

# April 2010

Easter is early this year so maybe some of you won't read this letter until after you have celebrated Easter at church. Do you do anything special for that church holiday? Pam tells me that churches are usually decorated with lots of Easter lilies and other flowers. After the long winter and the six weeks of Lent people are ready for bright colors and flowers to remind them of the wonderful news that Jesus is Risen and we have new life in him. God reawakens the outside world, too. Have you noticed how good the fresh air smells in the spring?

Do you do anything special at home to celebrate Easter? One family I know of adds a scavenger hunt to their Easter egg hunt. The mother puts clues inside each plastic Easter egg. Then she hides the eggs. Each clue leads the children to where to find the next hidden egg until they end up at the end of the hunt and find a little prize. The clues are either riddles or pictures depending upon the age of the child.

As the winter snows have been melting, Sarah, Whiskers and I have been having our own ongoing scavenger hunt. As the weather warms, the snow recedes and the ground warms under the spring sun we like to spend time looking for the little green grass shoots that are growing out of the ground. After spending the winter eating hay, it's a welcome treat to eat grass again. We only get a little taste, though, because it's not warm enough for much of the grass to be growing yet. We have to be patient.

Pam tells me I need to be patient, too, for Joy Ranch to be finished. The carpenters want to make sure they do things right so that our buildings will be a safe place for people to stay and have fun. In the meantime though, we will still have lots of visitors at camp. This summer we will have day camps again: 4H clubs, horse back riding lessons, Camp Chance, Vacation Bible School, etc. We will also have volunteer groups coming to help work on the buildings or youth groups painting fences, cleaning shelter belts and helping with yard work. Women's groups come to tour the grounds, plus we'll have some weddings and family reunions. Joy Ranch is a busy place even though guests don't stay overnight yet. If your Sunday School or youth group would like to volunteer we'd love to have you. Please call Pam Walton at Joy Ranch: 605-886-4622. She'd love to visit with you.

Your friend,

**Sven**

