

APRIL 2012



# CLEWISTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

John C. Hicks - Senior Pastor



**Building Location:**  
331 W Osceola Ave  
Clewiston, FL. 33440-3008

**Office/Mailing Address:**  
352 W Arcade Ave  
Clewiston FL. 33440-2802

Phone: (863) 983-5269  
Fax: (863) 983-5269

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES:**

**Sundays:**

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
5:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

**Mondays:**

6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts LEC

**Tuesdays:**

6:00 p.m. Art Class: LEC  
7:00 p.m. Hispanic Home Church (FH)

**Wednesdays:**

8:30 a.m. Prayer Team  
*(in Sanctuary)*  
12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Food Pantry Open  
6:00 p.m. Dinner (LEC)  
6:30 p.m. Kingdom Kids  
6:45 p.m. Youth and Adult Bible Studies  
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

**Thursdays:**

Precept: 9:30 a.m.  
4:00 p.m., 6:45 p.m.



***We serve a risen Savior --  
He's in the world today,  
I know that He is living,  
whatever foes may say  
--- He lives! He Lives!  
Christ Jesus lives Today!***

***He walks with me and talks with me  
along life's narrow way.  
He Lives! He Lives!  
Salvation to impart.  
You ask me how I know He lives?  
He lives within my heart.***

Alfred Ackley

## Resurrection Eggs, An Easter Story

Stephen was one of those special youth who touched my life. He was energetic. He was a leader. He had an open heart for the Lord, and he loved helping make things happen in the youth group. And if that wasn't enough, he had a cute older sister. I couldn't have asked for much more as a single young minister.



Around Easter, God blessed me with a program that Stephen really took to heart. I gave everyone an empty Leggs container (the ones shaped like eggs), and challenged them to go find something that symbolized new life and place it in their "egg". We ended up with flowers and insects and all kinds of offerings. Afterwards, I showed them an empty egg, and shared with them about the tomb being empty and how that meant new life for us all.



**Because the tomb is empty our life can be full!**

Stephen liked the illustration so much that he started handing out empty eggs at school, sharing with the recipients about the empty tomb and its' meaning. He called his eggs "resurrection eggs".

Then, Stephen came out of remission. In six weeks, I saw a healthy, energetic young man become a puffy, lethargic mass. Although the cancer affected Stephen's body, it did not affect his spirit. He still had a positive outlook and still loved to share resurrection eggs with those around him.

Stephen eventually slipped into a coma and was admitted to the hospital. One day as I was heading to the church, I got the inkling to stop at the hospital to see Stephen. As I went up to the floor, I met Stephen's dad, who with tears in his eyes shared, "John, my son is dying."

With my heart in my throat, I entered Stephen's room. Stephen was in a pre-natal position coma, making whimpering sounds like a little puppy. Not knowing what else to do, I held Stephens' hand and started to pray. I don't know the time frame, but I suddenly noticed that the whimpering had stopped. I looked up and saw Stephen looking at me. I will never forget his look or what he told me:

"John, I'm going to be with Jesus. Take care of my mom and dad."

A short while later, Stephen did go to be with Jesus, but his words of assurance stayed in my heart. The church was filled to overflowing with students and young people giving testimony after testimony about how Stephen's faith had touched their lives. Many came with the resurrection eggs that Stephen had given them. One of the resurrection eggs was even placed in his coffin. Stephen's body we placed in the earth, but Stephen's spirit had already been claimed – he had gone to be with Jesus.

If you ever happen to be in Sandy Springs, Georgia, stop by North Springs United Methodist Church. There you will find a Dogwood tree blossoming with new life during the Easter Season. At its base is a plaque remembering Stephen Haight. It's a tribute to a young man who touched many lives not only with his resurrection eggs, but with his resurrection faith.



Because the tomb is empty our lives can be full. Because the tomb is empty, we can go forth as people brimming with the resurrection love of God.



