



Rez House Happenings

Resurrection House Mission Lutheran Church

Dade City, FL 33523



SUMMER 2016

Welcome

As is so often the case, we are almost always so busy that we haven't said thank you to some very special friends at other churches in the area. It's not that we have forgotten to say thank you, just that we still haven't stopped long enough to sit down and write the letter. Today we had a minute, just a minute to rest and reflect and so we created this little newsletter to show you all how our hands have been used to do God's work and also to take the opportunity to thank each and every one of you at the congregations throughout the Gulf Coast of Florida that have helped us over the years. God bless you all as you have been a blessing to us and thank you for caring about this little church with the big mission.

Pastor Bruce Edwards

Atonement Lutheran Church:

Every three months our friends at Atonement Lutheran church in Wesley Chapel provide a baby shower for Rez House. This is open to any person in our community that is in need, we have a wonderful time, we play games, eat cake, cookies, and drinks, just like any baby shower anywhere. Prizes at a recent shower in-

A Word from Margarita

Dear Friends:

I cannot say that we have any one time in our work week that is slower than others, and because we work hand in hand with Farmworkers Self-Help we are always busy. Pastor Bruce works outside of the church to make a living and is constantly on call at the local hospitals or working with people who have a family member that has passed suddenly. Many of these people have no home church, he is often the only Man of God these people know. He often becomes the person to assist and prepare for burials and other unexpected events. Jesus said, "Be in the world, but not of the world." God has called him into a special place, not just as our Pastor in this farmworker community but to people that are extremely different from this community.

In Jesus,

Margarita

cluded a new crib, a portable playpen and a very nice stroller. It has been such great experience spreading the love of Christ to our farmworker women by showing that we care about them and their families. Jean Jakes and the women of Atonement have been doing this for about 15 years, so please send them a thank you for us as well, let them know you know about this.



Everything a new mom could need; formula, baby food, diapers and much more all for free.



We are also able to provide new and gently used baby clothing to the new moms. .

Hope Lutheran in the Villages

Earlier this year Hope Lutheran contributed \$3,000 to buy materials to build the deck next to our girls center in Rez Park. It's 60 long by 19 feet wide and now it gives the girls another area to practice their dancing and other activities. We had to spend another \$2,500 to pay the person to build it, a ramp, other things that also needed doing. The deck also reaches the basketball court, so now when we have our larger celebrations like Cinco de Mayo (5th of May) or Mexican Independence day on the 16th of September, we have an area for the band



Easter Sunrise service on the new deck at Resurrection Park to set up during these events. We also have Health Fairs inviting many local health care offices to participate. We want to give our children every opportunity to turn away from the invitation of drugs in this community to music, dance, sports, everything good we can think of and Resurrection Park is often the centerpiece of our youth programs.

Pastor Vierow was always a great champion of Rez House because I believe he saw similarities in us and the mission fields he had worked in outside this country. Every Christmas Sandy Nolan would gather our community children's names, most times over a hundred, and then do the Angel tree this past year it was too much for her, but we appreciate all the years she did support that great work, and we thank all the folks who contributed to our children. Does it matter whether they come to your church? What did Jesus say? "It's easy to love your friends", but I say how about those you don't have a church relationship with but are poor and in need?

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Recently Holy Cross food pantry leader, Barbara, Pastor Peter Morey, Jr., and several volunteers came with mountains of food and clothing. What a blessing! FSH has a contract with USDA, and so every Thursday Rez House Volunteers and FSH staff and volunteers come together and we serve between 85 and 100 families. The extra that comes from your churches and others help to make up the difference in what folks get from USDA. So we want to thank Barbara and Pastor Peter, and all the staff that came in 4 cars to deliver this food and clothing. Please do not forget us

St. Timothy Lutheran Church of Crystal River

For many years St. Timothy's Vacation Bible School has invited our children to join them on the last day of VBS (because it's too far to travel every day). Each year they send the songs and program they will be working with so we are able to share the songs with our children before we go. They bring snacks and gas money the day before the Friday that we are going and we then take 20 children. Our kids play, sing and share with their children. It is a wonderful time of fellowship and learning for both our youth and the youth of St. Timothy's, St. Anne's Episcopal Church and the First Presbyterian Church. The church also collects underwear and socks, not just for the kids that go but for the community children as well. This has been going on for years as well, so again its good for the Bishop to know what his churches are doing for others.



