It’s the real thing. According to pastor Chip Ingram, what the world needs and what God needs are Christians who are acting like Christians—Christians who are the “real thing.” “The current crisis in Christianity is that it is miles wide and long but only a quarter inch deep.” Too many sincere saved Christians act just like the non-Christians around them. The World needs Christians who are acting like Christians and this is what we need as well—that we might experience the power, peace, sense of purpose and perspective that God speaks of when he says, “I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10). We are in the midst of our 40 Day spiritual growth campaign, “True Spirituality: Becoming a Romans 12 Christian.” And we are learning that Romans 12 is a “cliff notes” version of how to live an authentic Christian life—and it’s all about transformed relationships: Our relationship with God, with the World, with ourselves, with believers and with non-believers. It has been a great study so far, even a life changing study for me. I hope you have been part of it. If not, at least call me and I’ll get you the book by Chip Ingram for free. It’s the real thing.

**Fall Spiritual Growth 40 Day Campaign**

True Spirituality: Becoming a Romans 12 Christian: Sept. 7 through Oct. 12

- **How to give God what He want most?**
  Romans 12:1 – Surrendered to God

- **How to get God’s best for your life?**
  Romans 12:2 – Separate from the World’s Values

- **How to come to grips with the real you?**
  Romans 12:3-8 – Sober in self-assessment

- **How to Experience Authentic Community?**
  Romans 12:9-13 – Serving in Love

- **How to overcome the evil aimed at you?**
  Romans 12:14-21 – Supernaturally responding to evil with good

**October 26 - Stewardship Celebration**

Is it good timing or bad timing that our stewardship emphasis comes right after our 40 Day spiritual growth campaign, “True Spirituality?” This campaign focuses on Romans 12 as a road map to the authentic Christian life and it begins with the command, “Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice to God.” Surrendering to God begins a lifelong adventure, and includes surrendering our finances through tithing. On Sunday morning September 26, we will celebrate the ministry that has been enabled through our giving, and the lives that have been changed through tithing. At the end of each service that day, God’s people will be invited to come forward to make a financial faith promise for the coming year.

**Church Picnic – Sunday, October 12, 4 to 8 PM.**

This year’s Annual Church Picnic will be from 4 to 8 PM at the home of Brad and Nan Boyd. The Boyds live in the country just outside Lytle. Maps will be available on Sunday morning, October 12, or you can call the church office at 772-3345 for directions. The church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks, and we invite you to bring a salad, beans, chips, dessert or whatever you feel like making.
Come and share in some good fellowship and some great food as we celebrate the Fall and the work of the Lord in our hearts.

Church Schedule

October 2-5, Thursday thru Sunday - Women’s Walk to Emmaus #1765.
October 4, Saturday - Quilt Club, 8 AM to 6 PM.
October 5 - Life Chain, 2 to 3 PM.
October 6, Monday - Food Pantry, 6 to 7 PM.
October 7, Tuesday - Pregnancy Care Center Banquet.
October 9, Thursday - Quilt Club, 6-9 PM.
October 10, Friday - Kononia Emmaus Community gathering at 7:30 PM at Honda UMC in Hondo.
October 11, Saturday - Quarterly Highway Clean-up Day. Meet at the church at 7:30 AM.
October 11, Saturday - Barb Boswell Women’s Event, 10 AM – 2 PM at the church.
October 12 - Church Picnic, 4 to 8 PM at the home of Brad and Nan Boyd.
October 13, Monday - United Methodist Women’s Annual Fall Trip. Meet at 8 AM.
October 18 - Lytle Area Mission Project, 7:30 AM to 6 PM.
October 26 - Stewardship Celebration Sunday, Church covered-dish lunch
October 20, Monday - Food Pantry, 6 to 7 PM.
November 2 - All Saints Sunday.
November 9 - “Just Walk Across the Room” evangelism conference and free lunch, from noon to 3 PM.
November 11, Tuesday - Meeting to develop the church budget for 2015.

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

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October 5 – Life Chain: A peaceful, prayerful pro-life demonstration to help end abortion. For more information, contact Linda Martin.

October 12 – Church Picnic: At the home of Brad and Nan Boyd. Meet at the church at 3:45 if you need a ride. You may also bring a swimsuit if you would like to go swimming.

October 18 – Lytle Area Mission Project: Saturday only. Meet at the church at 7:30 AM. Dinner at the church at 6 PM.

Other Important Dates:
February 6-8, 2015
H.E.B. Camp

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”
Acts 2:42
New and Revised
Lytle Area Mission Project
Saturday, October 18

It’s not just for youth anymore, and it’s not just home construction anymore. It will include yard work projects, painting projects, providing food for the Saturday night dinner, providing snacks/refreshments during the day, home improvement projects, etc…. In other words, L.A.M.P is for everyone! We will meet in the fellowship hall at 7:30 AM for breakfast tacos and a time of prayer, then head off to various worksites. We will complete the day with a dinner at the church at 6 PM. God commands us to love our neighbors, and to witness to the Good News through our words and our actions. See you Saturday, October 18.