Live for the risen Christ as Christ lives in you. And remember, when the day comes, as people with resurrection faith, we can claim and proclaim with full assurance,

**"I'm going to be with Jesus!"**



## *Easter Opportunities*

**This Easter we have a number of opportunities to share together and also be in ministry together to outreach into our community!**

### **Saturday, March 31 and Sunday, April 1**

Community Easter Cantata, 7:00 p.m., at New Harvest Church

**Thursday, April 5th** - 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Seder Service and Teaching in the LEC.

**Friday, April 6th - Good Friday.** Our Sanctuary will be open for prayer from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Saturday, April 7th**– 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon.

Community Easter Egg Hunt in front of the John Boy Auditorium. We need people to help hand out snow cones and drinks and manage our giant inflatable slide and hand out Christian stickers and bracelets, etc. and just be present in the name of Christ. This is a great chance to reach many people with the reason for the sea-son, and share in a fun setting that Easter is more than just hunting Easter eggs.

### **EASTER SUNDAY, April 8th**

**Community Easter Sunrise Service, 6:00 a.m.**

*On the Clewiston Levee! We need people to help set up and to greet people and hand out programs.*

**Worship Services, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.**

We have special music planned and Pastor John will bless us with an inspiring message.

**\* Our Flower Cross** will be out in front of our church. Everyone is invited to bring one or more flowers to place on it in honor or in memory of

someone special. \*

\* **We will also have a butterfly release after each service.** Our heart is to have a butterfly for every child to release. If you would like to sponsor a butterfly for some child (or even yourself!) you can do so with a donation of \$3.

**9:45 – 10:30 Easter Breakfast & Fellowship (LEC)**  
Come and enjoy good fellowship and food between our worship services! This will be a great opportunity to visit with some of our church family you don't see too often because you go to different services. (Coffee cakes and pastries welcome!)



### **Maundy Thursday Seder Celebration Thursday, April 5th 7:00 p.m.**

Join us in the Life Enrichment Center for a special teaching experience of the Last Supper celebrating our Judeo Christian heritage.

We will celebrate a Seder type meal, and be able to taste some of the Seder type foods and remember what they represent. We will look into some Christian understandings of this special meal that Jesus shared with His disciples, calling us to remember Jesus' words that, "this bread is my body given for you—eat it in remembrance of me.

This cup is my blood poured out for you. Drink it in remembrance of me. For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."



### **Seven Sayings From the Cross**

1. **"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."** (Luke 23:34) The first words of Jesus from the cross are words of forgiveness. Jesus taught that we should forgive those who sin against us.

2. **"I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise."** (Luke 23:43) Even as Jesus hung on the cross, one of the thieves turned to Him and requested, "Lord, remember me when you come into Your Kingdom."

Jesus' reply was good news – for the thief and for all who call upon Him in faith.

3. **"Woman, behold your son" and to the disciple, "Behold your mother."** (Jn 19:26)

Despite His grief and pain, Jesus continued to care for others. He asked His beloved disciple, John, to care for His mother, Mary.

4. **"Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? -- My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"**

(Mathew 27:46) These words came from Jesus' lips about 3:00 p.m., after He hung on the cross for about nine hours. Death was near, and Jesus was feeling the pain and loneliness that sin causes. But the sin in this case was our sin and not His. In expression of His anger and grief, Jesus quoted the opening words of Psalm 22.



**5. "I am thirsty."** (John 19:28)

The Old Testament had prophesied that Jesus would suffer for the sins of the world. In His death, that prophecy was being fulfilled. Jesus suffered not only spiritual distress as He hung on the cross but physical agony as well.

**6. "It is finished."** (John 19:30)

It was over. But in its completion God's plan of salvation had been accomplished.

**7. "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."** (Luke 23:46) Jesus did not die a failure. He died a victorious Savior. He finished His work triumphantly.

