

Lissie United Methodist Church Celebrated Centennial

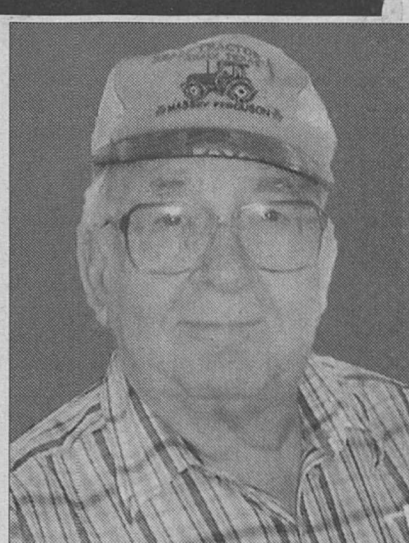
By Merle R. Hudgins
The Lissie United Methodist Church celebrated its centennial anniversary, Sunday March 19. Over 300 persons came to celebrate, renew old acquaintances and help tell the story of who, what, when and how this small church had its humble beginnings. The community of Lissie has also evolved along with the church. It began as the community of New Philadelphia in 1878 when a group of English settlers were sent to the area. The names of some of these earliest residents are evident in those families who stayed and made Wharton County their home. In 1894 the Fidelity Immigration Co. bought up much of the area and sold it to discontented farmers from the Midwest. The new wave of settlers remained the community, Lissie. A revival was held in 1906 by a visit-

ing preacher for families in the Lissie area. It resulted in 54 conversions and on March 5, 1906, nineteen individuals chartered the Evangelical Association Church. The following month, Sunday School was organized, and in October 1906 Rev. George Causey was assigned by the Evangelical Conference to Lissie. This began the 100 years of history and counting. In 1946 the Evangelical Church and the United Brethren Church united, forming the Evangelical United Brethren denomination. In 1968 the EUB united with the Methodist Church to become the United Methodist Church. Over the past 100 years there have been three separate church sanctuaries, four denominations and thirty-one preachers, but with those changes there has been only one congregation serving One Almighty God.

Befitting the Centennial occasion, Bishop Janice Riggle Huie, Texas Annual Conference, was present to give the Sunday morning message. She was introduced by Dr. Karen Dorris, District Superintendent, Houston Southwest District. Numerous former pastors were also present and they participated in the worship service. Rev. Robert O. Tupper who served the church from 1948-53 and 1958-62, delighted the audience with his many quips and memories of his years as the pastor in Lissie. Special music was provided by the Peugnet-Rains Family Quartet, led by Mark Rains, music director of the Sugarland United Methodist Church. The noon meal was catered, giving the host congregation more time to visit with those returning "home". Some attendees came from as distant as Oklahoma and Arkansas. Following the meal, everyone returned to the sanctuary for an afternoon Centennial Celebration. Many of the more familiar hymns were sung, and the children of the church sang "We are the Church". An early written narrative of the church's history was read by Meredith Nethery, to remind those present to whom they owe thanks for the past and to give a charge for the future to all. Representatives of past and present generations told of experiences they treasured during their association with the church and how this church influenced their lives. At the close of both the morning and afternoon session, the children were told that they could ring the 1907 church bell as they passed through the entrance hall. Their participation produced a joyous sound as the bell pealed "Come! Come! Come! Come! to assure the world that all is right in Lissie. A special display of church memorabilia and artifacts included numer-

