

# Community of Christ

## Fairbanks Branch Happenings

### April 22, 2005

The theme for this Sunday is “Stand for God”

Straight and  
Tall, humble  
And  
Needy but always  
Devoted to You

## Stand For Something Worthwhile

How many times have you received a telephone call or a personal visit, or watched a TV promotion, inviting you to stand with them in promoting and participating in a particular cause or campaign? We get these pitches all the time from the Fraternal Order of Police, or March of Dimes, or Save The Whales. Our income tax form asks us to donate to the Election Fund.

We even got one from the Chicago Tribune when we asked to stop our paper from being delivered for two weeks, while we were on vacation. They asked if instead of getting credit for that time, would we like to donate it to some children’s reading program.

When this sort of thing happens we have to make a decision to decide whether it is something worth supporting with our time and money. Do we really believe in what is being pitched at us? Is it worth standing for, and do their principles agree with what we stand for?

Many of these programs may be good causes, but most seem to be quite questionable. However, there is one cause that is never questionable. God’s Word is a true Word, and a faithful Word. It is certainly something worth standing on.

In Titus 1:9 church leaders are encouraged to continue “Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught . . .” As sons of God this should be our stand also.

So many places in the epistles we are told to stand—to stay put on God’s Word. God doesn’t want us tossed about by every wind of doctrine that comes along. “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Ephesians 4:14).

I Corinthians 16:13 says, “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong”. This truly the opposite of allowing ourselves to be tossed around. We’re to be strong—act like men and women.

How bold are we when it comes to taking a stand for God and His Word. Today, as I write this, is the first day of school. I am a “lunch mom” for a first grade class. I overheard to little boys (six year olds) mentioning Jesus and God. One of the boys was saying, “No, it’s Holy Spirit. It’s spirit and I’ve got it, and it’s everlasting life.” He went on to say, while cleaning off his desk, “You know that book called the Bible, you better read it.” Then he turned to the little boy on the other side of him and said, “I’m going to talk to you about it, too”. He was bold to take a stand on what he knew about God’s Word. He was speaking out about what he had been taught.

God tells us to become like little children. As believers we need to be bold in our stand for God. “Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.” (II Thessalonians 2:15).

We are set free from the old law in this age of grace. We need to remember to walk in love and to not get caught up in bondage again. “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage” (Galatians 5:1).

As we walk in love we work together to move God’s Word. Paul encouraged the Philippians to strive together to spread the gospel. “Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Philippians 1:27).

If we stand fast in one spirit, we work together to reach others. We stand for God and His Word. As we do we stand against the sneaky tricks of the devil. “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. . . . Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” (Ephesians 6:11 and 13).

We stand, steadfast and unmoveable and God keeps blessing us. “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” (I Corinthians 15:57, 58). –bb

Above excerpted from PRAISE AND POWER", an independent ministry of Milford and Betty Bowen, Charlottesville, VA

**We want you.....**

**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.

The adult Sunday school class will be finishing their study of the book of *Daniel* in the next 2 weeks and will be starting a new study. Come to the class and cast a vote and participate in the study and exploration of His Word. Some suggestions are a study on the Book of Mormon, a study on the book of Ruth, a study of John’s letters, a study of the book of Ephesians. Who knows, we might even do a study on the Andy Griffith, Beverly Hillbillies, or I Love Lucy shows.....

Would it not be great if everyone would participate in one the Sunday School classes that are offered at Fairbanks? Explore and read the Word with your community and the people you worship with.

Summer is quickly approaching and that means **camp and reunions!** Check out the mission center web page to get dates and forms for the various camps and reunions planned for this summer.

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** – Baby Blessing for Emily Baird

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** – Potluck after the worship service

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** – Congregational planning meeting after potluck

**June 2-5<sup>th</sup>** - Community of Christ Special World Conference - Independence, MO

**Last Call- Please bring your items by Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup>** -We are gathering items to send a “**care package**” to Ina Mae’s cousin who is currently stationed in Iraq Some items to consider are sanitized lotion, sanitized hand wipes, dry soup mix – cup size, tea bags, hot chocolate, homemade cookies and brownies.

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

Nursery Schedule:

April 24<sup>th</sup>- Sue & Alex Turner

May 1<sup>st</sup> – Bonnie Whitehall & Catherine Seaman

May 8<sup>th</sup> – Ruth & Gary Chatburn

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](http://www.coastalbendmc.org)

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The following is a schedule of those that are currently scheduled to deliver the message for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup>- Gary Chatburn

May 1<sup>st</sup> – John Reimer

May 8<sup>th</sup> – David Romig

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*