

The MESSENGER

April 2011



College Hill Presbyterian Church

Mission Statement

- *Build an inclusive community of faith*
- *Receive and openly share the love of God*
- *Reach out with a compassionate voice for peace and justice*

Sundays

9:30 a.m. – Church School
for all ages

11:00 a.m. – Worship in English
11:00 a.m. – Worship in Spanish

Join us for coffee, juice,
cookies and conversation in
the Fellowship Hall before
Church School and after the
Service.

712 S. Columbia Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74104
918-592-5800

email:
collegehill@sbcglobal.net
www.collegehilltulsa.org

Word from the Pastor

There are a lot of exciting things scheduled for the month of April, including a **Work Day** at the church starting at 9 am on the 9th, **Palm/Passion Sunday** with the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on the 17th, a **Maundy Thursday Seder Service** (a celebration of the Passover Meal) at 6:30 pm on the 21st, a combined **Good Friday Service** held at John Calvin Presbyterian Church at 7 pm on the 22nd, and of course **Easter** on the 24th.

There is one other very important event happening in April that I invite all of you to attend. As most of you know, the Rev. Don Roulet and I have been part of a steering committee to form a new organization in Tulsa dealing with issues of progressive Christianity – a passion of many here at College Hill.

A group of several progressive pastors and lay leaders representing several different denominations have been meeting for over a year. Our mission is to foster progressive religious education through local forums and discussion panels and hopefully to bring world-class religious/biblical scholars to Tulsa at least once a year.

We are very proud to announce that the newly formed **Progressive Religious Coalition of Tulsa** (PRCT) will hold its **Inaugural Event** on Sunday afternoon from **2-3:30 pm on April 10** at the Unity Church of Christianity, 3355 S Jamestown Ave (at 35th St). This is a free event. Our discussion topic:

Was Jesus Sacrificed?

**Does God require the blood of a sacrifice in order to forgive?
Does the doctrine of Atonement make sense in our day and age?**

Various interpretations of Jesus' crucifixion will be presented from theologians and scholars in video format. The video clip is taken from the *Living the Questions* series - *First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God*

- **A panel and group discussion will follow** •
Refreshments will be served

Blessings,

Rev. Todd Freeman



Holy Week Services Maundy Thursday • Good Friday • Easter

- Thursday, 21st **Maundy Thursday Seder Service**, 6:30 p.m.
The congregation will sample elements of a Seder meal
- Friday, 22nd **Good Friday Service at John Calvin Church**, 7 p.m.
A combined service with five local Presbyterian churches
- Sunday, 24th **Easter Service of Worship**, 11 a.m.
The Children's Choir will offer their gift of music



APRIL

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Jerry Abercrombie | 18 - Carolyn Brady |
| 3 - Will Nole | 19 - Pat Lucy |
| 7 - Lee Collins | 20 - Nancy Gammie |
| 8 - Stefanie Olson | 22 - Lilianna Coleman |
| 8 - Cara Wood | 22 - Margaret Watson |
| 12 - Elizabeth Buchner | 25 - Elizabeth Brady |
| 12 - Jana Stagner | 25 - Doris Moser |
| 13 - Mark New | 25 - Andrew Redding |
| 16 - Gavin Buchner | 28 - Terry Baxter |
| 17 - Nicol Hager | 28 - Cruz Olvera |
| | 29 - Aidan McCullough |

Luncheon Club Celebrates St. Patrick's Day and Special Birthday

Luncheon Club met Thursday, March 17 in the Fellowship Hall, decorated with all things St. Patrick. **Charlotte Bronston** cooked wonderful corned beef & cabbage and **Charlotte Slemp** brought a delicious chicken casserole; green beans and salads were provided by other members of the club. Dessert included ice cream and a birthday cake decorated with shamrocks and flowers in honor of **Helen Johnson's 96th Birthday (3/31)**. Several "lively" games of dominoes followed the meal.

Luncheon Club meets the 3rd Thursday of each month and we invite church family and friends to join us. For more information, contact "one of the **Charlottes**" or **Wyneth Roulet**.



Welcome New Members

**Jeff Ream & Tim Smith-Ream
Prem Bikkina**

Save the Date!