Obituaries

Sis. Loreca Thomas
Loreca Thomas passed away March 15. She was born December 27, 1932 the daughter of Mr. C.L. and Florence Matthews in Colorado. To this union nine children were born. Loreca attended E.H. Henry High School in Eagle Lake. At an early age, Sis. Loreca joined and was baptized at Mount Carmel Baptist Church. She continued worship with the Lord, until her death, at White Obie Baptist Church under Rev. Obie Rhodes. She later married Deacon Oscar Thomas Sr. To this union five children were born. Those who have preceded her in death are; her parents; her husband; sons, Master Sergeant Roger Matthews and Frank Thomas; sisters, Earlene and Flora Mae Matthews; brothers, Claude Lewis Matthews, Oswald Matthews and Alfonso Matthews; and a special niece, Calandra Matthews. Sis. Loreca Thomas leaves to cherish her memory: Oscar Thomas Jr., and Henry Thomas, Lola Hemphill and beloved Godson, Royce McMillian Jr. and Darryl McMillian; one devoted sister, Ophelia Crow; three brothers, Glen Matthews (Dorothy) Edward D. Matthews (Melva) and Wilbert Matthews (Earline); one aunt, Eunice Sutton and devoted daughter-in-law, Jean Etha Thomas; a devoted sister-in-law, Mattie Matthews; a special nephew she cherished, Len Carson Matthews. As her son; special friends, Mrs. Betty Stevenson, Georgia Hemphill, Alice Kuykendall and Hazel Bradshaw; a special neighbor, Ronia Hurd; and a host of close relatives and friends that will miss her dearly. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 25 at 12 p.m. from White Cloud Baptist Church with Rev. Obie Rhodes officiating. Interment followed in Rising Star Cemetery in Eagle Lake. Final arrangements were entrusted to Lakeside Mortuary in Eagle Lake. Pallbearers were Walter Foster, Maurice Oliver, Greg Hemphill, Rev. Arthur Banks, Arthur J. Rhodes and Herbert Ashton. Honorary pallbearers were Glen Matthews Jr., Edward Frank Matthews, Fletcher Hardison, Wilbert Matthews, George Whitelow, Lee Carson Matthews, Oliver Matthews, John Matthews, and Frank Thomas Jr. Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.



Leonard L. Walker
Leonard L. Walker, 80, of Eagle Lake passed away March 25. He was born June 10, 1925 in Matthews the son of Carter and Ora Longuet Walker. Leonard was the retired owner of Eagle Market and a member of Christ Episcopal Church in Eagle Lake. Preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Harrison and Jack Walker survivors include his wife, Dorothy Walker; daughter and son-in-law, Dixie and Bill Gotcher of Fairborn, Ohio; sister, Doris Thomas of Katy; grandchildren, Cliff and Matthew Gotcher; one great-grandchild, Myles Gotcher; and numerous nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 29 at 2 p.m. from Eagle Lake Funeral Home with Rev. Steve Whitfield officiating. Interment followed in Lakeside Cemetery in Eagle Lake. Eagle Lake Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Pallbearers were Carter Walker, William R. Walker, William L. Walker, Richard G. Smith, William R. Schultz and Larry Brau. The family asks that memorials be made to the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, P.O. Box 4464, Houston, Texas 77210-4464 or Christ Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 577, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434. Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

Loreca My Friend, My Sister

Some people break their promises, but you tried to be strong for your family even in sickness, and I salute you for that effort. Some places we went, I was your Sister especially in the clinics and hospitals, I was proud to have had a sister like you. Some people called us the Golden Girls, but whatever you were to me was appreciated. I am truly alone now, because you were my friend. I will never forget you. I had no idea you would be gone this soon. But only God knows best. Someday I hope to see you again for I believe you have gone to Heaven. Take your well deserved rest Loreca, I will miss you.

Betty Stevenson



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Put Some Texas Pride In Your Stitch

The Texas Department of Agriculture has announced the start of its 2006 quilt block competition, open to everyone across the state. This year's theme, "Legendary Ranches of Texas," will spotlight the state's long-standing tradition of ranching, focusing on all elements of ranching, from famous Texas ranches to livestock to the history of ranching families that settled the state. Each contest participant will use Texas natural fibers - cotton, mohair and leather - to create a quilt block design that will be submitted to TDA. A panel of judges will select the winning entries, which will be pieced together into a quilt and unveiled in TDA's Food and Fiber Pavilion at the 2006 State Fair in September. The quilt will become part of TDA's quilt collection and traveling natural fiber exhibition. "Nothing says Texas like ranching, and we're excited about the possibilities of this year's theme," said Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs. "It's a great opportunity to celebrate the pioneering spirit of our great state." Texas is the country's leading producer of wool and mohair and has earned a global reputation for superior quality and durability among international textile buyers. Texas also leads the nation in cotton production and is a major producer of hides for leather and suede. This year's contest sponsors include Hobbs Bonded Fibers of Waco, Joy's Fabrics and Quilts in Godley, the Mohair Council of America, P&B Textiles of Dallas, Quilts by Marguerite in Terlingua, Tern Vogds of Denton and The Leather Factory in Fort Worth. To help defray the cost of mailing, the final quilting of the winning blocks and the traveling display of the quilt statewide, a \$12 donation for each participant packet is requested. The packets contain the natural fiber fabrics to be used in the design along with tips and techniques for developing the block and more information about the contest themes. To participate in the 2006 quilt block competition, call (877) 99GO-TEX or email gotexanquilts@agr.state.tx.us to reserve a packet. The deadline for submissions will be June 8, 2006.

