

EPIPHANY TIDINGS

Volume MMXXIII, Issue I
November 2023

Epiphany Ministries of Texas, Inc.
www.texasepiphany.com

From My Heart:

It's been almost 18 months since I put a newsletter together. Trying to dig through so much time and many events made putting this newsletter together kind of tedious. During COVID lockdowns I focused on what was happening with the youth at the facilities we serve, now we are back in a few of the facilities so I went back to reporting on Epiphany weekends as they happen and other events that relate to the facilities and Epiphany. What was really difficult this time was seeing how much of this newsletter was taken up by obituaries. It is always so sad to say good bye to those we have partnered with in the service of our Lord. We have many precious memories of special people and times. Praying they lift you up when you need a reason to smile.

God bless you,

Paula

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."
John 14:16 (NIV)

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REFLECTING THE
LOVE OF CHRIST
TO YOUTHFUL
OFFENDERS.

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GAINESVILLE E43



The Gainesville State School hosted Epiphany 43, on June 2 – 4. Thirty youth participated by performing skits, playing games, and making posters that reflected the lessons and topics each day.

Each day of the retreat the youth were treated to lunch and snacks to help keep them energized. The youth were given Bibles, water bottles, and bracelets that they can keep and wear at the dorm.

Our youth benefit from Epiphany by learning to build personal relationships through positive participation with faith-based volunteers. They learn empathy, patience, and teamwork in an activity that connects them with caring adults for the weekend.

Epiphany 43 had over 40 volunteers participate and this was the third Epiphany retreat in the past twelve months.

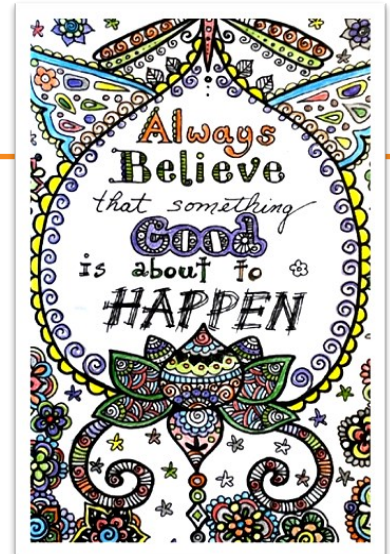
The Epiphany Group also plans to hold a reunion in August and began a letter-writing campaign to remain in contact with our youth.

-- Kevin Hill, Volunteer Coordinator Gainesville State School



Gainesville E43 Weekend Board Report

The Gainesville State School weekend took place on June 2-4, 2023, with setup occurring on Thursday, June 1st. The setup went incredibly smooth, with the school OIG officials coming to Whaley UMC to inspect the trailer ahead of time which greatly sped up the on-site setup the next day. Trailer, boxes, and the equipment, including placing the mandated 410 forms on the outside of each box have been totally reorganized by this team, and it was great. Both Mr. Hill and Mr. Claybrook commented that Epiphany is by far the best prepared group of volunteers they deal with. We did have an issue with the drummer's trailer in that his tow vehicle was loaded with tools that were not allowed in the facility. So, we had to cross load his stuff into the team trailer and bring it in that way. Added time to the setup. We had fantastic cooperation from Mr. Hill and Mr. Claybrook during the setup and the full weekend. As happened with #42, both attended every minute of the weekend, and we had ample and helpful staff support the entire time. Med calls and bathroom breaks were not a disruption to the schedule as in years past. Only one student had a visitation, and he returned promptly to the room. Only one student left due to discipline issues, and he



wanted to come back, but was not allowed to. We pray he returns to a future weekend. I ordered new Bibles for this weekend, and they worked great except that the cover is blue. Several of the guys commented that blue was a gang color. I am ordering future ones with black covers. The team had purchased coordinating purple shirts for Saturday, and we looked sharp, but the kids were oblivious (as it should be.) The Epiphany leadership team was composed of Lay Director Patty Jackson, Assistant Lay Director Nicole Collingsworth, Weekend Coordinator Jaqui Smith, and Spiritual Director Rev. Katie Kline. The team was very small, but mighty, composed of 25 inside members and 1 runner/driver. All food was procured from local restaurants, and the driver brought it to the facility for the three meals we served. Fifteen members served on our five table families. We had a 5-person music team, all of whom served on tables as well, not the best practice, but needed this weekend. *Continued on next page.*



