

Lighthouse Gives Spring Report On Activities

Spring Term 2006
Background: The Lighthouse is a place that cares about the children of Eagle Lake. The first after school session began in January 2004. Over the last two and a half years this program has developed into a place of hope for every area of a child's life. It is clear that hundreds of our community's children do not need a 'hand out' but rather a 'hand up'. Yet, roots of hopelessness are easily established in young lives where there

is the soil of poverty, splintered family structures and poor role models. Today, many of our local children do not live with their birth father or any father figure and perhaps as many as 15% of local children are cared for by their grandmothers or aunts and have neither birth father or mother involved with their lives. Result: A multigenerational systemic cycle of underachievement and poverty is affecting all local cultural groups. But things can change.

Mission: Our mission is to transform a community by transforming its children.

Strategy: Our strategy is to establish an organization that ensures that primary needs of Eagle Lake's young people are met. These needs are food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, education and recreation. There are also needs of the soul. Those needs are love, hope, care, character and purpose. Now, numerous community service organizations such as Lions, Rotary, Knights of Columbus, Colorado County Probation Office, Masonic Lodge, businesses and faith based organizations such as First United Methodist, First Baptist, Friendship Baptist and Lissie's United Methodist church actively participate together to coordinate resources to meet hundreds of critical needs. This is a tremendous blessing.

Following is a short report of how these needs are being met.

Successes: A foundation of service focused on real needs has been laid.

Attendance. One measure of success is whether kids of this community willingly attend the Lighthouse. Over the last two years, in a community of +700 youth, 400 of Eagle Lake's children have attended the Lighthouse one or many times. Cumulative attendance has now exceeded 9000 times. Avg. daily attendance is 60-70. 90% of youth walk over 1/2 mile to attend. Fewer than 20 parents have ever visited the Lighthouse. The love and care and safety offered at the Lighthouse draws these children over and over again.

Food. Now, no child in this community needs fear for their next meal. Every child care giver in Eagle Lake can know that there are food resources available to help in times of difficulty. Over 9000 full meals have been served to children and numerous individual families have been helped. This is a tremendous blessing and would not have been possible without the very active support of Brookshire Brothers and Eagle Lake Supermarket.

Healthcare. Utilizing the assistance of Rice Medical Associates referral of medical interns, and a recently retired local physician and RN we have developed a number of health screening surveys and questionnaires. This screening is extremely important as we have found that amongst other things, as many as 15% of local youth report hearing and seeing difficulty at school. But, we are limited. The Texas Medical Association legal staff has advised us to not get involved in health screening as we might have difficulty in following up on health issues. We have determined to find a middle ground in this vital area by working more closely with parents, local health providers, local school nurse personnel and others to make sure that vital health needs are addressed.

Clothing. Now, no child need fear for suitable clothing. We have turned away enough good clothing to clothe

every child in Eagle Lake. Much more good clothing is available. We have decided it is most efficient to work closely with Eagle Lake's Museum's Thrift Shop to help meet clothing needs as they are providing an excellent service to the community.

Learning. Now, a dedicated Art House. For the first time in the history of Eagle Lake the community has an Art House dedicated to fostering creativity and positive expression in the life of its children. The facility is redesigning its computer learning center to better focus on core academic subjects.

Youth Development. A comprehensive program covering life issues, character, career options, life skills, giftedness and life purpose is available. Additional volunteers are needed in this area to realize the tremendous benefits possible.

Recreation. Now, no child need fear for a safe place for recreation. A safe centrally located 6,000sq.ft. of facilities on one acre monitored by 5-7 adults daily filled with numerous inside and outside activities are in constant use by scores of kids.

Role Models. Now, each day there are 5-7 caring Christian adults are on site to serve wherever needed. Each Wednesday Ardie Nelson of E.L. 1st Methodist and 5 other women lead bible lessons for the girls. This is progress and this is a testimony to a community willing to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

Where Can We Improve. Too many areas to list. Although several core need areas have improved, progress must be measured against total need. The boulders of poverty and hopelessness are just beginning to be moved. We are not in the least satisfied with the job that has been done thus far. Many youth are still falling through the cracks of poor academic performance, lack of hope, lack of quality mentors and lack of practical skills. Following are three major areas where we as a community might respectfully take immediate action to improve our quality of life.