**But the story doesn't end here.**

**It was Friday, but Sunday was coming.**

**It was crucifixion day, but resurrection day was on the horizon.**



**Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!**



*Easter Sunday*

*He is Alive!*

*Come and meet Him!*

*Invite others to come  
with you!*

*Sunrise Service on the Clewiston Levee  
6:00 a.m.*

*Special Worship at our church  
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.*



## April Showers Bring May Flowers

*There's an old story from the days of the Great Depression, about an out-of-work, down on his luck, drifter who got a bit lost in the desert. There was no rain, and everything around him was parched and dry. He begins to fear that soon he will die, when suddenly he discovers an old pump, holding the promise of drinking water, of life, of*



*renewal. Attached to the pump is an old baking powder can, wired to the handle, and inside is a letter folded and stored against the harsh desert environment. He opens the can and reads the note: This pump works good as of June 1932. I put a new washer into it and it ought to last five years. But the washer dries up*

*and the pump has got to be primed. Under the white rock I buried a bottle of water. There's enough water in it to prime the pump, but not if ya drink some first. Pour out about one fourth and let 'er soak to wet the leather washer. Then pour in the rest medium fast and pump like crazy. You all will git water. The well has never run dry. Have faith. When ya get yerself all watered up, fill the bottle back up and and put 'er back like you found it for the next feller.*

*(signed) Desert Pete*

*P.S. Don't go drinking up the water first. Prime the pump with it and you'll get all you can hold*

How is it possible to move from what we are to what we might become? Faith. Faith is the answer. Faith is the seed that lives in each of us. Faith is the potential that simply needs to be released. As the seed needs rain to bring the flower to bloom, faith needs living water to explode in glory.

Faith is a bit like the Desert Pete's pump that needs to be primed before it brings forth the life giving water. Sometimes you've got to pump real hard to get the water flowing. That's faith, and faith isn't easy. In a world that wants black and white answers, meals in a minute, instant gratification, and reward without labor, faith is HARD work. Faith says take up a cross. Faith says trust God not gold. Faith says the well-worn path is not usually the best path. Faith says there's no such thing as impossible. Faith says peace is possible. Faith says someone who doesn't look anything like you is still your brother, your sister, and God's child.

It's hard work priming the pump with faith, but the result is water that flows and flows and glorifies God. In John 4:4, we read about Jesus and the woman at the well and some of the blessings of "Living Water". What Jesus did for the woman at the well, he can do for us! Some of us need to hear that today. Some of us need to hear that God can fix what's broken, heal what's wounded, resuscitate what has died or dried up. We need to hear it and believe it and begin pumping like crazy.

We need renewed faith, but we also need to do something with the faith we already have. Think back to that story about Desert Pete. Think of that note he left. Think of the water he buried. Think of how he made it possible for water to flow in the desert. That's what we need to do. You see, we've tasted the water. It's good and it's life bringing. It brings us joy. It brings us hope. But it doesn't just belong to us. The water is for all who thirst. And we need to share it.





In fact, if you think about it, faith isn't about consuming. It's about sharing. It isn't about coming to a beautiful church and gazing on beautiful windows, and listening to beautiful music, and praying with beautiful words. Faith is about sharing the beauty of God with the world. It is about watering the little seed of hope that God has planted in every human heart. It is about watering the little of seed of hope that God has planted in every hopeless situation. It's not enough to drink from the well of living water. For God needs us to carry the water to the one who is dying of thirst.

The reality is that our church isn't here for just for you and me. It's here for the one who is lost in the desert. It's here for the one covered in dust and despair. It's here for the one who longs for the rain of God's grace to come pouring down.

There is a saying that "April showers bring May flowers." This April, why not be a shower for some thirsty seed waiting to bloom into the glory God intended it to be?

So the invitation is to come and drink well today of the living water, and then go and share the water with the world. Let the grace of God water the hope that is planted in every heart.

*Pastor John*



Our new Family Life Minister, David Berkley, with his wife, Amoreena, along with their three boys, Josiah, Daniel, and Timothy, will be coming to join us in May.

David Sankey, our youth minister, will be leaving at the end of the school year. Instead of looking for a new youth minister, God led us to step out on faith and seek a full time Family Life Minister who will work not only with youth, but with young families and children as well. We received over 180 applications! Through the process, God led us to David and his family! They will be arriving the 3rd week in May. Alice and Herb will be moving to our house on Arcade next to the office, and David and his family will be moving into our house on WC Owens, next to the side parking lot.