Gainesville E43 *continued:*

Our Lay Director Patty held 4 inspirational team meetings prior to the weekend. The meetings were again lightly attended, which presented a problem, as some of the new and returning members were unsure of their roles and responsibilities on the weekend. The team manual was followed closely during the team meetings, and as mentioned Mr. Hill attended to provide PREA and OIG training to all that needed it. He also carefully briefed the team on the composition of the Stars attending the weekend, as Gainesville is now largely a sex offender campus, although two of our tables had capital offenders this time, and more are anticipated in the future. The Thursday evening team meeting was focused on our "Listen, Listen, Love, Love" theme, and the commissioning ceremony was a blessing. At the conclusion, after the Epiphany ceremony was closed, an optional communion ceremony was held. On Friday, we had 24 students from two different dorms in attendance, and all but one completed the weekend. We had five Superstars that had attended the last Epiphany, and they did a spectacular job. We did have some Stars that had been on previous Epiphanyes as well due to staffing challenges. We need to instruct those boys not to disclose what is coming up next and spoil the surprises that take place. The table dynamics were out-

standing, and the Stars and Superstars were very well behaved and showed kindness and great manners throughout the weekend. Ages ranged from 13 to 18. I observed few instances of fooling around or showing any signs of disrespect. The boys did get a little restless on Sunday afternoon as they realized their time with us was coming to a close, and the team needs to do a better job holding them in check. All the conference room speakers presented well-rehearsed and thoughtful talks, following the Team Manual guidelines closely. There were accompanying PowerPoint presentations, and the talks were of suitable length; none exceeding the 15-minute suggested time. The Life of Christ series was well presented and received, and the boys seemed to follow the story well. The prayer chain was one of the longest I've seen, nearly circling the gym twice around! The skits were well done, despite some of the team having to participate due to a small number of Super Stars. We have purchased new costumes for the skits and they worked great. The music team did a great job, providing appropriate music at the proper times, especially before talks and during the worship segments. There was a recorded secular song played during the forgiveness ceremony that was inappropriate, and that will be addressed at our UAC meeting. As mentioned, the school staff was very present, cheerful, and supportive. We felt very secure in the room, and there was obvious positive and respectful interaction between

the students and staff. There was an issue when the team withdrew, and the Stars read their letters. The team was unprepared to sing quietly and there was still too much noise in the room. Despite that, the students seemed touched by what they read. The birthday ceremony was improved from the last weekend, but we forgot to sing Happy Birthday! A great change was that St. Elsewhere's lunch tables are now adjacent to the boys, so lunch is a much more communal affair. There was plenty of time provided for interaction between the Stars and their weekend Star guides, and the table spiritual directors interacted well and relayed prayer requests. We would have benefited from additional spiritual directors presenting as Rev. Kline was carrying the load most of the time. The changes that were instituted to the forgiveness ceremony, although following the manual to the T, were poorly communicated to the team, and the ceremony was hard to see given our seating configuration. This is an area that will need to be addressed on future weekends. We did need more recreation as well to burn off some energy. The

Cross ceremony was conducted well and while the students were presented their wooden crosses (all but two accepted), they were confused when those crosses were gathered up and they were given a paper cross to keep. They were informed that the wooden cross would be given to them when they were processed out of the facility. Again, we would like to see if there could be a ruling from the state TJJD on this matter to allow them to keep their wooden crosses as in years past. We had a great 4th Day speaker, and his message was received well by the Stars. The message, "You are Loved", "You are Forgiven", and "You are Called" resonated throughout the weekend. Despite a very small team with many folks performing multiple roles, the weekend was a success and the school management and staff very grateful for our presence. We did have many new team members this time, and that led to some confusion, but the kids did not see or feel that at all. I want to thank the Gainesville UAC and the State Board for continuously supporting this community. Best regards, Dave Casey GSS #43 Board Representative



POST EPIPHANY 26

Weekend follow-up on Facebook by Linda Roberts

Hi everyone,
I wanted to give you an update on Epiphany #26. We really didn't know what to expect. So much time has passed. The team was pleasantly surprised that there were no new rules and that the new staff was very receptive to us. We were really tested this weekend. We were met with aggressive warfare from the enemy. Everything that could go wrong did go wrong. One thing after another. No matter what kind of chaos the enemy tried to cause it did not affect what God had sent us to do.