ADHD Seminar Slated April 13

A free seminar for childcare workers and parents of children with ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) will be held at the office of Virginia Ruschhaupt, LPC, ADHD Counseling Center, 3403 N. Main Street in Victoria, on Thursday, April 13 from noon to 1:00. Topics are: Self-esteem; Solutions for special problem with ADHD children - morning madness, bedtime chaos behavior in the mall, stores, and the car. Due to limited parking space, you must pre-register by calling 361-578-7441. Session is a video slide-show presentation, followed by open discussion. If you can't be available at the scheduled times, call for alternative time to view DVD segment of this program or other parts of this series which have been previously presented. This is a free community service for anyone who is interested. Feel welcome to call for information. Ruschhaupt who has developed the program, is a Licensed Professional Counselor who counsels children with ADHD, as well as children, adults, and families facing a variety of life stressors.

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Treatments Available for Peripheral Artery Disease

Peripheral artery disease (PAD) is a medical term commonly referred to as *hardening or narrowing of the arteries*. This occurs when plaques or deposits of fats, cholesterol, and other substances build up over time. PAD is most commonly found in the arteries of the pelvis and legs. When it occurs, it can cause cramping in the hips, thighs, or calves of the legs when walking, climbing stairs, or exercising. Those at most at risk for PAD include individuals who smoke, are obese, have diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol, and often are physically inactive. Persons with a family history of cardiovascular disease or stroke should be assessed for PAD. Regular exercise, a low cholesterol diet, and smoking cessation are usually recommended for those with established PAD. Drug therapy may also be used and includes blood pressure and/or cholesterol drugs. Cilostazol (Pletal®) or pentoxifylline (Trental®) may be prescribed to help improve the person's walking distance. Aspirin or clopidogrel (Plavix®) are sometimes prescribed to help prevent blood clots.

Wildfire Preparedness Begins At Home

During the midst of a record-breaking wildfire season in Texas, state fire officials uncovered a disturbing trend: 85% of the large fires occurred within two miles of a community. More than 400 homes have burned in the state since Dec. 27, 2005 far surpassing any previous fire season. Texas Forest Service wants to remind Texans that "wildfire preparedness begins at home," which is the theme of Texas Wildfire Awareness Week, April 1-8. "We want to emphasize that individuals can take several simple steps well in advance of a wildfire that could make a difference in whether or not a home survives," said Texas Forest Service Director Jim Mull. "Waiting until a wildfire is bearing down on your home is not the time to try to save it. Prepare in advance, and that might save your home as well as your life." Communities and neighborhoods at risk for wildfires can work together to make sure they can withstand a wildfire by becoming a Firewise Communities/USA (information available at www.firewise.org) or by implementing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), <http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/shared/article.asp?DocumentID=1209>. The CWPP empowers communities to take the lead in developing a plan which reduces risks before a wildfire occurs. "Because so many people are moving to once-rural areas, firefighters face increasing challenges to protect lives and property during a wildfire," Hull said. "Texans can do their part by ensuring their homes and communities are Firewise." Texas Wildfire Awareness Week events are scheduled throughout the state that teach Firewise principles and provide tips on how to protect your property from wildfires. For events in your area or to contact TFS staff, log on to <http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/shared/article.asp?DocumentID=1056>. For wildfire preparedness and prevention tips, visit <http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/shared/article.asp?DocumentID=4124&mc=education>.

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EQUIPPERS OUTREACH FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL: 200 N. College, Weimar, Texas 78962; 979-725-8233; Pastor Jerry Adkins.

GREATER RISING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH: 580 Old Altair Road, Eagle Lake; Rev. Truman Scott Sr., Pastor; 234-2423 or 758-3745.

GREATER UNION BAPTIST CHURCH: Matthews Community, Co. Rd. 141; Rev. Lawrence C. Robertson, Pastor; 234-2581.

MT. CARMEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwy. 90-A (Pecan Valley), Eagle Lake; Rev. H.O. Williams, Pastor; 234-5813.