Areas to Take Action:

Local children, particularly at E.L. Junior High level, continue to significantly under perform academically. This is a serious and multi-faceted problem that has gone on for too long. Local teachers and administrators have tried hard to remedy this unacceptable situation but academic underperformance has reached a critical point. Example: in Spring of 2005, Eagle Lake Junior High students had the lowest overall passing percentage on all sections of the TAKS test out of 17 surrounding communities' Junior High programs. This cannot continue. It also appears that as a community, Eagle Lake must take much more responsibility in improving the academic performance of its youth. The Lighthouse will help in any way possible.

Solution: We respectfully encourage Rice I.S.D. administration and School Board to appoint an Eagle Lake based task force to completely reassess academic performance at E.L. Junior High and, with expert assistance, compare its level of academic performance to peer Junior High programs in surrounding communities. This task force would present its findings and recommendations to the School Board and make those findings and recommendations completely available to the community. Local youth should also be made aware of where they stand in relation to comparable youth in surrounding communities. We believe local youth are competitive yet are simply not aware that they are significantly under-performing their peers in other communities.

The School Board can then take decisive action to implement recommendations it deems prudent. What is clear is that all parties should work together to develop, finance and implement well designed programs focused on core academic subjects. It is

Continued on next page

Obituaries



Ann Elizabeth Wells Duncan
Ann Elizabeth Wells Duncan died peacefully at her home south of Eagle Lake on May 24.

She was born in San Benito, Texas, on September 8, 1923, to Trula Harbert Wells and Robert Rush Wells. Her maternal grandparents were Carrie Harbert Harbert and John Alvey Stafford of Columbus and her paternal grandparents were Susan Kimbrough Wells and Charles Morehead Wells of Prosper, Texas.

In 1931, her family moved to Columbus where she attended the Columbus public schools. She graduated salutatorian of her class in 1940.

She spent her freshman year at Texas State College for Women in Denton and then transferred to the University of Texas in Austin where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and received a B.A. with high honors in 1944.

After a brief period working for Braniff Airlines in Kansas City, Kansas, she joined her family in Eagle Lake to teach English at Eagle Lake High School.

She met confirmed bachelor Gardner Cameron Duncan at Christ Episcopal Church in Eagle Lake and they married there in 1946. The superintendent, W. C. Reed, always accused Gardner of taking away the best English teacher he ever had.

She was an active member of Christ Episcopal Church and served as a representative to several Diocesan Councils and was chairman of the Church's 100 year celebration in 1985. She was an enthusiastic member of the Garden Club of Eagle Lake and was a junior judge for the Garden Club of America. She was a Charter Member and Life Member of the Eagle Lake Community Hospital Auxiliary, Life Member of the Columbus Historical Preservation Trust, Life Member of the Texas Exes, Sponsor of the

Stafford Opera House, and a member of both the Eagle Lake Study Club and the John Everett Chapter DAR.

Ann and Gardner raised their children, Dianne and Vance, at their ranch south of Eagle Lake. They enjoyed playing tennis, duplicate bridge and had many wonderful adventures traveling with the Flying Longhorns. Ann loved tending her garden and was justly proud of her native roses. She also loved to read and needlepoint.

Ann was preceded in death by her husband of 49 years; her parents; her brother, Robert R. Wells, Jr.; and her sister, Carolyn Alvey Wells.

She is survived by her daughter, Dianne Duncan Tucker, and her husband, Eliot Payson Tucker of Houston; her son, Vance Cameron Duncan, and his wife, Victoria Lynn Duncan of Fulshear; and grandchildren, Ann Duncan Tucker, Payson Eliot Tucker, Harrison Vance Duncan and Meredith Victoria Duncan; her sister, Trula Joyce Wells Russek of Lafayette, Louisiana; sister-in-law, Virginia Fair Frazier Wells of Eagle Lake; nieces, nephews and other relatives and loved ones.

Funeral services were held at Christ Episcopal Church in Eagle Lake on May 26 at 10:30 a.m. Interment was at Lakeside Cemetery, with Reverend Stephen R. Whitfield of Christ Episcopal Church and The Reverend Robbin Clipson of the First United Methodist Church of Bertram, Texas officiating.