My job this Epiphany was in the prayer room but I spent some time in the conference room. The first thing I noticed is these boys really, really like to sing. They couldn't get enough of it. It. The second thing I noticed is how respectful they were to the team at the Family Tables and how they tried to listen actively to the speakers. The Talks and Meditations were powerful! It was evident that the boys were impacted by them. The prayer boxes on the tables began to get filled almost immediately. They started to request to come to the prayer room to be prayed over. What a privilege to be able to pray over these young men.

On Saturday we give the stars a birthday party and they get a cake with their name on it and we're allowed to bring them a gift. (Things like shampoo, soap, etc. Some

of the boys don't have anyone so they don't get money on their books to buy these things) many of these boys have never been given a birthday party and several had never received a birthday cake. It is often an emotional time for some of the boys.

On Sundays, the boys receive a letter from each of the team members. The rest of us leave and only the clergy stays with them. We sit on the other side of the screen and give them time to read their letters privately. Usually, we sit quietly, but someone on the team started to quietly sing a hymn. The other team members joined in. As soon as that song was finished, they would start another song. It sounded like a beautiful choir. The presence of the Holy Spirit permeated the place. It was a very special moment.

Soon after it was time to go home. All 17 boys of Epiphany number 26 received their crosses and proclaimed their love for Christ. And one boy was allowed to sing a song to us with all the other boys encouraging him along. They all plan to learn this song together so they can sing it to us at the next reunion when we will get to see their sweet faces again. It was one of the hardest Epiphanies I've ever worked, but it also was one of the most rewarding.

Praise the Lord for his great faithfulness!
And I rejoice that so many hearts, minds

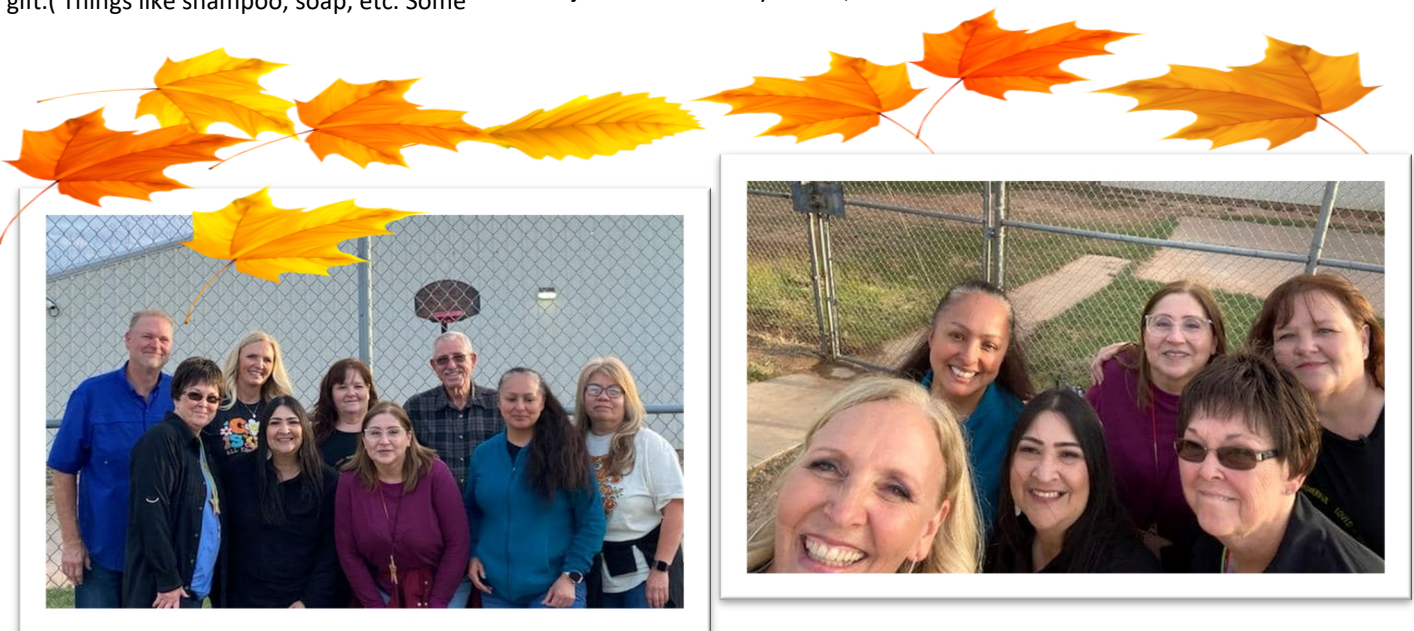
and lives have been changed. All glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As many of you saw I requested prayer on Saturday because we were under such heavy spiritual attack. And one of the ways we were attacked the most was through our health. One team member was taken by ambulance to Lubbock during the night. She was admitted but she was released today and she's going to be okay. Almost all the rest of us were limping around from an assortment of different illnesses. We were so busy every waking moment. We never had time for any team photos. The two that I shared are only of a few of us that managed to gather before we left. You can see we are battle weary. The battle was hard won and it took its toll on us physically. But it could not steal our joy. I cannot thank you enough for your prayers. How they sustain and encourage us. And I thank you for how generously you give your money to support this ministry. This is important work and we couldn't do it without you.