As we prepare for their coming, we would love for church family and friends to send them notes of welcome and encouragement!

**David W. Berkley**

607 Berg Avenue  
Hamilton, New Jersey 08610-5005  
(609) 752-4474  
dberkley@liberty.edu



Many members and friends (about 40) of United Methodist Women enjoyed **a Spring Spiritual Retreat** held Saturday, March 24 at the home of Sandy Stitt. Guest speakers were Debbie Clemons and Geri Wilson of Okeechobee. Those from our own church who shared their life's journeys were LJ Margolis, Christine Peterson and Ardis Hammock. The program centered on our journey with God, lessons we have learned along the way and where we want to go next. A picnic lunch prepared by Pastor John Hicks and his helpers was enjoyed at noon. Easter bags filled with many small items needed by nursing home patients were prepared.

**APRIL FLOWER DUTY:** Friendship Circle

**The next Unit meeting** will be held on May 1 at 7 pm in the Trinity Room. Vice-President Abby Moss is arranging for us to have a speaker from United Way and Salvation Army. Come to learn the scope of these programs and how the money you give is used. Mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend. All women are welcome.

**Our Unit** will be the host for the South West District UMW meeting on Saturday, May 19. A very informative Social Action program is being planned. Look for more information in the May **Powerlines**. In the meantime, please mark your calendars and set aside this date. Also, your help is needed so please be praying about ways you can help.

Remember to bring your "Labels for Education" and plastic bottle caps to each meeting.

**OUR PURPOSE:** *The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience*

*freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.*

## LIVE & LEARN & PASS IT ON

by H. Jackson Brown

I've learned.... I've learned that you can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk. -- (Age 7)

I've learned ....That if I eat donuts today I wear them tomorrow. -- Age 39

I've learned.... That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

I've learned... That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

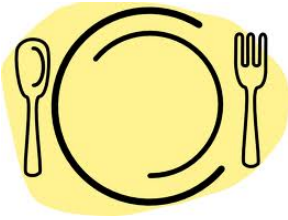
I've learned.... That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

I've learned.... That love, not time, heals all wounds.

I've learned.... That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

I've learned.... That I wish I could have told my Mom that I love her one more time before she passed away.





**Wednesday  
Dinners in April**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, April 4** Chicken Pot Pie,  
Chicken Nuggets

**Wednesday, April 11** Pizza and Lasagna

**Wednesday, April 18** Mission Dinner

**Wednesday, April 25** Pulled Pork



**2012 Sweet  
Taste of Sugar Contest**

Calling all cooks! Make plans to be a part of the 2012 Sweet Taste of Sugar Contest at the Sugar Festival on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

New rules, more prizes! 5 categories: Cakes, Pies, Cookies, Sweet Creations (any recipe with sugar!), and Youth (through age 17).

NEW! Enter as many entries in each category as you wish! Applications and instructions are available in the church office.

This year, the Sweet Taste of Sugar Contest will be held in the tent by the city pool. Come out and sample the entries, starting at 10 a.m.!

**Dog Day Memories**

Pastor John Hicks



I was going through some old photos on my computer and found some buried treasure. Actually, they were pictures of my dog Pepper when we were on vacation in Georgia.

I used to find it amusing that many pets and pet owners start to look and act alike after a certain amount of time.

I recently came face to face with the reality that although my dog and I don't share some of the same physical attributes, we do have some of the same personality quirks.

On that vacation, I sent my young and agile nephew down a steep bank to retrieve a watermelon left in the ice cold mountain stream, and Pepper decided to follow him. I grabbed the watermelon as it was lifted up and then gave a hand to help my nephew up. Pepper tried to go up the steep bank, but didn't make it. Then she tried swimming across the stream, but the current keep sweeping her further down-stream.