Pallbearers were grandson, Payson Tucker; great nephews, Jeffrey Gore, J. Scott Blair, Wells Crawford, Thatcher Crawford; and family friend, Joe Mike Spanihel.

Honorary pallbearers were grandson Harrison Duncan; Arthur Anderson, Steve Balas, Robert Griffith, Dr. Tom Hancher, William H. Harrison, John Mathews, Joe Herbert McCree, Jr., Matt Lee, McCreary, Dr. Russell Thomas, and Dr. Leland Winston.

The family wishes to thank Ann's caregivers, Mercedes Sims, Rosie Lee Cotton, Wilma Shorter, Charlotte Williams, Charlotte Martin, and Anita Winfield; and Millie Morales of Hospice Support Care.

Memorials may be made to Christ Episcopal Church, Box 577, Eagle Lake, Texas, 77434, to Hospice Support Care, P.O. Box 1417, El Campo, Texas, 77437 or to the charity of your choice.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss

Domingo Sosa

Domingo Sosa, 51, of Eagle Lake, passed away Tuesday, May 30 in Houston.

He was born July 14, 1954 in Eagle Lake, the son of Geraldo and Consuelo Gonzales Sosa.

Domingo was employed by Colorado County Precinct 4.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret Sosa of Eagle Lake; sons, Domingo Sosa Jr. "D.J." of Eagle Lake and Michael Wayne Sosa and wife, Leticia, of Wharton; daughter, Michelle Lynn Sosa of Eagle Lake; brothers, Gerald Sosa and wife, Jamie, of Eagle Lake and Pascual Sosa of Houston; sisters, Susie Alaniz and husband, Fred, Archie Salazar and husband, Billy, Yolanda Almanza of Eagle Lake, Jane

Salinas, Debbie Teague, and husband, Billy, all of Eagle Lake, and Delores Garza of Richmond; grandchildren, Mikel Michele Sosa and Mathew Justic Sosa.

Funeral services will be held Friday, June 2 at 10 a.m. from the Catholic Parish of the Nativity in Eagle Lake with Father Robert Guerra, officiating. Interment will follow at Lakeside Cemetery in Eagle Lake. Eagle Lake Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Honorary pallbearers scheduled are John Contreras, Daniel Contreras, Joseph Godley, David Romo, Desi Romo, Joe Quintana, and David Ruiz.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

United Way Funds Distributed

The Board of Directors of the Eagle Lake United Way met Thursday, May 19 to distribute funds collected during the 2006 drive. The funds were distributed as follows:

Boy Scouts, \$200; Youth Development, \$437.50; Children's protective Services, \$487.50; Little League Operations, \$475; Local Relief (Ministerial Alliance) \$1,000; Colorado County Opportunity Center (Texana) \$425; Colorado County Red Cross, \$200;

Eagle Lake Salvation Army, \$575; Colorado County Special Olympics, \$525; Colorado County Youth & Family Services, \$525; Community choir (Phone cards for local military personnel involved in the war in Iraq), \$300; totaling \$5,150.

The United Way was able to distribute 50% of their goal due to the generosity of the citizens of this area who gave so willingly to this cause.

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Use the Correct Device for Dosing Medication to Children

Giving the right dose of a liquid medication to a child can be a difficult task. Fortunately, there are several dosing devices that help in measuring accurate doses. *Dosing cups, spoons, and syringes* are better for measuring than kitchen spoons because the amount of medicine kitchen spoons hold can differ significantly.

Here are some tips on using the most common types of dosing tools. *Dosing cups* should be used only for a child who can drink from a cup without spilling it. Measure out the liquid with the cup at eye level on a flat surface. A *dosing spoon* may be a better choice for children who can drink from a cup but are likely to spill. The spoon looks like a wide straw with a small spoon at the top. Measure the liquid in the spoon at eye level. Have the child sip the medicine from the spoon. *Syringes* can be used for children who cannot or will not drink from a cup. One option is to squirt the medicine into the back of the child's mouth where it is less likely to spill out. If the syringe has a cap, throw it away or place it out of reach of children so that your child does not choke on it. If you are not sure about the medicine or how to give it to your child, ask your pharmacist or doctor.