The scripture that defines this epiphany for me is

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

And he said unto me. My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I gather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.



Resting in the Arms of Jesus

Epiphany SA - Krier Volunteers

MaryAnn Cox

December 12, 1939— July 30, 2022

MaryAnn Cox



MaryAnn Cox, born December 12, 1939, in Seattle, Washington, peacefully went to be with the Lord on July 30, 2023, at the age of 83. She was surrounded by her daughter's, who had been blessed by her presence and the warmth of her heart.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Roy, and Verda Joubert; brother, David Joubert. She is survived by her daughters, Linda Sanchez, and husband Richard Sanchez; Kim Korom and

husband Bob Korom; son, James Cox; grandchildren, Marcus, and Stephanie Qualls, Amanda, and Doug Karl, Bobby, and Shiloh Korom, Leslie, and Zach Chronley; great-grandchildren, Caleb, and Clark Qualls, Harper, Brayden, and Noah Karl, Sutton Korom, Logan, and Eden Chronley; numerous extended family and friends. Her presence in our lives will be dearly missed.

MaryAnn's love for her family was matched only by her passion for cooking, crafts, and gardening. Her delicious creations brought joy to countless gatherings. Her home was a haven of creativity, where she crafted beautiful works and nurtured a flourishing garden that mirrored the beauty of her soul.

But it was in the company of her loved ones where MaryAnn truly thrived. Her daughters, her son, and grandchildren were her pride and joy. She was a loving and supportive mother, always there to lend a listening ear or a helping hand. Her presence in our lives will be dearly missed.

MaryAnn's caring nature extended beyond her immediate family, as she was a friend to all who crossed her path. Her warm smile, kind heart, and genuine interest in others endeared her to many, and she had a knack for making people feel at ease.

The legacy of MaryAnn Cox lives on in the hearts of her family and friends, a beacon of love and compassion that will continue to guide them through life's journey. Her departure leaves a void that can never be filled, but the memories of her love, laughter, and unwavering support will be cherished forever.

Steven Spriggs

April 19, 1970—August 21, 2023

Steven C. Spriggs

With sadness, Epiphany SA Krier shared the passing of Steven Spriggs, he was the husband of Kimberly Spriggs, and father to Taylor Spriggs. Steven has always been a "behind the scenes" volunteer with Epiphany SA-Krier from the beginning. He was one of the grill masters and helped make the hamburgers and brisket. Please keep Kimberly, Taylor and rest of the family in your prayers.

Steven C Spriggs

April 19th, 1970- August 21st, 2023



Services on

Friday September 22nd, 2023 at 10am

At Good News Lutheran Church

11020 Old Corpus Christi Hwy,

San Antonio, Texas 78223

Followed by burial at

Fort Sam Houston National

Cemetery 1520 Harry Wurzbach Rd,

San Antonio, Texas 78209

Meal following at Good News Lutheran Church

Post Epiphany Volunteer: Timmi Allen Owen

November 20, 1970 — November 24, 2022



A Celebration of Life Service will be held for Timmi Owen at 11:00 am, Friday, December 2, 2022 at First Baptist Church in Denver City, Texas.

The world lost a bright shining star Thanksgiving Day. Our Lord and Savior took Timmi Home to begin her Heavenly life, November 24, 2022. Timmi Elizabeth Owen, "Miss Timmi," was born November 20, 1970 in Rotan, TX to Evin Allen and Mary Moses. Timmi chose to make her earthly home in Denver City for many years and cared deeply about the community. She married the love of her life, Jack Owen, on May 20, 2007 at the Yoakum County Park. Together they raised four beautiful children and shared 15 years together. Through hard work and determination, they established their business, JusT Supplies. After praying, the Lord revealed the business name to Timmi - "JusT - capital J and capital T and it belongs to just us."

