

John 21:15

Peter said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus told him, "Feed my Lambs."

- The days of summer
- Day at the Beach
- Departmentally speaking
- Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory
- Memorial Day at Patriot House
- Affiliated churches
- T-Shirts
- Teen representative

I had trouble finding inspiration for this column, but it found me...

Over the Memorial Day weekend, I had the privilege of escorting my church teens to a regional event near Oklahoma City; imagine, if you will, teens from all across Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana, converging on a college campus for an extended weekend of fellowship, fun, competition, and worship.

As an adult leader, one of my duties is to fill in as needed, and this year I filled in as the coach of a flag football team. Thus, I got to stand in the blazing sun for a large part of the day while my players were out playing under that same sun. Luckily, we had sunscreen and water, and afterward there was sunburn-soothing spray and an air-conditioned dorm, and so on the next day, we were all ready to do it again.

Days later, I realized that I had taken for granted all the creature comforts that make summer more bearable, and I considered those that may have no refuge from the heat. May we all remember our homeless brethren and keep them in our prayers.

A Day at the Beach: Sunglasses & Flip Flops, Sandcastles & Shells

Life may not always be a day at the beach, but for the kids at Fort Worth's Family Shelter, the children will be making a splash on Saturday, June 26th from 1pm-4pm!

Hot Dogs & Hope, Play Pals and Abundant Life in Grand Prairie are working together to take the beach to the kids for a day of creativity, crafts and conversation. The women in the shelter will also have the opportunity to play, doing crafts and making jewelry, too. We need volunteers to do crafts and activities with the kids.

Today's world turns at a frantic pace. Parents are often overwhelmed by all they have to do, and the mothers in the family shelter are no exception. You can make a difference by reaching out and sharing your time to help enrich the lives of their children. Times are tough economically, but financial support isn't the only way to GIVE. Serving, sharing, and showing others that you care may be the very gift that changes the way a child sees the world around them. All people love attention, especially children. So grab some flip flops and sunglasses and become a part of a memory that lasts a lifetime.

When you see the smiles on these sweet faces, you will experience the true meaning of the gift of giving. You will know that you really made a difference. Donate a pair of children's flip flops or sunglasses. You can find great deals anywhere and the Dollar Tree has plenty for just a \$1! We'll need them in hand by June 20th.

For more information about this event, please email: HeyJanet@gmail.com

Even if we are occupied with important things and even if we attain honor or fall into misfortune, still let us remember how good it once was here, when we were all together, united by a good and kind feeling which made us perhaps better than we are.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*

Departmentally speaking...

Communications/Promotions: If anyone has news of some public event at which we could make a promotional appearance, please let us know! Opening a door to get donations or even just public awareness is what we're about!

Fundraising: I've heard about a car wash being planned; watch your email for updates.

Special events: We just had the Memorial Day lunch at the Patriot House (see below), and the Day at the Beach is soon. Watch your email for news of a 4th of July event, and the Christmas party is only six months away...

Services: We are bringing 550 hot dogs and 20 gallons of juice each week, and as homelessness increases during the summer, we'll soon ramp that up to 600 hot dogs.

The Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory bars, my personal favorite among the fundraisers, will be back after the summer, when it gets cooler. If you haven't had one these yet, you really should; the price (\$2!) rivals anything you'll find at the store, and the chocolate is oh so good! Be on the lookout for them, because it's a great chocolate bar for a great cause!

They say that an army marches on its stomach. With this in mind, HD&H expressed our continuing thanks to our veterans in the Patriot House, the Presbyterian shelter, and the Women's Shelter by providing a grand meal! On the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, we brought a memorial lunch of spiral hams, potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans, rolls, fruit salad, and cake to about 60 veterans. Additionally, we did it all by generous donations from members and outside donors and did not have to use general funds, so our mission of delivering HotDogs & Hope will continue unabated!

For more information about the Patriot House, go to www.pns-tc.org/patriot_house.html.

We'd like to take this opportunity to mention some of the various churches that contribute to our efforts:

Grand Prairie Family Church of the Nazarene; South Park Baptist Church; New Life Bible Fellowship; Abundant Life Assembly of God; Southside Church of Christ; Ovilla Road Church of the Nazarene; Mesquite Church of the Nazarene; Gateway Church; and several others.

Also, we'd like to thank Love and Living Hope Ministry and Professional Christian Womens Ministry for their support, and we must mention Campus Crusade for Christ at Mountain View College for donating a large number of socks! Thank you so much!

If you don't yet have your HD&H t-shirt, why not? There are just a few red ones remaining right now, but we would love to order a bunch more, maybe in the original green, or maybe in some new color (yellow sounds fun)! If you'd like a t-shirt, contact Dennis and he can hook you up!

We've created a new role within our organization to focus on integrating teenagers into our efforts. Jessica Herrera from Grand Prairie Church of the Nazarene has agreed to be our spokesperson to the teens; starting with that church, she will spread our message to the next generation and get them involved in our mission through service, fundraising, and wherever they can be utilized.

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