

Community of Christ

Fairbanks Branch Happenings

March 31, 2005

The theme for this Sunday is “We Are Witnesses”

Witnessing
Expands Your kingdom & our faith.

Witness: One who is present, bears testimony, furnishes evidence or proof. A witness is one who is personally present and sees some act or occurrence and can bear testimony thereto.

By definition, in order to be a witness, we must be able to be present or *see* the act or occurrence. If this is true, how can we be a witness to the existence of God and Jesus Christ? I have not been to heaven (as far as I know anyway) and have not seen God seated on His throne. I was not alive at the same time Jesus walked the earth so therefore I cannot have “seen” him. So how can I be a witness? Yet I am told that as a Christian, we are to be a witness of Jesus Christ – we are a witnessing people? Have any of you heard that before? Have any of you seen God or Jesus Christ? If taken literally, this can be a very confusing predicament that we face as Christians.

Might I suggest that it is by our faith and the grace of the Holy Spirit, that we are able to “*see*” Jesus Christ so that we might give witness of His existence to others. It is by the grace of the Holy Spirit that we can see with the eyes of our hearts and know that God and Jesus do exist and are always present in our lives. It is by the grace of the Holy Spirit that we can hear that quiet still voice that speaks to each of us and provides comfort and direction among many things to each of us. This quiet still voice comforts but also calls us to action. It calls us to witness. It calls us to live a new and resurrected life and leave behind the things that are not of Christ. It calls us to be the hands and feet and to live the Easter message each and every moment.

If we accept the notion that we can “see” Jesus and pass the definition of being a witness, then what does that mean to us? How can a person witness? What does a person witness? Why do we witness? Does it matter if I witness? Is it up to me to be a witness after all there are bunches of other Christians that could probably do a better job??.....

These answers to the questions posed above can be very different and very personal for each Christian. Have you sat down – or stood up for that matter – and thought about what it means to be a witness – about how do I witness – about what do I witness – about why do I witness – or about does it matter if I witness- about what kind of witness I am?????....

Take a few minutes and consider what witnessing means to you and how you witness. Think about others that have witnessed to you and what that meant to you or how that helped you.

Christ told his followers to be witnesses. I suggest that the church was built on people witnessing about Jesus Christ and their faith experiences in Christ. The Bible contains many examples of witnessing and stories that have been passed through the ages so that future generations can also provide witness. Consider what might have been if the disciples did not continue to witness after the death of Christ. Consider what might be if Christians today were to stop witnessing and sharing the Word and the Story.

Are you a witness? Do you see? Do you share?

Daylight savings time starts this weekend. Do not forget to *spring* forward one hour on Saturday evening!!!!

Last Sunday Fairbanks enjoyed a wonderful Easter brunch. Everything was just delicious and the fellowship was great. After the brunch, the children enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt in the sanctuary. It was great fun watching all of the children scurrying around finding the many eggs that were hidden. Special thanks go to everyone that made this event possible and for everyone that came and participated in this activity, in the fellowship and in the worship.

Sunday, April 3rd – 9:15 a.m. – Early morning worship service - Carole Caesar presiding

Sunday, April 3rd – New Sunday School Class. – Catherine Seaman will be facilitating a new Sunday School class for 6, 7 & 8 year olds. If you have children of the age group, please bring them. Class starts at 10:00 a.m. This Sunday will be the first day of this class

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.)

April 7th – 7 p.m. - President Designate Steve Veazy to visit N. Houston Congregation. This is a time to enjoy an informal visit with Steve. If you plan on attending, please let Dorothy Hibbard know so there will be enough refreshments for all!!!

April 8-10 – Men’s Retreat, Livingston, TX – Steve Veazy visiting minister. Contact David Siddall or Jonathon Coit.

Saturday, April 16th – Temple School at Fairbanks- David Romig will be facilitating the Temple School course PA 140, *Elders: Servants of God’s People*. This course is recommended for new ordinands, people who are interested in the office of elder as well as those who have served in the office of elder. Four class units will be earned. The course is open to anyone in the Mission Center but you must RSVP no later than April 6th so that sufficient books and material can be ordered. Since this a new course for the Elder, the Temple School has requested that attendees should have access to the most recent Priesthood Manual in addition to the course manual.

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

We will be gathering items to send a “**care package**” to Ina Mae’s cousin who is currently stationed in Iraq. Please bring items to the church **starting on April 3rd**. Some items to consider are sanitized lotion, sanitized hand wipes, dry soup mix – cup size, tea bags, hot chocolate, homemade cookies and brownies. KSBJ has been collecting AT&T phone cards – not for the mobile service- to send to soldiers so that they can call home. Each minute from Iraq is equivalent to 10 minutes on the AT&T card so a 60 minute cards buys 6 precious moments from Iraq.

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

Nursery Schedule:

Need a volunteer for this week ...

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.

April 7th – 7 p.m. - President Designate Steve Veazy – North Houston

April 8-10 – Men’s Retreat, Livingston, TX

April 16th – Temple School at Fairbanks- PA 140, *Elders: Servants of God’s People* RSVP no later than **April 6th**

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

The following is a schedule of those that are currently scheduled to deliver the message for the 2nd 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.

April 3rd – Sue Turner

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