Timmi's undeniable love and devotion to God was evident in the many selfless acts of service to her family, friends, and community. It would take too long to record them here, and many of them were done in secret, but they are recorded in Heaven for all to see. She poured her life out in her passion to share God's love for others and set an example of a true servant's heart. Her family was second only to her passion for God, and she deeply loved and delighted in every single one of them.

On Thanksgiving, Timmi was reunited with those who went Home before her: her dad, Evin Allen; son, Sean Dale Dalton; her Nanny, Mary Jones; her grandparents, J.B. and Juanita Moses; and her father-in-law, Terry Owen.

Left to cherish her memory are her husband, Jack; her two sons, Wade and Zayne; her daughter, Bailey and son-in-law Kason, her two granddaughters, Mavryk and Avery; her mother, Mary Martin and step-father, Larry; her mother-in-law, Vera; her brother, Duke Zant; her sister, Machiel Covey and brother-in-law, JB; her brother, Stoney Kersh and sister-in-law, Diana; sisters-in-law Belinda Owen and Amanda D. Weathers and brother-in-law, Neil; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Timmi had a servant's heart and when she saw a need, she met the need. Whether it was buying someone's meal at a restaurant or providing a necessity, she was always looking for a way to bless someone else. In her honor, find a way to "Pay It Forward."

Post Epiphany Volunteer: Janice Weaks

August 20, 1951 - December 21, 2022



Janice Carol Weaks went home to our Father on Wednesday, December 21, 2022. A service to celebrate her 71 years of life is scheduled at 11:00 am on Friday, December 30, 2022, at Aldersgate Church. Please visit this page for a service broadcasting schedule, floral purchasing, and an area to share stories of Mrs. Weaks with her family.

Janice was born August 20, 1951, to Robert and Jane Killough in Dimmitt, TX. She married Gant Weaks on 9/30/1988 at L'Amour Chapelle in Las Vegas, NV.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Robert, and Jane Killough and infant sister Irene.

Janice is survived by husband, Gant Weaks; children, Ashley (Russell) Sewell, Courtney Weaks, Staci (Brad) Steck; grandchildren, Hudson Sewell, Sophia Sewell, Haley Pierce, Matthew Steck, Madison Beauregard; great grandchild Kinsley Beauregard; sister, Me'lissa (Harvey) Turnbow, brother Tommy Killough; many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Janice was a natural communicator and had a gift for sales. She was a licensed Real Estate agent and broker then moved into advertising starting in radio at KSEL and KFMX. Moved to television advertising at KLBK and ended her career as Sales Manager at KMAC. Some said that she could sell a freezer to an Eskimo living at the North Pole. She spent time as a campaign volunteer for the 1988 Bush campaign, traveling West Texas organizing volunteers and phone banks. She loved to be known as a Texan and a true patriot of these United States of America.

She then took on her career as a MiMi staying at home to help baby sit her beautiful grand children in their most formative years. One on one time with grandchildren is what she considered the best years of her life.

During all of this she lived a life of service to others. She had been active in the Llano Estacado Emmaus and Chrysalis Community, serving on numerous teams and then leader of Women's Walk #48, she also loved to teach young women that they were true daughters of an awesome God. Janice was the Leader of Chrysalis Flight #22 and served with numerous Chrysalis teams ending that phase of ministry as Chrysalis Community Lay Director. - Continued on next page

Janice also had a heart for the incarcerated. She served on several Epiphanyes for incarcerated youth in Littlefield and Post. While at Oakwood Methodist Church she initiated a weekly worship service at the Lubbock County Detention Center. She ministered to ladies at the Lubbock County Detention Center for five years through weekly Bible Study and worship. Janice loved to worship and her love for Jesus was apparent to each lady who attended the class. These ladies were richly blessed through Janice's faithful discipleship

In 2017, Janice took another step in her long list of service and ministry. She served on a Kairos Outside Weekend and was the leader of a table family. In that position she was able to minister to her small group, as well as one-to-one with ladies in her 'family.' She loved working so closely with these ladies, but Janice's passion was worship. She served as Worship Leader in four more Kairos Outside Weekends. Even after her health issues began, she continued to push through and lead worship for two Kairos Outside Weekends. Janice and her worship team were a major blessing to all who attended those Weekends.

Janice served in leadership for Kairos Outside after being elected to the local Kairos Outside Lubbock Advisory Council. During her term on the Advisory Council she served as Secretary, and later as the Representative to Kairos of Texas. Her communication skills and outgoing personality were an asset on both the local and State levels.

