

Community of Christ

Fairbanks Branch Happenings

February 24, 2005

The theme for this Sunday is “Quench Our Thirst”

Overflowing are
“Ur” waters
Ready to quench.

In Exodus, we find an account of the people of Israel complaining to Moses and expressing distrust in the God who delivered them from Egypt. Despite their rebellion, God graciously provides the gift of water honoring the covenant made with Abraham. Psalm 95 begins with a hymn celebrating God’s dominion that evolves into an admonition recalling the episode recounted in today’s Exodus scripture. The hearer of the psalm is cautioned against making the mistake of resisting and challenging God’s sovereignty. In his letter to the Romans, Paul systematically illustrated the evolution of suffering for God, leading to hope through acceptance of the Holy Spirit. This scripture stands in contrast to the Israelites of the Exodus scripture who rebelled against God on account of their suffering and therefore never achieved a state of hope.

Today’s text from John records a scandalous conversation between Jesus and a female member of an enemy people. Tradition normally demanded rigid boundaries between the genders and between Jewish and Samaritan societies, but the Samaritan woman engaged Jesus in thoughtful, controversial dialogue despite cultural prohibitions. In the course of their discussion she comes to know Jesus and to understand the significance of the living water that he offered her. Interpretations have traditionally portrayed the Samaritan woman as being morally damaged and therefore in particular need of the redemptive grace offered by Jesus. A careful reading of the scripture shows that this is certainly not stated but has been read into the text through the centuries. This dilutes the message of the story: that we are all in need of Christ’s restoring water of love and forgiveness. Solely because of her persuasive testimony, the townspeople come to see Jesus and many of them come to believe in him. Jesus pointed to the woman’s faith when he spoke of those who sow and those who harvest, for the Samaritan woman has sown the seed of belief among her neighbors. In today’s Book of Mormon passage Nephi gives an abbreviated prophecy of Jesus’ life and rejection. The Doctrine and Covenants text encourages contemplation in the understanding of God’s will.

Scriptures: *Exodus 17:1–7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1–11; John 4:5–42/4:7–44 IV; II Nephi 1:71–77; Doctrine and Covenants 18:2n–o*

Above excerpted from the Community of Christ webpage.

Welcome the “living waters” that are always available to us. Take them in and let them quench your thirst.

Sunday, February 27th- 6:00 p.m.-Congregational Planning Meeting.

Saturday, March 5th – North Houston is hosting a viewing of the “Passion of Christ”. Discussion will follow after the movie. Childcare, clown ministry and refreshments will be provided. Come and enjoy the fellowship.

Sunday, March 13th – 10:30 a.m.- Congregational Conference Election of Congregational Delegates to Special Mission Center Conference for election of World Conference Delegates. (Please let John know if you're interested in serving as a delegate from our congregation to the Mission Center Conference in April.)

Sunday, March 27th- Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 2nd - Special Mission Center Conference to elect World Conference Delegates - Pasadena - 1:00- 3:00 p.m. (Persons interested in serving as a World Conference Delegate or as a World Conference Alternate should contact Mark Euritt so that he can place their name on the ballot.)

June 2-5th - Community of Christ Special World Conference - Independence, MO

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

Nursery Schedule:

February 27th – Ruth & Gary Chatburn

March 6th – Beth & Steve Herold

March 13th – Ruth & Gary Chatburn

March 20th – Sue & Alex Turner

March 27th – Andrea & David Watson

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

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 1st 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.

February 27th – Carole & Leo Caesar

March 6th – Gary Chatburn

March 13th – Testimony Service (Sue Turner presides)

March 20th – Carole & Leo Caesar

March 27th – John Reimer

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