

Vol. 21, No 4 April 2013 A Newsletter to Inspire and Celebrate Oakland United Methodists

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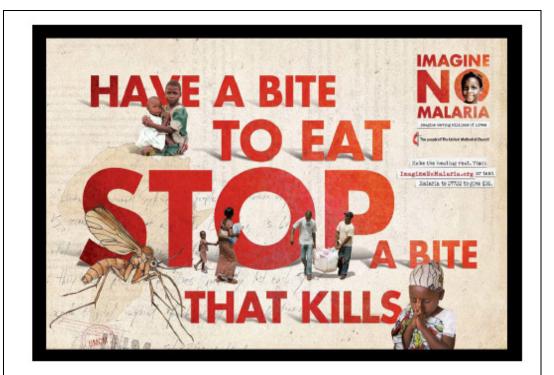
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Worship Service Time:

10:00 Worship 11:00 Koinonia

Sunday school Youth 9:00 a.m. Adult 11:15 a.m.



Please come and eat a bite and help us to raise funds for Imagine No Malaria to stop a bite that kills. The men of our church will be providing a pancake breakfast in the Fellowship Hall from 8-10am on Sunday, April 28th. A free will offering will be taken to be used to eliminate malaria. The breakfast is open to the public, so bring a friend/a neighbor.

> PANCAKE BREAKFAST Apríl 28th 8:00—10:00 A.M. Fellowshíp Hall





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Although every Sunday is a day to celebrate as we come together to worship our Lord and Savior, the four Sundays in April have added reasons to celebrate. On the first Sunday in April, April 7th, the High School Youth Group, under the leadership of youth leader volunteer, Tim White, will be leading our worship service. The Gospel Lesson for that Sunday is about Doubting Thomas. The youth will share a drama with us titled The Faith Zone.

The following Sunday, the 14th, is Confirmation Sunday. Four youth will be confirmed and join our congregation. Prior to being confirmed, the youth will share their faith statements with the congregation.

On the third Sunday, April 21st, we will learn more (via video) about a United Methodist missionary, Larry Kies, serving in Africa. Some of you may have met Larry if you were able to come to our last All Church Birthday Party. Larry was our guest speaker at that event. Our third Sunday offering will go to support Larry's missionary work.

April 28th has been designated as Camping Sunday. It is the Sunday we recognize campers and it is a time to get people thinking about camp.

And we can't forget about the special event on the 28th held before the worship service. Sunday morning from 8-10am the men of our church will serve a pancake breakfast in Fellowship Hall. The free will offering will be used to help eliminate malaria.

I pray you will join us for worship and breakfast during the month of April. We are the body of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 12:14 & 27 we read, "For the body does not consist of one member, but many. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." We need each and every one of you. You are all important to the life of the church. "You are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong to God's household with every other Christian." Ephesians 2:19b

And All God's Children Said,

"Amen"

Pastor Karen

New Places for New People.

This is a district wide event which will take place at the Oakland UMC on the afternoon of the 14th, from 3:30-6:00pm. This time together will provide the opportunity to see more clearly what a new place for new people is, what it might look like within the context of our own specific community, and to get help in developing a ready to live out plan or blueprint for making our vision a reality, as well as identifying resources that will support us in our venture. Please join us for this time of mutual sharing and learning.

Mark Your Calendar

April 7– Youth Led Service 14- Confirmation Sunday 14 – New Places for New People, 3:30-6pm 21 – Third Sunday offering for Missionary Larry Kies 28 - Pancake Breakfast, 8-10am, Camping Sunday



Pastor Karen will be out of the office April 2-4 attending School for Ministry in Des Moines.

Camp Sunday

April 28th will be camp Sunday at church. Come dressed as you would to go camping.

Camping Scholarships

Camping scholarships are available for this summer. If interested please contact Robin Jefferson or Sheryl Sindt in the church office.

Summer Camp Opportunities at Wesley Woods

Summer Staff- We are currently in the process of accepting applications & doing interviews for the summer staff for 2013.

Requirements:

1. Have a passion for their faith and want to share God's love

2. Graduated high school or be 18 years of age by August 1st, 2012.

Summer staff will receive salary, room & board while employed during the summer.

