

Community of Christ

Fairbanks Branch Happenings

January 20, 2005

The theme for this Sunday is “Leave Your Nets”

New and old
Entanglements
Trust in You helps us to
Sever them

E. Ministry Message- What is required of us when we are called to follow someone? Are we to just sit still and do nothing? When Jesus asked Peter and Andrew to follow Him, the Gospel of John says that, “at once they left their nets and followed him.” However there were many times when His followers turned away from him. They didn’t believe that Christ was the, “Holy One of God.” For the twelve apostles, following Christ was more than just believing, it was about knowing that He was the Son of God.

Reflect- Is following Christ more than just believing to me? What is the difference between believing and knowing?

Apply- Following Christ always an easy thing to do. Sometimes it requires us to leave our “nets” like Peter and Andrew. Take some time to reflect about some “nets” you might be able to leave to follow Christ.

(above by D.J. Castilleja)

“Getting Un-Entangled”

“and immediately they left their nets and followed Him”. (Mark 1:18)

It always amazes me, when I read this passage, that the Disciples IMMEDIATELY left their nets to follow Jesus, particularly if we see the “fishing nets” representing their profession, income, and identity in their society. To leave their nets meant the Disciples left all that was familiar, secure, and safe. They left all they had to follow Jesus.

The Disciples’ decision to leave their nets and follow can be a parable for the church—

- What nets do we need to get “un-entangled” from so that our lives and hearts can conform to the life and heart of Jesus?
- What nets are we being called to leave so we can more faithfully serve Christ?
- What nets are God asking us to let go of, so we can move into the future?

We live in a day and age incredibly influenced by our culture which is highly individualistic and self-serving. We tend to approach the church as a consumer rather than as people part of a covenant community. In community we each have the investment to live together, care for each other, and tend to the souls of others so all can grow in faith and our relationship with God, others and the world. As a consumer I’m interested in what suits me and what I can get for myself. **In a covenant community there’s the commitment to the “whole body”, the good of others and care for our common life together.** As a consumer I don’t see that connection between myself and others. My own needs and my interests are all that matters.

The “net” we need to be “un-entangled” from is the net of our cultural assumptions that prompt a self-serving, self-centered mentality. This culture says “Membership has its privileges.” The culture of our faith embraces the life and teachings of Jesus that tell us “Discipleship has its cost.”

There’s a world of difference between membership and discipleship. Membership carries with it the idea that the church owes me something. I’ve joined, I pay my dues (on Sundays?) and therefore I should get what I paid for (as a consumer).

Jesus talks about discipleship: a life of giving and caring, risk and commitment, forgiveness, ministry and serving into the world Jesus died for.

Christians are called to a life of discipleship. We are called to drop our nets, to un-entangle our lives, so that our hearts can conform to the heart of Jesus.

Jesus called the first Disciples to leave their “nets” to follow Him. He calls us also to leave the “nets” that entangle us, so we can live together in community and share the love of Christ into the world.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Carla

Above by Pastor of Germantown United Methodist Church, Germantown, Ohio.

New Young Adult Sunday School Class- Carole Caesar is facilitating a new young adult Sunday school class. This class meets at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays before the worship service. The format is flexible and various topics will be discussed. Topics will be selected by the class. This Sunday the topic will be “*What is all the priesthood business*”. If you are a young adult, you do not want to miss these thought provoking classes. Show up, be involved in your church and in your spiritual life.

Adult Sunday School – The adult Sunday School class will be starting a new 12 week study on the book of Daniel.

Saturday, January 29th – 6:00 p.m. - Game Night – Rena & Jeff Whitehall are planning a game night at their home. Bring an appetizer/snack and game to share.

Thursday, February 3rd – 6:30 p.m. – Assemble Valentines Day boxes for the college students. We will be assembling boxes to ship to college students. Please bring to the church items that college students might enjoy receiving in a Valentines Day box. A table will be set up in the family center for donations. Leo Caesar has generously volunteered to provide the boxes and shipping again. Please keep size and weight in mind when purchasing items. We usually send out between 10 -15 boxes for this event. Please bring enough of an item to equally share for each student. If you want to send something “special” to a student, might I suggest that you send that personally and not as part of this activity. Throughout the years many students have enjoyed receiving this Valentines Day treat. I know that I have talked to several of these students and they **REALLY ENJOYED** the boxes..... If you have a college student, please send me their address so that we can make the shipping labels in advance. In the past we have extended this to the students in the Houston area congregations and are planning to do the same again this year. Some items you might consider follow. This is by all means not a comprehensive list. Think of things an 18 to 20-something might like to receive.

Popcorn Snack Crackers Pretzels Beef jerky Cookies Candy
Hot Chocolate mix Paperback book Pens Paper Stamps
Stationery Hygiene items

Thursday, February 3rd – Dinner - After the above activity, those that wish may plan on going to dinner at the Mexican restaurant near the church.

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

Nursery Schedule:

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 29th – Game Night at Rena and Jeff Whitehall.

February 3rd – 6:30 p.m. – Assemble Valentines Day boxes

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 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