

Community of Christ
Fairbanks Branch Happenings
November 6, 2004

The theme for this Sunday is **“Prepare to Receive”**

Prayers of
Repentance
Evolve into
Prayers of
Adoration and joy as we
Receive His
Endless mercy and love

For the last few weeks the theme has revolved around **“vision”**. Last week, Gary talked about being able to see a vision or multiple visions and taking the steps to move towards fulfilling the vision. He also talked about having visions that are different from everyone else and being able to accept another person’s vision and maybe even to ask for help to accomplish the vision.

For the last few months, David had the vision to fix the wiring in the room where the robes, etc. are stored. Last Sunday after the service, I knew that he was going to try to fulfill his vision, which by the end of the service was transformed into a mission! “It would just take at most an hour”, he said. Ladies – have you ever been told this before? O.k. – He started working on his “vision/mission”. After several trips to Home Depot and SEVERAL HOURS later, with some help from a now reluctant helper, the light was fixed in this room and his vision/mission was accomplished. Did his vision match the vision I had for last Sunday afternoon?? – Sorry to say guys, it definitely did not! It all worked out and all was good but our afternoon brought home many of the points from Gary’s message - a vision, a plan to execute the vision, asking for help to accomplish the vision, overcoming varying visions, the execution and follow through to accomplish the vision. Now we get to work on my vision.... ☺

The above example is but a minor thing and was accomplished in a relatively short period of time. Visions can be simple or complex. Visions can evolve quickly or over many years. The point is that visions are important and necessary. Having vision gives us direction, something to look forward to and give us goals to strive towards. Sometimes, we will need help in fulfilling our vision. We at times tend to not be able to accept assistance or even be able to think that we may need help. Needing and seeking help is at times a humbling experience. Accepting and assisting in a vision that may not be yours can be a test in patience and giving.

Vision – What is yours?

This week the theme is “prepare to receive” and this Sunday is also Communion Sunday. What do we do to prepare to receive the sacrament of Communion? On the first Sunday of the month, we hold an early morning worship service. This could be a way of preparing. Preparing to receive suggests an openness to accept the gift, a certain vulnerability and acceptance.

In life we can prepare to receive many things- sometimes good and sometimes not so “good”. Preparation: – an essential part of most things. Think of the athlete that prepares for the race or the game. Think of Christ going to the desert to prepare for his next step. Think of your work life, your spiritual life, your family life and your personal life.

Do you prepare? If so, how? If not, why not?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!!! The Fairbanks Happenings celebrated its *1st birthday* last week!!!!

The **worship and nursery schedules** have been **posted** in the family center for October through December. Please check these.

Sunday, November 7th - Early Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. – Carole Caesar presiding.

Sunday, November 14th – Pancake Breakfast – 9:00 a.m. – A family Advent activity is being planned. Each family will be able to make an item that can be used during the Advent season. Last year we made Advent wreaths. Lots of fun- You don't want to miss!!!! This year we are making Advent Calendars out of felt. This would be a great opportunity to invite someone to share with us. Good food, fun project, great people- Bring scissors or cutting wheel to use to cut the felt. If you have a glue gun, that would be helpful. I have 3 glue guns and plenty of glue sticks. If you plan on inviting a guest, please let me know so that I can have adequate supplies.

Sunday, November 14th – Congregational Planning Meeting (CPM)- Formerly known as Leadership Meeting – All are invited. Be active in your congregation.

Sunday, December 5th – Business Meeting - 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 5th – Christmas Cookie Exchange – Details to follow but start thinking about what recipe you want to make for this. Recipes should be e-mailed to Martha Romig for inclusion in the recipe book. The cookie exchange rules follow:

COOKIE EXCHANGE RULES

1. Each person will bring 5 dozen homemade cookies.
2. Cookies should be brought on a platter.
3. Each person should bring a container for the cookies they will take home.
4. Recipes should be e-mailed (mharman1979@yahoo.com) or given to Martha Harman

If you do not wish to bake, please come and enjoy the fun. There will be refreshments for everyone.

H.O.T. Wrapping Night – To be announced, but make plans to go to H.O.T. and wrap gifts that will be distributed to needy children.

Ongoing –

H.O.T. Christmas Gift Drive – It is not too early to bring unwrapped toys, games, etc. appropriate for boys and girls up to age 16 to the church. Items should be new or “very” gently used. Toy guns, knives, swords, etc. cannot be accepted. A table has been set up in the Fellowship Hall to collect the presents.

Anyone interested in **changing the sign** for a few weeks???? If so, **see John Reimer** to be scheduled.

Please review the prayer list in the Sunday bulletin. If you have added someone to the list please update Leo Caesar with any new information and current status of the prayer concern. Please contact Leo Caesar if you wish to add/remove someone from the list...

Calendar & Mission Center News:

The Coastal Bend Mission Center is proud to announce that the Coastal Bend web site is up and running! You can visit the site at www.coastalbendmc.org

November 14th- Pancake breakfast and Advent Calendar Activity 9:00 a.m. - Fairbanks

November 14th- Congregational Planning Meeting (CPM) - Fairbanks

December 5th – Business Meeting- 10:00 a.m. – Fairbanks

December 5th – Christmas Cookie Exchange

January 7-9th – Silent Retreat – Cenacle House

Silent Retreat - January 7-9, 2005

To be held at The Cenacle Retreat House 420 N. Kirkwood, Houston, TX 77079

January 7-9, 2005-Sponsored by Live Oak-Community of Christ Marlene Krueger-Retreat Spiritual Director

Anyone interested is invited to participate in this opportunity to experience the Spirit of God in new ways. This will be a silent retreat except for discussion of experiences during a Saturday evening activity. Some direction will be given on how to direct your thoughts, but the most important thing is that you allow the Holy Spirit to direct you. You may bring inspirational reading materials, Bibles, journals, or other materials that you feel will help you to be in a deeper relationship with God as you meditate during the day. There is a outdoor labyrinth for mediation. Spiritual Directors from the Cenacle will be on hand for individual spiritual counseling to those desiring and administration will also be available. A free yoga class and/or massage therapy (\$35/half hour) may be provided based on advanced interest.

Silence is sometimes a difficult thing for us to do in this busy world of ours and it can be a little scary. The reward can be a quiet reflective time between you and God. You can use the silence to listen for that still small voice or to rest in the Lord. The weekend will be what you make of it and can be a powerful tool for healing and restoring the spirit, if that is what you seek.

Check-in will be at 7:15 PM on Friday, January 7th and the retreat will conclude with a Sunday morning communion service followed by lunch.

Registration forms can be found at:

<http://mail.coastalbendmc.org/docs/2005-silent-retreat-registration.pdf>

The following is a schedule of those that are currently scheduled to deliver the message for the 4th quarter. This is not the “official list” and is for informational purposes only. Please refer to the worship schedule in the fellowship hall for changes.

November 7th – John Reimer

November 14th – Dick Davies

November 21st – Sue Turner

November 28th – Leo & Carole Caesar

December 5th – David Romig

December 12th – Doug White

December 19th – John Reimer

December 26th – Leo & Carole Caesar

I will be sending out periodic e-mails letting everyone know what is “HAPPENING” at Fairbanks. Please let me know if your e-mail or other contact information changes.

Mark your calendars and **participate, enjoy, reach out!!!!!!**I pray that everyone have a safe and happy week.

Martha Romig