Junior Staff-

14-16 years of age can register to be a part of our Jr. Staff for the summer. Jr. Staff complete a training in the spring and then register for the weeks they are interested in being at camp during the summer. They can be here as few as 1 or 2 weeks and as many as 7 or 8 weeks, depending on maturity, performance at training and the need. There is a small registration fee for the training, they don't pay anything for additional weeks (they also aren't paid). The focus of the program is to prepare young people to grow in responsibility, leadership and faith. There are two summer staff who focus on the management and facilitation of the program through the summer. This small section of the staff community here at Wesley Woods is probably the one I enjoy the most, the participants grow some amazing relationships and continue to lift one another up throughout the school year on facebook and other avenues in amazing ways.

Jr. Staff will fill roles as dining room hosts, game leaders, song leaders, worship assistants, lifeguards and more. During the week there are intentional times of fellowship, fun and community building for the jr. staff.

If you have questions or would like more information please feel free to email or call. We would love to have pastors schedule a day or few days to come and be a part of the ministry!!!

Campus Ministry Associate Position Opening

Collegiate United Methodist Church/Wesley Foundation in Ames, Iowa is seeking a Campus Ministry Associate.

This two-year, full-time, mentored internship is designed for a young adult exploring a call to Christian vocation. In the best of the United Methodist tradition, we are seeking a person who combines both head and heart in the living out of her, or his, faith. The successful candidate will demonstrate experience with, and a passion for, building community among university students and developing student leadership.

Membership in the United Methodist Church is not required, but a basic understanding of the denomination is helpful. Interests in theology, alternative worship, peace and justice, servicelearning and music are especially valuable in this setting. Our hoped-for (but negotiable) start date is June 1.

Stipend, housing, health insurance, and other benefits are included. A bachelor's degree or equivalent must be completed by the start date.

To begin the application process, send a cover letter, resume, three references and a 1-page reflection on your giftedness and vision for this position to Rev. Jim Shirbroun, Campus Pastor, Collegiate UMC/Wesley Foundation, 2622 W. Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50014. The application deadline is Monday,

April 8. For more information contact Rev. Shirbroun at 515-292-6936 or jim@cwames.org.

Community Service Day Set for All Three Riverside Communities

Riverside Links in conjunction with the Riverside High School is coordinating a Community Service Day to provide assistance to our patrons in Macedonia, Carson, and Oakland. Student teams will be assigned to an adult, either a staff member or community volunteer, and provided with a list of work sites within the three communities. Students will be doing general yard cleanup, small painting jobs, washing windows or other helpful tasks. In another district students even typed a personal life story for an elderly gentleman.

All three communities have trash pickup on Thursdays. Oakland Town Council has set May 2-5 for their entire community to dispose of large items in dumpsters. Consider using student volunteers on Wednesday to help carry unwanted items from your home.

Students will be working from 12:30 to 2:30 on May 1, 2013. Then they will meet in a central location in each town to be transported back to school at 3:00. The Riverside Links Committee will compile a list of work sites and the Student Council and National Honor Society sponsors will set up work teams.

Anyone wishing to be put on the list may call one of the following: Joan Scott 486-2278 or cell 402-676-1615, Sue McCready 486-2224, Linda Allensworth after 5:00 p.m. 484-3446 or Gayle Strickland 482-3436. When calling, be prepared to give your address, phone number, and list of supplies that you will provide. If you do not have equipment, the committee will assemble needed supplies for the students to bring to your location. Please respond by April 11 so that the committee will be able to organize work teams.

On the back of this page there is a form you may follow when calling one of the organizers or you may fill it out and get it to Cathey Grosvenor (482-3511). **Prior to May 1**, you will be contacted to let you know when a team will be coming to your location. If too many people respond, we will have to prioritize the work based on who called first.

We hope this event will give students an opportunity to give back to our communities. For more information, check out our website (riversidelinks.com) which also includes a calendar of local events and contact information for local churches and businesses.

We encourage anyone in the Riverside Community to contact **Nancy Raney (nraney@aol.com or 712-486-2588)** with information you'd like to have her put on the website.

Riverside Links/Riverside high School is in need of adult volunteers to oversee the work of the youth on this Community service Day.

If you can help, please call one of the above numbers.

