



GREENLAND HILLS
SMALL CHURCH · LOVIN' LARGE

GREENLAND HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Good News

**HAVE A SAFE AND
WONDERFUL
FOURTH OF JULY
WEEKEND!**



WEEKLY FINANCE REPORT

Needed Each Week
\$6,740.42

Offering on June 28
\$5186.64

The Orange Panel

By Dawn McMullan

As soon as I saw the bucket of orange paint, I knew it was perfect.

I walked from the barn to the opposite side of the horse arena, bucket and paintbrush in hand. It was already too hot — and not even 8 a.m. yet. While a group of us worked to finish up the arena, others built a new bridge over a pond to replace the one we'd ripped out the day before. Kids, horses, and dogs ran, grazed, and enjoyed the pond with a freedom that most of us had long ago outgrown.

Thirty of us — including 15 kids between the ages of 6 and 16 — spent four days last week working as ranch hands on Morning Glory Ranch in Waller, Texas, about an hour northwest of Houston. Kim Russell started the equine therapy ranch several years ago as a single mom with three kids and a passion for people with special needs (her real full-time job is director of her school district's special needs program). Now she and her husband, David, their kids and staff (it's often difficult to tell the difference between the two) run the ranch with as much expertise as love.

Kim and David had a list of work they needed done around the ranch. I think they were a little leery when we showed up with 15 kids, 13 women and two men. Our to-do list included painting the horse hitching posts, building a patio cover under which they plan to wash horses, demolishing a rickety bridge and replacing it, painting the dog house, painting murals in the barn, and sealing a wheelchair ramp. The list also included a wonderful day of horse chores: feeding, washing, and brushing the horses, cleaning their hooves, helping with riding lessons, painting the horses (water colors, of course), and riding them bareback around the field and through the pond.

By Saturday morning, all of the projects had been started. None (except for the dog house the kids had taken charge of) were complete. So as I painted one of the last arena panels the most perfect orange, I was a bit stressed about how we were going to get all this done in the next 24 hours as the thermometer climbed past 100 degrees each afternoon. Just as the rhythm of the painting put me in a slight meditative and calmer state, Francie Hansen says to me from a nearby panel project, "So is there a reason you went with orange instead of staying with the pattern?"

The pattern? What pattern? This was my first day painting so I hadn't noticed the arena crew had decided — considering our finite amount of paint and time — to paint every third panel in a yellow-red-blue pattern. I was painting orange where red should clearly be.

"Do you want me to start over? Because I can," I said to Francie, not very convincingly.

We decided to go with the orange. Those who had designed the pattern gave their approval of the orange color. Partly because it was hot (did I mention it was over 100 every day?) and partly because it seemed just as perfect then as it did when I

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Praise and blessings on **Stephen and Sherry Houpt** as they celebrate 29 years of marriage. They were married on June 28 in a outdoor ceremony with the temperature of 100.

Sue Schell gives thanks for her church family who took care of her family this past week. "What a wonderful community we have here!"

A prayer of gratitude for **Mayra Pratz** who celebrated her birthday this past Sunday.

Pray for healing and comfort to **Lisa McKinney's mother, Sue Reed**, and for **Lisa's sister-in-law, Brenda Walker**, who had a mastectomy yesterday.

Pray for travel mercies for **Tammy Murchison** as she is visiting friends in Cape Cod.

Pray for all of our church family members and friends as they travel this summer.

Our friends and family coping with cancer:

Laurie Cox

Chris Mims

Rhonda McClendon,

friend of Michelle Stroescu

Lee Chase,

friend of Michelle Stroescu

Marsha Frost,

friend of Mary Carter

Debbie Lewis,

Janel Wood's friend

Linda Burns,

sister of Robert Winn

Patsy Turner

Nancy Rush

Joy Taylor,

Sherry Houpt's mother

Ellen Hughes,

friend of Al and Judy Kline

Greg Morrissey,

friend of the Hardy Family

Steff

friend of Judy Kline

Josie Nunez

friend of Michael Kavas

Barbara Nichols

friend of Barbara Clay

Pamela Crosier

friend of Barbara Clay

Dana Turner

friend of Barbara Clay

Hills' Angels

Please join us in celebrating the Fourth! We will meet at the church parking lot on Friday, 7/3 at 6:30 and carpool to Village Burger Bar in Uptown for dinner. After dinner, we will watch the Addison Kaboom Town fireworks from a nearby rooftop.