OkEq is the oldest, continuously operating LGBT advocacy organization in this part of the country. In fact, it is the largest such organization in the 4-state area of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Texas. The **Equality Gala** is OkEq's principle fundraising event of the year, with proceeds supporting OkEq programming and the operation of the Dennis R. Neill Equality Center in Downtown Tulsa.

This year the Equality Gala will take place on **Saturday, April 30** at the **Tulsa Convention Center**, Tulsa Ballroom. Information about sponsorship can be found on the OkEq website, www.okeq.org. Individual tickets are \$150 and can be purchased online as well. This will be a black tie event.

Greetings from Ricardo Chavez

Ricardo and his **family** ask that you pray for them, as they are planning to open a café in Mexico City at the end of March. He is starting the seminary for pastors the 29th of April. He is doing mission work in the city and is preaching some in the missions there in the city. He wants us to know that he is praying for the ministry here and hopes to come back when he and his wife can come together. He has asked the elders there about being a sister church with us and they agreed. He will send us updates on a regular basis. He wants to say greetings to all at **College Hill** and he misses us and wishes us blessings.

Pat Valencia

Jaya's Baby Shower

Thanks to everyone who helped with the baby shower for **Jaya Nagaboyina**. I appreciate the generous response of our **church family** and **Congregational Life Ministry Team** who helped with food and set-up/clean-up. Special thanks to **Gretchen Hannefield** and **Katy Walker**, who coordinated with **Jaya, Susan West** who installed the car seat and **Carolyn Brady** who ordered the cake decorated with cute little blue "baby socks"!!!

Jaya and **Prem** wrote a kind letter afterward, thanking everyone for the caring and support of their church family during this most special time in their life.

Wyneth Roulet
Congregational Life Ministry Team



Lent Meditations: Chocolate and Sin

This year, for Lent, I decided to give up chocolate. For most people, this may not seem like much of a sacrifice or kind of cheesy. But, for me, there are numerous reasons that was a significant decision and one I made hesitantly.

I didn't realize which week was Ash Wednesday and made plans for dinner at the Melting Pot with a friend for the 10th. She had heard rumors that they were closing and so we didn't want to miss it, having never been there myself. So, the day after the beginning of Lent, I'm in the restaurant and decide that, as expensive as this meal is, since I planned it unaware of the timing, I was going to go ahead and have the chocolate fondue dessert. I figured God wouldn't hold it against me and I'd abstain the rest of the season.

Tuesday is my 12 step meeting and at the end, as I'm helping to clean up, I realize that during the meeting, I had eaten 2 mini-candy bars. Without even thinking about it, out of habit, I'd just reached into the tub and, not once, but twice, eaten chocolate. Because, of course, I didn't choose the mints or root beer hard candies.

These experiences really brought home to me the meaning of Lent sacrifice as I thought about what had happened. For me, it is not about depriving myself of something to prove to God how important God is to me, though that is certainly part of it. It is not about punishing myself, since I no longer believe God needs or desires my punishment, as if any self-punishment could cover my errors.

But, my actions with chocolate are very representative of sin in my life. I often justify my sin, using excuses like how costly the meal is, already had plans, want it to be a special evening for my company or don't want to ruin the evening for her. Or, I commit acts of sin unconsciously or out of habit. I don't even recognize them as sin until long after the incident is over.

And that is the reason that I need Easter. It is because of my justification or my inattention that I need God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness. And, I am so grateful that God offers those to me, through Christ, through the cross, and, more significantly, the Resurrection which breaks the bonds of sin and death.

Troy Ford

The MESSENGER, April 2011



Karen's Corner

Hello everyone:

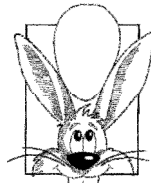
Spring is here and energy is getting high. The children are getting antsy and I need your help during fellowship time. Please stop the children and ask what they learned in Sunday School time. They are still a bit reticent about talking to those they don't know. We are studying some of the happenings in the life of Jesus, leading up, of course, to the death and resurrection. They are also still working on learning the books of the Bible. Just ask any of them during fellowship time. These are all children in our care and at baptism we promised to help them in growing in the faith.