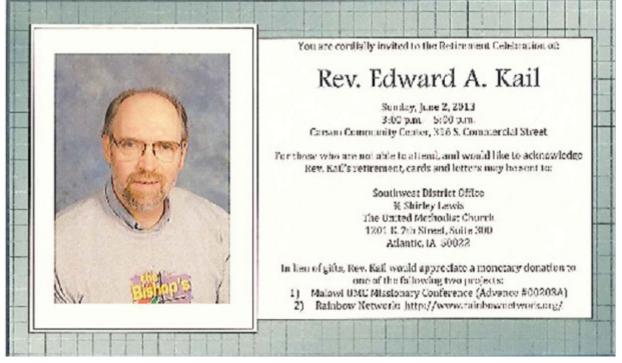
See form on back of this page.



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Community Service Day

Circle the Community									
	Macedonia	Carson	Oakland						
List the Address									
Phone Number of the contact person on site									
Name the Organization or Resident Name the adult who will be present Give a summary of the task									
Number of Volunteers N	eeded								
Equipment Needed									
What equipment/tools w	vill be provided	by the home	owner/organization?						
What tools/equipment w	vill the voluntee	rs need to br	ring?						
Other information									



NEW Southwest District Field Outreach Minister



Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble has announced that Rev. Melissa Drake will be serving as the Field Outreach Minister for the Southwest District. Melissa is currently the pastor at the Hancock and Silver Creek UMC.

Melissa received her BA in English Literature from Dordt College and her Master of Divinity from Drew University Theological School. Prior to her appointment in Hancock, Iowa, Melissa served as the Volunteer Coordinator for the Center for United Methodist Aid to the Community of Patterson, New Jersey, and as the Program Coordinator for Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Center in Greig, New York.

Melissa has a heart and passion for ministry and believes that by loving the neighbors in our communities, there is a future with great hope in the Southwest District.

Update From Our Missionary



Lawrence Kies

Serving At: Africa University Farm at Mutare, Zimbabwe Location: Zimbabwe, Africa Home Country: United States of America Spouse: Kies, Margaret Jane (Knox)

Larry Kies is a United Methodist missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries serving as technical advisor to the Africa University Farm at Mutare, Zimbabwe in southern Africa.

Africa University is a United Methodist Churchrelated institution that is being nurtured and funded by church members from all over the world. It is a consequence of the growth of United Methodism on the African continent and has its foundations in the history and legacy of the church. Africa University opened in March 1992 as the first private, international university in Zimbabwe.

Larry's duties involve working with the farm manager to develop an agricultural program that makes the university farm more efficient in its roles of teaching and research. In addition, he is involved in student agricultural practicals, and teaches classes in crop production and farm management.

Reflecting on his ministry, Mr. Kies shares, "I am in mission with the African people as we manage a commercial-scale farm that demonstrates appropriate farming methods. Students, even those not studying agriculture, are exposed to sustainable practices, as many work part-time on the farm to help pay their school fees. In teaching, I hope to reinforce in students a Christian outlook toward farming and business, since many of them will be the African leaders of the future. By so doing, I hope to obey Jesus' command, implicit in Matthew 25, to feed the hungry."

Mr. Kies was raised near Jesup, Iowa, where his parents gave him his love of farming and sense of global mission. After graduating from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology, he began a 15-year career in Botswana. He first served as a Peace Corps Volunteer teaching agriculture, then managed the farm and taught at Maun Secondary School.

Larry returned to the US to earn a Master of Science degree in vegetable crops at the University of California, Davis. While at Davis he was active in the Davis United Methodist Church, playing guitar and singing in the folk choir, leading the singing for youth Sunday school, and helping teach adult Sunday school.

In 1994, he returned to Africa to manage a beef, dairy, cotton, and maize farm. Prior to moving to Africa University he managed the farm at Nyadire Mission in Zimbabwe. He began his work at Africa University in 2002.

Larry is married to Jane, who is also a United Methodist missionary assigned to Africa University. They have four children: Ben, Andrew Pule, Carly, and Michael

CHURCH SERVICES of THE FUTURE

PASTOR: "Praise the Lord!"

CONGREGATION: "Hallelujah!"

PASTOR: "Can we please turn on our tablet, PC, iPad, smart phone, and Kindle Bibles to 1 Cor 13:13.

And please switch on your Bluetooth to download the sermon."

P-a-u-s-e......�

"Now, Let us pray committing this week into God's hands.

Open your Apps, BBM, Twitter and Facebook, and chat with God ?"

