

A Box of God's Love

College is a time of exploration for students, and many find themselves away from their church home for the first time. So what could be a better time to make sure they feel the love – God's love as expressed through their church family?

That is the thinking behind CCPC's Campus Care ministry, under the auspices of the Discipleship Committee and co-chaired now by Janet Walters and Kellene El-Shahawy. Twice a year they and other enthusiastic volunteers gather to assemble and ship care packages to CCPC youth and former childcare workers away at college and in the military. The packages typically contain snacks, toiletries, school supplies, and \$5 gift cards to fast food and coffee shops, along with thoughtful notes of caring and affection. They are timed to arrive right before the college kids face finals.

Janet says, "We are so grateful to the church members who contribute and make this possible. But it's not meant to be an expensive ministry. We do it on a shoestring because it is mainly about maintaining that church connection with our young people—a box of God's love."

She added, "I'm told that sometimes the boys devour every bit of food the day they get the package!"

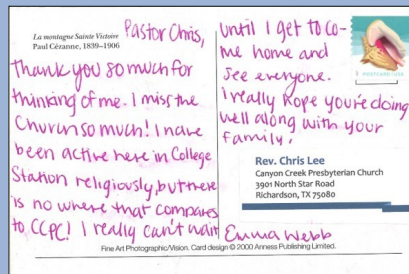
One student thrilled to be on the receiving end of Campus Care is Emma Palos shown here with her parents Sharman and



Joe, at Sam Houston State University where she is studying International Business and Economics. She especially enjoys the notes and gift cards and always calls home excitedly when the package arrives.

Sharman says, "When kids go away, they don't always practice their faith, so I see our ministry as providing a bridge while they find their way to full adulthood."

The kids' appreciation for their Campus Care packages is expressed in the postcards they send back to Pastor Chris.



Kellene has two children currently blessed by Campus Care – Summer in her senior year at the University of Arkansas and Ramsey at Collin County Junior College – and knows they feel deeply blessed through this ministry.

She also likes to send packages to her daughter's friends, saying, "When you send just a friendly reminder that others – the church – are thinking of you, you never know when you're planting a seed that could change a person's life for the future. The message is simple: God will always love you no matter who or where you are."

Another grateful recipient is Catherine

Palmer's daughter Crosby, now attending Vanderbilt Divinity School after graduating from Austin College. Catherine says Crosby is delighted when the packages arrive and is touched to be remembered by her church family.



Packing Day!

If you wish to contribute, they can always use helping hands twice a year when it comes time to assemble and ship as many as 30 to 40 packages from coast to coast.



If you'd like to contribute \$5 gift cards, you can do so at the table in the Atrium. And before each packing session, you can contribute snacks, toiletries, and whatever else the ministry could use at the time, including donations for postage.

Contact Janet at jjwalters6@gmail.com, 214-632-7549 or Kellene at kshahawy@hotmail.com, 972-964-3386.

- submitted by Ann Cain

CANYON CREEK TOUCHPOINTS

Youth Sunday, February 16



Cody Heeb, Passing the Peace



Sarah Laredo, Time with Children



Reese Aksamit, Discipleship



Jacob Martinez, Scripture Reading

Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Sermon,
Megan Emmert
Maddie Taylor
Catherine Shepard
Bailey Balderson



Hannah Sanders, Benediction



Laura Martinez, Director of Youth Ministries, and Team

Touchpoints is brought to you by the Connections Ministry of Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church.