JUNE SPECIALS

CHILDREN & STUDENTS	ADULTS
<p>ROUTINE EYE EXAMS</p> <p>Established Patients \$60 (a \$155 value)</p> <p>New Patients \$60 (a \$205 value)</p> <p>GLASSES</p> <p>Buy one pair of eyeglasses at regular price, get your second pair at 50% OFF!</p> <p>or</p> <p>Get 25% OFF all children's eyeglasses!</p>	<p>ROUTINE EYE EXAMS</p> <p>Established Patients \$115 (a \$155 value)</p> <p>New Patients \$145 (a \$205 value)</p> <p>GLASSES</p> <p>Buy one pair of eyeglasses at regular price, get your second pair at 50% OFF!</p>

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<p>EQUIPPERS OUTREACH FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL: 200 N. College, Weimar, Texas 78962; 979-725-8233; Pastor Jerry Adkins.</p> <p>GREATER RISING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH: 580 Old Altair Road, Eagle Lake; Rev. Truman Scott Sr., Pastor; 234-2423 or 758-3745.</p> <p>GREATER UNION BAPTIST CHURCH: Matthews Community, Co. Rd. 141; Rev. Lawrence C. Robertson, Pastor; 234-2581.</p> <p>MT. CARMEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwy. 90-A (Pecan Valley), Eagle Lake; Rev. H.O. Williams, Pastor; 234-5813.</p> <p>LIVING HOPE CHURCH: Eagle Lake; Revs. Joe and Mercy Fling; 234-5536.</p> <p>BEREA CLADIC: 623 Maple Avenue, Eagle Lake; 234-2130.</p> <p>ROCK ISLAND FULL GOSPEL: P.O. Box 232, Rock Island; 234-5840.</p> <p>CHRISTIAN CITY FELLOWSHIP: 1140 Meyer, Sealy; Rusty Griffin, Pastor.</p> <p>THE DAY OF PENTECOST APOSTOLISTIC REVIVAL RISING STAR: FM 102 South, Matthews; 4 p.m. (at Mt. Zion), Rev. R.L. Carter Sr.; 979-478-2169.</p> <p>GREATER NEW FAITH CHURCH: 6406 Guylar, Wallis; Rev. Clay Spears, Pastor; 979-478-2169.</p> <p>EAST BERNARD FIRST BAPTIST</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST: 527 N. Lake, Eagle Lake; Rev. Chris Thacker, Pastor; 234-2571.</p> <p>FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST: 405 S. Lake, Eagle Lake; 234-5795.</p> <p>IGLESIA BAUTISTIA GETSEMANI: 901 B Street, Eagle Lake; Rev. Mario Vasquez.</p> <p>GREATER MT. OLIVE BAPTIST: Rev. Thomas Kuykendall; 705 Lake, Eagle Lake; 234-3545.</p> <p>WRIGHT GROVE BAPTIST: Rev. T.J. Cunningham Jr.; Altair.</p> <p>PROVIDENCE BAPTIST: 1207 Seaholm, Eagle Lake; Rev. Coby Shorter Jr.; 234-3735.</p> <p>CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH: 306 E. Stockbridge, Eagle Lake; 234-3437.</p> <p>ROCK ISLAND BAPTIST: Bob Allison, Pastor.</p> <p>SHERIDAN FIRST BAPTIST: FM 2437; Rev. Jim Dunn, Pastor; 234-3136.</p> <p>WHITE CLOUD BAPTIST CHURCH: 202 Old Altair Road, Eagle Lake; Rev. Obie Rhodes, Pastor; 234-3800.</p> <p>CHURCH OF CHRIST: Sheridan.</p>	<p>NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP: Hwy. 90A, Sheridan; Del Sanford, Pastor; 234-3276.</p> <p>CHRIST OUR REDEEMER-Charismatic: Jerry C. McKinney, Pastor; 979-478-7534 or 478-6512.</p> <p>HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH: East Bernard.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH: Box 97, Nada; Rev. Joseph Koebel; 758-3218.</p> <p>GRACE LUTHERAN: 408 N. Stevenson, Eagle Lake; Services begin at 10 a.m.; Rev. Clements Richard, Pastor; 234-3381.</p> <p>LEHRER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST: Garwood; 9 a.m. worship.</p> <p>LISSIE UNITED METHODIST: J. L. Craft, Pastor; 234-2112, Lissie.</p> <p>ROCK ISLAND METHODIST: Ken Sellar Jr. Lay-Pastor.</p> <p>UNITED METHODIST: 200 W. Prairie; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:45 a.m.