Janice will be severely missed. She was loved by everyone and will never truly be replaced.

In lieu of flowers please consider a gift to:

Kairos Outside - Lubbock O.O. Box 65430 Lubbock, TX 79464

Unpack Ministries <https://www.unpackministries.com/donate>

Lubbock Dream Center <https://cotrlubbock.shelbynextchms.com/external/form/9b1139f8-7e26-43a8-a036-0e9da059e11c>,

New Legacy Home for Women <https://www.shelbygiving.com/App/Form/009e0199-7fde-4db4-9255-d39d3bb7eedb>

or your favorite charitable organization.

Epiphany Mart Volunteer: Phyllis Odom Fife

August 12, 1943—August 18, 2023



Phyllis Fife went to be with the Lord on Friday, August 18, 2023 in Cleburne Texas. She was born on August 12, 1943 in Carlsbad, N.M. to J.C. and Nancy (Vines) Odom. Phyllis' family later moved to Lubbock, TX where she met and married the love of her life, Jimmy Don Fife, on November 23, 1962. These two had the privilege of sharing 60 beautiful loving years together before her passing just after her 80th birthday. Theirs was a love like no other and she adored this man simply known as "Dad" or "Papa".

Phyllis was an esteemed mortgage professional who retired from finance to help with the books in the family business, FMC Commercial Drywall until God called her to be a vessel of his word and she began spreading her faith in whatever platform she could; including over 8 years volunteered at Operation Blessing, being a C.A.S.A advocate, Leading Epiphany Prison ministries, Lay Director and sponsoring Ladies Emmaus walks as well as her devotion to her faith groups at First United Methodist Church in Cleburne, Texas.

But for Phyllis, her family was the most important treasure in her life, and she was 100% devoted to being the best mother she could by creating such unforgettable loving memories with her children as they grew up. Her love was shown by her devotion as a Girl Scout Leader, Honored PTA President, Dynamic Soccer Coach, and was referred to as the beloved "Cookie Queen"

by all the kids in the neighborhood.

She also had a sassy sporty streak and she loved to show off her daring snow skiing skills on the many, many family ski trips and so enjoyed being an expert slalom water-skier with her love Jimmy at the wheel of his ski boat at the family lake house at Lake Texoma.

Then, God blessed her greatly. She went from being "Phyllis" or "Mom" to now being the one and only "MEMA". Each of these beautiful and unique grandchildren have the most amazing special memories of her sense of adventure and how she absolutely lived life to the fullest.

It is incredibly hard to capture her spirit in black and white but without a doubt, she truly touched the hearts of everyone she encountered, which will carry on long after her passing. Her loss leaves a huge hole in our hearts but knowing her undeniable devotion to God gives us comfort in her passing. Until we meet again. We love you to the Moon and Back! We will miss you, Mema!

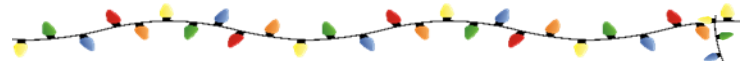
Mrs. Fife is survived by her husband, Jimmy Fife of Cleburne; daughter, Shana Riggs and husband, Ron Posey of Littleton, Colorado; daughter, Sharla Shadix and husband, John of Athens; son, Chad Fife and wife, Becca of Mansfield; grandchildren, Chase Riggs, Emma Riggs, Eli Riggs, Deidra Statler, John Shadix III, Josh Shadix, Ryley Shadix, Tatum Fife, and Cade Fife.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make donations to: First United Methodist Church, 1300 W. Westhill Drive, Cleburne, TX 76033 in Phyllis' name.



MART

A fun day in December '22 serving the boys a Christmas treat at the Mart Juvenile Facility. - Kate Mellina



KRIER



This is how San Antonio Krier does the Good Samaritan skit. Too fun. Miss these days - Kate Mellina



Upcoming Epiphany Weekends

Facility	W/E#	Date	LD	ALD	WC	SD	B. Rep
Brownwood	E 41	TBD					
Ellis	E 1	TBD					
Evins	E 11	TBD					
Gainesville	E 44	Jan. 13-15	Patty Jackson	Nichole Collingsworth	Jacqui Smith	Katie Kline	
Giddings	E 38	TBD					
Krier	E 28	TBD					
Mart	E 32	TBD					
Post	E 27	April/March '24					

Future State Board Meeting Dates: Feb 24, 2024 & May 18, 2024