

BUMC mission to benefit from drive-through Mexican food event

BURLINGTON — A drive-through fundraiser 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, will share homemade Mexican food with the community while funding an important mission across the border.

The community is invited to drive through the Burlington United Methodist Church parking lot at 207 S. Sixth Street between 5 and 7 p.m. Saturday for homemade

Mexican meals “to go.” The Outreach team hopes this year’s drive-through format (rather than the traditional, annual fellowship hall meal) will allow supporters to conveniently pick up their own meals, and to also grab meals to deliver to friends and family.

All proceeds will directly fund the building of homes in the Juarez, Mexico area.

This is Lanny Ratzlaff’s 24th year of building homes there, and Burlington UMC believes this ongoing ministry is an important one to share. Many community members and Burlington UMC members have participated in the construction of the cinder block homes, which typically replace structures there made of pallets and boxes. Ratzlaff traditionally presents a Bible to new homeowners and has made lasting relationships with some of the residents there.

“We are doing this fundraising meal differently this year, and are concerned about the support,” said Rita Beard, an organizer. “Those who are unable, or uncomfortable with the drive-through meal format may donate funds, which will directly go to the Mexico Mission building projects. It really is a great program.”

Station 4 — Gridley, responded to a grass fire 12:11 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, in the 400 block of Emmer Lane.

Station 8 — New Strawn, responded to vehicle accident with injuries 1:11 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, in the 1500 block of Embankment Road.

Station 7 — Waverly, responded to a grass fire 5:24 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, at the intersection of Old Highway 50 and Native Road.

Fire

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of Homestead Road and Old Highway 50.

Station 7 — Waverly, responded to a rekindle structure fire as mutual aid to Osage County 12:46 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, in the 4300 block of 325th Road, Osage County.

Madison breakfast

MADISON — The Verdigris Valley Foundation will be serving a biscuit and gravy breakfast 7 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 24 at the Madison Sauder Center. Proceeds from this event support the operation of the center and projects for the community. A drive-thru breakfast pick-up will also be available.

Legion Auxiliary

LEBO — The Skinny Spatz Lebo American Legion Auxiliary met Oct. 6 and were informed the Turkey Run was cancelled at Fort Riley. The auxiliary has not heard from the V.A. Hospital in Topeka with regard to The Christmas Gift Shop.

Marjorie Lewis thanked those who helped with bingo.

The next meeting will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3.

ADOPTABLE PETS

◆ Chase — male Lab mix, approx. 2 years old, active



Chase

The adoption fee for an animal is \$75. For information on pets awaiting adoption, call Bonnie Foster at (620) 490-0416 or visit Burlington Animal Shelter, 719 South Fifth Street. The shelter is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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The Coffey County Republican

Devotional Page

Sit with me

Carrie Hammye
First Assembly of God



Carrie Hammye

On our second trip across the state of Kansas by bike, we decided to attempt the narrow part of the state and do it in three epic days. Note to self, do not do this again. We rode 50 miles on day one, and 100 each on the next two days. Day two was a particularly difficult ride as it rained and stormed on and off. Our goal was to raise money for small churches throughout Kansas, so we didn’t feel like we could give up, but the wind and cold were brutal. At one point, we were whipping down a hill in fairly steady traffic. At the bottom of the hill was a train track. The conditions were fair. It had stopped raining, but the tarmac was wet and slick. I was a few car lengths behind my husband, Tim, when a terrifying incident occurred before my eyes. Tim came off the hill and onto the tracks with an infinitesimal swerve; his front wheel fell parallel and into the groove of the train track. This had the effect of flipping the back end of his bike around with the momentum and completely stopping his front wheel. He would have simply been thrown free, but his feet were tightly clipped into his pedals, so he stayed stuck like glue to the bike and flew through the air, through traffic, in what to me was slow motion. The bike crashed to the ground - he disconnected and lay in the roadway amidst moving cars and bike bits.

I’m not sure how it occurred, but I was off my bike, through the traffic, and at his side while the wheel was still lazily rotating. Somehow, I got an arm under him and hustled him, limping, to the ditch as fast as we could hobble. We lay there in the ditch, me pressing on bloody

scrapes and speaking softly to Tim, waiting for our support team to get to us. But mostly, we just sat there, together in the ditch. Just in case you wonder, Tim sustained no major injuries other than painfully bruised ribs, and his first logical question was, “How’s my bike?” (The bike was bent, but serviceable.)

This incident reminds me of Job. Job was the man who lost his wealth and his family in one fell swoop (Job 1:13-22) and lay beneath a tidal wave of shock, grief and unspeakable questions. He was a righteous and good man. He was prosperous. He had a lovely family and a wonderful life. Then, one day, he had none of these things. He had absolutely nothing. He lay in the ditch of his life, blindsided by unforeseen events, and poured dust upon his head. Wouldn’t this be a lovely place for his dear

friends to show up and encourage him? Unfortunately, his friends just came to explain the ways in which Job might have failed and brought all this agony upon himself. Oh, at first they sat sympathetically, but they grew weary of this and began to talk. They talked and talked and talked. They explained and explained. They remonstrated and argued and, eventually, accused.

This is not what Job needed. Do you know what he DID need? Job needed his friends to sit beside him and accompany him through his grief. He needed no words really, other than murmurs of support. He needed friends to “mourn with those who mourn.” (Rom. 12:15) In the end, Job found his way through grief as he leaned into God, bringing his pain and questions to the creator. How much better it would have been if he could have counted on his friends to love him through that long process.

In a world torn by grief and confusion, the people of God have a unique opportunity to grieve well with those who are hurting. And don’t forget, Romans 12:15 says we also get to rejoice. So, stand alongside these broken people, sit with them in the ditch of their despair; offer no words, just be there. Mourn with them for as long as it takes. That is the heart of God. That must be our heart, too.

From the Bible

God understands the cries of our heart, even when they’re too deep for words.

— Romans 8:26

Seeing God

Returning to earth after several orbital circles in outer space, a Russian cosmonaut proudly boasted, “I looked everywhere, but I didn’t see God.”

That statement made me wonder what evidence would have been acceptable to him to prove that there is a God. Paul once wrote, “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen.”

The eye, our “window to the world,” seems to be a very special part of God’s creation. But before the eye was formed, in His unfathomable wisdom a process was set in motion: “Let there be light!” He ordered. For us to see anything light must be reflected off of an object to form a “picture” or the eye is useless.

Before God created our eyes He prepared a special place for them: He

formed the bones of the skull to give them a safe place to do their work. He then fashioned our eyelids to keep out dirt and dust and made eyebrows to keep glaring light from damaging them. Finally He developed a lubricating process to keep our eyes moist and clean by causing tears to flow.

Finally, there is the cornea. It allows rays of light to pass through the iris and form a scene in our brain. And here the process becomes complete: Our brain takes what we see and enables us to make sense of God’s creation, love and salvation through His word.

“Seeing” God, however, takes more than the eye. “If you search for Me with all your heart, you’ll find Me.”

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