Children from Rez House sharing a song with their hosts at the Cave Quest Vacation Bible School's last day.

Church Bus

Earlier this year Wilderness Lake Baptist Church in Spring Hill gave us a bus that they were no longer using. What a wonderful gift, as our old church bus had not moved in years. The new bus needs a few minor repairs but we will now be able to offer bus service to those that can not get to church and we are also now able to take our youth groups places with just one vehicle. The bus seats 22 and is very comfortable for our kids. Our dear friend Pastor Bill Roen bought new tires and paid for over \$1,000 in repairs and the wonderful folks at the Rotary Club of San Antonio gave us over \$1,000 to pay for vehicle insurance on the new bus. Thank you to everyone that is involved in this wonderful gift to our ministry. We are currently in need of new brakes and have decided to park the bus for the time being so that we don't get caught too far away should it break down again.



Our bus parked in front of the Norma Godinez Learning and Arts Center awaiting new brakes & hydraulics.



Thanks to this wonderful gift we will be able to take our youth to events and visit other churches in the area.

Nativity Lutheran Church, Weeki Wachee

When Pastor Bill Roen was the pastor at Nativity, which has been 15 years or more ago, he started a project called Shoes before School for our children. It was not meant to give shoes to just our children in our church, but any child in our community who just might need a pair. For all these years that project has continued even though Pastor Roen is no longer there, every pastor that has come after him has embraced that project and it has continued. We truly appreciate this gift of new shoes for the least of these His children.



Year after year the faces of our kids may change but the giving spirit of the folks at Nativity just grows stronger.

St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Tarpon Springs

Recently Mary Innes came to bring food and clothing, Margarita told her that we now had a person that could lead the ELCA women's group so she is going to help us develop our own group here. There seems to be a very small showing of Hispanic women at the Lake Yale event and perhaps in WELCA in general. We are hoping that we can change that and we look forward to helping spread the word to bring more Hispanic women into the church. And by the way we could use some scholarships for the Lake Yale Women of the ELCA meeting. We simply cannot afford the \$145.00 that it costs per person, and so we rarely get to participate. Saint Timothy Lutheran Church has also given us financial support which has saved our life several times and we are blessed to count them as one of our friends.

Luther Springs

For several years we have been blessed with a vacation for our community children, and so now we've been blessed with 40 spots just as we had last year. This is a huge blessing for us as many of our children come back changed and renewed in the spirit. One year a young man in our community who was very close to becoming a gang member and often spoke of drugs and gang life was given the opportunity to go with our youth. That summer at camp he was touched by God and accepted Jesus as his savior. We are so thankful to those who make it possible for our youth to attend each year.



Our youth have such a wonderful time and meet so many great friends each summer. The kids are very excited about this summer's camp which started Monday, July 11th.

Thank You and may God bless you all.

We pray that we have not forgotten any churches from our Synod that have been gracious to us and have walked with us. We had so many stories that we wanted to share, graduates that are members of our church and the kids now headed off to college, the moms that cook every Sunday, the soccer team that plays in the park, our Folkloric Dancers. So many stories, so little space.

Please know that we would welcome your visit on a Sunday. Just let us know when you would like to visit and we'll cook a little extra food. Did we mention that we feed the congregation each Sunday? We hope you like Mexican food. Also we love coming and visiting your churches. We can bring our dancers, our singers & musicians, and plenty of beans and rice (we have great cooks) and just have a cultural Sunday.

