggs during True North (the week before) then make preparations for 'the hunt' Easter morning. Don't miss the fun!
- **SATURDAY, APRIL 18 MS (Middle School) WORKDAY**, weather permitting. We will spread wood chips at the church so come prepared! Watch for details in the Weekly Sheet.
- **SATURDAY, APRIL 18 MS –KID'S NITE OUT!** We need two volunteers to help out! We're planning lots of outdoor games and activities! Always lots of fun!

### **UPCOMING SENIOR HIGH(SH) YOUTH ACTIVITIES:**

**WE CONTINUE OUR GUEST SPEAKER SERIES IN APRIL!** We've had a chance to listen in and ask questions from a number of It's an WOH folks but there are still others who'd like to share their experience. Don't miss it! It all **STARTS AT 9:30am SUNDAY!!**

- **SATURDAY, APRIL 11<sup>th</sup> SETUP FOR EASTER BREAKFAST** We'll get together at **3pm** for setup and decorating. Should only take a couple hours if we have a good crew!
- **SUNDAY, APRIL 12<sup>th</sup> EASTER BREAKFAST** – **We need to be at church by 7:30am** to start cooking! The menu will be: sliced ham, sausage, scrambled eggs and pancakes. We'll need everyone on hand to help with this Breakfast Feast! And it's a **MUST** for anyone planning on going on the mission trip!
- **SATURDAY, APRIL 18 – KID'S NITE OUT "SPRING HAS SPRUNG" 5-8pm.** We need two volunteers to help out! We're planning lots of outdoor games and activities! Always lots of fun!
- **FRIDAY & SATURDAY, APRIL 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> LOCK-IN and ANNUAL YARD SALE** Lock—In begins at 6pm – come prepared to work as we spend the evening setting up for the Big Sale on Saturday! It begins at 8AM and runs til 1:30PM followed by packing up the leftovers and a thorough cleanup! We will need **MANY** helping hands! All youth who plan on being part of this year's mission trip **MUST** be there!
- **THURSDAY, APRIL 30<sup>th</sup> SHRINER'S** We'll meet at the church at 5:30 and head out to spend some time with the patients then gather back at church for some pizza and a chance to chat about the experience. Don't miss it!

And watch the Weekly Sheet and your email for other announcements! There's always a lot going on!

## The Story of Stone Soup



Once upon a time, somewhere in post-war Eastern Europe, there was a great famine in which people jealously hoarded whatever food they could find, hiding it even from their friends and neighbors. One day a wandering soldier came into a village and began asking questions as if he planned to stay for the night.

"There's not a bite to eat in the whole province," he was told. "Better keep moving on."

"Oh, I have everything I need," he said. "In fact, I was thinking of making some stone soup to share with all of you." He pulled an iron cauldron from his wagon, filled it

with water, and built a fire under it. Then, with great ceremony, he drew an ordinary-looking stone from a velvet bag and dropped it into the water.

By now, hearing the rumor of food, most of the villagers had come to the square or watched from their windows. As the soldier sniffed the "broth" and licked his lips in anticipation, hunger began to overcome their skepticism.



"Ahh," the soldier said to himself rather loudly, "I do like a tasty stone soup. Of course, stone soup with cabbage -- that's hard to beat."

Soon a villager approached hesitantly, holding a

cabbage he'd retrieved from its hiding place, and added it to the pot. "Capital!" cried the soldier. "You know, I once had stone soup with cabbage and a bit of salt beef as well, and it was fit for a king. The village butcher managed to find some salt beef. . . and so it went, through potatoes, onions, carrots, mushrooms, and so on, until there was indeed a delicious meal for all. The villagers offered the soldier a great deal of money for the magic stone, but he refused to sell and traveled on the next day.



On Sunday, March 22, WOH folks enjoyed our own 'stone soup' with many contributing their "little bits" poured together for a feast for all. A free will offering was received and will be shared with "Bread for the World", a faith-based organization which addresses hunger here and around the world.



**Word of Hope  
Stone Soup Fellowship Event**