S-i-l-e-n-c-e�

•

"As we take our Sunday tithes and offerings, please have your credit and debit cards ready."

"You can log on to the church wi-fi using the password 'Lord909887. ' "

The ushers will circulate mobile card swipe machines among the worshipers:

- T hose who prefer to make electronic fund transfers are directed to computers and laptops at the rear of the church.
- Those who prefer to use iPads can open them.

Those who prefer telephone banking, take out your cell phones to transfer your contributions to the church account.

The holy atmosphere of the Church becomes truly electrified as ALL the smart phones, iPads, PCs and laptops beep and flicker!

Final Blessing and Closing Announcements...

- This week's ministry cell meetings will be held on the various Facebook group pages where the usual group chatting takes place. Please log in and don't miss out.
- Thursday's Bible study will be held live on Skype at 1900hrs GMT. Please don't miss out.

You can follow your Pastor on Twitter this weekend for counseling and prayers.

GOD ENJOYS A GOOD LAUGH!

- There were 3 good arguments that Jesus was Black:
- 1. He called everyone brother
- 2. He liked Gospel
- 3. He didn't get a fair trial

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that Jesus was Jewish:

- 1. He went into His Father's business
- 2. He lived at home until He was 33
- 3. He was sure His Mother was a virgin and His
- Mother was sure He was God

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that

Jesus was Italian:

- 1. He talked with His hands
- 2. He had wine with His meals
- 3. He used olive oil

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that

Jesus was a Californian:

- 1. He never cut His hair
- 2. He walked around barefoot all the time
- 3. He started a new religion

But then there were 3 equally good arguments that

Jesus was an American Indian:

- 1. He was at peace with nature
- 2. He ate a lot of fish
- 3. He talked about the Great Spirit

But then there were 3 equally good **arguments**

that Jesus was Irish:

- 1. He never got married
- 2. He was always telling stories.
- 3. He loved green pastures.

But the most compelling evidence of all - 3 proofs that **Jesus was a woman**:

1. He fed a crowd at a moment's notice when there was virtually no food

2. He kept trying to get a message across to a bunch of men who just didn't get it

3. And even when He was dead, He had to get up because there was still work to do!

Can I get an AMEN!!



(If you have a joy or concern to share, please email me or call the church office)

IT'S A GIRL

Congratulations to Herb and Leigh Bell on the arrival of Adalyn Elise Bell March 25th. She joins brothers Aiden and Wyatt at home.

THANK YOU'S

Thank you to all who helped prepare, serve and clean up for Kristin's funeral lunch. What a blessing to have such a great group. It means so much to all of us. The food was delicious and thoughts and prayers greatly appreciated.

The family of Kristin Grobe Judkins Cale & Dee Grobe & Family Garrick & Hannah Judkins

BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Whose entrancing dance proved fatal for John the Baptist?

2. Who held a feast with dancing when his son returned?

3. Who laughed at Nehemiah's plans to rebuild Jerusalem?

4. Who danced with all his might when the ark of the covenant was brought to Jerusalem?

5. Who laughed when she heard she would bear a son in her old age?

6. Who was snickered at for claiming that a dead girl was only sleeping?

7. What prophetess led the women of Israel in a victory dance?

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,

Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,

Perhaps you were not there at all,

Whatever you did to console our hearts,

We thank you so much whatever the part.

Just thought of us that day,

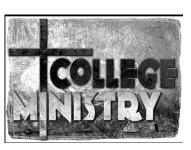
Or sat quietly in a chair.

If so we saw it there.

8. Whose ill-fated daughter came out dancing after his victory over Ammonites?

9. Who had his decree for a Passover celebration laughed at by the men of Israel?

10. What tribe took wives from among the dancers at Shiloh?



See the church web page for the college ministry articles.

The Family of Eileen Haines

http://www.oaklandiaumc.org/wesley-foundation

Administrative Board Meeting



February 28, 2013 7:30pm

Present: Barb Schorsch, Lyle Bentley, Skip Applegate, Gloria Gleaves, Norma Bolton, Louise Merkle, Pastor Karen, Bernie Bolton, Dick Merkle

After prayer concerns, Pastor Karen led the board in prayer and read Isaiah 1:11-17.

Chairperson Barb opened the meeting.