During next month we are going to make a labyrinth. I know that most of you never go to their class area, but please come the last Sunday in April to see how we remember and honor the death and resurrection in a labyrinth. We will be glad to show you how we do it.

We are going to need volunteers this summer to sit with children as mentors during the church service. It was so wonderful last summer because it helped the children get to know more of the adults. Please let me know who would like to be a mentor.

We are still looking for some hats or bonnets to decorate for Easter. Drop them off at the church or to me. Thanks.

Peace,
Karen Kriner
Director of Children's Christian Education



The church office will be **closed Monday, April 25th**, in observance of Easter.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Palm Sunday, April 17

Sixty years ago more than 75,000 churches answered the call to give a special offering to repair the devastation of World War II. It was so successful that we continue this annual offering today....the One Great Hour of Sharing.

Each cooperating denomination gives some of the money it receives for joint ministry through Church World Service but uses the major portion for denominational relief and development work. The PC(USA) offering is divided three ways: **Self-Development of People (SDP)**, **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)**, and **Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)**. Check the web site www.pcusa.org/oghs/whatgiftsdo.htm to see the many ways that our offering is used.

Through the programs that have become Presbyterian Disaster Assistance we saw the importance of swift response with local grassroots partners who can get help quickly to the people who need it most. For both those people and those experiencing chronic poverty, hunger or oppression, we learned that development ministries are an important component of our response and that to be done effectively, they must be carried out as a partnership with the people in need, not imposed from the outside. The Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People were both created in the early 1970s to work in such partnerships with communities of people in need.

Your gift to OGHs changes people's lives! Give generously on April 17, and remember to make your check out to College Hill with the notation that it is for OGHs. Special envelopes will be available in the pew racks.

Maundy Thursday Seder Service - April 21st

Please join us during **Holy Week** for a special **Maundy Thursday worship** experience. Beginning at **6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 21, 2011**. The focus of our worship that evening will be the **Seder**, a joyful but serious religious service. Its focus is on the deliverance of the Hebrew people from slavery and bondage in Egypt to their eventual freedom in the Holy Land. The annual seven-day Passover celebration marks these historical events and the Seder service symbolizes the significant features of this Israelite experience.

As Christians, we observe Seder to better understand our Judaic roots and to celebrate our own deliverance. The symbolic meal represents hope - hope born out of suffering and despair - and the spiritual journey from darkness into light that we all must try to make in the course of our lives. During the service, we will sample the elements of a Seder meal. Come prepared to experience the tradition of the Seder as we celebrate together on Maundy Thursday.



Saturday, April 9th

Please join us **Saturday, April 9th from 9 a.m. to noon** for fun,

fellowship, Spring cleaning, yard work and minor repairs at the church. A light breakfast will be provided. There will be both inside and outside jobs (weather permitting) available. For questions please contact **Jim Campbell** at 918-277-8804.

Letters from a Sojourner*

She was not so young and her blonde hair that had traces of bright red dye on one side. She was giving 'testimony'. "You gotta be careful. You can feel the devil pulling on you...right here...making you think and do things you just know aren't right." The others murmur quiet assents. Then their eyes turn to me.

The devil provides an easy fix. It diverts blame away from you. Better to struggle with the devil than dealing with the agonizing task of claiming the wrong we have chosen and to see the consequences that flow from that harm: as well as trying to figure out how to "fix" it. I believe all of us have experienced anger and strong yearnings that beckon us to our dark side. It often feels like someone is inside of us, calling us away from what we know is right.

So, I meet their gaze and tell them that Jesus came to let them know that God is always at our side, not in judgment but saying "Beloved child, let me help you up. No matter how often you fall I will be there to pick you up. I have given you the power to see and do the right thing, but whatever happens, I will love you and be by your side. Now go and be the blessing I created you to be".

May each of us claim the power of God's love shining in all the dark places we meet on our journey.

