

## *April at Koinonia*

We began the month celebrating Good Friday, the day that commemorates Jesus being paraded through the city of Jerusalem, carrying the cross upon which he would later be hanged. Many have asked why we call this day “good,” as it would seem to be a low point in Jesus’ life. The simple answer is that it marks God’s love for us through his willingness to sacrifice his only Son to cleanse us from sin. We had a Good Friday service to remember Jesus’ sacrifice through Scripture, song, and Holy Communion.

On the first Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, it was Resurrection Day, otherwise known as Easter. We celebrated with two services. The early service included a drama and music, and was followed by our annual Easter breakfast. The kids enjoyed an Easter egg hunt, and then we had our regular 9:30 a.m. service. Our Sunrise Service was held indoors this year, but the sun was streaming through the stained glass windows, which helped to transport us to Jerusalem, where we imagined we were in the home of Pontius Pilate and eavesdropping on a conversation between Pilate and his wife.

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed Ron Friesen to our pulpit, and he proceeded to take us to the first century of the Christian faith through the eyes of Alexander, the son of Simon of Cyrene. Questions from the audience helped us to understand the events of Holy Week through the eyes of someone who may have witnessed them. After the service, several members and friends watched a showing of “Hurricane on the Bayou,” filmed before, during, and after Hurricane Katrina, as preparation for the Mission Trip to New Orleans planned for mid-June.

The dates for the New Orleans, LA (NOLA) trip are set: June 10<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. Our partner congregation there, the New Orleans Bible Fellowship Baptist Church, has provided us with some tasks their congregation members need to have completed as part of their Hurricane Katrina recovery. Those tasks are posted on our Missions bulletin board and include work painting, putting up window screens and fences, as well as removing walls that were put up incorrectly by an unscrupulous contractor, who took the money and disappeared. To contribute to the scholarship fund for the trip, checks should be made out to Koinonia, with a designation “NOLA Scholarship Fund,” and will help with the expenses of volunteers who want to go there but find the trip too expensive.

A church work day took place on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, and involved putting a new coat of paint on the front wall of the sanctuary area (where we project our songs), changing some faucets, and landscaping shrubs in

the front of the building. We are always happy to make God's house look better.

The J.O.Y. Club Ministries (in case you don't know, that's Just Older Youth) sang at the Archstone Care Center, where the folks enjoy our visits very much. You don't have to be over 50 to participate in this J.O.Y.-ful event.