

Summer Art Camp For Children

The Little Red Art Studio

Four weeks of art classes during June and July

- 1st Week: June 9-13 - Pencil Drawing
- 2nd Week: June 23-27 - Clay & The Color Wheel
- 3rd Week: July 7-11 - Printmaking & Watercolor
- 4th Week: July 21-25 - Paint and Draw in the style of four different artists.

Time: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$115 per week (all materials provided). You may choose the number of weeks you want to attend.

Call: Lois Raabe 979-234-5015



Pictured above are the Prayer Garden Committee Members from left to right: Kyle Lednicky son of Ben Lednicky, Margo Harrison, Martin Herman, Amy Garbee, Rev. Kevin Collison, Andrea Collison, and Rev. Chris Thacker.

Prayer Garden Dedicated In Eagle Lake

Continued from front page

told me the gates are open daily and would be locked only at dark of evening, to reopen again each morning, for anyone who "needs a peaceful place for prayer or meditation or just to linger for a while". I was humbly coming for all three.

I sat on one of the three iron garden seats and listened to the silence - felt the slight breeze moving through the leaves of the trees and the grasses and plants of the garden — "...in the rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere..."

"It had been an area of dying grass between the oak trees - a dying spot between the children's wing and the sanctuary," Pastor Kevin Collison, First Baptist Church minister, had explained to me that morning. The initial idea for a garden was first inspired by Rev. Brent Beasley over five years ago when he served as the church's pastor. Rev. Chris Thacker then became pastor, and a committee was formed to plan the garden. Chairman Martin Herman and committee members Margo Harrison and Amy Garbee spent many hours with church members, individuals and businesses in developing plans. After much planning and work, the garden became a reality.

I had just this morning attended the prayer garden dedication. The plaque on the garden fence welcomed the incoming visitors, "Open Daily - A place of prayer for all people."

At the dedication, Rev. Collison welcomed those present as we sat at the lovely garden site and asked that we "breathe the air, feel the ground, listen to the trickling water of the fountain and the birds in the air." An appropriate invitation at a very calming, peaceful location. He described the initial idea of the garden, stating that by the time of his arrival (in September '07), the garden plans were well underway. This garden, he said, is "a gift from the people to God and equally a gift back from God to the people."

Rev. Thacker, now serving a church in Louisiana, was happily visiting for the dedication and shared his thoughts on the initial work and dream of this garden. The conception of a "sacred space" for the church and entire community was expanded by the church committee and church members during his pastorship here.

Committee members Amy Garbee presented a scripture reading and Martin Herman specially recognized the different facets of the planning and building work, listing individuals and businesses who contributed toward the realization of this garden.

Fellow committee member Margo Harrison specially recognized the landscape architect and consultant for the project, Mr. Ben Lednicky, who sadly passed away in March, just prior to the garden's completion. The committee and church wanted to recognize

Mr. Lednicky for his many hours of service and work, both personally and professionally. A lovely memorial plaque was presented to his son, Kyle Lednicky, who attended the dedication.

Kyle expressed appreciation, and emphasized his father's vision and care for this church's community project.

All dedication participants underlined the desire for this garden to be a community garden for medication and prayer. Purposefully, Rev. Collison pointed out, no donor names had been labelled on bricks or posted in the garden. Though many donations were made and appreciated, and a donor tree plaque will be placed in the church, the garden is for all members of the community, with no specific recognitions made in the garden itself.

Two engaging and fitting songs were sung, with accompaniment by Rev. Collison on guitar, "Come, Though Fount of Every Blessing" and "This is My Father's World".

In closing and in the preceding moments of silence and personal prayer, Rev. Collison asked those present to now take the garden and "use it, take a few moments to soak in" the beauty and peace of this place, this garden.

"...in the rustling grass I hear Him pass..."

Light refreshments and visitation followed the morning's lovely and meaningful dedication service.

But....it was only now as I sat here in returning for solitary quiet and peace this evening, that I surveyed the beautiful garden space and fully noticed and ap-

preciated the Christian symbols now seeming so evident: the large bricked Celtic cross walkway, the water ever-flowing from the "disappearing fountain", the three park benches, the liturgical coloring of flowers and plants, the topiaries pointing up toward the endless skies, the life and greenness everywhere.

Margo Harrison had explained all this to me and had emphasized the basic qualities they had learned are essential to a prayer garden: simple and meditative.

It was almost dark as I slipped back through the gates to leave. Lights were just coming on at the beautiful jade green urn of the central fountain, softly illuminating the beauty of the garden. What had indeed been described earlier to me by Rev. Collison as initially a "dead spot" was now very green, very alive and very available to all in the community who would seek and need such a place.

Like the faith of the believers who conceived and helped build it, the garden stands as a quiet place of strength and serenity in an often too hectic and demanding world.

These believers would tell you that, like faith, what may begin as dying and withered may then, through prayer and action, be brought to life, bringing - like a green garden - serenity, peace and promise.

"One is nearest God's heart in a garden

Than anywhere else on earth."

— Dorothy Curney

** Words taken from the songs at the prayer garden dedication.

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the Admissions and Registration Office
for times, locations, and requirements.



Wharton County Junior College



Hillary Johnson hands off to Rebecca Dota at the State Track meet Saturday during the mile relay. They finished 6th.