**a sojourner is one who stays at a place for a short time.*

Pat Lucy, Commissioned Lay Pastor



SAVE A LIFE SUNDAY Free CPR Class

A **free CPR class** will be held after church on **April 10**. We will utilize the new American Heart Association CPR standards for Adult, Child, and Infant CPR plus AED use. Children 10 years old and over can participate. You can come and just watch and learn if you would prefer. If you want a certification card, you will need to learn some additional skills, take a skills test, and pay \$5. *Be sure to bring your own lunch.*

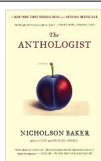
Class size is limited so **pre-enrollment** is necessary.

Contact **Susan West** at swest2149@cox.net or 918-749-3548, 918-724-7521.

Book Club Reads

The Anthologist in April

by Nicholson Baker



The Anthologist is a book about poetry written by a novelist who somehow makes it all work. By turns you will be fascinated, enlightened, surprised and amused. This is the story of Paul Chowder, a semi-successful, middle aged American poet trying and mostly failing to write the introduction to an anthology called "Only Rhyme". Chowder sits in his workplace/barn and thinks; he shampoos the dog; he goes blackberry picking; he installs flooring for a neighbor; he pines for his former girlfriend, Roz, who left him after becoming fed up with his procrastination. The book seamlessly weaves together the story of this difficult period in Paul's life and stories of poetry.

The Anthologist by Nicholson Baker is available at Steve's Sundry Books. Book club will meet for lunch and discussion on **Sunday, May 1st**, in the library immediately following worship service.



College Hill Chancel Choir

The **Chancel Choir** at **College Hill** continues to rehearse on Wednesday evenings and is always looking for new members. We do not hold auditions, so come join the fun! We rehearse from **6:45 - 7:45pm** on **Wednesday** evenings. All are welcome!

Highlights of the March Session Meeting



Clerk's Report:

- ❖ Received a letter of thanks from Kendall Whittier, Inc. for our 5th Sunday Offering and additional member contributions in the amount of \$672.00 for their Emergency Food Pantry.
- ❖ Received a flyer regarding the summer program at Dwight Mission which was given to **John Gammie** to share with our youth.

Pastor's Report:

- ❖ **Rev. Todd Freeman** reported that the Progressive Religious Coalition of Tulsa has been meeting since May, 2010 and are going to have an event on Sunday, **April 10, 2011** entitled **Was Jesus Sacrificed?**. It will be held at **Unity Church of Christianity from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**
- ❖ **Rev. Freeman** reported that he wrote a letter to the chief of the Tulsa Fire Department that responded to our emergency call during worship on Sunday, February 27, thanking them for their excellent work.
- ❖ **Rev. Freeman** shared leadership development information with the Session regarding *Church Size and Assimilation*.
- ❖ Received into church membership **Jeff Ream and Tim Smith-Ream**.
- ❖ **Bob Lucy** gave his report as **Elder Commissioner** to the Presbytery Meeting, Tuesday, March 1, 2011. He reported that Rev. Jim Miller preached and talked about the "White Papers". They approved Rev. Ray Hickman's call to be the new Director of Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry.
- ❖ **Building Use Request:** The Dwight Mission Capital Campaign Committee will use the Library on Wednesday, March 16, 2011, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. for a meeting.

Highlights of Ministry Team Reports

Building & Grounds: **Jim Campbell** reported that the next **Work Day** has been scheduled for **Saturday, April 9, 9:00 a.m. to noon**. Also, the church security alarm has been moved inside the church so we will be able to hear it, if it goes off while we're inside the church. The sanctuary heater was repaired March 8.

Christian Education: **Todd Redding** reported that the **Children's Choir**, led by **Caroline Johnson**, will perform in worship on **Palm Sunday, April 17 and Easter, April 24**. On April 24, the Preschool/Early Elementary Sunday School classes will have a breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt. Also, the **Youth Chili Cook-Off/Talent Show** was very successful and enjoyed by all. Contributions were **\$600** with \$60 going to the Jail Ministry and \$540 to the General Budget. It was mentioned that it would be nice to have a camcorder to be able to record events such as this for those unable to attend and to be able to use for historical purposes.

Congregational Life: **Wyneth Roulet** reported that **Susan West** will offer a **CPR class** for interested church members in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, April 10**, immediately following worship. A phone tree has been developed for use in an emergency. Phone calls will be made only to persons who do not have email.