</p> <p>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN: 106 E. State Street, Eagle Lake; 234-3368.</p> <p>VINE OF THE LORD: 1300 E. State Street, Eagle Lake; Rev. Paul Aguilar, Pastor; 234-7543.</p> <p>CrossRoad ASSEMBLY OF GOD: 510 Wallace, East Bernard; Pastor George Kutach; 979-335-7706.</p> <p>THE CHURCH OF CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS: 600 W. St., Sealy; Marshall Crosby, Branch Pres.</p> <p>CHURCH OF CHRIST: 815 Milam, Columbus; Lynn Wilson, Minister.</p> <p>THE SHEPHERD'S WAY: Interdenominational Christian Fellowship; 1225 Eagle Lake Road, Sealy, Frank Lucas, Pastor; 979-885-1225.</p> <p>SOUTH POINT BAPTIST CHURCH: 6407 Hwy 71-S, Garwood; 979-758-3039; Pastor Dave Curry.</p> <p>SEMBLEA DE DIOS HOSANNA: 403 East Main, Eagle Lake; 979-732-1966; Pastor Romero Rodriguez Jr.</p> <p>BIBLE TRUTH APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Corner of S. Wharton & E. First St., El Campo; Pastor Larry T. Smith, 979-543-2331.</p>	<p>Stafford Opera House, and a member of both the Eagle Lake Study Club and the John Everett Chapter DAR.</p> <p>Ann and Gardner raised their children, Dianne and Vance, at their ranch south of Eagle Lake. They enjoyed playing tennis, duplicate bridge and had many wonderful adventures traveling with the Flying Longhorns. Ann loved tending her garden and was justly proud of her native roses. She also loved to read and needlepoint.</p> <p>Ann was preceded in death by her husband of 49 years; her parents; her brother, Robert R. Wells, Jr.; and her sister, Carolyn Alvey Wells.</p> <p>She is survived by her daughter, Dianne Duncan Tucker, and her husband, Eliot Payson Tucker of Houston; her son, Vance Cameron Duncan, and his wife, Victoria Lynn Duncan of Fulshear; and grandchildren, Ann Duncan Tucker, Payson Eliot Tucker, Harrison Vance Duncan and Meredith Victoria Duncan; her sister, Trula Joyce Wells Russek of Lafayette, Louisiana; sister-in-law, Virginia Fair Frazier Wells of Eagle Lake; nieces, nephews and other relatives and loved ones.</p> <p>Funeral services were held at Christ Episcopal Church in Eagle Lake on May 26 at 10:30 a.m. Interment was at Lakeside Cemetery, with Reverend Stephen R. Whitfield of Christ Episcopal Church and The Reverend Robbin Clipson of the First United Methodist Church of Bertram, Texas officiating.</p> <p>Pallbearers were grandson, Payson Tucker; great nephews, Jeffrey Gore, J. Scott Blair, Wells Crawford, Thatcher Crawford; and family friend, Joe Mike Spanihel.</p> <p>Honorary pallbearers were grandson Harrison Duncan; Arthur Anderson, Steve Balas, Robert Griffith, Dr. Tom Hancher, William H. Harrison, John Mathews, Joe Herbert McCree, Jr., Matt Lee, McCreary, Dr. Russell Thomas, and Dr. Leland Winston.</p> <p>The family wishes to thank Ann's caregivers, Mercedes Sims, Rosie Lee Cotton, Wilma Shorter, Charlotte Williams, Charlotte Martin, and Anita Winfield; and Millie Morales of Hospice Support Care.</p> <p>Memorials may be made to Christ Episcopal Church, Box 577, Eagle Lake, Texas, 77434, to Hospice Support Care, P.O. Box 1417, El Campo, Texas, 77437 or to the charity of your choice.</p> <p>Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss</p>
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Bible Verse of The Week

"If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all."
- Romans 12:18

Submitted by Neddy Phillips

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