

Community of Christ

Fairbanks Branch Happenings

November 18, 2004

The theme for this Sunday is “**See With New Eyes**”

Eyes
You gave us to
Envision the
Special needs around us.

This Sunday is the last Sunday in ordinary time. Sunday, November 28th marks the beginning of the Advent season and the start of a new liturgical year. The theme for the liturgical year now ending was “Heed Christ’s Call” and the theme for this new year is “Tell the Sacred Story”. During this liturgical year we have hopefully “heeded His call” and have become more aware of Christ and the charge that He has given each and everyone of us. As we go into the new year may we have the spiritual strength and insight to share the sacred story with ourselves, our families and with everyone that we encounter. There are many people around us that need to hear the sacred story for the first time or even need to be reminded of it and have it repeated again.

New Eyes

Each day I have new eyes
New eyes to see the beauty around me
New eyes to see the people in my life
New eyes to see the good in my life
New eyes to let go of my past perceptions
New eyes to see the perfection around me
New eyes to see the LOVE in my world
New eyes to let my LOVE flow and embrace the good in my life
My new eyes allow me to accept all that is
My new eyes have given me a
NEW HEART filled with
JOY LOVE and PEACE

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What do your eyes see in the picture above? Do you see the majesty and beauty that God created for our enjoyment? Do you see a cold and barren mountain? Do you see an obstacle or an opportunity? Do you enjoy or dread?

Imagine what our country's pioneers saw when they encountered the steep and unyielding Rocky Mountains? Many saw a barrier that was impossible to overcome but thank God that some saw that the range could be overcome and a passage could be made to the other side.

Think of "opportunities or challenges" that we have experienced in our lives. At times, these also seemed like a huge mountain- unyielding and unattainable. Yet as we look back, we have survived and even become stronger as we allowed ourselves to see the "opportunities or challenges" in a new light and were able to cross the divide and reach the other side of the range.

Do you see your parents differently today than when you were a teenager? Has your appreciation for them grown? Do you see other people that have crossed your path differently?

Do you only see the darkness and sadness in the world or do you see the glory and the light? Do you see your cup half empty or half full?

Perception can be a very tricky thing. It can impact something we see that may be completely different than what we perceive.

As we go through our day, may we see past the obvious, may we be able to discern and see with new eyes and understand what God wants us to see and do.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Thank you God for seeing the beauty in each of us and may we behold each other as You behold us.

Do you see with new eyes?

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

Last Sunday we had a pancake breakfast and each family made advent calendars. Dick and Leo outdid themselves again making the pancakes. Thanks guys!!! We have quite the creative group at Fairbanks. Each advent calendar was unique and beautiful (even though they all started with the same basic pattern). May everyone enjoy displaying and using the calendars. As you place an ornament on the tree – say a prayer, give thanks to God for the love that he bestows on us, sing a Christmas carol or hymn. Refocus on the importance of the Advent season as we prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ.

Dottie Davies is celebrating a birthday next week.

Attached is a Gift Search questionnaire. Please look at yourself with "new eyes" and let Rena Whitehall know what gift or gifts you will share with us.

Sunday, December 5th – Early Morning Prayer Service 9:00 a.m.

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

Sunday, December 5th – Christmas Cookie Exchange – 4:00 p.m. At Dottie Davies' home. This was a lot of fun last year and we all left with "dozens" of cookies to serve and enjoy during the holiday season!! 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.

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. Please include Carol Lohmeier in your prayers.

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

December 5th – Early Morning Prayer Service – 9:15

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

December 5th – Christmas Cookie Exchange 4:00 – Dottie Davies’ home. Give Martha your recipe for the cookbook.

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 an 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:

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 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

Happy Thanksgiving!!!!. May everyone enjoy the holiday and have a fun and safe time.

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