Evangelism & Communication: **Mark Watson** reported that they wrote an article on Name Tags for *The Messenger*, rounded up additional acts for the talent show and contacted new members, informally.

Finance & Stewardship: **Bob Lucy** reported that **Bill Major** checked on our insurance and found there was adequate liability coverage for officers and employees. They have set the date of **June 11** to do the **Annual Financial Review**.

Hispanic Steering Committee (Immigrant Hispanic Fellowship): **John Gammie** reported that Rosie Brown, the EOP Liaison, continues to be out of the country so has not attended any of their meetings. The Hispanic youth Movie Night on February 26 was a great success. **Pat Valencia** received an email from **Ricardo Chavez**, who is doing well. Pat will explore the possibility of establishing a sister church relationship with Ricardo's church in Mexico City. The committee also discussed the need for children to be supervised between the end of Sunday School and the end of the service (when it runs long). It was decided the children should go into the service and sit at the back and be supervised by a designated person.

Outreach & Mission: **Dewey Echols** reported that there was a TMM Delegate Assembly meeting on March 3, but there wasn't adequate notice so no one attended, except **Rev. Todd**, who presented a reflection on 'hope'. It was announced that Rev. Ray Hickman is the new Director of TMM. **Vicki Jordan** reported that KWI has not, yet, responded to TU's request for clarification on their new relationship. Rev. Leslie Penrose will speak to the Session at their April meeting regarding Just Hope's microbanking effort.

Personnel: **Vicki Jordan** reported that they began updating evaluation forms to be used to evaluate the church staff. They will ask for the Christian Education Ministry Team's input in writing a new job description for **Karen Kriner**.






Visioning: **Pastor Todd** reported that **Bill Major** mailed the *U.S. Congregational Life Survey* March 8. It will probably take at least one month to get the information back.

Worship & Music: **Rev. Todd** will participate in a joint Good Friday worship service at John Calvin Presbyterian Church; the choir may also participate. They are working on a Seder-themed service for Maundy Thursday. Communion was celebrated February 13.

Highlight of the March 20 Called Session Meeting

- ❖ Received into church membership and baptism **Prem Bikkina**.

APRIL 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:30 Hispanic Prayer Group	2
3 1st Sunday Food Offering/ Communion 9:30 Church School - All Ages 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Service of Worship, Eng, Spanish 12:00 Evangelism & Communication 6:00 Yoga/Meditation	4	5	6 5:45 Music Staff 6:45 Chancel Choir	7	8 6:30 Hispanic Prayer Group	9 Church Work Day 
10 9:30 Church School - All Ages 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Service of Worship, Eng; Spanish 2:00 PRCT Inaugural Event (Unity Church of Christianity) 4:00 Youth Group Mtg. 6:00 Yoga/Meditation	11	12 12:00 Finance & Stewardship 7:00 Session	13 9:00 INCOG 5:30 Bell Choir 6:45 Chancel Choir	14	15 6:30 Hispanic Prayer Group	16
17 Palm Sunday/ One Great Hour of Sharing 9:30 Church School - All Ages 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Service of Worship, English 11:00 Service of Worship, Spanish 12:00 Outreach & Mission 6:00 Yoga/Meditation	18 	19	20 5:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Building & Grounds 6:45 Chancel Choir	21 12:00 Luncheon Club 6:30 Maundy Thursday Seder Service	22  7:00 Good Friday Service (@ John Calvin Church)	23
24 Easter Sunday/Communion 9:30 Church School - All Ages 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Service of Worship, Eng, Spanish 12:00 Hispanic Steering Committee 4:00 Youth Group Mtg. 6:00 Yoga/Meditation	25 Holiday - Church Office Closed	26  6:30 Book Study Small Group	27 9:00 INCOG 5:30 Bell Choir 5:45 Worship & Music 6:45 Chancel Choir	28	29 6:30 Hispanic Prayer Group	30 

The Quiet Corner
A Desert Meditation



A desert isn't dead. The green of a desert is a dusty green. The plants are survivors, prickly tough. They become vulnerable for only a brief time of blooming. The desert is a stark, life-filled place.

