

Community of Christ

Fairbanks Branch Happenings

December 2, 2004

The theme for this Sunday is “Find Hope In The Child”

Christians filled with
Hope are an
Inspiration that
Lead to great
Deeds

I have sometimes wondered why God sent Christ to us embodied as a child – a mere baby. God the Father could have sent us an adolescent- full of energy and spirit. He could have sent us a young man with great presence and charisma. He could have sent an old man full of wisdom and experience. But he sent us a child – a baby.

As we gaze into a baby’s face, we are often overwhelmed by the feelings of love, wonder, and hope. The purity of a baby’s heart has only room for love and trust. The perfection of his hands, feet, face etc. fills us with awe and wonder. The clean slate that the child is born with gives us hope.

Hope that this child will do great things. Hope that this child will live a full and happy life. Hope that this child will grow and “Tell the Sacred Story”.

Christ came and cleaned our slate so that, it too, is as clean as the newborn babe’s. We are given a new opportunity and filled with hope. Hope that we can do great things. Hope that we can live a full and joyful life. Hope that we will “Tell the Sacred Story.”

The feeling of hope leads us to attempt all and it gives us the courage to reach out as contrasted to the feeling of hopelessness.

God, our Father, has also given us a mechanism to constantly renew our hope. Through introspection and confession we can ask for forgiveness and clean our slate in preparation to receive the body of Christ through communion and be refilled with HOPE.

HOPE - to desire with expectation of obtainment; to expect with confidence -

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

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.

Sunday, December 12th - Christmas caroling at a nursing home. We will gather at Fairbanks at 4:30 and go as a group to sing Christmas carols at a nursing home. North Houston and Live Oak congregations have been invited to join us. Come and share a joy of Christmas with another.

Sunday, December 19th – 9:15 a m – Annual Christmas brunch. Please bring a brunch dish to share. Christmas activities will again be planned. Come and enjoy the fellowship. We might have a *surprise* visitor.....

Ongoing –

H.O.T. Christmas Gift Drive – This is the last Sunday 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

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.

December 12th - 4:30 Christmas caroling at the nursing home

December 19th - Christmas Brunch

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:

<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.

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