Seeing my dog struggling, I called to her, but she didn't respond. So, I went down the bank into the water to help her. She was so caught up in her situation that she still didn't come to my calls. She had already tried to go up the bank and had failed. I was wading in water that she would have to swim in to get to me. She was trying to do it on her own, and did not trust to go into the deep for me to help her out. Running out of options, she finally got close enough that I was able to get a hold of her and give her a boost up the bank. Where she had failed before on her own efforts, she was successful when she let her master help her up.

Upon reflection, I saw myself in her actions in my relationship with my Master. Often when I get in a jam or a tough situation, I try to get out of it all by myself with my own efforts. I don't always use all of the resources or people God has made available to help me up and out. I can imagine God's frustration in calling to me, reaching out to me, trying to show me the way out from His higher perspective, while I struggle in the currents that are rushing at me, threatening to sweep me away. Knowing my relief and joy with Pepper, I can imagine His relief and joy when I finally let go and let God, and use those resources and people He has blessed me with to help lift me up to higher ground.

Lord, help me to not be so caught up in my situation that I don't respond to Your voice. Help me to remember that I'm not alone and that I don't need to do it all myself.

# THE STORY

## Sermon Messages For April

Date	Chapter	Topics	Focus	Bible References
April 1	25	Palm Sunday	Jesus Proclaimed	John 12:12-15, Matthew 21
April 5	26	Passion Week	Maundy Thursday This do in remembrance of Me	John 13
April 8	27	Easter Sunday	He is Alive! Come and meet Him!	Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24
April 15	28	The Acts of the Apostles	The Early Church	Acts 1-10, 12

## BIBLE STUDIES AVAILABLE

**Morning Bible Study (MBS):** Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, of each month at 9:00 AM in the Trinity Room of the LEC. Call Church Office 983-5269 for more information.

**First Monday Bible Study (FMB):** Meets 1st Monday of each month from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM (September through May) in the Pastor's office. Bring a sack lunch. *(They will meet in the LEC Trinity Room This month!)*

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study (WEBS):** Meets every Wednesday In the Trinity Room (after the Wed. Family Dinner-approx 6:45 PM) (Youth)

**Friendship Circle (FC):** Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month at Noon. Location changes monthly. Call the Church Office 983-5269 or Ann Pearce for more information.

**Precept Bible Study (PBS):** A non-denominational Bible study open to everyone and participated by men and women from many churches. You have a choice of time: Each Thursday at 9:30 a.m., 4:00 p.m., or 6:45 p.m., with the exception of holiday breaks. The same lesson being taught at all three allows you to be flexible with your schedule.



## BIRTHDAYS

Alan Hammock	April 1
Karol Endicott	April 2
Denise Hatton	April 2
Deborah Gwyn	April 3
Evelio Molina	April 3
Brandon Drake	April 5
Ron Tritt	April 5
Jonathan Hatton	April 6
Houston Hager	April 7
Joe Hilliard	April 8
Gary Wilson	April 8
Jayne Alston	April 9
John Mack	April 10
Leslie Jones	April 11
Larry Malbog	April 11
Madisyn Thomley	April 13
Tyler Blackwell	April 15
Olivia Hooks	April 15
Rene Malbog	April 15
Mary Kathryn Zemonek	April 16
Nathan Koetje	April 18
Dawn Miller	April 18
Tara Edwards	April 21
Clark Keiper	April 21
Michael Crooks	April 22
Jared Howell	April 22
William Drake	April 23
Glorine Walker	April 23
Derek Du Plooy	April 27
Harold Keen	April 27
Abby Martin	April 28
Joe Costa	April 30