LIVING HOPE CHURCH: Eagle Lake; Revs. Joe and Mercy Fling; 234-5536.

BEREA CLADIC: 623 Maple Avenue, Eagle Lake; 234-2130.

ROCK ISLAND FULL GOSPEL: P.O. Box 232, Rock Island; 234-5840.

CHRISTIAN CITY FELLOWSHIP: 1140 Meyer, Sealy; Rusty Griffin, Pastor.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST APOSTOLISTIC REVIVAL RISING STAR: FM 102 South, Matthews; 4 p.m. (at Mt. Zion), Rev. R.L. Carter Sr.

GREATER NEW FAITH CHURCH: 6406 Guylar, Wallis; Rev. Clay Spears, Pastor; 979-478-2169.

EAST BERNARD FIRST BAPTIST FIRST BAPTIST: 527 N. Lake, Eagle Lake; Rev. Chris Thacker, Pastor; 234-2571.

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST: 405 S. Lake, Eagle Lake; 234-5795.

IGLESIA BAUTISTA GETSEMANI: 901 B Street, Eagle Lake; Rev. Mario Vasquez.

GREATER MT. OLIVE BAPTIST: Rev. Thomas Kuykendall; 705 Lake, Eagle Lake; 234-3545.

WRIGHT GROVE BAPTIST: Rev. T.J. Cunningham Jr.; Altair.

PROVIDENCE BAPTIST: 1207 Seabloom, Eagle Lake; Rev. Coby Shorter Jr., 234-3735.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH: 306 E. Stockbridge, Eagle Lake, 234-3437.

ROCK ISLAND BAPTIST: Bob Allison, Pastor.

SHERIDAN FIRST BAPTIST: FM 2437; Rev. Jim Dunn, Pastor; 234-3136.

WHITE CLOUD BAPTIST CHURCH: 202 Old Altair Road, Eagle Lake; Rev. Obie Rhodes, Pastor; 234-3800.

CHURCH OF CHRIST: Sheridan.

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP: Hwy. 90A, Sheridan; Del Sanford, Pastor; 234-3276.

CHRIST OUR REDEEMER-Charismatic: Jerry C. McKinney, Pastor; 979-478-7534 or 478-6512.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH: East Bernard.

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE NATIVITY: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Sanctuary; 308 N. Stevenson, Eagle Lake; 8 a.m. (Español), 10 a.m. (English), Rev. Eddie Winkler, P.O. Box 307; 234-2842.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH: Box 97, Nada; Rev. Joseph Koebel; 758-3218.

GRACE LUTHERAN: 408 N. Stevenson, Eagle Lake; Services begin at 10 a.m.; Rev. Clements Richard, Pastor; 234-3381.

LEHRER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST: Garwood; 9 a.m. worship.

LISIE UNITED METHODIST: J. L. Craft, Pastor; 234-2112, Lissie.

ROCK ISLAND METHODIST: Ken Sells Jr. Lay-Pastor.

UNITED METHODIST: 200 W. Prairie; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:45 a.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN: 106 E. State Street, Eagle Lake; 234-3368.

VINE OF THE LORD: 1300 E. State Street, Eagle Lake; Rev. Paul Aguilar, Pastor; 234-7543.

CrossRoad ASSEMBLY OF GOD: 510 Wallace, East Bernard; Pastor George Kutach; 979-735-7706.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS: 600 W. St., Sealy; Marshall Crosby, Branch Pres.

CHURCH OF CHRIST: 815 Milam, Columbus; Lynn Wilson, Minister.

THE SHEPHERD'S WAY: Interdenomination Christian Fellowship; 1225 Eagle Lake Road, Sealy; Frank Lucas, Pastor; 979-885-1225.

SOUTH POINT BAPTIST CHURCH: 6407 Hwy 71-S, Garwood; 979-758-3039; Pastor Dave Curry.

ASSEMBLEA DE DIOS HOSANNA: 403 East Main, Eagle Lake; 979-732-1966; Pastor Romero Rodriguez Jr.

BIBLE TRUTH APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Corner of S. Wharton & E. First St., El Campo; Pastor Larry T. Smith, 979-543-2331.

Bible Verse of The Week

"Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gets understanding for the gain from it is better than gain from silver and its profit better than gold."

-Proverbs 3:13,14

Submitted by Neddy Phillips

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