This liturgical season started in a desert. Its duration recalls the scriptural span of fasting and prayer. Like the Passover experience it mirrors, it is a transition from complacency (or safety) into a new reality. The transition requires a travail experience along the restricting passage of a desert experience.

How ironic. The traditions of the Abrahamic spiritual communities celebrate this desert period in a lavish springtime. Life abounds and nature shows an almost giddy abundance of sensory stimulus. But isn't that true of any personal desert experience? Our internal life becomes a hard green, a survivor green, while the surrounding life appears verdant and lush. Our personal world is shaken. One can easily imagine insect droppings are wafers of honey or stones, bread. We reconstruct old sacred symbols or fantasize new, shining worlds. One is tempted to return to familiar stasis, but the path has lead too far down the birth passage. We are caught in the contractions between two life experiences. As the ancient midwives first instructed their clients, the Spirit calls us to breathe into the pain. I believe the Spirit also breathes through us to assist in the process.

In both traditions, this season of the desert ends in death, the ultimate transformation. Ancient Israel's great father Moses dies alone on a remote mountain peak, isolated from his community. Christ is executed upon a Roman cross. Scriptural tradition ends the life of Moses with burial by an angelic community. Jesus of Nazareth's tradition recounts an empty tomb. Both are symbols of a transformation that cannot be described.

And, in the quiet, the desert blooms.

Peg Gotthold



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Staying Connected
March 2011

Dear KWI Friends,

KWI works hard at collaborating with other community individuals and organizations to increase the quality of life for our neighbors. An exciting current effort is being a sponsoring organization for the Will Rogers Prevention Coalition (WRPC). This group is working toward the reduction of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use among community youth who reside within the Will Rogers High School feeder-pattern. We want to have healthier students, increase school attendance and graduation rates, reduce drug and alcohol related youth crimes, arrests and incarcerations, and school suspension rates.

There is an appreciation of cultural differences among the WRPC that encourages community members to share their stories. With the help of Drug Free Communities (DFC) funding, the Will Rogers Prevention Coalition will have a vehicle through which community collaboration will be strengthened and neighborhood-specific strategies for reducing substance abuse among youth developed and implemented.

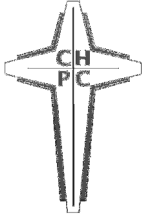
WRPC has a large youth lead component and currently young people are working to bring awareness of WRPC efforts to area youth through a Video Contest, where youth under the age of 21 can submit 30-90 second videos in two categories: 1) Shout-out/Testimonial and 2) Drug-Free Fun in Action/ Leading by Example. If you or your youth group or classmates would like to participate, please look for details on the Will Rogers Prevention Coalition's Facebook page.

KWI, acting as the fiscal agent, just submitted a federal Drug Free Communities Grant, on behalf of the coalition's efforts. KWI is pleased to be able to work side by side with law enforcement; public school administrators and staff; business owners; students; parents; faith leaders; health care providers; media outlets; local tribes; state and local governmental agencies; and other youth and prevention service agencies to address these important issues.

As coalition members were leaving the school where we gathered for our meeting last meeting, a youth was being arrested for cocaine possession. The desperate look on his young face is what propels this effort. Together, alongside our friends, we may very well save lives.

Sincerely,
Trinna Burrows





**College Hill
Presbyterian Church**

712 S. Columbia
Tulsa, OK 74104

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Easter Lilies

If you are interested in buying an Easter Lily to help decorate the church during Easter, please complete the form below. Donors' names and the names of ones being honored are listed in the bulletin for the Easter service of worship. Please have your **order turned in by Sunday, April 17th**. If you have any questions, contact **Charlotte Slemp** at 918-747-6615.

Easter Lily Order Form

Please complete this form and return it with check made out to **College Hill Presbyterian Church**, earmarked "Easter Lily". Contributions may be deposited in the offering plate, brought by or mailed to the church office:

College Hill Presbyterian Church
712 S. Columbia Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74104



Name: _____ Amount (\$10 per plant): _____
(Donor - please print.)

Dedication: _____
(Please specify. Flowers are given to the glory of God, either in memory or honor of someone, living or deceased, or something such as a special occasion or celebration. Please print.)