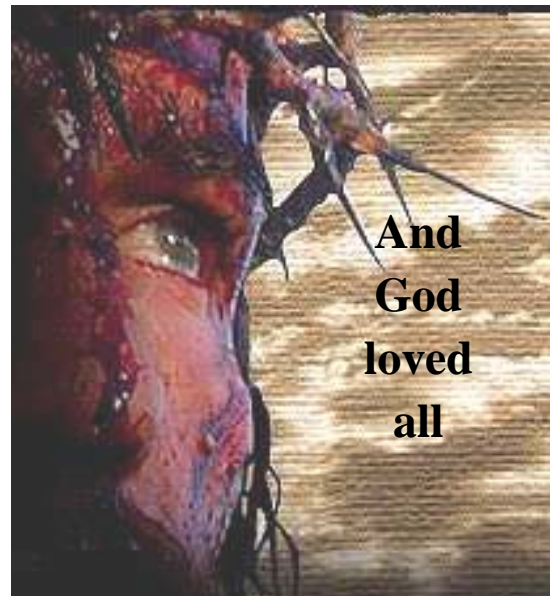


## FLOWERS

April 1- John and Kathy Hicks  
April 8 – Rene and Doreen Malbog  
April 15 – Sharon and Gary Wilson  
April 22– Open  
April 29- Marci Propes

## GREETERS

8:30 - Everyone  
11:00 - Everyone



## ANNIVERSARIES

Rene and Doreen Malbog	April 4
Eveilo and Marie Molina	April 7
Robert and Tamara Hansen	April 7
Gary and Sharon Wilson	April 20
John and Kathy hicks	April 24
Ashley and Melissa Thomley	April 29

## ACOLYTES

APRIL 1: Andrew Blackwell, Jessiah Cruz  
APRIL 8: Michelle Mila, Karlee Lamb  
APRIL 15: Ross Mack, DJ Adams  
APRIL 22: Bruce Jones, Brandon Caudill  
APRIL 29: Jessiah Cruz, Bobby Adams



PEOPLE MAY NOT REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID, OR WHAT YOU SAID  
 ...BUT THEY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL.

Dial A Friend! Have you missed someone in church? Why not give them a call to check on how they are doing? Do you know someone who has been away for a long time? Why not take an opportunity this month to invite them back to church?

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
 ☆ *Wishing All* ☆  
 ☆ *A Wonderful* ☆  
 ☆ *Easter* ☆  
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

# April 2012

The Clewiston Community Easter Cantata will be celebrated on March 31st & April 1st at 7 PM at the New Harvest Church. Come enjoy a 60 voice Choir presenting 'Song of the Lamb'. The Church is located at 370 Holiday Drive, Clewiston, FL.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 	2	3	4 6 pm: Chicken Pot Pie and Nuggets	5 7 pm-Maundy Thursday Seder Service	6 <b>Good Friday</b> 11 am-1 pm Sanctuary open for prayer	7 <b>Passover</b> 10 am-Noon Community Easter Egg Hunt at John Boy Auditorium
8 <b>Easter</b> 6 am: Community Easter Sunrise Service on the levee—Worship at 8:30 & 11 in our Sanctuary —	9 Trustree Mtng 5:30 pm (Trinity Room). Finance Mtng 6:30 p.m. (Pastor's Office)	10	11 6 pm: Pizza & Lasagna	12	13 <b>CLEWISTON SUGAR FESTIVAL</b>	14 <b>CLEWISTON SUGAR FESTIVAL</b>
15	16 Staff Parish Meeting at 7:00 p.m. (Pastor's Office)	17 Ad. Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. (Trinity Room)	18 6 pm: Mission Dinner	19	20	21
22 <b>Earth Day</b>	23	24	25 <b>Administrative Professionals Day</b> 6 pm: Pulled Pork	26 <b>Hug a Friend Day</b>	27	28
29	30					



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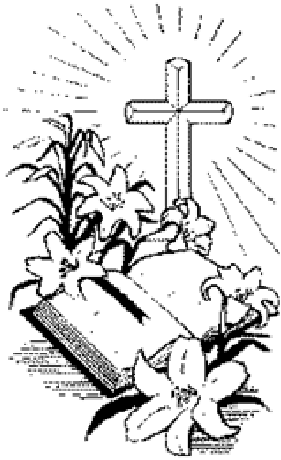
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Every morning  
can be an Easter -  
celebrating  
another happy  
ending  
and a new  
beginning,  
annunciating  
that God loves us.

--Poet Thomas Carlisle