Life Chain, Sunday, October 5

This year the Life Chain will take place on October 5, from 2 to 3 PM, and will take place in Lytle! Meet at the True Value parking lot around 1:45 PM to receive your sign and take your position along Main Street. The purpose of the chain, a yearly event, is to visibly show that the church is united in its Biblical stand for the sanctity of unborn human life. For more information about the Chain, talk to Linda Martin.

Our Visit from the Covingtons

It was such a joy to have Dustin and Mallary Covington visit our church on Wednesday, Sept. 17. We had a good turnout (around 40 people) and great food coordinated by Michele Brown. The Covington’s shared with us their background, their call to India, their first two years there and their future plans. Their stories were sometimes heart breaking, and often times inspiring and encouraging. We also got to meet their new daughter, born in India and already speaking Hindi. We are blessed as a church to be in partnership with these two faithful servants of the Lord.

Adult Mission Trip
November 14-16, Friday through Sunday

The Outreach Team is putting together another weekend mission trip for adults. The date for this trip is November 14-16, Friday through Sunday (most people came back Saturday evening). We will be going back to the Eagle Pass area to help the victims of flash floods the went through the area again during the spring. Please mark this date today and participate.

Adopt a Highway Pick-Up Day, Saturday, October 11 at 7:30 AM

Our church has adopted highway 463, starting from the Lytle water tower and heading out beyond Lake Shore Estates, and we are responsible for picking up litter four times a year. Our next “Adopt a Highway Day” is Saturday, October 11. We will meet at the church at 7:30 AM to watch a short mandatory safety video and eat breakfast taco provided by the church. We will then head out to clean up as a service to our community. We should be done by around 9:30 AM.

Emmaus Gathering at Hondo UMC on October 10

The monthly gathering of the Koinonia Emmaus Community will be at Hondo UMC in Hondo on Friday, October 10. This will also be the welcome home celebration for the new pilgrims from Women’s Emmaus Walk #1765, held from October 2 to 5 at Mt. Wesley in Kerrville. Thank you to all our church members who are part of the team for this walk. Be sure to be at the community gathering to worship God, greet friends, welcome new friends, and celebrate the completed walk. The Koinonia community is made up of Emmaus people, from many denominations, who join together on the second Friday of each month (7:30 PM) for a praise-filled community gathering. Walk to Emmaus is a once-in-a-lifetime three day spiritual renewal weekend, and more information, as well as a full list of walks and applications, can be found in the information rack in the church entranceway. We would like to thank all who are supporting Walk #1765 with their participation, prayers or with gifts. The next Koinonia sponsored walk will be the Men's walk, April 30 - May 3 at Mt. Wesley. Team applications need to be turned in by the Nov.14 gathering.
ALL SAINTS DAY
On Sunday, Nov. 2, we will be celebrating the lives of church members, and other loved ones of our church family, who have died during the past year. During our annual All Saints Day, roses will be brought forward as a memorial. Please contact Rev. Scott Martin if you would like to participate in this special ceremony.

RUBY REICHEL MEMORIAL
The church took up a love offering to help pay for Ruby Reichel’s funeral expenses, and the amount raised was much more than was needed. Therefore Ruby’s family donated $1000 back to the church to go towards a memorial project in her honor. The Administrative Council accepted an idea from Trisha Broach and the In-reach Team to purchase a new tree to replace the old pecan tree cut down from the entrance into the parking lot. The lawn watering system will be extended under the parking lot to reach this tree and a plaque in honor of Ruby will placed by the tree.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT
A FLAG POLE FOR THE CEMETARY
Conner Hoffman has taken on the big job of installing a flag pole and flag, lighting, and a concrete sitting area for the Lytle Community Cemetery, owned and run by this church. This is his Eagle Scout project. He is gladly accepting donations towards the substantial costs of the job (nearly $2000). If you would like to contribute, simply make out your check to Boy Scout Troop #369 and put it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church.

NEXT INTERACTIVE DINNER THEATER
The Outreach Team, with the approval of the Administrative Council and In-reach Team, has decided to put together another interactive dinner theater to raise funds for the church’s food pantry. Sign-ups will take place in December, and rehearsals will be on Sundays in January and February for this event to take place in early March. For this year this event will take the place of the Spring Banquet/Funfest.