Secretary's Report: The report was read. A correction was made. Under Treasurer's Report, the second to last sentence should read- The group suggested we place ¼ of the scholarship fund into each of four funds (Building Fund Trust, Bond Fund, Balanced Investment Fund, Equity Fund). Skip motioned to approve the report with the correction and Gloria seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Louise explained the report. Lyle motioned to approve the report and Norma seconded.

Trustees: Norma reported that Sean Ehmke and Dave Applegate are continuing to work on plans for an elevator.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Karen on vacation Mar. 9-19. Pastor Brody Tubaugh is on call.

Mar. 24 – Heifer Project Sunday, Potluck to follow

Mar. 28 - Maundy Thursday Service at Oakland UCC (7pm)

Mar. 29 - RCA Good Friday Service at Sharon Presbyterian (7:30pm)

Mar. 30 - All Day Prayer Vigil at Oakland UMC

Mar. 31 - Sunrise Service at Carson Cemetery, Breakfast to follow at Carson Comm. Building

Mar. 31 - 10am Easter Worship Service

Youth – Kristy Rieken presented program about Eating Disorders

Catholic Charity Personnel presented program on Dating/Domestic Violence

High School Youth Group went on field trip to Mt. Crescent to ski.

Youth Group continues to grow- 30 in attendance on Feb. 27

Adult Education: Pastor Karen reported Dave Ramsey Classes started on Monday, Feb. 18.

Memorial: Lyle reported: Memorial board in entryway is now up to date. Memorial monies used to engrave plaques. Memorial monies have been used to purchase the following items: laptop computer for youth group, TV/DVD for Jr. High Youth Room, FWS Hymnals for Choir, Water Dispenser. The plexiglass windows on South side are weathered and need replaced as well as entry way door. Van Ert Glass gave an estimate of \$20, 865 to complete the work. Tammie Shellberg volunteered to repaint our wooden Nativity Set.

Old Business: Ed Kyle will be attending our April Board Meeting

New Places for New People has been rescheduled for April 14.

New Business: Louise explained how new Social Security rates negatively affected Sheryl Sindt's wages. Robin Jefferson submitted a proposal to raise Sheryl's wages. The board decided this proposal needed to come from the SPRC. The info was passed on to Bernie Bolton, Chair.

Mid American will conduct a free energy audit of the church within the next month.

Some discussion with regard to our Scholarship guidelines was held. Pastor Karen will check to see if guidelines are in office files.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Norma motioned to adjourn the meeting. Skip seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm. Barb closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Karen Hoff



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Luke Applegate
- 3 A. C. Roller
- 4 Christopher Buckhahn
- 4 Morgan Weirich
- 5 Derek Pierce
- 6 Josh Mills
- 12 Heath Haines
- 12 Trevor Jefferson
- 13 Ryan Hildebrand
- 14 Danielle Turner
- 15 Aiden Bell
- 18 Audrey Hartje
- 18 Derrick Fulton
- 18 Chelsie Grove
- 19 Mark Martens
- 22 Mary Waggoner
- 26 Connie Gardner
- 26 Nick Bates
- 29 Megan Nelson
- 29 Chad Obrecht
- 30 Sydney Turner

REMEMBER OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN



Kristie Copenhaver, John & Mary Lou

daughter; Jared Myers, son of Robert Myers and Sid & Tami Skank; Sonja Husz; Lucas Smith, Addie Mae's grandson; Brian Thornton from Avoca; Tyler Clark, Marvin & Carolyn Clark's grandson; Brad Grosvenor, Cathey Grosvenor's son stateside, and other area service men and women. Landen Pedersen, son of Tab and Lorie Pederson & great- grandson of Edith Haines

If you have a loved one in the service and wish to have them listed on our prayer list, please contact the church office.

Disciple Express TOP TEN PREDICTIONS FOR 2013

With all the problems the World is facing, it can be unsettling to the mind.

Today, we share with you ten predictions that are true!

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.

2. Prayer will still be the most powerful thing on Earth..

- 3. The Holy Spirit will still move..
- 4. God will still honor the praises of His people.
- 5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
- 6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
- 7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
- 8. There will still be room at the Cross.
- 9. Jesus will still love you.

10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him.

Isn't it great To Remember Who Is Really In Control, and that; "the Word of the Lord endures forever." (1 Peter 1:25)

We hope you found this encouraging .Sometimes we need the reminder of just "WHO" is really in control.

'Til the nets are full, keep on fishing.