BIRTHDAYS

JUNE

27 Laura Tudor

28 Miranda Tignor

JULY

01 Ruth Bayless

01 Patti Kirby

01 Jaci Goodman

04 Br. Scot Bontrager

04 Karen Post

05 Patti Maudslay

05 **Carol Montgomery**

07 Stuart Qualia

07 Jay Simon

09 Vince Murchison

10 Margie Holman

11 Sue Schell

12 Megan Dailey

13 Avery Cox

15 Mike Koeninger

15 Ruth Pantfoeder

15 Pat Kilpatrick

16 Chloe Courtney

16 Mary Beth Bass

17 Marilyn Henson

18 Laurie Cox

20 Harrison Dow

23 Katherine Wells

27 Jeanie Martin

27 Jake Goodman

30 Samantha Vassen

CHILDREN AND YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT IS BACK!

When: Thursday, July 2, at 6:30 p.m.

Contact Sean Hicks for more information, sphicks@gmail.com

UMYF IS EVERY SUNDAY EVENING FROM 5—7 P.M.

MUSIC NOTES

A BIG thank you to all for the gorgeous flowers and a wonderful luncheon on Sunday. Thank you also to Tracy Curts for the delicious pulled pork and cake, and to Trish Major for her beautifully creative decoration. Most of all, thank you all for a great year and I am looking forward to working with all of the groups after the break. Many blessings~Bonnie

Variety Show:

We are in the planning stages of having a Variety Show/Program on August 30 as a 1:30pm matinee. Please let Bonnie know if you would like to be a part of this event. You do not have to be a part of the choir program to be in the show. Children and youth are also invited to join us. All are welcome! Come and share your talents.

If you have any questions or would like to know about any of our music programs, please contact Rev. Bonnie Bridger-Coffman, Minister of Music, at 214-826-2060x204. I will be out of town from June 29-July 13 to see family. Please contact the office if you need any information while I am gone. If you are providing special music, please contact Robert Edwards for all other questions.~ Bonnie

Mission & Social Justice News

Read to Feed: This Summer

Seems everyone has a summer reading program. Why not change the life of a child, a family, perhaps an entire village while you're flipping through those pages this summer? Our kids have done Read to Feed many times in the past, usually around the Christmas holidays. This year, we've decided to make it a summer project, ending on Sunday, Aug. 23. If you haven't yet received a Read to Feed packet and would like to participate, please contact Mary Beth Taylor or Dawn McMullan.

FROM THE E-MAIL BOX:

Dear Greenland Hills Family,

Thank you so much for all of your generous gifts and notes of love and encouragement. My time at Greenland Hills was an amazing experience for me. I think of you often and I hope to see you all soon. Thank you again!

peace, Betsy Lay

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The Orange Panel (con't)

picked it up in the barn.

While we'd been talking with Kim and David over the past few months, and I'd visited them in the spring, we didn't really know them. And they didn't know us. They didn't know how hearty Greenland Hills' people are (many of us having been trained on the dusty streets of Juarez!). They didn't know how creative we are (although the murals on the walls in the barn and the Seuss-like hitching posts are now proof). They didn't know one dad, one 16-year-old and two 12-year-olds — with the assistance of four women — could rip out a bridge in one and a half hours.

We didn't know that they would trust our creativity. I mean, who gives 15 kids oil paint and says go for it? We didn't know how lovely their home-cooked lunches under the trees would taste, how patient and intuitive they would be with our kids, and how much a part of the Morning Glory family we would feel by the time we were done.

They didn't know we'd pick the orange paint, throwing off a well-designed pattern. We didn't know they would think it was perfect.

Somehow, though, I had a gut feeling about both. Greenland Hills never does the expected — unless you expect us to be the unique family and institution we are. We can roll with an emergency appendectomy (although we certainly prefer not to), Jellystone Park (picture a sea of RVs, cabins that *technically* sleep eight with a three-foot-tall loft, and employees that we suspect used to work in the prison system), and 103-degree days.

We, like the staff at Morning Glory Ranch and the kids with whom they work, see and do things a bit differently than others. We are the orange panel in the horse arena — a bit random but always an unexpected bright spot in God's world.