Thank You
To the Sunday School children, Thank you so much for your generous donation. This money will go into our Animal Medical Care Fund. This fund, and our Spay/Neuter Fund are all donated monies. These two funds are vital to the success of our facility as well as their quality of our animal’s lives…

Betty Kroeger

Prayer Concerns

- Debbie Hunt—knee replacement Sept 10, recovering at home
- Don VanWinkle—neck surgery Sept 3, home, recovering well
- Sara Michaels—Meunier’s disease (vertigo)
- Trystan LaFond—praying for good report from neurologist about recent seizure
- Cora Sadler
- Herulia Garcia—throat cancer
- Felix Escalante—Blood Pressure problems
- For Christians persecuted by ISIS, North Korea, in Nigeria and
- Charlie Pruett
- Ray Downing—serious heart ds, in rehab; and prayers for wife, Wanda
- Linda Bahllman—bursitis in hip, TMJ pain
- Pistol Moore and the Davidson family—he has liver cancer
- Elia Perez—cancer
- Elvin Cobb—cancer
- Marcia Wade—arthritis pain
- Orie Rankin (Ruby Reichel’s father)—health problems
- Trey Keith—lymphoma
- Bill Ullery (Sara Michael’s nephew)—scheduled for transplant
- Mike and Cindy Williams—our missionaries on the Arabian Peninsula
- Dustin and Mallery Covington—our missionaries in India
- Our president and government
- Our military and their families
- For persecuted Christians around the world

Our Church Family Soldiers and Civilians Working with the Military
- William Meyer—Marines, North Carolina
- Chris Saindon—Navy, Connecticut
- Forrest Keith—Navy
- Kyle Pringle—Army
- Joe Brauchle—stationed in El Paso
- Josh Orbinati—Michele Brown’s nephew, in Coast Guard, Oakland, CA
- Craig Wolf—Air Force
- Jonathan Heiman—Navy
Just Walk Across the Room
Sharing your Faith by Bill Hybels
Sunday afternoon, November 9

Bill Hybels is the head pastor of Willow Creek Church outside of Chicago, and in his warm and engaging style he will share with us via video how to share our faith in friendly and powerful ways. We will intersperse his short lessons with discussion time on Sunday afternoon, November 9. This time of teaching is sponsored by the Outreach team and will feature a free lunch from noon to 1 PM.

Food Pantry Ministry Continues to Serve

Our workers have been terrific, but we can always use more. Just come at 5:30 PM to help prepare for the 6 to 7 PM rush on the first and third Mondays in October (October 6 and 20). We will again be handing out canned goods, as well as frozen meats and fresh fruits and vegetables, to over 70 families. Thank you for supporting the Methodist Food Pantry.

We have also signed up for our first Food Fair. On Monday, November 10, a truck from the San Antonio Food Bank will be in our church parking lot from 1 to 3 PM with 11 pallets of food. This free food will be given away in preparation for Thanksgiving, but we will need lots of help. Please mark this date today.

The United Methodist Women, October 13 field Trip

The United Methodist Women are taking a trip for their monthly meeting in October, which will be on Monday, October 13. They will meet at the church at 8 AM and travel to tour the painted churches in Schulenberg. After lunch, they will be returning to Lytle. All of the women of the church are invited. For more information, talk to UMW president Linda Stewart at (210) 355-8143.
Children’s Christmas Pageant

Our next Sunday school optional enrichment program will be our children’s Christmas Pageant, to begin rehearsals in November. The pageant will be led by adults and the Middle school Sunday school class and will take place on Sunday, Dec. 14.

Guy’s Group Meeting, Monday Nights

The Guy’s group meets regularly on Monday nights from 7 to 9 PM in the fellowship hall kitchen, backyard and youth building for a time of fellowship, mentoring, and study. The group also participates in fellowship activities, like fishing trips and family bowling nights, and mission work, including community mission project and repair jobs around the church. Come and be part of this great group of Christian men.

Charge Conference – Sunday afternoon, November 23

Everyone is invited to the charge conference, the time we get together to celebrate the completed year and share visions for the coming year. Our district superintendent, Rev. Carl Rohlfs, is again convening us in “charge conference networks.” We will be meeting with other United Methodist churches at Northern Hills UMC in San Antonio at 3 PM. We will begin with a time of fellowship between all the churches, then split up for our individual church meetings. We hope you can make it.

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Family Volleyball Game

held September 14

Thank you to Dustin and Jennifer Nolls for hosting our annual Family Volleyball Game. Great fun was had by all, as the adults barely beat out the youth for the trophy (okay, there was no trophy). The fajita tacos and all sorts of sides were great as well!

Youth Breakfast Taco Sales

Bowing to hungry demands, the youth group has instituted Last Sunday breakfast taco sales as a regular monthly activity. They will be selling your favorite breakfast taco before Sunday school on the last Sunday of every month. The next sale is on October 26th.