NURSING HOMES - Remember those in the nursing homes with cards and visits.

Oakland Manor: Margaret Alff, Eileen Haines, Audrey Hartje; Ralph Pierce

Oakland Heights: Lucille Bentley, Erma Cleaveland, Janice Harris, Pat Burgett







<u>Disciple Express</u>

NURSERY

VOLUNTEERS

- 7 Lisa Pierson
- 14 Cyndy Haines
- 21 Norma Bolton
- 28 Carol Wilson



USHERS,



GREETERS,



- 7th Cory Reichart & Hayden Haines Dillon Carrier & Dylan Charlet Candle lighters Grace Gleaves & Cory Reichart
- 14th Paul & Debbie Rollins Dana & Tami Palmer Candle lighters
 - Kyra Martens & Kristian Martens
- 21st Terry & Amy Gleaves Sid & Tami Skank Candle lighters Emma Ehmke & Anna Duhachek
- 28th Fred & Joyce Henry Grant & Alison Henry Candle lighters

Grace Gleaves & Camryn Pierson





ACOLYTES

KOINONIA

- 7th Need volunteer
- 14th Terry & Cyndy Haines
- 21st Need volunteer
- 28th Lisa Rollins

Teacher's schedule -



5:00 p.m. Hispanic Worship Service

	Host	Nursery
7th		Mary Waggoner
14th		Need Volunteers
21st		Sharon Jones
28th		Barb Schorsch

SUMMER CAMP

Be thinking about going to camp. Scholarships are available. Contact Robin Jefferson or Sheryl in the office.







Disciple Express





March Calendar of Events

Mon, Apr 1	6:30 p.m.	Dave Ramsey FPU
Tue-Thu Apr 2-4	0.30 p.m.	Pastor Karen will be at School for Ministry
Sun, Apr 7	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School/Confirmation Class/Choir Practice
Sun, Apr 7	10:00 a.m.	• •
		Worship, Youth Service/Communion
	11:00 a.m.	Koinonia Adult Bible Church
	11:15 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	5:00 p.m.	Hispanic Worship Service
Mon, Apr 8	6:30 p.m.	Dave Ramsey FPU
Wed, Apr 9	6:30 p.m.	Jr.& Sr. High Youth Groups
Sun, Apr 14	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School/Choir Practice/Confirmation class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship/Confirmation Service
	11:00 a.m.	Koinonia
	11:15 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	3:30—6:00 p.m.	New Places For New People
	5:00 p.m.	Hispanic Worship Service
Mon, Apr 15	9:30-4:00	Pastor Karen at Atlantic "Ethics Workshop"
	6:30 p.m.	Dave Ramsey FPU
Wed, Apr 17	6:30 p.m.	Jr.& Sr. High Youth Groups
Thu Apr 18	7:00 p.m.	Administrative Board meeting
Sun, Apr 21	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School/Choir practice
	10:00 a.m.	Worship/children sing/3rd Sunday Offering for Missionary
	11:00 a.m.	Koinonia
	11:15 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
Wed, Apr 24	6:30 p.m.	Jr.& Sr. High Youth Groups
Sun, Apr 28	8:00—10:00 a.m.	Pancake feed for "No More Malaria", free will offering, open to
•		public
	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School/Choir Practice
	10:00 a.m.	Worship/Camp Sunday
	11:00 a.m.	Koinonia
	11:15 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	3:00-6:00 p.m.	District Conference at Atlantic
	5:00 p.m.	Hispanic Worship Service
	5.00 p	

This was written by an 8-year-old named Danny Dutton, who lives in Chula Vista, CA. He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to ' explain God.' I wonder if any of us could have done as well? (and he had such an assignment, in California, and someone published it, I guess miracles do happen!)

EXPLANATION OF GOD:

'One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers. 'God' s second most important job is listening to prayers An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off. '

'God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad ' s head asking for something they said you couldn't have. '

' Atheists are people who don ' t believe in God. I don ' t think there are any in Chula Vista . At least there aren't any who come to our church. '

' Jesus is God 's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K. ' His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important. '

'You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time. '

'You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there 's anybody you want to make happy, it 's God!

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.'

' If you don ' t believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can ' t go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He ' s around you when you ' re scared, in the dark or when you can ' t swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids. '

' But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases.

And...that 's why I believe in God. '