A Bit of History

It's important for all our churches to know that Resurrection House Mission and Farmworkers Self-Help work in partnership together, and that Rez House began as a project of FSH. But in 2003 Rez House began to work as its own entity apart from FSH in becoming it's own 501(c)3 corporation and later, a full member of the Lutheran Church with its own Church Counsel and treasury. Even when it was a project Resurrection House Mission had its own bank account separate from FSH, but in order to survive we must work together. FSH houses the Rez House office and provides all necessary equipment for staff and volunteers to conduct business. Several years ago FSH gifted the 4 acres now known as Resurrection Park and the double-wide office that is now used as the girls center. FSH continues to help Rez House when they can and as far as community partners go, we are a good fit together. Our church is used as a place for our older youth to meet, and as a place to have conferences and meetings that support the community. We believe God is pleased because we work very hard at being careful with all God gives us.

Thank You To All Our Supporters

Because we are a servant mission, we would not be able to do what we do without the financial support of folks such as these: Grace Presbyterian in Spring Hill, Hope Lutheran in the Villages, First United Methodist Church of Spring Hill, Church of the Good Shepherd in Dunedin, Pastor William Roen, Pastor Richard Malivuk, Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Haines City, United Church of Christ in the Villages. Thank you for all that you have done for us so that we may continue God's work.

Social Media

People often ask us "are you on the web?". The answer is yes!

Like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RezHouse or visit us on the web at:
www.rezhouse.org

Also visit our friends at Farmworkers Self-Help at:

www.fshflorida.org and on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/FSHFlorida

In Memoriam
Jennifer Marie Gomez
1994 - 2015



Early on the Sunday before Thanksgiving 2015, Resurrection House Mission and our entire community lost a dearly beloved daughter. Jennifer Gomez was driving home from a dance late Saturday night and lost her life in a tragic accident. As a congregation, we watched Jennifer and her sister and brother grow up in our church. Jennifer was a big part of the Rez House Kids Chorus and traveled to many churches to sing the praise and worship songs that our kids sang every Sunday. Jennifer always had a smile on her face and never hesitated to help out in church or go to Tallahassee with Farmworkers Self-Help to help her people's voices be heard. As she was all about creating opportunities for young women and was a frequent visitor to the girls center at Resurrection Park, we have renamed the center in her honor. It will be known as The Jennifer Gomez Center for Girls.



Jennifer Gomez, Londa Edwards and Zachary Abati singing in the Rez House Kids Chorus at the Pioneer Christmas in 2003



Jennifer Gomez (right) and her sister Eva Luna (left) singing at the installation of Pastor Bruce Edwards

In Memoriam
Julie Hsu
1975 - 2016



Our beloved Julie Hsu suffered a brain aneurism and passed away during the first week of June. We have lost not just a church member but a friend and family member as well. Julie was laid to rest on June 8th.

Once upon a time, a Princess travelled 'cross the land,
(Her raven hair and sunlit eyes...
Her tender heart and hand)

With childlike faith and wonderment, she soon would
help us see; through all our imperfections
how amazing we could be...

She had the most astounding gift (bestowed her from
above)... to wrap her arms around you,
and baptize you in God's love...

But we must carry on her work,
(A mission unsurpassed);

For God has found his Angel gone
and called her home, at last.

More pictures from Julie's life can be seen
at <https://youtu.be/IlrI0v3osl4>



Julie loved the children at Rez House and they loved her.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

As our community celebrated Cinco de Mayo, Pastor Scott Linder of Atonement Lutheran Church in Wesley Chapel stopped by representing all of the Florida Bahamas Synod's Tampa Conference. Each year they reach out to other organizations and this year they donated \$3152 to Resurrection House Mission on this special day for our community. Thank you to all of the churches in the Tampa Conference for helping our little church continue doing the work that God has called us to do. None of this would be possible without all of you.



As Margarita translates, Pastor Scott Linder and friends presented a check for \$3152 to Pastor Bruce representing a gift from all of the churches in the Tampa Conference.