

Community of Christ

Fairbanks Branch Happenings

April 27, 2005

The theme for this Sunday is “Keep My Commandments”

Me obeying
You

Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.” John 14: 21

What else can be said?

Is obedience voluntary? Can we pick and choose which commandment we want to obey and discard those that are not convenient? Will it be ok if we consciously break with the guidelines He has given us and do a quick apology at the end? What do you think? Do you live an obedient life?

Can you gain entrance into the gates of heaven by just being obedient? Can you gain entrance into the gates of heaven by just believing? Works without faith. Faith without works. Which is it? Is it faith with works? Where does love factor into all of this?

The Bible teaches us to be obedient, to uphold and live by His commandments. Obeying and living within the commandments gets a little easier as we grow in our faith and our commitment to Jesus. Does that mean that the faithful do not stumble and break the commandments? We are human and we do stumble. We are disobedient at times, but do we realize our ways, repent, ask for forgiveness and change? When we repent, are we really repentant and wanting to change our behavior? Or do we stumble and go oops – that’s me being human – silly me – it’s ok God loves me and forgives me – oops there I go again??? Do we try to break the cycle?

In the Old Testament we see time after time where God’s people are distracted and turn away from him. Can you imagine yourself in God’s place? He is watching His children and one day they are “playing by the rules” and then something happens and they turn away and worship pagan idols and do immoral things. “What can I do with these badly behaving children?? Aha!!! They do not remember the rules so let Me write them down for them. That’s the ticket.” So He calls upon Moses to receive the rules and to teach them to His children. All is good for a while but then the rascals are at it again and again. “I told them what to do, I wrote it down for them and yet they still don’t have a clue. What can I do.” The light bulb lights up and God figures that He can send someone down to show them how, but that is not enough. He sends His Son Jesus to us to and His Son pays the price for our disobedience and sins.

Through Christ we are given the ultimate gift of forgiveness and salvation. What are we going to do with this gift? Are we obedient? Do we share His gift?

Sue Turner will be attending a training class for people that are interested in facilitating Listening Circles. Keep tuned for more information regarding this. You can also visit the world church web page.

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 10:00 a.m. adult Sunday school class will be finishing their study of the book of ***Daniel*** next week 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 **camps 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 8th – Mother's Day

May 15th – Baby Blessing for Emily Baird

May 15th – Potluck after the worship service

May 15th – Congregational planning meeting after potluck

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

Last Call- Please bring your items by Sunday May 1st -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:

May 1st – Bonnie Whitehall & Catherine Seaman

May 8th – Ruth & Gary Chatburn

May 15th - Jennifer & Kip Decker

May 22nd – Sue & Alex Turner

May 29th – Rena & Jeff Whitehall

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

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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.

May 1st – John Reimer

May 8th – David Romig

May 15th – Sue Turner

May 22nd – Carole & Leo Caesar

May 29th - David Watson – Testimony Service

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