

Community of Christ
Fairbanks Branch Happenings
January 13, 2005

The theme for this Sunday is “Hear My Cry”

Called to
Respond to
Your will

Look around you. Listen. Observe. Look inside you. Listen. Observe.

Cries surround us every waking moment.

Sometimes the cries are silent and not audible or visible. It takes knowing the person and being in tune to hear.

Sometimes the cries are loud and impossible to ignore.

Sometimes the cries are cries of joy and rejoicing.

Sometimes the cries are cries of pain and hopelessness.

Do we hear the cries of suffering and injustice? Do we hear and ignore? Do we hear and acknowledge? Do we hear and take action to assist those in need. Do we try to help ease the pain? Do we lend a hearing ear??

Do we hear the cries of happiness and pride? Do we hear and ignore? Do we hear and acknowledge? Do we hear and celebrate with the person? Do we cast a cloud over another's success and joy because of our own jealousy and insecurities? Do we lend a hearing ear??

Are we the ones crying out? Can we hear ourselves? Can anyone hear us? Do they care????

Last night my Wednesday night Bible Study class walked the labyrinth. None of us had ever done it before or knew much about it. We basically knew that it was a type of “meditation tool”. After an introduction to the concept of the labyrinth, those that wished to enter it and walk it did. Each person's experience was personal and different. The setting of the labyrinth was quiet and peaceful.

What I noticed as I walked, was that I was able to open my mind and my heart to my thoughts and concerns and “hear my cry”. How often do we REALLY take the time to spend time listening to ourselves? What occurs to me is how can we know how to resolve (or even attempt to address) our personal issues if we won't or cannot even hear what they are? Issues could be issues that have caused us deep pain that we have buried and still exist because they remain unresolved. Issues could be the fact that we forget how truly blessed we are and do not take the time to count and reflect upon our many blessings. Issues could stem with our own false sense of inadequacy when we may be truly more than adequate. After all we were created in the image of God.

While one twirl around a labyrinth is not the miraculous cure-all, it did open an awareness that we need to open ourselves to our inner thoughts, to others and to God.

Are cries only of this world? Do cries only go from us to God's “ear”?

Does God ever cry out? Do we hear His cry? Do cries go from God to our “ears”?

THE ALARM CODE IS BEING CHANGED. Please see John, Carole, or Margie for the new alarm code. We are also giving the Seventh Day Adventist group a separate alarm code; please do not give them our code. We are also updating the list of who has keys; please let John know if you have a keys to the facilities at Fairbanks.

Sunday, January 16th- Potluck after the worship service. Bring a dish to share and enjoy with each other.

Sunday, January 16th – Congregational Planning Meeting. After Potluck, stay and immerse yourself in the workings and planning of the congregation. **All invited to stay and participate.** Think about what you would like to see done and bring your ideas. Let's plan some events and get them scheduled and on the calendar.

Game Night – Rena & Jeff Whitehall are planning a game night at their home later this month. Bring an appetizer/snack to share. More detail to follow.

The worship and nursery schedules have been posted in the family center for January through March, 2005. Please check these .

Nursery Schedule:

January 16th – Carole & Leo Caesar

January 23rd – Jennifer & Kip Decker

January 30th – Martha & David Romig

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

January 16th – Potluck

January 16th – Congregational Planning Meeting – After Potluck.

February 20th – Hearne 125th anniversary celebration. Ken Robinson from First Presidency is the guest speaker.

April 2nd – Special Mission Center Conference – Pasadena – 1:00- 3:00 p.m.

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.

January 16th – Sue Turner

January 23rd – John Reimer

January 30th – Gary Chatburn

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